G. Lowell Morton

November 1, 1938 - March 9, 2019

G. Lowell Morton 80 of Annville passed away on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at his residence, surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Ila Swartz Morton to whom he was married to for 59 years.

Born in McConnellsburg, PA on November 1, 1938, he was the son of the late George W. Morton and Cleo (Decker) Morton Fisher.

Lowell graduated from Penn State University and went on to receive his Master's Equivalency. Lowell first taught at Cranberry High School in Seneca, PA and then was an Agricultural teacher at Annville-Cleona High School. He was an honorary member of the Little Dutchmen Future Farmers of America, Cedar Crest FFA, PA State FFA and the American FFA, and was the secretary of the PA Agricultural Teacher's Assoc.

Lowell was the past president of the PA State Snowmobile Assoc., Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club, Red Rose Snowmobile Club, and Dutch Trail Cutters Snowmobile Club and was a member of the Iron Dog Brigade. He was the past president and secretary of the Annville-Cleona Kiwanis Club and was a member of Annville U.M. Church where he had previously been a Sunday School teacher and on the Trustees committee. Lowell enjoyed snowmobiling, camping, reading, and hunting, but most importantly spending time with his family.

Surviving in addition to his wife are sons Kerry A. Morton (Renee) of Annville, Eric G. Morton (Cynthia) of Manheim, daughters Cindy A. Morton of Annville, and Jean I. Reigel (Dwylan) of Westfield PA; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and in-laws Allen and Janet Zimmerman.

Memorial services were held on Saturday March 16, 2019 at Annville U.M. Church, 1 N. College Ave. Annville PA 17003.

Contributions may be made in Lowell's memory to his church.

Lowell was Region 8 Director for PSSA in the late 70's and early 80's. After being elected to the Executive Board of PSSA he served as President of PSSA for 15 different years. Lowell guided the organization through many years of growth, and numerous pieces of snowmobile-friendly legislation were passed into law during his tenure. Lowell contributed many articles to the Keystone Snowmobiler, and his humorous anecdotes and stories of snowmobiling and camping trips were enjoyed by thousands of loyal readers. His “Points To Ponder” column was looked forward to by everyone.

PSSA was literally saved from extinction by Lowell and his wife, Ila. A former office location in Marienville had an employee that put the Association into financial trouble by not paying the necessary taxes. Then another employee was found guilty of depositing Association funds into the wrong bank accounts. The Directors at that time had no place to continue an office for the organization, so Lowell & Ila donated space in their home and ran the office as volunteers until things were turned around and PSSA was once again on solid ground financially. Without their efforts, along with quite a few other dedicated snowmobilers, PSSA might not exist today.

The twelve-month-per-year Keystone Snowmobiler schedule that PSSA members have enjoyed for 30 years was initiated during Lowell’s time as President. His support and belief in that concept made it possible to grow membership to record levels. Among a number of changes that helped snowmobilers in PA was the legalization of 102-inch wide trailers grossed at under 10,000 pounds. Many other user groups also benefited from this change that was spearheaded by PSSA while Lowell was President.

Lowell’s steady hand and wise guidance have surely made an extremely positive difference for snowmobiling in Pennsylvania. We will miss him very much.
PSSA BOARD COMMITTEES

Elizabeth Krug, President,
Ex-Officio of all Standing Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES:
Executive, Finance, Trails, Public
Affairs, Fund Raising, Safety, Website

Executive Committee
Elected Directors of the Board of Directors
Elizabeth Krug, President (2019), Chair

Finance Committee
Arline LaTourette (2020), Chair

Trails Committee
Elizabeth Krug (2019), Chair

Fund Raising Committee
Charles Walter (2021), Chair

Safety Committee
Don Mesier (2019), Chair

Website Committee
Kathy Woolever - website administrator
Larry Martin (2021), Chair

Public Affairs Committee
Richard Hayes (2020)

This issue mailed on or before March 28th.
MOVING FORWARD

Suggestions/ideas should be given to Terry Wood, Executive Board.

Although the “riding” season is officially ended clubs are already preparing for next winter! They need your help in volunteer hours/ money to support their trails. Help where/when you can.

Long-time President, Lowell Morton, passed away over the weekend. Please remember him and his wife Ila in your thoughts and prayers. Together they made a great team and worked for the good of the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association (PSSA). He will be missed.

SB 147 (hunting on Sunday) permits the Fish and Game Commission to determine dates for hunting. I have not heard any more information concerning this. Keep in contact with your local officials and express your opinion.

PSSA encourages all clubs to keep in contact with elected officials. They are the persons who vote on laws and budgets.

A meeting with representatives of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the PSSA Executive Board is being organized via Representative Ryan Bizzarro’s office. The current Registration Fee does not cover their or our costs. Current grant opportunities are dwindling. We need to work together to change the current law and research ways to fund snowmobile recreation in the long term.

Hopefully you have returned your nominations for the PSSA Annual Awards. Everyone should have person/persons who deserve to be recognized.

The following are the PSSA Annual Awards.
• Snowmobiler of the Year
• Snowmobile Family of the Year
• Snowmobile Teen of the Year
• Snowmobile Dealer of the Year
• Forest/Government Official of the Year

Register on-line for the Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon/Awards. You could be one of the recipients of an award. Membership Meeting will include an Open Forum. This is your chance to give your thoughts on the direction of PSSA.

Topics from the membership and the following will be discussed:
• the process to transition from paper to electronic newsletter
• future financial stability of the Association
• priorities of PSSA

There are two positions open for the Executive Board (Don Mosier and myself). The election is held at the Annual Membership Meeting. Resumes’ are posted in this “Keystone Snowmobiler”.

Concerns have been raised about Youth Safety Classes. One can now take the Safety Class on line with no requirement for “on the ground” training. Who actually takes the test? Should the test be taken at a club Safety Class or with a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) representative? Is money the motivating factor? This issue will be presented at the next Snowmobile/ ATV meeting this spring.

Don’t forget to return your Voucher Raffle tickets to the Palmyra office. This is one way you can help PSSA. Be generous. The Drawing will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting in April.

REMINDERS:

Clubs – send updated information to Kathy Woollever (website, Facebook, contact info)

Calendars – The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) calendars have arrived. They are available for $20 each. You have many chances to win. PSSA benefits from the sale of these calendars. Send your check with your return information to the Palmyra Office and the calendars will be sent to you. (Calendars are available throughout the year.)

SnowCams – Are needed in several areas of the state. If you can donate or sponsor a camera let Kathy Woollever in the Palmyra office know.

Get out and enjoy the beauty of Pennsylvania!

Think Snow!

Liz Krug, President

Remember the Date:

Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 27
9am Ramada Conference and Golf Center
1450 South Atherton Street
State College, PA (Same as last year)

Powersports Show – Last weekend of October
Lebanon Expo Center – (same as last year)
Greetings from the Glendale Lake SMC. Boy has this winter been a mixed bag of extremes for us winter enthusiasts. Going from the best snowmobiling that we’ve seen in years to 60 degree weather within days of each other. The great part is that we had incredible snowmobiling nearby for almost half of the winter. At times our local club trail from Prince Gallitzin State to Black Moshanono State Park has been very enjoyable. Although the trail isn’t groomed and sometimes sections are plowed, the conditions were good for the most part and the trail got heavily used. An ice storm did bring down some trees over the trail but they were quickly removed by our very responsive trail committee. We are also planning some improvements to the trail and have secured a permit to do so. The club also hopes to sign some of the historic aspects of the trail for those who use it year round. If you’re riding this trail and not a member of our club, please consider joining, we need memberships to be able to help maintain it. The trail connects to riding areas in Black Moshanono State Park and Forest and again trails there were wonderful for at least some of the winter. Many Club members also enjoyed rides in SP Elliott/ Parker Dam, RB Winter, Laurel Highlands, Rothrock State Forest, Potter/Hyner, and the Blue Knob/Babcock areas. For the first time in many years we weren’t searching for snow but we were searching for the best snow or for a different riding area. Some club members were even riding 3 or 4 days a week. One of the nice things about the Blue Knob/Babcock area is that they have restaurants on the trail at Blue Knob and Ogletown, and gas too at one location. The Scagburners club do a great job with maintaining and developing trails in this area and together we’ve already opened some additional trails there. Hopefully more to come on that.

The club wasn’t only active riding the last couple of months but we’ve been busy with other activities too. Although the Prince Gallitzin State Park Winter Fun Days unfortunately hit on a 60 degree day, the club participated and a nice turnout and fun time was had by all. This is part of our continuing partnership with this park. Membership continues to grow after a successful mailing of membership renewals led by the club treasurer. We’re also seeing business memberships grow after some personal appeals to local business’s. And meeting turnout remains strong. We meet the first Monday of the month at the Patton Sportsman’s Club. Please join us, we have a good time at the meetings. The food is great and many members come early to grab supper there. Something new that we hope to have in place soon is the ability to pay your club dues or make a donation to the club on our Facebook page. More to come on that.

If you’re not following us on Facebook and you live anywhere in west central PA, you might want to follow us and join our group page. Local riding conditions and events are regularly posted. All the areas that we ride, including all the ones mentioned in the first paragraph are typically reported on. If there’s snow to be found within a 2 hour drive of us, find out about it on our Facebook page. Get club meeting notices and more.

Just a reminder that with your Glendale Lake Snowmobile Club Membership you get some great discounts at the local Powertours Dealers that are members of the club. Take advantage of this and it also lets them know that the support of our club is appreciated. The savings have been substantial to many club members.

Trail development continues, we’re currently working on two new trails and improvements to several existing trails. Please join us in this effort by joining our club and volunteering as you can and are able. The final results will be an extensive trail system locally and beyond and as this winter proved, an incredible riding experience in this area. Please support this in any way that you can.

We’re hoping to meet up with some old friends and new ones at the PSSA Spring Meeting in State College. Fortunately for us it’s only a 45 minute drive and this usually allows for a good turn out from our club. This is a good wrap up and closure for the season but also gets you looking ahead to what’s next for riding in PA. It’s also great to hear what other clubs are doing and what you can learn from them. See you there.

It was disappointing to hear that after 30 years we might be losing the Keystone Snowmobiler Publication. I know that many of our club members look forward to receiving it month after month. It’s truly unique and informative in many ways. The local and PA coverage is great. And as a club and individual members we’re thinking about snowmobiling and riding year round and the Keystone Snowmobiler really supports that. And the club coverage is a great messaging tool for our membership and for us to learn about other clubs and their activities. Although we do have to admit that there have been times that we’ve slacked in getting our club news in on time or even in at all. It’s so important that the clubs and membership contribute to the content. And as a club, with our own financial responsibilities, we realize that this has to be a financially viable publication. Hopefully by all pulling together this great publication can continue.

As a side note it just started to snow as I’m writing this, always exciting to see.

Our Club is located in south central PA, about 1.5 hours east of the Laurel Highlands and about 45 minutes west of Black Moshanono State Park. We’re not far from Ebensburg and Altoona. If you’re from this area or ride in this area, we urge you to join our club. We meet the first Monday of the month, year round at 7:30 PM at the Patton Sportsman’s Club. We have a great time at our Club Meetings. We take care of business. Come join us.

Randy Green

Photos below and next page.

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BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS
Liz Krug
Erie, PA

Current Retired Administrator, President of PSSA, Graduate of Duquesne University
Presently I am a member of the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club and the Southern Potter County Snowmobile Club. I also own an Antique Business.
Worked my way from a grant writer for Presque Isle to Region One Director, Secretary of PSSA to the office of President.
Along the way I have received the various local and Erie Crawford Snowmobile Alliance awards.
I am a life member of the Northwest PA Woodlanders Association (Tree Farm) and a Board member of the newly created Greene Township Sewer Authority. In the past I supported recreation in the Township by being a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee.
Environmenal issues in the Allegheny National Forest have been a concern of mine since they have the capacity to affect outdoor recreation.
My favorite riding areas are Erie, Crawford and Warren areas including the Allegheny National Forest. I made one trip to Yellowstone National Forest.
I consider myself fortunate to have met many people who have a passion for snowmobiling and volunteer their time/money to promote snowmobile recreation.
My Vision for PSSA is to continue to work to advance the Organization’s goals of providing safe and environmentally friendly snowmobile opportunities. We must learn to use the latest technology to attract more members and help make the Association financially viable.

Don Mosier
4231 Greenlee Rd. McKeon, Pa. 16426
PSSA Board of Director for the past 6 years. President of McKeon Snowriders Snowmobile Club, Member of PISC, Chautauqua Lake Snowmobile Club.
I have been an active Snowmobiler since 1968 riding my hometown area and the ANF, New York and Canada.
I have been on the mini-grant committee for many years and have also worked at the PSSA Power Sports show.

We have all seen these signs along the trail, but do we pay attention to them? If you're not, you better start. If we do not follow trail signs and directions, we are going to lose our riding privileges. Club volunteers spend many hours in the fall and winter putting up and maintaining trail signs. If you think they do not apply to you and you ignore them it's very simple - STAY HOME. Don’t ruin it for us that want to obey the signs and enjoy the trail.

If a trail has been re-routed it is for a reason. In the farming regions it is usually for new crops. In the forest areas maybe for a new logging operation. What ever the reason, just follow the new signs.

When a farmer plants a new crop such as winter wheat, that crop is fragile and must be safe guarded. If we ignore signs and ride that field, we are taking away that farmers livelihood. Would we tolerate some one messing with our livelihood? No.

The farmers and landowners are kind enough to open their land to us. We must respect them. Riding on their property is a privilege not a right. Another thought to think about is the liability issue, most clubs carry liability insurance on their trails. If you have an accident because you did not stay on a marked trail that will be your own fault.

In closing please follow the marked trail signs, respect the land owners and fellow snowmobilers. The bottom line is “Stay on the Trail or Stay Home”.

Bill Sowers,
God's Country Black Forest SMC

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The PA Grand Canyon Snowmobile Club will be holding its 29th annual Upper Pine Creek Trout Tournament this year on May 18th & 19th, 2019. Again this year there will be $14,000 in cash, merchandise and gift certificates with all prizes valued at $50 or more. Our tournament is well received bringing an influx of business into the area each year. Factors like weather and stream conditions effect turnout but, on average between 400 to 460 anglers register every year to fish the tournament.

The club float stocks Pine Creek with 250 tagged trout from Galeton to Ansonia prior to the tournament weekend. It’s the luck of the draw that determines what prize an angler wins. He or She has to catch one of our tagged fish, bring the fish in “live condition” to the check station at our clubhouse on Route 6 and then draw a numbered Ping-Pong ball.

The number on the drawn ball is then matched with our large eight by sixteen-foot prize board that identifies what prize was just won. In 2015, the club implemented this “lottery system” Ping-Pong ball draw because everyone now has a chance to win our largest cash prizes rather than the angler who happens to catch the “right fish”. In 2018 three of the top five cash prizes were drawn. The top prize of $1,000 was drawn along with two $500 balls also being drawn. There were two remaining $500 ping-pong balls that eluded all the anglers’ attempts.

For many, this is a family affair, as so many of the anglers have been participating since the very beginning, and we have several three generation families that are dedicated in keeping the tradition alive for their children & grandchildren. The tournament is open to all licensed anglers. They need to complete a registration form and have a badge, which is provided at the clubhouse.

Our club is non-profit and all money raised by us helps cover the costs of operating the club, awarding college scholarships for three local high school seniors, monetary donations to the area food banks, as well as other local charities and organizations. All money raised by the club stays within the local communities. Follow us on Facebook and our Website http://www.pagrandcanyonsnowmobileclub.com

Jim Baney, President, (aka Grousegirl)

Top Right: $1,000 winner
Center Right: $500 winner
Lower Right: $500 winner

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Follow us on Facebook and our Website http://www.pagrandcanyonsnowmobileclub.com

Jim Baney, President, (aka Grousegirl)
Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association
Annual Membership Meeting and Conference
April 27, 2019
Ramada Conference and Golf Hotel
1450 South Atherton Street • State College, PA 16801
814-238-3001 • www.ramadasc.com

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:15 Registration and Refreshments
9:00 Opening Remarks: Elizabeth Krug, President
9:15 General Membership Meeting
   PSSA Updates and Reports
10:00 Break
10:15 General Membership Meeting
   Elections, Budget
11:30 Luncheon and Awards Presentations
   (Snowmobiler of the Year,
    Snowmobile Family of the Year,
    Snowmobile Teen of the Year,
    Snowmobile Dealer of the Year,
    Snowmobile Forester/Government Official of the Year, PSSA
    Awards)
1:00 Raffle Drawing
   Member Forum
2:00 Break
2:15 Continuation of Member Forum
3:10 Closing Remarks
3:20 Drawings for Tombola Auction

Please return raffle tickets to Palmyra office by April 15.

SAFE TRAVELS

2019 PSSA ANNUAL AWARDS

Snowmobiler of the Year
Snowmobile Family of the Year
Snowmobile Teen of the Year
Snowmobile Dealer of the Year
Forest Official of the Year
Government Official of the Year
President’s Outstanding Service Awards

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING
AGENDA
Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association, Inc. • April 27, 2019

Call to Order/Roll Call
Approval of Minutes – 2018 Annual Meeting – Charles Walter
President’s Report - Liz Krug
Treasurer’s Report – Arlene LaTourette
Committee Reports:
   Finance – Arlene LaTourette
   Trails – Liz Krug
   Safety – Clint Elias/Harrison Langley
   Snow Angels –Kelly Watkins, Loretta Hayes
   Public Affairs –
   * Membership Subcommittee
   * Fall Show Subcommittee — Travis Mathna
   * Website Subcommittee — Larry Martin
   * Nominating Committee —Charles Walter, James Wolfe
Regional Director Reports
State Trails Advisory Committee —
American Council of Snowmobile Associations, North East Chapter —
United Snowmobile Alliance - update
Old Business
   * Ratify Nomination by Clubs of Regional Directors
   * Mini- Grants Update — Lori Elliott/Julie McKensie, Grant Administrator
New Business
   * Draft Budget
   * Election of Officers

Next Annual Membership Meeting Date and Adjournment

See Us at Penn State’s Ag Progress Days Aug. 13-15

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The 50th Anniversary of the York, PA based AMF Ski-Daddler Snowmobile Race Team took place on Sunday, March 24th, 2019. A very nice crowd enjoyed a beautiful day at the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing near York Springs, PA. www.EMMR.org

A Vintage Snowmobile show was sponsored by F&S Yamaha & Marine, followed by a “Round Table” discussion with 4 of the surviving original race team members. The stories recounted had everyone laughing and shaking their heads in amazement at the antics that were described.

The Museum is home to the first Ski-Daddler snowmobile that was manufactured in York, where the current Harley Davidson factory complex is found today. Production records indicate that during the years 1967 through 1971, an astounding 48,200 snowmobiles were produced in York. In 1972, parent company AMF purchased Milwaukee-based Harley Davidson and switched the name on the snowmobiles from Ski-Daddler to Harley Davidson. The York plant continued to build components for the snowmobiles and sent them to another Harley plant for assembly. This continued until the Harley Davidson snowmobile line was discontinued after the 1975 model year.

Above: Two former snowmobile racers reunited at the AMF Reunion. Herb Yancey (left) and Dennis Burkholder compared notes about their racing days back in the 70’s. They both drove Arctic Cat sleds, Herb is a legend in oval track racing here in the East, Dennis is co-owner of M&S Sales & Service, New Holland, PA and was a prolific grass-drag racer.
Here’s a photo of 26 members of the Snowmobile Club of Adams County on our club trip to Maine. We spent a week at the Overlook Motel and Resort in Eagle Lake, Maine. This is in Aroostook County which is considered one of the best areas to snowmobile in Maine.

Travis Mathna
Hello from the Laurel Highlands. The riding in the Laurel Highlands has been pretty good this year. We were fortunate enough to squeeze a few rides in on the mountain. I asked several people to rate the local trails on a scale of 1 to 10 based on their snow conditions. The average I came up with for this past weekend was a 7. Not bad for the second week of March. Then all at once the temperature went from below zero degrees to 60 plus degrees on March 10. We hope you each found your way out in it too.

Snowmobiling brings out the best in people. Good times and good friends can get together and create many memories. Whether we ride in Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Maine, Yellowstone, or Canada we have great times. We follow the snow if it is 50 miles away or 1,000 miles away. We love the outdoors and the thrill of the ride. This creates an unspoken bond between us. People are friendly and helpful on the trails. The people who own businesses near the trails like seeing us for the income we bring to town. Outsiders to the sport seem to look at us either in awe or curiosity. Hopefully you've had the chance to share our sport with someone new.

Several of our members will be attending the PSSA Spring Meeting in State College on April 27, 2019. We are looking forward to seeing you at this event. You can contact the PSSA anytime at pasnow.org for information. This meeting is from 9:00 A.M.—4: P.M. The cost is $25 including a sit down meal and snacks all day long. Keep in touch with fellow snowmobilers from across the state and keep informed. The topics covered involve each of us in the sport.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to Bob Ainsley and Bob Nichols. These two men have been plowing our lot since 1972. You can do the math to figure out how many years this is. They faithfully meet up whenever the snow flies to open up the lot, have dug countless people out, and kept the equipment in running order. It is their generosity that has made our club a welcoming place to park.

Thank you also to each of the grooming teams on the mountain. The DCNR plows out the public lots, removes debris from the trails, and grooms them as flat as possible for the snow conditions we have had. They do a tremendous job of keeping us going. This past year has given them many challenges especially with all of the high winds and ice bringing down trees. Maple Summit and Rolling Ridge clubs have done their part to keep their trails groomed and open. We owe you thanks too! We are grateful for the relationships we have developed with each of you through the years.

The Laurel Highlands Snowmobile Club has been around since 1972. We are a very active club that meets every month all year long on the second Thursday at 8:00 P.M. After the meetings we have pizza, brownies, and pop. The next workday is always entertaining. It is on April 20, 2019, the annual Adopt A Highway, carried on a twenty-five year tradition. We will be meeting at the clubhouse at 9:00 A.M. Snacks, drinks, lunch, and equipment will be provided. We set out on a stretch of Route 31 between the clubhouse and Jones Mills. An additional crew goes out on the Polaris Ranger to clean up the public parking lot, Camp Run Road, and Tunnel Road. Friends and family are welcome. This event will count towards earning a workday discount on next year’s dues renewal. You need three workdays to qualify for the discount. Other upcoming work days are: May 11, July 13, August 10, September 14. All workdays start at 9:00 A.M. Most of our workdays are club house or trail related that benefit all riders. We also have 2 grass drag races held at the clubhouse.

Workday, race day, club meeting, adopt a highway, etc. What do these items have in common? It is always volunteers doing the work. Example— I went on our website at lhsc.net on trail conditions. As of March 10, 2019, the trail conditions segment had 797 members. It would be great if more people could come to meetings, workdays, etc. We welcome and encourage you to come hang out with us and chip in.

One final topic for this article involves the paper itself. In the March 2019 issue of the Keystone Snowmobiler on page 3 is a very interesting article written by Peggy & Henry Hartman. The future of the Keystone Snowmobiler is at stake. Will this be the last article Shelly & I write for this paper??? I do not know. I hope we get some answers at the PSSA spring meeting. I can tell you this—we have 49 clubs in Pennsylvania that belong to PSSA and we have only a few who write articles. I know this for a fact Peggy & Henry Hartman have been excellent to work with concerning this paper. They bend over backwards to help the clubs with their articles. I for one would love to see the Keystone Snowmobiler continue to be the world’s only 12-month snowmobiler paper.

LAUREL HIGHLANDS SMC

Until next time (if there is a next time) live life to its fullest.

Jim Wilkinson & Shelly Buckles

Below: Willie Hecker, Linda & Jim Wilkinson, Linda & Jr. Walker on the Beam Run trail in March...
Keystone Snowmobiler  April 2019 Page 12

SNOWMOBILE MICHIGAN’S UPPER PENINSULA

by Michelle Fisher

On Saturday, March 2, myself, my boyfriend Greg and my parents, Bob and Marie, left PA to start the trek to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula for a 7-day Snowmobile touring trip. We are all members of the Dutch Trail Cutters Snowmobile Club and my parents had done many touring trips all over Maine and Canada before. This trip would be my first touring trip. After a snowy start to our drive-up North, the weather cleared up. We crossed over the Mackinac Bridge and arrived in St. Ignace, MI. This is where we would start our trip the next morning.

After unloading our sleds Sunday morning and packing on our gear for the week we began our trip. Our first stop along the way was the Top of the Lakes Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway. This snowmobile museum had some of just about every brand of vintage snowmobiles and tons of other snowmobile memorabilia. After that we continued North towards Munising. After talking to some fellow snowmobilers, we found a short cut across Manistique Lake. We rode 175 miles from St. Ignace to Munising, only approximately 8 miles of those 175 miles were bumpy all the rest where well-groomed and smooth trails.

Monday, we left Munising, made a quick stop in a town called Christmas. The street names all had a Christmas theme like Sleighway St., Tinse! Dr., Candy Cane Lane and Holly Dr. Leaving Christmas we headed west following the trail that ran along Lake Superior. In the town of Au Train we got our first view of the frozen Lake Superior. The view was spectacular. Continuing down the same trail we arrived at Lakenenland Sculpture Park, an iron sculpture park where we could snowmobile thru. The artist had all different junkyard art sculptures of different animals, a motorcycle, tractor and many more themed sculptures. As we were coming into the town of Baraga we saw many white tail deer along the trails. We rode a total of 133 miles of beautifully groomed trails.

Tuesday, we left Baraga with our destination set on Copper Harbor. The morning was a little cloudy and flurrying as we headed north toward Houghton. We crossed into the town of Hancock from Houghton under Portage Lift Bridge. The weather cleared up as we headed farther north into the Keweenaw Peninsula. We got on the trail called Brockway Mountain Trail which gave you a panoramic view of Lake Superior and the town of Copper Harbor below. We rode 145 miles of beautifully groomed trails and the scenery along the way was exquisite.

We stayed in Copper Harbor Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning we snowmobiled the 12 miles to the very tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The view from the point was gorgeous. We again had a beautiful sunny day. After visiting the Point we began our travels back down off of the Keweenaw Peninsula and crossed Portage Lift Bridge. We traveled to South Range and then rode a few snow-covered county roads to take a short cut to Chassell. Once we were in Chassell, we continued south then east toward Big Bay. The trail that runs from Baraga to Big Bay was a beautiful winding trail thru pine forests of all types. All the snow they had received the week before we arrived was still hanging on the trees making the ride both stunning & enjoyable.

Thursday morning we left Big Bay and again the trail from Big Bay to Marquette felt like we were riding thru a Christmas tree farm. Around every bend we drove thru different types and sizes of pine trees. Just outside of Marquette we stopped to take pictures of snow banks that were taller than us. When we went to leave my Dad’s sled would not start. We all ride Ski-doo sleds and the sled would only blink “Check Key”. So, after trying to start it a few times, we finally decided to call a local dealership in Marquette and towed the sled approximately 6 miles to the nearest gas station. The dealership picked up the sled and Dad took it up the road to their shop. After they left, my Mom, Greg and I decided to snowmobile to the shop. Their shop was not located directly on the trail but we worked our way around, got stuck once in a high snow bank and we finally made it to the dealership. After spending the next 4 hours waiting for the tech to diagnose the problem it was finally determined that the sled would require a new computer. With no computer in stock the only option was for my dad to purchase a new sled. So, after another hour of negotiations, signing paperwork and moving the luggage hardware from the broken sled to the new sled we again were ready to ride. We stayed in Marquette, only made it 72 miles that day.

With a new sled ready to go we headed out Friday morning for Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. We worked our way thru the town of Munising to Munising Falls. The conditions were not ideal for getting to those falls, but they were only a short hike to see and I was glad we had made it to them. These falls were completely frozen solid. After talking to a ranger at the visitor center we got back on snowmobile trails and headed east thru the park. We visited Miners Beach. We stopped in Shingleton at a restaurant and for lunch we had a Pasty. I had been seeing signs for Pasties all over Michigan but had no idea what they were. After asking a store owner in Copper Harbor we found out that a Pasty was a meal the miners would eat in the mines. They are hamburger, potatoes and veggies wrapped in a flaky pie crust and served with a brown gravy. After lunch we continued thru the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. We got some more stunning views of Lake Superior and the amazing rock formation the Lake creates along the shoreline. We continued on from there all the way to Paradise for the night. It was our longest day yet at 200 miles. Friday afternoon more and more sleds were coming to the area to ride the same great conditions we had all week.

For our last day of riding we traveled from Paradise to Whitefish Point to see the lighthouse, then headed down towards Newberry and stopped at Upper Tahquamenon Falls. The falls were amazing and worth the walk in all our snowmobile gear. When we got back into St. Ignace we crossed over the ice bridge (Lake Huron) to Mackinac Island. We snowmobled the trail around the island taking pictures of Lake Huron and the quaint downtown with beautiful Victorian homes. There are no vehicles on the island except snowmobiles. We crossed back over the ice bridge to St. Ignace and had dinner before returning to our hotel starting point where our truck and trailer were parked all week.

The conditions we had all week were not ideal for getting to those falls, but the smiles. Everyone had lots of smiles! Most members recorded over 1000 miles during the week, but some members recorded over 1200 miles in the five days they rode. The snow was deep and the trails were in excellent shape. Even though we had to return a day early, because of a potential storm, the club is looking forward to next year or possibly another trip this year.

Jerry Thornton

MARIENVILLE TRAIL RIDERS SMC

Thirty club members from the Marienville Trail Riders Snowmobile Club spent a week at Pine Bluff Resort in Curtis, Michigan. Most club members arrived on Sunday, February 17th and were able to check out the trails on that first day. On the second day, the club took a trip to Mackinac Island crossing the infamous ice bridge and making the 7.9 mile trail around the Island. The members had a great lunch on the island at the Mustang Restaurant and headed back to Curtis via Naubinway. Total miles travelled was 194, arriving back to a well enjoyed hot tub.

Tuesday, the club took a trip up North to Paradise and stopped at the Tahquamenon Falls for freshly brewed root beer. After recording 134 miles some of the group took off to the pool and hot tub. On Wednesday they travelled north again and stopped at Pine Stump for lunch for a total of 145 miles.

Thursday, the club made a short trip to Bear Trap for their fresh out of the oven apple dumplings. Friday’s mileage was 109 for a weekly total of 742 for one group.

The club would like to thank Ray Bish, Joe Rogers, Byrum Compass, and Joe LeClair for splitting up the groups and leading the way. As Gabby Burkhardt would say, “It’s not the miles, but the smiles”. Everyone had lots of smiles! Most members put on over 800 miles for the week, but some members recorded over 1000 miles in the five days they rode. The snow was deep and the trails were in excellent shape.

Overall we had an amazing trip, beautiful scenery, good weather, smooth groomed trails, great places to eat, nice places to stay and many cool sights to see. This was definitely a trip I will never forget and hope to do again in the future. Total miles for the whole trip was 1,060. With the trip complete we headed for home Sunday morning. With a sled being fixed in the town of Marquette and snow in the area that will last till April my parents have the perfect excuse to return to the Upper Peninsula to do some more riding before the 2019 snowmobile season is over.
HYNER MOUNTAIN SMC

Hello from Hyner Mountain Snowmobile Club. Just want to let everyone know what has been happening up on the mountain.

Well, by the time you are reading this, winter will be over, and there will be only a few days left in the riding season (without snow, no doubt).

Hope all snowmobilers had some good riding right here in Pennsylvania!

This winter didn't offer up as much opportunity to ride at the lodge as we would have liked, but we did get some weekday and weekend riding time; we put some good miles on our sleds.

March 7th, 8th, and 9th were one of those weekends. Saturday the 9th had fourteen (14) members, 3 members' children, and 3 guests, take a ride up to Bradley Wales Picnic Area, along the West Rim of the PA Grand Canyon, for a hotdog roast. We loaded several sleds and backpacks with wood, snacks, condiments, and everything else we needed, and then rode off. A great time with great lasting memories was had by all.

Well, those of us who love winter, and snowmobiling, must say goodbye to them both for a few months.

That's about all for now. THINK SNOW!

Dan Casey

MARIENVILLE TRAIL RIDERS

The Marienville Trail Riders Snowmobile Club hosted their third annual fundraising dinner at the MACA building on Saturday, March 16, 2019. The club raised over $900.00 which will be used to help pay for trail improvements. The club officers would like to thank all volunteers for having helped with the dinner. A special thank you to Jerry Beichner and Hank Bauer for doing all the work that they did in the kitchen.

Our next club meeting will be Sunday, April 14 at 2pm in the Kelly Hotel. The Marienville Club along with the Forest County, and PA Snowseekers from Highland will meet with the Forest Service to discuss trail work on May 4 at the Snowseeker's clubhouse at 9 am. The US Forest Service held their re-certifications for their groomer operators last week and they will now be able to train operators from Snowseekers and volunteers from the Longhouse area. This will now allow the two Forest Service groomers which are parked at Highland and Bob's Trading post to be utilized after having sat for three years.

All snowmobilers and snowmobile businesses can do their share by joining a club and also join PSSA. The Spring PSSA meeting will be held at State College on Saturday April 27. Hope to see a large crowd there!

Jerry Thornton

“PSSA PARTNERS”

2019 PSSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE AND AWARDS LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

Saturday, April 27, 2019 • 9:00 am – 3:30 pm – Meeting- Registration 8:15am
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Call the Ramada for information concerning rooms.
Please Register on line for Conference: www.pasnow.org if no internet access complete the information below:
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Over the years, we have had the support of numerous advertisers who joined the “12-monther” art, and the third discount was for advertisers who agreed to be in twelve consecutive issues. When Hartman Publishing started producing the Keystone Snowmobiler in 1989, one of the keys to making the paper self-sufficient was to offer discounts to advertisers. The first discount was for qualified membership in the organization, second was for submitting “camera-ready art”, and the third discount was for advertisers who agreed to be in twelve consecutive issues.

Our apologies to any advertisers we may have missed. After 30 years, we don’t remember them all. It’s been a fun ride, and we sincerely appreciate the opportunity that PSSA gave us to serve the members. Our involvement with the snowmobile media community made it possible for us to travel to and ride in many areas from ocean to ocean, both in the US and Canada. Our children have many wonderful memories of attending the yearly International Snowmobile Club events that were held at many nice locations.

Stay tuned for the next chapter in our involvement in snowmobiling! Peggy & Henry Hartman

Thank You
Thank you!

A very special thank you to Henry and Peggy Hartman at Hartman Publishing Company for their many years of publishing the Keystone Snowmobiler Magazine. PSSA cannot thank you enough for your dedication to providing our members the latest snowmobile information and news! We wish you great happiness!

The Future of the Keystone Snowmobiler

Due to rising costs in printing and postage, the Keystone Snowmobiler will continue as a digital magazine going forward. PSSA will continue to provide club information, advertising and snowmobiling news. We will be utilizing both email and e-magazine platforms to provide our members with the latest in magazine publishing.

If you do not currently have an email address on file with us and you want to continue to receive your Keystone Snowmobiler magazine, please take a moment to sign up by visiting: www.pasnow.org/signup