

SLEDMASS

SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

Discount
Coupon
Inside!

SledExpo

November 16 & 17, 2019 • The Big E Grounds



04

Bit by the
Bug 4

13

Easter Seals'
Camp SnoMo



SLEDMASS

The Official Publication of the
Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts

MANAGING EDITOR

Keri Wanner, 701-220-5829
keri@driven2pushboundaries.com

COPY EDITORS

Rena Sumner
Jeff Miller

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Stewart Moon

ADVERTISING SALES

Steve Howland, 413-522-3320
sales@sledmass.com

Printing services provided by Daily Hampshire Gazette

SAM OFFICERS

Jeff Miller, President
Mike Sarafin, Vice President
Tina Lacroix, Treasurer
Jon Tobin, Secretary

CONTRIBUTORS: We welcome unsolicited materials and letters for possible publication. Stories, manuscripts, photos, artwork and other contributions must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish it returned. SledMass accepts no responsibility for returns, losses or damage of unsolicited materials. Letters to the Editor must be signed with address and telephone number of the sender. We reserve the right to edit the material to suit the presentation and available space.

SUBMISSIONS: P.O. Box 386, Conway, MA 01341.
info@sledmass.com.

COPYRIGHT: All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without the written permission of the publisher.

PUBLISHER: SledMass is published twice a year, October and December by the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM), c/o Rena Sumner, P.O. Box 386, Conway, MA 01341. Phone: 413-369-8092. E-mail: rena.sumner@sledmass.com.

ON THE COVER

SAM celebrates its 50th year in 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

50 Years Young!

It is hard to believe that the Association is celebrating its 50 Anniversary this year! From modest beginnings with very few trails, and a few members, to what we have now, over 2000 miles of trails and thousands of members. It is a journey that has seen many changes in the snowmobile world and one can only imagine what the next 50 years will bring.

1969, I was 8 years old and my family was head over heels with snowmobiles. 1969 Arctic Cat Panther was our very first sled and she was a beauty. A whopping 10 horsepower Hirth with a single Montana pipe was what resided under the hood. Not for the faint of heart to pull over and start, that old Hirth would rather break your arm more than anything else. It was a great time for snowmobiling, everybody had one (or maybe two). On a regular basis, my Mom and Dad on Saturday night would go for a ride over to the Wheeler's house and they would all go for a ride together. No need to trailer the sleds there as the trails went to everyone's house back then. The beauty of this sport is our families 50 years later are still connected. Spike Wheeler (their son) still grooms for the Colrain Snow Drifters while I groom for BGL, the neighboring club. We get to talk about the old times, when our parents used to ride and how things have changed.

1971 I got to step up to the big leagues and got my first sled, a 1971 Skidoo Elan. She was a beauty, 247cc of gas spitting power! I would ride that machine all day long and if I was lucky I may have put 25 miles on it. With the carburetor flinging gas at me all day my Mom wouldn't let me near the wood stove when I came home. I think she thought I would go up in a ball of flames. As I grew up riding, I started to notice stickers on the back of sleds. "Shelburne Moonlighters" was emblazoned on one of those stickers. This was my first introduction to a snowmobile club. A snowmobile club? People actually had a club to do the thing that is the best thing ever? This can't be true; people get together and ride to different places together? Wow this is where it is at, now if I can only figure out how to get out of school I can ride all day long with other people. With over 100 different manufacturers' of snowmobiles, there was literally

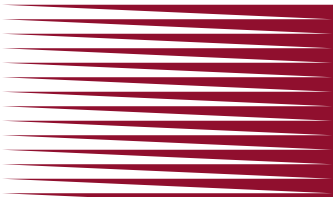
one on every street corner and my family was now in the thick of racing and it looked as though nothing was going to slow down the snowmobile craze!

Well, along came the mid 70's. While I can't say what all the particulars were on what happened, I can say that 2 very crucial things happened that brought the snowmobile juggernaut back to earth. First thing that happened was the mid 70's oil embargo. Long lines for fuel and sometimes no fuel made it incredibly difficult for people to use their fuel for pleasure instead of normal driving to work. Second thing that happened at the same time was the whole snow belt had 2 consecutive no/low snow years in a row. As you can imagine, this put an incredible strain on the industry, and companies began closing down right and left. What started out with over 100 manufacturers dwindled down to a handful by the end of the 70's.

But the strong survived and the industry changed. Organizations popped up all over the country promoting safe, responsible snowmobiling. Suddenly grooming trails was common place, not just a luxury. Our sport spawned different businesses such as traction products and clothing lines. Associations became much more influential, working with state governments and manufacturers to help promote and make our sport grow. Our sport has always been in a state of metamorphosis, changing as the economy, social and climate change.

So what does the next 50 years hold for snowmobiling? Who knows, maybe electric sleds. Maybe as snow depths decrease the snowmobile once again will have to morph to the changing world. One thing I do know, whatever way it goes I want to be part of the change and the solution to keep snowmobiling alive and well. I hope that you all feel the same way. We need our members to evolve and change just like the snowmobile has had to. The need to talk to landowners and politicians has never been greater and we need your help in doing that. Become part of the solution and work to keep this sport we all love so dearly alive and well. 🐾

Jeff Miller, SAM President



ARTICLES

- 4 **VINTAGE RIDES:**
Bit by the Bug 4 – “Never Enough Time”
By Brad Stafford
- 8 Cable Car Over Cold River
By Jerry Dupree
- 10 **LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW:**
The Statewide Snowmobile Trails
System – What’s New?
By Lawrence Tucker
- 13 Easter Seals’ Camp SnoMo
By Marcia Miller
- 20 **VINTAGE RIDES:**
Snowmobile Vintage Nationals
By Tina LaCroix
- 24 U.S. Snowmobile Thefts in the U.S.
- 28 Facts About Snowmobiling
- 31 Club Listing

CLUB PAGES

Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile Club	6
Buckland Riders Snowmobile Club	9
Conway Snowmobile Club	12
Goshen Highlanders Snowmobile Club	18
Greater Whately Snowmobile Club	19
Hilltown Snowmobile Club.....	23
Knox Trail Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club	26
Mill Valley Snowmobile Club	27
Savoy Canary Kats Snowmobile Club	29
Worthington Snowmobile Club	30



Bit by the Bug 4 – “Never enough time”



Cheetah_1 and the Kat freighter at the vintage show- Town of Greenfield winter carnival

**TWO
CHEETAHS
ARE
BETTER
THAN ONE**

By Brad Stafford

In the first three chapters of this story, I spoke of how my wife had found a 1972 - 440 Arctic Cat Cheetah. For years I had mentioned that “IF” I ever decided to get a vintage sled, this one was on the top of the list as it was my dad’s favorite ride. We ended up with a bunch of these sleds in different states of repair and random extra pieces. Our goal then changed to putting together a pair of these sleds. We then focused getting the two best sleds together and were successful getting them inspected and registered thru mobile Environmental Police Office that was at our clubs, Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile Club’s, annual swapmeet.

When we got home we were very excited and I was ready to put Cheetah1 away as it I thought it was ready for snow. It was now time to put Cheetah2 up on the “Operating table”. As I drove Cheetah1 off the trailer I heard a skip... then a pop and then it bogged out and died. I went thru all the easy stuff, spark, gas, compression and had them all. It would fire for a second and then quit. I guess Cheetah2 would have to wait. After many hours in the garage, google searches, emails and phone calls everything pointed towards the carburetor. Seeing I was thinking about changing the stock Walbro to a more reliable Mikuni, I decided to take the plunge. I found lots of info on the process and carb specs to make it happen from others that have done this already to this motor, the Kawasaki 440. It wasn’t as easy as I thought especially getting the throttle cable to work with the stock throttle setup.

But once installed unfortunately, it acted the same, my online gurus gave me endless main jet, air setting and needle valve changes. It was getting frustrated and it was back to the drawing board as it had to be something else. So to all of you “sled heads” that two paragraphs ago said it was the infamous center seal that was the cause of my issues, you are correct.

Seeing a “down to the crank” tear down is a bit out of my comfort zone, I called in my local expert. THANKS again Jeff Miller! With Jeff watching over me, it was actually simpler than I expected. Literally “IF” you know what you’re doing it’s a couple hour job. All new seals and gaskets, new carb, and it was with great anticipation when I turned it over and it fired up. I then made my “Best educated guessed” for a workable carb setting and she was ready.

Along this journey, I found it amazing how close knit the vintage side of

the snowmobiling community is. So besides leads to other sleds, I also was getting leads on accessories. One of the best I got from a fellow club member, A Kat Freighter in great shape, it just needed to be shined up and has made a perfect addition. THANKS Dave!

We weren't blessed with a lot of snow this past year, but I did get a few rides around the local fields and was able to show the sled and trailer at a local vintage show at the Town of Greenfield's winter carnival. Towards the end of the season on a warmer day I did try taking the trailer and sled combo to our local "fire pit" to have lunch, but she ran hot and I had to return home. The short winter season was now behind us and the waiting game has begun. Hopefully, with the latest carb settings on Cheetah1 and by the time this year's snow starts falling Cheetah2 will be up and running together as a matching pair in local vintage shows and rides.

I hope to be at the SAM's sled expo with the full setup and if you see me



New mikuni upgrade

and have leads on parts, entire sleds or accessories or share stories please let me know.

Until next time Ride Safe, with Respect and always "Keep the Rubber Side Down!" 🐾



Kat Freighter ready for finish paint

**No matter *what* or *where* you ride,
Troy Powersports should be your destination!**



Snowmobiles
Side By Sides
ATV's
Tractors & Snowthrowers
Trailers
Parts
Gear & Accessories
Full Service



3 Ways To Stay Updated:

Visit our website:



TroyPowerSportsNH.com

Follow us:



@troypowersports

Text to join our email list:



Text: **BRAAP** to **22828**

**VISIT OUR
SHOWROOM**

**136 North Main St., Troy NH
603-242-3397**

Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. 8 - 5:30 Wednesdays 8 - 7 Saturdays 9 - 4



BERNARDSTON GILL LEYDEN SNOWMOBILE CLUB

MEETING TIME

Bernardston Veterans Club
16 Hartwell Street
Bernardston, MA 01337
Last Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
August through March

CLUB OFFICERS

Jared Smith – President
1-413-834-1665
Dan Hale – Vice President
1-413-522-4823

ABOUT OUR CLUB

Despite Mother Nature not flexing her “Snow-guns” last year as much as we all hoped, our club, like the rest that make up the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, have been very busy. This past year we added to our grooming fleet with club raised funds and grants. We added a factory Arctic cat grooming package and thru a Polaris grant tracks and upgrades to a side by side. Which then got a state of the art custom club built groomer.

Located on the I-91 corridor on the Vermont border we have many parking areas literally minutes from Exit 28. Our main one is located just south of Kringle Candle on route 5&10. The lot that Kringle lets us use, is also close enough to walk down to their store or enjoy a meal at the Farm Table Restaurant. Also there is the Windmill motel located on Route 10 where if you chose to make a weekend out of it you can stay trailside.



Arctic Cat Factory Groomer

Once out on the club trails that cover the 3 towns and 70 plus groomed miles, in Bernardston there are a few food options which include the Four Leaf Clover, The Country Corner Store and with a short walk you can get to Hillside Pizza or Antonio's 2 pizza. This year we also hope to have access to Zeke's bar and grill, located on the Crumpin Fox golf course. If your sled needs fuel you can access the Sunoco gas station which also has a Dunkin Donuts. Then from Gill you can enjoy the Scenic French King Bridge on your way to the French King Restaurant and connects to the town of Northfield's trails.

If you chose to bring your own meals, we have now have 3 locations



BGL Fire Pit

where our club gathers to warm both our hands and “buns”. These are located in Leyden, Bernardston and in Gill. Usually on Sunday afternoons there is an open invitation to all to get together in at the Leyden fire pit where it is encouraged to show off your outdoor cooking skills.

Our trails are maintained by a groomer fleet ranging from 3 wide tracked snowmobiles, 2 tracked mini trucks, a tracked side by side UTV and a pair of tracked Geo trackers. These machines don't stay running by themselves and we have many local businesses that help support all aspects of what we do. The Steel Shed Inc, Beckwiths Auto, Ray's Cycle Center and Green River

Powersports help keep us running. To help us find our way on the trail with signs and our machines looking sharp Hale Custom Signs has us covered. I encourage all of you to show your appreciation for what they do by supporting them with your business.

For all club info on trail reports and activities we do our best to keep our webpage www.BGLSNOW.com, our facebook page “Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile Club” and our club page on www.sledmass.com.

PLEASE remember As you enjoy our club trails or any other clubs trails Show respect to our land owners and obey all trail sign requests, especially for curfews and quiet zones. Our trails like most in Massachusetts are made possible by generous private land owners who most of them don't even own sleds.

Hope to see you out there... “Ride Safe and Keep the Rubber Side Down”
— Brad Stafford

FOR MORE INFO

Website: www.BGLSNOW.com
Facebook page: [bernardston-gill-leyden snowmobile club](https://www.facebook.com/bernardston-gill-leyden-snowmobile-club)
Contact:
Jeff Miller 413-522-0796
Jared Smith 413-834-1665
Brad Stafford 413-374-4201

CLUB EVENTS

NOV. 10, 2019

18th Annual Swapmeet and Vintage Sled Show

9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Just off Route 5&10 near Kringle Candle
New Sleds ■ Accessories ■ Service ■ Used Sled/ATV/Motorcycle Corral
■ Only \$10.00 for Corral Entries
■ Raffles ■ Food ■ Accessories ■ SAM Trailer ■ SAM/BGL club memberships

Supported by Green River PowerSports, Ray's Cycle Center, and Scotty's Sledwerx

We also will be collecting new and unwrapped gifts for the “Toys for Tots” program



Polaris UTV Groomer

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Rays Cycle Center
322 Wells Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone: 413-773-8718
Hours: Mon thru Thur 9-530,
Fri 9-8, Sat 9-4

Steel Shed Inc
39 Bernardston Road
Bernardston, MA 01337
Phone: 413-773-9601
Hours: Mon thru Fri 8-4

Raffle
tickets
only

\$10

Win a Blizzard
Trailer

SPONSORED BY



www.blizzardmfg.com

Benefiting your Local Snowmobile
Clubs, SAM, and Our Trails



EXAMPLE OF BLIZZARD 4-PLACE
TRAILER, NOT ACTUAL RAFFLE PRIZE



**Grand Prize: 4-place Blizzard
Trailer or \$5,000 in CASH!**

**Plus the chance to win more than
\$3,000 in additional prizes!**

Purchase tickets from your local club

**Blizzard Model 2066 4-Place Enclosed
Aluminum V-Nose Trailer. MSRP of \$8,800**

STANDARD FEATURES

- Truss Roof Bows (16" on center)
- .025 1 Piece Screwless Aluminum Roof
- .030 Smooth Screwless Aluminum Side Skin
- 2" Zinc Coupler
- Tongue Jack
- Rubber Torsion Coated Axles with Sure Lube Hubs
- 1 Electric Brake Axle/1 Idler Axle
- 5/8" Marine Treated 7-Ply Plywood Deck & Ramp Doors
- Polished Stainless Steel Hardware and Hinges with Zerk Fittings on Front & Rear Ramp Doors
- Spring Assisted Rear Ramp Door
- Recessed Camlock Latch System on Front & Rear Ramp Doors
- 24" Diamond Plate Stone Guard
- Recessed Exterior Lights
- Roof Vent
- Side Access Door w/Lighted Blizzard Handle
- Fuel Doors
- Luan Finished interior Walls
- 8" Diamond Interior Plate Kick Panel
- 2 - 12v Interior Lights w/Switch
- Full Length Slide Rail Securing System including aluminum tie down bars with rubber socks
- 3-Year Warranty

Cable Car Over Cold River

MEMORIES
OVER 50 YEARS
IN THE
MAKING

By Jerry DuPree
Indianhead Snowmobile Club.

This article is dedicated in memory to the intrepid three men that I know that were part of building the cable car that crossed the cold river between towns of Florida and Savoy. They were Romeo Polletti, Harold Williams, and Fred Maynard. Photos provided by Robin Clark daughter of the late Jim Rice of Hawley.

Fifty-years ago there were snowmobilers with a vision for the future, a hunger for winter adventure, a limitless passion for and a willingness to give of thousands of volunteer hours to one sport and that is how we got to where we are today!

Fifty-one years ago, I bought my first sled an 18 hp Ski-doo and while riding was great, the trails were not groomed like today and there were a lot of dead end paths. Turning around and back tracking was a normal day of riding (the days before reverse). A trailer was a standard part of your equipment to get from town to town.

I joined my first snowmobile club around 1968 which was Indianhead snowmobile club and met a dozen riders all eager to build trails to connect the 5 towns in the club (Charlemont, Rowe, Hawley, Heath and Florida) and that is how I got to experience this awesome cable car over the Cold river.

These club members were not discouraged by a river where a bridge was not an option. There were ramps on each side of the river that the car would meet up with on either side. A loop cable would allow you to use



The late Jim Rice from Indianhead crossing Cold River

the car if it was on other side when you arrived and you were able to pull the car to your side. Going for a ride knowing that you were heading for the cable car was the highlight of the trip. When a group of 6 sleds got to the cable car it would not take much longer to cross than changing a plug or belt which was done quite regularly in those days. Hanging over the river was quite a thrill and was great when we all were over and on our way to our next destination.

S.A.M came into existence in 1969 through the dedication of riders who saw their limited trail system threatened and realized that they needed to organize their individual efforts of a few volunteers into a collective effort of many. Today, fifty years later we are a strong unified organization of 31 clubs



Vermont Border 2 Border in 24 hours

and 2100 miles of "groomed" trails; all done by a fleet of volunteers turning hundreds of those dead end paths into an interconnected trail system we can be proud of!

In 2003 my son and I took on the challenge of the Vermont border to

border in 24 hours for cystic fibrosis. You were required to raise money for the foundation. Approximately 200 sleds left Heath, Mass., between 3 and 5 AM. Our group left at 4 AM and my son and I made it to Canadian Customs by 6:30 PM; clocking a total of 330 miles. I would love to see us organize our own border to border from Connecticut to Vermont to celebrate our 50th and support a good cause. If you think we are up for the challenge let's see if we can do it.

We have accomplished much in 50 years, with dedication of individual snowmobilers, great clubs and an organization to be proud of. Celebrate with me, your fellow riders, your club and S.A.M and wish a Happy 50th anniversary to the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts! 🐾



BUCKLAND RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

50 YEARS AND COUNTING

My start in snowmobiling was only 40 years ago, but the first sled I had would be 50 years old now: 1969 AMF Skidaddler with a 250 cc engine, seat back, under seat storage and a kick stand to hold the track in the air for warming it up. I bought it from my neighbor for \$300 and had it for several years until I went off to aircraft mechanics school after high school. My tromping grounds were Southamptn, Westfield, and Westhampton with a pretty good, if limited, trail system. There was no trail grooming to speak of, so the riding was often pretty rough. Since my sled didn't go very fast that wasn't a problem.

But I was down in the valley which was still pretty populated compared to the hill towns and didn't get as much snow so I sat down with Buckland Resident and long-time club member Charlie Plesnar to talk about what it was like back then up in snow country. He clearly remembers his first sled, a used Skiroule he brought in 1971. That Thanksgiving he was at a family gathering in South Deerfield and it was snowing like crazy. He couldn't wait to get back home for a ride in two feet of fresh powder. As soon as he got back he suited up, fired up the sled, and made it about 30 feet before getting totally buried.

Those old sleds were definitely not suited for deep fresh snow and he had to learn to wait for the snow to settle and to carefully pack trails. But he was clearly hooked as he bought a brand-new Arctic Cat Panther in 1972. The Buckland Riders Snowmobile Club was started by Dick Arabia in 1968. Charlie and friends would head out at least three nights a week and the hills around were still pretty open. From the highest part of the trail system you could see the high-rise dorms going up at UMass. Group rides and poker runs were common. The club even held organized drag races at the high school. He remembers sleds getting so hot the gas lines vapor locked. You would have to sit and wait for it to cool. Group rides could go to



Steve Howland in 1978 on his 1969 AMF Skidaddler

the Plainfield Villa or Peppermint Park (all closed now) for a meal and the Dubuque State Forest for a longer ride. Going that far and back would be quite an adventure and take hours.

The gas crunch in the 1980's really slowed down the sport of snowmobiling everywhere and Charlie thought he probably didn't ride at all for a few years. But in the mid 90s when his kids got interested in sleds of their own he decided

to buy a new sled. The old Panther had lasted him until 1996, but when he got the new machine it was quickly apparent how times had changed.

Of course, there are a lot more stories to be had from Charlie and other long-term members of the club, but to hear them you have to join us at meetings, work days on the trails, club rides and other activities. We hope to see you at any of our events and here's

to good riding for the 2019-20 season.
— Steven Howland

MEETING DATES

Second Monday of the month, October through April at the Buckland Fire Station, 7 p.m.

CLUB CONTACT

Steve Howland, 413-522-3320
or club@bucklandriders.com

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Happy Trails package store at the Mohawk Shops,
Rte. 2 in Shelburne

Frank Labelle's Outdoor Equipment Shop, Rte 112 in
Buckland

Casey Griswold Repair next to Neighbor's Store,
State Street, Shelburne Falls

Shelburne Farm and Garden, Rte 2 Shelburne

Frank LaBelle's
Sales & Service Inc.
296 Ashfield Road P.O. Box 126
Buckland, MA 01338

"Providing Quality Power
Equipment Since 1971"

(413) 625-2101
info@franklabelles.com

www.franklabelles.com



LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

The Statewide Snowmobile Trails System – What's New?

KEY, CRITICAL TRAIL “CONNECTIONS” WITHIN TRAIL SYSTEM MISSING

By Lawrence Tucker

It is late August and a couple of 40-50 degree evenings have kick started me in anticipating the upcoming riding season. This year I have updated my “Bucket List” by adding to it the new goal of riding more each year. I accomplished that goal last year as I rode in the Berkshires right up until the snow melted. Like most of you, I have also ridden in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Quebec. I have added Nevada and even Alaska to the places I have been riding. Basically, I just like to ride anywhere and everywhere, but I also love to ride out on the local trails of the Mill Valley Snowmobile Club of Belchertown.

I guess you could say that I love to ride our local trail system because I helped create, build, and, most importantly, continue to maintain the trails and the Landowner relations. I confess that I enjoy working on the trails in the Fall as much as I do riding in the winter. However, when I ride locally, there always seems to be something missing. And, strange as it sounds, when I ride in Vermont, New Hampshire or Maine, it becomes obvious and also reminds me that something is missing back home.

What is missing? Key, critical trail “connections” within our trail system are missing. And, if we stop and ponder it for a minute or two, despite the fact that Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine get a load of snow, what also contributes to make their trail system

great is that their systems have virtually all the trail “connections” in place. As one example, you can ride from border-to-border in both Vermont and New Hampshire. “Pisgah to Pittsburgh” is how I would describe the trails in New Hampshire.

The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (or SAM) has the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (or SSTS). The clubs comprising SAM have built an almost 2000-mile trail system within the snowbelt of Massachusetts. But, if we view the trail Map, we can see that in several areas of the SSTS it is fragmented and is lacking some “key” connections. The officers of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (or SAM), our new SAM lobbyist, Jason Wentworth and the SAM Board of Directors



Always an adventure on the trail



Lawrence Tucker on the trail

continue to fight for new trails and new trail connections. The SAM Officers continue to meet with and send letters to our State Legislators and the leaders of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (or DCR) and the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (or DF&W) in the effort to create these connections.

I would like to highlight just three of the “key” connections we are working on:

- First, both the Porcupine Ridge Runners of Shutesbury and the Mill Valley Club of Belcher-town are trying to connect their trail systems. In order to make this connection, a key parcel of property owned by the DCR will require open communication and a working partnership to complete.
- Secondly, both the Harvard club and the Nashaway club of Lancaster are trying to connect their trail systems. In order to complete this connection, a key parcel of property owned by the DF&W will require open communication and a strong working partnership to complete.
- And third, the Hadley club is about to have its trail system cut in half by the widening of State

Route 9 from two up to four-lanes of traffic. The club is working to utilize a small parcel of property owned by DCR to help tie their trails together. This effort will, once again, require open communication and a working partnership to complete.

I would like to take time to ask everyone to thank those legislators who are working with us on these trail connection projects and have been very helpful and contributed much of their valuable time. Please join me in extending a BIG thank you to Senator Eric P. Lesser (D) - First Hampden and Hampshire District; Senator Joanne M. Comerford (D) - Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District; Representative Daniel R. Carey (D) - 2nd Hampshire District and Representative Natalie M. Blais (D) - 1st Franklin District for all their help and time.

I am hoping to see all of you at the SAM Snow Show on the weekend of November 16 & 17, 2019 in West Springfield, Mass. And, please join me in helping to support your State Association in continuing to extend and connect our Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS) during 2019-2020.

And remember, all Snowmobilers are part of the Trail Connection Team! 🏍️

POLARIS

2020

SWITCHBACK® XCR®



**RACE-READY
STRENGTH &
DURABILITY**

Polaris recommends that all riders take a safety training course. Do not attempt maneuvers beyond your capability. Always wear a helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride.



CONWAY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

CLUB CONTACTS

President Austin Snape
413.522.6846
Vice President Mike Barlow
413.369.9918
Treasurer Craig Warner
413.369.4703
Secretary Amy Faut
413.320.3416
SAM Delegate Adam Sokoloski
413.250.8376

www.sledconway.com
[www.facebook.com/
ConwaySnowmobileClub](https://www.facebook.com/ConwaySnowmobileClub)

MEETING TIME

First Monday of the month, September through April, 6:30 p.m. at Conway Inn, 43 Main Street, Conway, MA 01341

ABOUT OUR CLUB

The Conway Snowmobile Club (CSC) was founded in 1969 and is currently celebrating our 50th anniversary! The club has been in the forefront of snowmobiling in Massachusetts – besides starting the club, our original officers founded the state-wide organization now known as SAM. The club has not stood on its past accomplishments though, we maintain an online presence where riders from anywhere can securely buy their trail passes online or share their feedback with club officers.

CSC has over 120 miles of trails to enjoy! Mostly due to the excellent relationship between our club and the landowners that allow snowmobiling on their property. Checkout our website for suggested locations to park for enjoying our trails.

Groomer Operators are key to Conway's wonderful trail system. Along with our volunteers that clear trails, build bridges, organize events, and help with fundraising, it's our groomer operators that keep us up and going in the winter, most of whom double as equipment mechanics.

We have only a handful of dedicated operators to run our fleet of grooming equipment and the club is



Eastbound on the Suspension Bridge

currently expanding our groomers with new and bigger equipment.

The club is also known to help out adjacent clubs by grooming trails for them for as many seasons as needed.

For the safety of our volunteers and riders, the respect of our landowners, and the care of our equipment, Conway has developed guidelines for grooming.

Please download a copy of our grooming guidelines and other references at www.sledconway.com. Thank you volunteers!

CLUB EVENT SCHEDULE

OCT. 6, 2019

Conway's Festival of the Hills

CSC has a booth selling local kielbasa as well as pierogi and hotdogs and hamburgers

FEB. 2, 2020

Annual Pancake Breakfast

Ride into the Conway Firehouse
7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Trail side track repairs on the groomer. Part of being a groomer is repairing the equipment. Sometimes when you least want to tackle the job. A little help from your friends make it a lot easier to get back on trail.

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Online!

www.sledmasstrailpass.com

Neighbor's Convenience Store

242 Conway Road
South Deerfield, MA
413-665-2830

Ray's Cycle Center

332 Wells Street
Greenfield, MA
413-773-8718

Baker's Country Store

Route 116
Conway, MA
413-369-4936

Sunderland Corner Store

101 North Main Street
Sunderland, MA
413-397-2002

The Spirit Shoppe

53C South Main Street
South Deerfield, MA
413-665-2456

Delta Sand and Gravel

562 Amherst Road
Sunderland, MA
413-665-4051


Ciesluk's Market

55C North Main Street
South Deerfield, MA
413-397-3574

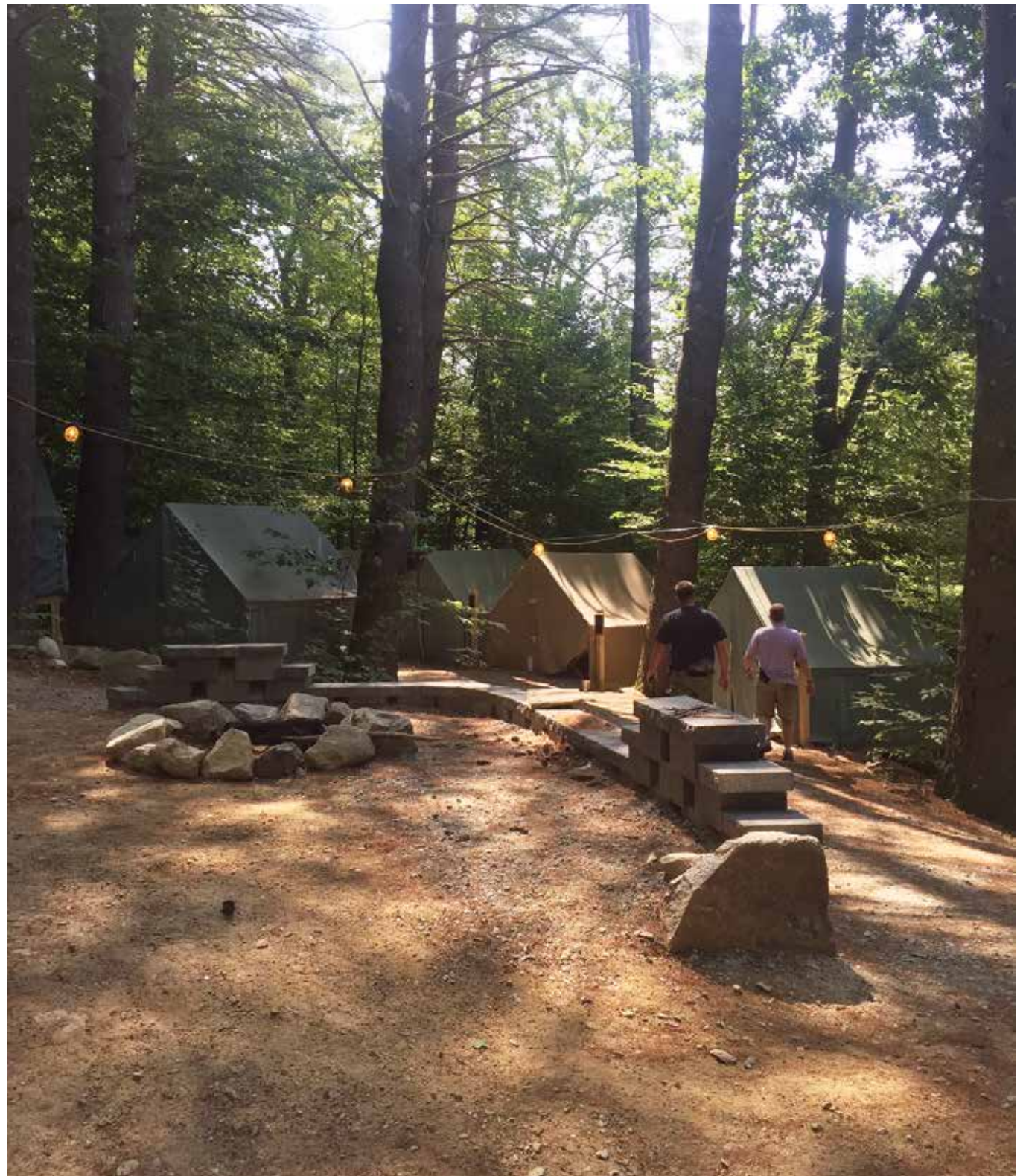
Easter Seals' Camp SnoMo

IF YOU WANT,
YOU CAN!!

By Marcia Miller
SAM Charity Chair

 id you attend summer camp? Where you fortunate enough to be outdoors in the summer doing the things summer camp has to offer? I know my memories of summer camp are swimming in a lake, boating, archery, hiking etc.... For many of us we were able to participate in these activities relatively easily. For others, not so much. Camp SnoMo, located on the property of The Daniel Webster Council Boy Scouts of America in Gilmanton Iron Works NH has been providing summer camp for youth ages 11-21 with special needs for about 45 years. Here these youth are able to do any of the activities they want with the help of some very special councilors. These councilors come from all over the world to volunteer their time and talent to give their camper an experience they won't forget.

During our vacation this summer Jeff and I had the awesome opportunity to visit Robert Kelly (the program director) and receive a tour of the camp. I can't tell you how many times this was suggested to me by Herb Hilton. Herb had a passion for Camp SnoMo and he always made sure that Camp SnoMo



View of the new tents and campfire area



Main lodge/ kitchen,dining,sleeping rooms, bathing areas.



Plaque recognizes NH Snowmobile Association and clubs



Robert showing us the inside of the tents



Robert showing off their newly donated UTV

was forefront in our state association charity giving. Well Herb, I made it and I am so glad I did. We started out touring the residential hall where meals were prepared and served. It is where the campers stay in dorm style rooms (a little better than what I remember being in) and where they can shower and get ready for the day. As you can imagine there is a need for very specialized equipment to help those who cannot function without these things. These items are not inexpensive but a necessity for those who need help with everyday functions. Just outside the building hanging on the wall of the porch you will find a plaque of all the state's Snowmobile clubs. These are the people who make Camp SnoMo possible. They provide not only money to run the camp but also provide their time, skills, and material to continually improve the facility.



Dining and meeting hall

We then hopped in the new UTV that was recently purchased for the camp. This is a special UTV that can carry not only passengers but also a wheelchair when necessary. As we found out there are many trails that are quite bumpy and would be very difficult for a wheelchair to navigate. Well now they can load the camper up and get them to wherever they want to go. This is where the "if you want you can" comes in. These campers are allowed and encouraged to try everything the camp has to offer. We drove up to the shooting range where campers were participating in archery and riflery. One thing I commented on was how all campers; boys, girls and the Camp SnoMo kids all mixed together. I thought what a wonderful thing for the non special needs kids to see and be involved with those who were not like them. Maybe giving



Rifle and archery area

Councilors are selected not on their ability or
experience working with special needs youth but
more on their desire and their willingness to learn
and love those they are sent to help.

them a chance to be exposed to different circumstances.

Robert showed us the newly renovated campsites that the youth could stay in. These consisted of a canvas tent perched on top of a wooden platform with cots for sleeping on. There is a special feeling sleeping outdoors listening to the noises of the wilderness. This area also had a newly renovated campfire area with seating for all to enjoy camp songs, stories, and especially camp food (s'mores have got to be the ultimate campfire food)!! We were shown where just recently a group of snowmobilers had dug a trench a long distance just to get electricity out to this site so there would be lighting for those late night strolls. Again all this is donated by snowmobilers.

We then drove past the ropes course where, yes, if they wanted to try the high ropes they could. I am not even brave enough to go up there but campers along with their counselors and specialized trainers could do whatever they wanted to try. All I could do was shake my head in amazement on the ability of this camp to provide this kind of activities. We continued along past the lake where you could see the huge inflatables out in the lake along with different types of boats to explore the water.

We finished up the tour back at the main lodge where we talked with Robert and Chris (the tech guy) about the camp and how all this is only possible with the generosity of snowmobilers and the snowmobiling community. Robert explained that the councilors are selected not on their ability or experience working with special needs youth but more on their desire and their willingness to learn and love those they are sent to help. Robert, like Herb, has a passion for this camp that emanates in his speaking. He truly loves what he does and it shows. This camp runs on love, caring, compassion, patience and the goodness of many.

As another snowmobiling season begins, I hope SAM can continue to provide support for this extremely worthy camp. Maybe we can do more not only monetarily but in giving of our time and talent. Robert always welcomes those who would like to see the camp for themselves. They offer housing in the winter for snowmobilers and maybe we could coordinate a worker bee of sorts to help out. Herb was adamant that we continue giving to Camp SnoMo and now I can see why. If you have any questions for Robert please contact me and I will put you in touch with him. You won't meet a nicer guy!! 🐾



View of the seating area and additional tent sights



**NORTHERN
OUTDOORS**

**MAINE'S ONLY FULL-SERVICE
SLED RESORT WITH BREWERY**

The Forks, Maine

RIDE

- * Late model 1 & 2 person snowmobile rentals
- * Direct access to 13,000 miles of groomed ITS trails

REST

- * Trailside guest houses & cabins to accommodate 2-14 guests
- * Giant hot tub on the pub deck, cozy fireplace inside

REFUEL

- * Great food & handcrafted ales at the Kennebec River Pub & Brewery
- * Premium gas & free WiFi available on-site





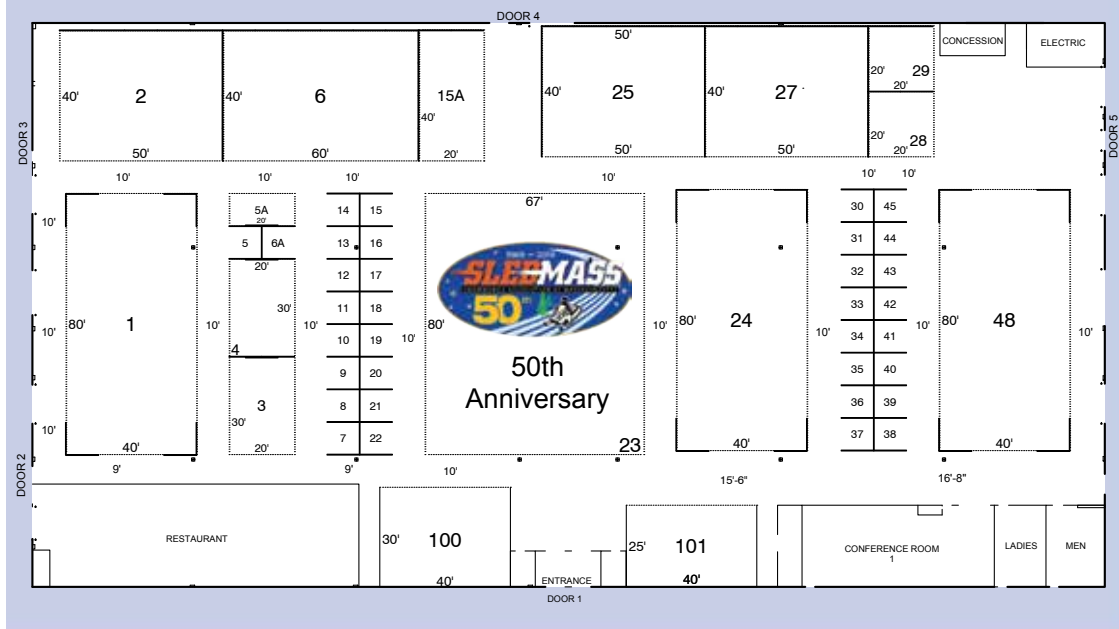

**BOOK YOUR TRAILSIDE
CABIN NOW:**

**888.770.SLED
NORTHERNOUTDOORS.COM**

Sled Expo

NOVEMBER 16 & 17 • THE SNOWMOBILE SUPERSTORE

Eastern States Exposition Grounds, West Springfield | 413-369-8092 | \$8 | under 12 free
New & Used Sleds | Jackets | Boots | Helmets | Gloves | Trailers | Used Sled Corral | Accessories



SLEDMASS.COM
SAT 9-8 | SUN 9-3

Great Deals, Huge Selection, Incredible Savings

The Sled Expo
Saturday, Nov. 16
9 AM - 8 PM
Sunday, Nov. 17
9 AM - 3 PM



With your paid admission to the
SLED EXPO you will receive

FREE ENTRY

into the **Old Deerfield Holiday
Sampler Craft Fair** in the Better
Living Building next door!



The Used Sled Corral: Great selection of snowmobiles

SELLERS

Sell your Snowmobile, Motorcycle or ATV at the Sled Expo for only \$10 per item!

Don't waste time advertising and playing phone tag when you can sell your snowmobile or other power-sport toys in front of eight thousand rabid enthusiasts.

Just \$10 for an entire weekend of sales exposure! Register online or show up at the Sled Expo.

BUYERS

Nothing compares to seeing a sled in person. You can compare multiple sleds side-by-side without driving all over New England.

You will not find a better selection of used snowmobiles in one place and all indoors. Sleds in every price range. Get the best deals before the snow flies.



GOSHEN HIGHLANDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

MEETING TIME

First and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Spruce Corner Restaurant, 190 Berkshire Trail West, Goshen, MA

CLUB CONTACTS

Bryan Osetek, President/SAM Delegate
bosetek217@yahoo.com

ABOUT OUR CLUB

As I sit here writing this listening to a late August thunderstorm pass, I can't believe how fast the summer has flown by! It feels like just last week we were pulling signs and putting the groomers into storage awaiting maintenance. But we just had our August meeting and it was a productive one. We are beginning to plan fall trail work and groomer maintenance and our booth at the Snow Expo.

We worked recently with neighboring Hilltown and Worthington clubs to represent SAM at the Cummington Fair. It was nice to talk with other enthusiasts about snowmobiling in the area while kicking off the selling of super raffle tickets. This was our 1st year with a booth and are already discussing our presence there next year. GHSC booth at the Snow Expo on Nov 16 & 17 on the Big E grounds should feature some new shirts, super raffle tickets and early bird trail passes. Don't forget your registration, \$55 before Dec 15, then up to \$70 after. Save the date!

Trail passes will be available at our usual locations; Spruce Corner Restaurant, Goshen General Store or by contacting Bryan Osetek in Southampton, he can be reached through our Facebook page.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill and Deb Turner for their 15+ years of dedication. From the very beginning of our club they have been present, involved hands on, serving as VP and Secretary, heading up grant writing and grooming coordination. Their scenic pavilion built in memory of their son Brian Turner, an avid snowmobiler taken too soon, has been the site of many club meetings, rides/events, cookouts and benefit meals. Their garage is used for groom-



The John Deere tractor/groomer that Bill Turner spent many hours putting together.

er repairs and maintenance regularly and their property to store equipment and machines. Bill took on the task of putting together a John Deere tractor as a groomer, this project took many hours and was purchased through a grant. We appreciate everything they have done, surely a huge part in our club's success.

By the time you are reading this, trail work will be underway. We meet Sunday mornings at 9a, check out our Facebook page for locations and project updates. We have general trail cleaning, brushing, bridge re-decking and a small trail re-route on the docket for this fall. Please join us even if for just 1 morning, it makes a difference, new faces are always welcome. Many hands make for lite work. Our meetings are held bi-monthly September thru April at Spruce Corner Restaurant on Berkshire Trail West (RT 9) on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings 7p. Always remember to respect our land owners, our trails depend on them, ride safe, ride right and hope to see you on the trails! — Bryan Osetek

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Goshen General Store
31 Main Street
Goshen, MA 01032
Phone: 413-268-7268

Spruce Corner Restaurant
190 Berkshire Trail West
Goshen, MA 01032
Phone: 413-268-3188



Mark Loven grooming along one of our trails last season with our Kubota RTV.



Freshly groomed trail in the DAR state Forest



GREATER WHATELY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

MEETING TIMES

Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the Hatfield Pub, 312 West Street in N. Hatfield, MA 01066 at 7 p.m.

CLUB CONTACTS

Bob Sabola-President 413-478-0733
Curt Hale-Vice President 413-687-3523
Paul Bordura-Treasure 978-380-0022
Matt Sabola-Secretary 413-313-1402.

Website: www.sledmass.com/clubs/greater-whately-snowmobile-club/
Email: greaterwhatelysnowmobileclub@gmail.com

ABOUT OUR CLUB

Greater Whately Snowmobile Club was established in 1969 and has served southern Franklin County since that time. We offer 60 miles of groomed and interconnected trails along the Connecticut River and to the foothills of the Berkshires. We also offer easy access to parking along State Rd. (Route 5 & 10) in Whately. Food, Lodging, and fuel within minutes of the trail system.

Announcement! The Greater Whately Snowmobile Club will be holding a Chicken BBQ on October 19th at the South Deerfield Polish American Club, 46 S. Main Street, South Deerfield MA. The event will begin at 4:00 PM and feature BBQ chicken, many side dishes, and dessert. \$15.00 tickets can be purchased from the Officers and members. Plenty of great food and raffles to be enjoyed by all.

Our club includes about 100 members with a core of dedicated volunteers who host club rides, cookouts, and community events. During the past several years we have worked to improve bridge crossings and trail signage in Whately and Hatfield. These projects were time consuming and complicated but we are very proud of our accomplishments. We appreciate the support that we receive from our friends and neighbors in Whately. Without landowner permission our access to this trail system would not exist. Please respect our landowners and stay on marked trails!



Greater Whately Snowmobile Club members

We thank you for your support in the past and hope that you'll join the Greater Whately Snowmobile Club again this coming season. We're looking forward to the 2019/2020 riding season!

The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts a.k.a. SAM is celebrating

its 50th anniversary this year! Come celebrate with us at the Sled Expo. This year's Sled Expo is located at the Big E and will be held on November 16 and 17. Check out the SAM web page for more details.

Be sure to check out our booth at the

sled expo. Bring us your valid Massachusetts Snowmobile Registration and we will gladly set you up with an early bird SAM Trail Permit.

Riding to good food at Fishtales in Hatfield, MA or the Ashfield Lake House in Ashfield MA.



Irving Gas Station trail sign

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Muffin's General Store

28 State Road
Whately, MA
413-397-3372

Valley Motor Sports

216 N. King Street
Northampton, MA
413-584-7303

Fishtales Bar and Grill

5 School Street
Hatfield, MA
413-349-9804

Josh's Detailing

16 North Main Street
S. Deerfield, MA
413-397-9911

Hatfield Center Store

60 Main Street
Hatfield, MA
413-247-6344

Ciesluk's

55 North Main Street
S. Deerfield, MA
413-397-3574

Curt Hale

126 Christian Lane
Whately, MA
413-687-3523

Bob Sabola

31 Hepburn Drive
Sunderland, MA
413-478-0733



Snowmobile Vintage Nationals



Best in show winner with trophy

By Tina LaCroix
SAM Treasurer
Worthington S.C. Secretary

The 14th Annual Vintage Snowmobile National Show held in Lowville, NY was nothing less than amazing. The Lowville Fire Department volunteers were instrumental in making this show happen. The show was held at the Lewis County Fairgrounds which proved to be a great venue with plenty of buildings to house the 425 (yes, 425!) registered show sleds. This was the first national show I attended and it was above and beyond any expectations I had.

We arrived at the fairgrounds on Friday afternoon to set up as a vendor only to pull into an already packed house of people getting ready to swap and sell all their vintage snowmobiles, parts, and accessories. I felt like a kid pulling into the parking lot of an amusement park, anxious to jump out of the vehicle. We found a great spot still available amongst some great people. Once we got settled, we strolled around talking to anyone and everyone. Some vendors had their goods under cover, others had them already open to the public. This was the most vendors I've seen in one place. There had to be at least 75 vendors over the course of the weekend. If you couldn't find what you were looking for there, you probably aren't going to find it. What I've learned very quickly is if you are looking for something in particular, ask. Many times we get referred to other people who have what we want, or that special something is hidden away in the trailer and hasn't yet seen the light of day.

The show was in full swing first thing Saturday morning. Since we were there all weekend, we held out all day Saturday from going through the 4

buildings with all the show sleds. This is something you can't rush through and I wanted to be sure we had ample time to truly enjoy all the work and time people have put into these machines. By lunch time Saturday, the parking area was pretty full. Most everyone was walking around with something they purchased at the swap and were more than open to conversing about their own vintage sleds. I've only been a part of the vintage community for a few short years, and never in all my years have I met so many genuinely good people. We all share the same love for the sport and its history.

Sunday – the big day, it's what we all came for. We finally embark on our trip through time and head over to the first building full of treasures. Immediately inside the door was something I'd never seen before, a 1964 Polaris Air Sled owned by Heather Torno. What a great relic she has. Only 23 were ever made, 13 electric start, 10 manual. It has a 12-gallon fuel capacity and 125 HP engine. The range on it is about 250 miles or 3 gallons per hour. It can reach speeds of 80mph. Very interesting machine.



Swap Meet

Among the masses of snowmobiles are your more popular Polaris, Ski Doo, Arctic Cat, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Moto Ski, Skiroule, Rupp, SnoJet, Chaparral, Scorpion, Merc, Alouette, Evinrude, Johnson and a surprisingly good amount of John Deere. Then there were many lesser known, harder to come by models, which always intrigue me. When I see these sleds that a) I've never seen before or b) only see 1 or 2 of, I start wondering what the story is behind it. Where did it come from, what is the story behind it, and how did it find its way to the 14th Annual show. Every sled has a story and I wish I could hear them all!

The less popular models I came across included snowmobiles and snow vehicles (and this is by no means a complete list) included: Polecat, Dauphin, Sno-Wing, Roll-O-Flex, Sno Chief, Moto-Loo, Auto Ski, Wheel Horse, Sno-Squire, Manta, Homelite, Ski-Jet, Jet Star, Ski Bird, Leschasin, Eliason (1949 Moto Toboggan), Ingham (1951), Gor-Ski, Kellett Blue Goose, and an Apollo. Again not a complete list by any means, all amazing looking machines. Enjoyable to gaze at and those that included literature with information made the experience that much better.

We finally come to that time in the

weekend everyone has been waiting for – trophies for the best of the best. There were approximately 94 trophies to be handed out prior to the unveiling of the Vintage National Champion.

Shows like the Vintage Nationals do not just happen. There are months and months of planning and preparations to have such a large show go off without a hitch. One of the most important aspects of the show is the judging. As you can imagine, it takes multiple judges many hours of carefully inspecting and combing through each machine and with so many in such pristine shape, this is not an easy task to undergo. A formal thank you goes out to all the judges that spent countless hours choosing the winners for the 36 classes.

After much deliberation, the judges chose a 1961 Ski-Doo K-61 as the national champion. A gorgeous sled owned by Mike Forbes. Congratulations Mike!

Congratulations to all the winners! Thank you to all who showed their prized possessions.

One last note, I had the pleasure of meeting the Mike Meagher, the President and Treasurer for the VSCA (Vintage Snowmobile Magazine). The passion this man has for what he does is unsurpassed. He is such a kind and



Sleds on display



Sno Chief

generous man and I thoroughly enjoyed our conversations. Check out their web-site at www.vsca.com. We are working towards bringing more local articles to the magazine so anyone who is interested in sharing any events, articles, photos etc. for the magazine feel free to contact me at tlacroix@mestek.com.

I personally enjoy seeing / reading about what is happening in the snowmobile world in other parts of the country throughout the year and always look forward to receiving my magazine. We may be miles apart, but the vintage snowmobile community is pretty tight knit and full of great people that all have the same passion, same goal, to not let vintage machines go by way of the dinosaur.

Be sure to come visit us at the snow show (November 16-17) to check out the large vintage display in honor of SAMs 50th Anniversary. Take a walk down memory lane and maybe you too will get bit by the vintage bug.

May everyone have a snowy and safe riding season!! ❄️

Business Supporters of SledMass

A-1 Parts, Inc.

26 West Main Street
Brookfield, MA, 01506
508-867-4120
www.a1parts.biz

Al Joy Tire Arctic Cat

466 Main Street
Southington, CT, 06489
860-628-2728
www.aljoytire.com

Billerica Motorsports

6 Riveredge Road
Billerica, MA, 01862
978-667-1518
billericamotorsports@comcast.net

EP Communications

437 Whittenton St
Taunton, MA, 02780
877-933-7266
www.epcommunications.net

Flamingo Motorsports

2 Wilbraham St.
Palmer, MA, 01069
413-284-1673
www.flamingomotorsports.com

Higgins Powersports

7 Worcester Road
Barre, MA, 01005
www.higginspowersports.com

Northern Outdoors

1771 US Route 201
The Forks, Maine, 04985
888-770-SLED
www.NorthernOutdoors.com

ProLine Products, LLC

34 Industrial Way
Milton, NH, 03851
603-852-7337
www.nhtrailers.com

Quebec Maritime

Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspesie,
Cote-Nord, Iles de la Madeleine
<http://goo.gl/MLQ7o>

Ronnie's Mail Order

43 Ingram Road
New Ashford, MA, 01237
413-458-0373
www.ronniesmailorder.com

Sledtrack

115 Allen Road
Port Crane, NY, 13833
607-693-1031
www.sledtrack.com

Snogear

115 Allen Road, Suite 2
Port Crane, NY, 13833
800-394-8232
www.snogear.com

Voss Signs LLC

PO Box 553
Manlius, NY, 13104
800-473-0698
www.vosssigns.com

Inn on Golden Pond

1080 U.S. Route 3
Holderness, NH 03245
(603) 968-7269
www.innongoldenpond.com

MIB Construction and Hilltown Custom Cabinetry

149 Charlemont Rd
Charlemont, MA 01339
413-834-7303
www.hilltownncc.com

Village Carpentry LLC

45 Pleasant Street
Southampton, MA 01073
413-824-0204
www.villagecarpentryma.com

Wanda Mooney, Realtor

Wanda Mooney | Coldwell Banker
Upton Massamont REALTORS
7 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-768-9848
www.wandamooney.com

Philbrick Motorsports

497 Groton Road
Westford, MA 01886
978-799-8001
www.philbrickmotorsports.com

Troy Powersports

136 North Main Street
Troy, NH 03465
(603) 242-3397
www.troypowersportsnh.com



HILLTOWN SNOWMOBILE CLUB

MEETING TIME

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ashfield Fire station

CLUB CONTACTS

Mike Dufresne, SAM delegate
HilltownSnowmobileClub@yahoo.com

TRAIL REPORT

Trails are Closed until the club officially opens them. Trail trims have started, please come give us a hand. We meet at Ashfield Neighbors every Sunday at 9:00 am. Please bring a saw or other tools you have. Call Eli at (413) 530-9469 with any questions.

Visit our Facebook page for up to date information and trail reports
<https://www.facebook.com/hilltown-snowmobileclub/>

CLUB EVENT SCHEDULE:

DEC. 15, 2019

Community Christmas Party
Sanderson Academy
4-6 p.m.

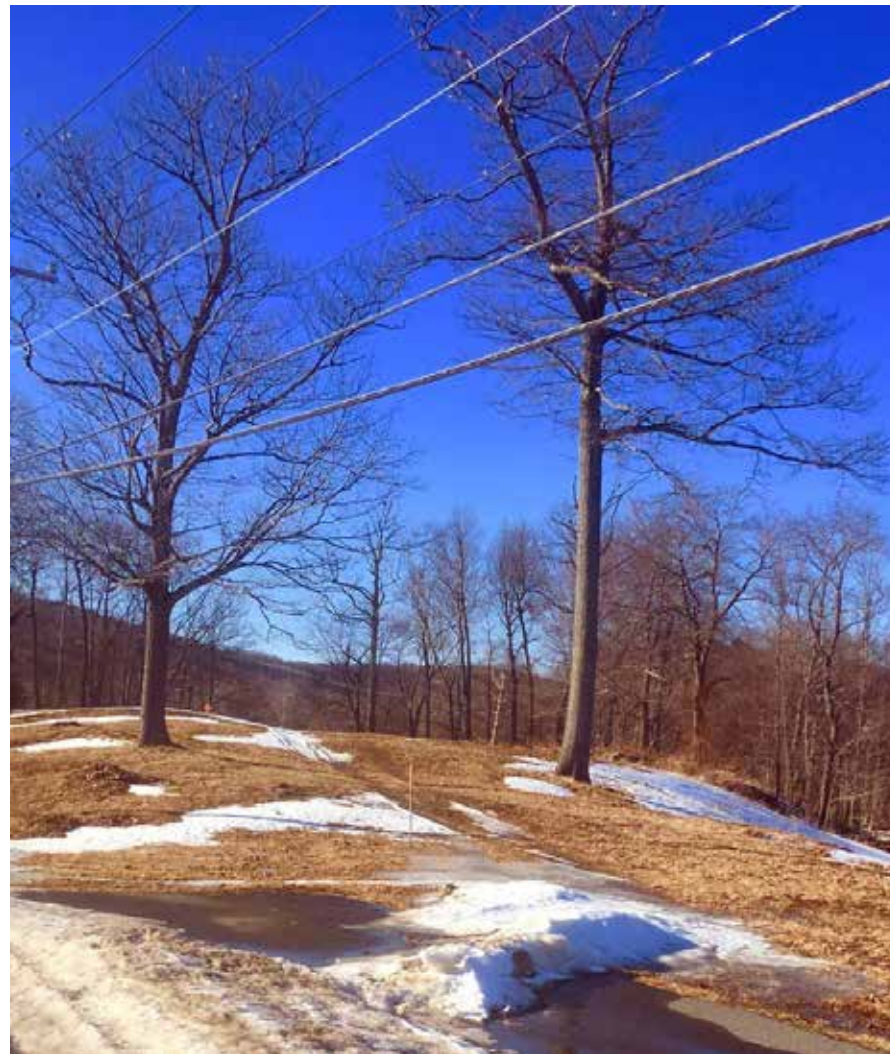
TDB

Pancake Breakfast
Ashfield Lake House

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Neighbors Convenience Store
244 Maine Street
Ashfield, MA
(413) 628-4467

Michael Dufresne
(413) 658-7584





U.S. Snowmobile Thefts in the U.S.

By Adam Buysse

This ForeCASTSM Report analyzes snowmobile thefts reported via the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. A vehicle was determined to be a snowmobile by meeting any of the following criteria:

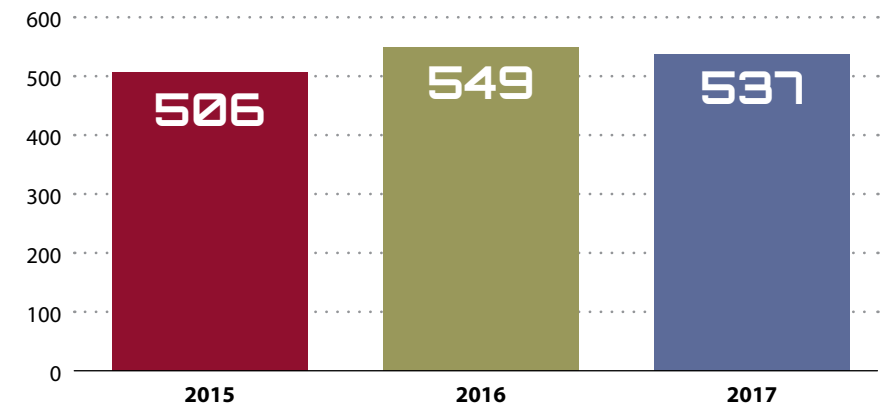
- The VIN that was included in the theft record matched the VIN structures of snowmobiles detailed in the NICB Vehicle Identification Manual (years 1999 to 2018).¹
- The Vehicle Manufacturer (VMA), Vehicle Style (VST), Vehicle Model (VMO), or License Plate Type (LIT) recorded in the theft record matches the codes for a snowmobile laid out in the NCIC Vehicle Data Codes Manual.
- The short text description included in the theft record states that the record is for a snowmobile or that

the record is for a vehicle that was carrying a snowmobile at the time of the theft (and no corresponding record for the snowmobile could be located).

SNOWMOBILE THEFT TOTALS BY YEAR

From January 2015 to December 2017, 1,592 snowmobiles were recorded as stolen in the United States. The variance in thefts between the three years is minimal, with the largest difference coming between 2015 and 2016 when the number of thefts increased from

SNOWMOBILE THEFTS BY YEAR 2015 TO 2017



506 total thefts to 549 total thefts. On average, approximately 531 snowmobiles were stolen annually between 2015 and 2017.

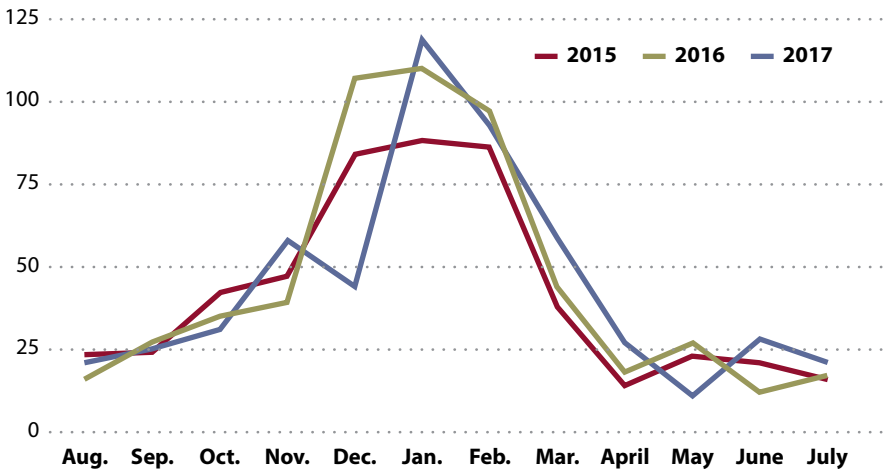
SNOWMOBILE THEFT TOTALS BY MONTH

The most common time for snowmobile thefts is between the beginning of

December and the end of February with 52% of all snowmobile thefts taking place during these three months. For all 3 years of this study, January was the most active month for snowmobile theft accounting for 20% of all thefts and accounting for over 38% of the thefts reported during the previously mentioned December through February time period.

¹ Prior to 1999, none of the 4 major snowmobile manufacturers utilized a standard 17 character VIN structure. By 2002, all 4 manufacturers were using 17 character VIN structures.

SNOWMOBILE THEFTS BY MONTH 2015 TO 2017



SNOWMOBILE THEFT TOTALS BY DAY OF THE WEEK

Snowmobile thefts between 2015 and 2017 were spread out fairly evenly across all seven days of the week. More snowmobile thefts were reported on Friday and Saturday than the other five days of the week while the least amount of thefts were reported on Sundays.

SNOWMOBILE THEFT TOTALS BY MANUFACTURER

There are only 4 major manufacturers that have contributed to the North American snowmobile market since the mid-1980s. The 4 current manufacturers of snowmobiles in North America are Arctic Cat, Bombardier (brand name Ski-Doo), Polaris, and Yamaha. Snowmobiles manufactured by Polaris were the most stolen, making up 36% of all theft records; while Yamaha was the least stolen, making up only 10% of all theft records from 2015 to 2017. The theft numbers for Arctic Cat and Bombardier were virtually the same for 2015 to 2017 each making

up 26% of all theft records. Two (2) percent of snowmobile theft records were for vehicles with an unknown manufacturer or a manufacturer that is no longer producing snowmobiles.

SNOWMOBILE THEFT TRENDS BY LOCATION

Law Enforcement agencies in 32 of the 50 states reported at least one snowmobile theft from 2015 to 2017. Snowmobiles were reported stolen from coast to coast with thefts records appearing in virtually every northern state between Alaska and Maine, and although the majority of the records were located in the northern United States, a handful of records originated from locations as far south as Texas and New Mexico. While snowmobile thefts have been reported in the majority of US states, the top 5 states accounted for 56% of all the 1,592 thefts which took place from 2015 to 2017. Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Alaska, and Washington were the top 5 states for snowmobile thefts, all of which recorded over 100 thefts during the 3 year window of this study. More detailed information about

these 5 states can be found on pages 6 to 10.

Seventeen (17) of the top 20 counties for reported snowmobile thefts between 2015 and 2017 were located in one of the top 5 states for reported snowmobile thefts. Three (3) counties in New York (Lewis, Oswego, and Monroe) were the only counties outside of the previously mentioned top 5 states to record 12 or more thefts over this 3 year period.

RECOVERY CLOCK

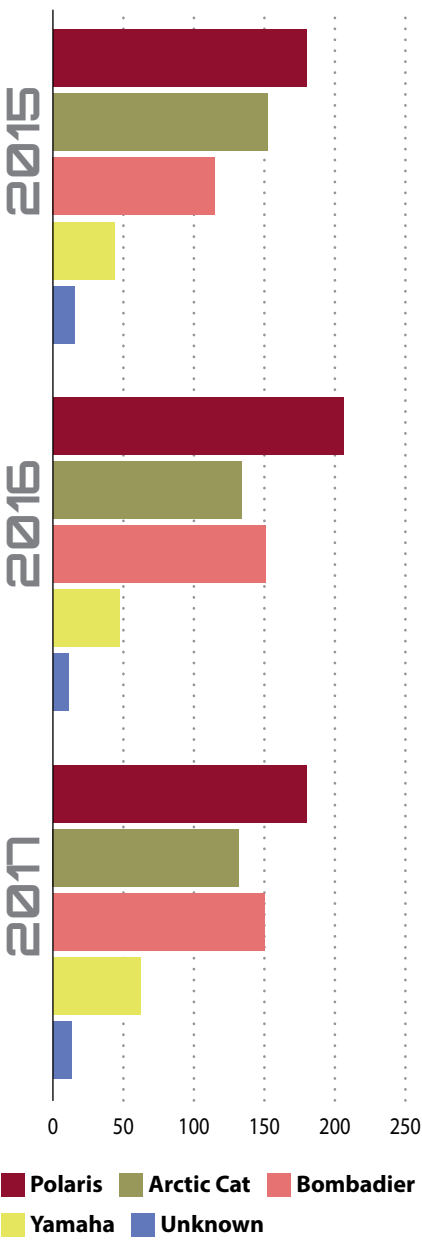
Approximately 57% of snowmobiles which were reported as stolen from the beginning of 2015 through the end of 2017 were never recovered. Of the snowmobiles which were recovered, 19% (8% of all stolen snowmobiles) were located within a day of being reported as stolen, with another 21% (9% of all stolen snowmobiles) being located within a week of being reported stolen. In total 59% of recovered snowmobiles (25% of all stolen snowmobiles) were located within the first month, and 91% (39% of all stolen snowmobiles) were recovered within a year of being reported as stolen. Nine (9) percent (4% of all stolen snowmobiles) took longer than a year for recovery.

CONCLUSION

From the beginning of 2015 through the end of 2017, the number of snowmobile thefts across the nation remained relatively the same averaging out to 531 thefts a year with a slight jump in 2016. While snowmobiles were reported stolen at all times of the year, the majority (52%) of thefts were reported between the months of December and February, with January being the most active month for all 3 years of this study. Likewise, while all snowmobile thefts were reported in 32 of the 50 states, 5 states (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Alaska, and Washington) accounted for 56% of all the nationwide records.

Of the 4 manufacturers in the North American snowmobile market, Polaris was the brand that was most commonly stolen, accounting for over a third (36%) of all the reported theft records from 2015 to 2017. Arctic Cat and Bombardier (brand name Ski-Doo) each made up about a quarter of the reported theft records (26% each), and Yamaha snowmobiles accounted for approximately 10%. Though these percentages varied at the state level, Polaris was regularly

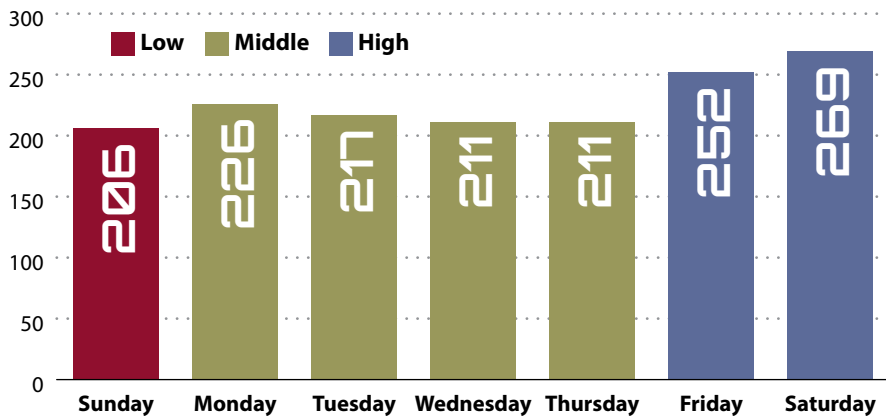
SNOWMOBILE THEFTS BY MANUFACTURERS 2015 TO 2017



the most stolen brand at a state wide level. Of the top 5 states for snowmobile thefts, only Michigan reported a brand other than Polaris as the most commonly stolen brand; instead Arctic Cat ended up accounting for 39% of all the snowmobile theft reports in the state.

Nearly 3 out of every 5 snowmobiles which are reported stolen are never recovered. However, of the snowmobiles which are recovered, 19% of them are located within a day of being reported as stolen and 59% of them are recovered within a month. While the likelihood of recovery goes down the longer the snowmobile has been missing, nearly 4% of all the stolen snowmobiles managed to be recovered over a year after being reported stolen.

SNOWMOBILE THEFTS BY DAY OF WEEK 2015 TO 2017





KNOX TRAIL SNO-RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

MEETING TIMES

Sunday mornings: October 13, November 10 and December 8, 2019 at 9 a.m.

Tuesday evenings: January 14, February 11 and March 10, 2020 at 6 p.m. then **Sunday, April 13, 2020** at 9 a.m. (final)

All meetings at the Knox Trail Inn, Rt. 23 in East Otis, MA.

CLUB CONTACT

James Richard, media director
860-459-9995
Sno-Phone 413-931-3000

ABOUT OUR CLUB

Since 1971, the Knox Trail Sno-Riders (KTSR) has been making the Otis area a destination of choice for snowmobilers in southeastern Massachusetts. When the snow falls, nearly 100 miles of groomed trails connect riders to the Otis Reservoir area from October Mountain in Becket, with trails in the Otis, Tolland, Beartown, and Granville State Forests. When conditions permit, four tracked groomers and five sled based groomers keep the trails in optimum shape. The board of directors meet monthly all year to manage trails and equipment, club affairs, apply for grants, and plan events. Held for the seventh time on September 15, 2019, the Vintage Sled and Tractor Show took place at the Blandford Fair Grounds. Trophy prizes were awarded for such categories as most original, best restored, and worst running condition, with categories for the ladies, juniors, loudest pipes and slowest tractor idle. Trophy winners were voted by the attendees. Also coming is the tenth annual Snowmobile Raffle and Dinner. The event will be at the Knox Trail Inn on January 19, 2020. Win a 2020 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 Sport. Many other prizes will be raffled at the event. Only 125 tickets are sold for \$145 each and include dinner for two at the event. Other events are planned throughout the season. Go to www.knoxtrail.com for more information!



TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS:

The Knox Trail Inn, East Otis, MA

Al Joy Tire Services,
Southington, CT

Katie's Country Store, East Otis, MA

Jim Morweic Snowmobile Parts,
Lee, MA

Papa's Healthy Food & Fuel,
East Otis, MA

Farmington River Diner, Otis, MA

Online at www.knoxtrail.com

By mail at: KTSR, PO Box 363,
East Otis, MA 01029

EVENTS

JAN. 19, 2020

**Tenth Annual Snowmobile
Raffle and Dinner**

5:30 p.m. at the Knox Trail Inn
1898 East Otis Rd., (Rt. 23),
East Otis, MA 01029

Inclement weather date: Jan. 26



MILL VALLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

MEETING TIME

Third Wednesday of the month,
September through March, at 7 p.m. at
the Belchertown Recreation Building off
Rte. 202

CLUB CONTACTS

Ed Morrin; President
Contact at 4136878652

ABOUT OUR CLUB

The Mill Valley Snowmobile Club, of Belchertown was founded and Incorporated in October of 1971. Joining a club helps insure the future of the family sport of snowmobiling by protecting against discriminatory legislation, regulation and taxation. Membership includes permission of trails, copies of maps, a monthly newsletter, club rides, club functions and club accessories. The club has a website and an electronic mailing system for the club newsletter. The club meets monthly on the third Wednesday of every month at our new location at the town Recreation Department building located on Route 202. The club puts on an annual POKER RUN with good eats and plenty of prizes usually in late January or early February.

The club has created, built and maintained a trail system of approximately 100 miles over the years. Our club trail system has links to Granby, Hadley and Pelham. Destinations on our trail system include some excellent restaurants such as The Grapevine Grill, Almeida's Restaurant, and Apollo's Pizza. And, we will shortly have

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Devon Lane Power Equipment
10 Ware Road
Belchertown, MA, 01007
Phone: 413-323-5435
Hours: 8-5 M-F, 9-2 Sat

Flamingo Motorsports
2 Wilbraham Street
Palmer, MA 01069



Clearing the trails after January 2019 storm

a new Pride station in Belchertown where one can "gas up" their sleds.

Our club has an active Trails Crew that goes out most Sundays during the Fall and up until it snows. They go out on Sundays to avoid the fall hunting season. These work projects are advertised via an electronic list to our Trails Crew.

And, the club also has an active crew of drivers who go out and groom our trails during the season. The club maintains a fleet of four (4) grooming machines with corresponding drags of the Mogul Master style.

Please come and join us at one of our regular monthly meetings.



Clearing the trails after January 2019 storm

Facts About Snowmobiling

By Ed Klim, International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association

As we begin the 2019-20 snowmobiling season, we thought you may be interested in the following facts while you are preparing to go ride this season:

45 YEARS OLD

The average age of a snowmobiler.



1,500 MILES

The average number of miles snowmobilers rode last season. The number of miles ridden is dependent on snow cover, so we will see if Mother Nature brings us more days of snow for riding this season.



50%

of the people that snowmobile, trailer their snowmobile to their riding area. The other 50% ride from their home or cabin.

Snowmobilers are outdoor recreationists all year around. Following is a list of the top activities that snowmobilers participate in when they aren't out riding:

60% go ATV Riding

38% go Hunting

26% go Golfing

57% go Camping

35% go Hiking

11% go Personal Watercraft Riding

54% go Fishing

32% go Motorcycle Riding

15% go Downhill Skiing

53% go Boating

MANY

snowmobilers belong to a club and participate in many of their club's events. If you do not belong to a snowmobile club, I recommend you consider joining! Clubs hold great riding events, great parties, and are made up of wonderful people that become great friends.

\$3,349

Amount snowmobilers spend on average of each year going snowmobiling, traveling to their snowmobiling spot, and food, gas, and lodging. In many places of North America, snowmobilers pay the bills for many people involved in the Winter Tourism Industries and related businesses.

79%

of snowmobilers are male.



SAVOY KANARY KATS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

MEETING TIME

Second Friday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
Groomer Garage, 90 Tilton Road, Savoy

TRAIL TRIM MEETING TIME

It takes a lot of effort to maintain our trails... please join us! You provide the time and we will provide the tools, transportation and even lunch afterwards. Every Sunday from October 1st to December 15th, 9:00 am (we're usually done between 12-2 pm). Meet at Savoy General Store at 9:00 or at the Groomer Garage at 90 Tilton Road to get the trail work assignment.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE MEETING TIME:

Please join us to learn the equipment, maintenance techniques and meet other club members. We meet most Wednesday or Thursday evenings, 6:00 pm (call or text Sean at 413-519-3829 to confirm schedule) at the Groomer Garage located at 90 Tilton Road, Savoy.

CLUB CONTACT:

<https://www.savoykanarykats.org/>
Sno-Phone 413-448-8866

ABOUT THE CLUB

Volunteers and snow, we'll take as much as we can get...

A successful club needs many of things, but the two most important items are snow and volunteers!

We hope Mother Nature helps us with snow, but the volunteers are always the heart of the club. We average between 600 and 900 members who enjoy our 75+ miles of trails that we groom and maintain, yet we see the same few volunteers who repeatedly support the club. We jokingly call them the "onepercenters"... they are about 8 to 10 dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours supporting the club and we sincerely appreciate their efforts. We are very proud to have been recognized for 2018 Club of the Year (Savoy Kanary Kats), 2018 Family of the Year (Al and Terri Bird) and 2018



Another successful bridge repair by our dedicated trail maintenance volunteers

Groomer Operator of the Year (Rick "the Wreck" Massey)!

Please consider volunteering! We'll take any support you can offer... social media, tree cutting, cooking French fries, grant writing, turning wrenches, whatever; we'll take your help. It's a great group of men and women who love the sport and you're sure to have a good time.

This year we are raffling a 2020 Ski Doo MXZ 600 with electric start and reverse — only 750 tickets will be sold. Get your tickets for \$20 each at LP Adams, Ronnie's Adams, Savoy General Store, at the Sled Expo and at our monthly SKK meetings. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, January 25, 2020.



The Rice family volunteering at the annual Kanary Kat Winter Carnival

We participated in the North Adams "MOTORAMA" car show in North Adams. We will be at the Open House at Ronnie's Bennington talking sleds (and selling raffle tickets) on Saturday, November 2. We'll be at the Expo on



The LaFrance family enjoying a day off from volunteering

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Savoy Hollow General Store
413-743-5406

**Ronnie's Cycle Sales
& Services Inc.**
Adams 413-743-0715

PLT
Pittsfield 413-443-2623

Dalton General Store
413-684-0170

South Side Sales & Service
North Adams 413-664-7111

Ronnie's Harley Davidson
Pittsfield 413-443-0638

11/16 & 11/17 (raffle tickets will be available too). Join us for the Kanary Kat Christmas party at 12/7 and the Winter Carnival on 2/15. SEE YOU ON THE TRAILS!!!

Jay Kopala
GENERAL MANAGER
1-888-686-8010

RONNIE'S
Cycle Sales of Adams
Selling Fun in Adams for over 50 Years!

150 Howland Avenue, Adams, Massachusetts 01220
tel. 413-743-0715 fax 413-743-1902 www.ronniesadams.com
sales@ronniesadams.com

HONDA · LEHMAN TRIKES · POLARIS · SEA-DOO · HAULMARK · TRITON · KARAVAN

BACON's
KUBOTA
YANMAR STIHL HUSQVARNA

Sales and Repairs for over 30 years

29 GOSHEN RD. (RT. 9) WILLIAMSBURG, MA 01096 | (413) 268 3620



WORTHINGTON SNOWMOBILE CLUB



2018 Big E Snow Show Booth

MEETING TIME

First and third Tuesday of every month. September to May. Worthington Fire House 7 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

CLUB CONTACT

Tina LaCroix, 413-579-2297,
worthingtonsc@yahoo.com

ABOUT THE CLUB

Winter is coming! We hope you all enjoyed your off season, but now its time to start thinking snow! Thank you to all of the members that chose to join our club last season. Its your support that keeps our club running strong and providing you with the best riding in the area. If there's enough snow on the ground our volunteers are out there grooming while the rest of us are sleeping.

Those of you that joined our club last year will be receiving our fall newsletter in about a month. Please be on the lookout for this as it is a convenient way for you to renew your membership, purchase snowmobile raffle tickets, and get caught up on all the latest news from the Worthington Snowmobile Club. Anyone wishing to become a member that was not last year, just text your name and address to 413-579-2297 and we will be sure to include you on our mailing list.



2019 Arctic Cat Bearcat Groomer Special

Passes are mailed out within 24 hours of receipt of your payment. Be sure to respond by December 15th to get your early bird passes for \$55 so when snow flies you will be ready!

What's new in the club? This past winter we purchased, through grant funding, a 2019 Arctic Cat Bearcat Groomer special to add to our fleet. You may have seen it in your riding travels, and if not, we hope you enjoyed the riding conditions this new piece of equipment provided. In addition to this new groomer, we received a Recreational Trail Grant for \$39K+ to purchase a new Kubota L6060 tractor. We hope to have this piece of equipment in service for the 2020-21 riding season.

Thank you to everyone who donated funds for our snowmobile raffle. The winner was Mike Dolle from Savoy. This year we are pleased to announce we have upgraded from an indy to a XCR as our raffle sled. Tickets can be purchased at the snow show, or via paypal if you contact Tina at 413-579-2297. The annual S.A.M. meeting was held on April 4th this past spring and we would like to congratulate our own Stuart Caputo for being awarded Snowmobiler of the Year. A well-deserved award. Stu puts a lot of time and effort into helping our club run smoothly and he is truly an asset not only to our club, but to the snowmobiling community as a whole. Great job Stu!

Be sure to like us on Facebook, Worthington Snowmobile Club, "The Best Snow in Town" - to get the latest updates from the club. We welcome (and encourage) anyone to join our meetings, they are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from October through May at the Worthington Firehouse. Trail work will be starting soon. Every Sunday (weather permitting) at 9am. We always need volunteers! Hope to see you all at the snow show - otherwise we will see you on the trails when snow flies. Have a happy and safe riding season!!

TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Deane Messeck Excavating
39 Old Main Road
Worthington, MA 01098
Phone: 413-238-4486
Hours: Call Ahead.

Knightville Package Store
201 Worthington Road
Huntington, MA
Phone: 413-667-3214
Hours: Seven Days a week, hours vary.

Listons Bar and Grille
324 Old North Road
Worthington, MA 01098
Phone: 413-238-5353
Hours: Lunch and Dinner, open until close

Skyline Services
292 Lockhouse Road
Westfield, MA 01085
Phone: 413-562-8020
Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 to 5:00

**Adams Sno-Drifters
Snowmobile Club**

PO Box 25 Adams 01220
Brian Janik, 413-743-1012

**Berkshire Snow Seekers
Snowmobile Club**

PO Box 1102 Pittsfield 01202
Andrew Perenick, 413-822-6374

**Bernardston Gill Leyden
Snowmobile Club**

241 West Leyden Rd Leyden 01337
Jared Smith, 413-834-1665

**Birch Hill Rangers
Snowmobile Club**

55 Baldwinville Rd Royalston 01331
Roy Smith, 978-249-9687

**Buckland Riders
Snowmobile Club**

295 Ashfield Rd., Buckland 01370
Dave Lowell, 413-834-0769

Burgy Bullets Snowmobile Club

12 Laurel Rd., Haydenville 01032
Jon Tobin, 413-727-2297

Chesterfield Four Seasons Club

River Road, Chesterfield 01084
Todd Frost, 413-296-4048

Coldbrook Snowmobile Club

Phillipston 01331
Chris Ferragamo,
coldbrooksnowmobileclub@mail.com

Colrain Sno-Drifters

Shelburne 01370
Rusty Coombs, 413-624-8850

Conway Snowmobile Club

PO Box 112, Conway 01341
Austin Snape, snow@sledconway.com



CLUB LISTING

Easy Riders Snowmobile Club

(Marlboro Moose Lodge)
67 Fitchburg St., Marlborough 01752
Mike Nicoli, 978-479-2847

**Florida Mountaineers
Snowmobile Club**

Florida 01247
Tim Keating, 413-662-2705

**Goshen Highlanders
Snowmobile Club**

Goshen 01032
Bryan Osetek, 413-297-6504

**Greater Whately
Snowmobile Club**

Whately 01093
Bob Sabola, 413-478-0733

Hadley Snowmobile Club

138 East St (Club Meeting Place)
Hadley 01035
Steve "Sinky" Szymkowicz,
413-586-9864

Harvard Snowmobile Club

Harvard 01451
Tony Shaw, 978-772-6619

Hilltown Snowmobile Club

Ashfield 01330
Mike Dufresne, 413-628-9964

Indianhead Snowmobile Club

Charlemont 01339
Matt Crowninshield, 413-337-5566

**Knox Trail Sno-Riders
Snowmobile Club**

Tannery Rd Otis 01255
Jeff Gamelli, 413-931-3000

Leicester Snowmobile Club

Leicester 01524
lscboarddirectors@gmail.com

**Lunenburg Snow Riders
Snowmobile Club**

Lunenburg 01462
978-582-0242

Mill Valley Snowmobile Club

Belchertown 01007
John Sansoucy, 413-283-9340

Northfield Snowmobile Club

Northfield 01360
Michael Quinn, 413-498-0259

**Porcupine Ridge Runners
Snowmobile Club**

Shutesbury 01072

Sandisfield Snowmobile Club

Sandisfield 01255
George Munson, 413-258-4887

Savoy Canary Kats

Savoy 01256
Sno-Phone, 413-448-8866

Snow Riders of the Nashaway

Barbers Crossing, Sterling, MA
Susan Smiley

Snowbirds Snowmobile Club

92 McCormick Rd., Spencer 01562
Tom Cosgrove,
tom@spencersnowbirds.com

Snowmobilers United

West Boylston 01583
Ralph Corcoran, 508-845-6821

Ware River Snowmobile club

American Legion Hall,
246 Prospect St., Gilbertville
Jay Pease, 413-519-0090

Worthington Snowmobile Club

Worthington 01098
Jeff Smith, 413-210-7292

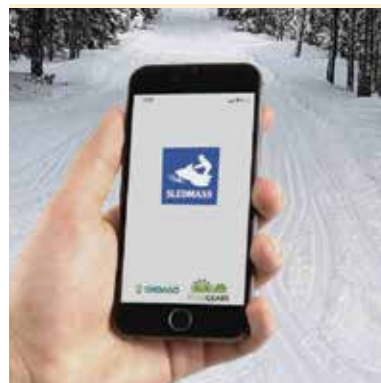
Wanda Mooney, REALTOR®
Your local resource for country properties.



Enjoy the season!

Coldwell Banker
Upton-Massamont REALTORS®
(413) 768-9848
Wanda@WandaMooney.com

Check out WandaMooney.com for complete inventory.



OUT EXPLORING ON YOUR SNOWMOBILE? TAKE YOUR OWN MOBILE TRAIL ASSISTANT FOR THE RIDE!

SAM brings an enhanced version of its web application to your pockets, making for a better riding experience than ever. Works both with and without mobile data coverage.



SAM EARLY BIRD TRAIL PASS

SAVE 20%

SUPPORT
YOUR CLUB
TODAY! JOIN
EARLY...AND SAVE!!
**PURCHASE
BY
DEC.15**

NEW FOR 2019-2020 LIMITED-TIME OFFER

Purchase a SAM trail pass by December 15th for only \$55
Regular in-season price after 12/15 is \$70 per sled. Why wait?
Available at clubs and supporting businesses.
sledmass.com/trail-pass-locations



BUY NOW - SAVE CASH - BE READY TO RIDE - SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!