

SLEDMASS



**SLED
EXPO**



VIRTUAL 2020

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Let it SNOW!

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Our Essential
Workers!



The Official Publication of the
Snowmobile Association of
Massachusetts

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Adapting to Change

2020, what a year. If there was ever a year that I could be hit by lightning in the winter this is it. In an unprecedented year we have seen many cancellations and rescheduling's that it makes your head spin. But as snowmobilers we are a resilient group. We know how to make lemonade when life throws lemons at us. Because of the sport that we love, we have learned to adapt. From year to year our sport always changes, whether it's trail conditions trail reroutes or just the way we do business. But it is never stopped us from continuing to ride in our area. We just pull up our bootstraps and continue doing reroutes, talking to landowners and always searching for that next great trail.

The Association is no different, learning to adapt to these crazy times. With social distancing and no public gatherings we have had to change the way we do our Expo. So this year we have a virtual Expo online that will run throughout the year. Dealers, distributors, and manufacturers can be seen on our virtual Expo and tap into our local marketplace. You will be able to see dealer specials events and such throughout the year that you might want to participate whether it's to purchase a sale item, a snowmobile or anything they might be offering. You can also sign up as an attendee and get notifications about sales events from our vendors throughout New England. So make sure that you sign up, who knows you might find something you really need or want right from the comfort of your own home.

Also for 2020 all our monthly meetings are now online instead of in person. While it is taking a little bit of getting used to, it appears that we're getting in the swing of things and we can get quite a bit done in just a few short hours. Hopefully by 2021 things will change and we will at least be able to meet a few times in person. While online meetings are great, you can never replace the in person networking that you get going to meetings. It is truly a priceless part of the process, and quite frankly sometimes the best ideas come out of networking meetings.

For the first time in the Association's history we now have online trail pass sales. You now will be able to go to the Sledmass website to join your favorite club and get your trail pass. Once you sign up, your receipt gives you the opportunity to go riding immediately. You will get your sticker and permanent and trail pass form in the mail. This will be a great time saver for people, allowing them to be riding instead of tracking down a trail pass vendor.

Many new updates have taken place over the summer on our map app. One of the big news items is that there will be a map app "Basic" that will be available for free. This will give you the opportunity to see how the map app works. But if you want all the bells and whistles like door to door directions, trail conditions and such you will have to purchase the pro version of our app. You will also be able to breadcrumb your trails and share them with your friends. Also new this year we will start to implement groomer logging through our map app. In an effort to take away the burden of filling out grooming logs every week, it will be all automatic through our map app freeing up time for club members to do other things and maybe even get to enjoy the trails they work on.

While the pandemic has created so many problems, it has taught the snowmobile community to adapt once again. It has pushed many associations to do business in totally different ways. While it may be hard for some, as time goes on we will see that the "new normal" will work out pretty well. Hope to see you all out on the trails. 🐾



By Jeff Miller



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2020-2021 Winter Outlook

By Greg Conlan LSC, ERSC



One of the most asked questions for those that ride snowmobiles is “Do you think it’s going to be a good Winter for riding?”

Most riders here in Massachusetts start thinking of this question right when the first leaves start to change colors.

Unfortunately, as you know, Winters in Massachusetts can be very fickle. Meteorological Winter runs from December 1st to March 1st in case you didn't know. Last Winter started off with a bang, heavy snow fell during the 1st week, allowing those lucky enough to have open trails to get a few days of riding in before the big rainstorm and warm-up a few days later erased all that white gold.

The 2019-20 Winter after such a wonderful start turned into a major let down for those that wanted to ride. We had high hopes, 90% of the weather forecasters, including NOAA called for a cold snowy winter and we all know how that turned out. I'm sorry for reminding you. (lol) Last year the Polar Vortex was very strong. The Polar Vortex is the wind circling the Arctic, when it's strong it doesn't allow cold to leak out Southward, when it's weak, you guessed it, the cold air heads South and inevitably you hear about it 24/7 on the news. That was one of many factors leading to such a lackluster Winter short on Cold and Snow.. Some of the other factors were the lack of a Greenland Block. When we have a Greenland Block, storms don't just scoot West to East, they get bottlenecked up and tend to produce our best snowstorms. Another factor was a positive NAO (North Atlantic Oscillation). The NAO is the difference between atmospheric pressure between the Icelandic Low and the High of the Azores. The NAO is always changing, but it can remain Positive or Negative for a period of time. When the NAO is negative and the Polar Vortex is Weak and we have a Greenland Block our chances of having a significant snow event rises, provided yet another factor occurs. This factor is the most important. Precipitation, without storms arriving our way from the Pacific, everything else is moot. There are even a few other factors that can come into play, factors like Solar Activity, Volcanic Smoke, the MJO, ENSO — El Nino, La Nina or ENSO Neutral to name a few.

2019-20, had many of the factors needed for cold and snow but very rarely the right combination at the right time.



Greg Conlan, right, and Chief Meteorologist Bernie Rayno from AccuWeather.

The Winter following a Hot, Dry Summer will be above average in Snowfall 75% of the time.

Unfortunately all the pieces fell into place during Spring, too little too late. As you just read, there are many factors needed to have a snowy Winter and the last I checked, no meteorologist can give you an accurate 10 day forecast never mind one 3 months in advance. All the long range forecasts should be viewed just like the 10 day forecast with the same probability. Someday we'll have supercomputers better able to forecast the future, until then, forecasts can change.

2020-2021

The majority of the forecasters, including once again NOAA, have come out with their Winter Outlooks. They are calling for a moderate to strong La-Nina with a Strong Polar Vortex. So you're asking yourself "what does this mean for us in Massachusetts?" Well they would have

you believe this winter will be Slightly warmer than usual, with slightly above average precipitation, with slightly below average snowfall. What I want you to remember is, there are many factors at play and even with their dire forecast, the right factors can align for snow.

I'll end this with some positive vibes. We very rarely have had 2 consecutive dry Snowless Winters. Some of our best Winter Snowfalls have occurred during La Nina. The Winter following a Hot, Dry Summer will be above average in Snowfall 75% of the time. A warm November has a greater probability of an above average Winter Snowfall, and lastly WE ARE OVERDUE!!! My prediction for this Winter is as follows, Western MA will see slightly above average to above average snowfall, Central Ma or as I like to call it (East of I-91) will have an Average Winter or slightly above and inside of Rt128 slightly below average to average.

Thank you for reading, Think Snow!! 🌨️

Greg Conlan LSC, ERSC, is a Certified NWS Skywarn Spotter, Specialize in analyzing Severe Weather and a lifelong Weather Junkie. You can follow him on Twitter @ R2_SNEWeather or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/R2SNEWeather>



Economic Impact of Snowmobiling

By Ed Klim

International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association

The US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis has released the Economic Output for outdoor recreation for this past year. The Recreation Industry generated \$788 Billion Dollars in 2019, which is \$ 10 Billion Dollars higher than in 2018. The outdoor recreation economy continues to grow and outperform the economic growth in the United States during the pandemic. Individuals are continuing to reach out and recreate in the great outdoors across the United States.

The latest report shows that Outdoor Recreation, as part of the Gross Domestic Product, is 2.1%. What does that mean you ask? Outdoor Recreation produces more of the GDP and is bigger than mining and agriculture! Snow Activities, including snowmobiling, grew 3.1%. Most of that activity is within rural America and is the economic engine for many rural families and their economy.

Outdoor Recreation generates 5.2 million jobs in the United States. The states with the largest percentage of state GDP related to outdoor recreation are Hawaii, Vermont, Montana, Florida, Maine, and Wyoming. In Montana, 32,000 jobs are generated by the Outdoor Recreation Economy which is 4.7% of the state's GDP.

Boating and Fishing is the largest conventional activity for the Recreation Economy generating \$23.6 Billion Dollars of economic activity while RVing is the second largest activity nationally generating \$18.6 Billion Dollars of economic activity. Snow Activities was rated the 6th largest of the economic activities.

Snowmobiling is an important part of the overall recreation economy and we generate economic activity during peak winter months when much of rural America is in need of economic output and support.

The recent study underscores that individuals that are outdoor enthusiasts are active in the winter and warmer weather as well. Surveys by ISMA show that approximately 60% of all snowmobilers also ride

ATVs and UTVs in the summer. More than 50% of snowmobilers enjoy boating and fishing and recreational camping. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts participate in many activities and they are healthy, strong, and do not participate in a great deal of TV watching and internet-based recreation.

The snowmobile manufacturers and the snowmobile community are pleased to participate with the studies conducted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis within the Department of Commerce. We provide supporting data and information to the department upon request. We highlight the high activity level of the recreational snowmobiling customer base and highlight to elected representatives how we are active supporters of recreation on public land and great, responsible, family activity. 🐾

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“We Are Due”

By Brad Stafford

Ask any snowmobiler in Southern New England and they will agree that the lack of snowfall over the past few years has been very emotional. Everything from disappointment, sadness, frustration and even anger are just some of the emotions that I have had, and know many others have too. But despite all the negative ones, there were the good ones also. The biggest one I saw in most was optimism.

Whether it is in person, emails or as of now or in a Zoom meeting, any snow conversation almost always include the phrase... “WE ARE DUE!!!” and I agree totally.

Personally, the way 2020 is going with the pandemic, the political unrest, wildfires, hurricanes, murder hornets to name a few why not add a SNOWMAGEDEN Winter!! I see the fuzzy woolly bear caterpillar colors, bumper crops of pine cones, acorns and my snow blower is busted, so its all lining up for just that... a good ole fashioned, snowy, New England Winter.

I have found that with or without snow during the winter, most snowmobilers that I know are truly 12 month a year enthusiast; that no matter what the weather is outside, they are always willing to talk about their machines, experiences, plans and hopes for next year. Especially those involved in the vintage side of the sport. Having a few vintage rides of my own, Facebook and other social media platforms have groups of all kinds that are alive and well. Hopefully we will have the snow and with proper precautions have the 3 sanctioned Vintage Rides across the state. So not just me, but so many others that have been rebuilding these old pieces of history will get them back out in the snow.

On another vintage note, a couple years ago the group that organizes the Winter Festival in Greenfield Mass reached out to the Mass Vintage Snowmobile Club. They wanted to know if we wanted to put on a show. Well of course we did!! The first year was a quiet one, but







since then, when there is snow, we have been able to drive them around and give rides in tow behind sleds. There have been too many stories, great comments and smiles to count. But to see the look of pure joy on the face of a special person, who thought there would never be a way for them to take a snowmobile ride cannot be described in words. It has to be felt....

Another event that I hope comes back this year is the sliding party that the Bernardston Kiwanis Club puts on. They provide the hot cocoa, Hot dogs and snacks while our club and its volunteers provide rides back up the sledding hill. Club groomer sleds, our tracked Geo trackers and personal sleds are used to keep the hill full of smiles. Hopefully the snow, and a way we can do this safely, will be here.

SLEDDING OPTIONS

Many of the clubs across the state have their own destinations and share them with others. One of my favorites on my home turf of The Bernardston Gill Leyden trail system is our club fire pit in Leyden. When our trails are open, it's almost a certainty that around 1pm on Sundays, there will be a warming and cooking fire going. Years ago, it was just the usual hot dogs and smores. It has since evolved into a weekly cook off. I have had steak

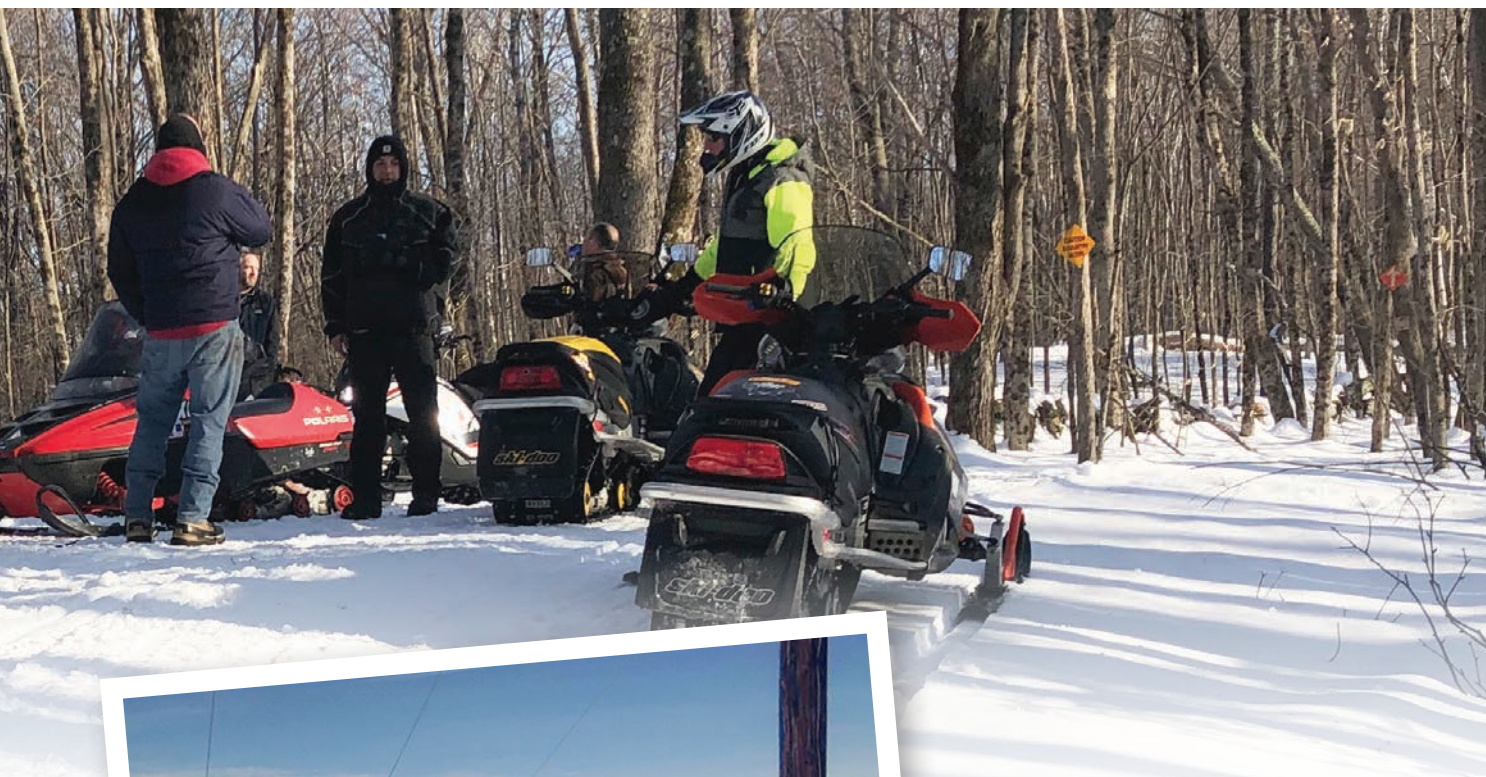


tips, marinated chicken, venison, grilled sandwiches and on and on. Most come for lunch, with others just stop in for the usual snowmobile talks. More often than not, a destination will be discussed and a trip from there and back happens. Usually up through Colrain to the fire tower and sometimes beyond.

For those of you that aren't located right on a SAM trail and would have to trailer in, most clubs have at least one parking area for you to start from. Some of these are just minutes off Interstate 91. If there are concerns about not knowing exactly

where you can ride once out there, no need to worry. This year there is a new and improved Massachusetts Snowmobile Trail app. That will have turn by turn directions, trail grooming updates and more. Check out all the details on Sledmass.com.

Once out on the trails, there are endless destinations. They range from great views like the overlook of the old Rowe nuclear plant to the Windmills in Berkshire county. There are also plenty of places for food/gas or even lodging. It might surprise you just how many local restaurants are available and accessible



by snowmobile. Maybe your next favorite one is there waiting for you. If you're really adventurous and are registered in Vermont, you can access the VAST trails from a couple different spots. I have made the day trip to the Woodford area for lunch more than once.

STAY OPTIMISTIC

When I was asked to write up this article I asked what direction it should go in.... It was suggested a nice upbeat one. So far, so good I think... But there's some other things that you all should be aware of.

These past few "Lower snow total" years, have taken its toll on our sport. With low SAM trail pass sale numbers and this year's pandemic rules shutting down fund raisers, most local clubs are at experiencing financial difficulties Every dollar paid for a SAM trail pass goes right back to the clubs which helps to keep our trails open. SAM, the Snowmobile Association of Mass, is not a state governed entity. Every decision that is made by SAM is actually the actions of all the delegates of the local clubs. Many of us know that without a snowy year, and the support

of the snowmobile owners, which helps their clubs to keep trails open, the way we snowmobile right here at home will change.

NOW this is where many of you are going to say...its not worth it as we don't get the snow that the other states get. I can't argue with that. But hear me out. Nobody knows what the travel and stay restrictions will be this winter. There are over 2000 miles of snowmobile trails in Massachusetts all within hours of your house. For about the same amount you would spend on gas and lunch just getting to a northern location you could be registered and be ready to ride in your backyard. Our sport can be perfect for social distancing especially when you ride locally. Endless day trips for the family, small groups and the best scenario would be opportunities to get new and young riders out. SO, may I suggest for that snowmobiling person on your Christmas list, you can find the perfect gift... forget the shakey weight or the foot massager. How about even just a single trail pass... a ticket to ride... a reason to work on your lucky snow dance. These are just a few reasons to get a trail pass.. but the biggest one is "We are due" for a kick a\$\$ snowy winter!

Keep the faith, be kind and Keep the Rubber Side Down. 



Groomer Operators: Our Essential Workers

By Jeff Miller

It's a cold winters night with temperatures in the 20's. The snow has that "twinkle" to it, and you know it is time. So, you call home to make sure supper is ready when you get there, run in the house, and eat like Buford T Justice eating a Diablo Burger. Got to go, and out the door you run. Your family is still sitting at the table with only one bite gone, and you wife tells the kids "don't worry, he's not crazy he is going grooming". And quick as that the groomer is fired up and I am in my happy place, the cab of a groomer.

Now people look at you kind of weird when you tell then you cannot wait to get out on the trails and set a blistering pace of 5 mph on the trails. But grooming is so much more than that. Groomer operators take pride in making beautiful ribbons of white gold wind through

the woods. Some call it a thankless job because the trails are constantly getting chewed up and rutted and all that hard work is gone in an instant. And that it why we like it, because if the trails stayed perfect, we would not be grooming. So just like Bill Murray in Ground Hog Day,

we get up the next day and repeat the process all over.

People look at grooming and say "how hard can that be?" Well a good groomer is always on alert for debris or hazards in the trail. There is not an operator out there that has not had to cut their way out of the woods because of fallen trees. So next time you are clipping down the trail and see sawdust, thank the operator for clearing your path so you can enjoy your ride. A good operator will remember every stump, rock or whatever is buried under the snow so that they do not clip it with the drag and come to a screeching halt. They also must be part weatherman. They have to know when it's too warm, too cold and when it's exactly right. Too warm and the drag has a giant ball of snow wedged inside it. Too cold and the snow doesn't pack and just flies off the drag and into the woods. But when the temperature is exactly right, you look back and see the snow rolling over

in the drag being aerated and processed, ready to be packed by the pan. At that moment as the snow is being process, the operator is in ZEN mode. Time slows down and they savor the whole process with a smile when they see the perfectly flat trail being laid down by their trusty beast. That view never gets old to a groomer operator and that is what we do it for; to create something for all to enjoy and say "those trails were awesome today!"

There is no doubt groomer operators are a different lot, they live to go slow so that you can enjoy the sport that we all cherish. Always make sure to give them the right of way so they can do their job and give them a "thumb's up" when you go by. And if you see one taking a break, stop and say thank you for a job well done. After all they are our essential workers. 🐾



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Your OHV Trust Fund at Work

By Randy Toth

Representatives from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) have been quietly working on various projects with the Off Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee (OHVAC) to enhance the motorized trail system in Western Massachusetts. These projects, which benefit both OHV riders and snowmobilers, have occurred in Beartown State Forest, Pittsfield State Forest and October Mountain State Forest. They have involved the construction of new bridges, stabilization of trail beds, hazard removal, etc. A few examples are pictured here. 🛹



New OHV Bridge in PSF



New OHV parking lot off of Route 20 just before the New York State Line



New OHV Bridge in OMSF



Keep the Conversation Going

Despite these “trying times”, our Government Affairs team has worked hard to make sure SAM’s priorities are articulated and understood, and to “keep our trails open”. We’ve approached this realistically and honestly, but steadfast in our desire to support the sport’s long-term viability. Our government officials are certainly dealing with very weighty, life-or-death issues, but they are elected to do so AND ensure that “quality of life” issues not fall by the wayside. Through our work, we’ve managed to keep these issues alive and the conversations going. As always, your help is appreciated.

- Reach out to your legislator and let them know how important this winter recreation is to you! I can always speak with them, and that is helpful, but it always helps to underscore our efforts when individual voters and taxpayers care enough to raise their voice.
- Ask them to support SAM initiatives, like our two bills currently in the Legislature.
- Let them know that you want to see continued cooperation between clubs and state agencies. They don’t have direct authority over the Environ-



By Jason Wentworth

Our responsible and
responsive members
have always been our
greatest asset and
natural ambassadors
for the sport.

mental Police or DCR, but they pass these organizations’ budgets and therefore their words go a long way.

- Take advantage of the wonderful trails that our Association, our clubs, and our thousands of volunteers have worked so hard to keep open!

Many of our members travel out of state to explore the other snowy trails of New England and beyond. With travel a craphshoot these days, we hope, snow permitting, you try to RIDE LOCAL even more. Our local businesses that support the sport and provide ancillary services need local dollars now more than ever.

- Continue to put your best foot forward when it comes to working with DCR, MassWildlife, EPOs, etc! Our responsible and responsive members have always been our greatest asset and natural ambassadors for the sport. Keep up that level of interaction...it means so much on a local and state level. Of course, if there seems to be a problem or you aren’t getting a response from an agency after multiple attempts, please contact me. We’ve been able to fix these on the fly, and we’ll do whatever it takes to continue that.

As always, feel free to call at 617-417-4050 or email at jwentworth@peacefieldstrategies.com if you have any questions. 🛷



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www.nysnowmobiler.com

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www.pioneervalleykarting.com/

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RPM's

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snowtourquebec.com

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SureTrac Systems

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Vermont Association of Snow Travelers

www.vtvast.org

Vista Home Improvement

www.vistaimhomeimprovement.com

Woodford Sno Busters

www.snobusters.org

The Farmers' Almanac is predicting a great winter for snowmobilers.

Whether you are a beginner who has never tried snowmobiling or an experienced rider looking to upgrade your equipment, learn more about the sport with a visit to the 2020 Sled Expo Virtual Marketplace.

Go to www.sledmass.com/sled-expo-2020 to register for free and receive news and updates all season long!

SUPER RAFFLE



GRAND PRIZE:

4-place Blizzard snowmobile trailer or \$5,000 cash!

Once again we will be holding our annual super raffle! In addition to the grand prize donated by Blizzard Manufacturing there will also be more than \$3,000 in cash, gift certificates and other great prizes available! Drawing to be held on April 8, 2021 at SAM Annual Meeting.

CLUB NEWS

Berkshire Snow Seekers

By Randy Toth

SAM Delegate
rtoth3@nycap.rr.com

Experience the excitement of snowmobiling the Berkshires. Our Facebook page contains club scheduled events and grooming reports for October Mountain State Forest, Pittsfield State Forest and the Windsor Area. See you on the trails!



Our Tucker Sno-Cat in October Mountain State Forest

Adams Sno-Drifters

By Joseph Rogge

Board of Directors
jorogge2001@aol.com

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

This article has been on hold for an extended period of time. We kept waiting for “the current situation to get better”. When we talk about current situation it covers a broad range of thoughts and issues from weather to finances to trails to elections and to COVID. All of the above do have an effect on where we are TODAY.

We start with YESTERDAY. For the Drifters we can look back on the close of last winter with the Stan Kopala Memorial Ride (Silver Fox Endurance Ride). It was held on Sunday March 1. We had barely any snow yet it was well attended and supported by all four area clubs. It was also supported by SAM Leadership. For those keeping track it was two weeks before the state order to close schools due to the Pandemic. The event re-

sulted in many pictures, forming of new (and old) friendships, and significant donations. The Jim Hollerich farm/museum was the perfect venue for this event. We are quick to note Jim is a Friend of SAM Award recipient. Our Club received a new chain saw as direct result of the above. It was nice to see all ages and many families present. Our local Lion's Club provided refreshments.

TODAY. Our Club has not had a normal start to our 2020-2021 Season. Due to Covid our regular meeting location is not available. Our first meeting was a Board of Directors only meeting. Our October meeting was successfully held due to the availability of a member's large garage. Proper Protocols were followed. We managed to garner two new members. We realize all our members in one way or another are affected by this Pandemic. On a bright note Trail Trims have started. With the usual crew of so few working members.



Clubs supporting March 1, 2020, Stan Kopala Ride

Bernardston-Gill-Leyden

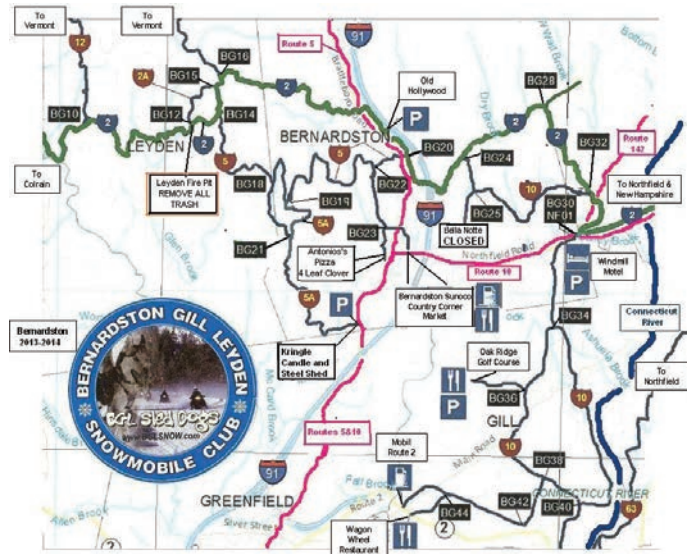
By Brad Stafford

Get stuff done guy

Nvrplay2ty@yahoo.com

The Bernardston Gill Leyden snowmobile club is located right on the I-91 corridor right on the Vermont /Massachusetts border. We have easy access parking locations within minutes of I-91 on Routes 5 &10 so you can access not only our club trails but you can west into the Berkshires, or access the Vermont VAST trails connector in Leyden. Another option is you can just spend the day exploring the 60 plus miles of trails that our club maintains. On our trail system we have access to many restaurants, including the Four Leaf Clover and Antonio's Pizza. Hopefully on the weekends there will be access to Zeke's Bar & Grill, located on the Crumpin-Fox golf course property. If you're spending the entire day in the area we also have access to the local Sunoco gas station, Dunkin Donuts and the Country Corner store for all your trailside snack needs. While out on our trails we have a few destinations for you to visit that include a club fire pit to warm up your lunch, scenic views and access to the famous French King Bridge and its restaurant.

For SAM trail passes and to support our club, you can visit Rays Cycle Center or The Steel Shed Inc. You can also get them online thru the SAM website and designate our club at www.sledmass.com



BGL Trail map

Follow our clubs Trail updates/news and functions on our facebook page Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile club and our website www.BGLSNOW.com. Take care, Be kind and Keep the Rubber Side Down!

Birch Hill Rangers

By Timothy Pandiscio

SAM Delegate

timothy.pandiscio@gmail.com

Bring on 2021, and hopefully a better season than the last handful. Nothing much has changed with our little club. We are continuing to meet at the Royalston Fish and Game Club on the second Thursday of the month (first Thursday after the SAM meeting). We can always use extra hands for trail brushing and equipment maintenance, and we usually make plans at our monthly club meetings.

We groom our trails with a red Polaris Ranger. Our trail system is in the town of Royalston and can be accessed through Lake Dennison maintained by the Coldbrook Snowmobile club. Be on the look out for it during the week, especially after a snowfall. Our groomer operators are just



Groomer at Royalston Parade

as anxious to groom as you are wanting to ride. Please stay on our groomed trails, we work hard to maintain good relationships with our gracious land owners.

Trail passes and raffle tickets will be available at our club meetings, the Royalston General Store, and Cycle Design. New this year you can be socially distant and purchase your passes, raffle tickets and make groomer donations right on the

SAM website, and select Birch Hill Rangers as your club. When you purchase your pass, it can be the day you want to ride - if you are a procrastinator, print the receipt, and that can be your proof of membership until your stickers arrive in the mail. Just note that there is a \$5 internet convenience fee.

Stay healthy, and hope to see you on the trails this year.



CLUB LISTING

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
Don Allard, 413-684-3773

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
Chris Haynes, 978-249-3402

Buckland Riders Snowmobile Club

295 Ashfield Rd., Buckland 01370
Steve Howland, 413-522-3320

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

Easy Riders Snowmobile Club

(Marlboro Moose Lodge)
67 Fitchburg St., Marlborough 01752
Mike Nicolli, 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

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
Tina LaCroix
413-579-2297

Burgy Bullets

By Kevin Kukucka
Secretary
kevinkukucka74@gmail.com

Hello all you fellow sled heads. Here we are ramping up for what hopefully will be a very snowy winter season. This has been a very “interesting” year with all of the COVID issues, but the Bullets are doing our best to make sure trails are open and groomed and we hope to have the clubhouse open on the weekends once snow falls. We are staying with tradition and hosting a “Drive Thru/Pick Up” holiday dinner on Dec. 5th. Reach out to a board member or thru Facebook for tickets. We have been hustling to take care of trail work and bridge repair work and can always use help with those tasks. We have memberships & SAM passes available at the clubhouse and at Valley Motorsports, and have also mailed out newslet-



Looking forward to making trails flat!!

ters with membership forms attached for mail in memberships. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on any events we can schedule once the snow hits. Be sure to do your snow dances and PLEASE get out there and help your local club. Enjoy the season!!

PURCHASE YOUR TRAIL PASS FOR THE 2020-21 SEASON

Join a club today and gain access to snowmobile trails throughout Massachusetts!

Your club membership helps us maintain our beautiful trails and ensure safe travels for all enthusiasts.



www.sledmass.com/members/trail-pass

CLUB NEWS

Conway Snowmobile Club

By Edward Skorupski

Membership Coordinator/Media and
Public Relations Representative
scrublink1@gmail.com

Looks like this year we have a La Nina weather pattern this year, which means snow. Get your passes now, visit sledmasstrailpass.com or sledconway.com. to purchase passes online 24/7. Thank you landowners and club members for your support.

<http://www.sledmasstrailpass.com>

Buy Your Trail Pass ONLINE!!

sledmasstrailpass.com

Buy your pass online, 24/7 anywhere there is internet service.



Sled Conway!

Easy Riders

By Larry McCullough

ClubTres, SAM deligate and
Editor
lcmccullough@charter.net

In this strange Covid season the club is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. With Covid limits we are still working on our meeting structure. Our webpage and Facebook group page will be used to keep everyone up to date on our meetings and travel plans



Twelve Easy Riders on the top of the JoMary Lookout Millinocket Trip – Feb 2020

Goshen Highlanders

By Bryan Osetek

President/Delegate

Bosetek217@yahoo.com

Trail passes are available at Spruce Corner Restaurant, as well as Goshen General store. For up to date info check out our Facebook page Goshen Highlanders Snowmobile club. #thinksnow!



A freshly groomed stretch of corridor 9 through the DAR state forest last season.



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CLUB NEWS



Together we shall ride safe and ride smart!

Greater Whately Snowmobile Club

By Robert Sabola
President
rsabola@aol.com

This is the time of year when we're all rushing around trying to get our last-minute holiday shopping done. Why not buy them a 2020/2021 SAM Trail Permit!

Greater Whately Snowmobile Club Trail Permit Sales Locations

- Ciesluk's Market, Hatfield Center Store, Muffin's General Store, Valley Motor Sports, Fishtales Bar and Grill.
- Curt Hale, 126 Christian Lane, Whately, MA 01373 413-687-3523
- Bob Sabola- 31 Hepburn Drive, Sunderland, MA 01375 413-478-0733

Meetings are held at 7pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at our new location: Scott Farm, 89 North Street, Whately, MA 01093

Hadley Snowmobile Club

By Dan Regish
Treasurer
hadleysnowmobileclub@gmail.com

Season's Greetings from the Hadley Snowmobile Club!

Quarantine?... A blessing in disguise down here in the valley. We have managed to use the mandated social distancing to isolate ourselves out in the woods, clearing and re-routing trails. As a matter of fact, the Hadley club has seen an increase of inquiries from people who want to find a way to have fun while socially distancing. Snowmobilers and non-snowmobilers alike have been calling and emailing, trying to find ways to get outside and enjoy mother nature, and what better way than to get involved with a sport that keeps you at least the length of a snowmobile apart?

That being said, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who work hard to keep our trail system intact and safe to travel on. A special thanks goes out to Larry Tucker of the Mill Valley club who has put in countless hours in effort to secure a safe crossing of Route 9 at the rail trail tunnel. This kind of work is not nearly as much fun as chainsaw wielding and brush hogging, but without this kind of diligent effort, our trail systems would cease to exist. Thanks Larry, for all of your help organizing meetings with DCR, MASSDOT and State Rep Dan Carey.



Happy Holidays!

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Hard work, volunteerism, Optimistic attitude...People working together, (at a safe distance) to keep our trails intact.

Harvard Snowmobile Club

By Tony Shaw

SAM delagate

Tony@toreku.com

The Harvard club has begun the work for the 20-21 season. Trail mowing and tree clearing is going along good. The heavy storms this year have dropped a lot of dead as well as live trees in the trail system. We have had help from the trail walkers group because of the virus stay home orders . Thanks to their efforts we only have to widen the paths through the blowdowns. Club people are working to upgrade trail situations that have been problematic in the past.

The club meetings have gone to a zoom format and it is successful. They are the second tuesday of the month. send us an email for an invitation to the meeting. The club president is Mark Adams and Vice President is Joe Gibbons and Trailmaster is Mark Shaw.

Trail Passes are available in person at Toreku Tractor in Ayer at the rotary. To correspond with the club send emails to harvardsnowmobileclub@gmail.com



The guys fixing the hillside.



Corridor 90 bridge maintenance

Hilltown Snowmobile Club

By Mike Dufresne

SAM Delegate

mdufresn@umass.edu

Welcome to the 20/21 season. Some exciting new things are available this year. Online trail pass sales. The link is available on our facebook page, passes will also be available at Neighbors convenience store in Ashfield. Newly updated map ap coming soon. Trail work has begun and will continue Sundays throughout hunting season. The club is In desperate need of volunteers willing to perform groomer maintenance and operation, will be happy to train you.

Reach out to the club on facebook messenger to inquire about helping , We have a lot of work that needs to be done. Due to covid cancelling all our fundraisers volunteers are more important than ever. Follow the clubs facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/hilltownsnowmobileclub> for the most up to date information. Stay tuned for creative fundraising events. Think Snow!!

Students:
Are you
interested
in a \$1000
scholarship?



CHARLENE WHITAKER SNOWMOBILE SCHOLARSHIP

Submit an application to the Charlene Whitaker Snowmobile Scholarship online at sledmass.com. One \$500 scholarship is awarded annually. In addition, your application will automatically be submitted for consideration in the NE Chapter Scholarship where two \$500 scholarships are awarded.

Details and application are available at sledmass.com or by calling (413) 369-8092.

**THE DEADLINE FOR
APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 1**

CLUB NEWS



Join Indianhead snowmobile club for family fun!

Indianhead Snowmobile Club

By Matt Crowningshield

President

indianheadsnowmobile@yahoo.com

Hello snowmobile enthusiasts. It's that time of year again. Hopefully this year we can have some decent snow so we can get out and ride. Our trail passes are for sale in Charlemont at the cold River Package store and also online at Sledmass.com. There is also raffle tickets available to buy for a four place enclosed snowmobile trailer. If you have any questions feel free to email Indianheadsnowmobile@yahoo.com or visit us on Facebook. Think snow!!

Knox Trail Sno-Riders

By Jim Richard

Media Director

knoxtrail@gmail.com

SNOW! That's the only thing that can save us! Lots of changes with a lot of new officers! Paul Richard is our new president. T.J. Kopyscinski is treasurer, Alan Freedman secretary, and John Ruffo, VP. Meetings are at the Knox Trail Inn on the last Sunday of the month, switching to a Wednesday to be announced in January. Trail crews have been out doing clearing and bridge repairs. New trail routes are being arranged in the northern area of our system. The annual raffle is in play. Only 125 tickets sold at \$100 each. Win a 2021 Ski-Doo MXZ Sport with fuel injection. There is no dinner this year. Drawing is January 17, 2021 at the Knox Trail Inn, rain snow, or shine. The challenges to the club have been immense. The pandemic, the snow drought, and the attrition and loss of valuable club members is painful. On the bright side, many thanks are in order for the new officers and new members! Speaking of membership, be sure to get your trail passes at the early bird price of \$55 before December 15th. Good luck to all. May the snow get deep, your health be good, and your Holidays filled with joy! Stay tuned to knoxtrail.com for info on events. The Sno-Phone is open at 413-931-3000. Again, THINK SNOW!



Paul Richard and Jon McGrath look on as landowner Alex Nipituck trims a new timber for a bridge repair.

Leicester Snowmobile Club

By Frank Bond

Vice President

Double0svn@aol.com

A new season is upon us. We are actively starting our meetings and will be out clearing trails by the time you are reading this. We are hoping for a great season and we look forward to seeing all of our friends at the Meetings. As always think Snow!



Feeding the Gray Jays.

Savoy Canary Kats

By Sean Anderson

Vice President

seananderson1015@comcast.net

Is snowmobiling a cure for Covid? The world seems crazy right now, who knows what to believe. The CDC recommends wearing a face mask and stay 6' apart so it sounds like snowmobiling might be the cure... a balaclava counts as a mask and it's pretty hard riding closer than 6' apart.

All kidding aside, it's a weird time and we can't for the snow to come. The award-winning Savoy Canary Kats are open for business. The dedicated volunteers have been working on equipment, checking trails and inspecting bridges. Please get your trail pass early as they are a major source of revenue for the clubs. As always, join where you ride.

If you've never ridden one of our trails, you're missing out. We have over 75 miles ranging from old town roads, logging trails and narrow sidewinders. Our fleet of 4 large groomers including 3 LMC1800s and a Tucker 2000 keeps the big trails flat and fast while our three groomer sleds (including two Bear Cats and a Scandic) make the tighter trails flat and fun. Our two trail-side local business would love your support. The Savoy Hallow General Store and the Pub 116 offer food and supplies and are compliant with all Covid restrictions.



Dedicated trail crew redecking one of our many bridges.

Don't forget we're raffling off a 2021 Ski Doo MXZ 600 EFI – only 850 tickets sold. Get your tickets for \$20 each at LP Adams, Ronnie's Adams, Savoy General Store and at our monthly club meetings. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, January 30, 2021. Please check out our new website learn how to volunteer, obtain your trail pass and events. SEE YOU ON THE TRAILS!



Join the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts

Memberships to the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts are available through SAM affiliated clubs.

Locate a club that you would like to join at

<https://www.sledmass.com/members/trail-pass-locations/>,
either the closest to you or where you would like to ride.



Snowmobiling Is All About People

Wow, it is remarkable how the “virus crisis” has managed to put all of us off balance with our daily lives to some extent. It has brought about major changes and impacted everything from presenting hybrid and remote learning in our schools and colleges to single day events such as some towns and cities banning Halloween celebrations. And, unrelated to the “virus crisis”, and by the time you are reading this, the newly elected President will have been determined. Many, many changes to our daily lives and to our society are happening. But some things are staying the same, and that is the hard work that your Legislative Team is doing to improve our sport in Massachusetts.



By Larry Tucker

If anything, the COVID “crisis” has accentuated the work being done by the Legislative Team.

This is due to the fact that COVID has caused virtually all states to implement many rules, regulations, and guidelines relative to inter-state travel. These travel restraints may or in some cases will cause countless people to seek to snowmobile in Massachusetts. I sort of like the new word for this which is “Stay-cations”. More snowmobiling in Massachusetts will further highlight the need for all of us to join in the effort to get our Legislation passed, our initial 3-Trail Connection projects implemented and to increase the education of our public officials.

The Legislation for your Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM) for this 2019-2020 session is **Bill #H2281**. Legislative Bill S2281 is titled “**AN ACT PROMOTING SNOWMOBILING SUSTAINABILITY**.” All the aspects of this legislation would be very impactful and beneficial to our sport. Some of the provisions of this bill are:

- Additional membership on the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Stewardship Council that would represent our sport of snowmobiling.
- Allow Landowners to access the recreational land tax rate (Chapter 61B) if they open their land to public recreational snowmobiling.
- Establish fines for anyone who operates a wheeled motor vehicle over a public trail designed and groomed for snow vehicles.

I think we can all see the importance of helping to advance this legislation. Please note that this legislative session will end on December 31st of this year, so please get your call in to your legislator soon.

The second effort that your legislative Team is putting much effort and time into is the implementation of the “3-Trails Connection Project”. This is a focused effort to obtain permis-



sions from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (DF&W) to allow for the creation of 3 critical connections within the SAM Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS).

The old saying that “change is constant” certainly applies to 2020, but with our new proposed legislative changes comes much opportunity for us and our sport. I would like to take a moment to give a BIG thank you to the SAM Legislative Committee Chair; Susan Smiley for all her hard work and commitment to our sport. And, to ask all of you to help her and the Team by continuing in helping to support your State Association in any way that you can.

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



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

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www.ljeproducts.com
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603-279-3330
www.mackstud.com
jim@mackstud.com

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Ellington, CT 06029
860-875-1444
www.leespowersports.com

Central Mass Power Sports

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Lunenburg, MA 01462
978-429-3000
www.centralmasspowersports.com

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128 Norwich Lake
Huntington, MA 01050
413-207-3142
www.retreatatnorwichlake.org
info@timothyhill.org

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Laconia NH 03246
855-294-2483
www.biteharder.com
support@biteharder.com

Sledtrack

115 Allen Rd
Port Crane, NY 13833
607-693-1031
www.sledtrack.com
email@sledtrack.com

Blizzard Manufacturing

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of four snowmobilers in a snowy, wooded area. One snowmobile is in the lower left, with a rider wearing a black helmet and a jacket with "TEAM RECTI" on the back. The snowmobile has "YAMAHA" on the front. Three other riders are standing to the right, wearing helmets and jackets. One jacket has "YAMAHA" and a flame logo. The text "MASSACHUSETTS" is faintly visible in a circular arc behind the main title.

SAM ANNUAL AWARDS

**REMINDER: NOMINATIONS FOR THE SAM
ANNUAL AWARDS ARE DUE MARCH 1**

SAM volunteers are the heart and soul of snowmobiling. Without them there wouldn't be anywhere to ride. No trails, no clubs, no events, no leadership, no future. Snowmobiling would simply cease to exist.

Take a minute and nominate a volunteer right now at sledmass.com/awardsscholarships/. Nominate as many people as you want. You can even nominate a person in multiple categories.