

# SLEDMASS

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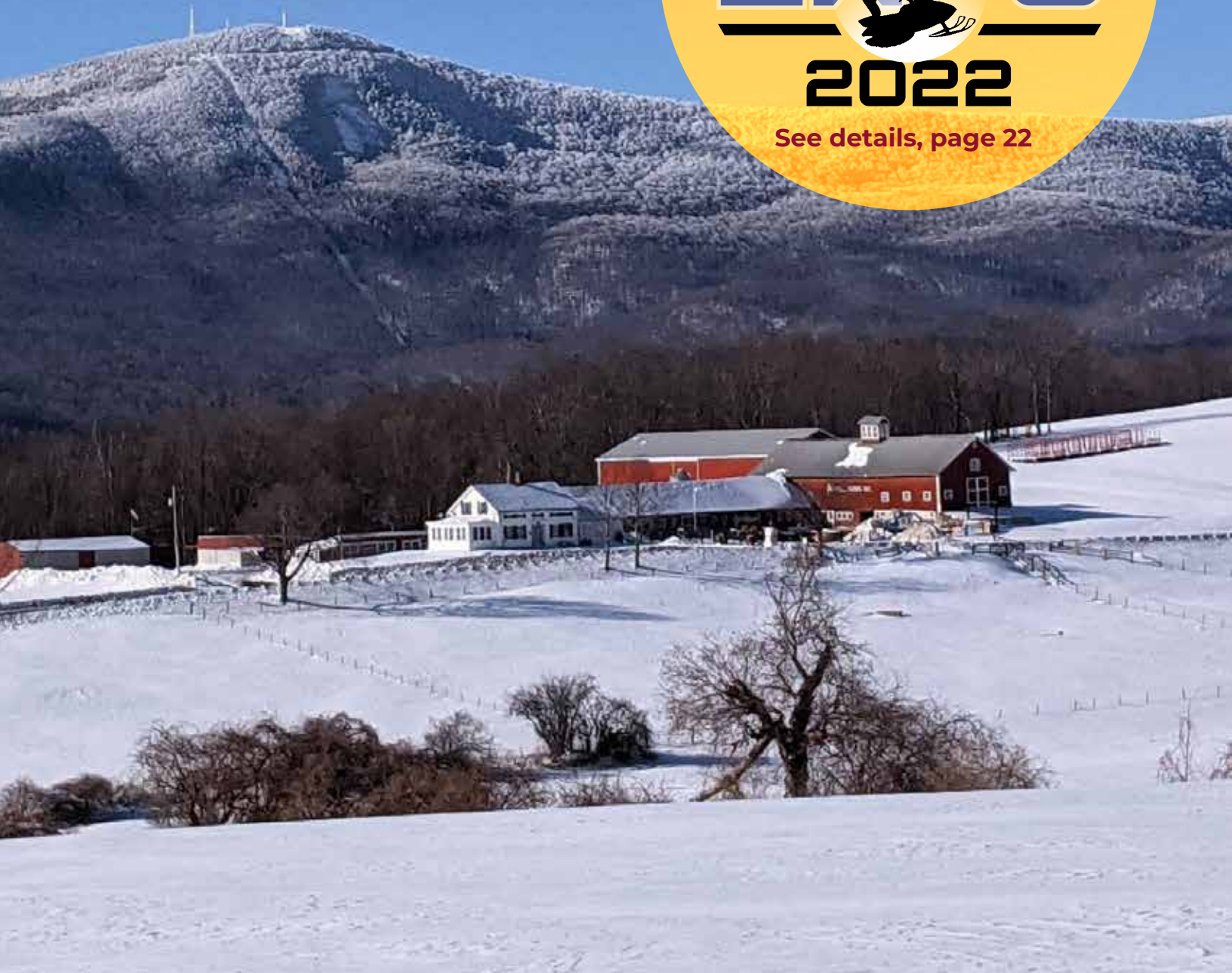
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**2022**

See details, page 22







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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Change is in the Air

**W**here has the summer gone? It seems like just yesterday we were packing away groomers for their long summer hibernation and here we are knocking on the door of the 2022-2023 season. I not complaining mind you as summer is not a snowmobilers best friend. Go away heat and humidity and bring on the cold and snow, we are all ready for a loooooong winter.

Here comes fall and that means it is EXPO time. The Association has been working hard preparing for this annual event and we don't want to disappoint. Vendors are preparing their booths to showcase what they all have to offer. They will have the latest and greatest gadgets and gizmos to make your riding experience a memorable one. As in years past it will once gain be at the Eastern States Exposition grounds in West Springfield Mass, an easily recognizable place for all to get to. The club booths will be everywhere with their displays, selling their club apparel as well as any fundraisers they may be doing this time of year. Stop by and visit with them, as they are the "boots on the ground" that make our trail system function as well as it does. Without volunteers none of us would have a place to ride and enjoy our great sport. So, stop by and say "Thank you" to those hard workers and maybe even volunteer to help them prepare the trails.



By Jeff Miller

So as the seasons change so do things here at the Association. Many changes will be happening in the coming months. First and foremost, after 25 years as our Executive Director, Rena Sumner will be stepping down. She has brought the Association to a whole new level of professionalism that is respected throughout the country. She helped us grow from a small group of passionate enthusiasts to the organization we are today. As we were told this news, like most things you think this day will never come, but it did, and it came fast. So, we are in a state of change and change is not a bad thing.

As of November 1st, I resigned my position as SAM President to become the new Executive Director of the Association. It is an exciting challenge to me, and I can't wait to move the Association forward in the coming years. All states are faced with issues that impact riding in their area and we are no different. I hope to strengthen our relationship with Fish and Wildlife as well as Dept of Conservation and Recreation. It is imperative that we strengthen our relationships with all state agencies so that we can continue to use and grow our trail system. Our state needs our economic engine as much as we need them to continue to do what we enjoy. We may call on our membership from time to time to call their legislators on important issues regarding our snowmobiling community. Strength in numbers gets things accomplished and I know we can count on our membership.

Replacing me as President is Jon Tobin of the Burgy Bullets. Jon is an energetic and passionate man about his family, friends, and snowmobiling. He will always be there to listen to any issues that you or your club may encounter throughout the year and try and come up with the best solution. While at the Expo, look up Jon and say Hi.

We all hope to see you at the Expo and support the Snowmobile Association. Think Snow!, 🐾

Jeff



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# 40, 160, 2 and 3



By Larry Tucker

Quite a jumble of numbers and who would use numbers for the title of an article? What is this all about? Well, let's get right into it. As you read on, I hope you will realize that these numbers do have significance for our sport. We can find the answer and meaning of both **40** and **160** by looking to the Massachusetts Legislature. The governing legislative body in this state is the **Massachusetts General Court** which consists of 40 Senators and 160 Representatives. These 200 legislators are the officials who represent the six million people living in Massachusetts. Both branches of the legislature are elected and serve two- year terms.

To find the answer to the meaning of the number **2**, let's look at the Executive Branch of Government. The Executive Branch of the Government is under the Governor, and it consists of numerous agencies overseeing various aspects of government. At this point it might help to point out that the agency leaders are appointed positions as opposed to the legislators who are in elected positions. And this is where we find the **2** primary agencies that have a direct effect and impact on the trails of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM). The **2** agencies are the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (DF&W). These **2** agencies intersect with our sport through the many existing miles of SAM's **Statewide Snowmobile Trail System** or **SSTS** that lie within our DCR parks and the few trails within DF&W lands. These **2** agencies own almost six hundred thousand



Norwottuck Rail Trail Tunnel under State Route 9 in Hadley



View from Quabbin Overlook near New Salem

acres or about ten percent of the six million acres in Massachusetts. So, you can see why it is hard to make new trails or trail connections without "bumping" into either DCR or DF&W lands.

And SAM currently does have a program to increase the viability of the SSTS with its' goal of adding **3** new, critical trail connections within the SSTS. As part



Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area

of SAM's goals for the future, SAM has defined **3** critical, key "connections" in the SSTS that are crucial to our snowmobiling friends in the regional areas below and that all sledders can help put into place.

- First is the crossing of Route 9 in Hadley which involves a short stretch of the DCR- owned Norwottuck Rail Trail and the tunnel under Route 9.

Upon reviewing the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System map, it became apparent that adding some “missing links” into the system had to be a priority.

- Second is a connection between Belchertown and Shutesbury through the DCR-owned remote Off-Reservation Quabbin land.
- Third is a connection between Harvard and Lancaster across the DF&W-owned Bolton Flats.

Several years ago, SAM had made a formal request to both DCR and DF&W to work collaboratively with these agencies to integrate these 3 critical connections into the trail system. I am encouraged to state that, while DF&W has not yet rendered a decision on the Bolton Flats connection, there are productive, regular meetings between SAM and DF&W for the trails on their lands.

Consequently, to date, there has yet to be a positive response from DCR regarding both the Route 9 and Belchertown-to-Shutesbury connections.

This is where I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to **Representative Dan Carey** (2nd Hampshire District); **Senator Jo Comerford** (Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District); **Senator Anne Gobi** (Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex District); and **Representative Natalie Blais** (1st Franklin District) for their time, talent and effort at keeping these projects moving forward. They have all been very supportive of our 3 Trails Project, so please take the time to thank them when speaking with them.

So, how do we “move the needle”? It is important to point out that your support and help are needed to “move the needle”. We need your ideas, your connections and your strategies in this effort. Your legislative Chairperson, Sue Smiley, and the members of the legislative Committee would very much appreciate any suggestions, ideas or information that you could offer. Please feel free to contact Sue Smiley at [sse1029@gmail.com](mailto:sse1029@gmail.com) or Larry Tucker at [TuckerTrail@comcast.net](mailto:TuckerTrail@comcast.net) with your information.

I am looking forward to seeing you on the new “Trail Connections”. 🐾

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## Adams Sno-Drifters

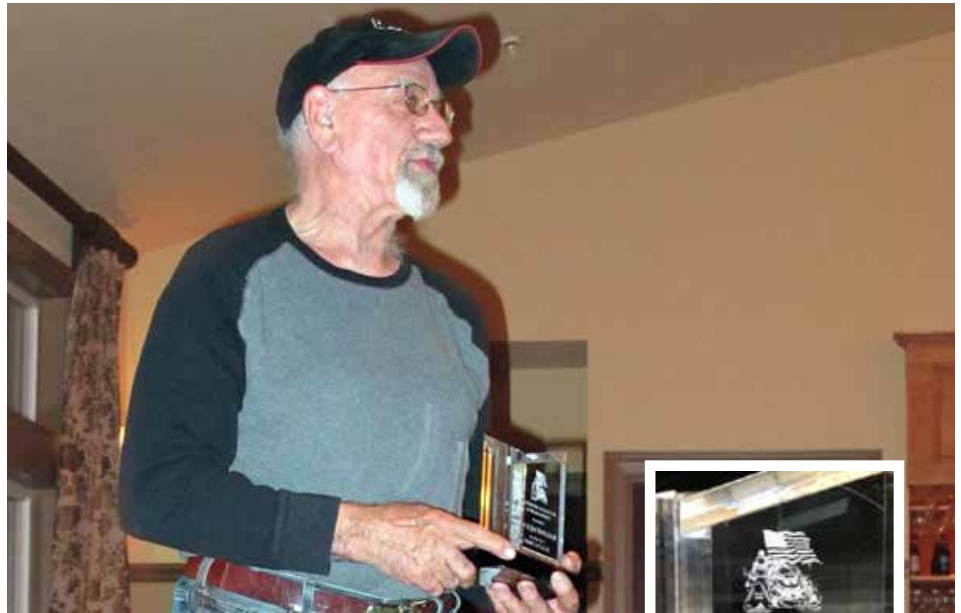
### SPECIAL DEDICATION: The Loss of Jim Hoellerich

*The Drifters mourn the loss  
of long time snowmobile and  
motorcycle enthusiast*

Throughout the years, Roy and Jim Hoellerich have allowed the Adams Sno-Drifters and SAM members to access their land for a corridor trail. They allow the club to host activities and support the concept of sleds using their property that are properly registered and have a trail pass. They provided parking for trailers, emergency gas, and even help with riders who suffer breakdowns. Recently a club member and his young granddaughter were riding the Greylock area when they encountered ice so bad that they couldn't get back up the hill that led to home. While riding across a farm field, they came upon a landowner and talked about their fear of traveling back up the icy hill. The Hoellerichs not only offered to store the sled in their garage and welcome them into a heated area, they even gave them a ride home! The Hoellerichs are founding members of their club, they even helped coin their name: The Adams Sno-Drifters. SAM is proud to honor Roy and Jim Hoellerich.

#### OBITUARY 2022

Mr. James Henry Hoellerich, 88, of Cheshire, died on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at his home surrounded by family and friends. He was born in Adams, a son of the late John and Lillian (Rupprecht) Hoellerich. He was predeceased by his wife of 45 years, Elizabeth



**Apr 02, 2011, Friend of SAM Award and June 25, 2022, Jim's ashes being distributed on family farmland**

"Bonnie" Bacon. He attended schools in Adams. Jim retired from the family dairy farm, Ayrhill Farms, in 2010. He was a veteran of the United States Army. Jim was a founding member of the Hoosac Valley Motorcycle Club and the Snodrifters. He was a top rider in the New England enduro racing circuit and enjoyed restoring trail bikes to display in his Museum of Vintage Trail Bikes. Jim was a long-term member of the Adams Agricultural Fair, AMA, BMW Owners of America, Yankee Beemers, RAMS, SMOG, and NETRA. He was a marshal at the 48th ISDT in Dalton, MA and enjoyed hosting reunion events at the farm. Jim was passionate about riding - some of his most memorable trips were to Germany, Alaska, Nova Scotia, and cross country on a vintage Ossa! He is survived by his two daughters,

Melissa Hoellerich of Rutland, VT and Heidi Hoellerich Moulton of Vernon, CT; a brother, Roy Hoellerich of Cheshire; a sister, Ruth Hoellerich of Savoy; his treasured companion Barbara Bennett; Barb's family; his best friend Ronald Ouimet and by many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was predeceased by his son-in-law, John Moulton and by two brothers, George and William Hoellerich. The family would like to extend a big thank you to all the staff from Home Instead, At Home TLC, Kindred Care, and Hospice for their kind and compassionate care. A celebration of life was held on Saturday, June 25th at 11:00 A.M. at 192 Henry Wood Rd., Cheshire, MA 01225. A reception followed. In lieu of flowers or donations the family suggests performing acts of kindness to one another and the Earth. 🐾





## Berkshire Snow Seekers

*Snowmobile Western Massachusetts:  
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### JOIN US

Come ride some of the finest trails in the Berkshires this winter. Our first-class grooming fleet consists of 3 Tucker Sno-Cats, an LMC, a Thiokol, a Kubota RTV and several snowmobile-based groomers. Come give our trails a test ride. Our grooming reports, direct from our groomer operators, are posted on our Facebook page within hours of completing a grooming run. We cover October Mountain State Forest, Pittsfield State Forest and the Windsor Area.

### OUR CLUB

The Berkshire Snow Seekers is one of the largest snowmobile clubs in Massachusetts uniting snowmobile enthusiasts to further the sport of snowmobiling in a safe, sensible, and responsible snowmobiling environment for everyone to enjoy. Club members span all age groups and include singles, couples, and families with children. We currently enjoy memberships from throughout Berkshire County, Connecticut, New York, and Vermont. Though our backgrounds may vary considerably, we all share a common love of snowmobiling, the winter months, and the great outdoors.

### OUR TRAIL SYSTEM

The Berkshire Snow Seekers have worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, other nearby snowmobile clubs and private landowners to develop and maintain an extensive snowmobile trail system. Our portion of this trail system includes well over 140 miles of corridor trails plus many more miles of secondary trails in and around Mount Greylock State Reservation, Pittsfield State Forest, October Mountain State Forest and Windsor State Forest.

### OUR CLUB MEETINGS

The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 7:00 PM, September through April at the Polish Falcon Club, 32 Bel Air Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Visit us online:

[www.berkshiresnowseekers.com](http://www.berkshiresnowseekers.com)

[www.facebook.com/berkshiresnowseekers](https://www.facebook.com/berkshiresnowseekers) 

### OUR ACTIVITIES

Join our club to make new friends, to participate in snowmobiling related social events, to access local/state/national snowmobile news, to get the latest trail information, to help preserve your right to ride, and to receive a monthly club newsletter to help keep you well informed.



**What are you waiting for? Come ride with us!**  
**Berkshire Snow Seekers Snowmobile Club, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1102, Pittsfield, MA 01202**



## Bernardston Gill Leyden

By Brad Stafford

Despite the lack of snow our club, like all the snowmobile clubs, have done the best we could. We are always looking for new blood for trail work and new ideas for the club in general. As usual Our annual fund raisers of a Golf tourney and November swap meet have been held. This year we tried our first 4-wheeler raffle where as to date, is going well. We have been approved our 2nd RTP grant over the last 5 years. This one will add an UTV with tracks to our field of groomers. Our groomers include a few sleds including skandic sleds, an arctic cat groomer special (our last grant award), tracked mini trucks and tracked geo trackers.

Hopefully this year will be a snowy one so we will be able to have at least one ride-in to one of our many destinations we have across our trail system. Our trails run from the French King Bridge in Gill thru Bernardston where we have access to gas and food and into Leyden that gives you access to Colrain and Beyond. We have parking areas in all 3 towns.

Updates Parking/Trail info and club officer contact info can be found on our web page [WWW.BGLSNOW.com](http://WWW.BGLSNOW.com) and our facebook page Bernardston Gill Leyden snowmobile club. Our monthly meeting is held at the Bernardston vets club on the last Monday of the month at 7pm.

Again, this year we are bringing back our free Authentic BGL snowmobile club trail collectibles!

Once our trails are open and until we have to close our trails. Our club is giving away BGL trail collectibles. These items include door stops, paper weights, Pet Rocks, fire starter kits, potpourri, do it yourself Christmas wreath parts, dog fetching toys and many other items. These items were placed out on all our club trails over the off season.

Feel free to go get as many as you can! There is no limit!!

You can store them anywhere including just off the trail. Be safe as you collect the bigger ones!



**Vermont Trail #12 looking towards Colrain**



**Club ride to the Fire Tower in Shelburne**

Remember the more you take.... the more time our groomer operators have to make the trails smooth so you can get even more!

ALSO..... Dont forget your SAM pass as the EPO's have been invited to get their collectibles too!

PLEASE RESPECT OUR LANDOWNERS and THEIR REQUESTS and ALL OF OUR SIGNAGE!!! We will keep you all posted as things progress. TRAIL Passes are available ONLINE at [www.BGLSNOW.com](http://www.BGLSNOW.com) or at the SAM website [www.sledmass.com](http://www.sledmass.com) and you can choose the BGL club to join. Also Ray's Cycle Center, The Steel Shed Inc. and Hale's Custom Signs have them at their shops. "Rubber Side Down"

RIDE SAFE my friends and Keep the Rubber Side Down! 🏍️





## Buckland Riders

By Steve Howland, President

The Buckland Riders had an incredible summer of showing off both our new grant funded Polaris Ranger Northstar and the Polaris Sportsman 850 we are auctioning off. We attended the Charlemont Lions Club Car show, Buckland Day on the Common, and the Cummington Fair. All events were great fun and beautiful weather, but the Cummington Fair was our favorite.

At the Cummington Fair the dunk booth attracted more attention than the rigs. Good thing it was a nice hot weekend because your's truly spent a lot of time going into and out of the water. At one point a young woman came by when my son was the target in the dunking booth. She looked at me and said "Aren't you the Buckland Club president?" to which I said yes. "Well, then get up there" she said. "I'm from the Worthington Club and I only want to dunk the Buckland president." She got her wish.

This fall we have major trail work in progress including a reroute that will bypass a long stretch of road, and a new trail that will move a trail off of private land and on to public land complete with a new grant funded bridge. We'll get the online maps updated as soon as these trails are ready. If you would like to get on our email list for trail work days or meeting locations and times please send an email to [club@bucklandriders.com](mailto:club@bucklandriders.com) 🏍️

[Click here to purchase your trail pass from the Buckland Riders Snowmobile Club.](#)



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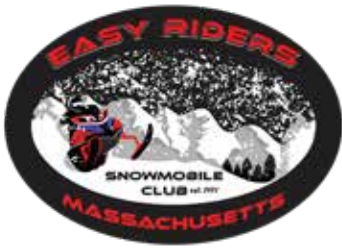
Please visit our web page anytime for club news and trail information [www.bucklandriders.com](http://www.bucklandriders.com)

See you on the Trails.



The Cummington Fair was a hit!

# CLUB NEWS



## Easy Riders

The club's 1st meeting was held in Marlborough in January of 1971 and we still hold our meetings there. Being so close to Boston, years ago we morphed in traveling club. Our members ride in MA, VT, NH, ME and in eastern Canada (Que & NB). Club members are instrumental at making our club what it is. Trips are coordinated by club members who invite other members to travel with them. Some trips are short notice day trips, while others require extensive planning and could be a week or more. Additional information on the club, club trips, meeting dates and copies of our newsletters are all available on the clubs webpage and/or our Facebook page. Trip planning for 2023 has begun. Ft. Kent in January is set and a Quebec Northshore/Valin tour in March in the planning stages.

If you have an interest in increasing your opportunities to ride, see new places and meet new friends; take the step to becoming a member of one of the oldest active clubs in Massachusetts, "The Easy Riders Snowmobile Club, Inc."

Here are a couple of links to YouTube videos that one of our members put together from last season's trips. They are a little long, but they are well worth the watch.

[https://youtu.be/z\\_hs-PSd2U0](https://youtu.be/z_hs-PSd2U0)

<https://youtu.be/CmOQY8DIWos>



Mt. Greylock on a January 2021 day trip to the Berkshires.



25 Easy Riders enjoying dinner at the Swamp Buck, January 2022 on our Ft. Kent trip.



Mt. Katahdin, February 2022 on our trip to Millinocket, Maine



Pierce Rock, Gaspé Quebec, March 2022 on our Gaspé loop trip of 1300 miles.

### CLUB MEETINGS

Our meetings are held at the Marlborough Moose Lodge, 67 Fitchburg St., Marlborough, MA, 01752 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, October thru March. 🐾

<http://ersc.net>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/178832419989005>





## Knox Trail Sno-Riders

By **Paul Richard**, President,

Knox Trail Sno-Riders

Photos by **Paul Richard**

The Knox Trail Sno-Riders are preparing for what looks to be a promising winter season. Our regular club meetings will be held at 6:00pm on the second Thursday of every month until the end of the 2022/2023 season. The Knox Trail Inn will graciously provide use of the Birch Dining Room. Waitress service and the full menu will be available to the attendees.

Keep an eye out on Facebook for trail work parties which will be held Sunday mornings starting at 9:00am.

The Knox Trail Sno-Riders held their 8th "Be Bold Ride Old" vintage snowmobile and tractor show on September 18th at the Blandford Fairgrounds. Beautiful weather brought in over 200 attendees, making this the best turnout yet. Rows upon rows of vintage snowmobiles and tractors lined the fields of the fairground. The high pitched whines and deep rumbles of the ancient engines were drowned out only by the conversation and laughter of the crowd. The lingering clouds of two stroke exhaust were complimented by the aroma of delicious BBQ'd meats served by The Butcher Block of Westfield MA. The event raffle was a huge success, with tools and products donated by; Berkshire Auto & Repair, Fairview Auto Salvage, Massconn, Matco Tools, Napa Auto Parts, Snap On Tools, and Springfield Auto & Truck Equipment. Awards followed the raffle, with trophies donated by Best Transmissions of Springfield MA. Several categories covered the diverse age range and equipment groups. From Best Restored to Powder Puff, there was a class that recognised the hard work



and determination of each and every enthusiast. The Knox Trail Sno-Riders would like to thank all of our dedicated members and sponsors for allowing us to hold this memorable event.

Please visit us at the 2022 SAM Snowmobile Expo on November 19th. and 20th.

at the Big E grounds in West Springfield, MA. Get your trail pass, KTSR shirts, and your 13th. annual raffle ticket to win a 2023 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 Sport snowmobile. Only 135 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. Drawing will be on January 15, 2023 at the Knox Trail Inn. Winner need not be present. 🐾



# 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  
Tim, 508-272-4370

## **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  
Larry McCullough, 508-450-7097

## **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  
Larry Tucker, 413-533-4092

## **Northfield Snowmobile Club**

Northfield 01360  
Michael Quinn, 413-498-0259

## **Sandisfield Snowmobile Club**

Sandisfield 01255  
George Munson, 413-258-4887

## **Savoy Kanary 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  
Mike Sarafin, 413-923-4518





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## The Easy Rider Snowmobile Club

# “Quebec Excellent Adventure”

By Greg Conlan

**T**his trip was planned by members of Easy Rider’s Snowmobile Club out of Marlboro MA. The Club is a travelling Snowmobile Club, we go where the snow flies! Unfortunately for us, last year was a down year for snowfall, for all but the most Northern Regions. A few exceptions being areas North of the Moosehead Lake Region, Maine, the very tip of NH, in Quebec and parts of New Brunswick, Canada



## DAY 1 JACKMAN MAINE TO LA POCATIERE QUEBEC 232 MILES

Larry McCullough and myself began our trip on Saturday, February 26, under minimal snow depth and icy conditions. Thankfully, prior to our leaving in the morning, the Jackman Maine region had received 4" of snow overnight. This fresh snow, although very dry, allowed our sleds just enough lubrication and moisture to keep our 4-stroke sleds lubed and cool.

The temps were below zero at 6:30AM when we got up in the morning and as bad luck would have it, my sled wouldn't start. Fortunately, there was a Snowmobile Dealership less than a mile from the hotel (Jackman Power Sports). After gathering a few extra hands in the parking lot of the hotel, we managed to push the dead sled up into the trailer and drove off to the Dealer at 7:30AM. Once at Jackman Power Sports, due to our unscheduled arrival, we had to wait a bit before being tended too. In the meantime my sled was brought into the shop. By the time the technician attended to my sled, it had warmed up and of course started. A "frozen relay" was the culprit.

After paying the dealer for essentially warming up my sled, we loaded the sled back onto the trailer and arrived back at the hotel around 8:30AM. We then had to re-load our luggage back onto the sleds. When we finally hit the trail, it was now 9:00AM, 2 hours behind schedule on a day we would be riding nearly 235 miles and crossing for the first time into Canada with all the new Covid-19 Entry requirements.

After going through Canadian Customs uneventfully, other than Larry needing to take a Covid test once he got to our hotel that



Arnold Farm, Jackman, Maine

## Itinerary

**DAY 1:** Jackman, Maine — La Pocatiere, Quebec  
(ITS 89-QC 75-545-55-547-35-55-5-553)  
**232.15 miles**

**DAY 2:** La Pocatiere, Quebec — Rimouski, Quebec  
(QC 553-5-3109-35-561-35-544-571-5-578)  
**216.39 miles**

**DAY 3:** Rimouski, Quebec — Moose Valley, New Brunswick — Ft. Kent, Maine (QC 578-5-35-7687-NB135-17-39-41) **226.93 miles**

**DAY 4:** Ft. Kent, Maine — Sherman, Maine  
(ITS85- \_85a- 81/85-81-83) **215.00 miles**

**DAY 5:** Sherman, Maine — The Forks — Jackman, Maine (ITS83-85/86-111-110-85/86 (B52)85/86-Greenville (crossed Lake-Rockwood)88-87-89-(Coburn Mtn.)- 89) **215.37 miles**

**Total: 1100+ Miles**



The USA—Canada Border crossing at Saint-Theophile  
Canada Note: Use Arrive-CAN before your trip



First Stop after crossing the American/Canadian Border.  
Club De Motoneigistes Liniere-Marlow, Saint-Theophile, Quebec, Canada





night, we stopped for lunch at Club De Motoneigistes Liniere-Marlow, the first club you come across on Trail 75 after crossing into Canada. Trail 75 was very icy with just a thin coating of powder on top, which essentially blew off as you rode. These conditions persisted until just a few miles North of Club De Motoneigistes Liniere-Marlow when the trail suddenly became hard packed snow without any ice. Evidently that was the rain, ice and snow line last Winter. From that point North the snow was ideal and continued to get deeper and deeper as we headed towards “the Parc regional du Massif du Sud” and Mount Du-Midi.

When we arrived at the park, we took the access trail to the top of Mount Du-Midi. This was well worth the effort. The views from the top were breathtaking. You could see the St. Lawrence River in the distance and all the windfarms that straddle the tops of the hills for miles upon miles.



**A look outside our window during Lunch at the Club De Motoneigistes Liniere-Marlow**



Once back on the trail, we needed to get moving so we would arrive before sunset, however a Moose had other plans for us. With the snow now 4-6 feet deep off the trail, a Moose felt it was easier to travel along Trail 547 for several miles than through the deep snow. Eventually the Moose left the trail allowing us to finally make it to our destination in La Pocatiere, albeit 2 hours after sunset.



**Hiboux Du Kamouraska, Saint-Onesime, Quebec was our first stop in the AM and unfortunately closed. We ran into this issue often on this trip as many clubs and establishments had not re-opened since Covid-19 hit.**



## DAY 2 216 MILES

### LA POCATIERE TO RIMOUSKI, QUEBEC

Day 2 began with bitter cold temps and winds gusting over 40 mph off the St. Lawrence River. What we didn't observe the night before on the trails leading into the hotel due to the darkness, was the barren landscapes with acre upon acre of open farmland. This extreme wind over the open farmland created whiteout conditions, hiding the Orange Trail Stakes.

On many occasions during the first 40 miles we would find ourselves off the marked trail. Fortunately, the wind had packed the snow off the trail down to the point where it was like concrete. By mid morning we were back in the hills with Balsam lined trails protected from the wind. Our next stop was the very busy, Club Les Melles Pistes du Rocher blanc. After a cup of hot cocoa we pressed on. We had decided to take Trail 35 that morning and we ended up on Lake Pohenegamock, just north of Estcourt Maine. It was kind of cool arriving there from the Quebec side of the border as we have been there before crossing into Quebec from Maine at the Escourt Station Border Crossing.



**The view of the St Lawrence River from Mount Du Midi in the Parc regional du Massif du Sud, Quebec**





**Entering Rimouski, Quebec, with the St. Lawrence River in the background**

The trails were wide, smooth and fast and we were making great time until just after noon when a vicious snow squall hit. We were miles from any place warm to stop and we literally crawled along the trails. The squall dropped nearly 6 inches of snow in an hour, once again making it difficult to stay within the marked trails. Eventually the snow lightened up and we found a little Restaurant to stop and grab some lunch at in Saint Cyprien. After lunch we headed NW after going NE for quite some time and back into the rolling hills and farm country. As the distance between us, the St. Lawrence River and our destination shortened, the farms increased in number, with farmlands stretching the horizon.

After another great day on the trails we arrived in Rimouski, this time before sunset.



**Club Les Melles Pistes du Rocher blanc inc., Saint-Bruno-de-Kamouraska, Quebec**



**Lake Pohenegamock, Quebec, just over the Border from Estcourt, Maine, on trail 561**



**Saint-Onesime, Quebec — One of the many covered bridges you will see during your tour of Quebec.**



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**DAY 3**  
227 MILES  
**RIMOUSKI,  
QUEBEC, TO  
MOOSE VALLEY,  
N.B., TO FT. KENT, MAINE**

Day 3 began without any issues leaving Rimouski. We were treated to a beautiful sunrise and the sleds were running great. As we rode South towards New Brunswick, all the Trails had been groomed overnight. We were the first sleds on the trail for more than 60 miles. They were some of the finest trails I've been on in years, especially Trail 35.

We continued riding South in Quebec on Trail 35 until we took the access trail connecting Quebec to New Brunswick. The access trail was a shared road, but it eventually turned into NB 135. Once in New Brunswick, the snow was nothing short of a snowmobiler's dream. The trails were wide, smooth and with plenty of elevation changes. We reached Moose Valley at lunchtime and had lunch with Josie, the "Hostess Extraordinaire." It was great to be back there, unfortunately we were the only Americans there. The place was uncharacteristically quiet. After lunch we continued



**Trail 35 Trinite-des-Monts, Quebec**



**Trail 35 Trinite-des-Monts, Quebec**





**Major Fire—Ft. Kent, Maine**



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**Stuck across the street from the Border Crossing in Clair, New Brunswick, Canada**

SW through New Brunswick's beautiful Balsam lined Trails 17, 39 and 41 all the way to the U.S. border crossing at Ft. Kent, Maine.

As we approached Ft. Kent we could see a large and very high column of thick black smoke. Luckily for us, it wasn't our hotel, but the major fire would factor into our plans for the night. The fire had caused a closure to all the businesses on Rt. 1 in downtown Ft. Kent, including the gas station and restaurants.

Once in Clair, N.B., we could not get to the Border Crossing from Trail 41. We had to find a way through the alleys that had not been used or groomed due to the lack of Snowmobilers crossing the border. Frustrated, I eventually decided to go over a large snow pile to get to the Border Crossing across the street, only to bury my sled at the top. After an hour of digging myself out, we finally crossed the border into Ft. Kent.



**DAY 4**  
**215 MILES**

**FT. KENT, MAINE,  
TO SHERMAN,  
MAINE**

Day 4 began with a trip to Fort Kent Powersports to have my throttle cable adjusted. Per usual, FKPS came through without any waiting. They are hands down the best Yamaha Dealership in the North East and Danny the Chief Mechanic is second to none.

Once on the trails, we rode South on ITS 85, 85a, 81 and 83 through Eagle Lake, Portage Lake, Ashland, Oxbow, Shin Pond and lastly Sherman.

Our first stop in the morning was at Eagle Lake for fuel and a hot cocoa. If you have never been to "The County" you truly need to put it on your bucket list. Outside of the Gaspé Region and Northern New Brunswick, there isn't any better riding around. Miles upon miles of uninterrupted trails, with every type of scenery you can

imagine. Not to mention all the wildlife you may come across, such as Moose, Deer, Black Bear, Fox, Bald Eagles and Lynx. We were fortunate on this trip to see many Moose, Deer and Bald Eagles.

Sadly as we progressed South of Ashland the snow conditions were deteriorating. We started to run into thin snow and icy conditions, especially on the well travelled trails. We stopped for lunch in Oxbow at the Homestead Lodge, home of the Bison. This is a must stop on your travels through Northern Maine.

After lunch we continued onto Shin Pond for fuel and then our last stop for the day in Sherman. We reached Sherman just as it was getting dark. The trails were pretty thin on this last leg. Snow was desperately needed for our last day ahead of us and as we were unloading our sleds for the night at the hotel, it unexpectedly began to snow!



**Bigfoot Cut-away at Eagle Lake, Maine**



**The Homestead Lodge in Oxbow, Maine**



**DAY 5**  
215 MILES

**SHERMAN, MAINE,  
TO JACKMAN,  
MAINE**

Day 5 and our last day of riding started off with the best news we could have hoped for. Six inches of unforecast snow had fallen over night. It was a beautiful and much needed site to wake up to. With the new snow, we were once again treated to nearly a full day of riding on unbroken trails.

Day 5 was a day filled with beautiful scenery. The Moosehead Lake Region is filled with some of the most beautiful landscapes in the U.S.A. Our first stop for the day would be the B52 Memorial. This is a sobering location, knowing the fate of those onboard the downed B52. We paid our respects and continued onto Greenville, Maine. Riding to there was amazing. Normally the Millinocket/Greenville area is a bumpy ride due to all the sled traffic, but on this day it was smooth. We had lunch in Greenville Center and unlike Moose Valley Sporting Lodge, the place was hopping. While enjoying lunch we deliberated over the pros and cons of travelling 20 miles across Moosehead Lake. Our plan was to have enough time to visit Coburn Mountain.



Jo-Mary Trail System, Maine



B52 Memorial, Elephant Mountain, 6 miles from Greenville, Maine



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### **Moosehead Lake, Greenville, Maine**

While we were discussing this, we were advised by a few patrons that the Lake Trail was well marked, safe and on our GPS units to follow. I got a reluctant Larry to agree and we safely crossed Moosehead Lake. We followed our GPS units trail markings NW to Rockwood and picked up ITS 88. The trails continued to be smooth and we made great time heading SW towards the Forks and eventually Coburn Mountain. At Coburn Mountain's base trailhead sign, Larry and I came up with our strategy in how we wanted to attack this notorious Summit Trail. We decided it would be best to give each other plenty of space in case one of us loses traction and starts to slide backwards down the trail, allowing the person following enough time to get out of the way.

We began our ride up the Summit Trail and it became clear to me that this is not a trail the inexperienced rider should attempt. Most of the trail is barely two sleds wide, extremely steep and treacherous out from folks sawing their way through



### **Coburn Mountain**

the ungroomed snow which is now filled with boiler plate ice. Once at the top, your reward is an amazing view from over 3,000 feet high. Unfortunately, we hit snow squalls at the top, limiting our view. After spending some time checking out the scenery, we made the treacherous descent back

down the mountain and hopped back onto ITS89 West towards our final destination Jackman, Maine. We arrived in Jackman safe and sound, with no injuries or accidents, just after sunset.

Greg and Larry's Excellent Quebec Adventure complete.

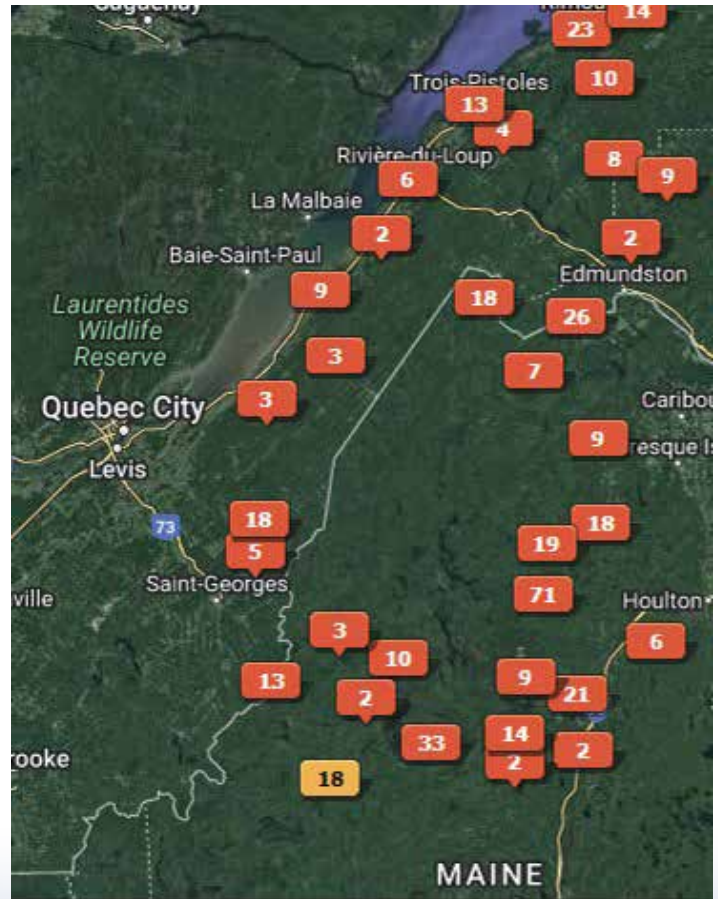
## IN SUMMARY: OVER 1,100 MILES TRAVELED

### Lessons Learned:

Some things to think about if you plan on making a Backpacking Trip.

- Plan, Plan and Plan, this can't be understated. The unexpected "will happen"
- Have survival gear, waterproof fire material, dry clothes
- Have Paper Maps, Road and Trail, do not rely solely on GPS units.
- Charged Phone with a Back up power supply.
- Have an experienced rider familiar with the area, if possible.
- Contingency plans– Make sure you have some.
- Extra Fuel, Water and Food
- If travelling into Canada, know the current rules. "Use Arrive-CAN" before your trip, even though we have heard restrictions are being lifted as I write this.
- Be aware, many restaurants, gas stations, hotels and clubs have not re-opened since Covid-19.
- Always let someone know your day to day plans.
- This goes without saying, but have spare relays, spark plugs, belts and a portable jumper in your group.
- Trails are not always where they may have been.
- Do not ride above your level of expertise.
- Ride RIGHT and stay ALERT!! This could save your life. Dozens of times during this trip I encountered riders on my side of the trail. 🏍️

To watch a GoPro video including all the photos from the trip go to: <https://gopro.com/v/575gmGQ5bznre>



Indian Purchase Township, Maine



New Brunswick  
Trail 135





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# CLUB NEWS



## Leicester

### ABOUT OUR CLUB

Our Mission as a Snowmobile Club is to promote a fun, safe family environment, where all feel welcome.

We help support our community by maintaining a beautiful trail network that supports many outdoor activities other than Snowmobiling.

We have many miles of trails throughout town on both Private and Public lands that connect to the Snowmobile Association of MA vast network of Trails.

Our Corridor 71 Trail connects to the Spencer Sno-birds Trail Network. The Corridor 71 trail runs North to the N.H. state line, where you can pick up the N.H Trail system.

Some of the Highlights on our trails that you may want to check out are the ORH Airport, Spider Gates Cemetery, Hot Dog Annie's, Barber's Crossing, Johnson's Field/ Farm and the serenity that the Leicester Snowmobile Club trails offer. 🐾



You can purchase a Club Membership and Trail Pass at a Club meeting, Online through S.A.M. or from our sponsor.

**Hank's Marine - 508-892-4788**

1570 Main Street, Leicester MA, 01524

### CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday at 7PM from October to March

Leicester Rod and Gun Club

1015 Whittemore St

Leicester, MA 01524

### FOLLOW US ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/255915248443332>



**Leicester Snowmobile Club**

**P.O. Box 264, Rochdale, Massachusetts 01542**





## Savoy Kanary Kats

*Get out and explore!*

We all love the crisp sound of the track in the snow, the sound of the skegs as they bite into a hard-packed, perfectly groomed trail. Did you ever catch yourself wondering what you're driving past... an old farm from the 1800s, a historic mountain cemetery, a famous tannery from the 1700s? Well, the Savoy Kanary Kats trail system has something for everyone, including history buffs and explorers alike.

Our trail system has about 75 miles of high elevation trails 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.

Although we groom the trails in Hawley and Windsor, the heart of our system is in Savoy. The first settlements started in 1771, it was named Savoy in 1797 and has a long history as you'll see. We invite you to explore some of our unique trail-side attractions both in Savoy and points nearby.



**Beehive Kiln:** The kiln was first built in 1870 and is the oldest flagstone kiln in New England, located in Hawley State Forest. It is 25 feet in diameter and 25 feet high and holds 35 cords of hard wood. Historically, the wood would be "baked" in low oxygen and the wood would convert to charcoal to be later burned. Charcoal burned much hotter than wood and was a desired commodity for blacksmithing throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s. If you go, please be gentle as it's old and has been repaired numerous times to preserve our local history.

**Sasquatch:** Since the 1930s, there have been dozens of sasquatch sightings in the Savoy Mountain State Forest. Early CCC workers in the 1930s and 1940s, would report seeing tall, hair-covered giants wandering around. In recent years, hikers, campers and property owners have had numerous sightings. Perhaps while riding the trails, you too might see a mysterious and elusive creature wandering the woods of Savoy.



**CCC Camps:** The Civilian Conservation Corps created three camps in Savoy in 1932. They were created to keep men working during the great depression and employed 200-300 men at their peak. Many of projects and improvement are still in use today including dams on Bog Pond, Tannery Pond and Burnett Pond and numerous logging and replanting groves. The only visible evidence remaining of the three camps is a chimney off the east end Tannery Road heading toward Adams Road.

**Tower 51:** This 68' high steel tower sits atop Borden Mountain at an elevation of 2500' above sea level. It began its operation on August 1, 1913. Like a lighthouse keeper on the sea, fire wardens would staff the tower and keep a wary eye for any forest fires during the dry season of summer or fall. The State first purchased the mountain in 1917 which was the first parcel of the Savoy Mountain State Forest system.

# CLUB NEWS



**Tannery Falls:** Is a beautiful, quick (0.75 mile) hike off the snowmobile trail. It can be dangerous in the winter, so be safe. You'll be rewarded by a magical 80' tall waterfall from Ross Brook. You can also see the smaller Tannery Falls whose headwaters powered a tannery (place where animal hides are tanned for leather). If you drive slowly, right off the trail you might be able to make out the Tannery Pond, serving Tannery Brook and the antique spillway before the water flows to the falls. The original tannery operated in the 1840s until it burned in 1912.



**Balanced Rock:** Deep in the heart of Savoy State Forest there is a large balanced rock. Perched on a hill off Tannery Road, a balanced rock sits ominously atop of a bedrock slab. Left by a receding glacier a million years ago the large rock is a sight to see and makes the perfect stop to stretch your legs and plan your next stop.



**Pub 116:** A stop at Pub 116 is a welcomed stop to meet up with old friends or make new ones. It's a great place to grab a beverage or some of the best food for miles. The former Hilltop Colonial Inn (Hilltop) has been around a very long time and the new owners have made tons of improvement to ensure it will be around for years to come.

**Hope to see you exploring our trails and cool spots... SEE YOU ON THE TRAILS!!!**

## CLUB TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS AND SUPPORTERS OF OUR CLUB:

**Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor:**

[www.plt.com](http://www.plt.com)

**South Side Sales and Service:**

[www.southsidesales.com](http://www.southsidesales.com)

**Ronnie's Adams:**

<https://ronniesadams.com/>

**Ronnie's Pittsfield:**

<https://ronniesharleydavidson.com/>

**Pub 116:**

[www.pub116.com](http://www.pub116.com)

**Savoy Kanary Kats Meeting or website:**

<https://www.savoykanarykats.org/>

**Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts:**

<https://www.sledmass.com/>

## CLUB NEWS:

**Club Contact:** <https://www.savoykanarykats.org/>

## CLUB MEETINGS:

Our club meetings start at 7 PM at Groomer Garage (90 Tilton Road) on the second Friday of the month beginning in September through April. Check our website for dates and details for our family-friendly events including our winter carnival (in February).

## TRAIL TRIMS:

Our trail trims start in September and run until we have rideable snow. Please join us on Sundays at 9 AM at 90 Tilton Road, Savoy, MA and we usually wrap up shortly after noon for some burgers and dogs.

## SLED RAFFLE:

This year we're raffling off a 2023 Polaris 850 Indy VR1 129. It retails for \$16,399 and tickets are \$20 each. See a club member, our webpage or supporting locations listed above for tickets.



*As always... stay safe, join a club and get out and ride! 🏍️*



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603.324.7474

## CLUB NEWS



### Worthington

By Michael Sarafin,  
WSC Vice President

The time has come once again for me to write you all, I hope all of our members are as ready as I am for the upcoming snowmobile season and to hit the trails.

The club would like to thank you all for joining last year and helping keep the club healthy and prosperous. Without members like you purchasing trail passes from us this would not be possible.

This year the club has voted in a couple of new officers to serve as President and Secretary. Longtime member Stuart Caputo was voted in as President and Bill Greenwood was voted in as Secretary. The club welcomes these new officers and thanks them for their commitment to keeping the club running for many years to come!

There is some exciting news in town this year as everyone's favorite on the trail stop Liston's Bar & Grill will be open! It has been rebuilt from the ground up so make sure you stop and check it out. The parking lot will be available for trailers as always snowmobilers are welcome.

This year we are yet again holding our annual sled raffle. The sled we will be giving away is a brand new 2023 Polaris Matryx Indy XCR 850. We have plenty of tickets

to go around so see a club member to purchase tickets for your chance to win! Tickets are a donation of \$20.00 and we will be selling a maximum of 1100 tickets.

SAM will also be holding its annual Trailer super raffle. Tickets are \$10.00 each and enter you into a drawing for a brand new Blizzard four place snowmobile trailer or if you prefer, \$5000 cash. SAM has changed it up this year with 2nd prize being \$2000 cash and 3rd prize being \$1000 cash. A percentage of proceeds from this raffle goes to the clubs so we appreciate your participation in both of these great raffles. The Worthington Snowmobile Club has sold the winning trailer ticket in years past and we would love to make that happen again so make sure you get your tickets for a chance to win!

Coming up November 19 and 20 is the Sled Expo at the Big E. The club will have a booth there showcasing our raffle sled so stop by and check it out. You can also make it a one stop shop and get your SAM membership, sled and trailer raffle tickets



2023 Polaris  
Matryx Indy XCR 850  
raffle sled

all by making a stop at the WSC booth. You can also register your sled there and buy just about anything else you will need for the upcoming season. There is always plenty of stuff to purchase and quite often at show pricing. Stop by and say hello we hope to see you there.

### TRAIL PASSES

We encourage you to take advantage of the early bird renewal by purchasing your SAM pass by December 15th to get your pass at the cheapest price of \$75, sales after December 15th are \$90. You can also use the S.A.M. online trail pass sales feature on [sledmass.com](https://sledmass.com). You can use this tool to get your pass at both the early bird price as well as the in season price. If you choose to go this route make sure you select Worthington as the club you wish to join so the funds will go to our club.

Trail passes will be available to purchase in person at the following locations we ask that you please call ahead to make sure someone will be able to assist you.

#### Liston's

324 Old North rd. Worthington MA.  
11:00 am – 9:00 pm Wed. – Sun.

#### Skyline Services

292 Lockhouse rd. Westfield MA.  
413-562-8020

#### Deane Messeck Excavating

39 Old Main rd. Worthington MA.  
413-238-4486



Liston's Bar & Grill

Thank you and think Snow! ❄️



# Return to the N.E.K.



Myself with Josh(right)

By Jon Tobin

**J**osh Newey's first snowmobiling trip to the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont was January 11th, 1997. Unfortunately, he would not make his 2nd trip until 25 years later in February of 2022.

It was an exciting time for Josh back in 1997. It was his first real snowmobile trip outside of Western Mass, where he grew up riding sleds, ATVs and just about anything with a motor. His first sled was a non-running 1970 Olympic that he scored for \$50 that he fixed in the seller's yard and rode it home along Rt. 112 in Worthington. It wasn't even winter yet. But driving tractor-trailer for a local trucking company allowed him to buy his first new, reliable sled in 1996; a Ski-Doo MXZ 670. And he

couldn't wait to go north with his group of friends to experience riding in the NEK.

Most of the details of the night of the 10th are still fuzzy. Heavy snow falling, riding with a group of riders who were more experienced with the trail system and on a new sled made for unfortunate events, Josh missed a turn. He ended up with a fractured neck at C5 and C6 levels, resulting in a spinal cord injury, along with compound fractures in his right leg. Treating the leg injuries took precedence to get him stabilized.

But the spinal cord injuries would leave Josh a quadriplegic. Josh credits his friends Garrett Barry and George Cone, along with others for helping emergency services get him out of the woods and to the hospital.

But this is a story about triumph and perseverance. No, sadly, Josh isn't walking today. But he does have limited arm and hand movement, allowing him to drive a wheelchair-accessible minivan. It's no Freightliner, but he gets around his home area of Bridgewater, MA and he makes the trek out to Western Mass a few times a year. And his passion for things with motors hasn't faded. Always a savvy negotiator, Josh was able to trade an old Ford pickup he picked up for a 1947 McCormick Os4 orchard tractor. After his father, Rich, took Josh and his tractor to many show and events, Josh got a wild idea about setting up a wheelchair lift to the back of the tractor. This particular model tractor had a hand clutch from the factory! Seemed it was destiny for it to come into Josh's possession. While we all sat through the trials of COVID, Josh and our friend Dan Routhier came up with the blueprints and fabrication to get Josh behind the wheel. Now Josh is able to attend tractor shows, fairs and events and he gets to drive.

So, now the wheels were turning. Josh had been talking about going back up to VT for a very long time. But he wanted to get there on a sled. Now that the tractor project was up and running, he put his efforts into finding a sled to modify. Not just any sled, mind you. He wanted a 1996 Ski-Doo MXZ 670. As luck would have it, he found an old, clapped out MXZ 670 on Cape Cod for \$200. Friends Jeff and Marta Ovitt hauled it back to Worthington where more friends were willing and waiting to turn wrenches on it and bring it back to life. Kyle Challet, Greg Joyner and Kevin Kukucka breathed

life into the moss-covered relic and with a \$50 backrest, they had a 2-up touring sled.

March 7th 2021, Josh, with the help of his friends, was able to swing a leg over the seat of his own MXZ and go for a ride. He, along with Dan, Kyle, Greg, friends Tina LaCrix and Jim Parsons and myself, ventured out of Kyle's house in Worthington and ride to the powerlines in Windsor, MA and back, stopping at Liston's for celebratory burgers and refreshments, then back to Kyle's to bask in the glory of Josh's conquest. Looking at Josh through the 2-stroke exhaust that filled the garage, I could see the wheels turning again.

Josh came out to my house for a barbeque in July and we hatched a plan to get him back out on the trails of upstate VT. The whole gang was there to help formulate our plans. Machines were lined up and a tentative date was set for Josh's return to the NEK. Unfortunately, the '96 670 was not the best machine to make such an adventure. But I had purchased a 2009 Ski-Doo GTX 600 before the winter and Josh was able to make it to my house for some test fitting. "The Couch", as we called it, was perfect; comfortable seat, heated grips and plugs for an electric visor on Josh's helmet and a plug for heated socks! The weather did not cooperate with us for early January and the 25th anniversary of his accident, but Josh was determined to get up there and ride that season.

On February 5th, Josh, chauffeured by Dan on the GTX, myself on my sled and Dan's wife Colleen and Josh's friend Steph Ornelas on my older Polaris 2-up Deluxe, left the rental house in Morgan, VT and made tracks east towards Canaan, Josh's last stop before the accident. There were some stops for adjustments of straps and jackets to make sure Josh was secure and warm, and we stopped at the Drift Dusters Warming Hut in Derby for a great photo opt. Josh had a smile that filled his helmet. Trails were decent for a Saturday and we made it to Kendyl's Buns on the Run for a trail-side snack and to sign the trailer wall. Then we made our way to Chez Pidgeon in Norton to meet up with friends. The owners were quite surprised when I went in and asked for a chair to take outside. I told them one of our riders was paralyzed



Josh at Chez Pidgeon, Norton, VT



Josh getting strapped onto "The Couch"



From left to right: Josh, Steph, myself, Coleen and Dan at the Drift Dusters Warming Hut.



and they got nervous, asking if they should call 911. I said no, it didn't just happen and we had a laugh. Dan, Kevin, George and I carried Josh into the restaurant like a king being carried on a throne. Stories were told, jokes were made and everything was right with the world. However, it took some time getting as far as we did and Canaan was not in the cards. Trail 105 had seen some traffic and getting back to Morgan took some time. But Josh couldn't have been happier. Once back in the house in Morgan, we ordered pizzas and the gang started to relax, telling even more stories and laughing and hoping the morning would get us to Canaan.

Mother Nature would be fickle again and temps were not in the comfort zone of our intrepid snowmobiler Josh. He wanted to get some closure for that fateful night 25 years ago. We sat and talked about next season and how we would trailer to Canaan and ride from there to Island Pond, the final destination of Josh's first trip to the NEK. 🐺



Left to right: Greg, Josh and Kyle on the power lines in Windsor, MA, on the mighty MXZ 670.



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