

SLEDMASS



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Snowmobile VERMONT

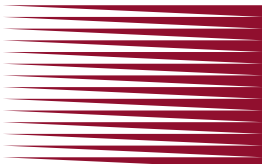
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Out of Your Comfort Zone

We humans are resistant to change. We like our routines, our normalcy, our comfort zones... until we're forced into changing how or why we do things. I'm not complaining about it, mind you. I love my daily routines and can be quite predictable with how my day is going to go. But there can be negative aspects to complacency; being stuck in a dead-end job or in a bad relationship and not making the positive changes to improve one's lifestyle. But that's for someone else's advice column.

As snowmobilers, we tend to like our lifestyles and riding preferences. We tend to stay loyal to certain brands of sleds or gear we use and we like to ride in areas we know well and feel comfortable with. However, what if conditions or circumstance forced you into trying something new? Would you stop riding or would you adapt?

Three years ago, we were on the verge of some crazy times and people were starting to get more involved with outdoor activities. Prices of sleds were starting to increase and people were buying up the inventory. An opportunity came up for me to get a newer ride. While I've been a Ski-Doo rider most of my life, that brand was getting hard to find. Fortunately, I stumbled upon a newer Polaris at a reputable dealer that hadn't been advertised on their website yet. Desperate times call for desperate measures and I made the purchase. Yes, I caught a lot of grief from my friends who are brand loyal, but it's been a great machine and opened my eyes to trying to ride different sleds when the opportunity presents itself. It's something I recommend to all of you if given the chance.

Same goes for riding in different locations. Last season was challenging to find rideable snow in the State. While I made some trips to northern states to ride a few times, riding my local trails never happened. It's hard to admit, but there are a lot of areas in Massachusetts that I've never snowmobiled. So, after one of the last late-season storms in the Berkshires, my friend Chicopee Jim asked me to ride to the FarmFest event being put on by the Florida Mountaineers Club. I was hesitant, but I hadn't grabbed that many miles for the season we loaded up and headed west up Rte. 2. In less than an hour's drive, we were on the trails and I had one of the best rides of the season. Jim led me to lookouts and landmarks I've never seen and rode trails that were groomed and an absolute blast to ride. The FarmFest races were great and the hospitality of the Mountaineers was welcoming. I can't wait to go back and ride that region again and it was all because I stepped out of my comfort zone.

This season, I hope you all can get out and try something new. I know I hope to ride trails in the central part of the state and I hope to make it to Mount Greylock on a sled. I know most of you will have your trips planned to farther destinations, but I hope you can make time to venture to areas in the state that snowmobile clubs have great trail systems. These clubs are working hard to maintain their trails, so I hope that many of you can go enjoy them. I hope you get a chance to demo-ride a brand of sled you don't ride. Break your normal routine and shake things up a bit. Get out of your comfort zone.

See you on the trails. 🐾



By Jon Tobin

—Jon



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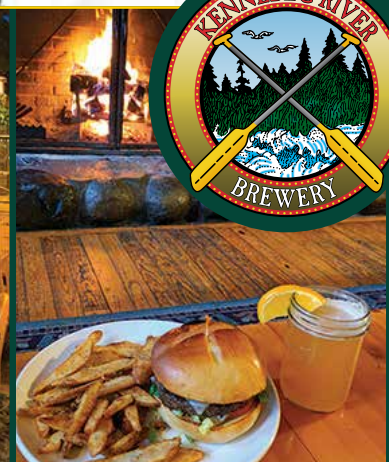
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2022 in Review - SAM's Government Affairs's Annual Report



By Susan Smiley

During the 2022-2023 season and on the heels of waving goodbye to SAM's Lobbyist, Jason Wentworth and the intertwined departure of long withstanding Executive Director, Rena Sumner, the Government Affairs team has ironically emerged stronger and has utilized the transition as an opportunity to assess how we can further move our collective Snowmobiling in Massachusetts pursuits broader to SAM's Board of Directors.

The critically important Government Affairs Committee has grown, adding long-withstanding historian and OHV representative, Randy Toth back into the group as well as picked up two new members, Mary Duncan Wilson and John Devine, expanding our team and widening the SAM Club representation. These three folks complement the work Larry Tucker and myself are doing each and every day and we have excitedly welcomed them to the Committee. It is great to have the diversity of snowmobiler user, backgrounds and variety of historical snowmobiler experience to bring to our committee pursuits.

Additionally, the Committee worked throughout the year, opting not to rest or pause on our important work through the off-SAM-season. This proved helpful as our list of challenges and issues have grown, specifically with the transfer of the Commonwealth Administration from Republican Baker to Democrat Healy. Ensuring the needed work continues was a



Norwottuck Rail Trail Tunnel under State Route 9 in Hadley

critically important step for the Committee. This was no less important as we have experienced another transition amongst SAM's Executive Team and the new Executive Director. Yet, despite the transition with all these impacts, the Committee managed to set forth critical priorities and make assignments amongst the Committee members. This ensured needed organization and structure, not only for our committee, but more importantly for the Executive team. This additional organization will benefit SAM Board of Directors and allow for key definition of where/how/when are the best pursuits for the state-wide organization.

As Chair of the Gov't Affairs Committee, a great deal of time was spent outreaching to other Lobbyists, non-profit organizations, Legislators and State Officials to better understand how SAM can have wider and deeper effectivity. This is of particular importance as we move forward with an Administration whereby our sport will have heightened challenges given they are following the National agenda of reduced fossil fuel and everything associated

with. A great deal of information has been garnered and this Committee will look forward to presenting a proposal for the Executive Team to consider come our next season and Legislative cycle. Stay tuned for those options of recommendations.

Despite the disheartening news of our Lobbyist status for 2021 and 2022, the government affairs team continued to push barriers and move the needle to build and attain necessary in roads, as related to our projects and legislation. SAM and the Gov't Affairs Committee signed on to endorse the Mass Farm Bureau's planned legislation to promote the restructuring of the Commonwealth's current recreational motor vehicle registration process. The committee also continued its focus on the S2281 Omnibus Bill and pushed forward efforts to secure the three (3) priority projects of Route 9/Hadley safety crossing and tunnel use, the Quabbin Belchertown connection and DFW's Bolton Flats historical trail re-use.

While we continue to look for alternate approaches with State groups outside DCR, we have gained additional rela-



Ware River Watershed

tionships to capitalize on and see more opportunities to educate and inform those that can help support our sport. Collaboration is key and we look forward to the unravelling of EEA's Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) structure to determine where and how SAM and Snowmobiling can become a viable recreation offering within the Commonwealth.

The Team is excited to announce the filed Legislation secured by our various State House and Senate supporters. This Legislation was developed and promoted by this Committee and the real work of lobbying will soon commence. We shall again be looking to engage all SAM BOD's and Club members.

FILED SAM LEGISLATION:

1. **An Act Establishing the Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Fund.** GOBI—this is to create a stand-alone fund (separate from General fund) for the grooming, maintaining and repairing of publicly owned trails marked and designated for use by snow vehicles.
2. **An Act Promoting Snowmobiling Sustainability.** GOBI—Omnibus which contains the five (5) primary asks:
 - Annual Free 3-day weekend for non-residents
 - Fines for wheeled vehicle use on snowmobile trail (\$250 first/\$500 second offense)
 - Establish MOU for winter snowmobiling use on new and existing Rail trails, inclusive of recreation use, grooming and maintenance
 - Adding a SAM member to DCR Stewardship Council (specifically from Worcester, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire county)

- Amending language in Chapter 61B of the General Laws (line 20) after the word
 - “gliding” the following words “recreational snowmobiling”
3. **An Act Relative to the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee.** GOBI—adding a SAM CLUB member to the Committee as a permanent seat
 4. **An Act Relative to the Quabbin Advisory Board.** OLIVEIRA—adding a SAM Club member to the Committee as a permanent seat
 5. **An Act relative to the Mass Trails Program administered by DCR and any Act relative to Massachusetts Transportation Resources.** OLIVEIRA/SAUNDERS - appropriating not less than \$500K for the enhancement of snowmobile trail design, construction and connections within the Commonwealth (out of the \$2M)
 6. **An Act for a 3-day FREE Weekend for Snowmobilers.** WHIPPS/MARK—filed in both the house and Senate—separate bill allowing for three-day free weekend annually to be scheduled with MEP

TEAM ENGAGEMENT:

Our Government Affairs team continues to encourage all SAM Board of Directors and Club Members to engage with your Legislators—this is critically important to our sport. Does not matter where you live, promote Snowmobiling and the Sport by making that reach out. Stay plugged into your local community activity—know where your Trails are, how they are being used or how they may be being restricted. **Your voice matters!!!** If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to reach back to one of us on the Team.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- PROMOTE PROMOTE PROMOTE... Snowmobiling as PASSIVE Recreation—we do not damage the environment!!
- Continued advocacy with our Legislators—all levels—this is a MUST!
- Ensure the Executive Director maintains a consistent relationship with DCR Stewardship Council
- Ensure the Executive Director maintains a consistent relationship with DFW Board of Directors
- Work to engage new EOEEA Staff (inclusive of DCR, DFW and MDAR Commissioners) as well as Mass Environmental Colonel and Safety Captain.
- Establish a Collaboration of Gov't Affairs Committee and Marketing/Promotion Committee so we are hand-in-hand with our snowmobiling voice
- Continue to have monthly DCR meetings with identified liaisons at DCR and OHV
- Establish and Invite Governor Healy to experience our Sport—Women led focus—promote Women in Snowmobiling
- Integrate Electric Snowmobiles and Snowmobiling into our portfolio to show our sport is progressive in thought and action—get an electric snowmobile manufacturer to our EXPO!
- Redefine our trail use as Passive—capitalize the “electric” component of snowmobiling like electric bikes on the trail.
- PARTNERSHIP—all related user/recreation groups
- Promote Club and SAM BOD Members to join their local recreation Boards
- Work with the Charity committee to establish a program of give-back, by SAM, to outdoor recreation interest—ideas include a Winter Carnival Cardboard Box Derby, Legislative “On the Trails” weekend, reignite a Camp SnoMo relationship/support, continue to attend local Fairs and Parades promoting our existence
- Secure a paid Lobbyist partner—in some form or fashion to ensure our voice is ALWAYS at the table on key statewide activity and ensuring our legislation is passed. We cannot continue to rely on our volunteer base to support a statewide organization

THANK YOU TO ALL Working Hard Members of this Team—Larry Tucker, Randy Toth, Mary Duncan Wilson and John Devine. 🐾



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Hampshire County Legends of Snowmobiling

By Bryan Osetek

This year marked the 12th Annual Hampshire County Legends of Snowmobiling Dinner hosted by the Goshen Highlanders at the Burgy Bullets snowmobile club house. Each year The Goshen Highlanders, Burgy Bullets, Chesterfield Four Seasons, and Worthington Snowmobile club exchange the honor of hosting the event, preparing a meal and celebration for always a great crowd. This year the Goshen Highlanders with the help of Jerry Bird, owner of Spruce Corner Restaurant (this year's Highlanders honoree) prepared a prime rib dinner with all the fixings. Following the meal an awards ceremony was held, a raffle and entertainment by Rock 201.

This dinner and awards night was created for/by all four clubs being led by Bob Laliberte. Its main purpose is to honor the older generation who pioneered snowmobiling in our communities. These men and woman worked to established clubs, build landowner relations along with building and maintaining the trails and infrastructure for snowmobiling across the state.

The Goshen Highlanders honoree for 2023 is Jerry Bird. He saw the need for Goshen to have a club of their own in the Fall of 2002. Jerry took it on himself to acquire the paper work for establishing a club with S.A.M and organized the first meeting. A group of interested folks came together at Spruce Corner Restaurant and officially established the Goshen Highlanders Snowmobile Club in early 2003. Jerry served as the first club treasurer where he donated the first \$100 to open a bank ac-

count. Later he was elected President which he served for many years. He has also been instrumental in fundraising, leading many chicken BBQs and running the Cumington Fair food booth for 10 years with help from many club members. Jerry also helps surrounding clubs and organizations with events, from behind the scenes support to preparing meals. Although Jerry doesn't get out on the trails as much as he would hope to, he has been in the sport since he was young and is always willing to share some stories of winters past. On a personal note as the person who took over as club president following Jerry several years ago now, he is still just a phone call away for advice or suggestions on any issues that come up. On Behalf of the Goshen Highlanders Thank You, Jerry Bird for the years dedicated to the Goshen Highlanders and the trails in our small town.



Entertainment for the evening by Rock 201.



Jerry Bird accepting his award.

The Burgy Bullets was established decades ago by a group of families and it has carried on that tradition throughout the years. One of them from the 1980's is the Gougeon family and the 2023 Legends of Snowmobiling honoree Lorrie Gougeon. Lorrie and her husband John were active back when the clubhouse was just the small bar area and a concrete slab where the hall is now, their two sons Dale and Dan running around under the 2x4 framed ceiling covered with blue tarps when the club hosted events. Lorrie remained active with the club in the 90's, attending club rides and parties. Now she's back as the club's activities director and breathing new life into the club. The Bullets are very proud to have her bring her enthusiasm back to the club and for her to be this year's honoree.

The 2023 Hampshire county legends of snowmobiling honoree for the Worthington Snowmobile club is Deane Messeck. Deane has done so much for the club throughout the years it would probably be easier to say what he hasn't done, from chief groomer mechanic to landowner liaison to volunteering his own excavation equipment to fix trails as well as serving as a club officer for many years. There is no task or project that he isn't up to or a lot of times the driving force of. The dedication to the club that Deane has is unmatched. In 2012 Deane was awarded as the S.A.M Snowmobiler of the year, an honor that was much deserved.



Mike Cialek accepting his award.



Lorrie Gougeon accepting her award



Plaques with the names of the past honorees. This plaque moves between the Burgy Bullets and Chesterfield Four Season club houses.



Mike Cialek accepting his award.



A look down the buffet line.

With everything he has done for the club over the last decades all he asks is for “the young people to keep it going”

Mike Cialek was nominated for Legends of Snowmobiling from the Chesterfield Four Season Club. Mike has been a member and on the board of directors for many years. He has been instrumental in writing grants that is beneficial to the Four Seasons. We have obtained multiple groomers, a UTV along with many power tools to maintain our trails, including a building to store the grooming equipment.

Mike has such a love for snowmobiling and can't wait for the snow to fly every year. He started riding 20+ years ago, bringing home his first sled grinning from ear to ear and waiting for his wife to kick him out of the house as she had no idea that he was buying one. He moved on from the Artic Cat to a Polaris Super Sport and now his

Polaris Rush. He has such a love for the sport he brought his son riding at the age of three and cherished the moments when the entire family would be out there together.

Mike continues to support our Annual Chicken BBQ/Land-owner appreciation dinner, as well as our Annual Groomer Benefit / Prime Rib dinner. Mike's passion for the club, past and present is very admirable. He was instrumental in recognizing the founding fathers at our Annual Chicken BBQ. The Chesterfield Four Seasons is proud to honor him as a “legend” of our club.

Make sure to keep an eye to any of the four clubs Facebook pages for the announcement of the date for the 2024 Hampshire County Legends of Snowmobiling dinner, we hope you can join us. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this article from each club. See you on the trails! 🐾



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CLUB NEWS



Adams Sno-Drifters

By Joe Rogge

As a retired educator I find certain things from history can relate to the present. In this case how things in the past relate to my membership with the Sno-Drifters.

CONSIDER THIS: **WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES**

"Walk a Mile in My Shoes" is a variation of the saying, "You can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes." It is attributed to Native American tribes and from the 1895 poem by Mary T.

Applying to the present:

Last winter I volunteered to groom a small portion of Trail 90. The club provided a small drag, I provided a tracked ATV. I now felt I could easily groom. How hard could it be? Scott, Noah, Steve, and others made it look so easy. I "groomed a mile in their shoes". I experienced the following: broken shear pins, a trail so light I could not see it, the biggest snow ball I ever saw, and got all four tracks spinning with a buried drag!

CONSIDER THIS: **NEVER HAVE SO FEW**

"Never was so much owed by so many to so few" was a wartime speech delivered to the House of Commons of the United Kingdom by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill on 20 August 1940. The name stems from the specific line in the speech, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few", referring to the ongoing efforts of the Royal Air Force and other Allied aircrew who were fighting in the Battle of Britain, the pivotal air battle with the German Luftwaffe.

Applying to the present:

I would write about trail trims in our local club news but never showed up a one. Last winter and so far this fall I see how few members (4-8) do so much (Trails 90 and 2) for so many (local membership and other riders, snowshoers, hikers, and mountain bikers)

Think about the above the next time you enjoy a ride on our trails and before you voice too many complaints. 🐾



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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

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!
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CLUB NEWS



Buckland Riders

By Steve Howland, President

Trail work this summer has been a challenge with all the rain, but we've managed to get out anyway and clear up most of the damaged from last winter's storms. We sure hope the snow this year doesn't come in 36" increments. 12" once a week for 12 weeks would be perfect. DCR Grants continue to be a life line for our club. This year we are installing two new grant funded steel bridges. One is 40' and one is 60'. These kind of projects don't happen without lot's of volunteers and especially without heavy equipment. So extra thanks to Dick Hillman, Jeff Spencer, and CJ Plesnar for donating truck, trailer, and machine time. 🛷

Please visit our web page anytime for club news and trail information www.bucklandriders.com

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Burgu Bullets

Megan Cone, BBSC Secretary

Time to send in your Membership. Joining a club is the best way to support snowmobiling in your community. Club membership and S.A.M. trail passes help provide the tools and programs to keep the trails open, groomed and safe. The BBSC hope you all can join this season, and please take advantage of the Early Bird pricing offered before Dec.15th, 2023. Help support the club and the sport by joining today Help your local club survive.

Trail Clearing has already started and volunteers are needed. With cold weather setting in we are hard at work with trail prep/clearing. We meet at the clubhouse Sunday mornings at 9am to clear brush and downed trees, build/rebuild bridges and mark trails and intersections. We really are in need of some fresh people to be involved in this club to ensure its longevity. Even if you can only afford one or two Sunday mornings, please pitch in. We need your help. Hope to see you on some Sunday mornings!

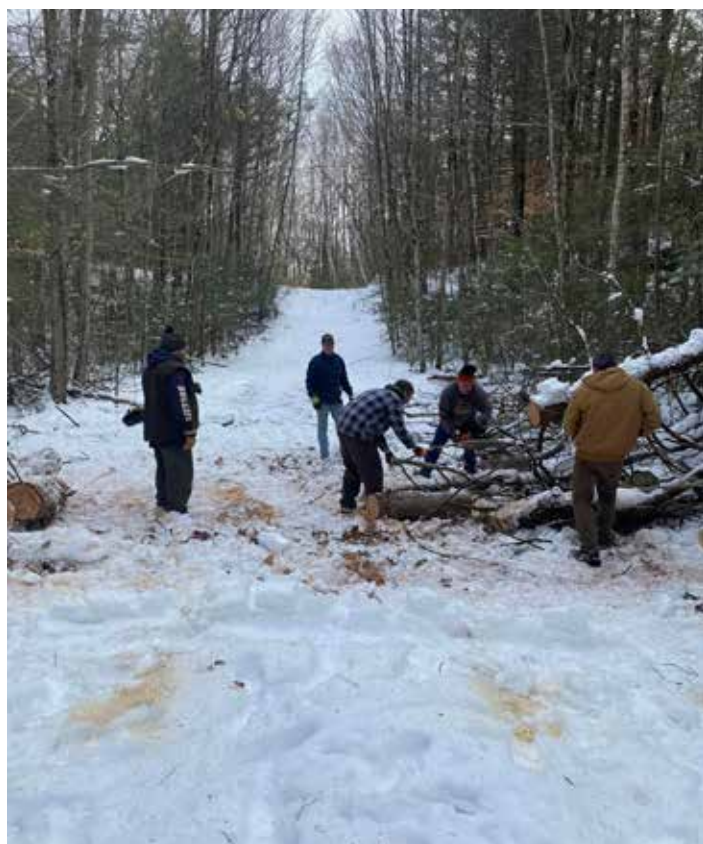
EVENTS (Check [Facebook](#) for Updates)

- November DATE TBD - BBSC Hayride, stay tuned for more info to come!
- November 18th & 19th – SAM Sled Expo at the Big E, come check out our booth!
- November 25th- Wreath Making in the hall at the clubhouse.
- Dec 2th - Annual Christmas Dinner, Prime Rib dinner with DJ & Raffle.

[Keep watch on Facebook:](#) as we will post our club hours as weather allows.

A HUGE thank you goes out AGAIN to those who have donated their own time, money, equipment & materials to the club. Without your continued support, the club & local trail system would not survive. We are very fortunate to have a clubhouse for our club members to enjoy, but the expenses, yard work, trail work & clubhouse up-keep are more than only a few active members can handle.

We are in desperate need of some “NEW BLOOD” in the club to help with some of the tasks that keep this club operational. Please help us keep the Burgu Bullets Trail system and this club going for future generations to use and enjoy. We are also in need of some help with bartending duties to keep the doors open during the winter months. This is a fun and rewarding way to help the club. Please contact Jon T. at (413) 727-2297 if you can offer even a day or two of help with this. THINK SNOW!!! 🐾





Conway Snowmobile Club

By Ed Skorupski

Why volunteer? It is certainly no secret that most of the clubs are struggling to get enough volunteers for the volume of work that is required to maintain trail, equipment, and run the administrative side of the club. This isn't just limited to snowmobiling. Clubs and organizations of all types are finding that there is a strong competition for manpower resources. People's lives seem busier than ever, even though technological advances have always been touted as time savers. So how do we entice more volunteers to come out and help the clubs. And why should they volunteer?

Within the Conway Snowmobile Club, we are feeling the crunch just as everyone else is. The average age of a volunteer is probably near 50 years of age, and that is only because we have a couple that are really young. This year, we are facing an unprecedented amount of preseason trail work, mostly due to the heavy rain events during the summer. One of these events dropped more than 20 inches of rain in a few hours, washing out roads, flooding basements, and for us, destroying trails and bridges. One of our main bridges, forty feet long, providing fuel access, lost all of its decking. This project will take many man hours to complete. And that is just one item on the list. Conway will not be able to open all our trails this year. We simply do not have the manpower to fix all the damage.

So, back to the question, why volunteer? Without volunteers, no club can function. Not on the administrative side, nor the physical work side. A few clubs in Maine have folded recently as they had no reliable base of volunteers. In Massachusetts, where



most of our trails are on private land, losing a club, with its local ties to the community, could well mean losing that part of the trail system. So here are a few reasons, besides the obvious ones.

- **Gain new skills or improve upon existing ones.** Whether it's running a chain saw, or helping to rebuild a bridge, these are valuable skills for most of our members. Not everyone had the chance to grow up in a rural environment and to have these skills taught to them as youngsters. The older volunteers have these skills and are willing to teach them to the next generation of volunteers. Want to learn more about maintaining your own sled? Great, come help the crew perform preseason maintenance on some of the groomers.
- **Networking.** I don't care if you are an hourly employee, a middle manager, or self-employed. Meeting new people and getting to know them will open up areas of opportunity that you didn't know existed. Working side by side with someone in a no pressure envi-

ronment allows you to get to know the other person better than anything else. This added connection might come in handy when you are looking for a job, promotion, or making a sale. There also is a personal side to networking. I can't count the number of times that I have been offered the loan of a machine or tool from one of my fellow volunteers for use at my home.

- **Friendship.** Closely related to networking, but purely on a personal level. Expand your social group. We all know it is more fun to ride with friends, and making more friends makes it easier to find riding partners.
- **Because you like to ride.** Snowmobilers come in all varieties. Some like to operate the groomer and will happily groom all season and never ride anything that isn't pulling a drag. Others want to see how many miles they can ride in a day, and some people are happy to take their family out a few miles for a trailside lunch. Volunteers make this possible.

We all have excuses to not volunteer, and I have heard most of them, as I am sure that you have heard them too. It is bad enough to hear the excuse, don't be the one to speak the excuse. There is no person that rides a snowmobile that can't find a way to help out with something that a club needs done. We can find a task that fits your skill set, or we can teach you a new skill. If you can only give one day a year or one night every month there is a task to fit your schedule. All it takes is a willingness to help keep this pastime going. 🛷

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www.sledconway.com



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CLUB NEWS



Easy Riders

Lore has it that the club's 1st meeting was held in Marlborough in January of 1971, making this our 53rd season, and although we have moved our meeting location several times, we still hold our meetings in Marlborough. Since we are so close to Boston, years ago we morphed into a traveling club. Our members ride in MA, VT, NH, ME, NB and Que. Club members are instrumental at making our club what it is. Trips are planned and 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 club's webpage and/or our Facebook page. Trip planning for 2024 has begun. A trip to Ft. Kent over MLK weekend in January and a 5-7 day February trip to Quebec are in the planning stage. The Quebec trip will include taking 2 ferries. One crossing the St. Lawrence (both ways) and a second crossing the Saguenay River as well as some riding up in the Mt. Valin area.

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."



Gas stop headed north to Chibougamau, Que., Feb. 2023



Club Du Nord, Edmundston, NB, March 2023



International bridge at sunset Ft. Kent, ME, Jan., 2023



Relais La Chapelle, Mont Valin region, Que, March 2023

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 through March. 🏍️

<http://ersc.net>

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



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 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
Mike Sarafin, 413-923-4518

Women Let 'Er Rip



Whitney Roberts

By Whitney Roberts

My name is Whitney and I have a huge passion for snowmobiling. I am grateful to live in the Western part of Massachusetts where I can ride from my doorway. I have grown up within the snowmobiling community. As I have grown up, I have found it difficult to find women that I am able to ride with. I find that as a female with a passion in the world of motorsport that it is often hard to be included. As a female rider it has been my observation for myself and as you will read by other that there is a lot of negative conversation around women and riding. I have been focused on shedding light on being a woman in the snowmobile world. I am by no means a professional, however I do find ways to try to interest other young girls and women into riding snowmobiles. I recognize that I wear a lot of pink. I wear a pink suit and I have a pink wrapped snowmobile. It is nice to easily represent females out on the trails with my pink. I do recognize as well that "Real men wear pink."

Additionally, I am an advocate for snowmobile clubs, and SAM itself; as I am an active member of the Hilltown Snowmobile Club. If you find snowmobiling of any interest, reach out to your local clubs, or your state organization to see how you may become involved. The sport will only continue to survive if you involve yourself and outreach to the younger generation.

I have participated in many assorted styles of snowmobiling. I have always ridden Massachusetts trails since I was a young girl. I have also since participated in snowmobile drag racing, off-trail riding in Maine, and most recently a hill-climb. This year I continued to ride trail, however I wanted to become more involved with trying off trail riding.

“Female backcountry snowmobile riders meet more tribulations than the average male in this sport. To be a female athlete in a male dominated sport requires more than just physical determination and dedication. There is a mental aspect that is not talked about for women to overcome. Everyone knows we fight the machines because of our body structure and weight, but what is not known or often talked about is the stigma we encounter.”

—ABIGAIL FOLSOM (Augusta, ME)

Being a woman interested in a male dominated sport can be intimidating. It can feel as though there is no patience, and it at times can feel like a burden. The fear of bearing weight on the group; getting stuck. The questions you ask yourself; can you carry out the same skills, handle your machine, so many factors come into play. The fear of failure.

I was given the opportunity to take part in a Women Only back country clinic at Deans Den in New Canada Maine hosted by Let 'Er Rip LLC. To give a perspective; that is about an 8.5/9-hour drive from Western Massachusetts. Deans Den is in a small town that offers guided hunts, backcountry and trail riding and meals. Let me tell you; no one went hungry. Amazing meals prepared for you. The owners treat you like family and it really feels as though it is a second home.



Ladies that were taking part had done so before; and some had never been off the trail before. These women all from New England set out to achieve a common goal; to work on developing new skills in the backcountry.

We started each day off by unloading to a short trail ride to our riding destination. We were equipped with radios to ensure effective communication. One of the goals we found to work on was to get ourselves unstuck; that is half the battle of riding backcountry. The guides explained to us counter steering; how you point your skis to go the opposite way. As a trail rider this is not what we are taught. The important piece here was making sure your eyes were up and looking where you wanted to go.



Abigail Folsom

One of the goals we found to work on was to get ourselves unstuck; that is half the battle of riding backcountry.

"It was the best learning opportunity for me, I was surrounded by so many incredible ladies, some with no experience like me and some more experienced. I was able to learn to ride as a woman, not a man who has weight and muscle to their advantage. I learned to become more comfortable with my sled, and that boosted my confidence, which made me a better rider. I fell more times than I could count, got stuck just as much, but I got right back up and jumped back on every time."

—**SABRINA CARPENTER**
(Bennington, NH)

Being able to take part in a female only riding clinic takes away the pressure of feeling judged for stepping out of your comfort zone. Sorry gentleman, sometimes we need to feel as though we are included. When I say I have never met so many amazing supportive women I mean it. Those that had ridden before had helpful tips and tricks as to how to do a little better; not only did they have encouraging words, but they were also right there for the next ski pull.



Sabrina Carpenter & Whitney Roberts



Left to Right: Sabrina Carpenter, Bailey Jankowski, Abigail Folsom, Amanda Page, Whitney Roberts, Taryn Lawrence, Kristin Noyes, Marissa Brown, Nicole Tower, Heather Groves, Ali Benway, (Sled of Gary Johnson), Linda Paquet, Tyler Paquet, Mike Lonie, Mitchell Roux, and Sylvie Guerrette

"My first and most significant experience with riding with other women was last year during the Let 'Er Rip Ladie's clinic at Dean's Den in New Canada, Maine. Here, I was able to watch, learn, take advice from, ask questions to, and to practice with other female riders. There is just something super special about the comradery between other women who sincerely want other women to succeed. There is no feeling like that of being cheered on for success by an entire clan of women who are watching you flourish at a sport that you both physically and mentally struggled with for years."

—**ABIGAIL FOLSOM**
(Augusta, ME)

The drive that these women have; to get back up each time was truly inspiring. We were all happy to be there and felt like it was okay to fail. "If you're not getting stuck; you're not trying" We all tried if you know what I mean...

I spent just as much time in the snow as I did on my sled. Using this time to push myself and understand how far was too far. I learned to find my balance and to stand above the handlebars can give a greater advantage of control. So many technical skills go into this type of riding. Every time one went down someone was there to help you get up; without discouragement which is a fear when riding with men.

"At many points, I said to myself, "Maybe this isn't for me." I went home and reached out to a friend of mine, Ali Benway. She is one of the reasons I wanted to try this sport. I told her about the struggles I was having and the thought of giving up. She assured me that everyone gets stuck, and no matter how much experience they have, it happens."

—**SABRINA CARPENTER**
(Bennington, NH)



Abigail Folsom, Sylvie Guerrette & Whitney Roberts



Left to Right: Marissa Brown, Nicole Tower & Whitney Roberts

The drive that these
women have; to get
back up each time
was truly inspiring.



Left to Right: Tyler Paquet, Mike Lonie & Mitchell Roux; three of the guides at Deans Den

We dabbled in climbing some small chutes; steeper terrain that was still fresh and untouched. It looked steep. Knowing that we were here to fail gave confidence and the ability to try. I knew that if anything were to happen that there would be people to help. I made it to the top and then got stuck... figures, right? Well turned out we were not the only ones riding in the area. I got a ski pull from a stranger, thanked him, and continued. Two other women took the trek up the chute as well. We all turned around and made it to the bottom.

The weekend progressed, and our skills improved over a brief period; we took a dive into some more wooded areas. Utilizing the technical skills that we had worked on and applied them to real tree riding. The biggest tip that I was given is look where you want to go. Don't look at the tree! If you look at the tree, you WILL hit the tree. This was more challenging by far; because this is where you get stuck and rely on the help of your peers. I will say my guilt really set in due to the amount of work the guides put in to help us get unstuck. Gary Johnson, Tyler Paquet, Mitchell Roux, and Mike Lonie worked their butts off, all with a great attitude. I cannot imagine that it was easy for them physically.



Sylvie Guerrette, Whitney Roberts & Heather Groves working on side-hilling skills

"When it comes to the women's clinic at Dean Den; Gary, Mitch, Mike and I strive to make sure everyone feels comfortable. We do our best to make sure everyone knows that it is a 100% judgement free place. We teach basic skills that will eventually put you in a place to take those skills to the next level.

Watching the progress these girls made over a 3-day period is incredible and every one of them absolutely crushed it this year. It is extremely rewarding for us to see them succeed. To take the pointers we give them and put them into action. I am so glad to be a part of this and to work for such a great lodge Deans Den." —**TYLER PAQUET** (Hookset, NH)



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POLARIS

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Nicole Tower practicing her counter steering in some beautiful powder

Grow Skills with Let 'Er Rip Clinics

"Hey Rippers! My name is Nicole but most of y'all call me Nik. I come from a blue-collar home in a random town in Massachusetts and have been a tomboy my whole life. I spent most of my childhood following my dad around the garage, embracing my family's love for snowmobiles, and being involved in anything that kept my hands dirty.

As I grew older, I ran into hurdles trying to find a group in New England that wasn't full of drama and where I could correctly take my skill set to the next level. What else is a girl supposed to do besides build her own brand! Let 'Er Rip was created as an outlet for women, men and the next generation who wanted the thrill of motor sports without the negativity. A welcoming safe place to connect and learn from one another and support our passion for motorsports. New England doesn't

receive the recognition it deserves, and I won't stop highlighting and creating more rad opportunities for the moto industry.

I've been organizing and hosting backcountry snowmobile clinics since 2019. The clinics first started over the border in Quebec Canada and now we are lucky to call Dean's Den in New Canada Maine home. Year after year we continue the clinics at Dean's Den because owners Randy and Courtney Bossie have embraced Let 'Er Rip, our clinics and the hundreds of snowmobilers that come through the lodge as family. Your name will never be forgotten, you will always be greeted with a smile and every meal served is home cooked.

We are currently hosting a coed and ladies only clinic that welcomes all ages and is geared towards beginner or intermediate riding levels. Whether you want to learn proper counter steering or quick

decision making through the northern hardwood trees, our talented and professional Maine State Guide Gary Johnson and his team of instructors will aid you in becoming a stronger, more confident backcountry rider.

Gary, his team, myself, and my ambassador Ali Benway, believe that all riders start somewhere, and we fully embrace Let 'Er Rip's mission and goals. There is no judgment, endless ski pulls, encouragement and a hype team backing you up whether we are on or off the mountain side.

I have been lucky enough to meet some incredibly inspiring people on my journey; and I want to meet you! I want to welcome you and encourage you to grow your skills and never stop trying. Take the leap outside your comfort zone and Let 'Er Rip tater chip!" 🥔

"Don't be afraid of falling or getting stuck. Don't be afraid of the throttle. Just get out there and send it. It doesn't matter how many ski pulls you need, as long as you're having fun. Join a ladies' clinic near you with other ladies and build your confidence. No one is gonna be perfect at first. Get your seat time in as much as you can and again, have fun!"

—**SABRINA CARPENTER**
(Bennington, NH)

This trip for me was more than I had ever anticipated to get out of an all womans clinic. I learned so many new things, felt comfortable being able to try without judgment, met so many great people and shared so many great memories. 🐾



Taryn Lawrence

"Even though I fell 100 times, I was slowly getting better each time. Even though I fell off I did something that I couldn't do before, and it was such a good feeling. I couldn't even get my sled on edge 24 hours before. It was an accomplishment for me, and I learned from it and kept going."

—**TARYN LAWRENCE** (Templeton, MA)



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CLUB NEWS



Goshen Highlanders

By Bryan Osetek, President

Goshen Highlanders Snowmobile Club (GHSC) was established in 2003 with just 38 members that year. We are located in the scenic mountains of Goshen, MA. We offer 25 miles of trails, 16 of which run through the DAR State Forest. Our trail system will bring you around town or lead you to Chesterfield, Williamsburg or Ashfield; connecting you to many points beyond.

Throughout the DAR State Forest you can visit the fire tower, Camp Howe, and if safe, both Upper and Lower Highland Lakes. In town you can reach Spruce Corner Restaurant along Corridor 9 where you will find good eats, homemade desserts, beverages, trail passes, friendly and trail knowledgeable staff. The Goshen General Store is accessible off secondary 112. Along with club memberships, trail maps and trail passes they carry a variety of snowmobile parts and accessories both in stock and available to order, deli style and convenience store snacks and local goodies.

The trails are maintained solely by volunteers and new faces are always welcome! During the fall most weekends you can find a group of enthusiastic members' brush hogging, trimming, rebuilding bridges, removing obstacles and performing general trail upkeep. We advertise these work bees through a text system and on our Facebook page which we update regularly. Our club provides lunch to its members at Spruce Corner Restaurant following a morning of productive group trail work. During the winter we have a dedicated grooming crew who operate a



Grooming DAR State Forest



Trail work never ends!



DAR after 30" of snow fell last year.

variety of equipment including a tracked John Deere tractor, two utility Snowmobiles and a Kubota RTV. They are all volunteers and work very hard to provide the best experience possible on our trails. When you see them out there, stop and say hi, and thank them for the great job they do and their dedication to the sport!

CLUB MEETING

Please join us at our bimonthly meetings at the Spruce Corner Restaurant, 188 Berkshire Trail West (RT 9) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings at 7pm. Always remember to respect land owners, our trails depend on them and ride safely! See you out there in just a few weeks. #thinksnow 🐾



Knox Trail Sno-Riders

By **Jim Richard**, media director
Photos and copy by **Mel Scuderi**

The Knox Trail Sno-Riders are preparing for what looks to be a promising winter season. Our first regular club meeting will be held at 6:00pm on the Thursday, October 26. Future meetings for the season will be determined at that time. The Knox Trail Inn is under new ownership and 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 first two are scheduled for Sunday October 15th. and 29th.

“BE BOLD RIDE OLD” SHOW

The Knox Trail Sno-Riders held their 9th “Be Bold Ride Old” vintage snowmobile and tractor show on the rain date of September 17th at the Blandford Fairgrounds. There was a good turnout of people exhibiting some unusual iron and beautifully restored sleds.



Event Manager Mel Scuderi and “Freddie” drawing the winning raffle tickets.



Nick Ruddy's Scorpion stinger with a four cylinder, four carb aircraft engine



Wally Black's improvised ear protection while measuring decibels for the loudest pipes!

CLUB NEWS

A big thank you to all the volunteers and trophy/raffle prize donors. Raffle ticket buyers brought home some nice tools from Snap-on, wash kits from Napa, and DeWalt tool boxes, all donated by club members and businesses. The Butcher Block of Westfield, MA, served up great BBQ'd food. Special thanks to Fred Cyr for covering total cost of the Blandford Fair venue.

Here is the run-down of this years vintage sled winners:

- BEST OF SHOW, Bob Kozdronkiewicz, 1976 Mercury Sno Twister 250
- MOST ORIGINAL, Mark Sperandio, 1970 Wheel Horse Safari
- MOST ORIGINAL RACER, Fred Cyr, 1980 Arctic Cat Sno Pro
- BEST RESTORED, Fred Cyr, 1971 Arctic Cat King Kat
- BEST RESTORED RACER, Bob Kozdronkiewicz, 1976 Mercury Sno Twister 250
- BEST REGISTERED VINTAGE, Peter Garstek, 1997 Polaris 680 Ultra
- POWDER PUFF, Lori Powers, 1971 Dauphin Flipper
- JUNIOR CLASS, Harper Stafford, 1976 Arctic Cat Kitty Kat
- RAT RUNNER, Brian Delamatera, 1967 Sno Bug STD
- LOUDEST PIPES, Bob Kozdronkiewicz, 1976 Mercury Sno Twister 250

SNOW EXPO

Please visit us at the 2023 SAM Snow Expo on November 18th and 19th at the Big E grounds in West Springfield, MA. Get your trail pass, KTSR shirts, and your 14th annual raffle ticket to win a 2024 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 Sport snowmobile. Only 135 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. Drawing will be on January 14, 2024 at the Knox Trail Inn. Winner need not be present. 🐾



The Butcher Block of Westfield, MA, served up great BBQ.





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CLUB NEWS



Savoy Kanary Kats

By Sean Anderson, Secretary

HOW OUR CLUB WORKS

We all love riding the trails, but the vast majority of riders have no idea how much goes into making a club run, they just want trails flat, wide and fast. You might spend a few hours riding, but how often do you think about the thousands of volunteer hours it takes to run a club? Allow me to explain how our club, the Savoy Kanary Kats operates. Hopefully this article encourages you to volunteer or get more involved.

Board of Directors:

We have a Board of Directors consisting of 5 Members along with 4 Club officers who set the strategic direction of the Club. We meet once per year (typically in the summer) to align on goals for the upcoming year. Directors always attend our club meetings, events

and are our greatest supporters. They are voted in by Club members once per year.

Club Members:

We range from 350-750 members each year. Last year we had just under 400 and low snow years, our membership drops and other years they rebound. We're constantly trying to recruit new members and always encourage people to join a club where you ride.

Officers:

The Club votes for our officers and like most clubs, we have the standard President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer; but there's nothing "standard" about this group. They work tirelessly to keep all the balls in the air through the entire year, not just during the snowmobiling season. This group manages all the expenses of the club, landowner and public inquires, membership, newsletters, coordinates fundraisers and interactions with SAM, State and local officials.



Financial:

There are three things you need for a club... snow, volunteers and money. The Kanary Kats are blessed to have solid financial footing due to careful management of finances and fundraising. Not only do we have the traditional bank accounts but also need to manage special tax forms for our not-for-profit status, lines of credit for large capital purchases, matching grant accounting and the countless invoices and revenue to manage the money going in and out.

Revenue:

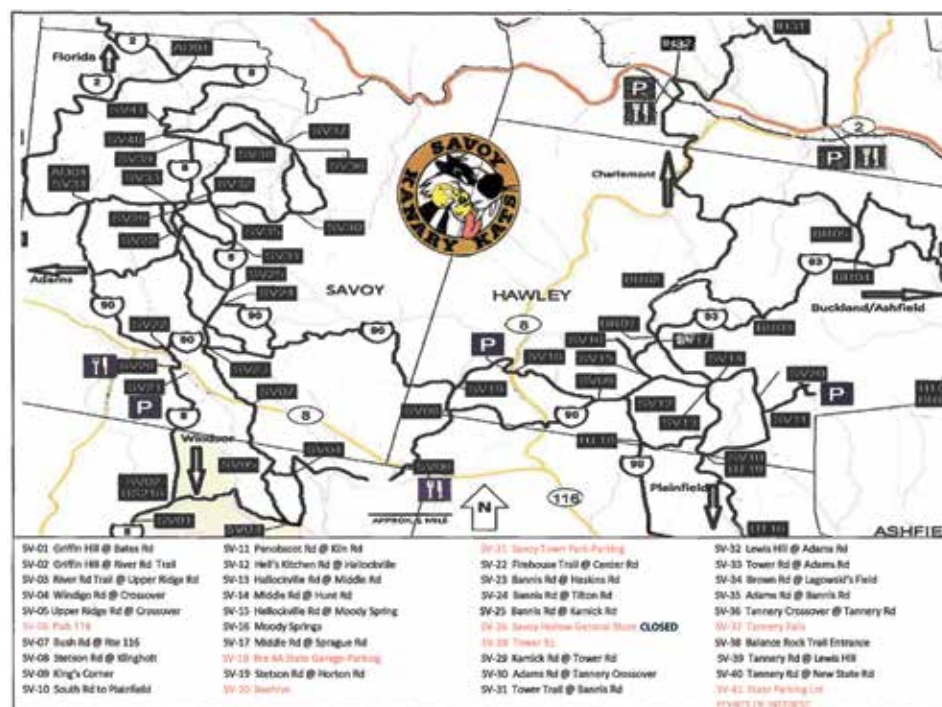
We achieve our solid financial footing by a few different revenue streams including our snowmobile raffle, clothing sales and Club memberships. The largest fundraiser is our annual snowmobile raffle. The team aggressively negotiates to get the best sled at a reasonable price for some lucky person to win. The goal is to fundraise the amount of the purchase plus a profit of at least \$10,000. Other sources are clothing sales, although we only make a small amount but it's a great way to show pride and get exposure. With every trail pass sold, we receive either a \$25 or \$40 membership fee (depending on when you purchase your Club membership/trail pass before or after December 15th). Obviously, this income varies year to year depending on snowfall and Trail Pass sales.

Grants:

Grants are a special category and is the reason we have some of the best equipment in New England. Our fleet of a Tucker 2000, three LMC 1800s, two Artic Cat Bearcats, Skidoo Scandic, and other tracked vehicles and drags are purchased mainly by grants funded through the Recreational Trail Program. How it works is the Federal Government taxes every gallon of gasoline and this money goes to a federal fund to replace roads and bridges. Sportsmen asked, "where is our share for off highway use like snowmobiling, ATV, etc. we're paying the tax, but not using the highways and bridges?" The Feds agreed and earmarked a portion of the tax money for outdoor recreational use. There's a few programs and we obtain funding through the RTP offroad motorized vehicle program. It's a been a huge benefit for the club but takes a ton of time and work to submit the application and a bit of a gamble if your project qualifies. Don't get discouraged because once you figure out how to do it, it's very beneficial. There is a matching component that requires either cash from the Club or equivalent volunteer hours to match. If you have a \$24k project, you'll need to provide 20% (\$4k) in Club cash or equivalent volunteer hours to get the \$20,000 (80%) grant from the program. Some years we have not been selected for any grant award while others have been almost \$200k (for the purchase of our Tucker 2000).

Scholarship/Donations:

We also run our Annual Winter Carnival in February. We started the Carnival to develop a scholarship fund in honor of one of our founding club members, Harold Rice. He was not only a founder, but he also spent many years dedicated to the club and was involved in purchasing our first groomer in the late 1970s. The Carnival is a great family event. We normally have food, a raffle with over 100 items, clothing sales, a 50/50 raffle and poker run. When the stars align, we've had music, a bonfire and arrowed trail ride. It's a great time and proceeds help support the scholarship and donation budgets. In the past we've supported Camp SnoMo (a summer in NH where kids with disabilities get to enjoy outdoor activities in a highly



accessible environment), St. Jude, Toys for Tots and other local charities. This is a ton of work done by a separate committee, but the benefits of supporting educational needs of local children is amazing.

Special Roles:

In addition to all that, we have specialists who help manage memberships, trail master, equipment manager, mechanics, groomer operators, grant writers, webmaster, etc. Membership applications come in a few different ways including at stores in our community, via mail and on-line. It takes our Membership Chair a bunch of time to fill out all the passes and mail back to the members. We also have a Trail Master who focuses on keeping trails well maintained as well landowner engagement, repair, maintenance, trail trims, etc. We push hard from September to when the snow flies (December-ish) by completing Sunday trail trims on our 74-mile trail system. This work is not only de-brushing but includes bridge repair/re-decking, drainage and erosion repair. To get the equipment ready, we have volunteer/mechanics who work Wednesday nights throughout the year doing maintenance on the wide variety of our club equipment. Once the snow comes, we have

5-6 primary groomer operators who are assigned to a route with the right equipment for the trails they cover. We have some trails that are 4' wide and other that are 10'+ wide, so we adjust accordingly. We also have people who spend up to a year developing grants to purchase preventative maintenance supplies (oil, filter, belts, etc.) as well as equipment (ranging from chain saws, personnel carriers, grooming equipment, drags, trail hardening supplies, etc.). Finally, we have a website (www.savoykanarykats.org) and Facebook page which takes time to post events, purchase passes and connect with our members.

Landowners:

We are incredibly lucky to have some of the best landowners in the State who graciously allow us to use portions of their land. It's an incredibly delicate balance as we strive to minimize impact of riding though their land and often must deal with disrespectful riders. (Note: if you have modified exhaust, like to speed past farm animals or houses, throw trash, drive Jeeps on snowmobile trails or are otherwise disrespectful to our landowners; you are not welcome in our trail system. You're hurting the sport and we could lose the trails.)

CLUB NEWS

Community Involvement:

Landowners hold a special place in our hearts but there are other members of our community that require some love too. We strive to have open communication and partnership with our local Town representatives, businesses, law enforcement officers at the local and state levels, as well as members of the non-snowmobiling community. We always try to buy local, and our local business do a great job helping the club with discounts, selling trail passes and otherwise advocating for the Club. Our relationships help us be a strong member of the community.

EVENTS

We do a bunch, and most events are listed on the website, or you can contact a contact a club member. Here's a quick list:

- Equipment Maintenance: Wednesdays all year long 6 PM (except if we're riding or grooming)
- Trail Trims: Sundays September through December 9 AM to ~2 PM
- Club Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month (September through April) 7 PM (Groomer Garage located at 90 Tilton Rd., Savoy, MA)
- SAM Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month (September through April) 7 PM via Zoom
- October: Membership Letter Mailing
- November 18 and 19: SAM Sled Expo (Big E, Young Building West Springfield, MA)
- December TBD: SKK Annual Christmas Party (check our website)
- January 27: Snowmobile Raffle (Pub 116 located at 788 W Main St., Plainfield, MA)
- February 1: RTP Grant Application Deadline
- February 11: Vintage Ride-in (Pub 116 located at 788 W Main St., Plainfield, MA)
- February 17: Annual Winter Carnival (Groomer Garage located at 90 Tilton Rd., Savoy)
- April TBD: SAM Annual Meeting, Dinner and Awards Ceremony
- June TBD: SAM Golf Tournament
- July TBD: Board of Directors Meeting (Groomer Garage located at 90 Tilton Rd., Savoy)



• September TBD: Savoy Emma Miller Road Race (Savoy School fundraiser)
As you can see, there are a ton of ways you can get more involved. We'd love to see you at a club meeting or trail trim. It's a great group of people who love the sport and we could always use your help. (We often joke that we're the 2%... which is sadly true. We have about 400 members and regularly see the same 8-10 people supporting the club. Please come and help, I promise you won't be disappointed!)

See you on the trails and remember...

- Join where you ride,
- Support our local businesses, and
- Volunteer!

CLUB TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS AND SUPPORTERS

- Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor: www.plt.com
- South Side Sales and Service: www.southsidesales.com
- Ronnie's Adams: <https://ronniesadams.com/>
- Ronnie's Pittsfield: <https://ronniesharleydavidson.com/>
- Pub 116: www.pub116.com
- LP Adams: <https://lpadams.com/>
- Savoy Canary 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.

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 2024 Ski Doo MXZ-X 600R E-Tec 129. It retails for \$14,299 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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CLUB NEWS



Worthington

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. I am pleased to inform you that because we have dedicated members like you we were able to upgrade our groomer fleet by ordering our fourth new Arrowhead drag to groom the trails with this year. We should be taking delivery of it in late November so be sure to be on the lookout for it on the trails this year.

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 we are yet again holding our annual sled raffle. The sled we will be giving away is a brand new 2023 Polaris Matryx XCR 850. We have plenty of tickets to go around. For your chance to win, you can purchase tickets from a club member or at the Sled Expo. Tickets are a donation of \$20.00 and we will be selling a maximum of 1200 tickets.



2023 Polaris XCR 850 raffle sled



Worthington Trails

Coming up on November 18th and 19th is the Snow Show at the Big E. The club will have a booth there showcasing our raffle sled so be sure to stop by and check it out. We will have our Worthington Snowmobile Club long sleeve shirts on hand for sale. You can also make it a one stop shop and get your SAM membership and sled raffle tickets 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.

We encourage you to take advantage of this early renewal by purchasing your trail 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. 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.

The club is always in need of volunteers, if you are interested in helping out please attend a meeting, meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of the month October to march at the Worthington firehouse at 7:00 pm.

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

Thank you and think snow! 🐾



2024 Schedule

01.13 Saranac Lake, NY

01.27 Speculator, NY

02.03 Lake Luzerne, NY

02.17 Salisbury Center, NY

02.24 Caroga Lake, NY

03.09 Tupper Lake, NY



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It's All About De Gaz, De Gaz, De Gaz

Western Quebec Tour • February 12–18, 2023

By Easy Riders Snowmobile Club

The title of this article says it all. A tour of western Quebec is really all about the gas. Four of us—Ron L, Steve V, Paul T and myself, Tom R from the Easy Riders Snowmobile Club from Massachusetts—began our 5-day riding tour from Shawinigan, Quebec and traveled north to Roberval on Day 1, then northwest to Chibougamau on Day 2, then southwest to Senneterre on Day 3, then southeast to Fer a Cheval in Mont Laurier on Day 4, then southeast back to Shawinigan on Day 5. We all carried an extra fuel caddy on our sleds except for Steve who actually carried two caddies stacked on his sled, our sleds were: Ron, 2023 Skidoo Renegade Enduro 600R ETEC; Steve, 2023 Yamaha Sidewinder turbo; Paul, 2020 Skidoo Renegade Enduro 900 ACE; and me with a 2021 Skidoo Renegade XRS 900 ACE turbo. The fuel caddies were definitely required on this trip on Day 2 (154 miles between gas stops) and Day 5 (162 miles between gas stops). Otherwise, fuel wasn't a problem. All of us used the fuel caddies on both days except for Paul who chose not to use it on Day 2 but was virtually on fumes when we finally pulled in to the gas station. Thankfully, all sleds ran flawlessly.

Our trip was planned ahead of time with the focus being the hotel destinations and most importantly the location of gas stations along the way. We were traveling in some very remote areas. We had three GPS units. Ron had the BRP GoApp in his dash which was pretty much useless. Unfortunately, it's still a work in progress. Paul and I had the GPS Trailmaster mapping on our Garmin GPS units mounted to our sleds which was outstanding except for Day 5.

Our planning was spot on except for Day 5 when the two operational GPS units were in disagreement and we veered off our original agreed upon course. We were so glad we had the extra gas on our sleds that day though as we all needed it.

Daily details of our trip are listed below. Basically, this was a grueling trip designed for young folks, not us old farts who range in age from 60-69. But we loved it. I don't think any of us would ever do it again, but

at least we can cross it off our bucket list. We would get up and leave every morning between 6am and 8am and ride anywhere from 201 to 278 miles each day and arrive anywhere from 2:15pm—9:15pm. Our average distance traveled was 240 miles per day for a total of 1200 miles for the trip. The highlight of our trip was Fer a Cheval in Mont Laurier where we were treated to gourmet dinner and breakfast and a first for us - valet parking of our sleds to a heated storage garage complete with delivery back to our rooms the following morning. So nice! Here's some details of our adventure:

DAY 1 **SHAWINIGAN TO** **ROBERVAL** **FEB. 13**

Hotel Energie to gas in Shawinigan at 13 miles to gas and lunch at Lac Edouard at 126 miles to gas and the Hotel Manoir in Roberval at 220 miles. Temps 25-36 degrees F, sunny to overcast. Issues—Ron delayed our start by 20 minutes because he thought he left his car keys at the hotel. Oops, they were in his sled all along. Steve blew a corner but recovered. Trails were bumpy a good part of the day, especially trail 355, a trail that was also bumpy our last time on it years ago. Lesson learned, avoid trail 355 at all costs. We left at 8:05am and arrived at 5:35pm. Average miles traveled per hour from start to finish was 220 miles / 9 hrs 30 minutes = 23 mph

DAY 2 **ROBERVAL TO** **CHIBOUAMAU** **FEB. 14**

Happy Valentines Day. Hotel Manoir to last gas at LaDore at 39 miles, then 154 miles through an Indian reservation and logging camp to the next gas stop



T ROSATO / SHAWINIGAN

Bridge just outside of Hotel Energie

in Chibougamau at 193 miles and then to Hotel Nordic in Chibougamau at 201 miles. Ate snacks on the trail. All required extra gas from fuel caddies except Paul who just made it. Trails were outstanding allowing serious cruising speeds of 60-70. Overcast all day long. Temps in the mid 20's. Steve missed another corner but recovered. We forgot to stop when we crossed the 49th parallel. Damn. We left at 7:45am with snow covered sleds and arrived at 3:30pm. Average miles traveled per hour from start to finish was 201 miles / 7 hrs and 45 minutes = 31.5 mph

DAY 3
FEB. 15

CHIBOUGAMAU TO SENNETERRE

Hotel Nordic to gas at 27 miles in Chapais to gas at 102 miles in Desmaraisville to gas and lunch at 164 miles in Lebel su Quevillon to gas and Hotel Bell Villa in Senneterre at 230 miles. Temps in 30s and overcast all day long with some light rain in the morning. I missed a corner but recovered. Incredible trails again today. We left at 6:45am and arrived at 2:15pm. Average miles traveled per hour from start to finish was 230 / 7 hrs 30 minutes = 30.7 mph



T ROSATO / LA DORE

Trail sign to Chibougamau from gas stop at La Dore

DAY 4 FEB. 16 SENNETERRE TO FER A CHEVAL

Hotel Bell Villa to gas and breakfast at 71 miles at Lac Faillon to gas and lunch at 174 miles at Clova to Fer a Cheval in Mont Laurier at 270 miles. Flash freeze warning last night resulted in very icy trails that caused excessive darting of all sleds for a few hours in the morning. Very difficult to control sleds. Temperature dropped from 40 degrees to -10 degrees overnight. Sunny day warmed up to low 20s. Used ice scratchers all day long today to lubricate slides. Trails great up until a little past Clova, then bumpy for 60 miles to Fer a Cheval. We determined the groomer broke down because we saw the groomer skid abandoned on the trail. Damn. Steve went off trail one more time but had to be pulled out with rope. I went off trail one time on a straightaway while riding last and was pulled out by passerby sledgers as my group kind of forgot about me. No one in my group actually witnessed my mishap so it doesn't count, haha. Fer a Cheval was first class all the way. Our sleds were valet parked to a heated garage upon our arrival and brought back out the next morning. So nice. We were kind of disappointed that they



T ROSATO / REFUGE DU LAC FRITZ

Ron L, Steve V and Paul T relaxing and warming up at the Warming Hut on trail from Senneterre to Fer a Cheval



RON LAPLANTE / REFUGE DU LAC FRITZ

Tom R waiting for the boys at the Warming Hut on trail from Senneterre to Fer a Cheval

didn't fill up our sleds with gas for us. That would have been really sweet. Treated to a gourmet dinner with choice of filet mignon or Salmon complete with dessert. Gourmet breakfast also included. We left at 5:50am and arrived at 4:50pm. Average miles traveled per hour from start to finish was 270 / 11 hours = 24.5 mph

DAY 5
FEB. 17

FER A CHEVAL TO SHAWINIGAN

We left Fer a Cheval after a full breakfast and fill up with gas. Woke to 12-15" of new snow. First stop was gas at 37 miles at 100 Lacs to gas at Manawan at 116 miles then an adventure of some sort that led us over the Taureau Lake Dam and then ending up at a clubhouse in or near Shawinigan for a well deserved break to include dinner at 226 miles to the Hotel Energie in Shawinigan at 278 miles. We all emptied our fuel caddies on this last stretch except for Paul who had to borrow gas from Steve. I'll let him explain why, something



T ROSATO / MONT LAURIER

First Class Accommodations at Pourvoirie Fer a Cheval

about a missing key for his gas caddy LinQ lock. Our revised route took us to areas where there were no gas stations available. Steve went off trail once again and had to be pulled out with a rope. Was someone getting tired or was it all that tequila? What a long day. GPS units were not in agreement all day long. Perhaps we should have listened to Ron and extended the trip one

more day. Temps never got above 5 degrees all day. We left at 8:15am and arrived at 9:15pm. Average miles traveled per hour from start to finish was 278 / 13 hours = 21.5 mph, our worst day of the trip. What a way to end our trip but no matter, it was certainly a memorable trip we all are grateful to have accomplished. Can you say that? 🐾



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.

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