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SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

SAM & Clubs Awarded RTP Grants



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The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts is committed to enhancing safe snowmobiling in Massachusetts.



ON THE COVER

Welcome to winter! Taking a break during the SAM Youth Ride in Colrain.

PHOTO BY DAN GOULD

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President's Message**BY DAN GOULD**

Dilemma of the Decade

The question is, should one look cool or stay warm? Fashion versus comfort, such a dilemma for a man my age. Sure, you might think I'd look great in high heels, but oh, my back! No worries, I'll stick to boots and try not to creep you out any further.

Still, I have a difficult decision to make. I passed my trusty 2004 Renegade onto my oldest son — for reasons I'll explain another day — and finally bought a new ride. A decade of memories riding that sled, it's nice to keep it in the family. The new snowmobile is less of a ditch banger and more of a trail cruiser, but no slouch. It's got all the bells and whistles I wanted, electric start, reverse, mirrors, trunk bag and full gauges but still has plenty of the performance bits, like the big bump suspension and an injected engine.

So what's the problem? The stupid windshield. The brochure calls it a "Sport Performance High Windshield" but after riding it I'd say it's more sport and less performance. It's not tiny, like those silly little windshields that resemble a bikini bottom, it's more like a set of tighty-whities. It looks like a regular windshield and I'm surprised it doesn't do a better job of breaking the wind.

Now, I'm afraid, I'll have to install one of those huge windshields that might best be described in underwear-speak as grandpa's baggy boxer shorts. Repulsive, ain't it?

In the late 1980's I had a giant windshield on my sled and I have to say it was awesome. Dorkey, yes, but sooo comfortable. Beyond the warmth, there was far less noise, and snow roosters from leading sleds pinged off the windshield as if it were bulletproof glass. When it snowed, my helmet visor stayed clear, and on warm days I could raise it and not get all teary-eyed from the steady gust.

Hate to bring up the unspeakable R-word but there were a few times when it rained and everybody got soaked and couldn't see out of their helmets, but the Dorkmeister with the Mack Truck windscreen stayed dry and saw it all.

Most likely I could get away with the short hipster shield around town, so long as it doesn't get silly cold, but those multi-day trips up north demand more protection. The stock set-up looks racy but who am I fooling? I tend to be a practical guy but I'm just not sure if I'm ready to be seen wearing those baggy undies in public. 🐼

Online at sledmass.com

- Poll: What windshield height is best: Low, Medium, High, XXL?
- Snowmobiling in Mass: A Beginners Guide
- What's required to ride in Massachusetts?
- Vintage snowmobile rides announced
- Facebook.com/sledmass
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Recreational Trails Program Grants Announced



State Rep. Peter Kocot, State Rep. Stephen Kulik, State Senator Stanley Rosenberg and DCR Commissioner Jack Murray join SAM representative Randy Toth at the DCR's Recreational Trails Program Grant Award announcement in Northampton on October 17.

The state announced \$1.1 million in grants to fund 39 trails projects across the Commonwealth under the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Recreational Trails Grants Program. This included grants to the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, seven SAM member clubs and several other snowmobile related projects.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants are awarded for the construction and stewardship of snowmobile trails, hiking trails, bikeways and an array of other trails throughout the Commonwealth.

These projects are made possible through partnerships with the Federal Highway Administration, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board (MARTAB). This money has been matched by over \$5.3 million in local contributions of cash, in-kind labor and donations.

RTP is funded through the Federal Highway Trust Fund and represents a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use. The funds are distributed to individual states to develop and main-

tain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. RTP grants are 80-20 challenge grants with the local match typically consisting of in-kind labor and professional services, material donations, use of equipment or a cash match. RTP allocates 30 percent of its funds to motorized use, 30 percent to non-motorized use, and 40 percent to diverse-use projects. Funding is available to registered non-profits and municipal, state and federal agencies.

The following snowmobile related projects were awarded:

BERKSHIRE SNOW SEEKERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Grant Award \$14,596 - Match \$3,649

This project will purchase a new drag for an existing club-owned groomer, which grooms over 50 miles of trails in October Mountain State Forest. The new drag will enhance the trail by creating a smoother and more even surface, allowing for a safer and more enjoyable ride, walk or ski in the winter months.

BERKSHIRE SNOW SEEKERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Grant Award \$13,500 - Match \$4,937

This project will restore badly eroded sections of a critical six-mile east/west snowmobile trail corridor on the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Chalet Wildlife Management Area.

BERNARDSTON-GILL-LEYDEN SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Grant Award \$17,307 - Match \$5,777

This project involves the purchase of a low-impact tracked grooming and maintenance vehicle, which will be used to maintain the club's trail system year-round.



*Snowmobilers watch
as the Berkshire Snow
Seekers groomer
rumbles past.*

PHOTO BY MARK KENYON

BUCKLAND RIDERS

Grant Award \$49,088 - Match \$16,815

This project will fund the purchase of two mini-trucks and two six-foot wide grooming drags to assist in ongoing maintenance and repairs to the winter trails system at Dubuque State Forest and the surrounding area.

BURGY BULLETS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Grant Award \$29,140 - Match \$8,021

This project will rehabilitate two bridges along the Old Williamsburg Road Trail and one bridge along the Water Works Road Trail. The project will also maintain these trails and bridges during the winter months through the purchase and operation of a snowmobile grooming set.

COLRAIN SNO-DRIFTERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Grant Award \$16,872 - Match \$11,011

This project will update the fleet of snowmobile trail grooming equipment currently used by the Colrain Sno-Drifters by purchasing a new machine to improve efficiency, gas mileage and to decrease carbon footprint.

CONWAY HENHAWK TRAIL RESTORATION

Grant Award \$36,550 - Match \$19,245

This project includes improvements to the historical Henhawk Trail located in Conway State Forest and the surrounding area. The repairs will allow snowmobiles, groomers

and other recreational users to access a trail that has been in disrepair due to erosion and lack of regular maintenance.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Grant Award \$43,960 - Match \$54,354

DCR's Western Region OHV Trail Crew will provide 24 weeks of professional trail work on over 300 miles of motorized trails within the State Forests of the western part of the state, where four properties remain open to ATV and/or off-road motorcycle use and all are open for snowmobile use.

KNOX TRAIL SNO-RIDERS

Grant Award \$30,078 - Match \$8,704

This project will replace the club's existing sled-based groomers with updated, fuel-efficient models. This will enable club members to continue their grooming operations throughout the winter season in Otis and Tolland State Forests.

SANDISFIELD: BERKSHIRE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

Grant Award \$19,549 - Match \$12,541

This project will improve an existing old wood road that supports snowmobile and pedestrian recreational use. In addition, the project will create a new spur trail off of the wood road to open up pedestrian access to a currently inaccessible portion of the Clam River Reserve.

SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

Grant Award \$65,000 - Match \$45,000

This project will aid in the purchase of a 43-acre parcel of land for sale in Leicester, for the purpose of preserving a section of the ITS71 Snowmobile Trail, in conjunction with other conservation and preservation goals. The trail is maintained by the Leicester Snowmobile Club and the Snowbirds Snowmobile Club.

SPENCER PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Grant Award \$49,943 - Match \$13,170

The Snowbirds Snowmobile Club is actively involved in this project, as it is part of trail ITS71. The project will work to correct drainage problems on the Depot Rail Trail and to re-establish a firm, level and smooth surface along the length of the trail for accessibility.

WARE RIVER SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Grant Award \$3,200 - Match \$1,000

This project will fund the purchase of a tow-behind brush cutter to assist the Ware River Snowmobile Club with trail maintenance efforts, focusing on snowmobile trails and the Mass Central Rail Trail in the Ware River area. 🐾



ADAMS SNO DRIFTERS

by Joe Rogge

We had considered submitting a picture with this article making you try to identify what was in the picture. Instead we'll tell you: it was a chain saw, loppers, saws, sledge hammer, and axe. Next question: What are these tools used for? Answer: Our weekly trail trims. What is missing from the picture and most trail trims? Volunteers! Since the start of our trims in October we have had the help of just a few people (the same people).

Shifting to a different topic we would like to tell you about our annual Christmas Party, December 13. We will be supporting a local charity: "Carrick's Journey". What we have done the past few years is to move away from a "toys for kids" program to a process where we identify local individuals or families in need of support. We would like to remind other clubs of the importance of being active in terms of community involvement and providing support for various charities. On many occasions we spend more time discussing our involvement with charities than trails. That's it for now. Got to try to get some help for this week's trail trim!



BERKSHIRE SNOW SEEKER

by Randy Toth

Come and experience the excitement of snowmobiling in the Berkshires. Our first-class groomer fleet consists of 3 Tucker Sno-Cats, a Thiokol and 2 snowmobile-based groomers. Dues are only \$60 for each snowmobile (\$50 if you join before December 15) and they include a club membership, a SAM membership and a trail permit. Join via snail-mail (PO Box 1102, Pittsfield MA 01202), via our website, berkshiresnowseekers.com, via a club meeting (7:00 PM on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from September thru mid-April at the Skyline Country Club on Route 7 in Lanesboro) or via one of our conveniently located trail permit outlets at a participating local business: Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor

(Pittsfield), Ronnie's (Pittsfield), Friendly Fred's (Windsor), Sangar's General Store (Windsor), Hinsdale Trading Company (Hinsdale) and Lanesboro BP Gas Station (Lanesboro). Please visit the SAM website to see our club's scheduled events and our grooming reports covering the October Mountain State Forest Area, the Pittsfield State Forest Area and the Windsor Area. Grooming reports are promptly posted in the SAM Forums by our trail coordinators within hours of grooming.



BERNARDSTON-GILL-LEYDEN

by Brad Stafford, president

Got snow? Hopefully, if you don't, you will soon and even more so I hope you have helped your club get the trails and groomers ready to go. Our club hosted its 13th annual swap meet this year and hope to make it even bigger and better next year. We have upgraded a few of our corridor trails and will be using better groomers to keep our trails ready to ride. We do have a few trail changes and new areas that are quiet zones that have been requested by landowners, so please obey the signs! Remember as you read this and as you ride our or any club's trails, they aren't there by accident! Countless hours, added up year round, are being donated by people just like you! All of us have busy lives and all of us can help keep our trails open and maintained. Whether it's just an hour at a club function or helping at a daylong work bee, it all adds up. Once the trails are open, again be aware of where you are and adhere to the signs to help keep our trails available to us all. Ride safe and "Keep The Rubber Side Down!"



CHESTERFIELD FOUR SEASONS

by Bill Golaski, president

Hopefully by the time you read this in December, we have had some early snow. It would be nice to get an early start one of these years, seems like past few winters have started late. The volunteers at the club have been working hard

to get the trails, equipment and clubhouse ready. Thanks to all who helped this summer, fall, and into the winter. These are the people that make the trails great for everyone.

Trail passes have been in for a long time so don't wait till the last minute, please. Think about it before you ride, not as you get ready to leave. As always we can use some extra help so please get involved with the club and promote the sport we all love. Meetings are on the 2nd and last Tuesdays of the month at 7pm. The club is running two raffles, one for a black powder gun and one for an enclosed trailer. Both are for items or a cash prize. Go to a meeting, call the club at 413-296-4048, or check the SAM website for more info. All club events will be listed on the SAM calendar. Game Supper is January 31 and Groomer Dinner is February 21, so save the dates. Also, please all get tickets in advance!

CONWAY SNOWMOBILE CLUB



by Ed Skorupski

The season is upon us. If you haven't purchased a trail pass yet you only have a few days left; early bird pricing expires on December 15. Take advantage of our online trail pass sales sledconway.com/membership, or visit one of our retail partners, Ray's Cycle Center, Baker's Country Store, Sunderland Corner Store, Hatfield Corner Store, or Savage's Market. Trail passes make awesome Christmas presents.

In October, Conway was awarded a Recreational Trails Grant from the Mass DCR, in order to repair the Henhawk Trail that connects Conway and Williamsburg. The Burgu Bullets also received a grant for work in Williamsburg on a connector trail. Hopefully by the time you read this, work will have been completed. We can always use more volunteers to help with trail work and we are also looking for clerical and office-type volunteers.

Check our website and Facebook pages for trail changes this year. There will likely be temporary reroutes to corridor 93. New parking is available at the Conway

Sportsman's Club this year. Park and ride from the club located at 193 Elmer Road in Conway. This location is in the heart of the Conway trails, close to Ashfield and Buckland.



EASY RIDERS

**by Steven Conti,
vice president**

Hello and Happy Holidays!

We wish all of you and yours a very happy, safe and enjoyable holiday season. This is a special time of year for family and friends to enjoy the season together with laughter, gifts, food, and being thankful for what we have. Hope you all enjoy it. Let's make part of our Christmas wishes include another snowy winter this year! The Easy Riders will be holding our annual Christmas party event on December 13 at 7pm. The party includes a buffet and the very much anticipated and most enjoyable, Yankee Swap. The swap never gets old and is truly a lot of fun and laughs. As always all are welcome to attend any of our club meetings at the Marlboro Moose Lodge. Always a fun time whether we are talking trips, snowmobiling or just general conversation. Well that's all for now. Always thinking snow.



GREATER WHATELY

by Robert Sabola

Happy Holidays! Hats off to those folks who take the time

to talk to the landowners, asking permission to continue to have a trail on their property. I had an opportunity to do this not so long ago and it was an experience worth sharing with you. This person was very pleasant and cordial but at one point the conversation changed and I was defending myself and fellow snowmobilers because of a few that do not stay on the trail and decide to do their own thing. Not a happy moment for me! Every year we get complaints about snowmobilers who do not follow the rules and regulations. It's only a handful, but these people ruin it for everyone else. Don't you be the one to ruin it for me!

Visit the club web page on the SAM website. It will have all the activities listed for the club as they happen as well as any pertinent information on sensitive areas. GWSC club meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, Septem-

Hats off to those folks who take the time to talk to the landowners, asking permission to continue to have a trail on their property.



ber through April. Time: 7pm. Location: Whately Town Hall, across the street from the Whately Inn.

Email us at: greaterwhatelysnowmobileclub@aol.com, visit us at sledmass.com/club/greater-whately-snowmobile-club



HADLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

**by Dan Regish,
secretary/treasurer**

Seasons Greetings from the flatlanders! At the time of this writing, our club has the wheels in motion to repair damage from a beaver dam blow-out in North Hadley as it prepares for the upcoming season. The past couple of months have been fairly productive with the help of one of our newest members, Todd Bristol. Without hesitation, Todd volunteered to be the club's alternate delegate to SAM. He then worked with some of his friends in the graphic arts industry to create us an awesome new club logo, and incorporated that into the Facebook page he created. Then after selling two of his sleds at the used sled coral, he volunteered the remainder of his weekend manning the HSC booth at the Sled Expo. This is the kind of enthusiasm that will have a bridge over that beaver dam blow-out by the time this writing is printed! Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Young Men's Club. Happy & Safe Holidays!



KNOX TRAIL SNO-RIDERS

**by Jim Richard, media
director**

The Officers and Board of Directors of KTSR wish you and your loved ones a great holiday season, one hopefully loaded with lots of snow and good riding! Thanks to the work done by president Jeff Gamelli, the club is proud to announce it was selected to receive a MRTP grant to

purchase two new groomer sleds. The Sled Expo is history and what a record breaker it was! Many friends visited the Knox booth and loaded up with raffle tickets, trail passes, and Knox gear. The raffle sold out! Bruce Cooper's one of a kind, John Deere powered 3700 DMC groomer, with a Chevy Astro body, drew a lot of attention. On the trail front, work is in full swing. Many volunteers are out clearing trails, placing ramps and fences, building and upgrading bridges, re-routing trouble spots, and opening new trails to new destinations! The Raffle Dinner and Dance is on Saturday, December 27 at the Knox Trail Inn in East Otis. The Annual Picnic and Poker Run is scheduled for February 16. Location, times, and routes will be announced. The Vintage Ride application is in. If approved, it's planned for Saturday, February 21. Stay current at knoxtrail.com.



SAVOY KANARY KATS

by Doug Decoigne

I can feel a little chill in the air and the wind seems a little different. It's coming! I can't wait. We are all scrambling to get trails, grooming equipment and trail signage ready before winter arrives. The Kanary Kats have accomplished a tremendous amount since the snow melted last spring but much remains to be done.

Starting in September we have held Sunday trail maintenance bees with very good attendance for the most part. The SKK have done trail clearing, grading, water barring, brush trimming with our new mowing machine and Thursday evening groomer maintenance and repairs.

The Sled Expo at the Big E was quite successful. The Kanary Kat volunteers sold a lot of raffle tickets for the 2015 Ski-Doo 600 Sport sled and we would like to thank everyone who stopped by our booth to buy raffle tickets and SKK apparel. It was a blast! Thanks to Terri Bird for the SKK collage and groomer poster. They got a lot of attention.

Remember, family multi-sled membership discounts end on December 15, get yours now! Lastly, someone told me I should mention that we have some of the highest elevation trails in Massachusetts. 🐾



The Tech Corner

BY JIM TUCKER

Tilt-EZ Trailer Tilt System:

Trailers are a rite of passage for snowmobilers. Just like gas, oil and clothing, these items are as important to us as snow and days off from work!

We suffer with these mechanical beasts as they bare the brunt of bad roads, salt, slush and horrible late night conditions with no lights. Oh, and let's not forget to add registration and maintenance as another headache of trailer ownership. But what would we do without them? They bring us to our favorite riding areas and for some, provide dry, secure, and mouse-free storage in the off-season. Such a deal!

Looking back at the trailers I've owned, I'll never forget all the times I've had one thing or another go wrong. There was the night I was driving down the road with the lights flickering like some ghetto Christmas tree. Then there was the dreaded death-rattle heard when one of the small donut tires let go on some god-awful road. Did I mention it was late at night? And how can I forget the rock hard snow banks that we love to back into and mash the lights so far into their sockets they shine down and make the trailer look like some hovering UFO that lost its way in outer space.

My latest trailer, a 10-foot clamshell, has served me well but like anything mechanical it comes with some unseen "issues." What? Issues? No way, that's not how this is supposed to work! Hey, you purchase a trailer to solve problems and make life easier, right? If you own one, you know straight away what I am talking about here.

One such issue is trying to keep the tilt mechanism in the upright position, with the clamshell fully open, while loading. Complicating this process is the fact that there is often snow and ice on top of the clamshell, which makes this task all the

Does It Work?



harder. Now you can begin to see what I refer to as "issues." Trailer manufacturers have seen the light and listened to our tales of woe and desperate pleas for deliverance, and now make hybrid-style units that solve these problems. More on that at a later date.

Plodding on, I used Yankee ingenuity to its finest, when one day I cut up a hockey stick and wedged it underneath the tilt side of the trailer. Now, when loading solo, I could keep the bed angled up and the sled would seamlessly glide up the ramp. After loading, the hockey stick would harmlessly fall down. Or that's how it should go... Well, sometimes the stick got jammed upright in the snow with the full weight of the trailer and sled. I'd then have to kick the stick out from under this medieval animal trap without getting caught. Other times, the stick fell out before I even sat on the sled and the whole tilt mechanism and cap would come crashing down with a loud bang. Everyone in the serenely quiet parking lot would just about jump out of their boots, turning to look at the dodo bird that just

broke the winter silence. Scenes like these remind me of Sled Ed loading his pile of junk, with skis protruding right through the rear window of his 1972 AMC Pacer!

In practice this is what really happens. First, you absolutely must be wearing your brand new \$600-plus snowmobile jacket and bibs. Now, kneel down in the slop, put your shoulder under the front side of the clamshell, loaded with slush and road grime, and your knee under the bed. With all your might, give it a mighty heave-ho and lift the trailer tilt mechanism up. While holding this mess up, get the hockey stick, which you now realize was left in the bed of the pickup truck, and wedge it under the trailer. Then gently and carefully, as if setting a mousetrap, open the clamshell and hope and pray the stick won't fall. After the luster of this procedure wears on you, you becoming pretty much numb to the bad vibes and wonder when God is going to relieve you from this misery. Fear not intrepid snowmobilers, JustSail Products has come to the rescue!

When I first saw the Tilt-EZ ad in the latest snomomag my heart skipped a beat as I wondered if this new device could really be the answer to my longstanding clamshell trailer nightmares. I grabbed the phone and reached out to Brent Sailor, owner of JustSail Products. After a brief conversation I asked if I could get a prototype for real-world testing and share the experience with my fellow sledmass followers. He pleasantly agreed and shortly thereafter a package was on my doorstep.

Unboxing the device I immediately noticed that the ram, including all nuts bolts and screws, were heavily plated to resist corrosion. Nice! This alone was proof that Brent has used a trailer to go snowmobiling at least once!

I held all the pieces up next to where they would mount, just to envision how they would function after the installation. My trailer has a "Y" design or "wishbone" style tongue as opposed to a "single pole" tongue. You need to order the appropriate kit for your trailer.

Installation was straightforward. After drilling the forward beam of the trailer bed, I mounted the bracket to accept the ram. The mount for the tongue incorporates long bolts and plates, very much like a trailer jack. Keep in mind that there is no drilling through the tongue of the trailer, which would weaken the trailer itself. I had various options as to where to mount the ram on the tongue. Bookmark that statement and I'll explain later.

After installation I tried the unit out immediately. I found the first ten or so turns of the crank to be really hard and wondered why. After puzzling over this I called Brent and he suggested moving the front of the ram (the tongue end) closer to the trailer bed. After relocating the ram I tried again with a machine loaded on the trailer and voila. Success! As the bed lifted it began to get easier and easier. As mentioned above, you can move the ram about 2-3 inches on the tongue. One has to experiment to see where the best mechanical advantage is and call it a day. A cordless

drill driver with an attached socket can be used to make things even easier. Nice!

I made a suggestion to Brent and the engineering team to make the hand crank at least an inch longer so it would clear the "Y" portion of the trailer tongue. He appreciated the feedback and noted that all new units would ship with a longer crank. Single beam tongues would not be affected.


The whole process of tilting the trailer bed up and down takes slighter longer than the hillbilly way but one knows for sure that the bed will stay in place and the snowmobile jacket will stay clean. At the end of the day it's now a simple process. Crank the Tilt-EZ, drive on, and know that it will be rock solid. I like solid.

If you forward-bias the sleds or ATV's too close to the front of the trailer it will be harder to crank but not so hard that the average man or woman couldn't do it. Maybe the next iteration will have a built-in electric raising device for us really lazy people. Hint-hint!

In conclusion, the kit is well-made,

plated for corrosion protection, and works as advertised. The supplied directions were easy to follow and in color, which is a nice touch. Quick release pins are included to remove the ram for maintenance. It just proves JustSail Products attention to detail.

The Tilt-EZ system gets four out of five carbides for quality, excellent directions and solving the long-standing issues related to clamshell trailers. So, if you have a tilting 10 or 12-foot flatbed or clamshell trailer, check out JustSail Products Tilt-EZ lift mechanism at justsailproducts.com. It will be worth your while!

Next up, another installment of The Great American Ski Test featuring the all-new MoHawk Ski by SLP. How does the MoHawk stack-up against SLP's Straight Line Tracking ski, Simmons original Flexi-Ski, C&A RZ Razors and the Curve XS Ski System? I'll have a detailed report in the next issue. Until then you can visit sledmass.com and brush up on my past ski tests. 



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Professional rider on a closed course. Polaris recommends that all snowmobile riders take a training course. Do not attempt maneuvers beyond your capability. Always wear a helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride. ©2014 Polaris Industries Inc.



Legislative Corner

BY LARRY TUCKER

A Final Push for Legislation



PHOTO BY DAN GOULD

Can you believe that the Sled Expo, the mid-term elections, the club swap meets and most of our club trail projects are already behind us? So much has happened. The Expo again drew a very enthusiastic gathering of snowmobilers and the elections resulted in many new legislators arriving on Beacon Hill.

Please join me by saying a big “thank you” to all the volunteers who helped at the Sled Expo and to all those who helped their favorite legislators during the elections. It is these volunteers that make SAM grow and become stronger every year.

We are fast approaching the end of the current two-year legislative session that began back in January 2013. Since that time SAM has been working to get our two bills passed before the December 31 deadline. The two bills, H3856 and H3858, have an excellent chance of passing into law this session with your help. H3858 is our vintage registration bill and H3856 is our snowmobile safety bill.

Both of these bills have progressed exceptionally well, but they each need just one additional small push from all of us to get them into the end zone. They both were assigned to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture chaired by Rep. Anne M. Gobi (D) Spencer. Following the public hearing in June of 2013, they both underwent some rewriting for improved clarity and acceptance, and in January of 2014 both were reported favorably out of committee.

These bills represent excellent examples of important issues for all snowmobilers. They underscore the fact that the officers and board of directors of SAM are fighting to better snowmobiling in Massachusetts. The safety bill, H3856, includes four equally important aspects. It would implement a safety education program that will eventually diminish many problems on our trails. It would also set a fine for damaging a snowmobile trail with a wheeled vehicle, something we would all like to prevent. This bill would add a position for snowmobilers on the Stew-

H3858: VINTAGE REGISTRATION BILL

- A person who owns a snow vehicle that is more than 25 years old and that is substantially maintained in original or restored condition, may register such snow vehicle as a vintage snow vehicle.
- A vintage snow vehicle registration shall authorize it to be operated only for the purpose of traveling to, returning from and participating in, an exhibition, parade or other public event of interest, and for occasional personal use.

H3856: SAFETY BILL

- Implements a safety education program that will eventually diminish many problems on our trails.
- Sets a fine for damaging a snowmobile trail with a wheeled vehicle.
- Adds a position for snowmobilers on the Stewardship Council for the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation.
- Establishes a Land Stamp Fund to be included in registrations that would be used to purchase land or easements for the trail system.

ardship Council for the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). This is most definitely worth fighting for, as it would give a stronger voice to our recreation at a time when it is expanding its outreach. And, lastly, this bill would establish a Land Stamp Fund to be included in registrations that would be used to purchase land or easements for our trail system. Certainly, when all aspects of this bill become law, the benefits to snowmobiling will be significant.

I hope to see you all soon and ask that you write or call your legislators, and have your friends do the same, for both the safety bill H3856 and the vintage bill H3858. Remember, all snowmobilers are on the Legislative Team. 🐾

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Real Riders Be Bold – Ride Old

Story and photos by By Mel Scuderi

Vintage aficionados had a great day at the Knox Trail Sno-Riders “Be Bold-Ride Old Sled & Tractor Show” this fall at Izzac Walton Field in Otis. Trophy classes included Best-Registered Vintage Sled, Ladies, Juniors, Rat-Rider and more. Participants and visitors chose the winners, so everyone got a chance to have fun.

Vintage snowmobiles and tractors seem to blend well. It appears as though tractors and snowmobiles were somehow related way back in the early days. Considering that people with farmland purchased many of the first snowmobiles, this makes sense.

Comparing the engineering between sleds and tractors of the 1960’s and ‘70’s clearly showcases the rugged design and workmanship we had back then. Inviting the tractors added a new dimension of iron to marvel at, along with their dedicated owners that spend countless hours keeping them running, just like sled enthusiasts.

Whether you have a vintage sled or tractor, the feelings of having that machine haul you around with its primitive sound, smell and feel is what it’s all about. As co-chair of the Massachusetts Vintage Snowmobile Club, I look forward to these machines getting together again next year. You never know what’s going to show up. 🐾

SAM VINTAGE RIDES ANNOUNCED

The Mass Vintage Snowmobile Club is stoked to announce three vintage rides. Details will be posted at sledmass.com.

- **January 25:** Hosted by the Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile Club
- **February 7:** Hosted by the Burgy Bullets Snowmobile Club
- **February 21:** Hosted by the Knox Trail Sno-Riders



ABOVE: Willie Black and Mel Scuderi enjoying the feel of the racing capes.



LEFT: Tim O'Connor with his prized 1964 Pennsylvania Panzer.



BELOW: Wes Petit takes a seat on his red, white and blue 1968 Polaris Colt.



Longtime Adams Sno-Drifter and SAM Delegate Stan Kopala was spotted taking a leisurely ride on the trails of the Savoy Kanary Kats in mid-March. PHOTO BY DAN GOULD



The Adams Club charity this year is for Carrick's Journey. Carrick was born on the Fourth of July, to Crista (Gajda) and Pat Wood of Adams, with a rare form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia, called monocytic. He is at Boston Children's Hospital undergoing chemotherapy. They hope to bring him home for the first time in early 2015. You can read more about the charity on Facebook at Carrick's Journey.

Club Photos

See Club News on page 6



Easy Riders' member and ex-president Dick Nicoli and wife Phyllis at the club's holiday party. PHOTO BY STEVEN CONTI



Just for fun. Can you guess the mystery rider? Respond with your answers via email at snow@sledconway.com or on the Conway Snowmobile Club's Facebook page.

PHOTO BY CRAIG WARNER



Todd Bristol was busy answering questions about the Hadley Snowmobile Club at the Sled Expo. PHOTO BY DAN REGISH

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