

SAM: Successes and Challenges PAGE 10 | Snowmobile To Do List PAGE 2

ON THE TRAIL

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SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

SAM Annual Meeting

A salute to volunteers
April 10



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Buckland Riders Annual Dinner. PHOTO BY STEVEN HOWLAND



An owl was spotted not far from the BGL trails in Leyden. PHOTO BY MARCIA MILLER



Conway volunteers work on their homemade adjustable 8' drag at Sokoloski's shop. PHOTO BY ED SKORUPSKI

Club Photos

See Club News on page 6



Groomers are supposed to go over the snow banks, not through them.

PHOTO BY STEVEN HOWLAND



The Harvard Snowmobile Club's groomer was illuminated for their Christmas party outside of The General Store. PHOTO BY JOE GIBBONS



Easy Rider's own Moses preparing a meal trail side. Doesn't get any better than this! PHOTO BY STEVEN CONTI

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



ON THE COVER

Steering her red sled over a fresh blanket of white snow, Sara Trova makes tracks in the Hilltowns.

PHOTO BY DAN GOULD

FEATURES



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SAM I AM

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Burgu Bullets



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President's Message

BY DAN GOULD

"A Great List, but no Time"

Every spring, I review a list of things that need attention on the fleet of sleds. The idea is to fix all the minor stuff while it's relatively fresh in my head and avoid bunching it all up until the fall when SAM biz is in full swing. We're talking relatively small jobs; major catastrophes get attention the minute they muck up my day.

I update the list during rides using Evernote on my phone, jotting down everything from "dead light bulb" to "broken mirror." The system is nearly perfect, because I can type or recite a quick note while on the trail and forget about it... because I know I will.

Honestly, I'm not that feeble, but keeping track of what needs repair or tweaking on four sleds can be a brain juggle, especially because I don't ride the other snow scooters.

Last spring didn't go so well, so I ended up pushing most everything into the fall and then the winter. Now it looks as though the growing list (see below) may get carried over into the spring of 2014. Ugh.

■ **My son Brent's Indy Sport:** Repair hand-warmers that are stuck at -20 degrees Celsius, a task that will hopefully yield the result of stopping the kid's whining about cold hands. Also, replace headlight that

burned out during last ride of the season in the pitch black. Investigate need for thumb warmer.

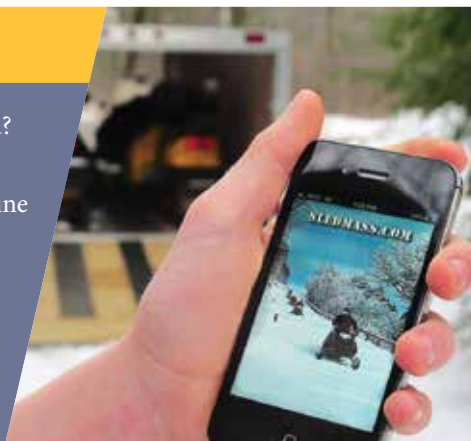
■ **My other son Danny's Indy Trail:** Fix broken choke lever that snapped off against his knee, also on the last ride of the season in Colrain. Add running board grips to keep teenager attached to sled. Maybe a thumb warmer, too?

■ **My Renegade:** Fix mirror mount that snapped off, along with said mirror. This was somehow caused by a critical angle being reached when the center of gravity was directly over the pivot point. In other words, I was stopped on a side hill and rolled over. If the damage wasn't bad enough, Tom Live-ly, whose sled was stuck ahead of me, just about dislocated his shoulder trying to assist in the anti-flipping wrestling match. It was pretty spectacular for a zero MPH wreck.

■ **Wife Patty's Rev:** "Hey, is the Speedo fixed?" When I heard those words, I knew she wasn't talking about my swimsuit. No way, I'm not a slingshot kind of guy. This was the sole item I failed to add to the big list. Must have been having so much fun during that ride that I went into feeble mode, but I'll definitely remember it this summer when I go swimming. So will you. 🐬

Online at sledmass.com

- Poll: Are you going to snow-check a new sled?
- SAM and Land Partnerships
- SAM Annual Meeting, April 10. Register online
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PHOTO BY JEFF GAMELLI

Dangers Along the Groomed Trail

By Randy Toth - Vermont State Police Safety Education Program Snowmobile Instructor

I'm sure you are all aware of the dangers associated with riding off-trail in snow-covered fields, such as rocks, tree stumps and other obstructions hidden under the snow. You also know enough (I hope) to keep to the right while riding on a trail and not to stop in the trail, near curves, near tops of hills or near bottoms

of hills. Now, let's revisit some lesser talked about "On-Trail" hazards.

Groomers: Have you ever seen the signs along the trail stating "Grooming at all Hours of the Day and Night" or something to that effect? Groomer accidents can be fatal. Today's large groomers often take up the entire width of a snowmobile trail. Communicating the presence of a groomer on the trail is not an easy task. It is currently accomplished by means of high visibility paint, fixed lights, flashing lights, and warning beacon radio signals transmitted directly to a snowmobiler's helmet communicator. The safety warning to "Always Expect a Groomer - Day or Night" is vital to your safety. Just imagine zipping along the trail, shifting your body in anticipation of entering a sharp curve and meeting up with a heavy groomer plow blade taking up the entire trail width. What would you do? Would you be able to stop in time?

As a groomer operator, I have personally experienced meeting an out of control sled barreling around a corner. I immediately hit the brake and came to a



PHOTO BY BECKY JUREK

sudden halt from my grooming speed of six-miles per hour. Then I just watched helplessly as the approaching rider tried to (then realized he couldn't) steer around my 40-foot rig. He struggled mightily to control his sled before making a last ditch decision to leave the trail and thereby avoid certain death by hitting the groomer head on. He simply ran off the trail into the woods where he miraculously missed hitting a big tree. He was lucky. He only hit small trees and lived to ride another day (hopefully more carefully).

Frozen water: It is early in the season and you are happily riding down the trail. You round a curve and are suddenly faced with a possible life-threatening dilemma—a frozen body of water. You stop your sled and scan ahead on the ice. You see nothing but freshly fallen, undisturbed snow ahead of you. There are no other tracks. Thoughts like “Will I make it across?” creep into your mind. You're flying high since it is your first ride of the season and you feel invincible. You say to yourself, “Go for it,” and you jam the throttle to the handlebar. Your sled leaps forward and you are soon “flying” across the ice. You have done this before and survived and you fully expect to make it across today. You probably will; but each year a number of your fellow snowmobilers won't!

Trees: Trees have been known to occasionally fall down across trails between



PHOTO BY TERRY HOLLAND

grooming runs. Imagine that! I know a couple of folks who have plowed into obstructions like this in the middle of a well-ridden trail that they had been over earlier in the day. They were not “Riding in Control” and paid dearly for that decision.

Unexpected road crossings: Another potentially dangerous scenario most snowmobilers have experienced and lived through involves unexpected road crossings. You're flying through a snow-covered field with many changes in elevation, which limit your visibility. You approach a gradual rise and you stay to the right and

keep on going. Suddenly at the top of a rise, you see a rural road crossing the trail, along with a snowmobile trail stop sign, but you are going too fast to stop. You hit the brakes anyway and glance to the right and then to the left. No traffic is in sight as you cross the road without being able to stop. You silently take a vow to be more careful next time.

I was behind a fellow rider once who was flying along trying to get back to the motel before one of his friends. As he raced up a steep hill without slowing near the top, I began to wonder if he remembered that there was a four-lane highway right at the crest of the hill. He became airborne as he crested the hill. It seemed kind of funny at the time seeing his brake light come on while he was up off the ground and flying through the air. He returned to earth in the travelled lane of the highway. I stopped at the top and observed him slip through a small gap between a couple of tractor trailers coming one way and a couple of cars coming the other way. Needless to say he was pretty shook up.

Sharp turns: There are many trails that have 90 degree or greater turns that are not at an intersection and not marked. Imagine cruising along when you encounter such a turn. As you start to realize that the turn is sharper than you expected, you begin an uncontrollable drift into the center where you are not supposed to be. You figure, that any second now the turn will straighten out and you will be ok. It doesn't straighten out and it keeps turning. Now what? After what seems like an eternity, you make it through the turn on the wrong side of the trail, happy that no one was coming the other way to hit you head on. “Wow” you say as you speed back up, “I was lucky. I'll have to remember that spot for my next trip!”

Please keep these dangerous “On-Trail” hazardous situations in mind, educate your family and friends and above all don't become a snowmobiling casualty. ❄️



ADAMS SNO DRIFTERS

by Chrissy Satko
and Joe Rogge

Striving to be Club of The Year? One criterion is: "Does your club participate in association meetings and events?" For the past several years our attendance has been near 100% at monthly SAM meetings, the Annual SAM meeting, and the Fall Expo. It is the philosophy of our leadership that we are an integral part of a larger group. The power of SAM is much greater than the sum of its parts. Support for the state organization is an absolute; without SAM individual clubs cannot succeed. Do we have any weaknesses? Yes! We have great leadership and a small core of eight (used to be 12-15) individuals who make our club successful. We have many members who do little other than question trail conditions. Our goal for next year is to get more members actively involved. If you have been reading our monthly club news you are aware we spend a great deal of time working to improve our trails for use by all and providing support for many charities. If you are one of our great supporters we thank you. If you are one of our critics-come to our next meeting. Together we can do better next year. That's it for now.



BERKSHIRE SNOW SEEKERS

by Randy Toth

As this riding season draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to thank all of you who helped our club remain a strong viable organization. First, thanks to our private and public landowners, without whose generosity we would not have an interconnected trail system. Thanks to those individuals who tirelessly performed much needed trail work and grooming to keep our trails in top shape. Thanks to the groomer mechanics who kept our aging fleet in operation. Thanks to our officers and board of directors for running our club and to the core group of members who faithfully kept coming to our club meetings and helped conduct

club business. Thanks also to those who helped obtain RTP funds to purchase new equipment. Thanks to those members who did not have the time to actively participate; but chose our club to join in order to snowmobile on our trails. Thanks to our trail permit outlets: - Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor, Ronnie's, Friendly Fred's, AJAY's, Hinsdale Trading Company and Lanesboro BP Gas. Have a great summer and we hope to see you all back next year.



BERNARDSTON-GILL-LEYDEN

by Brad Stafford,
president

Hello fellow snow lovers, as of this writing in mid-January there hasn't been much to love. A few storms with light snow made it look like it was a good start to a long season but it was quickly taken away. Unfortunately we had to cancel our vintage ride but hopefully we will get at least one club function in by the end of the year. Our club is still busy working on applications for some state grant money to help us outfit another tracked mini-truck for trail maintenance and grooming. Also, we hope to replace one of our larger bridges that was damaged during recent storms. (Thanks again, Jeff!) Keep tabs on our all of our club's activities on Facebook and www.bglsnow.com or join us for meetings on the last Monday of the month at 7pm at the Bernardston Vet's club. Until then "Keep the Rubber Side Down"



BUCKLAND RIDERS

by Steven Howland,
secretary

Winter was late this year and went by too fast. Our new grant-funded Bearcat hardly got broken in. But the fun of hanging out with club members and dreaming of next year's even better season never ends and what better place to do that than with a hearty roast beef dinner. That means it's time once again for the Buckland Riders Annual Dinner. We hope you will join us on March 29 for great food from Cliff's Smokin' Barbecue, great dancing music, and great raffle prizes. Ticket sales are

limited so please contact Dave and Tammy Lowell at 413-625-0261 to reserve your tickets.



CHESTERFIELD FOUR SEASONS

by Bill Golaski, president

Hello All. As I write this in mid-January the season has not been very good so far. Hopefully by the time you read this, that changed for the better. Our club would like to thank everyone that has helped out through out the year. Many people have given up their free time, which is always in short supply these days. As always, we can use more help so please get involved. We would also like to thank the landowners/managers who let us have trails thru their lands. Without them we would have no place to ride.

Thanks to all that attended our last few events. Our next event is a spaghetti dinner with the profits being donated to the Chesterfield Police Department. This is on March 22 at 6pm. Come to a meeting or check the SAM event page for more info. Thanks, from all of us at the club.



COLDBROOK

by Michael J. Roy,
secretary

The Coldbrook Snowmobile Club is ready for another riding season with its fleet of groomers prepared to make the club's trail system the one to ride once sufficient snow covers it. Five monthly meetings have already been held with many ideas of how to improve the club, its groomer fleet, its trail system, raise funds for club sponsored activities and bridge installations and their end of season removals. As always the club seeks the help of volunteers to assist in accomplishing many of the tasks necessary to keep things at the status quo level and to move forward. Coldbrook Snowmobile club thanks all of those volunteers both past and present because without your support none of this would be possible. Please pray for snow and lots of it so we can have a successful riding season enjoying the sport we look forward to all year long.



CONWAY

by Ed Skorupski

Even though the start of the season has been less than optimal for riding, there is still a great deal of work that needs to be completed in order for a club to have trails to ride upon when the opportunity presents itself.

Our main trail volunteers are Ron Sweet, Mike and Vicki Barlow, Wayne and Chris Jackman, and Ron Hawkes. This crew is headed up by our Trail Master, Paul Sokoloski. Paul, Mike, and Wayne also groom when conditions allow, and are assisted by Greg Felton and Dan Thurlow. All of the groomers help to maintain various pieces of the grooming fleet. Julie Sweet helps us with trail passes, especially online, and Ron Hawkes makes sure that all of our retail partners have the passes they need and that any questions are answered.

Our club has a proud tradition, dating from 1969, that wouldn't be maintained without strong officers. Ron Sweet is President, Mike Barlow is Vice President, Carol Thurlow is Treasurer, and

Craig Warner is Secretary. If space were unlimited I could include all the others. I apologize to all the unnamed volunteers that keep this club running smoothly year after year. Thank you all.



EASY RIDERS

by Steven Conti, board member

Hello All. Well, unfortunately it looks as though the season may be coming to a close. The snow came pretty early this year and then, the January thaw. Even though it's not over remember the Farmer's almanac predicted a very snowy winter so don't give up on a late season. Hopefully everyone got their share of riding in when they could and it was enjoyable. The Easy Riders managed to get some riding in and I have posted some pictures of a trip we took to Fort Kent. This trip was made by the skin of our teeth. Just after the January thaw the trails were all ice and hard-packed snow. The night we arrived, 4" of fluffy snow came down and made all the difference. Day

one we stayed in Maine and visited the Allagash for some great scenery and trails. Day two we went into New Brunswick to Moose Valley, for more of the same. Long travel, but well worth it.

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, snowmobiling, planning trips or current events.



GOSHEN HIGHLANDERS

by David Bean, SAM delegate

Hello from the land of Goshen. Snow-eight inches, snow-six inches, no snow, cold! Warm, then snowstorm, no school. Warm, no snow. Cold, cold. Arctic Vortex? Warm. rain, rain, flooding. Whatever, it's New England. Snowing hard today in Goshen at this writing. Three inches, a little test ride today down the road. Ground not quite frozen. Six-foot drags are done and built. Groomers are ready. Still working on tractor. Hoping for rideable snow



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for our memorial ride on February 2. Lots of work has been done. Bridges are done. And all we need is Snow, snow. Ride safe and have fun.

GREATER WHATELY



by Robert Sabola

SAM president, Dan Gould sent an email (also a reminder the due date for the article is approaching) suggested it would be a good time to thank those who helped make this season of snowmobiling a safe and better place to ride. After thinking about it, I realized that this is something that I should not have to be reminded to do. People who make my life a bit better deserve to be thanked. I learned that many years ago but I do forget, and when I do remember it's usually too late.

So, to all those folks who made snowmobiling a bit better, I want to personally thank you. Mr. Carl Brooks, you are truly an inspiration to all, thank you. Dave, Vicki, Donald, Matt and Todd, thank you for your participation and enthusiasm. Acme Automotive, thank you for selling trail passes. Special thanks to all the landowners who graciously allow us to pass on their property year after year. To the fellow snowmobiler's who purchased trail passes from the Greater Whately Snowmobile Club this year as well as years past, thank you. Your support is so appreciated. Oh yeah, one more thank you, Dan, thanks for the reminder.



KNOX TRAIL SNO-RIDERS

by Jim Richard,
media director

The envelopes please! The Knox Trail Sno-Riders "Sleddies" go to Jeff Gamelli, the president and Dianne Therrien, the treasurer. Their contributions are too many to list here. Secretary Joyce Taylor, and her hubby, Mr. Bill, SAM delegate-greeters at every SAM Snow-Show in history. Greg Stevens, the VP. He keeps the Bombi and the trails in top shape. Ross Helberg, the grooming director. The bridge reviver, trail builder, and wrencher of sleds. Jack Shinkwin, groomer builder. He's been known to put a two-foot square engine in a one foot square box...with tracks! Tom Kennedy and Norm Piccard, trail negotiators and Thiokol jockeys. Keith Mackie, October Mountain division groomer. He is also the best drag fabricator bar none. Paul Mastrianni, trail maintainer and groomer operator. He never met a branch he wouldn't move. Tom Garbatti, the chief chef at the biggest Knox events and the record holder for the most raffle tickets sold. Special recognition goes out to Steve DeLand, Andy Kutz, and Jim Crandall for grooming, Donna Horrigan for tee shirts and social events, and Jim Richard, the webmaster, map and sign maker, and, oh by the way, the writer of these club reports! See you on the trails!



PORCUPINE RIDGE RUNNERS

by Louanne Soos

It's been a slow start to the season but we are all still hoping for at least some riding time before spring. As for club news, we are planning a Friday night dinner at the Shutesbury AC in February or early March. Date to be announced soon, so watch for emails and updates on our Facebook page.

There will be a hearty dinner, raffles and music. Watch for details. Please consider volunteering to the club. Help is always needed both in and out of the woods.



SAVOY KANARY KATS

by Doug Decoigne

Greetings from the high elevation of SKK country! As of today, said elevation has not provided consistent snow. However the lack of snow has allowed continued work on trails, equipment and our new groomer garage, as well as creating a proposal for the 2014 RTP grant.

I am taking this space to laud the efforts of SKK's dedicated hard working volunteers. And I am going to name names! In no particular order here are the consistent volunteers without whom the club would not be able to function at the high level we have become accustomed to: Dave Purple, Steve Mix, Tom Wandrei, Jim, Sandra and Jimmy LaFrance, D.J. Pause, Don Pause, Rich "Wreck" Massey, Al Neal, Terri and Al Bird, three Decoignes, John Williams, Steve Parsons, Dwane Rougeau, Sean Anderson. There are many other contributors who have been a huge help this fall. Many thanks to all!

Scheduled events for March include: 3/1 John "Jack" Cisler memorial ride; 3/14 Regular monthly meeting at 7pm at Hilltop Rt. 116 Plainfield; 4/11 Final meeting of the season with election of officers at 7pm Hilltop. 🐾

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The Tech Corner

BY JIM TUCKER

Test: RidePower Cell Phone Charger



In the never-ending quest to find devices that make our rides easier, I stumbled upon a cell phone charger that just might help some riders make it through snow country.

There seem to be two types of riders out there in regards to their level of stuff or gadgetry they carry on hand. First would be those that have to have every new gadget that comes down the pike. The second are the folks that want to keep things as simple as possible with no strings attached.

Most folks that follow my articles know I love to test new gear. It's been with me since day one, and I am blessed by the Big Man with this wonderful opportunity. Oddly, I salivate at the chance to get a new piece of gear much like people who won a moderate amount of cash in the lottery. I would probably rate myself somewhere between the two groups mentioned above, as I like to have all the right stuff to make the ride safe and enjoyable without being overburdened by excess "stuff."

That being said, the first piece of gear snowmobilers carry is a cell phone. I consider a cell phone a necessary evil when it comes to riding. I do not like to take or receive calls when I ride but the safety factor of having one in case of a trailside emergency outweighs all the disadvantages one could possibly think of. Safety first!

We snowmobilers frequently ride in and out of cell phone coverage which can make for some frustrating dropped calls and garbled transmissions, but suffice it

to say, most folks now view a cell phone as an extension of themselves. A "don't leave home without it" mentality pervades our culture nowadays and as such, the cell phone has almost become part of our bodies! Oh well, the modern world at work!

Naturally, I jumped at the chance when I received the RidePower cell phone charger made by SeaNick in Jacksonville, Florida for testing. Hey, what do people in Florida know about snowmobiling? Turns out they know a lot about power sports as their products are used for motorcycles, campers, personal watercraft, ATV's and the like.



Plug into this connector using the supplied cord and connect the other side to the phone and off you go.


As seen in the picture, there is a dual pin connection for 12 volt DC. Most sleds out there come with one of these type connections hidden somewhere, so hook up is a snap. Plug into this connector using the supplied cord and connect the other side to the phone and off you go.

I find it nice to have a handlebar bag where I can store the cell phone while riding. The cord is 43 inches long and is made up of very flexible and durable marine-grade rubber insulation that moves around easily in the cold that we usually experience during snowmobiling. None of that cheap vinyl that has a memory when it's cold will suffice here.

Okay, so now you ask what types of phones will this connect to? Right now an Android connection (Micro USB) is available and the owner of the company states that he is working with Apple for a licensed version for the iPhone, which will be coming out soon. Since this writer has an iPhone, SeaNick sent an iPhone adapter for the test, which fit right on the Micro USB cable. I worry that the adapter may get lost or broken so I'll wait for the molded iPhone version before making the purchase.

Most folks bring their supplied cell phone charger with them and plug it in at the hotel room or lodge after the day's ride. Long distance saddle baggers might appreciate this accessory more than others. The other consideration is if your home charger breaks you now have a backup charger on hand. Can't beat that!

Charging time seems just fine when hooked up to the sled. The RidePower will help a weakened battery along when connected and give you the extra power you need to finish that important call.

The Micro USB charger lists for \$89 and was on sale for \$45 in January. I give the RidePower a rating of four and a half out of six carbides for its premier design, ease of installation and simplicity. Downsides are the iPhone cable not being available yet, and another cord to deal with and possibly lose. Check out their website at RidePower.com. 



Legislative Corner

BY LARRY TUCKER

A Review and a Preview

It's the middle of the riding season and, not surprisingly, the trails crew within my club is still tackling trail projects. We just recently opened a short connector trail so that our club's poker run would be a success. I continue to be amazed that the dedication of today's snowmobiler seems to be no less than it was back in the late '60's. It is this dedication that has yielded so many successes and overcome so many challenges through the years. I'm sure that 2014 will present its share of successes and challenges for the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, so, it might be a good time for a quick review of the recent past and a preview of what 2014 might hold for our sport of snowmobiling. Despite some low snow winters and the economic downturn, the SAM Snow Expo remains popular and continues to generate a profit, which in today's economy is a success. Your SAM officers and Board of Directors remain committed to growing the show. Last year a "swap meet" was added to the venue and this coming October the show may be open on Friday night. Each of these added features, and those we add in the future, will bring in a new group of visitors. And, to learn even more, SAM has posted a Snow Expo survey on the website, sledmass.com

Our SAM Legislation, during the last session, had some success with a favorable committee report and a first and second reading in the House. In this current session our legislation has received a heightened level of focus. On Tuesday, January 21st, our safety bill received a new number, H3856 (old bill H715), and a favorable report out of committee. The new number was necessary after having been extensively rewritten for further clarity through the combined efforts of the committee and Randy Toth, SAM Legislative Chair. Having received a favorable report so early in this session is a strong indica-



PHOTO BY DAN GOULD

The fact that SAM has partnered with land trusts has made SAM much more visible than we realize.



tor that our legislation has an excellent chance of passing.

The membership of SAM has remained relatively level over the past several years. It has remained level despite a steep increase in the fines and penalties since the passage of a bill in 2010 that essentially overhauled the punitive laws related to the operation of recreational vehicles. Offsetting this is the fact that SAM has undertaken several positive and, more importantly, very visible steps toward strengthening our recreation while generating a widening awareness.

The fact that SAM has partnered with land trusts in preserving land and creating trail easements, along with a Land Preser-

vation Fund, through a \$5 dollars per permit fee, has made SAM much more visible to all snowmobilers and the general public than we realize. I believe these actions will have an impact, resulting in more snowmobilers joining local clubs and the association, and propelling SAM towards achieving the goal of 100% membership.

The business community has much in common with SAM. A comparison to Vermont and New Hampshire might not quite be apples to apples but our northern neighbors have a very strong supporting business base. SAM has initiated an effort for a general outreach to the business community to grow this partnership in Massachusetts. Both SAM and the business community are stakeholders in the success of snowmobiling in Massachusetts and have much to gain from working together.

Our partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has been strengthened by continued dialogue. This partnership offers much potential for the future of our recreation through

greater sharing of ideas and collaboration on topics such as trail creation, easements, preservation and trail grooming.

Lastly, the topic of public relations comes in many forms but it basically comes down to how state agencies, our partners, the media and the general public view us. First of all, do they know about us? Do they have a positive or negative view of us? SAM has generated much good PR through its efforts to preserve land, create easements and positive legislation. These continuing efforts of SAM are all contributing to incremental boosts in the good PR of snowmobiling in Massachusetts and offer much promise for the future.

I hope to see you all soon and please keep in touch with your legislators for their support of H3856 and the vintage bill H752. And remember, snowmobilers are environmentalists. 🐾



SAM Annual Meeting, April 10

The SAM Board of Directors invite you to celebrate your association at the upcoming SAM Annual Meeting and dinner on Thursday, April 10. Participate, relax and enjoy dinner with your friends, while you participate in the business meeting and the honoring of award recipients.

Bluebonnet Restaurant, King Street, Northampton, MA 01060

Thursday, April 10, 5:30 PM—9:00 PM

Registration & Cash bar will be open at 5 PM

- 5:30 Social with Hors d'oeuvres
- 6:30 Buffet Dinner
- 7:00 Annual Meeting, Awards & Raffle

Pre-Registration is required online or by calling the SAM office

Registration Deadline is Thursday, March 27 🐾

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Member Profile

BY TERRY HOLLAND

Jon Tobin

Club: Burgy Bullets Snowmobile Club

Years snowmobiling: 21

Current snowmobile:

2001 Arctic Cat Z440 Sno-Pro 440F

Sled mods: No major modifications. The track was studded with 1.5 inch studs when I got it from my buddy, Matt. The trails in Western Mass. can get pretty slick, so I don't think I'd ever run a sled without studs.

Club position: President since 2010, before that I was Activities Director for the 08/09 and 09/10 seasons. We currently don't have a trail boss, so trails are covered by a few of us.



FAVORITE RIDING AREA: I love riding the "Loop" out of the Bullets and going through Conway, Ashfield, Plainfield, Cummington, Worthington, Chesterfield and back to the BBSC. It's a good 80-90 miles.

TELL US A STORY: Riding the weekend after Nemo hit, my buddy Kevin and I made it to the Westfield River in Chesterfield. The river banks must have been ten-feet high. Some riders on the other side yelled over telling us to go for it, they'd grab our ski tips. Needless to say, we chose an alternate route.

TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOU:

I've had two heart-valve replacement surgeries and have had my fair share of close calls. Those make me appreciate all the good things in life. I live it to the fullest and enjoy the time and friends I have. Know your limits, but enjoy yourself. 🐾

SOUND OFF: I'm really proud that we have a core of good people who help out at the BBSC. It's tough, but I love doing the work. I wish we could get more people involved in the grassroots of the sport, not just the riding. Without the clubs, we have no trails. Good seasons, bad seasons, we still need the clubs.



VOLUNTEER WORK: I try to put a lot of focus on my snowmobile club. With work, family, and club stuff, I don't have a lot of other free time to contribute other places. Keeping the clubhouse maintained, along with trail work and meetings, keep me pretty busy.



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