

# SLEDMASS

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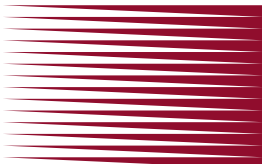
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# **SLEDMASS**

The Official Publication of the  
Snowmobile Association of  
Massachusetts

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**PUBLISHER:** SledMass is published once a year in November by the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM), c/o Jeff Miller  
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**COVER PHOTO:**  
Buckland Riders Club Ride  
Photo by Steve Howland

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Welcome 2025-2026 Season

**O**ur Winter Season indeed looks White and Bright!! As we look and move forward into yet another exciting SNOW Season, we see optimism on the horizon, with a positive brewing cold and heavy precipitation year forecasted with El Nina closing in. There is so much that the SAM leadership team has been working on that trails and fun are surely going to compliment your upcoming winter months!

Despite an unexpected, challenging year for me personally, health wise, I have come to see and appreciate that often what we see as Loss, can be manifested and grown into Gain. Through the resuscitation of our Trails and Membership committees, there has been an unrelenting effort invested in our SSTS (Statewide Snowmobile Trail System) and the most incredible resurgence by the Membership committee to bring more snowmobilers back to our sport, clubs and SAM family. Both groups have tirelessly worked through the summer to pinpoint readiness, resolve issues and create new opportunities to keep sleds on the trails and club members returning to the sport.

Charity for SAM comes in so many forms and is not something SAM limits to one season a year. The members and families of our organization provided hours of trail service and lumber to our state and private landowners, four tons of donated winter clothing to our friends in the Carolinas who suffered through devastating floods and annual monetary and toy donations to so many families within our own local communities, providing hats/mittens and sleds for outdoor fun. SAM has launched a Junior Ambassador program, giving us long-time, experienced members a chance to invest in the future of snowmobiling. The interest, energy and new ideas of our younger generation allow us to further find innovative methods to keep our trails open while demonstrating and keeping the value of community spirit as a priority to the next generation.

SAM's continued investment in legislative and state agency partnership focus has increased our exposure and we are at the table for discussions. It's refreshing when solutions are put before us rather than obstructions. When SAM is recognized and highlighted at various forums (often unsolicited) for their hardworking aid, conservation and support to provide winter trail solutions, it is a rewarding and refreshing seat to be strapped in to and long overdue. SAM's Executive Officers would like to recognize our Legislators and State Partners for listening, resolving and engaging with us for the kinds of discussions that truly do benefit all parties investing in winter recreation across the Commonwealth.

With more exciting GAINS to achieve moving into our new season, I am refreshed to see the renewed level of commitment and excitement so many of you are providing for our clubs and to your sport. Inevitably, any investment made in local trails, businesses, and landowners contributes to your State Association. Recognizing that we are ALL ONE sport, family and team, brings the greatest gains our State Snowmobile Association can reap. Collaboration across all areas will help keep the Trails and the Association for future years and generations. Every finger and every moment of time each of us lift to share in this will bring those Gains.

See you on the Trail...

Stay safe and keep smiling—there's much to appreciate. 🐾



By Susan E. Smiley

Happy Winter Season!,  
Susan



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# Building a Relevant Association

By Larry Tucker

**W**hat is a “relevant” Association? It is an association that is recognizable, respected and will be consulted for its’ input on the matter at hand. Organizations such as Mass Audubon, AMC or Appalachian Mountain Club and Kestrel Land Trust could all be referred to as “relevant.” They are relevant for two very compelling reasons. First, they all reach an audience in the 10,000 to 100,000 range. Secondly, when they call Boston, the Legislators or Agencies will pick up the phone and engage in meaningful discussions. Your **Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts** or **SAM** is embarking on a program to create an organization that will be second to none regarding its’ relevancy. Let us find out how SAM is progressing.

We all love the sport of snowmobiling and riding our sleds. We are thankful for the “places” or trails we have to ride on. But we know that snowmobiling differs from most other recreational activities such as boating, downhill skiing or golfing since they benefit from having the “places” where they can enjoy these activities already existing and it becomes a simple “get in your auto and go.”

For snowmobiling, making the leap from “hooking up the trailer” to “unloading the sleds at the trailhead” requires additional actions. Places or Trails to ride on must be created, constructed, and maintained. And this is where our **Statewide Snowmobile Trail System** or **SSTS** intersects



with the need to be engaged with both legislators and State Agencies.

The program to “Protect, Promote and Preserve” the SSTs continues to face a growing multitude of State Agency policies, regulations, guidelines, and mandates. This, coupled with the ever-changing private land ownerships, is driving an increasingly focused effort on the part of SAM to become more “relevant” to avoid the erosion of our SSTs, let alone try to grow our SSTs.

To offset this increasing strain on our resources, the SAM officers and delegates with the guidance and leadership of SAM President, Susan Smiley are building the team that will raise the degree of “importance” for SAM within the State. It is becoming increasingly clear that an Association that desires to accomplish tasks such as creating or saving trails within the regulatory atmosphere of Massachusetts, must become more recognizable, capable, and “relevant.”

President Susan Smiley has put together a very capable team that are

**For an Association to accomplish tasks such as creating or saving trails within the regulatory atmosphere of Massachusetts, it must become more recognizable, capable, and “relevant.”**

all contributing towards increasing the recognition of SAM within the State. There is the Trails Team with Chair Bryan Osetek who is managing some serious trail issues along with the parallel effort to insert several “key” connections into the SSTs. This committee is realizing some successes. The Membership Committee with Chair Mary Wilson is growing the membership database with very innovative actions and has the goal of being able to reach out to “every” snowmobiler in Massachusetts. With the capable experience of Chip Jones as Legislative Liaison, the legislative effort is seeing various new and rarely seen actions that are developing many new contacts and “relationships” within both the legislature and the State

Agencies. And, Executive Director Jeff Miller, along with the day-to-day activities is; continuing to “grow” the SLEDXPO at the Big E; is making the golf tournament into the “go to” summertime activity; and, is spearheading a collaboration with the power company EVERSOURCE to explore the potential of utilizing the new roads they are creating on their right-of-ways for snowmobiling.

Each of these Committees are playing equally important roles that are bringing the necessary attributes and instilling a winning mindset into your State Association or SAM, This will lead to many future successes. Please help support them in any manner you can. 🐾



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# Promoting the Sport from the Start

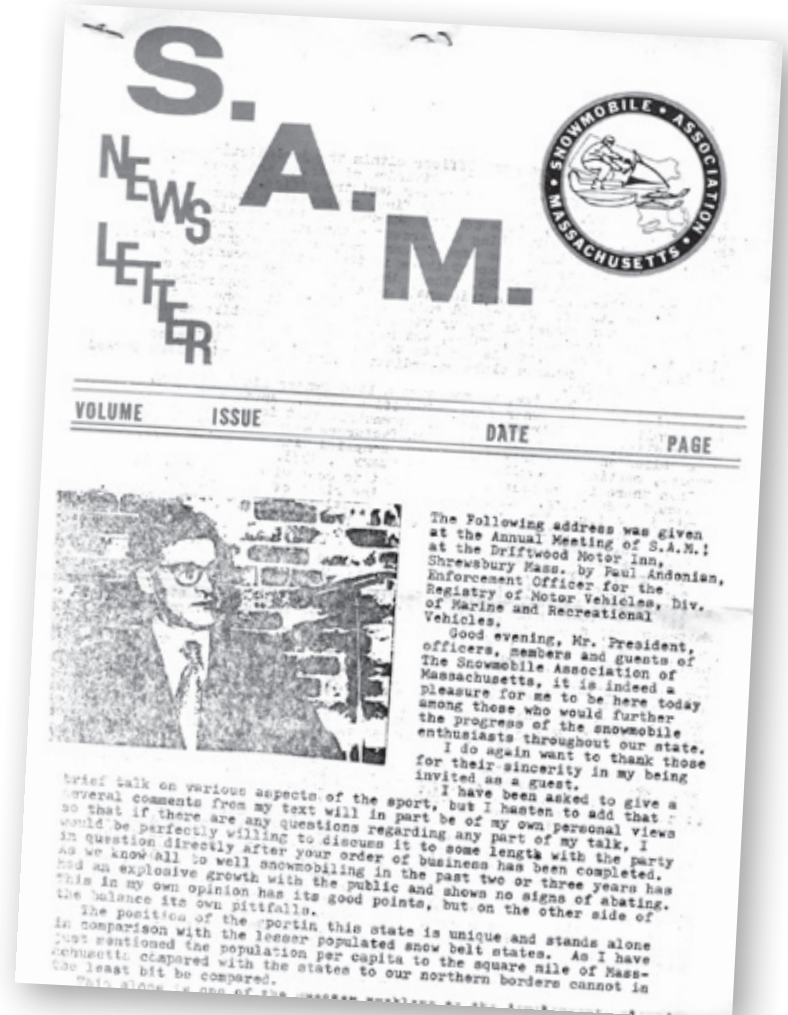
*SAM was created by snowmobilers in the past, for the snowmobilers of the future*

By Brad Stafford

**A** while back I wrote about a conversation with a fellow snowmobiler. He was bragging about how he didn't get screwed by the state and saved some money by not buying a SAM trail pass during a "Green Winter." I then tried to explain how SAM isn't a state-governed entity, but is one that works *with* the state agencies like DCR, Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Mass Environmental Police and many others, that SAM is a self-governed group whose officers are volunteers that are actually elected by the snowmobile clubs, and that all of the funds raised from the SAM trail pass end up, one way or another, back on our trails and that the club dues stay right with the clubs.

Knowing that conversations like this have taken place before and will again, I contacted Dan Gould, the SAM President, to get some facts and figures. He sent me one of the earliest SAM newsletters on file, dated 1972, which will be posted at [sledmass.com](http://sledmass.com) for all to view. Below are some of the reasons why snowmobilers created the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts and why we need to continue supporting SAM every season, so it can support us.

SAM was started back in 1969, by a group of snowmobilers who banded together to protect the sport that they had come to enjoy. By reading through the newsletter, I learned that back in the late '60's our sport was growing fast, and like today, not everyone was a fan of snowmobiling. As more and more sleds hit the trail they rode wherever they could, unorganized, which was not so popular with the landowners or some of the general public. There were accidents and confrontations between snowmobilers, landowners and the



SAM's 1972 newsletter is fascinating.

police. The news media was exploiting the situation, trying to depict snowmobiling in a "*less than enviable image.*"

These snowmobilers realized they needed a voice to work with state legislators before laws and regulations were created. They wanted to control their own destiny. They knew they had to organize clubs throughout the state, to be connected with legislators, landowners, other state snowmobile associations, the manufacturers and the public. They already understood that riding our sleds on private property was a privilege and it came with responsibilities and a need for respect for the landowners.



These snowmobilers realized they needed a voice to work with state legislators before laws and regulations were created. They wanted to control their own destiny.

Here is a quote from the 1972 newsletter. "All of us feel that we have the right to snowmobile when and where we choose, but how many of us acknowledge the duty that cannot be divorced from that right?"

As for the future, the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts will continue to promote the sport of snowmobiling as a safe family activity, not only through legislation, but by working with the manufacturers through our dealer and distributor members, and also by working with the International Snowmobile Industry Association to produce safer more reliable machines. S.A.M. will also continue to work along with the various state agencies and local clubs to develop and mark trails. Hopefully, the future holds a full time lobbyist at the State House and a full time secretary whose job will be to keep everyone informed."

Because this group had the vision to build the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts we have many miles of trails and are supported by state agencies, private landowners and countless volunteers and their clubs. 🐾



A cartoon that appeared in the 1972 edition of the SAM Newsletter.



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# CLUB NEWS



## Berkshire Snow Seekers

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Come ride some of the finest trails in the Berkshires this winter. Our first-class grooming fleet consists of 3 Tucker Sno-Cats, 2 LMCs, a Kubota RTV and several snowmobile-based groomers. Come give our trails a test ride. Our grooming reports, direct from our groomer operators, are posted on our Facebook page within hours of completing a grooming run. We cover October Mountain State Forest, Pittsfield State Forest and the Windsor Area.

### OUR CLUB

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

### OUR TRAIL SYSTEM

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

### OUR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

### OUR ACTIVITIES

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



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# CLUB NEWS



## BGL Club News

By Brad Stafford

Tis the season yet again and like the rest of you I am hoping that this is the year we get a nice New England snowy winter. Our club has already started the preparation for the upcoming season. We are excited to move forward on one of our biggest bridge re-decking projects that we have received a grant for. So far, the process of checking with new and old landowners has us with some things to workout but still in good shape. If you haven't heard yet we have partnered with the Northfield Snowmobile club with the goal of helping their core group in opening the trails again! Details available on our face book page....They are also looking for more help in doing this. We did another cash raffle which we intend to draw the winner at our Annual Swap meet that Nov 2, at the Steel shed Inc located in Greenfield at 39 Bernardston Road for more details see our Facebook page, Bernardston-Gill-Leyden Snowmobile club. Then just after that we will have a booth at the SAM Snow show at the BIG E. This year the vintage sled and swap meet section has been expanded and made more accessible to show of your old treasures. Our trail work has just started and the covers are coming off the groomers the planning for all the next steps to prepare our trails takes place On the last Monday of the month at the Bernardston Vets club on Hartwell street at 7pm. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us out in keeping our trails and equipment ready for snow! Hope to see you there and until then "Keep the Rubber Side Down" 🐾







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## Buckland Riders

**By Steve Howland, President**  
showland@mac.com

Last winter saw decent snow conditions for a good stretch so we were able to get a club ride in to enjoy the new bridges we've built in the past couple of years. One bridge was the longest we've built at 60 Feet! Fortunately for MassTrails grants it was fully funded and now we have a bridge that should last into future generations of snowmobilers. We have another grant funded bridge going in this fall as we continue to improve our trail system for easier grooming and better riding. We continue to appreciate the support of our many private landowners and the hard work of our members to keep trails open. Working with our land owners, members, and volunteers is a great joy and part of building and maintaining our strong community or outdoor lovers.

This year we are raffling off a whole house generator installed. For more details and to purchase tickets by PayPal or Venmo visit [www.bucklandriders.com](http://www.bucklandriders.com) or check with any of our club members. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Sled Expo in November. We hope you'll stop by the booth to say hi and purchase your trail pass, generator raffle tickets and table raffle tickets. We are planning to have a table full of great raffle prizes. After that we'll be back in the woods clearing trees and prepping for snow. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. Meeting times are variable this year, so if you would like to be on the club email list or volunteer please send and email to [club@bucklandriders.com](mailto:club@bucklandriders.com)

Trails pass locations for Buckland Riders are LaBelle's Service and Repair 296 Ashfield St, Buckland and Casey's Repair 107 State St, Shelburne Falls, or online anytime at [bit.ly/sledpass](https://bit.ly/sledpass) 🛷



**Bridges bring us all together**



**Sometimes emergency bridge repairs are called for**



**Gathering for a fall trail work day**



# CLUB NEWS



## A Club with No Trails

By Mike Nicoli

### THE EASY RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB HISTORY

The Easy Riders Snowmobile club was formed in January of 1971 in Marlborough, MA. by Ernie Houde and several of his friends, Ernie was the owner of the now defunct South Street Snowmobile & Power Equipment. In the early years, 71-76 the club maintained 25 miles of trails in and around Marlborough. By the late seventies our trails were closed due to land closure and construction.

In the early days of the club, we held a lot of activities and some were held with other clubs in the area. The activities included events like poker runs, slalom races, radar runs and trail rides. At one time almost every neighboring town in the area had a snowmobile club, however as time went on most of those clubs were closed by the early eighties due to trail closures. At this point we evolved into a traveling club we are to-day, planning trips to New Hampshire, New York, Maine and Canada.

We meet monthly between October and March, our trips are planned and coordinated by our members; there could be a day trip to a close destination or a weekend or seven-day trip to one of our favorite riding spots throughout the northeast. We also have members who plan week long backpack trips around Quebec and New Brunswick. In recent years we have had groups going out west to experience riding in Yellowstone and the surrounding area. The club has many experienced, well-travelled members with decades of experience in trip planning and snowmobiling throughout the northeast, which in turn provides many valuable resources and opportunities to our members.



A couple of John F's 2025 photo memories.



Our club members plan and run trips that could be open to the entire membership or for a selective group. Some trips may have restrictions due to lodging limitations or group size for backpacking trips. We usually stay in hotels, motels or lodges and eat most of our meals at restaurants. Our usual ride will usually cover 100–250 miles depending on trail conditions and many other factors such as group size and riding abilities.

We have found this model works well for the club as our annual membership has averaged forty-five plus members for well over three decades. The club has seen a lot of faces over the years and we have had a lot of members stay involved well into their

eighties. Unfortunately, we have found it increasingly difficult to attract younger members into the sport, mostly due to the cost of snowmobiles and all the other associated cost that go with the sport.

Our club continues to thrive thanks to the work and generosity of the membership. We are a non-profit and have a very lean operating budget, most of our revenue comes from membership fees, raffles and club merchandise sales. We also print a quarterly newsletter with paid advertisers that is emailed to the membership and is posted on our website. We are always looking for new members. For more info check our website [ersc.net](http://ersc.net) 🐾

### UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS

<b>Nov. 11, 2025</b>	Open House Meeting
<b>Dec. 9, 2025</b>	Club Xmas Party (tentative)
<b>Jan. 13, 2026</b>	Club Meeting
<b>Jan. 14-20, 2026</b>	Ft. Kent (MLK weekend) trip
<b>Feb. 10, 2026</b>	Club Meeting (nominations)
<b>Mar. 10, 2026</b>	Club Meeting (elections)
<b>Apr. 25, 2026</b>	End of the Season Banquet (tentative)





## Goshen Highlanders

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 30 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 and 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 variety of equipment including a tracked John Deere tractor, Skandic, RTV and



Grooming last season with our new Ranger, utilizing a drag the club already owned.



GHSC's new 4x8 JB Grooming drag to be pulled by a club owned skandic. Drag purchased through a Mass Trails RTP grant.



GHSC's new Polaris Ranger purchased through a Mass Trails RTP grant, on its first of many trail work days last January.



A view from the drivers seat of the Ranger out clearing trails



a Polaris Ranger which was purchased through an RTP grant. These 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!

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 🐾



# CLUB NEWS



## Leicester

### ABOUT OUR CLUB

Our Mission as a Snowmobile Club is to promote a fun, safe family environment, where all feel welcome. We help support our community by maintaining a beautiful trail network that supports many outdoor activities other than Snowmobiling. We have many miles of trails throughout town on both Private and Public lands that connect to the Snowmobile Association of MA vast network of Trails.

Our Corridor 71 Trail connects to the Spencer Sno-birds Trail Network. The Corridor 71 trail runs North to the N.H. state line, where you can pick up the N.H. Trail system. Our local Secondary Trails 56 and 56A will take you around town where you can get gas and food.

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

You can purchase a Club Membership and Trail Pass at a Club meeting, Online through S.A.M. or from our sponsor. Hank's Marine - 508-892-4788 1570 Main Street, Leicester MA, 01524

We have 2 main fundraisers during the year, the first is a Spaghetti Dinner in January and our 2nd is a Roast Beef dinner in March, be sure to check our facebook page for dates and times.

### CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday at 7PM from October to March Leicester Rod and Gun Club 1015 Whittemore St Leicester, MA 01524

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## Savoy Kanary Kats Has a Long History of Vintage Rides

By Sean Anderson, Secretary  
[seananderson1015@comcast.net](mailto:seananderson1015@comcast.net)

### MEMORIES...

For most of us, this is not our first year of riding. Yes, we are getting older and there are fewer young people getting involved. I guess it is hard to watch TikTok's and Instafacgrams while riding a sled, never mind the cost of gear, sleds, registration, passes, fuel, etc. It's tough for young people to get involved. Can I ask a favor... please ask a niece, nephew, neighbor's kid to go riding this season. Teach them the ropes, just like your dad or uncle likely did 20+ years ago.

We can all agree that technologies have improved, rides are better, sleds are a bit safer and more reliable which is great, but we cannot forget the past... vintage sleds. Now, when I was a kid, my sled was an old Polaris, missing the cowl and had such great compression that I could not start it by myself (probably due to my scrawny arms more than great compression). My mom got sick of pulling the starter rope, so it mysteriously vanished one day – I miss that old beater of a sled.



Nowadays, a vintage sled is anything older than 20 years. For those keeping track, that is sled from 2005 which includes the revolutionary "REV platform" first introduced in 2003 where the rider was higher and had a forward stance that all manufacturers have adopted and is now the standard. I think I have plenty of tee shirts that are considered "vintage" ... it might be time for a new wardrobe, I guess.

The Savoy Kanary Kats are proud of our own vintage history. In fact, our first logo is below from 1972 when our club first formed.



This year marks the almost 13th anniversary of our last vintage ride held on February 11, 2013. It was 24 degrees, and we had plenty of snow following a recent blizzard. Around 15 vintage riders drove about 75 miles through Hawley, Windsor, Worthington, and Ashfield. The event was dubbed "Vintage on the Hill". Back in 2013, snowmobiling was estimated to make a \$55 million impact to the State and now in 2025, that estimate has grown to \$65 million.



Savoy's history with snowmobile goes back even further to the 1970s and 80s when we actually had a snowmobile shop on Loop Road. It was called Savoy Mountain Snowmobile Area and included a cocktail lounge and "steak specialty" dining room.

It was operated by John and Joan Woodruff, Mrs. Walter (Terry) Parry and John Parry (her son) on land owned by Mrs. Parry. It was located on a former potato farm







## CLUB NEWS

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

- South Side Sales and Service:  
[www.southsidesales.com](http://www.southsidesales.com)
- Ronnie's Adams:  
<https://ronniesadams.com/>
- Ronnie's Pittsfield:  
<https://ronniesharleydavidson.com/>
- Pub 116: [www.pub116.com](http://www.pub116.com)
- LP Adams (raffle tickets only):  
<https://lpadams.com/>
- Friendly Fred's (raffle tickets only):  
1173 MA-9, Windsor, MA 01270
- Savoy Canary Kats Meeting or website: <https://www.savoykanarykats.org/>
- Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts: <https://www.sledmass.com/>

and boosted nearly 80 miles of snowmobile trails, which is consistent with what the Savoy Canary Kats maintains today. The barn is still there but Savoy Mountain Lounge is long gone.

They sold and maintained Ski Doo sleds and included clothing, supplies, and storage in the former potato barn. They even rented snowmobiles to get people interested in the sport.

We hope to do another vintage ride this season. Check out our web site and Facebook page for more information on dates, times, and routes.

Besides the vintage ride we hope to do, we have plenty of other activities to get you involved. Take a look below to see if you are interested in participating. We would love to have you, and we could always use some help.



### EVENTS:

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

- Equipment Maintenance: Wednesday's all year long 6 PM (except if we are 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 15th and 16th: SAM Sled Expo (Big E, Young Building West Springfield, MA)
- December TBD: SKK Annual Christmas Party (TBD - check our website)
- January 31st: Snowmobile Raffle (Pub 116 located at 788 W Main St, Plainfield, MA)
- February 3rd: RTP Grant Application Deadline
- February 14th: 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)

As you can see, there are a ton of ways you can get more involved. We would love to see you at a club meeting or trail trim. It is an excellent group of people who love the sport and we could always use your help – come be part of the community!

See you on the trails and remember...

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

### 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 are raffling off a 2026 Ski Doo MXZ-X 600R E-Tec 129. It retails for \$14,749 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! 🐾





# Osetek Family are SAM's Inaugural Centerstage Honorees

By Susan Smiley

**T**his year, SAM Publication introduces a feature that highlights and shares noteworthy individuals, activities, or efforts within the SAM snowmobiling community.

This 2025-26-year, SAM would like to highlight the OSETEK FAMILY

Give it up to Bryan, Sarah, and Raelyn Osetek – how about awards to this gifted and fully invested snowmobile family!!

Bryan Osetek, SAM's Trail Committee Chair, his wife Sarah, SAM event photographer, Christmas toy coordinator and recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Award,

along with their Junior Snowmobiler of the Year, daughter Raelynn, deserve SAMs CENTERSTAGE as our first prestige winner.

This GOSHEN Snowmobile Club family gives back to their sport in full family throttle style. Their contributions to their community, their club and to the overall Snowmobile community are unrivalled. Bryan, Sarah, and Raelynn consistently help and support Club and SAM events, contributing to trail maintenance, membership, and snowmobiling promotion in Massachusetts. They offer encouragement, freshness, positive social media posts, and KICK to keep it, and ALL of us, moving forward.

The OSETEK Family shares their family to support ALL THINGS for the love and sport of snowmobiling. Rarely do we find the kind of commitment, constructive interaction, and love of the outdoors for an entire family to make this valued investment in our sport and organization. It is for all these reasons that we must acknowledge and CENTERSTAGE the Osetek family here in Massachusetts.

THANK YOU for all you do and for being that backbone to our Snowmobiling Family. SAM members, clubs and the state association notice, appreciate beyond words can say and all that the Osetek family does brings us continued success as we enter our 2025-26 Season, for SAM. 🏂

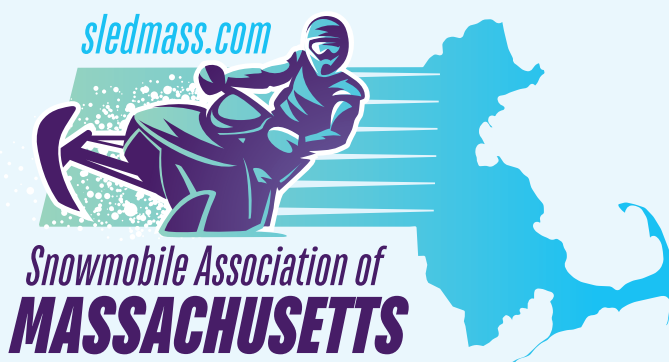




# SAM President LISTENING Sessions

As your SAM President, my interest is to set up quarterly Listening sessions to hear from other members of our Snowmobiling Community.

This is being extended out to any/all SAM Delegates, Club members and/or associated members, volunteers and in general any/all supporters to SAM. This will provide an opportunity to talk directly to the President, provide constructive feedback, areas for improvement, and ways SAM can help the Clubs and/or our snowmobiling sport. Each person will be provided 3-5 minutes to give "public comment". The President will "LISTEN" and utilize feedback to further adjust priorities/goals of the state association. Listening Sessions dates are as follows:



**Thursday, December 18th** 7:30 – 8:00 PM

**Thursday, March 19th** 7:30 – 8:00 PM

**Thursday, June 18th** 7:30 – 8:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86783489741?pwd=XhXJrUEpiMubiStx0AR09t0GAguASH.1>

**Meeting ID:** 867 8348 9741, Passcode: 907314

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# “Greylock or Bust!”

By Lawrence Tucker

It is late summer and we are still having some 80-90 degree days. This late summer weather is beautiful and easy to enjoy and any thoughts of snowmobiling seem hard to imagine. But now, with our busy fall season upon us and winter only a couple of short months away I like to take advantage of this time of year for two reasons. First, it affords some pleasant weather to work on building a new drag or making improvements to existing drags. And secondly, I do find my thoughts ramping up regarding our trails both local and State-wide.

Like most of you, I am contemplating the challenges our local trail systems seem to face annually such as the trail re-routes



“I must be able to get to Greylock from here?”

around new housing and logging operations we will need to clean up after. But, of equal importance, I am pondering our trail network statewide and am asking myself “how can we improve our trail system?” The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM) has identified its trail system as the **Statewide Snowmobile Trail System** or **SSTS**. It is estimated that this trail network consists of nearly 2000 miles

of trails and the SAM clubs have collectively GPS'd and produced the SAM map as an excellent visual representation of this trail system.

Our trails are our most important asset and we should continuously strive to improve them both individually and on a system wide basis. Utilizing the SAM map and putting it in front of us, we could begin to ask some questions such as; “Is the SSTS



where we want it to be? What aspects of it could we improve upon? And how do we accomplish these improvements?" And, indeed, upon showing our map to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Leo Roy, to Environmental Police Director Colonel James McGinn and to other legislators, they all replied, "How come there are so many gaps?"

In contemplating the task of "connecting the dots" and the need to develop a strategy it becomes apparent that we should first form a vision for the future SSTs. I'd like to share a vision with you as a starting point for this discussion. I began by asking the question, "What is the premier snowmobile destination in Massachusetts?" The location that kept coming to the top of the list is Mt. Greylock. For almost any outdoor endeavor it is the premier destination in Massachusetts as it offers unparalleled views

**Our trails are our most  
important asset and we  
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a system wide basis.**

in Massachusetts. One possible vision could be that "we will assure that every club has trail connections to Mt. Greylock".

In conjunction with this vision we could attach a slogan. The slogan could be **"Greylock or Bust!"** Attaching a slogan to a vision offers many advantages and is a

great Public Relations (PR) tool. A Slogan would tend to bind all snowmobilers together behind one common goal and would further galvanize all snowmobilers to take some actions.

The SAM Officers have kick started this process. In December 2016, they met with DCR Commissioner Leo Roy and showed him the SAM map with some highlighted "gaps". Hopefully, we can partner with DCR to help close them. If you wish to have more information relative to this project, please feel free to contact Larry at [TuckerTrail@comcast.net](mailto:TuckerTrail@comcast.net).

I would like to offer special thanks to all of you who help get our trails ready for the coming season and I hope to see you out on our snowmobile trails soon. And, remember, *All Snowmobilers are Members of the Trail Connection Team.* 🛷



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# It's That Time of Year!

By Jeff Miller



What a great time of year, the air is cold and crisp and the ground is as hard as a rock. That can only mean one thing; winter is just around the corner.

The holiday season is a time of reflection and reminiscing of seasons past. It's a time to spend with family and friends, to enjoy each other's company. Our house is no different; we have everyone over to enjoy the holidays.

But we quickly realize that our family has grown quite a bit. Not quite the spacious place anymore; dogs are chasing the cats and grandkids are running yelling at each other. I guess you would call it controlled chaos. Oh the holidays, they are so much fun.

Then I remembered, I was supposed to fill the pellet stove. As I head down through the garage, I look up and staring me right in the face is a variety of snowmobiles, some new, some old, some finished and some not. They look so nice sitting there. My brain totally disconnects from the task at hand and I go over to check out these mechanical beauties.

What is it going to hurt, so I throw my leg over one of them and a flood of memories come back to me of years passed. What fun it was getting stuck in the snow bank or the time I ran out of gas in the middle of nowhere. Memories are coming faster than I can process them, they all seem like they were yesterday. The hours my family and I used to spend snowmobiling when I was a kid was immense. Every weekend we were packed in the family wagon and we were off to two or three races a weekend. It was a fantastic experience and social event that I will never forget. Things I learned snowmobiling back then still hold true in my heart today. It was like I had been transported in a time machine back to these awesome





events. Every scratch tells a story as I pour over the entire sled recalling every one of them.

Suddenly something awakes me from this euphoric snowmobile state of mind and I realize it is my wife yelling for me "What are you doing down there? You've been down there for an hour!" My childhood instincts kick in and I yell back to her "Nothing?" As I go upstairs and shut off the garage lights, I take one last look at those mechanical marvels and smile knowing that I'll be back soon—the pellet stove will need refilling...again!

This truly is the best time of year. It is great to see friends and family. It is also great to have the chaos that comes with it too, that is what makes it so special. Keep those memories close, for they will be great to tell around the fire while you're out riding. Snow will be falling soon and we will all be out creating more stories on the trails. Have a happy and joyous season, and if you need a little break, just head down into the garage. 🐾



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# Timber Harvesting and Snowmobile Trails – Making it Work!

By Randy Toth

**M**ention the word logging today and many people immediately assume the worst. They envision “clear-cut” logging—cutting down every tree in sight for miles around. The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) timber harvesting program actually employs a kinder and gentler form of logging which does not leave the landscape looking like a tornado just ripped through. Today’s politically correct terminology, when referring to logging, is “timber harvesting.”

Ideally, timber harvesting is done when the forest is relatively dry to minimize the creation of mud holes and deep scarring of the landscape caused by heavy timber harvesting equipment. Poor ground conditions can often lead to erosion, rutting, damaged root systems and disturbance to the natural soil conditions. As a result, many woodland areas are best suited to timber harvesting in the winter with frozen ground to protect the landscape. Winter is, of course, also home to our ever shorter snowmobile season. In the past there have been conflicts between DCR timber harvesting and snowmobiling since both users often require the same network of roads and trails for access to the state forests. Fortunately, through improved communications, advanced planning and understanding each other’s needs, forestry operations and snowmobiling can successfully co-exist.

The timber harvesting process itself is carefully and painstakingly planned and monitored by the local DCR forester. The local DCR forester identifies the proposed timber harvest area and any forest areas requiring additional protection within the harvest area. Next a relatively standard DCR Forest Management Proposal consisting of the following sections is prepared:

- **Overview** - Describes the proposed timber harvesting area and the reasons for selecting the location for forest management such as forest age, health and positive economic impact.
- **Project Area Description** - Describes the size and forest types present in the proposed timber harvest area. It lists the specific trees present on the site, trees to be harvested and trees to be avoided. It also describes the topography of the area including slopes, streams and soil.





- **Aesthetic Considerations** - Describes the public and private land affected, the overall size and location of buffer zones and slash handling areas, and the techniques to be employed to mitigate the negative appearance of the area after the timber harvest.
- **Recreation Considerations** - Describes plans for dealing with existing legal recreation in the area that will be affected either temporarily or permanently by the timber harvest. For example it addresses how snowmobiling and harvesting equipment may safely share forest roads and trails during the harvesting operation.
- **Water Resource Considerations** - Describes all water resources and mitigation plans for dealing with wells, wetlands, vernal pools, streams, stream crossings and nearby bodies of water.
- **Cultural Considerations** - Describes all key cultural artifacts and plans to protect them from disturbance. This includes items like stonewalls, old cellar holes, historic sites, etc.
- **Rare and Endangered Species Considerations** - Describes key species present and plans to completely avoid or fully protect them.

Timber harvesting, along with recreational trails creation or restoration can be mutually beneficial to both the state and trail users, particularly motorized trail users.



PHOTO BY JEFF GANELLI

- **Wildlife Considerations** - Describes the animals normally encountered in the area and plans for the protection of any rare animals and critical habitats known to be or discovered in the area.
- **Sale Layout and Harvesting Limitations** - Describes the planned access to the project, landings, skid road and trails, wetland and stream crossings, road and trail buffers, harvesting equipment limitations, special excluded areas, erosion and sedimentation control, site restoration, in-kind services and sensitive public Issues like dealing with the Appalachian Trail (AT) and the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS).
- **Silviculture (the art and science of forestry)** - Describes the goals and objectives of the project, the methods used to accomplish these goals, the short and long-term expected outcomes and potential future treatments. For example, harvesting northern hardwoods includes planning for the transition of forest lands from evenly-aged forests to unevenly-aged forests by employing irregular “shelterwood cuttings” in which a new generation of seedlings can grow while being protected by the more mature trees left standing. These small forest openings also provide wildlife with additional places to forage for food. Tree species diversity and disease mitigation, by harvesting dying trees while they still have some economic value, are also factored into the plans.



PHOTO BY DAN COULD



- **Stand Maps** - Describes the general project location, the specific temporary and permanent roads to be constructed, specific areas to be harvested and the location of any special items for consideration that can be made public. The SSTS map is a useful tool for identifying and locating corridor trails.

After the forest management proposal is complete and released to the public, the local DCR forester marks the specific trees to be harvested as well as the special areas to be avoided. Public hearings and public walkthroughs of the proposed areas are conducted, a request for proposal is issued, bids are received, a contractor is selected and finally the actual harvesting is performed while being closely monitored by the area forester to insure full compliance with the contract and all applicable state rules and regulations. While this process is quite complex and costly, it definitely helps protect and improve forest lands while providing an economic benefit to the state and local communities.

Timber harvesting, along with recreational trails creation or restoration can be mutually beneficial to both the state and trail users, particularly motorized trail users. Timber harvesting requires a dirt roadway capable of supporting log haulers, permanent and temporary stream crossing structures, a network of smaller trails for the log haulers, a cleared landing to stockpile the harvested logs and a number of very small clear cut openings in the forest. The dirt access roads are generally more environmentally sound and sustainable than the original motorized trails and can sometime be

repurposed to replace poor sections of existing recreational trails. They can become sustainable Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails during the permitted riding season and a groomed snowmobile trail for the short riding season in the winter. Sometimes access road bridges can be left in place to be used by various trail users, forest fire suppression teams, rescue teams and future forest harvesting operations. Some of the smaller trails might remain as passive use trails while the majority of the smaller access paths are quickly reclaimed by the surrounding forest. Some landings may even become parking areas for forest visitors.

Rather than bumping heads with timber harvesting plans, working together ahead of time can be a win-win operation for everyone. The timber harvesters get the timber, DCR and the local communities share in the profits and the snowmobilers get to keep on riding. Key trails, which can't be temporarily bypassed, can be safely shared during the logging operation, by various techniques such as providing a small unplowed "shelf" along one side of the road, leaving a thin layer of snow on the road, installing traffic control gates, dual use signage and agreed to rules of joint access. The key is communication and cooperation.

A special thanks to DCR's Central Berkshire forester Kris Massini for help with this article and for the great coordination and communication between DCR and the local clubs (Berkshire Snow Seekers and Knox Trail Sno-Riders) concerning timber harvesting in October Mountain State Forest. 🐾

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# Job Opening...

## GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE

By Brad Stafford

**W**hen I first accepted the position as president of the BGL snowmobile club I knew there would be responsibilities. One is doing the best I can to help with all kinds of requests that come from the landowners, state and town agencies, my fellow club officers, club members and all the SAM members that ride the club's trails. Over the years these requests have come in many forms, such as phone calls, emails and even notes taped to my snowmobile windshield.

As you may imagine, some of the messages go like this: "Where can I get a trail map?" or "Where can I park to get trail access?" Then there are others, such as, "Why don't you just move the Deer Crossing Ahead sign so the deer won't use the snowmobile trail?" Ummm, yeah, sorry to tell you the deer can't read the signs very well. Yes that happened.

Today I will describe one from a few years ago, right after a fresh snow. My phone rang with a number I didn't recognize. For the sake of this article I'll call him "John."

"Hey Brad, John here. Seeing you're the club president, I thought you should know there was a tree down right in the middle of the trail by the intersection on top of Fox Hill that really needs to get taken care of."

I thanked him for the info and then asked how big of a tree and if I needed more than two guys and a chain saw? He replied, "It's not that big, just a dead one about



PHOTO BY CRAIG WARNER

three-inches in diameter. You should just be able to pick it up and just toss it off the trail."

I asked if he could have just moved it himself. His reply, "I could have but it's not my job, you're the president." I took a moment to collect my politically correct words and told John that actually, you're right, it is my job but *not* because I'm the club president, but because I'm a snowmobiler.

The point I want to make here is, yes, there are people out there with club titles, presidents, vice presidents, groomers, delegates and more, but we are also snowmobilers. All those people that throughout the entire year go to meetings, run fundraisers and maintain the trails are all unpaid volunteers. Every time I hear the phrase "I would love to help but I just don't have the time." My answer is "IF" you have time to ride then you have time to help out. I also remind them that when they bought that SAM pass they became an active member of that club.

I always thought "IF" all snowmobilers would remove just one fallen limb or snap a branch out of the way during every ride, the trails would be so much better.

Now, I'm not asking all of you to carry chain saws and shovels when you go out. But when you see that stray branch or maybe a rock that the groomer has knocked loose into the trail, something that you can easily and safely remove... do it!

If it's too much for you to handle and could be a hazard for the next sled, take a moment and stick a small branch in the snow as a warning to the next rider. Then make a call to the local club and let them know its location. Remember by removing that one hazard you could be saving your own, or your friend's, ski or helmet visor.

Enjoying the trails is a privilege and it's every snowmobiler's job to work together so we can all enjoy the benefits of safer trails. Until next time, ride safe and "Keep the Rubber Side Down." 🐾



# Be Bold, Ride Old

## *Knox Trail 11th Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show & Swap Meet*

Photos by John Ruffo





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