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**Next General meeting:
Thursday, August 28th at 7:30PM**
We need to discuss the coming season.

**August
2008**

Next General Meeting: August 28th at the
American Legion Tillman Post in Akron at 7:30PM
Next Board Meeting: September 11th at the
American Legion Tillman Post in Akron at 7:00PM

NORTHERN ERIE

Sno-Seekers

P.O. Box 167

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Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc. well start a website base newsletter starting with this months newsletter. We will have all back 2008 newsletters too. Just go to the home page and at the bottom left corner of that page you see a link to the newsletter pages.

Please update your email address on this years application, email to NESS, sno-phone, or by mail.

Octobers 2008 newsletter will be the last paper newsletter due to the high cost of printing and postage



NORTHERN ERIE SNO-SEEKERS, INC.®

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2008/2009



NAME _____
(First Name, Spouse's First Name, Children's First Name, Last Name)

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ E-MAIL _____
(We do not share personal information)

www.sno-seekers.com
(716) 741-NESS (6377)

***NAME AND ADDRESS MUST MATCH SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION FOR DISCOUNT. See below.**

All memberships are from April 1 to March 31 to coincide with NYSSA Voucher's

\$5.00 of this fee is for membership to NYSSA who will donate .25¢ to the NYS Snowmobile PAC. **NOTE:** If you do not wish to donate the .25¢, please check here _____. If you are already a member of NYSSA (through another club) you may deduct the \$5.00 if you wish from amount below and write the club name club name and voucher ID# here _____

- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWAL
- LANDOWNER
- SINGLE \$ 25.00
- FAMILY \$ 30.00 (Incl. spouse and all children age 17 and under residing at the same address above)
- CLUB HOUSE DONATION \$ _____

(Please check all that apply)

*Membership in this club entitles you to NYS Snowmobile Registration fee of \$45 on each snowmobile registered to the name and address above. A voucher will be issued upon club membership payment. Please bring this application to the monthly meeting or mail it to:

Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.®
PO Box 167
Akron, NY 14001-0167

ALL OF THESE DONATIONS WILL BE PUT INTO A DEDICATED SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR A FUTURE LAND AND CLUB HOUSE PURCHASE!
 OUR GOAL IS \$20,000.00 FOR THE 2008-2009 SEASON
 REMEMBER THAT WE ARE A 501 (C) 3 AND ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

We are a 100% volunteer, 501(C) 3 not-for-profit organization that relies on member support to make our club a success. Everyone has *something* they can contribute and *any* assistance (no matter how big or small) is greatly appreciated. Please check any area(s) where you can help us say: "The Best Trails in WNY!"

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Officer/Board member | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/PR Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails/Landowner Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groomer/Equipment Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Guide Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Website Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Historian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/Education Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

If you are interested in promoting your business we offer many forms of advertising. You may choose from spots in our newsletter, trail guides, along the trail or on our website. Please call us or visit our website for more information.

ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, AND WAIVER OF CLAIM: I am aware that snowmobiling involves many risks, dangers and hazards including, but not limited to: other snowmobiles, changing weather conditions; natural or un-natural objects: trees, stumps, the condition of snow or ice; changes in the terrain; blind spots or areas of reduced visibility, snow grooming equipment, or other vehicles, or negligence of other drivers or on the part of NESS or its members to safeguard or protect me from these hazards. I am aware of, freely accept, and fully assume such risks and the potential loss resulting there from and release NESS and its officers, members, or sponsors from all liability and waive any and all claims for such loss.

Signature _____

Date _____

"SNOWMOBILERS RESPECT LANDOWNERS - STAY ON THE TRAIL"



Club Officers

President: Eric Glassman 741-4334
Vice President: Rob Vission
Secretary: Scott Trapp
Treasurer: Rich McNamara 741-4819
Trail Coord.: John & Chantel
Dirschede 542-7093
Board Member: Curt Watts
Board Member: Rick Johnson
Board Member: Frank Schroeder
Board Member: Dale Dunkelberger
Board Member: Dan Dressel
Board Member: Kevin Karuschke
Board Member: Dave Witmer

Committees

PR/Marketing & Advertising Committee

Chairperson: OPEN

Social Committee:

Chairperson: OPEN

Membership Committee:

Chairperson: OPEN

Groomer/Equipment Committee:

Chairperson: Rich Wood 759-8528

Trails/ Landowners Committee:

Chairperson: Chantel Dirschedl
Vice Chairperson: John Dirschedl

Safety/Education Committee:

Chairperson: Al Osborne

Trail Guides Committee:

Chairperson: Sandy Gaulocher

Newsletter/Website Committee:

Chairperson: Matt Priebe 542-1212
Looking for replacement

Snow Phone: 741-NESS

Club Headlines

- **Next General Meeting: August 28th at 7:30PM at the American Legion Tillman Post at 9 Eckerson Avenue in the Village of Akron. On the Trail – Obey Signs.**
- **October Adopt-A-Highway**
Sunday October 26, 2008 at 9:00am. Meet at Niagara Label Lewis Rd (Rte. 93). Bags, grabbers, vests, gratitude and fun provided for free.
- **Saturday, September 13th at 9:30am.**
Work session. Place is the storage trailers behind the NYS Trooper Barracks on Main St in Clarence.
- **Trail maintenance continues....Lets all chip in and get the trails ready to ride.**
Call 741-NESS and leave message if you can help!!!

Next General Meeting: August 28th at 7:30PM at the American Legion Tillman Post in Akron, NY.

Next Board Meeting: September 11th at 7:00PM at the American Legion Tillman Post in Akron, NY.

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**President's Page****Can you believe its here?**

Hope you've had a great summer. You've probably noticed we took a few months off to relax and enjoy it too. We can only hope that this rain lasts into the winter and we have a long, snowy season!

You've also may have heard that we've got our money back from the State. Well, almost. Through the efforts of all of us, the State has agreed to "pay us back" over the next 3 years. Here's a summary right from NYSSA:

1. The NYS snowmobile trail grants process will be revised to ensure that in the future, snowmobile registration fees will be spent solely on trail maintenance and related activities.
2. The DOB and OPRHP have projected that grant payments to clubs will increase from \$2.8 million in 2007-2008 to \$5.3 million in 2008-2009. This represents an 85% increase in funding to the clubs.
3. Over the next three seasons, the governor has directed that \$1 million from OPRP and DEC snowmobile trail funding be diverted into the snowmobile trail development and maintenance fund.

The governor himself has characterized these actions as a "big win for NY snowmobilers"..... Your elected officials, representatives of state agencies, and NYSSA leadership have all worked together to improve the state of snowmobiling in New York. This partnership is important. We are successful because NYSSA and its members spoke with one voice when addressing the NYS budget process to our elected leaders.

Thanks to everyone who took the few minutes it took to write or call our officials and express your concerns. This made a huge impact on this decision.

Labor Day is almost here and that usually gets people thinking about snowmobiling. We plan to have a tent at the annual Clarence Center Fair and are looking for some people to man the booth. We're hoping we can get enough of us so we can work in 2 hour shifts – pretty simple and easy! Please call us at 741-6877 to sign up. Just like the budget win above, it take all of us to make it work!!

We look forward to another season and have some work to do. Together, it can work.

See you at our next meeting.

Eric

Thank You!!!!**American Legion L.L. Tillman Post No. 900**

For accommodating us for our
Board Meetings and General Meetings

9 Eckerson Ave. in Akron
(that's were Rte 93 and the bike path meet).

Remember, we are open and on the trail. Ride in and have a
drink and get warm.

Thank You!!!!**The Randalls and Rothland Golf Course**

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12089 Clarence Center Rd., Akron
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Please contact us for golf this spring. We also can accommodate
large groups and tournaments.



Note from the Editor

Hi everyone. Just wanted to let you know that, no, the newsletter hasn't stopped...well, it did for a few months. We are still looking for a replacement editor, but I will do what I can to keep the newsletter coming until I can show someone the ropes...

Thanks for your patience and don't worry....you'll be getting a copy all throughout the season.

-Matt Priebe

A Few Upcoming Events

Labor day Fair August 30 to September 1

We will be in the Labor Day Fair on August 30 to September 1, 2008 and the Parade on September 1, 2008 this year as in the past years. We are looking for volunteers to work the fair at our tent in 2 hour shifts and to help out with the groomer in the parade. Please call the snow phone at 741-NESS to sign up.

Southern Orleans Trailblazers GRASS DRAGS September 13 to September 14.

The Southern Orleans County Trailblazers have taken over Buck's prestigious race and are doing a great job with it! Come on out and watch professional racers from all over the US and Canada as they compete to earn race credit on this amazing track! Call for more information

Buck's Annual Open House Product Show Event September 20

Stop out to meet the reps & enjoy refreshments, on us! Not to mention we will have some great sales going on! This isn't a day to miss for you power sports fans!

Holland Antique/Vintage Show September 21

2nd Annual Holland SnoRascals Antique & Vintage Snowmobile Show

Holland Motorsports Complex, Registration-8:00 am - 11:00 am, Show Starts - 11:00am -4:00 Pm

Judging 11:00 am -1:00 Pm (Ballots in by 1:30)

Shawnee 10th Annual Grass Drags/ATV Races/Vintage September 27

Sept. 27th at the Shawnee Fire Hall. More details on our site: <http://www.snochiefs.com>

Christmas Party December 13, 2008 Newstead Fire Hall

This years Christmas Party will be on December 13, 2008 at the Newstead Fire Hall starting at 5pm. Start looking for prizes for the chinese auction and drop them off at the monthly meetings. The sooner the better

To all trail captains!!

Please schedule your fall trail work sessions. We need to inventory all signs and stakes and let us know the count. We need to plan for this fall and its tough if we don't know what we have!

Remember: We need to start clearing brush and repairing bridges as soon as possible. Talk with your landowners and discuss with them when work can begin. Also, don't forget to ask each landowner if there were any problem areas last year that need to be addressed this year.

Thanks!



The newsletter you are reading right now is possible through the efforts of our members. For the most part, Matt Priebe has handled it for several years and has done an awesome job. Matt's growing family and other activities prevent him from continuing this. That's where we need your help!

Actually, its not all that hard. All you need to do is gather the material and compile it on the computer; save a send it to the printer; and whamm! its done!

What a great job for a student! I'll bet we could even get you some credits or something for doing it! You'll pretty much have a blank sheet to work with and the sky is the limit! (almost)

You can do it anytime of the day or night – our only requirement is to have it completed by the second week of the month!

Anyway, we really need this and I hoping somebody knows someone or wants to volunteer themselves to help! I know Matt will help you get started and, before you know it, you'll be an expert too!

Call the snow phone @ 741-NESS or stop in to the meeting!
Thanks!!

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Polaris 2005 340 edge touring 2 up, 700 miles, like new. \$2000. Clarence Center 741-9608

1994 polaris lite deluxe 900 miles \$750 861-0898, 1996 polaris classic touring 1700 miles \$1750
861-0898 Thanks Robert

2005 Polaris Indy Classic 550 Fan Touring. Two-Up Seat \$4,000 or Best Offer. Call 689-7350

Email your classifieds to Priebe.matt@gmail.com. Also, see more at www.snoseekers.com

ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

OCTOBER 26, 2008

TIME: 9:00 AM

WHERE: NIAGARA LABEL, LEWIS ROAD (RT. 93) AKRON, NY

The NESS Snowmobile Club volunteers to clean up the 2 mile stretch of Rt 93 from Lewis Rd heading North to Swift Mills Rd.

Bags, vests, hard hats, "grabbers", roadside trash & treasures and extreme appreciation provided FREE OF CHARGE. Dress for a date with Mother Nature.

Contact person: Liz Wulf 542-9550

Wanted! NESS Newsletter Editor

After 7 years of writing the NESS Express, I am looking to step down and hand over the editor reigns to a different member. Over the past few years, my sleds have been replaced with other hobbies and family priorities. I will miss sitting at home writing the newsletter and helping to inform our members and landowners of the club, NYS, and snowmobile industry. However, I feel that the job may be performed even better by a member with more dedication and participation in the sport of snowmobiling.

It only takes a couple hours a month. Really!

Most of the officers and board members supply the info you need.

The rest can be found easily by the NYSSA website and other internet sites.

Thanks, Matt

Please let us know if you can help and we'll get you everything you will need.



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IM ALWAYS IN THE DOG HOUSE



Committees in Need of Volunteers

Administration

Board members –

Attend the board meetings (once a month) and as a group decide on club issues and what is best for the club.

Officers –

Officer positions each require more dedication than a board member. If you're a leader or enjoy overlooking others, an officer position is for you.

Legal –

Help with legal club issues. From our non-profit status to possible legal action against the club.

Membership/PR

Advertising/Trail Guides –

We all shop there or stop in for a bite to eat.

We need ads from local businesses in our newsletter and trail guide.

Newsletter –

Write the monthly newsletter you're reading right now.

Website –

Help keep it updated and moderate what is on it.

Social

Fund raising –

Raffles, parties, booth at events. Just a few ideas. We get money from NYS, but sometimes it isn't enough.

Events-

Help let the members know of things happening in the sport and community.

Club activities-

Christmas party, club rides, summer party. Just a few things we need to improve. Lets get together as a club.

Trails

Landowners –

Answer our landowners questions and help with their problems. Let's keep them happy and always thank them for allowing us to use their property.

Trail captains –

Take care of and pride in a 3 or 4 mile stretch of trail.

Maybe an area near your home. Get your buddies to help.

Grooming/Equipment –

Things break and need maintenance.

From the groomer and drag to a chainsaw. We have a lot of stuff to fix.

Or, Turn on the tunes, up the heat, and head out. Remember, late evening is the best time and we'll train you to drive.

Training

Safety courses –

Help the young and old ride safe. Set up and organize safety courses and discussions at meetings.

Emergency response –

Help the community or a rider in trouble. Sometimes only a sled can get the job done and you know the area well.



Newsletter Information

Message from the editor

I am looking for information to put in each month's newsletter. As you can see, the newsletter looks very similar month to month. **I need information about our club.** Also, I am looking for events, information, news, anything to do with snowmobiling that may interest you and the rest of our members, landowners, and other readers. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND .pdf FILES.**

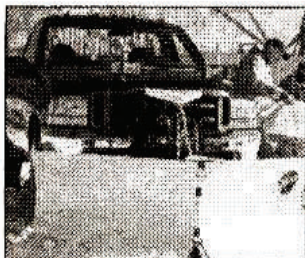
Email me at Priebe.matt@gmail.com

Also, remember, we do sell ads by the month as well as a full year. So let us know if you want to place an ad. The rates are very reasonable and the money goes to help us keep the best trails in wny up and running.

Matt Priebe, NESS Newsletter Editor

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Attention Landowners

Let Us Know!!!

Please contact the trail coordinator, any officer, or leave a message at 741-6377 if any area of your property needs attention this year. We greatly appreciate the use of your land for our trails and will do what we can to keep the ATV's and trespassers off.

If you have any concerns or recommendations on how to keep ATV's off your property, let us know. We can address trouble spots while removing the snowmobile trails.

Thanks again for all of your support, without your generosity, we wouldn't have these wonderful trails.

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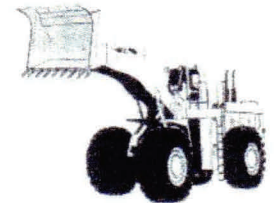
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Adopt-A-Highway

Reports from the first two sessions.

Sunday, April 27th marked the first Adopt a Highway clean-up of 2008. Eight N.E.S.S. Club members lent a hand, cleaning up the roadside debris on route 93 from Lewis Rd. north to Swift Mills Rd. What a gorgeous bright and sunny Spring morning! The "catch" of the day was an unopened can of tuna, NOT yet expired, and a container of antipasto salad. This delightful luncheon was made available by Eric Glassman who junk hunted with Emily and Liz Wulf. The best Sandy Gaulocher, (a.k.a. "wheel barrel queen"), Mike Schifferle & Ron Starkweather could come up with was an unanimous team vote to deliberately "go the wrong way" on purpose this time! Ron Rosenberg & Rick Dent attacked the farthest North end of the clean-up and were never seen nor heard from again!

Only 2 ness members showed up for the July 28, 2008 highway clean-up: Ron Rosenberg & Mike Schifferle. I brought my daughter Emily to help me. The final pick-up for 2008 is October 26, 2008 at 9:00am at Niagara Label.

C'mon members, lend a hand. There is no excuse for only two of the more than 700 of you reading this newsletter to show up to help do our part for the community. I'm sure you can find 3 hours on a Sunday to ride when there is snow on the ground...We are asking for 3 hours of your time on October 26th.

NYSSA Classic Golf Tourney

I hope to see you all on September 6 at the NYSSA board meeting, which will be held at Rogues Roost Golf and Country Club, in Bridgeport, NY.

NYSSA will enjoy the first NYSSA Classic Golf Tourney after the meeting. Proceeds from the event will benefit NYSSA charities, including Easter Seals, the USO and the Pink Ribbon Riders. The golf course owners are one of the South Shore Trailblazer landowners- Corridor trail C7L runs right through the course!

My goal is that each district will have at least one foursome playing in the tournament. Elwin- Ernie- Dan- and the CNY contingent- your quota is 4 teams each!

NYSSA Classic Golf Tourney

September 6, 2008 12:00 noon luncheon; 1:00 pm Shotgun Start

Rogues Roost Golf and Country Club West Course, Bridgeport, NY

315-633-9406 <http://roguesroost.com/>

The NYSSA Classic is a four-person scramble tourney. Entry fee is \$65 per person and includes: Greens fees, cart, range balls, luncheon, food at the turn, and prizes.

Contact a club officer if you are interested.

Officers: To reserve your foursome, please call Mike Fischer at 315-420-8208, or e-mail to MDFischer@chittenangopolarbears.com and indicate how many golfers you have!



Get Ready for Winter!!!

Snowmobile Pre_Season Checklist

- _____ Read the owner's manual written for your model snowmobile. If adjustments were not made in the Spring, they must be completed before using your snowmobile for the first time.
- _____ Ignition: Replace spark plugs. Be sure they are gapped to manufacturer's specifications and are the proper heat range.
- _____ Carburetor/Fuel: Check fuel filter, replace if necessary. Check fuel lines for cracks or leaks. Check fittings for leaks.
- _____ Drive Belt: Check for wear and cracks. Measure width of belt and compare to specifications. Be sure you have a spare belt in your snowmobile.
- _____ Track: Examine for broken cleats, loose or torn drive holes, and ply separation. Alignment of track. Track tension.
- _____ Skis: Alignment, Examine for loose weld joints, loose or worn out wear rods. Check ski bottom for excessive wear.
- _____ Chain: Lubrication. Check chain tension
- _____ Shocks: Check for oil leaks
- _____ Light: Replace burned out bulbs. Apply brakes to check stop lights with engine running.
- _____ Clutch: Check owners manual for recommendations.
- _____ Brakes: Proper adjustment. Free operation. Worn pads.
- _____ Check for loose nuts and bolts on the snowmobile.
- _____ Suspension: Idler wheels. Lubrication. Axle wheels and bearings. Loose nuts and bolts. Broken welds and springs. Slide rails.
- _____ Check spare parts and tools. Light bulbs - pack so they won't break. Spark plugs need to be gapped. Check owner's manual for proper setting. In an emergency, a match cover will approximate gap. Spare belt. Tools (pliers, adjustable wrench, screwdrivers: flat and Phillips, lockable pliers). Starter pull rope. Owner's manual. Emergency



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NYS Snowmobile Trail Fund Information

It is my pleasure to transmit to you the attached press release from David Paterson, Governor of New York State, regarding the NYS Snowmobile Trail Fund. Also attached is the official NYSSA press release as well as speaking points that represent NYSSA's official positions on the subject of the governor's release.

I have had the privilege of working very closely with the NYSSA leadership team over the past several months to respond to the snowmobile trail fund budget situation. Through these efforts, and with the partnership of the NYS legislature, we have been successful in communicating our concerns to state officials representing OPRHP, the Division of Budget (DOB) and the office of the governor. In response to these discussions, the governor's press release highlights 3 key actions:

1. The NYS snowmobile trail grants process will be revised to ensure that in the future, snowmobile registration fees will be spent solely on trail maintenance and related activities.
2. The DOB and OPRHP have projected that grant payments to clubs will increase from \$2.8 million in 2007-2008 to \$5.3 million in 2008-2009. This represents an 85% increase in funding to the clubs.
3. Over the next three seasons, the governor has directed that \$1 million from OPRHP and DEC snowmobile trail funding be diverted into the snowmobile trail development and maintenance fund.

The governor himself has characterized these actions as a "big win for NY snowmobilers", and I could not agree more. Your elected officials, representatives of state agencies, and NYSSA leadership have all worked together to improve the state of snowmobiling in New York. This partnership is important. Therefore, it is vitally important that we all understand the need to speak with one voice when responding to questions from club members, leaders, the media and the general public. Please review the attached information very carefully so that you will be able to answer any inquiries, as well as to properly communicate our success.

We are successful because NYSSA and its members spoke with one voice when addressing the NYS budget process to our elected leaders; it is critical that we as leaders of NYSSA continue to demonstrate this unity. We will be preparing additional information as we move forward into the upcoming season's activity. Part of our next steps will include expressing thanks to those who helped us to achieve the big win that the governor spoke of. In particular, we will want to reach out to the governor, and all of the legislators who provided positive leadership on behalf of snowmobiling. You will hear more about these follow-up items during the NYSSA board call this Saturday.

Let us not forget to thank those who have partnered with us and helped us to protect and improve snowmobiling in New York State. I ask you to join me in thanking our advocates in the Capitol Group: Nick Barella, Tim Sheridan and Bruce Geiger. Without their relationships with key individuals in Albany, and their complete grasp of the processes and inner workings on the government of NY, we would not have come out on top. Rory Whelan of Whelan Media Strategies, our public relations and media strategist, has provided invaluable counsel and is also deserving of our gratitude. I also want to personally thank Jim Jennings and Dave Perkins, NYSSA executive director and trails coordinator, and Gary Broderick, NYSSA vice-president, for their role in helping me to lead us forward.

What should not be lost in our discussions, however, is to make sure that we thank the snowmobilers of New York. It is truly because of their dedication to the issues we face, and the tremendous grass-roots efforts in contacting their elected leaders, that we have succeeded. It is the 100,000 snowmobilers who participate in our sport, and who are responsible for the \$1 billion economic engine that is New York snowmobiling that are most deserving of our gratitude. As we move ahead we must take the opportunity to thank the club members and their families who took the time to make their voice heard in Albany.

Please contact me or Jim Jennings if you have any questions. I thank each of you for your trust and support.

With congratulations and warm regards,
Michael Fischer, President
New York State Snowmobile Association



NYSSA Trails Coordinator

August, 2008 Report

Access

Access to land for trails continue to be the focus of a great deal of activity.

DEC

Recently the DEC asked the Association to help organize a series of meetings with clubs and towns performing trail maintenance on Wild Forest lands within the Adirondack Park. During the week of July 28th 10 meetings were conducted with clubs and municipalities. The reason for these meetings is to gather data on grooming in Wild Forest units.

It is commonly known that many snowmobile trails in the Wild Forests are in need of maintenance to continue being safe and passable, while other trails continue to deteriorate due to the lack of maintenance. All trail maintenance activities are governed by the Unit Management Plan for that unit. Unfortunately, UMP implementation, including improvements to snowmobile trails, is not occurring due to the APA. Several snowmobile issues on the forest preserve within the Park need APA resolution. There are four: no material increase in snowmobile mileage; administrative personnel; use of tracked groomers; character of a foot trail.

The no material increase issue as been resolved by the APA. In September the DEC plans on presenting the information it has gathered from these meetings with clubs and towns and from their own staff to the APA.

TNC

The Nature Conservancy's plans for snowmobile trails within the former Finch properties continue to move forward. Potential trail route locations are being scouted out to assist in implementation of these trails.

Canal Corporation

Any club with trail on Canal Corporation property or envisions important trail system connections along canal lands will need to be aware of efforts to change the current prohibition of snowmobiles on Canal Corporation lands. Please keep in contact with your District Director and Trails Coordinator over this issue.

Club Trail ID

Clubs with unfunded trails that want to use the NYSSA Club Trail ID sign need to get an assigned number for each unfunded trail that needs an ID. Please contact the Trails Coordinator with the number of unfunded trails that need assignment. Once these numbers are received, the club can order the blue ID sign.

Bulk Sign Order

Signs for this year's bulk sign order have been received. Signs have been sorted by club and are ready to be picked up by District Directors.

Signing Brochure

A brochure designed to educate snowmobilers with information and operator responsibilities in trail signage on the trail is being developed for presentation to the Board of Directors. Several printing quotes have been received. The brochure is being developed similar to the landowner brochure from several years ago.

**STEP Signage 0809**

Plans are being formulated for this season's STEP Signage program. County organizations that want to participate in the Satellite program are encouraged to develop a plan to be submitted to the Trails Committee for approval. Satellite participants receive the same training as all other Safe Trail Advisors. The significant difference is that in the Satellite program the county organization runs the program. The county organization also has the advantage of easier communication among member clubs to resolve signage inconsistencies.

STEP Signage trail signing workshops will be scheduled across the state for this fall. The purpose of these workshops is to train Safe Trail Advisors. These workshops are also the opportunity for Satellite programs to receive training. The third purpose of the workshops is to offer clubs the opportunity to send trail workers to the part of the workshop that deals with OPRHP trail signing guidelines.

Consistency in trail signage according to OPRHP trail signing guidelines needs to be a goal of all trail organizations and its trail workers. Knowledge and understanding of these guidelines is an important step.

Please keep informed of the STEP Signage workshops on the website. Email notification will also occur late this summer.

STEP Grooming

Clubs have the responsibility to ensure that its groomer operators are trained and authorized to operate the equipment on behalf of the club. Clubs should determine and designate its experienced groomer operators as the primary trainers of members that want to learn to operate a groomer.

Many clubs require or encourage its operators to attend the groomer operator safety course provided by OPRHP. This course is the result of training program developed at the international level and approved by snowmobile trail administrators. OPRHP will send course materials (booklets and a powerpoint CD) to any club or county organization that wants to host the course. As part of STEP Grooming, several snowmobilers have received training to act as a course instructor. The Trails Coordinator can also provide the groomer operator course.

Trails Fund Program

Many clubs are anxiously awaiting the Phase II trail grant application. A draft has been developed for review. The final copy should be ready this upcoming week.

It is expected that trail narratives will need some revision as OPRHP looks to make the three-year planning process more relevant.

At last report, all 0708 Phase III paperwork has been reviewed. In some cases, additional information was needed from local sponsors.

Additional program information should be available at the August meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Perkins

NYSSA Trails Coordinator



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