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April 2010



NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS ON April 29th
at the American Legion Tillman Post in Akron at 7:30PM

Next Board Meeting: May 13th at Marvin's Bar
and Grill (Corner of Goodrich Rd. and Delaware
Rd.) in Clarence Center. 7:00 PM

NORTHERN ERIE

Sno-Seekers

P.O. Box 167
Akron, NY 14001



Club Officers

President: Eric Glassman 741-4334
Vice President: Dan Dressel
Secretary: Mary Beth Kiesel
Treasurer: Rich McNamara 741-4819
Sergeant of Arms: Rich Wood
Trail Coord.: Steve Wdowka
Board Member: Curt Watts
Board Member: Bill Peronne
Board Member: Frank Schroeder
Board Member: Randy Wdowka
Board Member: Al Wolbert
Board Member: Kevin Kruschke
Board Member: Scott Trapp

Committees

PR/Marketing & Advertising Committee

Chairperson: Steve Wdowka

Social Committee:

Chairperson: Scott Trapp

Membership Committee:

Chairperson: Rick Johnson

Groomer/Equipment Committee:

Chairperson: Rich Wood 759-8528

Trails/ Landowners

Committee:

Al Wolbert

Safety/Education Committee:

Chairperson: OPEN

Trail Guides Committee:

Chairperson: OPEN

Newsletter Committee:

Chairperson: Shannon Landow
Contact #998-7966

Website Committee:

Chairperson: OPEN

Adopt-A-Highway Committee:

Chairperson: Rick Weitz
Contact #713-9018

Club Headlines

- **Next General Meeting: April 29th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Avenue in the Village of Akron.**
- **Other Meetings:**
- **Board Meeting: May 13th at 7:00PM at Marvin's Bar and Grill (Corner of Goodrich Rd. and Delaware Rd.) in Clarence Center.**
- **General Meeting: May 27th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Avenue in the Village of Akron.**

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**President's Page****Next season is here already**

I'll start by giving you *another* reminder to send your elected representatives a message about stealing your money. We talked about the proposal to sweep \$1 million from the NYS trail fund and I hope you all took a few minutes to send a message to Albany that we don't agree with that. Please go to the NYSSA website and follow the links. We pay these people to represent us and we need to make them accountable. And don't forget...November is coming fast!

Thanks to all who accepted nominations and joined us last month for election night. We had a good turnout and now have a new team that will lead us for another year. Please come join us over the summer for a chance to meet everyone and show your support.

We are working on our 2010/2011 plan and will share that as soon as it's complete. I've asked all board members to think about the top 5 or 10 things this club needs most. We will debate everyone and come up with a list of "doable" items. I know we have a lot of great ideas and projects but, as you know, have limited resources so the real challenge becomes accomplishing them with what we have. As always, the more people we have, the better this club will become. Everyone is welcome to share their thoughts, ideas, and plans on how to "git r done".

As I write, several of us will be leaving to go to the 2010 NYSSA Forum in Liverpool, NY. This is an annual event where all the clubs in NYS gather to learn, share, and improve the sport of snowmobiling. NESS has been asked to participate in one of the seminars to share our experiences and help other clubs who have the same challenges. We look forward to that and hope we can help other clubs grow as we have done over the past 10 years.

Again, please don't forget to contact your elected officials. It's simple and painless! The consequences of not doing it are much more painful!

See you on the 29th.

Eric

MESSAGE FROM NIAGARA COUNTY TRAIL COORDINATOR

As of April 13th there are only 2 small sections to be taken down. Thank you again for all who have been helping out. Please keep in mind during the summer that there still are some jobs to be done to improve what we already have. And the new places that we could go to if there was a trail there. Please contact me with any ideas or help that you can offer.

Thanks again.

CURT 772-7186 435-7068



A Few Upcoming Events

Adopt-A-Highway: Adopt-A-Highway dates for 2010 are scheduled for April 25th and September 26th. Meet at Niagara Label (corner of Hake Road and Rt. 93 in Akron) at 9am.

New Trail Requests: All new trail requests must be applied for by May 5th. Have all requests to Rich McNamara by May 1st.

SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge

Each Year SAE (Society of Automobile Engineers) holds a Clean Snowmobile Challenge as part of their collegiate design series. The challenge is to take a stock snowmobile and reduce emissions and noise while boosting performance. This year the University of Wisconsin-Madison took the top honors. To read more about the competition and how UW-Madison did it, go to:

<http://www.sae.org/update/>

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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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We are located in Chautauqua County right on trail C4A of the Chautauqua Snowmobile trail map. You can ride up to our door or we have plenty of parking if you would like to park in our lot and ride from here. We offer a full service bar and restaurant. With homemade soups and chili.

Our hours. Mon - Wed open at 4:00pm

Thurs - Sun open at 11:30am



Research Uncovers a Great Deal of Interest in Snowmobiling

A few years ago a number of major universities in the western United States conducted a study to determine the key reasons people recreate and in particular why people go snowmobiling. The answers didn't surprise those of us that snowmobile. The top five reasons people snowmobile are:

- To view the scenery
- To be with friends
- To get away from the usual demands of life
- To do something with my family
- To be close with nature

Intuitively, the snowmobile manufacturers agreed with the university studies, but we wanted to find out a little more about non-snowmobilers and snowmobilers alike. The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association commissioned a study to help us better understand the snowmobiling market. The study was conducted during the -2006 winter and it concluded non-snowmobiling recreation enthusiasts have a high level of interest in trying out snowmobiling. The research initiative had four objectives:

- What is the profile of current snowmobile owners?
- What are the key motivators that drive purchases?
- What aspects of snowmobiling are valued by snowmobilers?
- What are some of the key barriers preventing prospects from purchasing a snowmobile?

The research data was collected in two large focus groups. One held in New York and the other in Minnesota. There were also internet, telephone, and mailed surveys to residents of the US and Canada. The return rate was exceptionally high and what we discovered in our research work was very interesting.

Non-snowmobilers do not view snowmobiling negatively at all. There are a lot of people who don't snowmobile, but really want to try it.

Most non-snowmobilers have no idea where the snowmobile trails are. They don't know where the trail heads are, and they don't know very many snowmobilers. They would love to rent a snowmobile and they would welcome being asked to go snowmobiling by a club or snowmobile organization member. On a 10-point scale, non-snowmobilers across North America rated their desire to go snowmobiling as high as an 8 or 9.

Non-snowmobilers - like snowmobilers - long for a strong sense of social interaction with friends and family. We know snowmobiling is a social activity and we enjoy being with our family and friends on a beautiful snowy day. Snowmobilers and non-snowmobilers alike look forward to relaxation and stress relief that snowmobiling provides.

For a great number of us, snowmobiling provides the chance to feel like a kid again. For many of us, it's a family fun excursion which provides us an opportunity to pull the kids away from the distractions and friends that prevent better day to day connections between ourselves and our family.

Non-snowmobilers clearly identify with the social aspect of snowmobiling and quickly fall into the category titled "Here's to Good Friends." This group of individuals (including snowmobilers and non-snowmobilers alike) index very high in RV ownership and are active through the summer in camping clubs and other recreational vehicle related activities.

The biggest challenge we have in attracting new snowmobilers is showing them where and how to enjoy our chosen winter activity. They would welcome an invitation to go snowmobiling and be introduced to the Snowmobile Club and Snowmobile Association social network, the great trail system, and the play areas we all enjoy.

A majority of the adults living in the snowbelt of North America are potential snowmobilers. Their vacation spending habits are similar to ours and they look forward to trying something new and exciting.

Non-snowmobilers don't quite understand the excitement they see in our eyes when the snowstorm warnings are issued - but I believe a few hours on a snowmobile in great wintry conditions would make anybody understand why we cherish those soon to come winter snowstorms.



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741-NESS



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2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Membership applications are now available for the 2010-2011 season. Memberships run from April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. Applications are available on Page 18 of the newsletter or drop by a meeting to sign up. **DON'T WAIT—SIGN UP NOW.**

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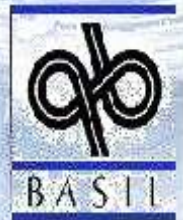
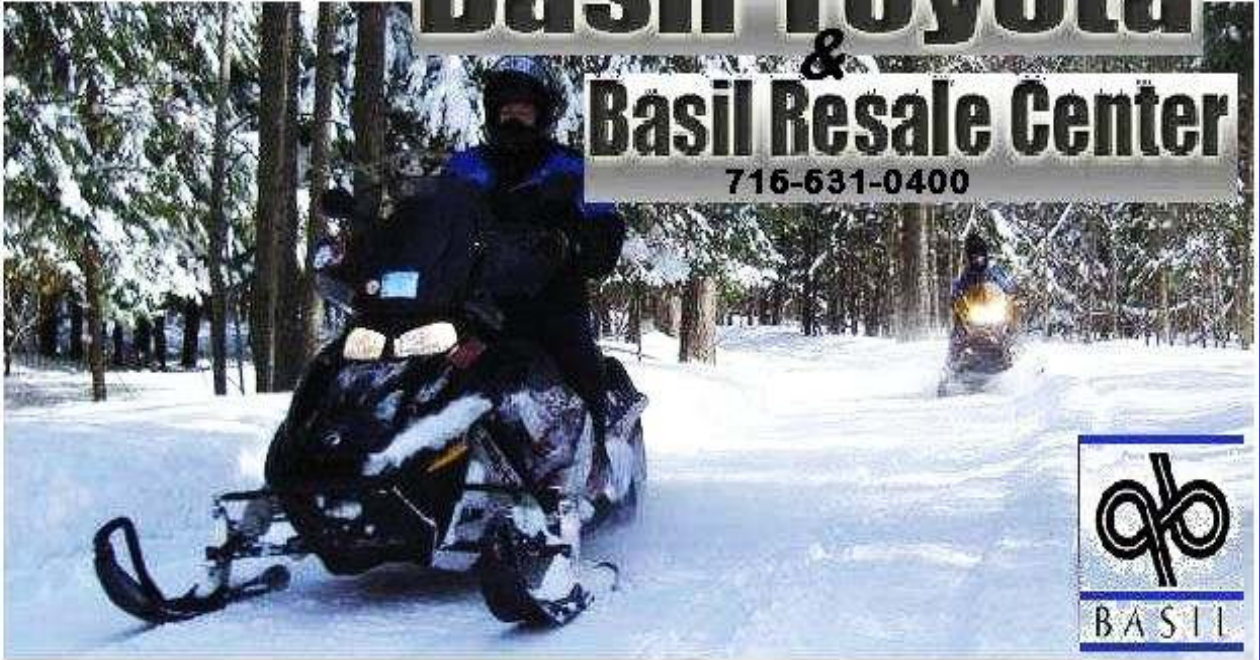


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- ◆ Approximately 80% of snowmobilers use their snowmobile for trail riding and touring on marked and groomed trails. 20% of snowmobilers use their snowmobile for work, ice fishing or transportation.
- ◆ Approximately 88% of all active snowmobilers are male; 12% female.
- ◆ The average snowmobiler rides their snowmobile 1402 miles per year in North America.

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NEW TRAIL REQUESTS

All new trail request must be applied for by May 5th. Please have all your requests for new trails into Rich McNamara by May 1st.



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Adopt-A-Highway

April 25th is the next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. Meet at Niagara Label (corner of Hake Road and Rt. 93 in Akron) at 9am. It will be approximately 1 hour of your time to volunteer for your club. If you have any questions please contact Rick Weitz at 713-9018.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Officers who were elected for the 2010-2011 year:

President—Eric Glassman
Vice President—Dan Dressel
Secretary—Mary Beth Kiesel
Treasurer—Rich McNamara
Sergeant of Arms—Rich Wood
Trail Coordinator—Steve Wdowka

Congratulations to the following Board Members who were elected to two year terms:

Scott Trapp
Al Wolbert
Bill Peronne
Kevin Kruschke



Voucher # _____



NORTHERN ERIE SNO-SEEKERS, INC.®

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2010/2011



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All memberships are from April 1 to March 31 to coincide with NYSSA Voucher's \$5 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 _____

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- ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ _____**

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Please remember, 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 |
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Signature _____ Date _____

"SNOWMOBILERS RESPECT LANDOWNERS - STAY ON THE TRAIL"



Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc. ® (NESS) was established in 1973 and has been promoting the safe and responsible use of snowmobiles ever since. We are a 100% volunteer, 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization serving 3 counties and the communities of: **Clarence, Newstead, Amherst, Akron, Alden, Lancaster, Pembroke, Lockport, Gasport, Royalton and Hartland.**

- Our general **meetings** are held at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month. Please check our website for location but during the season, they're at **American Legion Tillman Post 9** Eckerson Road Akron, New York. It's located right on **C4C trail** (the bike path at Cedar Street) so you can come join us by sled! All ages are welcome! Bring a friend, too!
- We spend over 4000 hours/year conducting the activities needed for

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- We have over **720 members** of all ages who share the same passion and enjoy making snowmobiling such a wonderful sport!
- We have two groomers; one we purchased in 2005 costing over \$130,000, and another in 2009 costing over \$170,000. These help us maintain over **125 miles of trail** right in your neighborhood!
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