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January 2011

RESPECT THE LANDOWNERS, STAY ON THE TRAIL

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING
IS ON January 27th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman
Post, 9 Eckerson Avenue in the Village of Akron.**



Voucher # _____

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- CLUB/GROOMER HOUSE DONATION \$ _____
- ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ _____

REMEMBER, WE ARE A 501(c) 3 ORGANIZATION AND ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!

*Membership in this club entitles you to NYS Snowmobile Registration fee of \$45 on each snowmobile registered to the names and address above. A voucher will be issued upon club membership payment. You may register on-line at www.nyssnowassoc.org (be sure to choose NESS as your club) or bring this application to the monthly meeting or mail it to:

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

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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails/Landowner Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising Committee |
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| <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 _____ |

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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: 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 Commit- tee:

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

Website Committee:

Chairperson: OPEN

Adopt-A-Highway Committee:

Chairperson: Rick Weitz
Contact #713-9018

Club Headlines

- **Next General Meeting: January 27th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Avenue in the Village of Akron.**
- **Other Meetings:**
- **Board Meeting: February 11th at 7:00 PM at Marvin's Bar and Grill, Corner of Goodrich and Delaware Roads.**
- **General Meeting: February 24th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Avenue in the Village of Akron.**

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**President's Page****Annual "lets ride" Letter!**

Thousands of man-hours and countless miracles go into getting the trail system ready here and throughout the State. Thanks to all the volunteers who make that possible. We've just received a fresh 8 inches over (mostly) frozen ground and have been able to get out a groom it. Now all that's left is to ride! I hope you and your family can get out and enjoy our trail system while it's still fresh and soooo smooooth! I hope by the time you read this, the weather has cooperated and they're still the "Best trails in WNY"!

Thanks to the handful of members who attended the groomer training course last Wed. Over 50 people attended and it was sponsored by our neighboring club; the Shawnee Sno-Chiefs. We now have a few more volunteers who've taken the first step in becoming certified to groom NESS trails. I thank them for their commitment.

As we enjoy the remaining season, please remember that it's made possible by all the people who volunteer. This March we will hold our annual elections and (hopefully) will have some new faces needed to continue that drive. Hope to see you there!

Now get out and ride!

See you on the 27th!

Eric

A Few Upcoming Events

Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week: February 12-21, 2011. Read more about this campaign and others like it at www.snowmobile.org.

Snowmobile Registrations: Snowmobile registrations have arrived in the mail. Don't wait re-register now!

Snowmobile Dice Run: Sunday, January 23rd at Buck's Motorsports. Registration from 9am to 10am. \$5 registration fee. No Snow Date is February 6th.

Club Bonfire: Saturday, February 5th. Watch the website for more details. No snow date is February 12th.

Super Raffle Tickets: Super Raffle Tickets are here. Tickets are only \$5. There are three chances to win a snowmobile and many more great prizes. Stop into a meeting and grab a handful to sell.



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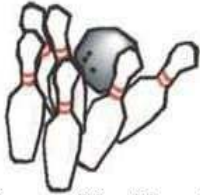
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**FROM THE NIAGARA COUNTY SIDE**

Here it is the middle of January and things are happening. S46 at TERRY'S CORNERS had some problems and minor changes have been done to get around the construction at the firehall. C4D between Crosby RD and Schafer Rd is still in need of your help to make it better. More signs and post where put closer to Raymond Rd to keep the sleds on the marked trail. If you can help please get in touch with us to make the trail system better and safer to ride.

Now that the trails are installed it is every riders duty to report, replace or identify missing signs or hazardous conditions while riding the trail system. Don't expect the other riders to do it. A few minutes of your time now could stop a major problem later. As conditions improve the grooming operation will increase.

If you are a landowner and need minor changes done, please let us know by calling the snow phone at 741-NESS.

We're always looking for positive ideas and helpers!

THANK YOU for your help
CURT 435-7068 or 772-7186

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WANTED! NESS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This is a perfect opportunity to volunteer without doing the grunt work on the trails! No experience necessary. All it takes is a few hours a month. Most of the information you need is supplied by the Board members or information can be easily found through the NYSSA website. If you can use Microsoft Word then Microsoft Publisher will not be a problem.

Email mbkiesel@roadrunner.com for more details or stop into a meeting.



Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.
General Meeting December 30, 2010 Summary
Tillman Post Akron, NY 7:30 PM

Officers present:

President – Eric Glassman Vice President – Dan Dressel Secretary – Mary Beth Kiesel Treasurer – Rich McNamara

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM – 30 people present

Meeting ended at 9:30 PM

Welcome:

Welcome to all. Thanks for coming! We have a full crew tonight. Remember to register your sleds.

Business Items:

- 1) We want to thank everyone that came to our Christmas party. We had a great time. Thank you to all our landowners! We had a scavenger hunt, Chinese auction, 50/50 and catered food. We also sold apparel and had a kid's craft table this year. Everyone had a blast!
- 2) Eric G. mentioned that there are some good coupons on the NYSSA website. It's in their online magazine. So take a look if you have a minute.
- 3) We will be having a Safety course on Saturday, January 29th at the Swormsville Fire Hall. We will limit count to 50 students. Please contact Scott Trapp for details.

Trail System:

- 1) We have early snow. 3 weeks the temperature was below freezing. Typically the ground doesn't freeze until mid January. The snow acts as an insulator and makes it take longer for the ground to freeze. Thanks to all the guys who did trail work this year and to our groomers who made our trails flat.
- 2) Thank you also to the guys who helped set up barrels on bike path. We also need a few trail heads put up.
- 3) Do we need any more ID markers? Please let Eric G. know.
- 4) Trail inspections are coming up shortly.
- 5) Groomers. Thank you to Rich, Bill, Curt, Frank and anyone else who helped. Thanks for servicing the groomers – it's a lot of work! The groomers are good to go!
- 6) Can we put a bridge on State property? No – only culverts. Usually – we buy it and the State installs. Culvert on Transit Road. Who wants to be the trail captain for this section? Curt W. mentioned that a section of the trail is marked. The bridge is in the same location. You can pass on it now – the water level isn't too high – if there is too much water – it could be a problem.
- 7) Snow banks – You can't have stakes on edge of road.
- 8) Shafter – Crosby – close trail on each end.
- 9) Curt W. needs more brown/yellow signs for intersection and confirmation markers. Steve W. has blank ones. Let him know and he will make vinyl ones.
- 10) Who has the buggy?

Marketing/Memberships:

- 1) We had a 50/50. Congrats to Ray S. He won \$53.00.
- 2) Groomer boxes. We bought 5 clear boxes. We will fill in with black ones also. Sandy G. will take care of distributing boxes around town.
- 3) Work logs. Make sure you document all trail work. Who worked and number of hours. The bike path is all logged.
- 4) We will be having our bon fire this year. There is also Clarence Winterfest to discuss too.
- 5) Diesel. We could use some up in Niagara County.
- 6) No Treasury Report – there were server issues.

Our next Board meeting will be January 13th at the Clarence Bowling Lanes.

Our next General meeting will be January 27th at the Akron Tillman Post.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth
Secretary



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

BECOME A NESS SPONSOR

Become a NESS sponsor— it's easy and very affordable. You can advertise in our newsletter (1/8 page, 1/4 page, 1/2 page or full page) or on our trail billboards (located at high traffic areas), trail directional signs, have a banner ad on our sponsor page linked to your website, or your own individual vinyl grafix signage on the trail. Please contact 741-NESS for more info.

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Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.
Board Meeting January 13, 2011 Summary
Clarence Bowling Lanes Clarence, NY 7:00 PM

Officers present:

President – Eric Glassman
Vice President – Dan Dressel
Secretary – Mary Beth Kiesel
Treasurer – Rich McNamara

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM – 12 people present
Meeting ended at 9:30 PM

Review actions from last meeting:

- 1) Eric G. sent out an email with a few additional items to discuss.
 - A. Website. Is Mary Beth all set up on website? No – still needs to be marked “active”. She will be working on the website – if anyone has ideas, thoughts or changes – please see her.
 - B. NYSSA website. Eric G. will have a NYSSA guy take him through the steps to update the officer information on their site.
 - C. Newsletter. January’s newsletter will be mailed this month. Shannon L. will take care of the January newsletter.
 - D. Bike Path accident. We have a police report with response times and who was called. There are no concerns on our part – no trail hazards. Eric G. filed the report with NYSSA and will file with our insurance company too.
 - E. There was another incident on one of the new trails. A sledder ran into a ditch. We are not sure of the details. Randy W. was called and they asked if we could add “caution ahead” signs. Dan D. took care of it. Andy K. is the trail captain of this trail.
 - F. Clarence Winterfest. Are we doing anything this year? We could have the groomer on display. Sandy G. mentioned that each year – no snow is an issue. We will have the groomer parked at Winterfest, assuming we won’t need the groomer for the trails. Rich W. makes a motion to take the groomer to Clarence Winterfest. Eric G. seconds. 11 in favor. 1 opposed. It’s carried. Eric G. will make a phone call and we will bring the groomer.
 - G. There is a dice run at Buck’s on Sunday, January 23rd. There is an advertisement on our website. Frank S. will talk to Jan and see what our club needs to do to help. Randy W. wants to know who is running the event. Do we need to mark trails to show where the people need to go? Are there cash prizes? We may need 2 sleds and 2 people at each stop. Pizza Inn is one of the stops. Frank S. says that Jan is running the event. Frank S. will talk to Jan at Buck’s.
 - H. Emergency Response team. Rich M. and Rich W. have met twice with the Thruway/DOT/EMS-Erie/EMS-Newstead/Akron. They met with politicians. They discussed our response on thruway and other roads around town. They like our commitment. There is another meeting this Friday to discuss the process. They would like the groomer and maybe sleds. We would like our club to be the point man. The Insurance issue is being discussed and some state laws may need to be changed.
 - I. NYSSA retirement. Dave Perkins is retiring from NYSSA. Eric G. motions to give Dave a \$50 check retirement gift. Rich M. seconds. 11 in favor. 0 opposed. It’s carried. Rich M. will send a check. Mary Beth will get a letter to go with the check.

Trails:

- 1) RTP grant. We did not get the grant this year. Randy W. has some information. There was only one project from the Niagara region. The board chose a non-motorized project. We could request a review from the representative from our region. Can we get a review? Yes. We scored very well. Buffalo’s Olmsted Parks won the grant. Our request was reasonable and within the guidelines. Let’s collect any information we may get and save in a folder in case we do this again.
- 2) Materials and budget for this year. Curt W. has 60 new stakes in stock.
- 3) Ship and Shore trail. Steve W. will stake trail this weekend. Steve W. has stakes – he may need some railroad ties if we build a bridge. Sandy G. will call Martha and see if she still has some railroad ties for us to use. We would need an 8’ wide or less for decking, 8’ X 6’ bridge. We will not do Wolcott Road bridge.
- 4) Village of Akron. We have not gotten the official approval yet.
- 5) Trail heads/ID signs. We have 6 “Welcome to NESS Trails” signs. Where should we put them? Dan D. found a few signs at the barracks and will get them to Steve W.
- 6) Dale Dunkeburger trail. There was some discussion.
- 7) Wolcottsville Inn. It’s all marked, has there been any feedback? No.



Continued from Page 14...

- 8) GPS data. Curt W. asks if we have access to a GPS so we could make changes to the map with our current trails. Erie County Federation has one we could borrow. We could get just the changes and Rich M. will adjust on our map. Is the type of file that the GPS map was done in, compatible with the hand held GPS systems? We will look into it.

Marketing/Membership Items:

- 1) Landowner cards. We need to adjust the "opening day" date for next year. It changes from year to year. Rich M. mentioned that he may be able to print them himself next year, if needed.
- 2) Groomer boxes. Sandy G. has distributed them. Rick J. has also distributed some of our applications around town.
- 3) Safety Class. The fire hall is all set. We have 22 people so far registered for the class. Materials have been ordered. Eric G. makes a motion to spend up to \$100 for breakfast and beverages. Scott T. will take care of lunch. Rich M. seconds. 12 in favor. 0 opposed. It's carried. Scott T. will check on AV equipment. We only need a DVD player to show a video. Does Swormsville Fire Dept have a player? Scott T. will find out.
- 4) Advertising. Mary Beth will try and update the website with our advertisers.
- 5) Enjoy The City books. We have 9 extra books. Let's have a random drawing at our next General meeting for our landowners. Dan D. motions. Rich M. seconds. 12 in favor. 0 opposed. It's carried. Randy W. asks if we would like to sell the books again next year. Probably.

Groomer/Maintenance:

- 1) Groomer seminar. Eric G. went to the Shawnee seminar this week. 56 people attended. We have 7 new groomers. The next groomer seminar is in Salisbury, NY on Sunday, January 16th.
- 2) UTV trailer. Steve W. has the trailer and Buggy. Eric G. would like it when Steve W. is done so Eric G. can add tie downs and a few other things. Steve W. would like to address down the road the option of trading the current trailer up. There is an issue with the gate falling off. Steve W. will be done with the trailer on Sunday and will get it back to Curt W. when finished. Do we want another trailer? We will discuss this at our trail take down this year.
- 3) Fuel. Frank S. says we need 200 gallons in Niagara County. Randy W. ordered and it will be delivered Friday.
- 4) Groomer policy. Are we all set? The state is reminding us. No one is allowed in the seat without a signed agreement. Rich W. will take care of it. Does anyone know where the NESS grooming vests are? Maybe Rick W. has them from his Adopt-A-Hwy program. Sandy G. will check with him. Our groomers need to wear the vests with reflectors.

Other:

- 1) Committees. Dan D. had a folder for each board member. He is setting up specific committees to help utilize our membership and to make the process easy for our members to get involved. He is trying to simplify and specify the responsibilities of our hard working volunteers. There will be committees with their own chairperson. There will be sub-committees also. For example: the Social Committee will include events like our Labor Day fair booth, Buck's open house and our annual bonfire. Dan D. discussed the details with the board and will continue discussions at our next meeting.
- 2) Clarence Bee. There were 2 comments about a sledder riding their snowmobile too fast near a person who was walking their dog on the bike path. Does anyone know anything about it?
- 3) Priorities. Eric G. read through our list for the year.
- 4) Budget. We only need to buy fuel. Let's think about another groomer payment.
- 5) Treasury Report. Dan D. motions to accept. Eric G. seconds it. 12 in favor. 0 opposed. It's carried.
- 6) Christmas party. Rich M. gives details about event.
- 7) Board meeting location. The Clarence Bowling Lanes is too loud for our meetings. We will go back to Marvin's in Clarence Center. Scott T. motions. Curt W. seconds. 12 in favor. 0 opposed. It's carried. So back to Marvin's.
- 8) We will have our bon fire on Saturday, February 5th. Rich M. should be able to get some pallets for the fire. We will have a "no snow" day Saturday, February 12th.

Our next General meeting is January 27th at 7:30 pm at Tillman post in Akron.

Our next Board meeting is February 10th at 7:00 pm at Marvin's Restaurant in Clarence Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth
Secretary



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