



March 2011

Newsletter

WWW.SNOSEEKERS.COM

Northern Erie Sno-Seekers PO Box 167 Akron, NY 14001 (716)741-NESS

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: **Election Night**

March 31th at 7:30 pm at American Legion Tillman Post

Member of the New York State Snowmobile Association and Erie County Federation of Snowmobile Clubs Non-profit groups dedicated to the safe and responsible use of snowmobiles



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2010/2011



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NAME(S) _____
(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)

***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 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**
- (Please check all that apply)
- SINGLE \$ 25.00**
 - FAMILY \$ 30.00** (Includes spouse and all children age 17 and under residing at the same address above)
 - NEW 2ND GROOMER DONATION \$ _____**
 - CLUB/GROOMER HOUSE DONATION \$ _____**
 - ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ _____**

*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.®
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 Akron, NY 14001-0167

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

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 |
| <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: Dan Dressel
Secretary: Mary Beth Kiesel
Treasurer: Rich McNamara 741-4819
Sergeant of Arms: Rich Wood
Trail Coordinator: 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: Mary Beth Kiesel
(temporary)

Website Committee:

Chairperson: Mary Beth Kiesel
(temporary)

Adopt-A-Hwy Committee:

Chairperson: Rick Weitz 713-9018

Snow Phone: 741-NESS

Club Headlines

- **Next General Meeting: March 31th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Ave in the Village of Akron.**

Other Meetings:

- Board Meeting: April 14th at 7:00 PM at Marvin's Bar and Grill, Corner of Goodrich and Delaware Roads.
- General Meeting: April 28th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Ave in the Village of Akron.

**This is our last mailed newsletter for this season!
 Check us out on-line at www.snoseekers.com**



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**President's Page****Come "join" us**

March is here and this will be the last printed newsletter until fall. It also marks another very important time – Elections! While most think of the snow season as the most important time of the season, March is time to start the process all over again. I hope you had a great season this year but you know that doesn't happen all by itself. We're currently looking for help with the Trail Captain position who can help us run and grow the club. We're looking for people who love the sport, love to ride, and enjoy making sound, objective decisions in the best interest of our club. We've come a long way over the years by adopting these same principles and want to continue that drive! If that sounds like something you'd like to try, we'd love to hear from you! Of course, we're all here to help so there's nothing to fear! For everyone else, please join us on the 31st and choose who will be the next NESS team!

See you on the 31st!

Eric

**PLEASE ENJOY THE 2011
SNOWMOBILE SEASON**



Basil Toyota 625-8444

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From this website: <http://www.eastcoastsnocross.com/>



March 26-27 Findley Lake, NY

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The Peek N Peak Resort has been hosting snocross events for the last few years with a great deal of success. With first-class amenities, excellent snow conditions and eager fans, Findley Lake is an ideal home for snocross in western New York.

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741-2888



Now on the Trail!!!

WANTED! NESS NEWSLETTER CHAIRPERSON

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.



Here are our committees!

How do you want to join in on the fun?

Objective of committee formation: Our club is setting up specific committees to help utilize our membership and to make the process easy for you to get involved. We have tried to simplify and specify the responsibilities of our hard working volunteers.

- Legal Committee:** Responsibilities include handling our by-laws, insurance, legal actions and correspondence.
Sub-committees: To be determined by chairperson
- Emergency Response Committee:** Help our communities in their time of need. Responsibilities would include coordinating, on our club side, a disaster response team including groomers, equipment and sleds.
Sub-committees: Groomer, sleds
- PR/Marketing & Advertising Committee:** Responsibilities include signs, selling ads for newsletters and trail head advertising.
Sub-committees: Signs, selling advertising
- Fundraising Committee:** Coordinate fundraising items from list below.
Sub-committees: Coupon Books, Nyssa Raffle, Groomer boxes, 50/50
- Apparel Committee:** Responsibilities include ordering and distributing our NESS apparel.
Sub-committees: Apparel, Logo
- Social Committee:** Responsibilities include organization of all activities listed below.
Sub-committees: Buck's open house, Don George's open house, Labor Day Fair booth, Labor Day Fair Pizza, Bon Fire, Christmas Party, Club rides, Summer Events
- Membership Committee:** Responsibilities include receiving applications and processing memberships. Producing vouchers for sled registrations and decals with the temporary NESS membership cards. Responsibilities would also include distributing applications to various locations around town.
Sub-committees: To be determined.



8. **Groomer/UTV Equipment Committee:** Responsibilities would include keeping the groomers and drags in working order, organizing the grooming schedules for the winter and organizing groomer education/safety courses. Keeping UTV in working order and organizing UTV usage for trail work.
Sub-committees: Groomer maintenance & Groomer scheduling, UTV/Trailer, Groomer education/safety courses
9. **Trail/Landowner Committee:** Responsibilities would include coordination the county trail captains to see that their 3 or 4 mile stretch of trail is being taken care of and handling all landowner issues and requests. All trail openings and closings are determined by this committee. Erie County - Niagara County
Sub-committees: Trail Captains
10. **Trail Guides Committee:** Responsibilities include distribute maps to establishments and collecting money.
Sub-committees: To be determined by chairperson
11. **Newsletter Committee:** Responsibilities would include creating each month and coordinate input from others and have ready to print our newsletter for either print or website.
Sub-committees: To be determined.
12. **Website Committee:** Responsibilities would include moderating and update with activities and club news. Keeping the website functional and register users for site.
Sub-committees: To be determined.
13. **Safety/Education Committee:** Responsibilities would include Setting up, organizing and running our courses and discussions at meetings.
Sub-committees: To be determined by chairperson
14. **Adopt-A-Highway Committee:** Coordinate Fall & Spring clean-ups on Rt. 93 in Akron.
Sub-committees: Spring Clean-up, Fall Clean-up

How do you want to join in on the fun?



**Elections are March
31st!
Come and make your**





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From the NYSSA Website:

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED



January 17, 2011 - The New York State Snowmobile Association is pleased to announce the selection of Dominic Jacangelo as its new Executive Director.

Gary Broderick, NYSSA President, said "As we position NYSSA to meet future challenges and protect Snowmobiling in New York State from government sweeps and arbitrary decisions that affect snowmobiling negatively, I would like to announce that Dominic Jacangelo has been named Executive Director.

As a former Deputy Commissioner of OPRHP, Heritage Trails Manager, and former Director, New York State Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation, Dominic brings a wealth of experience to the position of Executive Director. His vast knowledge of the inner workings of OPRHP and state government will be an invaluable resource to NYSSA and its clubs.

Dominic has an extensive background in state law and procedures along with a network of contacts throughout state government. We at NYSSA feel that Dominic is the right person to lead us through an ever more challenging period for organized snowmobiling in New York State. I look forward to working with Dominic and advancing our clubs' agenda."

Dave Perkins, who has been covering the Executive Director duties since Jim Jennings' retirement in May, said "I've known and worked with Dom for many years. He is extremely knowledgeable of snowmobile issues. His abilities and experiences provides NYSSA an extremely valuable opportunity to move snowmobiling in New York ahead, very far ahead."

Jim Jennings, who held the Executive Director position since its inception, said "This is a tremendous development for the NYSSA to have someone with the caliber of Dominic working for organized snowmobiling in New York State. I believe with Dominic leading the association, snowmobilers will witness many positive results."

Dominic is currently the Supervisor of the Town of Poestenkill (Rensselaer County). His current elective office gives him greater insight into the problems that face the local governments that welcome snowmobilers into their community.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity to move snowmobiling and the Association to the forefront of winter recreation. Our sport is an important winter economic catalyst supporting thousands of jobs throughout the upstate community. Through the Association we will get this message across and ensure the right of all snowmobilers to pursue their sport and leisure." concluded Jacangelo.



Our Second Safety Course This Season

We had a snowmobile safety course at the Swormville Fire Hall on Saturday, January 29th from 9:00 am- 5:00 pm. We had 36 students. Children who are between 10- 17 years of age need to be certified with this course in order to ride their own sled with an adult present off their own land.



Instructors: Eric G., Dan D. Scott T. and Rick J. helped teach the course.



Breakfast and lunch was served. We had the snowmobile Police sled on display as well as the K-9 unit. The students enjoyed checking out the Police sled. We also had one of our sleds on display for the "get to know your sled" part of the course.



They learned about the kill switch, belts, tracks and more...

Thanks to:



We would like to thank the Swormville Fire Hall for use of their great facility. We would like to thank the Railroad Police and K-9 unit for their participation. It takes a lot of people to help make the event a success!!

We had great feedback from the students! "Best ever!" and one student donated \$20 to our club for our "Great Safety course"!

We look forward to having more next year!!



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

Thurs - Sun open at 11:30am



Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.
Board Meeting February 15, 2011 Summary
Marvin's Restaurant Clarence Center, 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 7:09 PM – 12 people present
Meeting ended at 9:45 PM



Review actions from last meeting:

- 1) Budget. Do we need to purchase anything else for this year?

Trails:

- 1) Curt W. may need a bridge next year. We need to locate shovels, wrenches and chairs for our groomer. We have tools, where are they? Bill P. may have some. We are missing cutters also. Gloves, flairs, flashlights, bolt cutters should all be on the groomer. Eric G. will ask Rich W. about these items.
- 2) Ship & Shore. Did the bridge get it? No. There is an old bridge that we repaired. We could chain bridge around large tree to prevent it from floating away. We can remove come spring. It's a summer job.
- 3) Landowner is having sleds run through his runway. We will talk with landowner and may add signs to help him. Randy W. will speak with him. The runway at Transit Road may also need signs.
- 4) Trail heads/ID signs. There is a trailhead sign down on bike path. We will fix at end of season. We need GPS signs up - are they all up? Eric G. will check with Steve W. to locate our 6 "Welcome to NESS Trails" signs.
- 5) Dale Dunkeburger trail. He wants to move the bridge to the east side. Maybe we can mark a water level so we know how deep the water is.
- 6) Wolcottsville Inn. There is traffic to his restaurant. Owner seems happy.

Marketing/Membership Items:

- 1) Newsletter/website. We need to update the information for sponsors and advertisers.
- 2) Safety Course. We had 36 students. Mary Beth sent a Thank you note to Swormville Fire Hall for use of their wonderful facility. Randy W. mentioned that one of the students donated \$20 to our club for our "Great Safety course"!
- 3) Enjoy the City books. We had a few books donated back to our club, so we will be raffling them off at our next general meeting to our landowners. We can't thank them enough - without them - we would not have our wonderful trail system!
- 4) Bon fire. We had our annual bon fire on February 5th. It was really snowing hard all afternoon. We want to thank The Zimmerman Family for use of their property and for their horses that were ready to give rides! We all had a wonderful afternoon from roasting marshmallows to eating chili and hot dogs. The hot cider was a nice touch! Check out our pictures on our website - if you can see through the snow!

Groomer/Maintenance:

- 1) UTV trailer. Curt W. has trailer. Eric G. would like it so he can add tie downs and a few other things.
- 2) Fuel. We should have enough for the rest of the year. Bill P. says we should be good for Erie County.
- 3) Groomer policy. We currently have 270 hr on the Piston Bully and 77 hrs. on the Bombi. Last year we had a little over 200 com-bines. How old do the groomer rookie riders need to be before they go out on their own? 18 years old. It says in the groomer policy. The seasoned operators than decide for themselves when the rookie operator is able to do it themselves. Bill P. says that when the conditions are good - grooming is easy, it's when the conditions are tough - grooming is a chore. Let's keep the age to over 18 year old until we decide as a club to review that policy in our By Laws.



Other:

- 1) Elections. We have a few positions that will be open this year.
 - A. All four officer positions are held for 1 year. Eric G., Dan D., Mary Beth K. and Rich M.
 - B. We have 3 board member positions open. It is held for 2 yrs. Curt W., Frank S. & Randy W.
 - C. Sergeant of Arms position is held for 1 year. Rich W.
 - D. Trail Coordinator. Steve W.

What do the By-Laws say about having 2 ballots? Family Memberships have 2 ballots.
- 2) Bike path accident. Eric met with our NYSSA insurance investigator, just in case there is a problem. They collected information and no further action is required at this time. We do have the dispatch and police report on file.
- 3) Town of Royalton. We may need to move the road crossing over 5 ft. each year so as to not ruin the road when crossing the street with sleds
- 4) C4H accident. January 22. 3 sleds with 3 DUT's. Niagara County Sheriff should have a report. Eric will contact the Sheriff to get the details. Curt W. will get Eric G. the phone number.
- 5) Clarence Pizza. Tim from Pizza Inn wants to have a sled party. Our trails may not be open to have a sled-in. We will probably not have any snow with the anticipated warm up. Eric said a sled-in, car-in and groom a runway for a plane to land. Bottom line - our trails will probably be closed anyway. Bill P. asked what is the club and board member's insurance liability in an event like this. We need to review the insurance policy before another decision is made that affects the officers and board members' liability in an activity like this.

Rich W. motions - Any outside use, non-existing trail work, of groomer needs to go before the board and any groomer use off our trail system. Randy W. 2nds. 11 in favor. 0 opposed. It's carried.
- 6) Police reports. If there is an accident, who do we call? We need to publish a list of phone numbers so we can call in "real time".
- 7) Public Relations. We need to think about ways to promote our club. Mary Beth suggests we put a picture of our Safety Course in the Bee. She thinks that would be positive PR for our club.
- 8) Priorities for year.
 - A. By laws - we have final copy - will vote in spring.
 - B. Club ride and functions. We did pretty well with this.
 - C. Committees. Dan has a good handle on this.
 - D. 2nd UTV and trailer. We need a trailer for the first UTV.
 - E. Reward system for volunteers. Still needs to be discussed.
- 9) Pay bills. Curt W. requests a little more detail on our Treasury report - list name, amount and purpose of check. Frank S. mentions that according to Robert's Rules, the board is supposed to decide what gets paid - not what was paid. Let's just spell it out on the Treasury report for now.
- 10) Newsletter. She will set up due dates for articles for the newsletters and have available for next meeting.
- 11) Feedback. Scott T. received 3 phone calls about the safety course: Wonderful food, facility and instructors. He also was told that the bon fire was the best yet! Maybe we should start the bon fire a little earlier next year. The port a potty was a good addition.
- 12) Akron trail. Maybe we should put a sign up that states "we don't groom so slow down" near the Akron bridge trail - so riders will be aware on why it is bumpy.
- 13) Canal bank. The state has opened the way for clubs to get landowner permission for new trails and then the required per mission for the towns involved. This will take time.

Our next General meeting is February 24th at 7:30 pm at Tillman post in Akron.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth
Secretary



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Adopt-A-Highway Program

Did you know...

NESS participates in the Adopt-A-Hwy Program for Akron, NY. 2 times a year we pick up trash. From time to time we even find treasures. We have scheduled Sunday, May 1st at 9:00am for our Spring clean-up! It takes just a few hours to get the job done. In case you are a planner, we also scheduled our Fall clean-up for Sunday, October 2nd at 9:00am. If you are interested in helping, just show up! We meet at Maple Rd and Rte 93 at 9:00 am.



Thanks to Ron Rosenburg, Mike Schifferle and Rich Pfentner for making the last several work sessions!! We couldn't have been successful without you guys. Do you want your name added to our list? Come on out on Sunday, May 1st and join in on the fun!

Rick Weitz
 Chairperson
 Adopt-A-Hwy Committee

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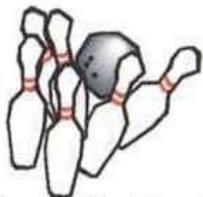
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6th Prize: Woody's Race Suit & Gift Certificate - total value \$660
 (www.woodystraction.com)

7th Prize: One-Day Professional Adirondack Guide Service for 4
 (www.sledventures.com)

Drawing: April 16, 2011
 @ NYSSA Annual Meeting & Forum
 Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY
 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Onondaga County
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Donation: \$5.00 per ticket - Ticket holders do not need to be present to win

A Few Upcoming Events

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



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. See next page for details. New York State Snowmobile Association 2011 Super Raffle. Over 50 prizes including 3 new snowmobiles. Tickets are limited and are \$5.00.



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2011 MANUFACTURERS' SNEAK PEEK

Location: The Fairgrounds Event Center

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Hours: Wednesday 4:00pm-9:00pm

Admission: Free

Parking: Free

Description:

Please join us at the 2nd annual Snowmobile Sneak Peek Preview! For one night only see the newest models and prototypes. Featured manufacturers are Yamaha, Polaris and Arctic Cat. Refreshments available. For more information, please contact Leisure Features, Inc. 800-746-8963, or visit www.snowsneakpeek.com



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FROM THE NIAGARA COUNTY SIDE

The time is here again to tear the system down for another season. Our club is always looking for ways to improve our trails! So when you are out on our trails, think about any new ideas or improvements for next season. I would like a list of what has been damaged or missing so that we can get them replaced before next season. There are sections of C4D and C4H that are in need of Trail Captians and or helpers so please let us know how much you would like to do. Please keep in mind when you are out there to talk to the land owners and see if things are ok or what could be improved for next season.

I would like to thank the ROOKIE operators, Matt Schroeder and Todd Trapper for taking on the responsibility of being a groomer operator. Thank you Cody Andrews for time spent in the jump seat to how much is involved in running the unit. Also if anyone would like to please contact me or the club so that we can get your name on the list for the next groomer operator class this fall. Remember there is a UTV or as we call it in the north country A BUGGIE available for teardown, you just need to call ahead to let us know when you will need it.

Thanks again to all our LANDOWNERS and active members that make this possible.
Curt 435-7068 or 772-7186



Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc. General Meeting February 24, 2011 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 7:41 PM – 24 people present

Meeting ended at 9:45 PM

Welcome:

Welcome to all. Thanks for coming! As of tonight we have 757 members! We count just applications. We probably have over 1000 with families! That's more than last year. People are still joining!

Business Items:

- 1) Approval of minutes from last meeting. Dave F. makes a motion to approve minutes from last meeting. Randy B. seconds it. 24 in favor - 0 opposed. It's carried.
- 2) Order of Business: 1 - We have Gary Broderick here tonight. He is the president of NYSSA.
He will be speaking later this evening. Welcome Gary!
2 - Trail discussion
3 - Nominations
- 3) We have had a number of fun events this year. We participated in the Clarence Winter fest, Buck's dice run and our annual bonfire. Thank you to everyone who helped make these events a success!!
- 4) Bon fire. We had over 100 sleds this year. The snow was really coming down!! Thank you to the social committee for putting it all together. We would also like to thank the landowner. We really appreciated you letting us have our bonfire on your property this year. Thanks for bringing your horses and sleigh. It was a great addition to our bon fire. We look forward to another one next year!
- 5) We are looking for a newsletter editor. Mary Beth is temporarily the editor. Let us know if you would like to help! March Newsletter will be the last one mailed for this season. April, May, June, July will be on our website: www.snoseekers.com.
- 6) By Laws. We have amended the by laws to more of what the club is doing. We will publish it shortly and mail to our members to vote. So, please keep an eye on your mail. We need membership approval for the changes to happen! Thanks.
- 7) Committees. Dan D. has organized a committee list. Each committee has been defined now. We will be having committee updates at our meetings. We look forward to these changes. Please, committee chairpersons, turn in your completed lists at our next board meeting. Thanks.
- 8) Annual Forum. We will need to plan for the trip this year in Liverpool. More details to follow. There will be a discussion about the trail grant fund being removed from the states' control. There will be a class on chain saws and also a groomer course. Ness donated a welder to Forum this year. The forum has a number of awards they hand out. From "groomer", "family", "snowmobiler" to "dealer" of the year and more. We can fill out an application. If one wins, their name may be printed in the American Council for Nyssa magazine. The application needs to be turned in by March 18th.

Trail System:

- 1) We have 77 hrs on our Bombi in Niagara County and 249 hrs on our Piston Bully of grooming this year - so far... That's 326 hrs total. We groomed 19 days with the Bombi and 29 days with the Piston bully. That is 39 shifts over 29 days. Our first day was December 10th and the last day we groomed was February 14th. We haven't calculated the gallons of fuel yet.
- 2) Work logs. Please have your work logs completed. We need to record the amount of time worked, name of workers and tools used. We will need to submit these to Rich M. They are due for Erie County on April 5th. All work done as of March 31st should be documented. So please, get Rich M. your logs.
- 3) Trail closed. The trail in the Village of Akron next to the power station will not exist next year between Bloomingdale and Akron Roads. 3 sleds drag raced into the owner's fence and broke it. Not only that, his Belgium horses got loose and no one told the owner. This is why we say - "stay on trail or go home". It only takes 1 sled to ruin it for all of us. This was an important part of our trail system and now we don't have it. Dan D. has spoken with the owners and will be the contact with the landowners. We appreciate them and we thank them for letting us use their property this year. It is a fun trail and will be missed by all. NESS will pay for any damage to the fence.



Curt mentioned that we need to make the bridge at the trailer park better. Beattie Road and Transit. The truck deck needs re-decking. If anyone sees an issue, please let us know so we can fix it.

President of NYSSA:

- 1) Gary Broderick spoke about the removal of \$1,000,000 from our trail fund. We kind a got it back in the last 4 years. Nyssa is writing legislation to remove our fund from the state budget. We will be privatizing the fund so the money goes where it is intended to go. The state of Vermont already does it this way and it works for them.
- 2) Canal Corp proposal. NYS has opened the door for local clubs to request approval for trails.
- 3) Public relations. Snowmobile clubs in general don't get good press. The Sno-chiefs had a rescue practice with their fire department. They submitted it to the press and no one printed it. He mentioned that we need to highlight the positive events we participate in. The work we have done with the Thruway Authority is good.
- 4) There was a discussion about getting a sticker for your sled each year that confirms the sled is registered and insured. Children under 17 will also show they took the safety course. There has been law enforcement on our trail system this year. It's been good. If you have your information handy, when you get stopped - it shouldn't take too long.

Marketing/Memberships:

Nominations:

President: Ray nominated Eric Glassman. He accepts.
Jeff B. nominates Dan Dressel. He declines.
Randy W. nominates Curt Watts. He declines.
Jeff G. nominates Randy W. He declines.

Trail Coordinator: Bill P. nominated Curt Watts. He declines.

Ray S. nominates Jeff G. He accepts.
Jeff G. nominates Al Wolbert. Pending.

Sergeant of Arms: Curt W. nominates Bev Schroeder. She accepts.

Jeff G. nominates Frank S. He declines.

Dan D. nominates Ray Somers. He accepts.

Vice President: Jeff B. nominates Dan Dressel. He accepts.

Secretary: Rich P. nominates Mary Beth Kiesel. She accepts.

Treasurer: Rich P. nominates Rich McNamara. He accepts.

Jeff B. nominates Rick Johnson. He accepts.

Board Members: Who can't run? Bill P., Al W., Kevin K. and Scott T. They still have one more year to go.
Who is up for re-election? Curt W., Frank S. and Randy W.

Jeff G. nominates Randy Wdowka. He accepts.

Randy B. nominates Curt Watts. He accepts.

Kevin K. nominates Frank Schroeder. He accepts.

Dan D. nominates Rick Johnson. He accepts.

Rich M. nominates Rich P. He declines.

Curt W. nominates Dave Ferin. He accepts.

We will close nominations for this evening. We will need to get in touch with Al W. He has one more year left as a board member. Are there any questions? No.

Motion. Bill P. motions to close nominations tonight permanently with no write-ins. Jeff G. seconds it. There is a discussion. We have allowed write-ins other years. The extra time gives members a chance to get there nominations in. We have always left nominations open until the general meeting since 1996. Bill feels that the ballot should not be made up the night of elections. Members need this time to think about who they are going to vote for and not, at the last minute, be given changes that then makes the member have to rethink his/her vote. Gary B. mentioned that they nominate and vote the same night in his club. 14 in favor - 6 opposed. It's carried. Nominations are now closed.

For the Good of the Club:

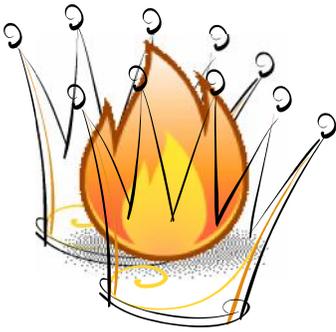
- 1) We had a 50/50. Congrats to a customer at the bar. He won \$78.00.
- 2) Treasury report. No changes since the February 15th report. Motion to accept report was made by Dave F. Rich P. seconds. All in favor - 0 opposed. It's carried.
- 3) Tax return. Thank you to Rich P. for completing our tax returns this year. Rich P. says that everything looks good. Thanks also to Rich M. for his work all year long.

Our next Board meeting will be March 10th at 7:00 pm at Marvin's Restaurant.

Our next General meeting will be March 31st at 7:30 pm at the Akron Tillman Post.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth
Secretary



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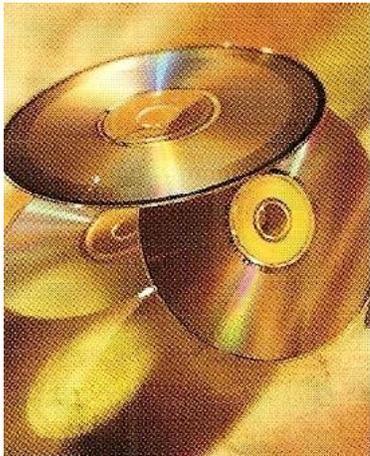
Thank You!!!!

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.



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WHOLESALE BUILDING MATERIALS



Greetings from the Phantom snowmobiler and welcome to his first column.

A brief history about the Phantom: He has been an avid snowmobiler for almost 30 years. His first snowmobile was a 1973 Suzuki XR 400. Being his 1st snowmobile up to that point, he was pretty sure that it was the ultimate ride. In retrospect, it wasn't. The Phantom feels that all new comers to the sport should be required to spend a full season on a vintage sled to fully appreciate modern equipment. A bumpy trail today on a late model machine is the subject of complaints around the water cooler the next day. The same trail on an antique snow machine results in a sick day to allow time to heal... The Phantom never the less enjoys vintage equipment and owns several along with a 2009 -brand not important.

How about this past season? The Phantom snowmobiler enjoyed a near personal record in terms of miles logged. The Sno-Seekers did their finest job ever in terms of trail preparation and grooming. Now if they can only add another month of rideable snow.... the Phantom enjoyed a trip to Old Forge with the Mrs. and a trip to Ontario to ride the rap tour with his brother - more on the rap tour in another issue... We are blessed locally with the Akron loop tour. This 40-50 mile ride can start in Akron, head thru Rothland golf course in Clarence (yeah-a trail thru a golf course) into Niagara County over into Wolcottsville then on into the nature preserve, a true privilege as is the golf course - stay on the trail. From there you enter a portion of the Genesee Sno-Packers trail system before heading back to the Akron area. There are several dining options and the scenery is outstanding. This is popular with Mrs. Phantom as its short enough to not be overly taxing but long enough to leave you feeling you have accomplished something. Want more info on local riding? Attend a club meeting. Snowmobiling conversation comes up occasionally. Better yet, help mark the trail in the fall. It's very rewarding to ride a trail you helped mark and see how it ties in with the rest of the trail system that spans statewide. The Phantom snowmobiler can go on and on about his favorite subject but he will save some stories for future issues of the Ness Express. Look for summers issues of our newsletter on line and www.snoseekers.com.

Until next time,

The Phantom snowmobiler (he sees ALL)

"Thank You" landowners for a great season!

Landowner raffle is here.... We drew six names from our landowner list.
This is our last printed newsletter for the season!!

The following 6 landowners have won a coupon book:

- 1) Wayne Ranney Jr.
- 2) Ted Donner
- 3) Kimberly & George Burg
- 4) Doug Lang
- 5) Gene Schafer
- 6) John R. Davis



Congratulations!! We will have a give-a-way each month!

So please check out our newsletter to see if you are a winner!

Some months are mailed and all are on our website: www.snoseekers.com.

**WANTED! NESS NEWSLETTER CHAIRPERSON**

This is a perfect opportunity to volunteer without doing the 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.

CALL 741-NESS for more details or stop into a meeting.

JAN-GEN

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