



July 2011 Newsletter

WWW.SNOSEEKERS.COM

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

NEXT GENERAL (COMBO) MEETING:
July 28th 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





Club Officers

President: Eric Glassman
Vice President: Dan Dressel
Secretary: Mary Beth Kiesel
Treasurer: Rick Johnson
Sergeant of Arms: Ray Somers
Trail Coordinator: Curt Watts
Board Member: Dave Faron
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: Bill Perrone

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

Snow Phone: 741-NESS

Club Headlines

Next General Meeting: July 28th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Ave in the Village of Akron.

Next Board Meeting: August 11th at 7:00 PM at Marvin's on Goodrich Rd in Clarence Center.

August General Meeting: August 28th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Ave in the Village of Akron.

Come on out and have some fun!

Check us out on-line at www.snoseekers.com

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President's Page

Growth goals

We're all enjoying summer as it finally got here. We just came of one of our best seasons in a long time partly because of the hard work and dedication of many. As we prepare for the new season, we have many goals and tasks to accomplish.

The board has been busy with many of the "daily" tasks that make this all work but I challenged them to come up with a few other things we all want and need. Below is a list we all came up with and agreed we would work on this year. Just for reference, I'm proud to announce that last year's list is complete so I look forward to setting some new goals of which, with everyone's help, we can accomplish again. Here they are:

- 1) **Update website and logo.** Align it with the message we want to project and make it more informative, easier to navigate, and include all the important things our members want to know. We're looking for input on this and would love some help so if anyone can lend a hand, please let us know!
- 2) **Groomer/Equipment process.** Improve scheduling, reporting, and train new operators to fill in the need of the additional unit. Provide instant feedback about trail conditions and any urgent notices.
- 3) **Improve trail captain process.** Better scheduling for work crews, inventory needs and landowner feedback. Recognize them through trail signs and trail heads.
- 4) **Club promotion.** Improve overall perception of the snowmobile club. We are a family experience and want to let the public know about it. Support winterfests, rides, emergency response for towns/counties, etc.
- 5) **Continue groomer barn project.** Develop a 2-5 year plan detailing costs, locations, funding options, expenses, etc. Accomplishing this is a large project and needs to be planned so we can be successful.
- 6) **Develop committee project.** We all have a lot to do but when we break it down in manageable pieces, things happen. We all know how much volunteers are needed, but this will lay it out with specific responsibilities.
- 7) **Rebuild trail heads.** These are one of our main communication spots on the trail and should be up-to-date with good guides, advertising, etc. New ones may be lighter and easier to install/take down.

I hope this gives you a good idea of our challenges ahead and hope you can help us get it done. If you notice, a few of these are not *directly* related to riding but all are important in order for that to happen. I often get asked "what do you guys do in the off season?" well, its things like this that make it all come together.

I hope you're enjoying your summer but please remember there is a lot to do. Come join us throughout the summer as we still meet on the last Thurs of the month. We all want to have a season as good as last year! Remember those flat trails?.....

See you on the 28th!

Eric



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Now on the Trail!!!

“Thank You” landowners for a great season!

Landowner raffle is here.... We drew a name from our landowner list.

The following landowners have won a \$ 50 gift card:

July: Walter Kohlhepp



**Congratulations!! We will have a give-a-way each month!
So please check this out to see if you are a winner!**



2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Membership applications are now available for the 2011-2012 season. Memberships run from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. Applications are available on Pages 23 & 24 of the newsletter or drop by a meeting to sign up.

DON'T WAIT SIGN UP NOW.



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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?](#)

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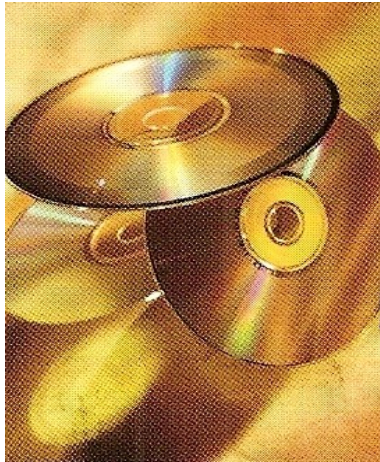
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Thank You!!!!
American Legion L.L. Tillman Post No. 900
For accommodating us for our
Board Meetings and General Meetings
9 Eckerson Ave. in Akron
(that's were Rte 93 and the bike path meet).
Remember, we are open and on the trail. Ride in and have a drink and get warm.

Attention Landowners Let Us Know!!!

Please contact the trail coordinator, any officer, or leave a message on our website if any area of you 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.



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.

WANTED! NESS WEBSITE CHAIRPERSON

We are looking for someone to help our website. It could use a few changes. Are you up for the challenge?

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Ray's '40' Years of Riding

When I first started snowmobiling, my first sled was a MotoSki from the early 1960's. At that time it was a good sled but when you were done riding you smelled like gas and oil because the carburetor was in the chest area. I even recall as a kid when my scarf would get sucked into it.



I then changed models and went to the Arctic Cat Panther, this was an upgrade from the MotoSki. From there I tried an Evinrude which was one of the first to have reverse, and mine did although the only drawback when you used reverse was getting stuck because the sled was so heavy.

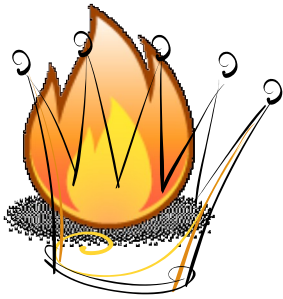
I then went back to Arctic Cat for several years and this seemed to be a great sled. I even tried a Yamaha, which I did not like.

My next (and by far best sled I have owned) were several Ski-doo models. I have had 4 different models and at present I own a 2011 Sport which I am very pleased with the performance and ride.



Happy Sledding, Ray

P.S. As always, be careful !



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Adopt-A-Highway Program

Did you know...

- NESS participates in the Adopt-A-Hwy Program for Akron, NY. Two times a year we pick up trash. From time to time we even find treasures. We had our one on Sunday, May 1st at 9:00am for our Spring clean-up! It took 2 1/2 hours to get the job done. In case you are a planner, we have 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 Rosenberg, Mike Schif-ferle, Rick Weitz and Rich Pfentner for working this spring clean up.

We couldn't have been successful without you guys.
Do you want your name added to our list?



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FROM THE TRAIL COORDINATOR SIDE

Here is how things look from the Trail Coordinator:

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer. Relax and have a cool beverage of your choice. Within the next month or so I would like to have a trail captain's meeting to get ready for the upcoming season. There are still some gaps to fill. If anyone is interested in helping out and would like to mark and/or maintain a part of a trail please let me know and with everyone's help it will run a lot smoother. Also remember to turn in any work logs ASAP to ease the congestion at the end of the season.

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**Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.
General/Board Combo Meeting June 30, 2011 Summary
Tillman Post Akron, NY 7:30 PM**

Officers present:

President – Eric Glassman

Vice President – Dan Dressel

Secretary – Mary Beth Kiesel

Meeting called to order at 7:45 PM – 12 people present

Meeting ended at 9:45 PM



Welcome: Welcome to all. Thanks for coming!

Business Items:

Trail Grant – Phase I – With help from Curt, Bill, Eric and Mary Beth, the trail grant has been submitted for both Erie and Niagara counties. Gary Broderick made a change to a new application from a change form. We appreciate his help with this process. Thanks Gary!! Pete from Erie County also pitched in. Thanks Pete for your input!! The next Phase II is due October 1st which is for the final trail for season. Phase III is to document and send in support for the trail work.

Committees:

- 1) **Legal.** By-Laws. We did a final run through of the changes. There were a few questions that we discussed. One in particular was – who is responsible for doing the paperwork for the trail grants. We decided that the President will coordinate and oversee the process. The trail coordinator will collect and input work logs and changes, then our treasurer will submit the required paperwork. Eric motions to spend up to \$800 for the lawyer to draft our changes. Mary Beth seconds it. Dan asks if there are any final questions, opinions or thoughts on the topic. There were none. 10 in favor – 0 opposed. It's carried.
- 2) **Emergency Response.** No update.
- 3) **PR/Marketing.** We picked a winner for our July Landowner drawing. Congrats to: Walter Kohlhepp! You will be receiving a gift card in the mail soon.
- 4) **Fundraising.** There was no 50/50 tonight. We have a number of fall events coming up. We need to make some decisions about:
 - a. Buck's open house. The store may move event into September instead of October. Frank will talk with them about the details.
 - b. Labor Day fair. Dan will run like last year.
 - c. Don Georges. Dan will ask about details of event.
 - d. Pizza for Labor Day event. Eric will stop by and find out more details.
 - e. Eden Corn festival is looking for a group to run the parking for their event. We would get \$2,000 for our work. Let's find out more details and discuss at next meeting.



- 5) Apparel. Molly is the new apparel chairperson. We would like to order kid size short sleeve t-shirts. We would get 3 diff sizes for a total of 24 shirts. Mary Beth motions to spend up to \$125. Eric seconds it. Any questions... 10 in favor – 0 opposed. It's carried. Rich W. gave details to Mary Beth about vendor name and location.
- 6) Social. No update.
- 7) Membership. What do you think about our club mailing out applications to our members with certain data information already filled in? It would make the process a little simpler for our renewal members. The cost would just be in the mailing of the applications to our current members. Let's think about it and maybe discuss at next meeting.
- 8) Groomer/UTV Equipment. RTP Grant. Randy sent an email to see how things are progressing for our new groomer. They said slowly. We should hear from them hopefully in the next month. Randy will update us at the next meeting.
- 9) Trail/Landowner. Curt Wants to know if anything needs to be done with our agreements with the local towns. Newstead, Clarence, Akron, DEC, Amherst golf course, etc. Eric mentioned that these are usually taken care of in the fall. Randy has some files with some of these agreements. We can take a look whenever we need to. It contains permits and agreements. We should start the process of changing the contact person. We should also make sure that all mail goes through the PO Box.
- 10) Trail Guides. Bill asked if we will be able to get a large vinyl of our GPS map for the trail heads this year. We are working on it. Hopefully!!!
- 11) Newsletter. Still looking for someone Do you like computers?
- 12) Website. Mary Beth asked if there were any other items that we would like to see on the home page of the website. Bill suggested we have a Work Logs button that is username and password protected. Then our trail captains could input the data directly on the website! It was also suggested that we have a Groomer Report that states when our individual trails are groomed. For example: Monday night we will try and get the bike path groomed. Tuesday night we will make our way to Marvin's... Genesee County and Colden clubs have a similar report. Let's check it out! Thanks for all the input.
- 13) Safety/Education. No update.
- 14) Adopt-A-Hwy. No update.

Treasury Report: Bills and expenditures. Eric reads aloud the details on this month's report. Curt motions to accept. Dan seconds. Any questions? 10 in favor – 0 opposed. It's carried.

Our next Combo meeting will be July 28th at 7:30 pm at the Tillman Post in Akron.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth
Secretary



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Lancaster
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A Few Upcoming Events

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

Adopt-A-Hwy Program: Sunday, October 2nd at 9:00 am. We meet at Niagara Label (corner of Hake Road and Rte 93 in Akron).

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From the NYSSA website:

Snowmobile drivers take the plunge



What event happens twice each summer, combines snowmobiles with personal flotation devices, is held outdoors - but not canceled when it rains - can involve diving and is a real spectacle sport, complete with spectators?

It is the Nipmuck Trail Riders Snowmobile Club's Water Skip, held on the property of Martin Michalec in Union. Michalec, who is one of the original founders of the snowmobile club, hosts the event each year on the first Sunday of both July and August.

The July 3 water skip was favored by warm summer temperatures, and bouts of rain did not deter the many visitors who lined the shores of the small pond.

The water skip is primarily a recreational and fun event for club members, but also functions as a fundraiser through the sale of food during the competition. From parking cars to running the start line, snowmobile club members - who are required to donate volunteer hours to the club each year - help with the day-long functions.

Kevin Hunter, of Cheshire, the current national water skip champion, kept activities rolling.

“We basically do it just to run for fun. No trophies, no prizes. Everybody comes and has a good time,” said Hunter, who explained that the machines are adapted to run on water. Their engines are sealed to protect them from water, and to protect the water from engine oil and fuel.

The racers make a donation to participate in the water skip. Those funds are used “to help maintain the retriever boats and the motors and keep everything running,” said Hunter.

The water skip activities are a sight to see, featuring modified snowmobiles and drivers decked out in swim vests and helmets, as they compete in four-lap “oval” races around the pond's island, perform figure-eights, take recreational laps and launch from the water jump. Watching the snowmobile drivers dive for their sunken machines and be pulled from the water by a modified “floating wrecker” provides its own form of entertainment.

“It all looks so easy,” said Michalec, who said it takes lots of practice and good balance to keep the snowmobile afloat.

The next water skip is scheduled for Aug. 7 and begins at 9 a.m.



Greetings from The Phantom Snowmobiler

It's tough to write an article dealing with snowmobiling on a 90 degree day, but snowmobiling is all the Phantom ever thinks about according to Mrs. Phantom. So here it goes..... It occurred to the Phantom that he puts a snowmobile twist on a lot of things he does. He attended the Niagara swap meet in June. The Phantom doesn't really have the type of car that he would be looking at parts for, but every year he seems to come home with at least one sled item. This year it was a hood off a '68 Ski Doo - \$5. The Phantom doesn't even have a '68 Ski Doo.... yet he attended the Strykersville town wide garage sale earlier the same month and found a brand new power mad tool box that fits a multitude of sleds - \$2. Mrs. P asked what sled he was going to put it on. I already have one was his reply. To her puzzled look he reiterated - \$2. The phantom's family enjoy sitting around the camp fire on a warm summer evening as the Phantom regales them with tails of snowmobiling adventures from years past. The moral of the story is the snowmobile season never really ends, just attend a club meeting - you'll see. Until next month...

the Phantom-he sees ALL

Feelin' lucky?

Did you know....

We have 50/50 draws at our general meetings. The proceeds will be used to support our club and trail system. You now have 1 more reason to come join us every last Thursday of the month! Hope to see you there!!





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APRIL 2011 - MARCH 2012



VOUCHER #: _____

Date: _____
 Check #: _____
 Cash: _____
 Amount: _____

Mail to: **Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.** Box 167 Akron, New York 14001-0167

NAME(S) _____
If a family membership, include 1st names of all. Primary name must match NYS snowmobile registration for voucher discount.

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

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(6377)

**"SNOWMOBILERS
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 STAY ON THE TRAIL"**

All memberships are from Apr 1 to Mar 31 to coincide with NYSSA vouchers. \$5 of this fee is for membership to NYSSA who will donate .25¢ to the NYS Snowmobile PAC. Note: If you do not want to donate this .25¢, check here _____. If you are already a member of NYSSA (through another club) deduct \$5 from the amount below and write the club name and voucher ID# here _____

- NEW MEMBER**
- RENEWAL** (Please check all that apply)
- LANDOWNER (ON TRAIL)**

- SINGLE \$ 25.00**
- FAMILY \$ 30.00** (Incl. spouse & all children 17 & under)

- GROOMER HOUSE FUND \$** _____
- OTHER DONATION \$** _____

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. You may register on-line at www.nyssnowassoc.org (be sure to choose **NESS** as the club) or bring this application to the monthly meeting or mail it to the above address.

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

REMEMBER THAT 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!"**

How do you want to join in on the fun? Would you like to join a committee?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Officer/Board member | <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt - A - Hwy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail/Landowner | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Guides | <input type="checkbox"/> Apparel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groomer/UTV/Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |

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 _____



[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 in Akron) 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 **"The Best Trails in WNY®"**
- We have over **750 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!
- Our trail system is possibly only through the generous support of over 200 **private landowners**. We respect them by staying on the marked trails! Follow the signs - not always the tracks!
- We provide NYS approved Safety Courses for both kids and adults.
- Come join us and visit our website at: www.snoseekers.com