



March 2012 Newsletter

WWW.SNOSEEKERS.COM

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

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Election Night

March 29th 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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Club Officers

President: Dan Dressel
Vice President: Randy Wdowka
Secretary: Mary Beth Kiesel
Treasurer: Rick Johnson
Sergeant of Arms: Ray Somers
Trail Coordinator: Curt Watts
Board Member: David Faron
Board Member: Eric Glassman
Board Member: Kevin Kreschke
Board Member: Bill Peronne
Board Member: Frank Schroeder
Board Member: Randy Wdowka
Board Member: Al Wolbert

Committees

Legal Committee

Chairperson: Al W.

Emergency Response Committee

Chairperson: Dan D.

Marketing & Adv Committee

Chairperson: Rick J.

Fundraising Committee

Chairperson: OPEN

Social/PR Committee

Chairperson: Scott T.

Membership Committee

Chairperson: Rick J.

Groomer/Equipment Comm

Chairperson: Bill P.

Trails/Landowners Comm

Chairperson: Curt W.

Trail Guides Committee

Chairperson: OPEN

Newsletter Committee

Chairperson: Mary Beth

Website Committee

Chairperson: Mary Beth

Apparel Committee

Chairperson: Mary Beth

Safety/Education Committee

Chairperson: Al O.

Adopt-A-Hwy Committee

Chairperson: Rick W.

Sno-Phone: 741-NESS

Club Headlines

What's Going On With Our Club...

Next General Meeting: March 29th at 7:30 PM at American Legion Tillman Post, 9 Eckerson Ave in the Village of Akron. Elections of Officers and Board members.

Apparel: We sell t-shirts, sweatshirts and caps!! We now have pink t-shirts too!! Call 741-NESS to buy yours today!!

Dice Run: At Buck's and the date is to be announced... Check our website for updates..

Snow: Still waiting.....

Come on out and have some fun!

Our April-July newsletters will be on our website. Our next mailed newsletter will be in August.

"Thank You" landowners!



Our Landowner raffle is here....

We drew 2 names from our landowner list.

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

March: Lynn G. Shafer & Michael S. Carrier

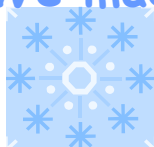
Congratulations!! We will have a give-a-way each month!

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

We made some updates to our website.

Check it out at

www.snoseekers.com





President's Page

Hello Everyone,

Wow! March is already here and unfortunately we did not have a very cooperative winter. This is the first time in over 20 years that I have not ridden our trails that we worked so hard to put in. Hopefully next year we will make up for it and we all will be riding by Dec 21 till March 15! With all our great people helping, our trails will be ready to go next year. I would like to thank everyone for another great year of keeping the club moving forward even though we did not have snow to motivate us! Thanks again to all.

Also I would like to remind everyone this is voting month. So come to the general meeting to cast your vote and see who is representing your club. Please remember to let us know what we can do to make this a better club.

This year we will be doing some fundraisers due to the fact we will be having a short fall in trail funding throughout the state due to the lack of registrations. So to keep our club moving in the right direction, we will be having some fundraisers. So any suggestions for fundraising events would be great.

So please, enjoy and ride safe!

Dan

Mar 29th: Election Night

Come and make your vote count!!!!

Nominated Officers:

President: Dan Dressel

Vice President: Randy Wdowka and Al Wolbert

Treasurer: Rick Johnson

Secretary: Mary Beth Kiesel

St. of Arms: Jeff W

Trail Coordinator: Curt Watts

Nominated Board members: 4 positions to fill.

Jeff Beers, Al Wolbert, Ray Somers and Bill Perrone.



Please come out and show your support.

All voters must be a member in good standing as of our February 23rd meeting in order to be able to cast a vote at our Annual Election Night on March 29th.



Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc. Board Meeting February 9, 2012 Summary Mazia's Main St. Clarence, NY 7:30 PM



Officers present:
President – Dan Dressel
Vice President – Randy Wdowka
Treasurer – Rick Johnson

Meeting called to order at 7:31 PM – 14 present Meeting ended at 9:15 PM

Welcome: Welcome! Let's get this meeting going!

Committees:

- 1) Legal. We are still waiting to hear back for the free legal advice.
- 2) Emergency Response. Contact lists have been done and delivered to our Sherriff and Troopers in Niagara County and Erie County. David F. will take copies to Sheriffs and Bill P. will do Genesee County.
- 3) PR/Marketing.
 - A. We have received some advertising money. Sandy will contact advertisers to confirm they received the paperwork to advertise again. When do we remove the ads from our newsletter? Waiting for a response within 2 wks. Who belongs on the Sponsors Page of our website? The purpose of this page is for businesses that have donated either time or money for the benefit of our club. We never had anyone pay for their name to be on the site.
 - B. All of the "Welcome" signs will be put up this week.
 - C. Gramercy Communications has been hired by NYSSA to help with advertising and marketing for the benefit of NYSSA and their member clubs.
 - D. The winner of the landowner drawing, Mr. Eving Lennert, did donate his gift card back to our club. We will then donate it a charity near where he lives.
- 4) Fundraising. NYSSA super raffle. Our sale is going well. Buy your now. Due March 6th.
- 5) Social.
 - A. We started to update our landowner lists. Curt took 2 lists and Bill took 1 list with them to adjust.
 - B. Dice Run. Will be a snow event. Not scheduled at this time. Please check the website for details.....
 - C. Bon Fire. Can be a no-snow event. Curt mentioned we can have it at Campbell's Inn. He will check and let us know. Feb 19th 4 – 9 pm. Please check website.....
- 6) Membership. We have 576 memberships as of today!
- 7) Groomer/UTV Equipment. The groomer logs have been updated and we reviewed the details. Let's make copies and be ready for the snow. We need to make one also for Genesee and Niagara.
- 8) Trail/Landowner.
 - A. Any trail concerns? Curt says all is good!! NYSSA may be cancelling their contract with the gps provider since they have not fulfilled their agreement.
 - B. Did Pete from Erie Fed get the letter from the town regarding Beeman Park use? Dan will take care of it.
 - C. Are all the Allstate GPS signs up? Pretty close to all being up.
 - D. The trailhead at the bike path and gas line blew over and broke. It needs to be repaired. We will get it done over this summer.
 - E. Have the rocks been moved yet on Knapp Road? Rocks will not be moved until trails are officially open to keep the 4 wheelers out.
 - F. Our trails need to get GPS'd.

(con't on page 8)



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Please contact 741-NESS for more info.



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Here are our committees!

Objective of committee formation: Our club has the following 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.

1. **Legal Committee:** Responsibilities include handling our by-laws, insurance, legal actions and correspondence.
2. **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.
3. **PR/Marketing & Advertising Committee:** Responsibilities include signs, selling ads for newsletters and trail head advertising.
4. **Fundraising Committee:** Fundraising items including coupon books, raffles, 50/50 and groomer boxes.
5. **Apparel Committee:** Responsibilities include ordering and distributing our NESS apparel.
6. **Social Committee:** Responsibilities include organization of all activities including Buck's open house, Don George's open house, Labor Day Fair booth, Labor Day Fair Pizza, Bon Fire, Christmas Party, Club rides, and Summer Events
7. **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.
8. **Groomer/UTV Equipment Committee:** Responsibilities 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.
9. **Trail/Landowner Committee:** Responsibilities 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
10. **Trail Guides Committee:** Responsibilities include distribute maps to establishments and collecting \$.
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.
12. **Website Committee:** Responsibilities would include moderating and update with activities and club news. Keeping the website functional and register users for site.
13. **Safety/Education Committee:** Responsibilities would include Setting up, organizing and running our courses and discussions at meetings.
14. **Adopt-A-Highway Committee:** Coordinate Fall & Spring clean-ups on Rt. 93 in Akron.

How do you want to join in on the fun?



(con't from page 4)

- 9) Trail Guides. We have some. Who needs them?
- 10) Newsletter. Feb is done. So we have a due date for inserts on Sat. March 10th. We mailed our newsletter out to current members and last years membership. Rich P. will be the Sled of the month.
- 11) Website. Updated website has been loaded – but there are still some issues with it. We are working on it.
- 12) Apparel. No update.
- 13) Safety/Education. We should have a donation jar at our safety courses to help with the costs.
- 14) Adopt-A-Hwy. Spring: April 29th. Fall: Oct 7th.

President: Where's the snow? It's a 12 hr drive for snow...Actually you can find some in 5 and 8 hrs too!

Vice President: Working on committee paperwork.

Treasurer: Review bills paid. Payment on groomer? Treasury Report: Rick reviews this month's report.

Secretary: Our next Board meeting will be March 8th at 7:30 pm at Mazia's on Main Street in Clarence.
Our next General meeting will be February 23rd at 7:30 pm at the Tillman Post in Akron.

Federation meetings:

- 1) Niagara Federation. Meeting will be Tues. Feb 14th.
- 2) Erie Federation. We had a \$ 1.9 million dollar short fall this year. Roughly 10 % of the people didn't even register their sleds this year. Dan mentioned to Hal about changing the 3" rule about opening trails and he will get it to parks. Erie Fed has a grant through them. Eric will be writing a letter to request a need for our club. We will be requesting money for new trailheads.
- 3) Genesee Federation meeting was cancelled.

For the Good of the Club:

- 1) Sno-Phone. Dan is going to see if we can get a Verizon cell phone instead of a land line and transfer our number.
- 2) RTP grant. Bill and Randy are working on the bid sheets.
- 3) We bought a new club computer for Curt, our trail coordinator, for all of his required input for the State.
- 4) Bill is working on getting a plaque for Rich Woods on the Kelkenberg Bridge.
- 5) Elections: They are coming up in March. We will be voting for Pres, VP, Sec and Treas. Trail Coor., St. of Arms also. We have 4 board openings: Bill, Al, Kevin and Eric. We will have nominations at our next General meeting. You must be a member in good standing by Feb 23 in order to cast your vote as stated in our revised bylaws. Bill thinks that nominations should close at the close of the general meeting prior to voting night.
- 6) There is a new club and they are looking for donations. We have some old signs that we don't use. Should we give the signs to the new club? Yes. We will collect signs and deliver to the club at the forum.
- 7) NYSSA has a credit card. Check it out in their online magazine. We need to make some copies to hand out.
- 8) Sno Cross in Farmington, NY has been rescheduled for Feb 24, 25 at the casino.
- 9) We purchased a 2nd cordless drill for the Bombi.
- 10) We could buy a GPS. Garmin 60 CSx costs between \$ 280- \$360.
- 11) The RTP program is in jeopardy. We have information so our members can mail a letter to our representatives.
- 12) NYSSA has a scholarship. Check out the NYSSA website for details. In NYSSA's office by March 1st.
- 13) NYSSA is having a coloring contest for kids. Due by Feb 25th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth
Secretary



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Sled of the Month Page

Driving across the winter landscape, hearing nothing but the buzzing sound of a snowmobile in your ears, the sunshine glistening off the freshly fallen snow. Opps, I forgot the part about where you can't feel your toes; heres the great outdoors from a womans point a view.

When I was first introduced to this silly sport, while racing across the snow with no protection, I thought "ohhh heck no", not in my life time. Well all that changed when I was asked to jump on and give it a whirl! I was in a friend's backyard, when I was asked to throw on a jacket, helmet and gloves; after a short explanation on how to run a sled. I was off and running; it was all over but the shouting. I was completely hooked.

Immediately following that day my family ran off to Don George's. By the end of that visit, we had a trailer packing an Artic Cat Pantera; I referred to it as the boat made for the snow. In 1977 we were invited to join the Frontier snowmobile club. The club held it's monthly meetings at Rothland golf course club house. Some of the members back then were Richard Wood, Don & Donna Metz, The Diaglers, and The Roths.(just to name a few).

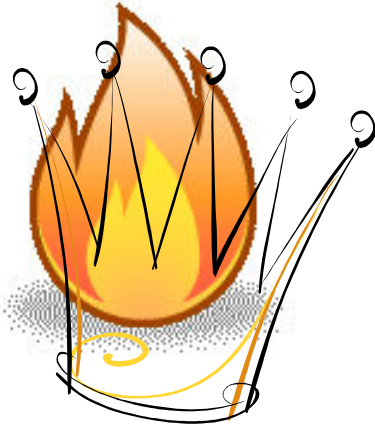


The following season we added the Green machine which was a Jag 3000, this was mine, as I grew to love the sport, I wanted the freedom of having one all of my own! I had custom pinstripping, heated handle bars, and yes my suit and helmet matched my sled. After a couple of years we traded the Pantera that we got in 1977 for a El Tigre 5000. We got the El Tigre because we had the need for speed! We rode these sleds for a couple years. Now at this point, I too had a need for speed! I began stealing the Tigre because I could really let it rip! It was not too long after that that when the third Green machine arrived. An El Tigre 6000, one of the first liquid cooled sleds! I rode the Tigre 5000, he road the Tigre 6000 and my beloved Jag was passed down to my daughters. Our adventures took us to Old Forge(one of my favorites), riding through the Allegany Mountains, Letchworth State Park and countless weekends in the southern tier with my family.

Whether it was racing across Mary's Lake on a crisp winter day for a ride of 100 miles or better or a beautiful trip through the Allegany forest at night, with our sled lights hitting the freshly fallen snow creating a vision of sparkling diamonds! Theres just nothing else like it! That was 35 years ago, I no longer ride but every time I see a rider on a sled flying across the field, I remember that invigerating feeling of freedom!

Hit the snow hard, ride far, and keep safe!

Marsha Pfentner



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Since we haven't been able to ride our trails....

We were sitting around one day and started to discuss some of this year's activities and accomplishments that our club has done. We decided to share them with you!!



- 1) A safety course in the Fall
- 2) Updated our by-laws for the good of the club
- 3) Purchased a trailer for our UTV that we use for trail maintenance



- 4) Updated our groomer policy and log book
- 5) Cleaned up the roads with Adopt-A-Hwy that we participate in twice this year
- 6) We are just about done updating our website
- 7) Updated our computer software for membership and landowners into Microsoft Access

- 8) Had many successful events including; Clarence Center Labor Day weekend, our groomer was in the parade, our annual bonfire, our Christmas party, Buck's and Don George's open houses
- 9) Added some additional items to our apparel line
- 10) We will have additional trails ready for next year
- 11) In the process of updating our trail heads
- 12) We have new signs on our trails that designate where our trail system begins. We also posted them throughout our trails
- 13) Allstate GPS signs are posted on our trail system for emergency location use



- 14) Updated our emergency response contact list and distributed to 3 County Sheriff and Trooper barracks.
- 15) We are in the process of re-GPSing our whole trail system
- 16) Bought a new computer for our trail coordinator to help with the state funding program that needs to be done on line.

Our officers and board members are continuing to work hard to make our club the best it can be! With all of our members and landowners who continue to volunteer their time, we just want to say thanks!

As we look forward to next season, we would like to continue to help our community, members, landowners and still have our trails be "The *Best* in WNY"!





Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc. General Meeting February 23, 2012 Summary Mazia's Main St. Clarence, NY 7:30 PM

Officers present:
President – Dan Dressel
Vice President – Randy Wdowka
Treasurer – Rick Johnson
Secretary – Mary Beth Kiesel

Meeting called to order at 7:39 PM – 19 present Meeting ended at 9:30 PM



Welcome: Welcome! Can you believe we have no snow?

Committees:

- 1) Legal. No update.
- 2) Emergency Response. Contact lists were taken to our Sherriff and Troopers in Niagara, Erie and Genesee Counties. Bill P. said that the Genesee Sheriffs called to thank him for the contact information.
- 3) PR/Marketing.
 - A. All of the “Welcome” signs are up on our trail system.
 - B. Gramercy Communications has been hired by NYSSA to help with advertising and marketing for the benefit of NYSSA and their member clubs. It's a good resource for our club.
- 4) Fundraising. NYSSA super raffle. Buy yours today! The sale will end in April.
- 5) Social.
 - A. Bon Fire. We had our Bon fire this past Sunday. We received \$10 in donations. We tried to have a no-snow event but we didn't get the numbers we were expecting. We need snow!!
 - B. Dice Run. Buck's has not thrown in the towel yet...
- 6) Membership. We have 580 memberships as of today!
- 7) Groomer/UTV Equipment. No update.
- 8) Trail/Landowner.
 - A. We are in the process of re-gpsing some of our trails. We borrowed Jim D.'s GPS. Thanks Jim!! Dan may go out this weekend and get some more done.
 - B. We may lose some of our funding this year... due to no snow...
 - C. Genesee County had a road trail inspection this year.
- 9) Trail Guides. No update.
- 10) Newsletter. Due date for inserts is Sat. March 10th since they will be mailed.
- 11) Website. The forum still needs work as well as the trail report page.
- 12) Apparel. Should we order more 1/4 zip sweatshirts? The minimum order is 12. No.
- 13) Safety/Education. Forum. It's April 20 – 21.
- 14) Adopt-A-Hwy. Spring: April 29th.

President:

- 1) Dan mentioned that we have received some emails and phone calls regarding our trail system. They wanted to know why we didn't open our trails. People don't seem to understand why we didn't open our trails.... We need to educate our riders on why... We do not want to ruin the land that we have permission to ride. 3" is not enough to open without any base. We need a snow base of at least 3" before we can open our trails.
- 2) 50/50. Congratulations to Randy !! He won \$ 45.

(con't on page 17)



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9th Prize: \$500 Gas Card - Prinoth, Gilmanston NH (www.prinoth.com)

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

Contact Your Local Club to Purchase Tickets!

You can buy these raffle tickets at our general meetings or call our Sno-Phone! Tickets are \$ 5.00 each - Mar 29th meeting - last chance...



(con't from page 14)

Vice President: Randy is working on the committee process.

Treasurer: Review bills paid. Treasury Report: Rick reviews this month's report.

Secretary: Our next Board meeting will be March 8th at 7:30 pm at Mazia's on Main Street in Clarence.
Our next General meeting will be March 29th at 7:30 pm at the Tillman Post in Akron.

Federation meetings:

- 1) Niagara Federation. Meeting was cancelled.
- 2) Erie Federation. Dan discussed how 10% of registered sled owners didn't join a club this year. DMV now has online registration for out of state sleds. Phase 1 paperwork needs to have accurate gps data. The Fed has a grant. The proceeds from the map sales is available to area clubs. We will apply for the grant so we can get our trailheads remade. They are falling apart and need a lot of work. Eric will write the request for Dan to take to the next meeting since Curt won't be able to attend the meeting.
- 3) Genesee Federation meeting was cancelled.

For the Good of the Club:

- 1) Sneak Peek will be held in Hamburg April 2nd. Sno-cross will be in Farmington on Feb 24, 25.
- 2) RTP grant. The grant has been saved by congress. Thanks to Rich P. for writing letters for us to sign and mail in to show support for NYSSA.
- 3) Swormville Fire Hall will be having a chicken BBQ. Sandy has tics if you would like to purchase in advance.
- 4) NYSSA has a credit card. Check it out in their online magazine. We need to make some copies to hand out.
- 5) NYSSA has a scholarship. Check out the NYSSA website for details. In NYSSA's office by March 1st.
- 6) NYSSA is having a coloring contest for kids. Due by Feb 25th.
- 7) There is a grant available for our club through the E & W G Foundation. We can apply for a grant to help us with the cash we need in order to purchase the groomer we will be getting soon. Dan motions to continue this grant process and Curt Seconds it. 19 in favor – 0 opposed. It's carried. We will have John G. handle this process for us. Thanks John!
- 8) Nominations were held tonight. See page 14 for details..... Bill P. makes a motion to close nominations. Jeff B. seconds. 19 in favor – 0 opposed. It's carried. Nominations have been closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth
Secretary

Thank You!!!!

American Legion L.L. Tillman Post No. 900

**For accommodating us for our
General Meetings**

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

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

Thank You!!!!

**Mazia's on Main St
in Clarence**

**For accommodating us for our
Board Meetings**



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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 Spring clean up on Sunday, May 1st at 9:00am. It took 2 1/2 hours to get the job done. We also did our Fall clean-up on Sunday, October 2nd at 9:00am. We will have another one this Spring on April 29, 2012! We meet at Maple Rd and Rte 93 at 9:00 am. Our Fall pick up is scheduled for Sunday, October 7, 2012.



Thanks to Ron Rosenberg, Mike Schifferle, Rick Weitz, Rich Pfentner, Dan Dressel, Curt Watts, Frank & Bev Schroeder and the others for working this fall clean up. We had a great crew! They had breakfast first at the Newstead Fire Hall. Does it get better than that? We couldn't have been successful without the support from our members. Do you want your name added to our list?

Come on out this spring and join in on the fun!

FROM THE TRAIL COORDINATOR SIDE

Well mother nature didn't cooperate with us this year. Everything is sitting idle. It doesn't look like there will be enough snow in the future to ride on, so I guess the time has come to call it for another season.

That being said, it is time to start taking down the trails. I would like to have them completed by April 1st. Please submit your log forms to me asap before April 1 to get credit in the next phase.

Let me know if you need any signs so I can get a order together before the due date in late summer. The Buggie is available for anyone who needs it to take down the trail. If any one is interested in helping out give me a call and I will set you up. Thanks again for all your help and to the landowners for making this possible.

CURT 772-7186 435-7068

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.



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