

NEXT GENERAL COMBO MEETING: April 26th at 7:30 pm at American Legion Tillman Post

monum

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: Dan Dressel Vice President: Randy Wdowka Secretary: Mary Beth Kiesel Treasurer: Rick Johnson Sergeant of Arms: Jeff Wilson Trail Coordinator: Curt Watts Board Member: Jeff Beers Board Member: David Faron Board Member: Bill Peronne Board Member: Frank Schroeder Board Member: Ray Somers 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

April 2012

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What's Going On With Our Club...

Next General Combo Meeting: April 26th 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!!

Come on out and have some fun!

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

"<u>Thank You" landowners!</u>



Our Landowner raffle is here....

We drew a name from our landowner list.

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

April: Andy Kelkenberg

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 <u>www.snoseekers.com</u>

President's Page

Hello Everyone,

Well, we didn't have a very good riding year, but hopefully this will mean a great riding season next year! I would like to thank all the board members for a great year and look forward to this season which, believe it or not, has started already with planning for the upcoming snow season.

We are going to try for a summer get together party for the club and also some bike rides and 4 wheeler rides. Anybody with some good ideas, please call the Sno-Phone. Keep an eye on the website because we will be posting the events there.

Also as I am writing, a few of the club members are heading to the annual Forum to share some of our knowledge and get some too - you can never learn too much!

Hope to see you all at some summer events or at our monthly meetings on the last Thursday of each month. The dates and times are on the home page of our website - <u>www.snoseekers.com</u>.

Thank you,

Dan

Website: We have a new message board! We have made a few changes to our website, including this forum. Unfortunately, the web guys were unable to transfer over the usernames and passwords from the old forum. So, please take a moment and register. Once you request a username, an email will be sent to the administrator, then you will be activated. This process may take 24 hours. Please email us on the "contact us" page if you have any questions. You will be able to use the same username and password.

Results from Election Night
Congratulations to the following: <u>Officers:</u> President: Dan Dressel Vice President: Randy Wdowka Treasurer: Rick Johnson Secretary: Mary Beth Kiesel
St. of Arms: Jeff Wilson Trail Coordinator: Curt Watts
Board members: Jeff Beers, Al Wolbert, Ray Somers and Bill Peronne.
Thanks to all who came out and showed support for our club.
We just want to thank Eric Glassman and Kevin Kreschke for all of their time and effort they put into our club while they were board members.

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Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc. Board Meeting March 8, 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 10:04 PM

Welcome: Welcome!

Committees:

- 1) Legal. No update.
- 2) Emergency Response. All set.
- 3) <u>PR/Marketing</u>.
 - A. Randy will take care of our advertisers and contact them.
 - B. Who belongs on the Sponsor page? We discussed who to add to the page...
- 4) Fundraising.
 - A. NYSSA super raffle. Buy yours today! We need to sell 11 more to break even from our \$250 donation we made for the raffle.
 - B. Landowner drawing. Dan motions to have 1 a month for the next 12 months. Mary Beth 2nds. All in favor -0 opposed. It's carried.
- 5) Social. Dice Run. Not this year due to weather.
- 6) Membership. We have 580 memberships as of today! Last year we had 761.
- 7) Groomer/UTV Equipment. No update.
- 8) Trail/Landowner.
 - A. Landowner list. Billy's and Dave F's list are all set. We need to check with Curt for the rest.
 - B. GPS. We got a chunk of our trails done today. Is anything dry up north so we can get some more done this week? We are all set now on the trail that meets Marilla's trail.
 - C. Billy is going to work on plague for Rich W.
- 9) <u>Trail Guides</u>. No update.
- 10) <u>Newsletter</u>. Due date for inserts is Sat. March 10th since they will be mailed. We added a list of events and activities that we accomplished this year.
- 11) <u>Website</u>. The forum and trail report pages are still not done. We will update the sponsor page. We are not able to bring over the usernames and passwords. We will have to re-register everyone soon for usernames for forum use.
- 12) <u>Apparel</u>. No update.
- 13) Safety/Education. Forum. It's April 20 21.
- 14) Adopt-A-Hwy. Spring: April 29th.



(con't on page 8)

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ADVERTISE WITH US!!

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

Please contact 741-NESS for more info.



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NESS Express

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. <u>Legal Committee:</u> Responsibilities include handling our by-laws, insurance, legal actions and correspondence.
- 2. <u>Emergency Response Committee:</u> 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. <u>PR/Marketing & Advertising Committee:</u> Responsibilities include signs, selling ads for newsletters and trail head advertising.
- 4. <u>Fundraising Committee:</u> Fundraising items including coupon books, raffles, 50/50 and groomer boxes.
- 5. <u>Apparel Committee:</u> Responsibilities include ordering and distributing our NESS apparel.
- 6. <u>Social Committee:</u> 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. <u>Membership Committee:</u> 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. <u>Groomer/UTV Equipment Committee:</u> 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. <u>Trail/Landowner Committee:</u> 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. <u>Trail Guides Committee:</u> Responsibilities include distribute maps to establishments and collecting \$.
- 11. <u>Newsletter Committee:</u> Responsibilities would include creating each month and coordinate input from others and have ready to print our newsletter for either print or website.
- 12. <u>Website Committee:</u> Responsibilities would include moderating and update with activities and club news. Keeping the website functional and register users for site.
- 13. <u>Safety/Education Committee:</u> Responsibilities would include Setting up, organizing and running our courses and discussions at meetings.
- 14. <u>Adopt-A-Highway Committee:</u> Coordinate Fall & Spring clean-ups on Rt. 93 in Akron. How do you want to join in on the fun?

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(con't from page 4)

President:

- 1) Dan thanked the board members for all they do for our club. He said it takes a lot of work to get our trails set up and ready for the season. He appreciates everyone's dedication, thanks!
- 2) 50/50. Congratulations to Randy !! He won \$ 45.

Vice President: Randy is working on the committee process. We need to go through some of the file cabinets to see if there are more details for some in the committee folders.

Treasurer:

- 1) We are setting a policy that the club will not buy food for the board meetings at least for now.
- 2) We still are waiting for Niagara and Erie money to come in. The checks usually come in March.
- 3) Randy asked if we have a policy for submitting fuel charges? We will stay on the honor system for now.
- 4) Treasury Report: Rick reviews this month's report. Any questions? No. Mary Beth motions to accept report. Al W. seconds. 8 in favor 0 opposed. It's carried.

Secretary:

Our next Board meeting will be a combo with the general meeting for April since the board meeting is scheduled for the week after Easter. We will have our combo meeting on Thursday, April 26th at the Tillman Post in Akron. So... April, May, June and July will be combo meetings this year.

Federation meetings:

- 1) Niagara Federation. Meeting was cancelled.
- Erie Federation. We wrote a letter to the Erie Federation requesting grant money from the sale of the trail maps. We requested money for new trail heads. Hamburg and NESS are the only clubs that requested funding this year. They also had nominations for officers for the federation.
- 3) Genesee Federation meeting was cancelled.

For the Good of the Club:

- 1) Dan would like to have a Trail Captains' work appreciation party. Maybe sometime in June at Akron Park?
- 2) John G. is working on the EG & W Foundation grant. It's due April 1st. He is waiting for 2 bids. We will use the money to help with the groomer grant process.
- 3) The Town of Clarence has a program that allows us to purchase an engraved park bench. Our funds are a little tight right now.
- 4) A few of the guys went to the casino to see the sno-cross they had a great time!
- 5) Dan did some research about purchasing a cell phone for our club. It will help with us getting messages and ability to return calls to members and landowners. It will cost about the same each month. Randy made a motion to purchase a cell phone and keep our same number. Rick 2nds. 9 in favor – 3 opposed. It's carried.
- 6) Elections will be held at our next General meeting. We will vote on 4 officers, trail coordinator and St. of Arms first. Then we will have a second vote for the board member positions. Mary Beth motions, Bill 2nds. All in favor 0 opposed. It's carried.
- 7) Goals & objectives. Randy reviewed ours from this past year. We will review at our April meeting. Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Secretary



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Sled of the Month Page

We are looking for your story... Do you have a story about snowmobiling? How many sleds have you had? What's your favorite brand? Do you like your track picked or not?

When did you started riding? Age?

Where was your favorite place you rode?

Do you have a funny story?

Any lessons learned?

(You can use your username or be anonymous)

Email us your story and maybe you will be featured on the next month's "Sled of the Month Page"!!

snoseekers@yahoo.com

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Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc. General Meeting March 29, 2012 Summary Tillman Post Akron, 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 7:36 PM-30 present Meeting ended at 8:41 PM

Welcome: Welcome!

Committees:

- 1) Legal. No update.
- 2) <u>Emergency Response</u>. No update.
- 3) <u>PR/Marketing</u>. Randy is following up with a few of the advertisers.
- 4) Fundraising. NYSSA super raffle. Tonight is the last night to buy your ticket!
- 5) <u>Social</u>. Should we have a summer party? There is paper on the table so you can write down your ideas for fundraising, summer party and what goals and priorities we should set for this upcoming year. Maybe an ATV day, a day at Akron Park.....
- 6) <u>Membership</u>. We have 591 memberships as of today! 761 last year.
- 7) <u>Groomer/UTV Equipment</u>. Storage for the drags was discussed. We should protect the tires and the hoses on the drags and not pay for storage this year. We will discuss at the next meeting.
- 8) Trail/Landowner.
 - A. Curt has the landowner list. If you are a trail captain, please confirm your trail's landowner information is accurate.
 - B. All trails have been GPS'd. There may be some landowner changes based on location of trail on map. Jeff B. mentions that the accuracy of the trail is based on the # of satellites that the gps uses to create the track.
 - C. The majority of the trails are down. Some are still up in Niagara County and Millersport Hwy.
 - D. All work logs need to be turned in. If there is any summer work going on, please let Curt know.
- 9) Trail Guides. No update.
- 10) <u>Newsletter</u>. Due date for inserts is April 14th since the newsletter will be on our website only.
- 11) <u>Website</u>. The forum has been set up we are waiting on the web guys to load it up. Everyone will need to register a username/password since the web guys couldn't bring over the member list from the old forum.
- 12) Apparel. No update.
- 13) <u>Safety/Education</u>. We discussed having 2 safety courses in the fall.
- Adopt-A-Hwy. Spring: April 29th. Niagara Label at 9:00 am. 8:00 am at Candy Apple for breakfast if you want to eat first.

(con't on page 17)



Northern Erie Sno-Seekers Apparel for Sale

Adult: Guys



Adult: Ladies





S-M-L-XL XXL-XXXL

S-M-L-XL XXL-XXXL



\$14/\$15

\$32/\$34

S-M-L-XL XXL-XXXL

\$12

\$12

\$12



\$12/\$13

Blue short Blue long sleeve t-shirt Blue hooded sweatshirt

Blue baseball cap	one size fits most
Blue knit cap	one size fits most
Blue skull cap	one size fits most





\$10 \$12

\$8 \$25

Pink short sleeve t-shirt	S-M-L-XL	\$ 12
Pink baseball cap	one size fits most	\$ 12
Pink fleece hat	one size fits most	\$ 12

Kids:

Blue short sleeve t-shirt	S-M-L
Blue long sleeve sweatshirt	S-M-L

Other items:

Drawstring bag 15"X18"	navy blue
Long sleeve nylon wind breaker	navy blue





Printed: t-shirt, bag Embroidered: sweatshirt, bb cap knit caps, skull cap, wind breaker

To purchase apparel, please email us at: snoseekers@yahoo.com or call us at 741-NESS

Please include: name, address, phone number and items wanted.

Thanks for supporting the Northern Erie Sno-Seekers!!

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741-2888

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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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(con't from page 13)

President:

- 1) 50/50. Congratulations to Mary Beth!! She won \$ 65 that she donated back to the club.
- 2) We received a thank you note for our Mercy flight donation in Rich Wood's memory.
- 3) We joined the Farm Bureau and we have the directory up on the table here for you to look at.

<u>Vice President:</u> We will be reviewing our goals and objectives for this year and making them for next year. Please be ready with your ideas so we can get this done at our April meeting.

Treasurer: Review bills paid. Rick reviews this month's treasury report. Due to the lack of registrations in NYS this year, there will be a shortage of 25-30% less money available for clubs next year, so we will need to be careful on how we spend our money.

Secretary:

- 1) Our next Board meeting will be cancelled since it will be during Easter vacation.
- 2) Our next General meeting will be April 26th at 7:30 pm at the Tillman Post in Akron. This will be a combo meeting. May, June and July will also be combo meetings. Should we mix it up for the locations of these meetings? Valley Inn, Mazia's, Tillman... we will discuss at the April meeting.

Federation meetings:

- 1) Niagara Federation. Meeting was cancelled.
- 2) Erie Federation. We applied for a grant that the fed offers. The proceeds from the trail guides fund this grant. Hamburg and NESS are the only 2 out of the 10 clubs that applied for this grant – we applied so we can redo our trailheads. We will find out at the next fed meeting if we will be receiving the grant this year.
- 3) Genesee Federation meeting was cancelled.

For the Good of the Club:

- 1) Sneak Peek will be held in Hamburg April 2nd.
- 2) Dan mentioned that the trail coordinator for the Genesee Sno-Packers is ill. He had a stroke. They are having a fundraiser this Sunday. Dan will go and represent our club at the spaghetti dinner.
- 3) E & W G Foundation grant. John G. turned in our application for this grant. We needed 10 sets of the application. Thanks to everyone that helped with this process.

Elections: We have 2 ballots. See attached. Results of election:

President: Dan D. VP: Randy W. Treasurer: Rick J. Secretary: Mary Beth. Trail Coordinator: Curt W. St. of Arms: Jeff W. Board: Jeff B., Al W., Ray S. and Bill P.

Congratulations to everyone! We thanked Eric and Kevin for there time and effort while they were board members. We appreciated their help.

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. 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 Rosenburg, 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 form our members. Do you want your name added to our list?

Y KIN

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

FROM THE TRAIL COORDINATOR SIDE

This ends what was a wonderful season, just not intended for snowmobiling. Thanks to those who took care of their section of trail and who did some of the other trails without being told or even asked!! There are a few small sections that still need attention but hopefully someone will get it done. Anyone that need signs, let me know, I have a small list started. Thanks again to everyone and the LANDOWNERS who make 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.

Tip Topp of WNY Delivery

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April 2012

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Greetings from The Phantom Snowmobiler

As promised, The Phantom is letting you know that it's time to panic regarding the snowmobile season. It just never happened. For those who are regular readers, maybe you took the Phantom's advice and went on a snowmobiling trip this year.

The Adirondacks had a few good weeks of snow. Huntsville and North Bay, Ontario had excellent winters. A whole different weather pattern going on up there.... While the Adirondacks were packed with sledders on the weekend, North Bay was a ghost town. The trails were excellent the weekend the Phantom ventured into Ontario. It's great fun being able to dicker on lodging prices when there is no one else standing in line behind you. The Phantom can only guess that perhaps Canada's pricings keeps Americans from crossing the border.

The lack of snow at home left the Phantom with enough sledding money to go to both North Bay and Old Forge. Our club's president, Dan Dressel, was observed having a good time in Old Forge, though longing to clean ditches on Route 93 with the Adopt-A-Highway crew.

One quick note to those who may consider a Canadian trip next year have your passport or enhanced license with you and make advanced reservations as the border officials don't take kindly to people coming into their country with no clear place to stay. The Phantom speaks from experience how embarrassing....

The moral of this month's column is this: Last winter was what you made of it. You could have sat at home and waited for something to happen or you could have gone out and made something happen. In any event, next year will be better!!

until then...

The Phantom Snowmobiler - he see's ALL

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T

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

If a family membership, include 1 st names of all. Prim NAME(S) If a family membership, include 1 st names of all. Primeson of the second	www.snoseekers.com (716) 741-NESS (6377)				
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PHONE ()E-MAIL (We do not a	hare personal information)				
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 app LANDOWNER (ON TRAIL) 	upon club membership payment. You may register on-line at www.nyssnowassoc.org (be sure to choose NESS as the				
□ SINGLE \$ 25.00	 club) or bring this application to the monthly meeting or mail it to the above address. 				
 FAMILY \$ 30.00 (Incl. spouse & all children 17 & und GROOMER HOUSE FUND \$ OTHER DONATION \$ 	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 <u>100% volunteer</u> , 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization that relies on member support to make our club a success. Everyone has <i>something</i> they can contribute and <i>any</i> 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?				
Officer/Board member		Website		Adopt - A - Hwy
Marketing/Advertising		Membership		Newsletter
Trail/Landowner		Trail Guides		Apparel
Groomer/UTV/Equipment		Legal		Emergency Response
Safety/Education		Social/Public Relations		Fundraising
 For a state of the				

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___

NESS Express



<u>Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.</u> (NESS) was established in 1973 and has been promoting the safe and responsible use of snowmobiles ever since. We are a <u>100% volunteer</u>, 501 (c) 3 notfor-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 700 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 and another in 2009. These help us maintain over 100 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

NORTHERN ERIE SNO-SEEKERS INC. P.O. BOX 167 AKRON, NEW YORK 14001-0167 716-741-NESS (6377)