



# May 2012 Newsletter

[WWW.SNOSEEKERS.COM](http://WWW.SNOSEEKERS.COM)

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**Northern Erie Sno-Seekers PO Box 167 Akron, NY 14001 (716)741-NESS**  
**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: It's a Combo - Board/General**  
**May 31st at Mazia's Pizza on Main Street in Clarence**



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## NEXT GENERAL COMBO MEETING:

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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

### What's Going On With Our Club...

**Next General Combo Meeting:** May 31st at 7:30 PM  
at Mazia's Pizza on Main Street in Clarence

**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!

## Email Address

We may be emailing our newsletter in the near future. Please include your email address on the membership application or send it to us through the website's "contact us" page.

## "Thank You" landowners!

Our Landowner raffle is here....



We drew a name from our landowner list.

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

**May: John Smith Jr.**

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](http://www.snoseekers.com)





## President's Page

Hello Everyone,

Well Summer is on it's way and so far it's looking good, So get out and enjoy it! We are planning on doing some fundraising for the club seeing as how our funding will be cut this year due to lack of registrations. We will also be planning some motorcycle rides, ATV rides and so on. Keep an eye on the website for details... these events will come up fast! Call Dan if you want to organize one too! t will be a "show up and have fun" event.

On a brighter note, we had over 70 volunteers help to make the NESS trails the "Best in WNY!" A big thank you goes out to all of you for your dedication in helping us make great, safe, smooth and enjoyable trails! When I was at the Forum, I was able to speak with many other clubs, some nearby and some far away... they were mentioning that they have only 10 -15 people who volunteer to do all the work. We are so fortunate to have all of these great 70 plus members who care about our club and have fun pitching in!! Thanks, that what it's all about!

I would also like to thank all the landowners for the use of their land, thank you once again!

In the off season, we are working on making some new trail heads and new trails. So if anyone has any great ideas or wants to help, call the sno-phone or email us through our website.

Thank you all again!

Dan



### Website:

We have a new message board! We have made a few changes to our website, including our 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. The photo gallery has some more pictures too!



**Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.  
Combo Meeting Summary April 26, 2012  
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 7:37 PM – 14 present  
Meeting ended at 9:51 PM

**Welcome:** Welcome!

**Committees:**

1) Legal.

A. By-Laws. We may need to make an amendment to change the “notice of meeting” paragraph. We will look into it for next meeting.

B. Absentee ballots. John asked if we have absentee ballots for elections. Currently, we do not.

2) Emergency Response. No update.

3) PR/Marketing.

A. We are looking to see if anyone has advertising signs for trails or trail heads. Please let Randy know if you do.

B. We discussed the cost of online newsletter - \$0 versus the want of advertisers to have a black and white copy of newsletter.

C. Landowner drawing. May winner is John Smith Jr.

D. We will be mailing out advertising invoices by June 1<sup>st</sup> with a due date of July 15<sup>th</sup>. Ads will run Aug 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013.

4) Fundraising.

A. Enjoy the City books. We are looking for a chairperson to head up the sale this year.

B. Some ideas for fundraising this year... BBQ, pancake breakfast. 50/50. Raffle.

C. We need to raise about \$37,000 for a down payment for the new groomer. We could send out a letter to our members asking if they can help. Don G's donated a sled years ago for a raffle. That went well.

D. We could have a BBQ at the Akron Cruise Night or Tractor Night.

E. NYSSA Super Raffle. We had one winning ticket: Keith Dawydko won \$200 cash and 2 others nearby. Thanks to all who participated.

F. We raised \$74.02 with our distributed Groomer donation boxes this year. Thanks Sandy for heading up the process.

5) Social.

A. Summer Party. We could have one at Akron or Clarence Park. How much to rent a pavilion? We could supply hot dogs and hamburgers and members could bring a dish to pass.

B. ATV ride. Oswego/Tughill ride. We will post info on website.

C. Motorcycle ride. We can meet at Quaker St and ride to Lake Ontario for a drink or dinner. Check the website for dates.

6) Membership. We have 9 memberships as of today! Our new membership application is online. We also have hard copies up on desk. We will fill in applications and mail them with the August newsletter.

(con't on page 8)



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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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## 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)

- 7) Groomer/UTV Equipment. Bill will take his drag to Jeff Beers. Franks will store the other one. Dan is looking for big tire tubes to cut in half to put over the drag wheels – he will also ask Benny.
- 8) Trail/Landowner.
  - A. Trail take down. A few trails are still up. Al said all southern trails are done.
  - B. 2 trailheads need to be rebuilt this off season. The trailhead north of McDonald's should be taken down.
  - C. GPS – we can create a accurate map now. Mary Beth will print one up.
  - D. Curt needs all work logs since April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - E. Trail Appreciation Party. Dan will handle this. Party at Rich P.'s house. We will supply hot dogs and hamburgers. Dish to pass. We will send out invitations. Let's put list on website and newsletter.
  - F. Phase III paperwork is all done and turned in. Thanks to all who helped.
  - G. We are still waiting for all landowner lists to be updated.
- 9) Trail Guides. The Erie Fed decided to have a discount for current advertisers on map for next year. Hamburg Club won the grant this year. We will try again next year.
- 10) Newsletter. Due date for inserts is May 19<sup>th</sup> since the newsletter will be on our website only.
- 11) Website. The forum is done. Please register a new username/password. Still waiting for trail report page to be completed.
- 12) Apparel. No update.
- 13) Safety/Education. We need to set fall dates and locations.
- 14) Adopt-A-Hwy. Spring: April 29<sup>th</sup>. Niagara Label at 9:00 am. 8:00 am at Candy Apple for breakfast if you want to eat first.

## **President:**

- 1) Thanks to Kevin K. for his time as a board member. Welcome aboard Jeff Wilson and Jeff Beers.
- 2) Dan attended forum and discussed some of the topics... D & O Insurance. We may only get about half the funding for trails next year. Curt mentions that we need to document everything... groomer maintenance, signs down, accidents, etc. We need to be consistent in marking trails. Randy commented on the chain saw safety course... chaps, helmets, face shields – safety first! Dan also mentioned that we need special insurance for a grass drag event and vintage rides. Elections were held at the Annual Meeting. PRES: Gary Broderick. VP – Jim Elmore. SEC – Rosanne Wagner. TREAS – John Occhino.
- 3) No 50/50 tonight.

## **Vice President:**

- 1) RPT Grant. It's being held up at the state level. We are still waiting for an update.
- 2) We set our goals and objectives for this year.
  1. Review and improve our trail captain process.
  2. More club promotion and fundraising.
  3. Groomer barn – 2-4 yr process
  4. Redesign our trail heads with maps.
  5. Rewarding our volunteers
  6. Develop new trails up north.

**Treasurer:** Review bills paid. Rick reviews this month's treasury report.

**Secretary:** Our next Board meeting will be a combo meeting. May 31<sup>st</sup> at Mazia's on Main Street.

Our June meeting will be at the Valley Inn. July's meeting location will be determined at a later time.

(con't on page 12)





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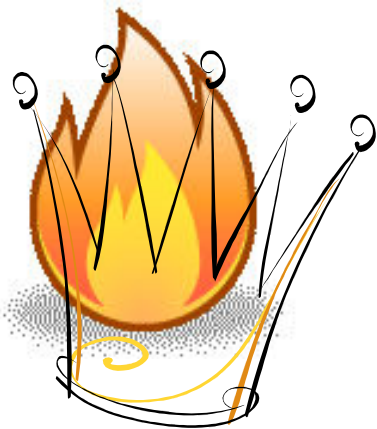
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## Greetings from The Phantom Snowmobiler

Looks like spring is here. Not much to talk about in terms of last snowmobile season. How about just some random observations. The Phantom wants to know how does one get the job of operating the state snow plows? He wishes to be the guy on the right who looks out the window...loud pipes on sleds annoy the Phantom. The snow-seekers' Adopt-A-Highway crew is a small but very dedicated group. Does anybody make a 700 cc snowmobile anymore? Single place trailers are popular in Canada-not so much around here. What's the deal with Mohawk snow brushes on peoples helmets. The Phantom has never witnessed the "hot dogger" in action, but he is intrigued. What about a 500 cc sled? Does anybody make one of those any more? If all club members did just one task every year to help out the club, there probably wouldn't be enough jobs to go around....Ok, so there are more questions than observations. These were just random thoughts floating around in the Phantom's head. The moral of this month's column is- you think you can do better? The phantom has never known Mary Beth to turn anybody away. So come to a meeting and get active in our club!

**until then...**

**The Phantom Snowmobiler - he see's ALL**

(con't from page 9)

### Federation meetings:

- 1) Niagara Federation. Meeting was cancelled.
- 2) Erie Federation. State registrations are down 25% this year – look for this to impact the trail funding. The state is working on online registrations for out of state and Canada – this will make it easier for others to ride our State system. There may be a change in deer season. See the DEC website for details.
- 3) Genesee Federation meeting was cancelled.

### For the Good of the Club:

- 1) We should look at our Marine insurance to see if the values have changed so our cost would be lower.
- 2) Sandy suggests we get the bills of the club presented, have a discussion, vote to pay and then issue checks.
- 3) Mercy Flight. We made a donation a few months ago and John thought we would like a few more details about their charity. John G. mentions they have 3 helicopters. They can travel anywhere in 15 minutes. It costs \$6.5 million for a new one. They sold their 3 old ones to an oil company in Argentina. They helped 20,000 patients with severe trauma or life/death situations. 24/7, with 13 pilots, 22 paramedics and nurses. They provide a great service.
- 3) E & W G Foundation grant. No update.
- 4) We are updating our Contact List and Attendance sheets. Mary Beth will have new ones at next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth  
Secretary



## Northern Erie Sno-Seekers Apparel for Sale

### Adult: Guys



Blue short sleeve t-shirt	S-M-L-XL	XXL-XXXL	\$ 12 / \$ 13
Blue long sleeve t-shirt	S-M-L-XL	XXL-XXXL	\$ 14 / \$ 15
Blue hooded sweatshirt	S-M-L-XL	XXL-XXXL	\$ 32 / \$ 34
Blue baseball cap	one size fits most		\$ 12
Blue knit cap	one size fits most		\$ 12
Blue skull cap	one size fits most		\$ 12

### Adult: Ladies



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	\$ 10
Blue long sleeve sweatshirt	S-M-L	\$ 12



### Other items:

Drawstring bag 15"X18"	navy blue	\$ 8
Long sleeve nylon wind breaker	navy blue	\$ 25

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

To purchase apparel, please email us at: [snoseekers@yahoo.com](mailto:snoseekers@yahoo.com) or call us at 741-NESS

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## Thanks for supporting the Northern Erie Sno-Seekers!!



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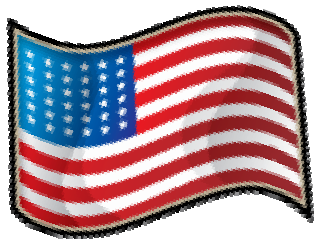
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Remember, we are open and on the trail. Ride in and have a drink and get warm.

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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, April 29th 9:00am. It took 2 hours to get the job done. We would have worked faster if Rich bought them breakfast! We will have another one this Fall scheduled for Sunday, October 7, 2012.



Thanks to Mike Schifferle, Rick Weitz, Rich Pfentner, Dan Dressel, Frank & Bev Schroeder and the guy in the jeep! We had a great crew! 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

Thanks to all who helped in getting our trail system down for another season. I hope to see everyone, that worked on our trails, at the appreciation party. I already have plans for some possible improvements for next year.

Here is a list of areas that need helpers so far:

- 1) S46 between RT 77
- 2) and Lincoln Av - C4D
- 3) Crosby Rd. to Riddle Rd -
- 4) C4K Tonawanda Creek to C4d intersection

If you can help, please call me or our sno-phone.

Thanks again to all landowners who made it all 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 your 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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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](http://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 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](http://www.snoseekers.com)

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