



January 2013 Newsletter

www.snoseekers.com
SNO-PHONE: 741-NESS (6377)

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

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
January 31 at 7:30 PM at Tillman Post Akron, NY

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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President: Dan Dressel
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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: Curt W.

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: Jan 31 at 7:30 PM at Tillman Post, Akron, NY

Next Board Meeting: Feb 14 at 7:30 PM at Marvin's on Goodrich Rd in Clarence Center

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

Trail Work: Check website under "Trail Work" for details. Now is the time to get your trail up!

Bon Fire: Date... TBA

Dice Run: Date... TBA

Come on out and have some fun!

"Thank You" landowners!

Our Landowner raffle is here....



We draw a name each month from our landowner list.

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

January: Elinor Trapper

Congratulations!!

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

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

Newsletter: We are e-mailing our newsletters each month. We are trying to manage our funds more efficiently due to cuts in State funding. Each member will receive all 12 months right at your computer!! If you do not have a computer... call 741-NESS to let us know that you would still like your 6 months mailed. We continue to put a lot of time and effort into our newsletters to keep you, as a member, informed and involved in what is going on with our club!!



Website: We have a message board! So, please take a moment and register. Please email us on the "contact us" page if you have any questions. The photo gallery has some great pictures too!



President's Page

Hello Everyone,

Well we finally had enough snow to open the trails. Unfortunately, we had a few mud holes but all in all, the groomer guys did an awesome job and made for some great riding! We had many compliments about how nice the trails were groomed and marked this year.

Getting all that snow, also helped with the registrations. As statewide, we had a record of 13,000 registrations in one week. Hopefully that will help up with our trail fund money, because we could use it.

On the good side of things, it looks like we will get back in the cold mode and get some snow, so we can have great riding for the rest o f the year.

On the bad side of things, we ended up losing \$100 per mile on our trail system this year. So please register you sled earlier next year, the early registrations help support the trails you ride on.

I would also like to mention that next month, we will be having our nominations for the following positions available: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Trail Coordinator, St. of Arms and 3 board positions. So if you or someone you may know, are interested, come to our February General meeting to get nominated. You must be nominated in February to be eligible for the March election!

Thank you all again!

Dan

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Board Meeting Minutes Summary Date: 12/13/12



1) Welcome:	
2) Committee Reporting:	<u>Topics:</u>
Legal	No update
Emerg Response	Emergency Response: No update
Marketing and Advertising	1) Dec winner: Garth Davis - won at Christmas party. 2) Any new ads? Dadswell, Aqua systems, Weaver Sports. Let's simplify our advertising options. Add trail head sponsors. 3) groomer boxes - are they all out? Not yet.
Fundraising	1) Enjoy the City Books. Ending this month -received 20 more. 2) Super raffle tickets - Are here, let us know if you want to sell any. 3) Gas receipts program - Form is on website - save your receipts!
Social/Pubic Relations	1) Fed picnic date for next yr is July 14, 2013 2) NYSSA -take a friend snowmobiling week is Feb 9-18 3) Clarence Winter fest.. Jan 27th. We will be there if there is snow 4) Christmas party recap. thanks to everyone... and the caterer. 5) Forum will be in Lake Placid April 14+15 6) Bonfire - 1st wk of Feb. Location: TBD , Dice Run—no date yet.
Membership	1) How many members? 345 as of today. 2) NYSSA will not be sending out membership cards this year. Your voucher is proof of membership. see Nyssa site for more details.
Groomer/UTV Equipment	1) Strobe light for drag 2) yellow groomer - does it run with new battery? Yes, all set. 3) Did certificates come for groomer class? On the way...
Trail/Landowner	1) Trail heads - when do you want to install? 2) Barrels are installed - still need signing....bike path 3) Trails open Dec 20th
Trail Guides	Are in.. will bring to next meeting
Newsletter	1) Jan inserts need to be in by Jan 12 at noon since it is getting mailed. 2) We will mail out Aug - Oct - Dec - Jan - Feb - Mar. 3) Sled of the month for Jan? Eric
Website	All good. All board members now are global moderators to help oversee the website.
Adopt-A-Hwy	Date for Spring: April 28
3) President:	1) Dan's trail needs some work... will need a brush crew. 2) We need to update our club info in the online program.
4) Vice Pres:	RPT grant status—we received our 90% of 80% check. We will wait till 12/31 to see if we get the last 10%. Then we will decide about the loans. We will need a photo before 1/17/13.
5) Treasurer:	Treasury Report
6) Secretary:	Next Board meeting - Jan 10 at Mazias Next General meeting - Dec 27 at Marvin's

Submitted by Mary Beth



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FROM THE TRAIL COORDINATOR SIDE

Just when the trails were looking nearly perfect, Mother Nature had to put her foot down and show us who is really in charge. Thanks to all who helped brush trails and cut new trails.

Just as a reminder, I would like to get a count on signs, for the upcoming season, from the trail captains. I would like this before the end of February. When the time comes again to ride on the trails, I'm sure that there will be a few stakes tipped over. If you see one down, please fix it.

For informational purposes, I would like to inform ALL club members that when you ride on S46, at Terry's Corners, please keep your sleds off the blacktop at the fire hall so we do not have any carbide damage.

CURT WATTS 435-7068
Trail Coordinator



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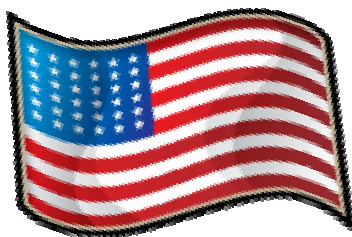


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Thank You!!!!
American Legion L.L. Tillman Post No. 900
For accommodating us for our General Meetings

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.



Our Fall 2012 Safety Course



Thanks to all would helped teach at our course this year... Al, Eric, Dan and Rob!!



Thanks to John & Sandy and the Swormville Fire Hall for a great place to have our class.



Thanks to Al & Camille who organized the event.



Thanks to John & Sandy for grilling the hot dogs and hamburgers!

Want to Advertise...



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Our new groomer is here!!



We received a grant, but we still need to come up with a % of the cost!!

We strive to have
"The Best Trails in NY!"

When you fill out your membership app, please consider making a donation for our new groomer. Whether a small or large donation, every donation gets us closer to our goal!

Sample donation for groomer:

GROOMER HOUSE FUND \$ _____

OTHER DONATION groomer \$\$\$

Thank you for being a part of our club!!

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And other anonymous NESS Members

Thank You !!

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General Meeting Minutes Summary

Date: 12/27/12



1) Welcome:	
2) Committee:	<u>Topics:</u>
Legal	1) Equip. insurance - have changes been made.
Emerg Response	Emergency Response: No update
Marketing and Advertising	1) Dec winner: Garth Davis - won at party. 2) Any new ads? Dadswell, Aqua systems, Weaver Sports 3) groomer boxes - are they all out? Not yet.
Fundraising	1) Enjoy the City Books. Ending this month got 15 more. 2) Super raffle tickets - are here, let us know if you want to sell any.
Social/Pubic Relations	1) Fed picnic date for next yr is July 14, 2013 2) NYSSA -take a friend snowmobiling week is Feb 9-18 3) Clarence Winter fest.. Jan 27th. We will be there if there is snow. Anyone want to help? 4) Christmas party recap. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a great event. Food was good. We had a lot of new landowners too!
Membership	1) How many members? 431 2) NYSSA will not be sending out membership cards this year. Your voucher is proof of membership. see Nyssa site for more details.
Groomer/UTV Equipment	1) Strobe light for drag -we have it, we just needs to be installed 2) yellow groomer - does it run with new battery? yes 3) did certificates come for groomer class? On the way...
Trail/Landowner	1) Trail heads - when do you want to install? 6 up and still going.. 2) Curt - caution on power lines due to work and watch for plowed fields. 3) Barrels are installed - still need signing....bike path - all done. Culvert on Al's trail?
Trail Guides	Are in.. will bring to meeting- al brought them.. Come take what you need.
Newsletter	1) Jan inserts need to be in by Jan 12 at noon since it is getting mailed. 2) We will mail out Aug - Oct - Dec - Jan - Feb - Mar. 3) Sled of the month for Jan? Eric
Website	All good.
Apparel	Stock is ok.
Safety/Education	Dec 15th - Swormville fire hall all day. 21 students. We sold apparel, had donations and sold a membership. We want to thank Al and Camille for putting on the safety course. Thanks also to John and Sandy for getting the fire hall and Randy B. for the hot dog and hamburger rolls. Also thanks to Dan, Eric, Al and Rob M. for instructing the class.
Adopt-A-Hwy	Date for Spring: April 28
3) President:	1) 1 meeting a month. Amjjaso 1 meeting. Ndjfm 2 meetings. It's a go. 2) Dan's trail needs some work... will need a brush crew.
4) Vice Pres:	Rpt grant status - Press release and picture needs to be done.
5) Treasurer:	Treasury Report
6) Secretary:	Next Board meeting - Jan 10 at Mazias Next General meeting - Jan 31 at Tillman
7) Other:	1) Fed meetings: <u>Gen</u> : <u>Niag</u> : Mileage charts are in. <u>Erie</u> : Al went
8) For the Good of the Club:	1) Tentative date for bonfire and place...Second wk of Feb. dice run... ? 2) Thanks to Frank, Bev, josh, Curt, Randy, Dan, Billy, Jeff B., Dave W. & David F. for pitching in and getting the last of the trails up!! We appreciate all the hard work, thanks!



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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?



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Adopt-A-Highway Program

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 Fall clean up on Sunday, October 7 at 9:00am. It took 1.50 hours to get the job done.

Thanks to everyone who helped. We couldn't have been successful without the support from our members. Our Spring date will be April 28th.

Come on out and join in on the fun!



Thank You!!!!
Mazia's on Main St in Clarence
For accommodating
us for our Board Meetings

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.

William Peronne



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Adult: Guys



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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 or call us at 741-NESS

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



Greetings from The Phantom Snowmobiler

As the Phantom writes this, the area is in the midst of a January thaw. The Phantom hopes everyone got out at least once on their snow buggies! When the snow was on the ground, the re-occurring theme of all the feedback he has heard was the same thing-the trails were in better condition than expected! Any miles you might have put on this month most likely exceeded total mileage you may have put on our area trails all of last season.

The Phantom was able to put on 200 miles around town during the brief snow cover. If the Phantom wore a hat he would tip it to the NESS groomer operators! They were all over the snow, ensuring everyone's hopes were exceeded, as to what trail conditions might be. The long range forecast predicts winter-like conditions to return shortly. The Phantom would like to touch on common courtesy on the trails.... Some may view the Phantom as again harping on this often visited subject, but in his 200 miles out on the trail it has become apparent to the Phantom that not everybody reads his column! A few brief points:

- 1) When stopping, pull over to the side of the trail in a safe spot and form a single file. Don't stop double file and don't clog intersections.
- 2) Stay on the trail and respect the landowner. You see the signs on the trail, they are self explanatory and easy to follow.
- 3) Always be ready to lend a hand to anybody who needs it.
This includes pedestrians, motorists and snowmobilers.

Every single snowmobiler represents the entire snowmobiling community, act accordingly. This message is directed to younger sledders, as well as older ones, who are young at heart and perhaps don't always think about the consequences of their actions. The Phantom doesn't write from the position of criticism - young snowmobilers are the future of our sport - he writes from experience. The phantom has been lurking out on the trails for 30 years and yes, he was once young...enjoy the season, there will be more snow, Be safe and courteous. **Until then... The Phantom Snowmobiler-he see's ALL**

**PLEASE ENJOY THE 2011
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Basil Resale 631-0400



Sled Of The Month Page

It all started when I was about 9 years old and saw the sleds going by on a trail in front of my house. I would often run to the window when I heard one coming just to see it go by. Soon, some of my friends & families got sleds and I finally got a chance to ride one. That was all it took. There was little else I wanted at that age but a snowmobile. Problem was my parents weren't buying it. My dad probably got tired of me asking so I did the next best thing I could – I built one!



I mounted an old mini bike engine and chain case to the back of my runner sled! A few modifications to the steering and...well...it wasn't much of a sled nor did it go very far, but it sure kept me busy and I had fun doing it! I even remember writing letters to all the manufacturers asking for brochures so I could look at all the cool new stuff! There were dozens of brands to pick from and I still have some of those old pamphlets! The only thing I knew for sure was that I was passionate about snowmobiles!



Fast forward 10 years when I got my first real job and could finally afford a real sled – a 1979 John Deere Trailfire. Soon after, I added a used 1975 Polaris TX 440 to the mix.



There wasn't much of trail system back then but I still managed to go about 200 miles a year. Pretty impressive since I never once left Grand Island! These 2 sleds scratched the itch for the next 10+ years as I then started a family and didn't have much time to ride.

As my son and daughter grew up and became interested, I got back into the sport with similar passion as I did when I was younger. I sold the 2 old horses and bought a '96 Indy 500 and a '97 Indy Lite Deluxe. I then joined the (newly formed) NESS snowmobile club.



Our family would ride double around the trails on these two machines and then ventured off to Old Forge and Canada. We enjoyed it so much that I added a few more machines to the list. And then a few more. We now average 1500 miles a year. As I became more active in our club, I found out that not only did I enjoy the riding part, but also the friendships I made in helping NESS grow into what it is today - the "Best trails in WNY"! My family (especially my son) has clearly been "bitten" by this bug and they all enjoy this sport as much as I do.

It started when I was 9 years old but I'm pretty sure it's still with me. 26 snowmobiles later, (not counting the one I built) and I still go to the window to watch one go by.

Eric Glassman and family

Do you want to write next month's "Sled of the Month" page? It's easy... Tell us about your favorite ride, history of your experience riding or what sled you ride now and why. Email your story to snoseekers@yahoo.com and just maybe you will see your story in print!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APRIL 2012- MARCH 2013

www.snoseekers.com
(716) 741-NESS (6377)



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.

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____ CELL PHONE (____) _____

____ YES ____ NO Email Monthly Newsletter: EMAIL _____

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
- LANDOWNER (ON TRAIL)
-
- SINGLE \$ 25.00
- FAMILY \$ 30.00 (Incl. spouse & all children 17 & under)
-
- GROOMER HOUSE FUND \$ _____
- OTHER DONATION \$ _____
-
- UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO BE A PART OF THE NYSSA TRAIL DEFENDER FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$ 20.00 - SEE BACK FOR MORE DETAILS

"SNOWMOBILERS RESPECT LANDOWNERS - STAY ON THE TRAIL"

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.

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.
- The Trail Defender upgrade membership helps NYSSA fund grant programs and legal services for member clubs.

- Come join us and visit our website at: www.snoseekers.com

Membership in this club entitles you to NYS Snowmobile Registration fee of \$45 on each snowmobile registered to the name and address. 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), bring this application to the monthly meeting or mail it to the above address.

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