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**7:30pm**  
**at:**

The  
**WOLCOTTSVILLE**  
*Inn*



6327 Wolcottsville Rd,  
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(716) 542-2424

**Monthly Meeting**

# The NESS Express

## Snowmobile Club Newsletter

Created & Edited By:  
Ron Dawydko

The NESS Express is a monthly newsletter for the members and landowners of the Northern Erie sno-seekers snowmobile club. We are a 300+ member, non-profit club responsible for 120+ miles of state funded snowmobile trails located in the Erie, Niagara, and Genesee counties. We meet monthly at a pre disclosed location. All members and interested parties are welcome to attend. Our meetings are always open to the public. We encourage you to come see what we are all about. Our club & meetings are completely family oriented. If you plan to join us for a meeting, come hungry! The club buys wings & fries for all who attend! For more information, or if you wish to contact us, [snoseekers.com](http://snoseekers.com), or (716)741-NESS or [snoseekers@yahoo.com](mailto:snoseekers@yahoo.com)

## NESS Express

### Sponsorship Rates

**1/8 Page Ad \$75**

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**Full Page Ad \$190**

Circulation to: 300+ members & 300+ Landowners  
Prices are for 12 monthly newsletters  
contact Ron for a lame-ass sales pitch, or further details cell / txt: [622-8121](tel:622-8121) or [snoseekers@yahoo.com](mailto:snoseekers@yahoo.com)



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Vice President: Jake Jurek  
Secretary: Ron Dawydko  
Treasurer: Rich McNamara  
Sergeant of Arms: Jeff Glassman  
Trail Coordinator: Jake Kelkenberg  
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Board Member: Kyle Anderson  
Board Member: Kevin Gaik  
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Board Member: Dave Linneborn  
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Marketing & AD: (OPEN)  
Fundraising: (OPEN)  
Social & Public Relations: (open)  
Membership: Rich M.  
Groomer & Equipment: Ron D.  
Trails & Landowners: (OPEN)  
Trail Guides: (OPEN)  
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## Editors Thoughts, Notes & Idea's



In early 2021 we heard rumblings & rumors that The Office Of Parks & Recreation of NYS was evaluating the current NYS Snowmobile Trail Grant process, and distribution of funds. They officially undertook a process referred to as the "LEAN" program, to employ 3d. party editors, and lawyers to evaluate the snowmobile trail grant program, and report back with, observations, ideas, legal ramifications, to decrease paperwork, decrease personnel, and further streamline the whole process, sighting being way overdue for an update to the whole process. Time passed and the next we heard from them was in a virtual meeting, where they informed the NYSSA that the current process we have been using for 20+ years, (according to their lawyers) was not legal, and did not fall within the parameters originally set when the program was put into place. To say this was a shock, would be a vast understatement, I was in attendance at this meeting, along with another club officer, and our Erie County delegate to the NYSSA. This was not a question & answer meeting, and we were all there just to hear what they had to say, we weren't able to ask any questions. Some more time passed, and basically, NYS parks & recreation went to the NYSSA and said, you need to come with a new way to distribute the trail fund money back to the clubs. Now, keep in mind, the new trail grant year starts in April, with the first deadline for phase 1 of the trail grant process April 15th., we were informed of the abandonment of the old process in May. All the clubs in NYS had already submitted paperwork for the 2021-2022 season, under the abandoned program. The NYSSA formed a "trails committee" to meet and come up with a new "trail grant" program to submit to the NYSSA, and if approved, presented to the NYS parks and recreation department. And if NYS parks & recreation liked this new plan, and agreed to it, they would implement it. Through the process of the "trails committee" meeting, we heard bits and pieces of different ideas that the committee was purposing, but with little time, and under the gun the committee had very little time to evaluate the data, the numbers and the dollars surrounding this issue. There was a tremendous push from the clubs that operate in the highest of snowfall areas in the state, Tug Hill, Adk's , Chataqua County (you get the idea) to make the new trail grant program heavily rated on grooming, and less weighted on trail maintenance, signing and brushing. The highest snowfall counties and clubs already get almost double the dollar per mile rate, which is standard across the state for all clubs under the current trail grant. I do not argue that those clubs in the high snow, high traffic, long season areas deserve more money, because they do more grooming, and grooming costs are the highest cost any club encounters through the season. My argument falls with where that extra money they deserve comes from, or who it hurts. The pie is only as big as it is... Take a bigger slice, and someone else gets a smaller one. The current purposal on the table in front of the NYSSA to be voted on, cuts funding to ALL clubs across NYS, in our case it would reduce our funding by 33% / mile of trail. They want to take almost 1/2 of the money away from us we use to brush, sign, mark, groom, build bridges, maintain bridges & culverts, service groomers and equipment, ect. and give that money to clubs in higher snow areas of the state. We currently have 10,000+ miles of state funded snowmobile trail across all of NYS, this past year we saw numerous riders rack up 1,000's of miles in a weekend, crossing the state on sleds. We have our own club members ride from Akron, south to the PA line, and then turn and head north and share pics of the banks of Lake Ontario, all in one day ! The clubs located outside of these "higher snow" areas, such as NESS and many, many others can not afford to have funding cut. If our funding is cut, to the extent that is purposed, we will not be able to survive and continue to produce the quality trails and riding experience you have all come to expect from NESS. We take every dollar we get in trail funding and pour it back into the trails. If funding is robbed from these lower snow area clubs, they will disappear in 5 years. And then we will ultimately wind up with clubs, and trails only in the traditional high snow areas, and high lake effect snow areas, there will no longer be an interconnecting NYS trail system throughout the state. The NYSSA has purposed a snowmobile registration increase, if this was passed, it would put more money in the trail fund to be distributed to all the clubs, and then we could discuss how to increase funding to the clubs that need and deserve more money for grooming. Passing a registration increase is no small task, it has to be approved by the NYSSA, then the NYS parks & rec., then we need to get a state legislator to sponsor the bill to raise the rates, and then they need to vote on it in Albany, and pass it. Legislators do not like to attach their names to bills that cause tax payers to pay more money. This whole process of the trail grant overhaul is being rushed and pushed. We need to get our priorities straight, come up with a plan that works for everyone, and then move forward. We start by raising registration rates, put more money in the trail fund, then we work on new, better and different ways to distribute that money to where it needs to go. We need your help, we need your voice, please make it to this months meeting so we can further explain in detail.

**~KEEP YOUR STICK ON THE ICE~**  
*Ron Dawydko*

*...The views expressed on this page, are those of the editor, and do not necessarily represent the views of all the officers, or club members of NESS. The NESS express is always open to publishing any opinion pieces related to our club, or snowmobiling in NYS, set forth by club members in good standing.*



# Road Trip

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## NYSSA CLUB NEWS

SUMMER 2021

### Registration is now OPEN for the 2021 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

The Annual Meeting will begin at 10 am and will be held at The Oncenter Syracuse, 800 S State St, Syracuse, NY 13202

[Register Here](#)

The Big East Snow Show is scheduled for the Fair Grounds the same weekend. The first 400 registrants will receive a FREE ticket to the Big East show.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall



As you may have heard, big changes purposed to how much of OUR money is available back to us in the trail grant, how that money is distributed and what's required to apply for it !!! This is a HUGE deal, and has HUGE impacts on our club, and the future of our club. It's SO important, NESS will pay your way there, pay your entrance fee to get in, just so we have a strong showing of OUR club members, and snowmobilers from WNY. We have to stand up and make our voices heard. The new purposed changes to the trail grant will put our club out of business in 5 years !!!

We stand to lose \$7,500+ (yearly) if the new trail grant program is pushed through. It's YOUR snowmobile registration dollars, we need to let the NYSSA & The NYS Office of Parks & Recreation know how we feel, and where we stand on this issue.

The annual NYSSA meeting is Oct. 2nd. at the Oncenter in Syracuse, NESS will pay your mileage to drive out for the day, and pay for your entrance fee to get in. A very nice big lunch is included, awards will be given away, and voting will be conducted on the purposed new plans to change the trail grant and registration fees. The Big east show is going on the same weekend at the State Fair Grounds in Syracuse, so, while you're in town you can check out the Big East Show as-well. Only 1 delegate and 1 alternate can represent each club at this meeting, but we can have as many club members on hand to stand behind, and show support of our votes, and voice our opinions on these important topics. Please, Please, we need your support and help !

## Details:

Use this link to register for the NYSSA Annual Meeting:

<https://slednyforum.regfox.com/2021-nyssasledny-annual-meeting-and-awards-luncheon>

Screen shot your registration confirmation, screen shot or take a pic of your fuel receipt and email, text or call Ron for reimbursements: [snoseekers@yahoo.com](mailto:snoseekers@yahoo.com) or Ron Cell / TxT: (716)622-8121

We will be discussing this in length at this months meeting, if you can't make it, contact Ron or Rich for further details, and information Rich: Cell / TxT: (716)553-4819 or Ron Cell / TxT: (716)622-8121



**TAV**  
**ENTERPRISES**



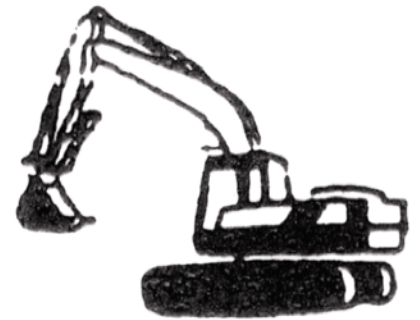
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Tom Vanderlinden

...I'm back at it again for another season. The September edition of the NESS Express marks the return to our monthly newsletter. With a circulation of 500+, consider helping our club defer the cost of publication & mailing by becoming a sponsor. You'll find rate quotes buried somewhere in this issue, and contact info to get the snow-ball rolling !!! ~Ron~

**William Peronne**



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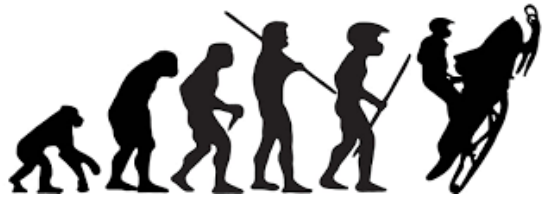
Sp Adobe Spark



# Dice Run

We are excited to be working with Bucks Motorsports, local establishments & sponsors to put together a snowmobile dice run. We are in the very early stages of planning, we need help and volunteers, please inquire at this months meeting, and sign up to make this a great NESS event.

## EVOLUTION



NORTHERN  
ERIE (NES) SNO-SEEKERS  
SNOWMOBILE CLUB



# It's Time

So...We know you got your NYS snowmobile registration renewal in the mail last month. So.... What are you waiting for ? Get online at the NYSSA website, and renew your club membership, or fill out the printed membership application in this newsletter and send it in ! You'll get your registration voucher, and you can get those sleds registered. We may have closed trails in March, but the officers and staff of NESS have been working hard through the spring and summer, we have some HUGE surprises for you ! We saw the best riding season we've had in many years when spring weather closed our trails. With great trails, comes renewed interest, and new members ! Brush hogging and trail work has already started ! Landowner permission cards have been sent out, work on the Christmas & Landowner appreciation party has already started ! The date for the Vintage Sled Show has been set, the location has been reserved ! We've updated our club apparel line-up, and outfitted our much appreciated groomer operators with some super cool hats ! We are showing our trail captains some much overdue LOVE, and distributing their Trail Captains T-shirts at this months meeting ! Most clubs take the spring and summer off, and coast through till fall.... Not NESS, we have been 100% focused on the highest trail quality and riding experience you can get, while maintaining a presence at; County, State, NYSSA & SledNY meetings through out the off season to stay completely up to speed on what's coming down the pipe, and being a part of shaping what's in the works ! NESS has a recognized name and reputation in the snowmobile community and political circles. From trails to grooming to community involvement we settle for nothing less than excellence in all areas !



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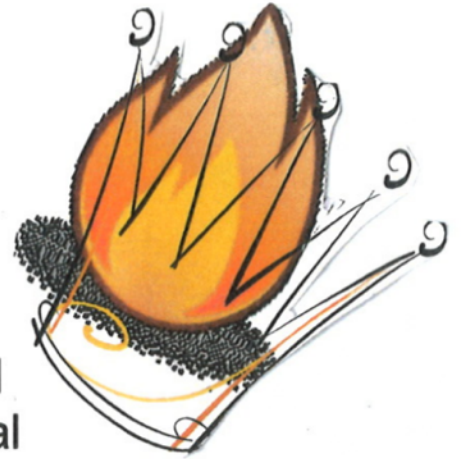
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# Northern Erie Sno-Seekers

## Membership Application



### 2021-2022 Season

Memberships run from April 1 to March 31, this coincides with NYSSA memberships & vouchers

Voucher # \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Club Admin Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Club Text Messages: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* All memberships include \$5 NYSSA membership. If you're already a NYSSA member from another club, deduct \$5 from membership, please list club name here: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

Renewal

Landowner (on trail, single only)

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$30.00

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$35.00

(INCLUDES SPOUSE & CHILDREN UNDER 17)

Groomer House Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Groomer Fuel Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other Club Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NYSSA "Trail Defender" \$20

\*Trail defender is a NYS dedicated fund to protect and acquire trails through legal and political actions\*

### Mail To:

**Northern Erie Sno-Seekers**

**PO Box 167**

**Akron, NY 14001-0167**

\*Monthly meetings are held the last Thursday of every month, locations vary, please contact us for details.

\*Membership includes a monthly copy of the "NESS Express" our club newsletter.

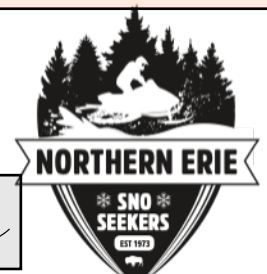
\*Membership acknowledges assumption of all risks associated with snowmobiling, it is also a release of liability, and waver of claim.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NESS is 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 is greatly appreciated. Please don't just JOIN.... instead CONTRIBUTE, to keep our club awesome!

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# Landowners

Each and every year, we as a club reach out to 300+ landowners, in 3 counties to ask permission to install 120+ miles of our snowmobile trails. Without our landowners there would be NO trails... simple... We often get caught up in many other aspects of this club, and take for granted our landowners. There are two parts that make up the back bone of this club, our members, and our landowners. Without those two ingredients we are dead in the water !

We can't thank our landowners enough, and we don't thank them often enough ! As we get ready to start work on installing this years trails, I just wanted to take a moment to say thanks. On behalf of all our club members, I want to let you know that we appreciate you granting us permission to cross your land every year. I also want you to know that when we are riding on your land, we treat it as if it was our own. We respect the wildlife we encounter, pick up any trash we find and when the snow melts we do our best to return it to the condition we found it. Leave no trace, is a pledge we as snowmobilers take every time we get on our sleds to ride.



*thank you*



## *Trail Captains*

We don't usually request your presense at meetings, but if you could make it to this meeting it would be very helpful, we have your T-shirts to hand out to you. ~Thanks~



Fellow snowmobilers,

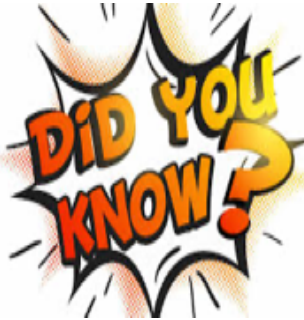
It's that time of year again, where all the trail work starts to amp back up. I know with the crazy heat we have been getting it's the last thing on anyone's mind, but with only a few months until the season kicks off its time to start all the somewhat forgotten projects. There are a few bridge jobs that need to be completed in the coming months for this season as well as loads of brush hogging. Like every year, the more the merrier to help get these projects under way and completed. So don't be a stranger, and come out to our monthly general meetings to see how you can help !

Stay Cool,  
Andy Braunscheidel

Andy Braunscheidel



The Presidents Post



We talk about the "State Trail Fund" a lot, I want to take a moment to explain just what it is... It's a fund that is derived 100% by the registration money collected by registering snowmobiles in NYS. No tax payer money is contributed to the Trail Fund in any way. We, as snowmobilers fund our own trail system 100%. Because the DMV is responsible for the implementation of the registrations, and keeps track of them, does the renewals, does the mailing, and a few other things, they get a portion of all registrations for their efforts, but the rest of the money comes from snowmobilers, riding our trails across the state, and flows to the clubs across NYS who are responsible for the trails. The NYS Office of Parks & Recreation is the body of power that oversees all of this, and works very closely with, and guidance from the NYSSA (New York State Snowmobile Association). The NYSSA is the mother of all clubs in NYS, they speak collectively for all the snowmobile clubs across the state.



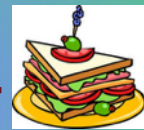
Trails don't just suddenly appear overnight in late fall. A handful of club volunteers & trail captains bust their butts, and take hours of their time to install them ! Just a few hours of your time, on a weekend, or a evening makes a huge difference. It's a great way to get out of the house, and be a part of one of WNY's largest trail systems covering 3 counties. Contact us to see how and where you can help.

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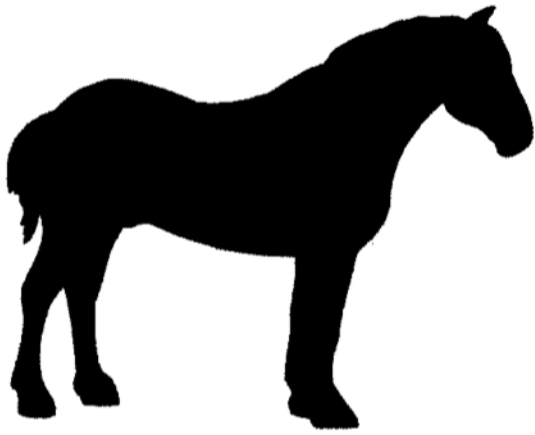
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# NEETNY & NEXT-ERA powerline project



As I'm sure most all of you are aware, this project that has been 5+ years in the making, having big impacts on our trail system is fully underway. We remain in constant contact with the contractors working on this job, due to all the delays, it will be very questionable if they will be done setting poles, and have the timber mats pulled up in the sections of this project that effect our trail system by the time trails can officially open. These guys have been very accommodating to work with, and we will do our best to work with them for a solution to keep trails open. In the end, they are the landowner, and our trails exist at their discretion, so, we all need to keep that in mind. There will be most definitely be areas and sections that will require re-routes, the biggest is in the area of Block Church Rd., & Rte #93. The trail captains in these areas will need extra help. Monitor the club website & fb for information on when we need help.



The NESS B.O.D. meeting on Aug 26, we were unable to reach a quorum, with only (3) officers present. We need a minimum of (6) officers to conduct a meeting, and do the business of the club. The meeting was deemed a work session, and thus there are no meeting minutes to share.

With fall fast approaching, meeting attendance becomes crucial to vote, pay bills, accept treasury report and conduct monthly club business in a legal and ethical manner.

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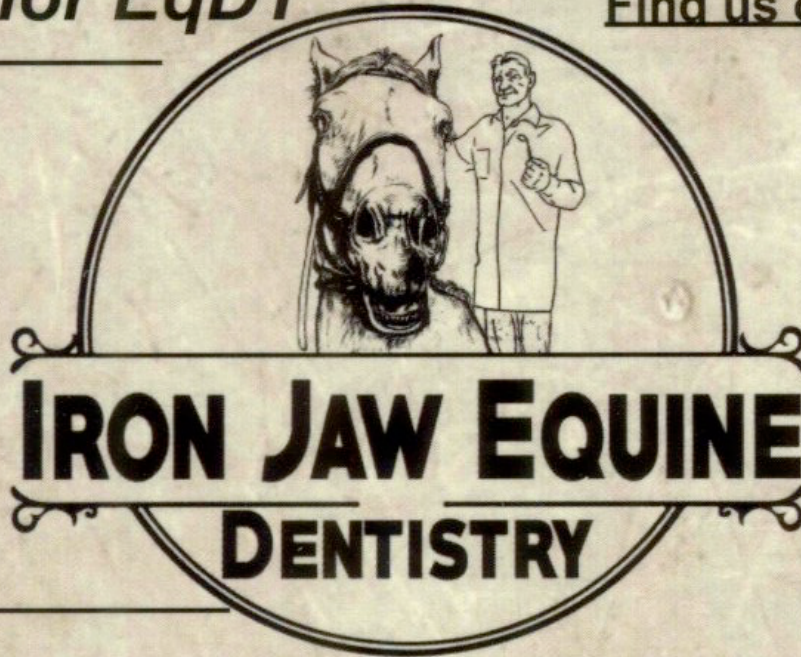
\* TAKE NOTE \* The sponsors you see in this newsletter have made a financial effort to support this club, and its members ! Please consider supporting them in return !



**Nate Taylor EqDT**

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It may not feel like fall with temps in the upper 80's, but never the less, it is. We have some very important trail projects, and also social projects in the works. We will be passing around a sign-up sheet to ask for help. Areas we need volunteers are, brush clearing & trail maintenance, bridge construction & bridge re-build's in Niagara County, Christmas party & landowner appreciation dinner, vintage sled show. Please make it a priority to make it to the meeting, and sign-up to help out.