

ON THE TRAIL

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SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

SAM's Vintage Registration Bill Signed Into Law



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The Berkshire Snow Seekers club-ride to Pontoosuc Lake took them to a impressive look-out. PHOTO BY MARK KENYON

Club Photos

See Club News on page 5



SAM Executive Director Rena Sumner's portable office. PHOTO BY SCOTT SUMNER



They call him John during the workweek, but "Vern" out on the trails. One of our BGL diehard sled dogs! PHOTO BY BRAD STAFFORD



Ed K. of Montgomery shows off his new Ski-Doo won at the Knox Trail raffle.

PHOTO BY JIM RICHARD



Brad Rand and Dave MacLeod give the Snowbirds groomer a test run after a round of maintenance and repairs. PHOTO BY DAN GOULD

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The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts is committed to enhancing safe snowmobiling in Massachusetts.

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ON THE COVER

Tom Benz of the Colrain Sno-Drifters takes a break at the top of Massamett Mountain under the Shelburne Fire Tower. Though the top cab is locked, the stairway is open to the public as an observation tower and features multiple viewpoints of western Massachusetts, southwestern New Hampshire, and southern Vermont.

PHOTO BY DAN GOULD



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**President's Message****BY DAN GOULD**

2015: Groomed to Perfection

Another big season is winding down. We got hammered with snow at the end of January and the beginning of February, far earlier than the past two years. We deserved it. My total mileage tally isn't in yet but I expect to double last year's yardage.

SAM continues to forge partnerships with land trusts. Working in conjunction with Common Ground Land Trust, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game and the Greater Worcester Land Trust, SAM was awarded an RTP grant that will preserve 43 acres of land in Leicester on the Spencer town line which contains ITS 71. The land abuts 567 acres held by Department of Fish and Game and is a perfect addition to the preservation goals of all parties.

As you read last month, the Northfield Snowmobile Club, with support from SAM, is partnering with the Town of Northfield and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to protect 145 acres and maintain the corridor trail in perpetuity. The SAM Land Preservation Fund has proven to be an outstanding program, pivotal in our goal to maintain open space for recreation.

After years of work, the vintage bill became law, creating a lifetime snowmobile registration for the old iron dogs. Register it once and fuhgeddaboutit. Hopefully we'll see vintage sleds on the trails more often. Don't rush to the registry just yet. They are working on a new vintage category as you read this and should have the registration process in place next season.

Speaking of which, the state is updating the whole snowmobile registration process and I hear that dealers may be able to register snowmobiles in the near future. Will this mean no more long drives to Springfield or

Worcester? We'll find out next fall if this is indeed the plan.

Foot traffic at the Sled Expo was up significantly as our ever-faithful snowmobilers snagged some of the best deals of the year. The used sled corral was nuts, with over 30 snowmobiles to choose from. Mark your calendar for next fall's Sled Expo, October 17 and 18, 2015.

Maybe you were lost in the desert and missed the announcement, so I'll say it again... the SAM trail map went digital. If you haven't tried it, you're bound to get lost. The new SledMass iPhone and Android trail maps are outstanding, even in this year's beta form. Yes, some of the trails need to be updated but that is to be expected as there are reroutes every year. The clubs know it and are working on updates for next season. Garmin fans can also get in on the action with the microSD card, and we have tentative plans to update the paper map within a year or so.

The updated bylaws and policy manual are also nearing completion; a thumping headache but something that had to be done, along with several other tweaks to keep the organization running at maximum RPM's.

These are just the highlights, there was so much more. Our charity program continues to grow, the clubs are investing substantial time and effort to assist those in need. Several clubs tackled major projects that must have seemed unsurmountable at first, but the rewards kept them focused.

I want to personally thank all of you and will do just that at our annual meeting at the Bluebonnet Restaurant in Northampton on April 2nd. Register online. I'll see ya'll there. 🐾



The Tech Corner

BY JIM TUCKER

Warm Feet, Warm Memories

Test: ThermaCELL Foot Warmers

What's black and gray and warm all over? Why it's ThermaCELL's new boot warmers of course!

There's an old adage that says if you're not warm then you won't enjoy snowmobiling. Back in the day, a leather suit and Sorel footwear were considered the best you could buy. I couldn't afford the leather suit but did own the venerable Sorels for many years. I used them so long the rubber chain tread wore completely off the sole making them as slick as Teflon! My suit on the other hand was made of nylon, of course there was no Gore-Tex or wind blocking fabric available back then, so most times it felt like the wind went right through me!

Even with some of the best footwear available my feet still got cold in the old days. I particularly remember my father having a pair of snowmobile boots and always putting plastic baggies over his socks to prevent the moisture from his feet getting into the felt liners and making him cold. The things we had to do to make our best-in-class equipment work.

Usually I'm the resident Popsicle, so it's no surprise I'm on the seemingly never-ending quest for the warmest boots available. I've tried several brands over the years, each of which I thought was the bomb for its time, and have recently settled on a pair from Cabelas. So far they've been tested at 17 below zero and passed with flying colors.

But there is a catch. After being outside for many hours in the wind and cold, one begins to succumb to something called exposure. This condition occurs when our metabolism slows down because of extended time outdoors, hydration level, low caloric input, overall fitness, fatigue and clothing choice. As an avid winter camper one of the first things I was taught is



how to stay warm under cold endurance conditions. Applying this to snowmobiling says that your feet, hands and head are most vulnerable to rapidly draining heat from your body, so taking clothing precautions just might make the difference between a good ride and a miserable Iditarod!

Over the years people have tried all manner of devices to mitigate cold hands and feet. From electric hand warmers to hand warmers made from cayenne pepper. They all work to some degree but we have yet to reach the Holy Grail of warmth. What if you could buy a battery operated device that is rechargeable and ready to go at a moment's notice? Enter the new kid on the block, ThermaCELL boot heater by a local company based in Massachusetts. They just might have the answer we've been seeking.

From an advertisement in a national snowmobile mag, I reached out to owner Jerry Schawbel, president of Schawbel Corporation, for a pair to test out. He graciously agreed and shortly thereafter a package arrived on my doorstep with enclosed foot heaters. In the box was their ProFLEX model with remote control. These are the insoles in which the built-in battery is removable.

Unboxing them, I immediately noticed the quality of the insoles, the carry bag, batteries, charger assembly and remote control. I finished reading the instructions as the batteries charged, taking in the key features. The little battery pack installs right into a cavity of the insole itself. A full charge can last about five hours on the medium heat setting, which is set via the remote control. There is a dotted line on the insoles that can be trimmed to fit your particular size of boot.

After a full, four-hour charge, I trimmed and fitted the insoles to my hunting-style insulated boots and slipped them on for a day of outdoor work. The temperature was about 15 degrees with a slight wind, good test conditions for boots that have far less insulation than snowmobile boots. At the end of the day my feet began to get cold from the dreaded exposure condition described above. I used the remote control and flipped the ProFLEX



The company states that the insoles do not make your feet feel hot, as that would make them sweat and thus get cold.



insoles on high, and a short time later a warming sensation came over my feet. Ahh. The manual states the insoles deliver 111 degrees Fahrenheit on high and 100 degrees on medium. I put the heaters on high, as I wanted to get warm quick. So much for patience.

The company states that the insoles do not make your feet feel hot, as that would make them sweat and thus get cold. Just a gentle warming sensation, around normal body temperature, envelops your feet. It has a very welcome feeling, I assure you. The hours piled on and I was far more willing, and able, to continue work as cold feet were one less thing to worry about. I found the ProFLEX insoles lasted about five hours on high, an hour longer than



the claimed four hours. Bonus! Once inside for the day, I left the insoles in the boots and just removed the batteries for a recharge.

In subsequent cold-to-very cold days I tried them again and again, and they simply perform the same every time. As far as comfort goes, I hardly noticed the insoles, as they are not too thick, something I was concerned with initially. I'd suggest the company consider installing a heat reflective Mylar shield on the bottom of the insole. That way all the heat produced will be directed up into the foot and not down into the sole of the boot.

I haven't installed them in my snowmobile boots as of this writing but intend to do so and will report back soon. I suspect they will do even better, as the insulation is far thicker than in my hunting boots.

The ThermaCELL heated insoles get high marks for quality of design, accurate instructions, functionality and warmth. They can be used anywhere, so long as you can charge them at the end of the day, and I will surely take them on my first saddlebag tour.

These heated insoles may also be helpful for those with Raynaud's disease, diabetics and anyone in general that has trouble keeping their feet toasty.

In the end, they get a four and a half out of five carbide rating for the reasons stated above, in addition to the mental factor of knowing that you have an ace in your boot and not your sleeve! 🖤



ADAMS SNO DRIFTERS

by Chrissy Satko
and Joe Rogge

As we end another season of snowmobiling we have a few points to ponder and reflect upon. Did we thank all our landowners and volunteers? Did we leave the trails in better shape than we found them in the late fall? Did we support a charity or charities with as much gusto as we do our sport? Were we courteous at all times? Did we project a good image specifically of our club and snowmobiling in general? Were we there when others needed us? Did we act like we want to be club of the year? What standards have we set for our club in the future? Was our club leadership active in all aspects of SAM?

Finally a point to really ponder! Were we responsible for any trail closures due to

improper trail etiquette? Has the behavior of our club or individual members alienated the community or landowners? We cannot recall the last time a snowmobiling family ever caused a trail to be closed. So who are those who do and what did they do? Was it failure to stay on marked trails? Was it excessive speed or noise? Was it damage to property or litter? Just think about it! See you next winter.



BERKSHIRE SNOW SEEKERS

by Randy Toth

As this riding season draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to thank all of you who helped our club remain a strong viable organization. First, thanks to our private and public landowners, without whose generosity we would not have an interconnected

trail system. Thanks to those individuals who tirelessly performed much needed trail work and grooming to keep our trails in top shape. Thanks to the groomer mechanics who kept our aging fleet in operation. Thanks to our officers and board of directors for running our club and to the core group of members who faithfully kept coming to our club meetings and helped conduct club business. Thanks also to those who helped obtain RTP funds to purchase new equipment. Thanks to those members who did not have the time to actively participate but chose our club to join in order to snowmobile on our trails. Thanks to our trail permit outlets: Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor, Ronnie's, Friendly Fred's, AJAY's, Hinsdale Trading Company and Lanesboro BP Gas. Have a great summer and we hope to see you all back next year.

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BERNARDSTON-GILL-LEYDEN

by Brad Stafford,
club president

Our season started out very slow as we got an initial great base and then for weeks Mother Nature teased us. Despite it looking like there was enough cover, our trails remained closed into January. We finally got snow in the final week of January and the beginning of February that got the trails open and the season started. All clubs that have been out there since September getting trails ready or in the garage getting the groomers prepped. It paid off. The members of the BGL snowmobile club are truly privileged to have a handful of these guys that dedicate themselves year after year in the task to keep our trails at the quality level that they are. I know for sure some of these guys have well over 100 hours in just in the last few months alone out there "getting it done." My advice at the beginning of the season was to just be patient and the snow will come. It did. It's important that our members understand the efforts the club officers and active volunteers go through and I invite everyone to join us at a meeting or a work bee next season. Until next time, Keep the Rubber Side Down.



BURGY BULLETS

by Jon Tobin, president

Winter finally arrived in February. The Bullets have worked hard preparing our trails and bridges and now we get to enjoy the fruits of our labor. We have held a few events so far, Yamaha Demo rides sponsored by Valley Motorsports, a Mass Vintage ride and a family fun ride all in February and we hope to have few more good times planned for March. We update our Facebook page regularly so keep checking for new events. A huge thank you goes out to all our volunteers who helped get our trails in shape and put in hours to help with our grant projects. The clubhouse is open for business Friday nights 6pm-10pm, Saturdays 10am-10pm and Sundays 10am to 5pm, as long as we have volunteers to bartend. Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7pm. We're right on Corridor 93 with plenty of parking. Think Snow.



CHESTERFIELD FOUR SEASONS

by Bill Golaski, president

Hello all. I'm writing this the day before the big storm at the end of January. Who knows what we will get for snow? I would like to thank all those who volunteered throughout the winter. Also all members and others that attended our club functions. Without all of you there would be no club. Hope we had a ton of good riding after this huge storm passed. Once again thanks to all of you from all of us at the club.



CONWAY

by Ed Skorupski

Here we are again approaching the end of another season. The month of February was far kinder to us compared to the beginning of the season. It is important to note that there was a lot of hard work that went into the trails this year.

Our groomer operators and mechanics stayed busy making needed repairs and modifications. Thanks to Paul Sokoloski, Mike Barlow, Wayne Jackman, Dan Thurlow, and Ron Sweet. I know they would rather be grooming, rather than wrenching, but we are at the mercy of Mother Nature. Again this year Ron Hawkes took care of the bulk of the signage on our trails. Thank you to our SAM Delegates, Paul Sokoloski and our alternate, Amy Faut, who help us to hear the SAM message, and more importantly, help us to be heard by SAM. And I can't forget our officers, Ron Sweet (President), Mike Barlow (Vice President), Carol Thurlow (Treasurer), and Craig Warner (Secretary). Craig will be stepping down next month as Secretary and Jeff Smith will be filling that role for the club going forward. Thanks for stepping up, Jeff.



GREATER WHATELY

by Robert Sabola

The Greater Whately Snowmobile Club received a Certificate of Compliance from the Whately Conservation Commission on January 21, 2015 for the bridge located off of Christian Lane. The property is owned by Mass Fish and Wildlife.

Our journey started back on January 28, 2013. As with everything, things take

time and money. The club usually had one or the other but never both at the same time. Thank you to all those who purchased their trail pass from GWSC. Your support made this bridge possible. Without it the trail would have been closed forever. Christian Lane Bridge Builders thank you for all your help.

Thank you landowners for giving us permission to ride on your property year after year. Mr. Jackson, thank you for all your help in making the Christian Lane Bridge happen. Mass Fish and Wildlife, thank you for being patient and giving us a chance to make things right. Thanks to the folks who attend our monthly meeting. GWSC meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, September through April at 7pm, at Whately Town Hall. Email us at: greaterwhatelysnowmobileclub@aol.com, visit us at sledmass.com/club/greater-whately-snowmobile-club



HADLEY

by Dan Regish,
secretary/treasurer

Well it was a rocky start this season but it would be fair to say that there was some snow to ride on. Many thanks go out to all of the members, old and new, who helped to nearly double the number of trail passes issued by the HSC this season! This force of volunteerism made quick work of bridge building and repair as well as trail clearing and marking. Old and new members worked extremely well together to clean up after the micro-burst that devastated the Hockanum area, keeping the trail to the summit house open for everyone to enjoy.

But the fun doesn't end there! This volunteer force is now mid-stroke in the planning for our Landowner Appreciation BBQ scheduled for Sunday, June 7th, to be held at the Young Mens Club pavilion. This party features live music, raffles, door prizes, and tons of great food! All are welcome and as always, landowners along our trail system eat free.



HARVARD

by Joe Gibbons,
board of directors

Well, the snow came late this year but when it did, it piled up. With no riding until late January, except for that early blast at Thanksgiving, we still managed

for club rides and cookouts. Our club made good use of the down-time pursuing future trail improvements and trail expansion. Our board of directors made attempts to negotiate with Fort Devens to expand into that area but we came up short. We will re-visit the possibility down the road. We are currently pursuing our state representatives to assist the club with reopening several miles of trails through the Bolton Flats. Mass. Fish and Game rejected our first submittal but we will not give up! This portion of our trail system was very active during the 1970's through the 1990's when Culley's snowmobile dealership was doing a thriving business. Reopening this portion of our trail system will give us access to another fueling station and our members from towns like Lancaster, Clinton, Hudson, will regain access to the trail system. Wish us luck! Think Snow.



**KNOX TRAIL
SNO-RIDERS**
by Jim Richard,
media director

Here we are at the end of another season! As I write this in late January, the snow conditions have been anemic. We got walloped in late November but then there

was no icy base to allow good riding. Now Boston just got nearly three feet, and we got a measly six inches. But beneath it is a good solid base firmed up by a stretch of below freezing temps. The grooming is beginning to ramp up and the drivers are putting in long hours. The new Bear Cat and Yamaha VK sleds are finally getting action. The December 27 raffle drawing is history. Winner Ed K. of Montgomery took home a new Ski-Doo with ticket number 25. The dinner dance had nearly two hundred attendees. There were additional raffles. One was for the last grand prize ticket. There was a Chinese auction and a fifty/fifty drawing. The raffle was an astounding success! The new website is operating and it includes an interactive trail service map and a Google calendar. Go to knoxtrail.com. There is more snow in the forecast and hopefully the conditions will improve for the upcoming Poker Run and Vintage Ride. Thank you to all of the landowners that made it possible to have another great season. See you next winter, on the trails!



**SAVOY
KANARY KATS**
by Doug Decoigne
Hello high elevation fans!

As of this writing in late January we are expecting a major snowstorm... finally. SKK held its first club ride Saturday 1/24 in cooperation with the Adams Snow Drifters club. It was a big success, raising contributions to "Carrick's Journey" in excess of expectations to help the family of Carrick Wood of Adams who was born in July with Leukemia. Several crockpot offerings as well as burgers and dogs were served at Tom and Catherine Wandrei's. Many thanks to them and to Tom for a well-executed family oriented ride through our beautiful trail system.

We had a few equipment hiccups starting the grooming process but thanks to a totally dedicated core group of mechanical geniuses, we are ready to transform the coming snow into a top-notch network of the best snowmobile trails south of the VT/NH border! And better than many north of the border!

Again I'm going to name the latest club members to most recently step up to ensure that our trail system is a good as it can be: Rich Massey, Jimmy LaFrance Jr., Don Pause, Dave Purple, Al Neal, and Doug Decoigne, Jr. Thanks to them our trails are and will continue to be great. 🐾

SAM Annual Meeting, April 2

The SAM Board of Directors invite you to celebrate your association at the upcoming SAM Annual Meeting and dinner on Thursday, April 2. Participate, relax and enjoy dinner with your friends, while you participate in the business meeting and the honoring of award recipients.

Bluebonnet Restaurant, King Street,
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6:30 Buffet Dinner
7:00 Annual Meeting, Awards
& Raffle



Pre-Registration is required online or by calling the SAM office | REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, MARCH 26

PHOTO BY MARK KENYON

Playing Poker

By Paul Gallant

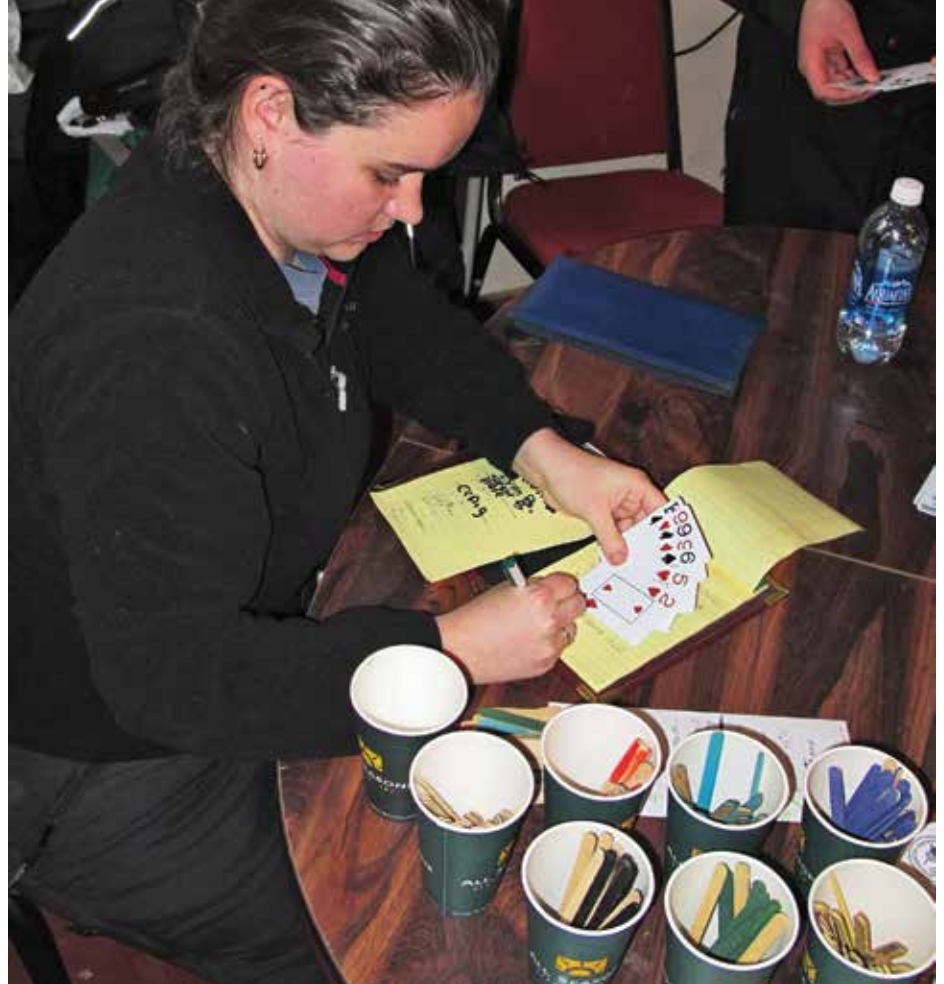
The records indicated that the last poker run held by the Mill Valley Snowmobile Club was January 5, 1985. That discovery was made in 2001. We've had one every year since then.

If you've never been to a poker run you may be conjuring up images of snowmobilers sitting at big round tables, helmets, snowsuits and other gear strewn about the room with playing cards in hand and poker chips stacked in front of them. Luck and gambling is involved in these events but not that kind.

Motorcycle clubs have been around much longer than snowmobile clubs so the poker run idea most likely began with bikers as an interesting and fun way to hold fundraiser events. Because many snowmobilers also ride motorcycles — and a good idea, is a good idea — poker runs naturally made their way into snowmobiling. That's my theory, anyway. Understanding the original concept and how it works requires knowledge about how the motorcyclists do them, so let's swap tracks for wheels and take a look at it from the motorcycle participant's viewpoint.

You start at the sign-in table, pay a fee and receive a sheet of paper with your name and five blank boxes where your card picks are going to be written. For an additional fee, there may also be a mileage guess sheet on this table. It's optional but it's another opportunity to win a prize, so if you feel lucky, take a guess on how long the ride will be.

You'll now move to a second table with a shuffled deck of cards on it. Pick a card and it will be written in the first box on your sheet. You are now given a page or two of route directions. The card is put back in the deck and reshuffled so that everybody always picks from a full deck. You now must wait for your friends to complete the sign-in. Friends can be an asset if you have a mishap or breakdown



and they may be better at following the route, so bring some along.

It's now time to throw a leg over the saddle and ride. Somewhere on that route there are three stops where the card picking process will be repeated with two exceptions. (A) Should you pick a card already listed on your sheet you will have to pick again, and (B) Your sheet will be stamped, initialed or marked in some

way. Following the exact route is highly advisable to avoid backtracking, and failure to complete the run by closing time could disqualify you. Starting early gives you a time advantage if trouble occurs but it's not a race and there is ample time to complete the ride.

The last card is picked at the final destination, which may or may not be the same place you started. For a per-card

fee you may pick up to three extra cards. If your poker hand looks promising and you feel lucky, go for it. Your route sheet is now sent to the judges and you can join the food line to get the feast that you've already paid for with your entrance fee. Enjoy! Tickets for a 50/50 raffle may also be sold at this time and you have to buy at least one ticket to win. Since you'll know by this time if your poker hand is a good one this may be your last chance to win something. Good luck!

Trails don't have street signs and cold, windy, snowy weather can make stops on snowmobile rides problematic. Our preferred method is to have club members volunteer to lead rides down predetermined trails that have been meticulously groomed to perfection. A second volunteer will bring up the rear of approximately ten sleds per group in case there's confusion. The last thing we want is to have out-of-towners lost on the trails.


Mill Valley held their poker run at Devon Lane Farm Supply. I had a few tables and a dozen chairs and agreed to bring them. Overlapped white tablecloths gave the illusion that there was one long table right down the middle of the room. Most of the participants drove their sleds from home or unloaded elsewhere, so there was ample parking.

At about 10am the riders left in one large group. For the small group of people remaining, myself included, it was mostly a social event. Conversations about a variety of topics were a constant occurrence throughout the room and that included the volunteer tending the grills outside. The cooking wouldn't start till they returned but everybody was too lost in conversation to be concerned about that.

Eventually we heard sounds outside. One by one the snowmobiles were pulling in. They were all back, except for the one that ran out of gas, and his rescuer. What had been a few conversations now

multiplied into dozens as the room filled to capacity. The four-legged welcoming committee was now on duty and doing a good job. Poker hands were being picked and a lot more smoke came off the grills as the cooking began. Eventually the food was ready and a line formed. There was a separate dessert table, too. The room grew quieter and quieter as more and more people sat down and started their meal. It's doubtful that anyone left hungry.

Afterward, winners were announced and prizes awarded, followed, of course, by more conversations. As the sky got darker small groups of people and snowmobiles started leaving until only the cleanup crew remained.

Our gamble had paid off. The event was a success thanks to enough snowfall and a good turnout. If history is the indicator, the dice will roll again next year. Whether or not our snowmobile club wins is anybody's guess, but I suggest every club hold a poker run, at least once. 

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Legislative Corner

BY LARRY TUCKER



PHOTO BY MARK KENYON

SAM Legislative Team Scores Touchdown!

As I am writing this article, the excitement level is through the roof as our New England Patriot won the Super Bowl. But the Patriots are not the only ones scoring touchdowns, your legislative team also just put one over the goal line.

SAM Vintage Bill Passes! On January 8th, 2015, your Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM) vintage bill was

passed and signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick. This bill creates a special Massachusetts registration for sleds older than 25 years. More importantly it makes the registration valid until the sled is sold and ownership is transferred to a new owner. This is a significant accomplishment for your association as it marks the first time a SAM bill has passed into law since 1998.

The SAM Legislative Team: On behalf of the SAM Legislative committee, I would like to extend a big thank you to every one of you for your efforts in helping with the SAM legislation. And, when I refer to the "legislative team" I mean everyone - all snowmobilers, including the Executive Board, the Board of Directors, the clubs, the members and even non-members - anyone who has had any interaction with a legislator. In fact, every letter we write, every conversation, every email, every public hearing, every state agency we interact with is one more building block for our legislative program. The more we educate, the more exposure we have and the more awareness we create for our state association. This contributes toward a more positive image of our sport and makes it easier to meet our challenges.

And what about the new bond bill? On Wednesday August 13th, 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law a 4-year, 2-billion dollar Environmental Bond Bill. This event marked another first for Massachusetts. This bill has the potential to provide up to \$800,000 dollars per year for trails in Massachusetts and is available to the snowmobile community. It is modeled after the National Recreational Trails Program (NRTTP) currently administered by the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). And it is the first time that the state has committed to enhance the NRTTP program with additional funding. Prior to this bill, funding for snowmobile trails came only from the federal monies provided through the NRTTP. The state does provide some funding for maintenance of snowmobile trails on state property through the operating budget of the DCR. We will be hearing more about this great new program in the future

It should not go unnoticed or unmentioned that Western Massachusetts now has a very strong link to the Massachusetts legislature as Senator Stan Rosenberg, (D) Amherst, is the new Senate President and the first Western Mass legislator to hold this position in over 40 years. Senator Rosenberg has considerable political skills and a well-earned reputation as a legislator who can forge alliances through negotiation, compromise and cooperation to get things accomplished. More significantly, there is a high number of snowmobilers in his district which

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covers 24 Western Mass. Communities, including Northampton, Amherst, Hadley, Hatfield, Pelham, South Hadley, Bernardston, Colrain, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Leverett, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whatley and Royalston.

Again, I offer special thanks to all of you that helped with our SAM legislative program. Please keep in touch with your legislators and I hope to see you out on our snowmobile trails soon. And, remember, snowmobilers are all members of the Legislative Team. 🐾

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Vintage Snowmobile Registration Signed Into Law

By Dan Gould

The Vintage Snowmobile Registration legislation filed by the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts was signed by Governor Patrick as he left office and is now law. SAM's bill H.3858 can now be referred to as Chapter 502 of the Acts of 2014.

In simple language, the new law mandates that vintage snowmobile registrations shall be valid until ownership of a vintage snow vehicle is transferred to another person.

There are a lot of vintage snowmobile collectors in Massachusetts but many said they simply could not rationalize registering their vintage sleds on a regular basis




since they don't ride them often, if at all. The new law creates a lifetime vintage snowmobile registration, which means no renewal, and an opportunity for collectors to register all of their vintage sleds at a reasonable cost. It also clears the way for them to be ridden more often.

Andy Holland, chairman of SAM's Mass Vintage Snowmobile Club, ex-

plained that this would give vintage owners, including himself, an affordable opportunity to register all of their vintage sleds over a period of time. "I plan to register two or three every year" he said. He also felt that having the sleds registered would help an owner in the event of theft.

The legislation was crafted by SAM's Legislative Team, led by Randy Toth, and the Vintage Committee, and has been filed multiple times over the past decade. Congratulations to members of those committees and thanks to the legislators who supported it.

Don't try to register your vintage iron just yet, though. It will take a few months for the state to implement the new system, it should be up and running next fall. 

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Member Profile

Matt Crowningshield

Club: Indian Head Snowmobile Club

Years snowmobiling: 24

Current snowmobile: 2003 Polaris XC-SP 600

Sled mods: I raised the handlebars, installed studs and added hand-guards.

Club position: For about ten years I have been club president and treasurer. I have also served as SAM delegate for about nine years.



VOLUNTEER WORK: I enjoy grooming trails and preparing them for the winter., everything from building new trails to basic trail trims. Getting out and improving the trails is good exercise and helps keep everyone safe.

FAVORITE RIDING AREA:

My favorite place to ride is up in the Hilltowns; there's so much to see and I know the trails like the back of my hand.

TELL US A STORY: The funniest thing I've ever saw on a snowmobile was a group of riders that were dressed up like the Flintstones, just out enjoying the trails.

SOUND OFF:

Snowmobiling is a fun sport and smooth trails are great. Remember to always thank the groomer operators. They are all volunteers and take the time to do the job. Without volunteers we wouldn't have anywhere to ride. Trails don't build themselves. Remember to support your local club and buy a trail pass.





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