Arctic Cat Sold to Who? PAGE 12 | Blizzard Trailer Raffle BACK PAGE

# 

SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS



MARCH 2017 | \$3.99 SLEDMASS.COM

OTS TRSRY US POSTAGE DAY LAUSING, MI LAUSING, WI Members of the Massachusetts Environmental Police and the Snowmobile Registration Bureau join SAM members at the BGL Swap meeting in Bernardston this fall.





October Mountain State Forest's Rock Removal Project this fall as part of a Berkshire Snow Seekers RTP grant. PHOTO BY RANDY TOTH



Easy Riders' winter picnic was a big hit. PHOTO BY STEVE CONTI

## Club Photos

See Club News on page 3



Hill Town Snowmobile Club groomer repair crew, Todd Celatka, Bruin Pratt and Tom Carroll at Joe's Snowmobile Shack.

PHOTO BY MIKE DUFRESNE

## **Contents**

#### VOLUME 32, ISSUE 5

#### DEPARTMENTS

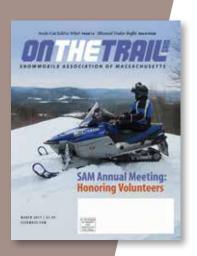
President's Message	. 2
Club News	3
Did You Know?	10
Arctic Cat Sold for \$247 Million Cash	12
SAM Annual Meeting	
Marketplace	13

FEATURES



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





ON THE

Sometimes the view is so grand that simply sitting still on the sled is exciting enough.

PHOTO BY DAN GOULD



### ONTHETRAIL

The Official Publication of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts

#### **MANAGING EDITOR**

Dan Gould (978) 337-9904 info@sledmass.com

#### STAFF WRITERS

Brad Stafford, brad.stafford@sledmass.com Rena Sumner, rena.sumner@sledmass.com Randy Toth, randy.toth@sledmass.com Jim Tucker, jim.tucker@sledmass.com Larry Tucker, larry.tucker@sledmass.com

#### **COPY EDITORS**

Patty Gould, Joe Rogge, Rena Sumner

#### **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Stewart Moon

#### **ADVERTISING SALES**

Keri Wanner (701) 220-5829 keri@driven2pushboundaries.com

Printing services provided by Walsworth Print Group

contributors: We welcome unsolicited materials and letters for possible publication. Stories, manuscripts, photos, artwork and other contributions must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish it returned. ON THE TRAIL WITH SAM accepts no responsibility for returns, losses or damage of unsolicited materials. Letters to the Editor must be signed with address and telephone number of the sender. We reserve the right to edit the material to suit the presentation and available space.

SUBMISSIONS: P.O. Box 526 Brookfield, MA 01506-0526 info@sledmass.com.

**COPYRIGHT:** All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without the written permission of the publisher.

PUBLISHED BY: On the Trail With SAM is published five times a year, October, November, December, January-February and March by the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM), C/O Rena Sumner, P.O. Box 386, Conway, MA 01341. Phone: (413) 369-8092. Fax: (413) 369-0203. E-mail: rena.sumner@sledmass.com.



#### President's Message

BY DAN GOULD

## We Did What? The Season in Review

ave you ever been so busy that you forgot what happened? That's pretty much what the season's been like for the SAM Board of Directors and officers.

At the October SAM meeting Mark Stinson of the Mass Department of Environmental Protection gave an overview of the requirements needed to build and maintain trails, including bridges. He explained the terminology used regarding environmental issues and identified the protection of streams and rivers via buffer zones. His expertise and advice was invaluable.

Colonel James McGinn of the Mass Environmental Police and his staff met with the SAM Executive Committee at the Sled Expo, giving us the opportunity to discuss snowmobile safety and updates to the registry. Officers were at the Expo, answering questions and assisting vintage sled owners with lifetime registrations. The mobile registration vehicle was also in Bernardston this past November, connecting with customers in the northwest region of the state.

The Sled Expo moved to a larger hall at the Big E grounds, with more elbowroom for exhibitors, a better used-sled corral and a vintage display that was front and center. Some big ideas are being floated for next fall, including an After-5 Snowmobile Bash, with live music, food, adult beverages and a surprise raffle or two. If you like raffles, you're gonna love the chance of winning a Blizzard 4-place, all-aluminum enclosed trailer for only \$10. Clubs have tickets in-hand now. The drawing takes place at the Sled Expo.

In January Rena Sumner and Randy Toth had a fabulous meeting with DCR Commissioner Michael Roy. Details are on page 11.

Implementing the new club management software has been a major undertaking but so worth it. You will have the ability to manage your club account online and purchase trail passes, even on mobile devices. Stay Thanks to everyone who supports the grassroots efforts of the clubs and SAM.

tuned for a redesign of the sledmass website, with better mobile browsing and intuitive interface.

Once again Marcia Miller and the Charity Committee led our successful Toys for Tots and the Easter Seals Camp Sno-Mo campaigns. Club support is amazing and proves yet again that snowmobilers care about our communities!

DCR Western District OHV Project Manager, Scott Morrill, met with the SAM Board this fall, offering clubs guidance and assistance with trail projects. Amanda Lewis, DCR's Recreational Trails Program Coordinator, provided an overview of the RTP Buy America Program, the purpose of which is to keep jobs and sales in the U.S. She encouraged clubs to submit applications, as there is 1.3 million dollars in funding available in 2017.

SAM's new early-bird trail pass discount was a success and made it that much easier to support your club and save a few bucks, too. It will continue next fall.

There is even a new club! Yes, the Snow Riders of Nashaway are SAM certified. The club, based in the Lancaster, Clinton, Sterling area, are busy connecting the dots of a trail system the will grow riding opportunities in Worcester County. Congratulations to a determined group of snowmobilers that are focused on success.

Finally, thanks to everyone who supports the grassroots efforts of the clubs and SAM. Backing from our legislators, businesses partners, advertisers, landowners and volunteers is vital and much appreciated.

#### **Club News**



A sign reminds snowmobiles to stay off the sensitive area next to the monument at the summit of Greylock. PHOTO BY JOE ROGGE

#### ADAMS SNO-DRIFTERS

#### by Joe Rogge, board of directors



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? Some of our landowners have many acres of land and hundreds of riders access the trails on or through their property. We would like to share the story of four landowners whose trail permission is measured in hundreds of feet. These kind individuals have supported a club member's use of a short trail (total under a quarter of a mile). Due to the support of these landowners this club member has been able to ride for many years with his daughter, granddaughter, and family members. These landowners have gone out of their way in supporting this by regularly clearing the trail of debris. One of the landowners actually walks the trail each fall to check out the trail for this club member's winter use. She actually gave the trail a name: B's Boulevard and L's Lane. Great people! We thank all landowners big and small.

#### BERKSHIRE SNOW SEEKERS

#### by Randy Toth



I'd like to take a moment to thank all of you who helped our club remain a strong viable organization. The long list includes those who purchased early bird trail passes, which were instrumental in helping to keep us solvent as we laid out large sums of money in support of our RTP projects; our private and public landowners, without whose generosity we would not have an interconnected snowmobile trail system; those individuals who tirelessly performed the needed trail work to keep our trails in top shape; our groomer operators; our groomer fleet maintenance professionals; our members who labored to keep the RTP program viable; our officers; our board of directors and our core group of active dedicated members. Thanks also 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. And finally, 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.

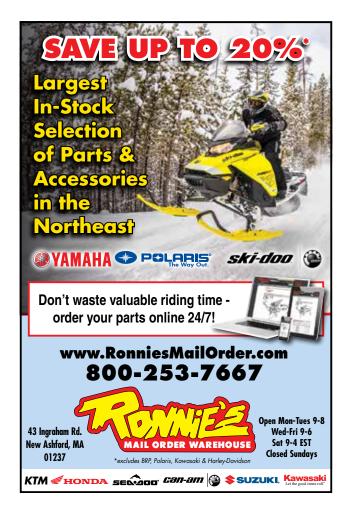
#### BERNARDSTON-GILL-LEYDEN

#### by Brad Stafford, president



Sitting here on the last week of January and looking at the glass half full. We already have had our trails open for two weeks longer than last year. We also got a ride in to the clubs' gathering spot in Leyden at

the fire pit for a well-attended lunch on a Sunday afternoon. A few hours there is worth more than six trips to the therapist... so I'm





told. Despite another disappointing year so far, snow wise, our club and its dedicated volunteers have been busy. Infrastructure work throughout all three towns has kept us busy. Our crew in Gill-igan's Island have made huge upgrades in their world. So hopefully they can use our newly outfitted mini truck and its new drag there. I can't give enough praise to our entire dedicated core crew. Without you guys and girls, our club and trails would not be in the awesome shape that they are. That doesn't mean I'm letting the rest of you off the hook. There is always more that our club and all clubs can do with extra bodies and even a few hours of time. I urge you all to just attend one club meeting and see what happens behind the scenes. Until next time, keep the rubber side down.

#### **BUCKLAND RIDERS**

#### by Steven Howland, president



Join us for our annual dinner and dance! We will be holding our annual dinner this year on March 18 at the Buckland Public Hall featuring delicious prime rib from Cliff's Smokin' BBQ, raffle prizes,

and dancing to the rocking music of Ruby's Complaint. To reserve your tickets please email or call Dave or Tammy Lowell at low-ell4@hughes.net or 413-625-0261. Limited to 100 tickets so please reserve early.

#### **BURGY BULLETS**

#### by Kevin Kukucka



Hopefully everyone has enjoyed a great second half of the riding season. I'm writing this at the end of January and Mother Nature has not been kind to us so far. The clubhouse will still be open until the snow

melts, check Facebook for hours each weekend. The annual "Legends of Snowmobiling" dinner is scheduled for April 22 at our clubhouse and will be hosted by the Goshen Highlanders. There will be more info to come on all scheduled events, so watch our Facebook page. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all that helped keep the clubhouse open and the trails and bridges maintained and groomed. Also to the "Burnache Boys" for building us



Good food and friends at the Buckland Riders Annual Dinner.
PHOTO BY STEVE HOWLAND

a new Roller/Packer this season at almost no cost! It takes a ton of volunteer support to keep these clubs in operation, so please step up and make a phone call to your local club and volunteer some manpower, even if it's just one morning of your time.

#### **CHESTERFIELD FOUR SEASONS**

#### by Bill Golaski, treasurer and SAM delegate



As I write this article on 01-26-17, we have no rideable snow on the ground. We did have some early riding but rain and warm weather wiped that snow out. The one good thing is that the Patriots

are going to the Super Bowl. Go, Pats! Our club officers would like to thank all the volunteers that help throughout the year to keep our club up and running. A small group has done large amounts of work around the clubhouse and on the trails. Things have been good at the club. We have removed a bunch of trees around the clubhouse to improve the grounds appearance and plan for a storage building, to store our groomers and equipment in. We will be having a major spring work party to finish the clean-up from the tree work. We hope to have other



A new roller/packer fabricated by the "Burnache Boys" for the Burgy Bullets will make for smooth trails.

members step up and lend a hand with this job. We will advise you on a date for the work party on our newsletter and website. We hope to include a free dinner at end of the workday. Hopefully we will get some snow for the end of the season. It would be nice to be able to ride soon. If we do have rideable snow, we hope to have the club open on the weekends, but it's always best to give us a call at 413-296-4048 and think snow and cold for the rest of the season, please!

#### **CONWAY**

#### by Ed Skorupski



The end of another season is in sight and while this season started with a lot of promise, the middle portion was less than perfect. Hopefully the end of the season is more to our preference. I would like

to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their loyalty and to thank our volunteers for their time and effort. Austin Snape, one of our younger members, had a fine first year as president, Mike Barlow continued his steady presence as vice president, Craig Warner took over as treasurer, and Jeff Smith continued on as secretary. Adam Sokoloski is our SAM delegate, and his father Paul continued to take care of almost all of the grooming equipment. A special thank you to the Conway Cycle Club, whose members coordinate with us and volunteer their time on our joint-use trails and some snowmobile-only trails. Most importantly, we wouldn't be traveling very far without all of the landowners in our area, most of whom don't snowmobile. It is through their generosity that we are able to maintain a 120mile trail system in the Conway area. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and check out our website sledconway.com.

#### **EASY RIDERS**

#### by Larry McCullough, treasurer

I hope many of you have had a chance to ride up north in ME, NH, or VT as there was not much snow in MA this year. All three



\*Customer Cash offer good on select 2017 and prior year models models between 1/4/17 to 3/31/17. 2017 Spring Power Surge models not eligible. Dealer remains responsible for complying with all local and state advertising regulations and laws. Product and specifications subject to change without notice. Professional rider on closed course under controlled conditions. Always wear an approved helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Ride responsibly and always ride within your capabilities, allowing time and distance for maneuvering, and respect others around you. Know the conditions. Observe all state and local laws. Don't drink and ride. © 2016 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved.

Visit your local Yamaha snowmobile dealer today:

#### BILLERICA MOTORSPORTS

6 RIVEREDGE ROAD NORTH BILLERICA, MA BILLERICAMOTORSPORTS.COM

#### **CYCLE DESIGN**

305 STATE RD PHILLIPSTON, MA CYCLEDESIGNONLINE.COM

#### CYCLES 128

107 BRIMBAL AVE BEVERLY. MA CYCLES128.COM

#### MOMS FOXBORO

1000 WASHINGTON ST FOXBOROUGH, MA MOMSOUTH.COM

#### **VALLEY MOTORSPORTS**

216 N KING ST NORTHAMPTON. MA VALLEYMOTORSPORTS.COM





northern states had some great riding, as did Quebec and New Brunswick. The Easy Riders ran several trips to these areas with great results. As for some of us retirees, we have had some extended riding.

We also had a good year with our cash raffle, selling more tickets than we have ever sold before. Of the three winners this year, one ticket was sold at the SAM Expo and another was sold at the DCU show in Worcester. Funds earned from our raffle are used to subsidize club functions and to contribute to other non-profit organizations. Last year we donated to Toys for Tots, the Marlborough Boys and Girls Club, The Marlborough Moose Lodge, the Marlborough Food Bank and the Wounded Warrior organization, among others. SAM reported at the January meeting that more membership and trail passes had been sold early this year and attributed it to the discounted trail pass program. We have sold more than we have in the last several years. Hope all of you have had a chance to enjoy our great sport this year. Next is our annual end of season banquet to cap it off.

#### **GREATER WHATELY**

#### by Robert Sabola



As another season comes to an end the Greater Whately club would like to thank all the landowners who give us permission to ride on their property year after year. Your kindness and generosity is so

appreciated, not by just me but all those who ride snowmobiles. Thank you, Muffin's General Market, Fishtales Bar and Grill, and Valley Motor Sports for selling trail passes for us. Please patronize



Leicester Snowmobile Club members Frank Bond, Jim Padini, Glenn Hurley, Ken Tencati, John True and Andrew Kularski gather after a big day of trail clearing. PHOTO BY FRANK BOND

these fine establishments. They are great people and offer some of the finest products and services in the area. Thank you to those who bought trail passes the season. Your support goes a long way in keeping the trails open and safe. Without your support the club could not exist and continue to do what it does for you and the community. Curt and Joe, thank you for your dedication in keeping the trails safe and bridges repaired. Matt and Donald thanks for listening and reeling me back in when I go off on a tangent. Your support is so appreciated. A special thanks to Mr. Brooks for his continued years of dedication to snowmobiling. You are truly an inspiration for all of us! Ride safe and ride smart.

#### **KNOX TRAIL SNO-RIDERS**

#### by James Richard, media director



Hello Sno-Riders! The annual raffle is history. The winners of the 2017 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 are Donna and Joe Kasa. It was a snowy January night in Stockbridge, but still, there was nearly a full house. To the

many volunteers and donors that helped make the raffle and dinner a success, thank you! Speaking of thank-you's, many are in order for all the members that made the season a success as well. This has been the second year in a row with no riding at the end of January. Last year saw no riding at all but when February comes again, things will have hopefully changed! Whether this season yields no riding or not, all of those who volunteered and bought trail passes are thanked for their support. We prepare for and anticipate the riding season all year long but this area is not the most reliable for rideable snow. So we struggle with the snow drought and hope that soon there will be riding. When the snow does arrive, we are ready with open trails, a capable grooming fleet, and dedicated operators! Volunteers are always needed. Would you like to help? Call the Sno-Phone at 413-269-0243, go to knoxtrail.com, write to KTSR Box 363, East Otis, MA 01029, or attend a meeting! See you on the trails!

#### **LEICESTER**

#### by Frank Bond, vice president



Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As I write this we have had a couple snowstorms followed by warmer weather and rain. Let's keep hoping for cold temps and snow that

stays a while. I for one am looking forward to getting out on our trail system. Also I would love to see the groomers being used and get some nice wide flat trails for the rest of our season. The Leicester Snowmobile Club Roast Beef Dinner should be coming up shortly after this goes to print. We have a DJ and raffle tables. Come out have some good food and good fun with everyone and support your club at the same time. It takes place at the Leicester Rod and Gun Club on Saturday March 25 at 6PM. As always our club meetings are at 7PM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Leicester Rod and Gun Club, 1015 Whittemore St., Leicester.

#### MILL VALLEY

#### by Nathan Sansoucy



Happy New Year, snowmobilers! We are all still hoping for at least one great adventure before spring, so don't give up yet! Even though we are saddened by the lack of snow lately, we still want

#### **NEW CLUB**

#### SNOW RIDERS OF THE NASHAWAY

#### by Susan Smiley, president



The Snow Riders of the Nashaway is a club excited to be the newest group of snowmobile enthusiasts here in the Nashua River areas of Lancaster, Clinton and Sterling. Our members

are comprised of some truly dedicated, homegrown and hard-core mountain bike, dirt bike and snowmobile riders. Believe it or not we have been working on trails for a number of years and decided it was now time to truly formalize our efforts. Our goal is to expand the trail systems of SAM here in the Northeast section of Worcester County and connect with other SAM club trails around us. We live in a very historic area and the trail networks need our attention. The Nashua River runs throughout our region and indeed it will be challenging for us to connect these trails. We anticipate



that Fisheries and Wildlife will become our best friends and we will also become expert bridge builders. One thing for sure, we are up to that task and share the passion and the excitement to work with all our recreation and conservation enthusiasts in the area in bringing together the benefit of being able to utilize our existing, as well as future, trail system during our precious and treasured winter season. Now... off to do our Snow Dance!

to take the time to appreciate those who are part of our family. Thank you all for coming out to our annual poker run, hope to see you all again soon. We will always recognize your hard work, dedication, the time you all spend helping to provide for our club, and for providing safe trail conditions. I hope your hand warmers never fail!

#### SAVOY KANARY KATS

#### by Doug Decoigne



Here we are at the end of January. We have done tons of trail work, ridden a little, groomed a little, but still waiting for those optimal conditions. Hopefully February and March will provide good

riding conditions. We raffled our 2017 Ski Doo MXZ Sport at Hilltop Saturday, January 28. Norm Mongeau of Adams won it. Our winter carnival was Saturday, February 18 at Tom Wandrei's home, again. Several club rides are planned throughout the winter. Here's hoping for great riding conditions going forward!

#### WORTHINGTON

#### by Michael Sarafin, vice president

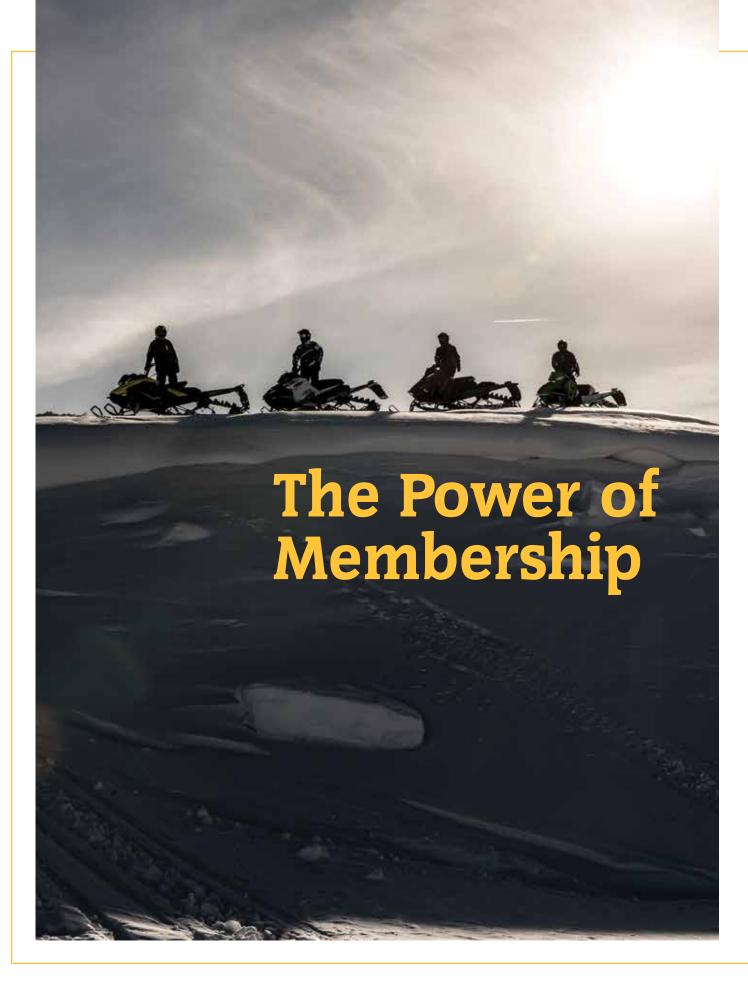


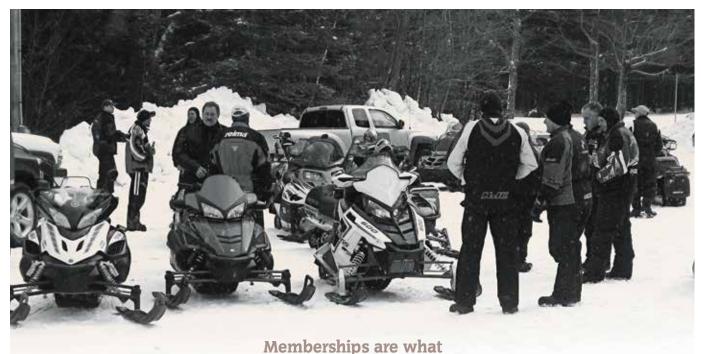
Hello, fellow snowmobilers. I would like to take this time to thank everyone who joined the club this season. The beginning of this winter

wasn't very favorable for riding and I hope the second half turns out much better. With that being said, the WSC truly appreciates everyone who buys a trail pass especially when conditions are not favorable. Trail pass sales are what keeps the club alive and we have expenses even during the bad years, so thank you to everyone who joined! The SAM early bird program was a success this season and in the fall everyone who joined this year will be receiving the annual club newsletter and renewal form. The best and simplest way to get your pass at the early bird rate will be to take advantage of this service. It will ensure that you get your pass at the pre-season price and streamline things in the club office as

well. I would also like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket for our sled raffle again this season as well as the club members who organized it and sold tickets; it was great success. We look forward to another successful season this coming winter. Thank you all and think snow!







#### by Larry Tucker

n amazing event took place recently and for the most part it was relegated to second page coverage. The event I'm referring to is the removal of tollbooths on I-90, better known as the Mass Pike. The existence of tollbooths on the turnpike was not only ingrained in my DNA but also a thorn in my side. I never thought I would live long enough to see them removed, but miracles do happen and they are finally gone. I look forward to driving by all the exits, especially the I-84 exit, without having to idle away two to three wasted hours.

The demolition of the tollbooths was possible in large part to technology. Advances in technology continue to affect our lives in new ways every day. It is a large part of the enhancements designed into the engines on our newer sleds allowing for improvements in efficiency and horsepower. But technology is not exclusive to snowmobile engines. The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts is currently implementing the technology that will create an online system to obtain memberships within your local make a club or association fun, productive, efficient and able to create, build and maintain the all important groomed trail systems we enjoy each winter season.

club and to purchase trail permits from SAM. Once implemented, this technology will streamline this process and should increase memberships.

But technology is only part of the story when it comes to memberships and trail passes. Memberships are what make a club or association fun, productive, efficient and able to create, build and maintain the all important groomed trail systems we enjoy each winter season. Memberships bring people together for fun events such as trailside cookouts, club rides and poker runs. Memberships bring people together for fundraising events such as spaghetti suppers, swap meets and parking cars at local fairs. Memberships bring people together to

work on our trails. And, memberships also bring us together if we wish to improve our sport legislatively. As you can see, memberships contain the inherent power to accomplish much for our clubs and our state association.

I must also mention that it still takes many volunteer hours to manage the purchase and sale of memberships and trail passes. In my club we strive to spread the workload around. We have one person that handles the sale of passes at our meetings and the distribution of passes to our three-dealer network. We have one person that maintains the email list for emailing of our club newsletters. And, we have one person that maintains the entire club membership database, which represents the connection to SAM and the resulting mailing of the SAM magazine to all members. SAM's new membership management system for clubs should ease the workload on our volunteers, making us more efficient.

I would like to offer special thanks to all of you that help with the distribution, sale and management of club memberships and SAM trail passes, you are all part of the membership team.

## What The Heck Is This?

#### Story and photo by Mark Kenyon

hat is the question several of us recently asked. Well, we might have used a slightly different phrase... but anyway, several of us were clearing trails in Pittsfield State Forest. We also checked bridges along the route, just to make sure they were ready for this winter.

While eyeballing one of the bridges, a member of our crew saw a "container" that was mounted to the side of a beam. that support the bridge deck. This was fairly hidden under the bridge and could not be seen unless you were to walk down along the bridge to the edge of the brook.

Could this possibly be a bomb? Was some anti-snowmobile person looking to create harm? We had no idea and opted not to touch this "container."

Several state policing organizations were contacted and the picture was forwarded to them. They had no idea what it was either. So, I ended up meeting



two Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers at the site of the bridge. The first EPO did not know what it was either. The second EPO was very confident he knew what it was and proceeded to remove it from the bridge and confirmed his theory.

It was a geocache. Geocaching is an outdoor activity where a container can be hidden anywhere, in the woods, in a park, even in the middle of a city. The container can be made from almost anything and can range greatly in size. Geocaching websites post clues as to where you might find a hidden geocache "treasure" container. Once you find the container, you can write your name and date on the log inside the container. Some containers also have a prize. If you wish to take the prize you are obligated to replace the prize with one of your own.

I had heard of geocaching before, but never knew much about it until that day. I found out that there are over 50 containers hidden in the Pittsfield State Forest alone, never mind anywhere else in Pittsfield or Berkshire County. Several people have mentioned that this may be an interesting thing to do on a sled, maybe even a club event. 🞿



## **SAM Welcomes** DCR Commissioner Roy

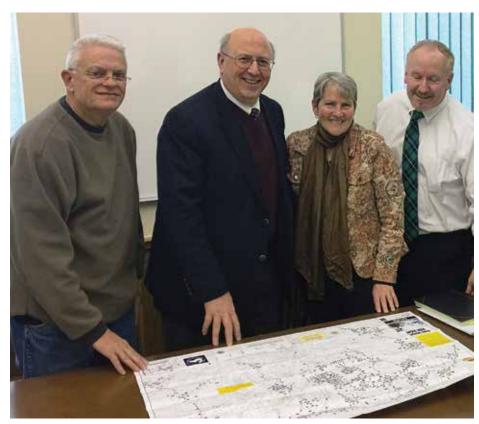
#### by Randy Toth

n December 12, 2016, members of the SAM Executive Committee had the chance to sit down with the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Commissioner Leo Roy for a "Meet and Greet" session. The meeting was held in Governor Baker's Western Massachusetts Office in downtown Springfield.

SAM began by briefing the Commissioner on a number of topics including "Who We Are," "Our Community Involvement," "Our Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS)." "Our Partnership with DCR," "Our Snowmobile Legislation Efforts" and a few key "Issues for Further Discussion." The briefing consisted of the PowerPoint slides, which were presented to the SAM delegates at a monthly Board of Director's meeting. This was followed by an extremely valuable question, answer and discussion session.

Upon seeing the SAM Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS) map for the first time, the Commissioner immediately asked why there were gaps between some sections of the SSTS. It turns out that SAM and the Commissioner share the common goal of seeing connections made between all of DCR's properties to allow people and wildlife to move freely from one Commonwealth property to another. It was agreed that our organizations should work together toward making this goal a reality.

A number of key issues were discussed with the Commissioner, which SAM hopes to pursue further. They included the need for a safety upgrade to the Route 9 snowmobile trail crossing in Hadley, the need to obtain a snowmobile trail link across the northern Ouabbin Reservoir area connecting Belchertown and Shutesbury, the desire of the local business community to reopen sections of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail route to snowmobiles, and the completion of the DCR/SAM Volunteer Agreement.



Randy Toth, SAM Legislative Chairman, Leo Roy, DCR Commissioner, Rena Sumner, SAM Executive Director, Michael Knapik, Director of Western Massachusetts Office, review the SAM trail map.

The commissioner was invited to join SAM in exploring some of the beautiful remote sections of Massachusetts from the seat of a snowmobile and/or a groomer to better understand our member's lifelong dedication.

The commissioner was invited to join SAM in exploring some of the beautiful remote sections of Massachusetts from the seat of a snowmobile and/ or a groomer to better understand our member's lifelong dedication to the family sport of recreational snowmobiling. Now all that is needed to make this happen is snow!



**Arctic Cat Sold for** \$247 Million Cash

n January, Textron Inc. purchased Minneapolis-based Arctic Cat for approximately \$247 million, plus the assumption of existing debt. Textron, based in Rhode Island, says facilities in Minnesota will largely stay intact.

Under the terms of the agreement Textron purchased all outstanding shares of Arctic Cat at \$18.50 per share in cash, representing a 40.7 percent premium to the closing price of Arctic Cat's common stock on January 20, 2017.

Arctic Cat, which designs, engineers, manufactures and markets snowmobiles, ATVs, and side-by-sides, reported steep sales and profit declines in November due to a weakening power-sports market.

"Arctic Cat's board believes that Textron's offer delivers compelling and immediate value to our shareholders," said Christopher Metz, Arctic Cat's president and chief executive officer. "This transaction presents increased opportunities for the business to leverage our combined scale, accelerate growth and enhance product innovation in ways that will benefit our customers, dealers and employees." Textron is a multi-industry company with over \$13 billion in annual revenues and approximately 35,000 employees.

Arctic Cat will become part of Textron's Specialized Vehicles business, main-



taining its iconic Arctic Cat brand, as well as its current manufacturing, distribution and operational facilities, with a focus on growing the business.

Textron Specialized Vehicles produces golf carts, utility and personal transportation vehicles and professional turf-care equipment, recognized for the E-Z-GO and Cushman labels. Textron is best known for aviation brands such as Bell Helicopter, Cessna and Beechcraft.

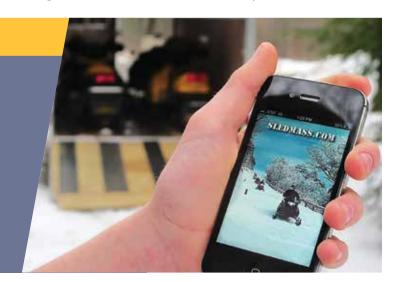
Metz added: "We are proud of the

progress our team has made to lay the foundation for Textron to continue taking this company forward. Textron plans to build on Arctic Cat's strong brand and history of innovation. We expect many Arctic Cat employees to benefit from expanded career opportunities as part of a larger, more diversified company."

Textron has been in the snowmobile business before. In 1968 it acquired Polaris, then sold it to a group of managers at Polaris in the early 1980's.

#### Online at sledmass.com

- Poll: Arctic Cat is sold: What do you think?
  - They need the resources of a large corporation
  - O I'll miss their spunky independence
  - O They'll be sold again in a few years
  - O I thought Yamaha would buy them
  - O I don't care who owns them, Cat rocks!
- New 2018 Sleds: Cat, Polaris, Ski-Doo, Yamaha
- **2017** Sled Expo October 14 & 15
- Top 10 Snowmobile Stories of 2016
- SNOWRAMA: Nine Snowmobile Concepts
- SAM Q&A: What You Need To Know



## SAM Annual Meeting, April 6

he SAM Board of Directors invites you to celebrate your association at the upcoming SAM Annual Meeting and dinner on Thursday, April 6. Relax and enjoy dinner with your friends. Participate in the business meeting and the honoring of our award recipients.

#### BLUEBONNET RESTAURANT, KING STREET, NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060 THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 5:30 PM-9:00 PM

- Registration & Cash bar will be open at 5 PM
- 5:30 Social with Hors d'oeuvres
- 6:30 Buffet Dinner
- 7:00 Annual Meeting, Awards & Raffle
- \$20 per person
- Reserved seating for clubs, \$20 per table
- All other seating is first come first serve

Pre-Registration is required online or by email rena.sumner@sledmass.com Registration Deadline is Thursday, March 23



#### Marketplace



If you market to snowmobilers in Massachusetts, On the Trails with S.A.M. is a must-have for your advertising budget. For more information go to http://sledmass.com/advertise.





V-Nose Trailer. MSRP of \$8,800.00

#### **STANDARD FEATURES**

- Truss Roof Bows (16" on center)
- .025 1 Piece Screwless Aluminum Roof
- .030 Smooth Screwless Aluminum Side Skin
- 2" Zinc Coupler
- Tongue Jack
- Rubber Torsion Coated Axles with Sure Lube Hubs
- 1 Electric Brake Axle/1 Idler Axle
- %" Marine Treated 7-Ply Plywood Deck & Ramp Doors
- Polished Stainless Steel Hardware and Hinges with Zerk Fittings on Front & Rear Ramp Doors
- Spring Assisted Rear Ramp Door

- Recessed Camlock Latch System on Front & Rear Ramp Doors
- 24" Diamond Plate Stone Guard
- Recessed Exterior Lights
- Roof Vent
- Side Access Door w/Lighted Blizzard Handle
- Fuel Doors
- Luan Finished interior Walls
- 8" Diamond Interior Plate Kick Panel
- 2 12v Interior Lights w/Switch
- Full Length Slide Rail Securing
  System including aluminum tie down
  bars with rubber socks
- 3-Year Warranty

SPONSORED BY

