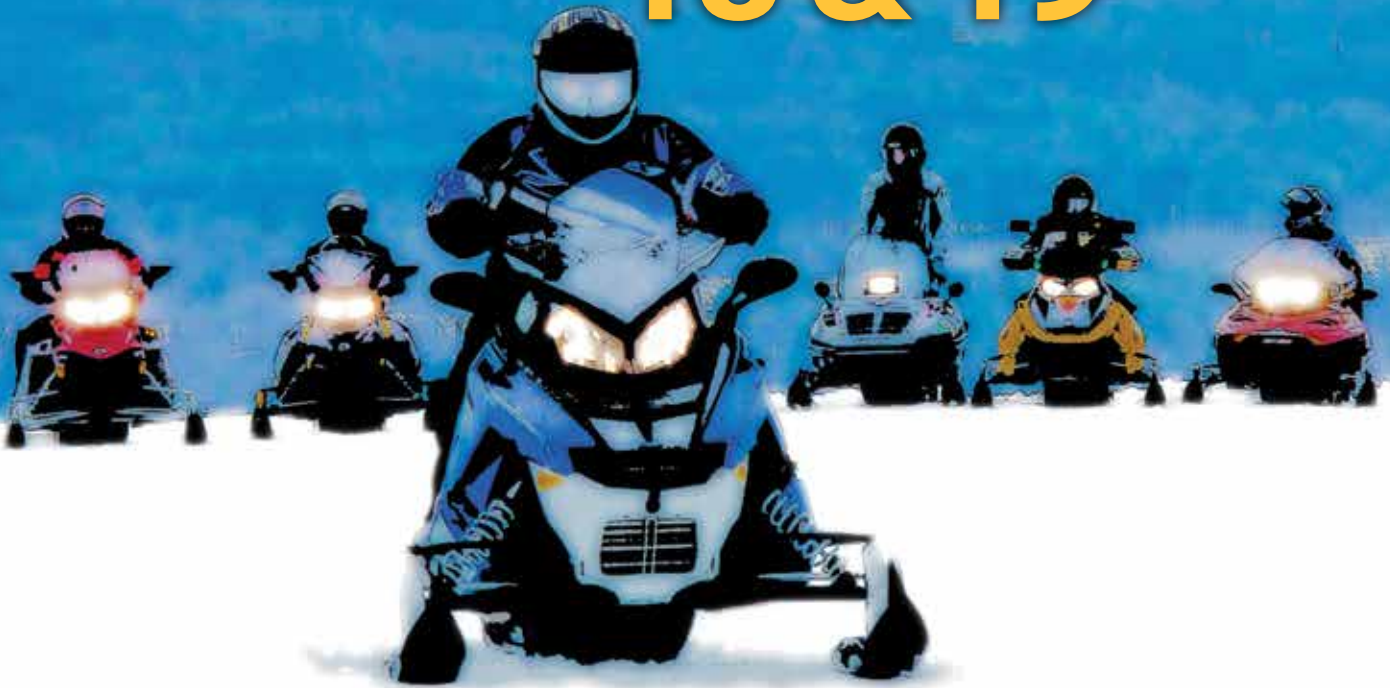


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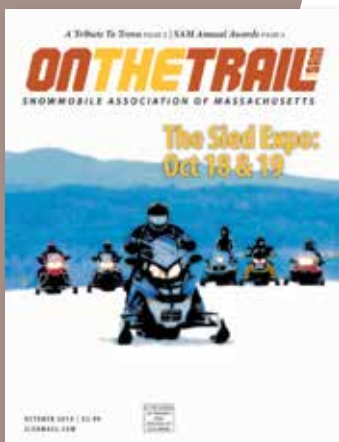
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SAM treasurer



ON THE COVER

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAN GOULD

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President's Message

BY DAN GOULD

A Tribute to Trova

When Paul Trova took the "oath of office" in 2004, I doubt he thought he would stay on as the vice president of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts for ten long years, but he did.

Paul has always been one of the cooler characters on the SAM Executive Committee, the guy that listened to all the facts, quietly processed them, and then came to a conclusion.

His suggestions and actions were always well paced and thought out. He is a very disciplined man.

Paul has always been a staunch proponent of SAM – the association of clubs, as a whole.

As a matter of fact the only time I've seen him get really gnarly is when clubs had lost sight of the big picture – the Snowmobile association of Massachusetts.

That says it all.

Paul has been a vital part of SAM for years. His work at the Snow Expo has been instrumental, far beyond what most can imagine. He played a big part in hosting the International Snowmobile Congress in Sturbridge and the recent SAM-engineered bridge project was his baby.

Paul has always been my go-to guy when it comes to proofreading this magazine. His attention to detail and eagle-eye for typos



amazed me. I hope this issue stands the test without him.

Last winter Paul said that it would be his last year as VP. It wasn't a complete surprise. He sent a few subtle signals last year that he might retire. Lasagna bribes no longer worked. It was for real.

We have a lot to thank Paul for, he has given us ten years of professional service and has been a vital part of the SAM leadership team.

We've made great advances over the past decade and he played an important role in our progress.

It was a genuine honor to present Paul the President's Award at the annual meeting in recognition of his service. It was both a happy and wistful moment, we wish him well. 🐾

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2014 SAM Annual Award

WINNERS

THE



SNOWMOBILER OF THE YEAR: JEFF GAMELLI

It's an honor to recognize someone who has been involved in the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts for a good part of his adult life, someone who has made a difference.

Jeffrey Gamelli is a jack-of-all trades guy, as far as his club is concerned, holding several positions as an officer for many years, volunteering for just about every function and often taking the lead in major fundraising. He is involved in every aspect of the club's business.

Jeff has been a proponent of the Knox Trail Sno-Riders' charity efforts and a key

player in the club's positive relationship with town government, landowners and state legislators.

He knows how to get things done, including managing RTP grants that benefit the trail system that we all enjoy. It's been said that he is like a dog on a bone when it comes to moving a project forward.

His work within the association is well documented, as a delegate, promoter of the Sled Expo and a safety instructor. He also served as SAM's vice president.

SAM is honored to award the 2014 Snowmobiler of the Year to Jeff Gamelli of the Knox Trail Sno-Riders.

Photos by Randy Toth



CLUB OF THE YEAR: BERNARDSTON GILL LEYDEN SNOWMOBILE CLUB

There are many ways to measure a club's success. A steady increase in membership is certainly one of them. But that doesn't happen by chance.

The Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile Club (BGL) realized some time ago that in order to succeed they had to run more like a business and less like a social club. Setting goals and producing a quality product – the trails – are a key ingredient. They also understood that a club is only as strong as the state association. Active participation in the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts is paramount.

They do all the things that other great clubs do. Their impressive trail system is well maintained and their relationships with landowners is built through trust. They actively participate within the community, building vital relationships and

respect. All the important people in town hall know who they are.

What elevates this club above and beyond is their understanding of the big picture. They are true leaders in our organization and set an example of what can be done. They bring solutions to the table.

The club sets a high bar in communications, sharing information online, in social media and in our magazine.

They are major players in the Sled Expo and have hosted a SAM vintage ride.

They have a positive working relation with Mass Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and other land managers.

They are leaders in several SAM posts, including our charity and youth programs, as well as the executive committee.

And finally, they have been the driving force behind SAM's most recent land conservation partnership and trail protection agreement. That's something that every club needs to emulate.

GROOMER OF THE YEAR: JIM LaFRANCE

This year's winner is a familiar face to everyone who attends the Sled Expo. He's there just about every year, especially if the club's groomers are on display.

Like so many award recipients, Jim is a volunteer supreme. His arms are elbow-deep in every club function, whether it be trail work, events, fundraisers, RTP grants or simply promoting the club and snowmobiling in Massachusetts.

Sure, he's a groomer operator, logging a tremendous number of hours every season, but keeping the trails smooth is more involved than steering a big rig down the trail.

The hours maintaining the equipment are equally important and equally time consuming. Managing the groomer logs is another tedious duty.

As if all of that wasn't enough, Jim was instrumental in planning the construction of the club's new groomer garage and workshop.

Please congratulate Jim LaFrance of the Savoy Canary Kats when you see him on the trails this winter.



TRAIL WORKER OF THE YEAR: JOE GIBBONS

It's been said that trail work is done by ghosts or the supernatural, or maybe even elves. No one ever sees them but the evidence is clear.

The trails are trimmed, the signs are hung, bridges are in perfect condition, the landowners even wave hello to strangers riding across their property.

Truly magical.

That's how the majority of snowmobilers see it, but those who volunteer know better. We have evidence that the supernatural walk among us.

These are the people that attend SAM

meetings, run club activities, work relentlessly at fundraisers to improve the trails and promote grass-roots snowmobiling.

They are leaders in our clubs, the decision makers, they possess a high level of organizational skills and are actually on the trails long before – and after – snow is on the ground. They aren't riding. They are hard at work. Everybody benefits from their unseen efforts.

It's time we expose one of these workers for the entire world to see.

SAM is proud to present the 2014 trail worker of the year award to a supernatural snowmobiler, Joe Gibbons of the Harvard Snowmobile Club. 🐾



ADAMS SNO DRIFTERS

by Joe Rogge

We usually open our club news report detailing our free popcorn giveaway at the Adams Street Fair. However, no fair was held this year due to street reconstruction. We did participate in the Adams Agricultural Fair, however. Thank you SAM for use of the SAM Trailer and materials. Great PR! At the annual SAM meeting in April we were presented with a plaque for hosting a Vintage Ride. The Vintage Ride was made possible due in part to Jim Hoellerich. Jim (a Friend of SAM Award winner) opened his motorcycle museum to all participants, which greatly added to the special day. A few members of the club decided to give the plaque to Jim at his 80th Birthday party as a way of saying "Thank You" for letting us use his barn and museum. He was very happy to add it to his collection of trophies and plaques in his museum!

We have also started our regular monthly meetings at the Adams American Legion (2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm). We open this year trying to improve on last year. Check out our website <http://adams-snodrifters.webstarts.com>. That's it for now.



Jim Hoellerich receives the Adams Sno-Drifters' Vintage Award to put on display in his motorcycle museum.

PHOTO BY CHRISSY SATKO



Berkshire Snow Seekers groomer makes it wide and flat in Pittsfield State Forest.

PHOTO BY JIM HOLLAND



BERKSHIRE SNOW SEEKERS

by Randy Toth

Come and experience the excitement of snowmobiling in the Berkshires. Our first class groomer fleet consists of three Tucker Sno-Cats, a Thio-kol and two snowmobile-based groomers. Dues are only \$60 for each snowmobile (\$50 if you join before December 1) and they include a club membership, a SAM membership and a trail permit. Join via snail-mail (P.O. Box 1102, Pittsfield, MA 01202), via our website (www.berkshire-snowseekers.com), via a club meeting (7pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from September thru mid-April at the Skyline Country Club on Route 7 in Lanesboro, MA) or via one of our conveniently located trail permit outlets at a participating local business: - Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor (Pittsfield), Ronnie's (Pittsfield), Friendly Fred's (Windsor), Sangar's General Store (Windsor), Hinsdale Trading Company (Hinsdale) and Lanesboro BP Gas Station (Lanesboro). Please visit the SAM website to see our club's scheduled events and our grooming reports covering the October Mountain State Forest Area, the Pittsfield State Forest Area and the Windsor Area. Grooming reports are promptly posted in the SAM Forums by our trail coordinators within hours of grooming.



The BGL club deploys their top secret BDS, also known as the bridge delivery system. PHOTO BY BRAD STAFFORD



BERNARDSTON-GILL-LEYDEN

by Brad Stafford, president

Is it that time of year again already? Do you think it's still too early to get ready for snow? Well the answer to these questions is... it's always time to get ready and stay ready! I guarantee it's not just BGL but all the clubs and their volunteers have been busy since last year's snow melted away. It gets harder and harder every year to keep the equipment ready, trails cleared, speak with landowners, along with working with all those local and state entities that manage and own the land we are lucky enough to use. In about the time you probably have spent watching or doing ice bucket challenges, you could also go to one of your club's meetings. So, I challenge everyone

to take the "Snowmobile Club Meeting Challenge" and go check out part of what happens while the trails are still green.

This past "Green Season" our club had another great fundraising golf tournament and will be putting on our annual BGL Swap Meet on November 9 at the Steel Shed in Greenfield, MA. Stay tuned to our facebook page. Bernardston-Gill-Leyden Snowmobile club and our website at www.bglsnow.com. Until next time, "Keep the Rubber Side Down."



BURGU BULLETS

by Jon Tobin, president

Hello from the Burgu Bullets S.C. As I write this, we are in the dog days of summer and looking forward to the coming of autumn and winter. The club will be starting trail work Sunday mornings in late September and hope to see a large crew of volunteers to help out. Chainsaws, brush cutters and able bodies are needed to accomplish the tasks. Many hands make little work. Please keep an eye out for our newsletter in the mail with

this year's membership application and current events and trail news. We will be having our annual Holiday-Land Owner Appreciation Party, December 6, which is always a good time. We will also be planning some family fun rides, Big Game Party and a Demo Ride Day with Valley Motorsports.

Check out our Facebook page for current news with what's happening with the club. Meetings happen every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7pm at the clubhouse. Any questions about membership, hall rentals or events, please call 413-268-3226 and leave a message at the clubhouse, or call Jon Tobin at 502-727-6466 or Kevin at 413-559-7920. Clubhouse start after January 1: Fri. 6-10, Sat. 10-10 and Sun. 10-6ish. Here's hoping for a great winter. Think Snow!



CHESTERFIELD FOUR SEASONS

by Bill Golaski, president

I hope everyone has had a great summer. For those who don't

know our club, we have a large heated clubhouse with bathrooms, kitchen, and a licensed bar. We also rent the club for private parties. The club is located on River Rd. in Chesterfield, across from the State Gorge. Our parking lot has ample room for trucks and trailers to park in. One of our main trails runs down the side of the Westfield River for over six miles.

We meet on the 2nd and last Tuesdays of the month at 7pm, all are welcome! The clubhouse phone number is 413-296-4048, or feel free to contact me at 413-585-9403. This past winter we added a new groomer and two new drags to our fleet. Many said the trails were the best they been in years. We also worked hard to make sure the club was open every weekend for riders.

Our many winter events and raffles will be posted on the SAM website soon. A few of which are our Trailer Raffle, Black Powder Gun Raffle, Game Supper, Groomer Dinner, and Annual Local Benefit Dinner. A big thanks to everyone who

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volunteers time to keep the club going, without them we would not have a club. Please volunteer, we always need more help. Think Snow!



CONWAY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

by Ed Skorupski

Summer is winding down and now is the time to start thinking about the pastime that we love (as if you ever stopped). With fall upon us, the trail crews are planning the work that needs to be done so that we can all enjoy the ride this winter. From repairing and maintaining the groomers, to clearing trails and putting up new signs, there is plenty of work to be done. This year it would be a pleasant surprise to see some new faces helping out with some of the work. We always have a dedicated core of the same few people, but they are a welcoming and friendly bunch, and would very much like to make some new friends. If you are willing to help in any capacity please let us know. We can be reached via the webpage www.sledconway.com or on Facebook.

Speaking of our webpage, we still offer online trail passes. You can get your trailpass without leaving your house. Buy your passes early and help the club fund some of the previously mentioned trail work. Come see us at the Festival of the Hills in Conway on October 5th.



EASY RIDERS

by Steven Conti,
vice president

Greetings from the Easy Riders Snowmobile Club. Welcome back to another snowmobiling season, with any luck this winter will be as snowy as last. It's never too early to do your snow dance. So far the Easy Riders have several trips and events in the works for this season. We are anticipating, hoping for – snow, snow, snow.

Well, that's it for now, so be patient it will be here before you know it. As always, all are welcome to attend any of our club meetings at the Marlboro Moose Lodge. Always a fun time, whether we are talking snowmobiling, planning trips or current events. Always thinking snow.



GREATER WHATELY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

by Robert Sabola

The Greater Whately Snowmobile Club welcomes you to another season. Summer flew by as usual and to think about snowmobiling, I'm just not ready yet! There's still more things to accomplish in the summer bucket list. I like to think that maybe next year will be different. Oh well, on to bigger and better things. Snowmobiling!

Mass Fish and Wildlife has mandated that a new bridge be constructed on their property abutting Christian Lane. To date, all the material has been purchased to build this bridge. Your help will be needed to assemble this bridge so please consider volunteering. Information will be disseminated at the monthly meetings as to when construction will start so please try to attend a meeting. Information will also be posted on the club website. Without your support, trails like this, as well as others where bridges are located, would have to be closed. Your support does matter.

Regular Meeting: Second Tuesday of every month starting in September and ending in April. Meetings are held at the Whately Town Hall, located across the street from the Whately Inn. Meetings start at 7pm. Email us at greaterwhatelysnowmobileclub@aol.com, visit us at sledmass.com/club/greater-whately-snowmobile-club/

HADLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

by Dan Regish, secretary-treasurer

Greetings from the snowmobile club on the valley floor! This past season was one for the record books as we were blessed with plenty of snow and good conditions for a longer period of time. Many thanks go out to the folks that participated in the landowner appreciation BBQ at the end of the season.

Our club meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month, starting on September 3. Meetings are held at the Young Men's Club, 138 East Street, at 7pm. Club members are encouraged to come down and participate, get involved, volunteer, help out, and make a difference. Our small club is gaining momentum, and many of us are looking forward to the

possibility of a bridge being installed over the Fort River, making for a much safer and pleasurable route through that area. We have the landowner's permission, but need strategic, logistical, and tactical help to implement this project.

We would also welcome and greatly appreciate input from other clubs, landowners and other non-club members who have skills and experience with this sort of project. After all, Hadley club members are not the only people who would enjoy the benefits of this bridge. Happy sled-ding!



HARVARD SNOWMOBILE CLUB

by Joe Gibbons,

board of directors

Wow! Another season coming at us. This will be our 45th season here on the trails in Harvard, MA. Our trails will be worked upon throughout the fall season. Lots of trimming, mowing and a few bridge repairs. Our trail groomer will soon awake from its long rest. That's right! We have a groomer with a drag and for the past three seasons the conditions have been incredible. Our trail system is about 25 miles in length and we ride every inch of it. We are always looking to improve and increase our system that passes through miles of conservation and private properties. Our relationship with the town and property owners has been great because we simply respect the privileges that have been granted to our club and its membership.



First snow in Harvard, mid-December 2013. Maybe it will snow in November 2014! PHOTO BY JOE GIBBONS

Trail riding in Harvard is not about speed. We are very fortunate to have awesome scenic areas that entice you to slow down and enjoy the views and the wildlife. Club meetings, cookouts, trail work on Sunday mornings, holiday parties, club trips, night rides, pizza parties and more are just a few of the activities that we indulge in. We have an awesome group of guys, girls and families. Come join us! For new friendships and awesome riding.



KNOX TRAIL SNO-RIDERS

by James Richard,
media director

Just got a Farmers' Almanac forecast for the upcoming New England winter and the news for us sledders is good. Below average temps and above average snowfall predicted! Polar Vortex II, bring it on. When it arrives this club will be ready! On the trail front, negotiations are getting us closer to a Beartown SF trail, a trail to Dream Away Lodge, as well as Silverbrook Cafe. The new owners of the Bucksteep Manor appear to be anxious to cater to snowmobiles and improvements to Finerty Trail are taking shape. Grant applications are in for new groomer sleds. To all of those who volunteered and participated in the second Antique Sled and Tractor Show in September, thank you. The fifth annual raffle is underway! Only 125 tickets will be sold. Ticket includes dinner for two at the drawing event. Visit us at the Sled Expo to preview this sled and get your tickets. The winner will sled off on a new 2015 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 sport. Tickets are \$125 each. Check out knoxtrail.com or the sno-phone at 413-269-0243 for the details. The club welcomes its new secretary, Judy Galloni, and it's new VP, Jim Morowiec.



PORCUPINE RIDGE RUNNERS

by Renee Richard,
secretary

With snow right around the corner, the Porcupine Ridge Runners are gearing up for a great season of snowmobiling. We have several new members helping our trail crew prepare trails in Shutesbury, Wendell, New Salem and Leverett, but help is always needed and more members are always welcome. Our club relies



Worthington Snowmobile Club's new Kubota with MTN Drag, reporting for duty.

PHOTO BY JEFF SMITH

on volunteer labor and a deep desire to preserve our beautiful trails and pristine environment.

Our meetings are held the second Monday of every month at the Shutesbury Athletic Club. This year, we will be hosting a members' dinner and applying for grant money to ensure year-round maintenance of our beautiful multi-use trails. To keep track of special dinners and meetings check us out on Facebook throughout the season

We would like to thank Dan Gould for helping us update our information on the SAM website and providing us with related information. We are thinking "snow" and can't wait to hit the trails!



SAVOY KANARY KATS

by Doug Decoigne

Good day to all fellow SAM members. It's hard to believe summer is really winding down. Almost time for fall trail work to commence, some SKK members have already been busy with club activities this spring and summer. We have installed four more gates in our trail system in a continued effort to keep off-road wheeled vehicles out of our trails. This makes 12 steel gates in our trail system. We have also been finalizing grants and planning for the next one. The club has purchased its track mounted brush mower and will be putting it to work soon! This is going to be a tremendous asset and labor saver for clearing brush on our trails.

We had a very successful summer picnic and awarded this year's scholarships to some deserving young members; Kyle Bean, Westfield-\$1000; Morgan Bean,

Westfield-\$600; Jay Krutiak, Savoy-\$600; Lindsey Wick, Lanesboro-\$600; and Kelsey Rice, Windsor-\$600.

We are also raffling off a 2015 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 Liquid. \$20 per ticket, only 700 tickets will be sold! We will have it on display at the Sled Expo in West Springfield, October 18 and 19. You all have a good fall and think snow!



WORTHINGTON SNOWMOBILE CLUB

by Jeff Smith, president

Worthington Indian summer is upon us and with that the club has come out of recess ready to begin a new season. Last year was a successful year for the WSC. Due to a tremendous effort by our trail committee to continuously improve our trail system, the officers of the club who have kept the club on track with careful budgeting and administration, the trail boss and grooming operators who kept our trails groomed and opened for the season, and the clubs recent acquisitions of grooming equipment to keep the trails smooth. The Club seems to be in good shape for 2014. At the end of the season, our groomers had just enough time to put together, fabricate and test our new Kubota tractor. Based on the end result (trail conditions were awesome) and operator feedback, putting the groomer through its paces for a full season should help the club combat the ever-returning mogul. Of course, the throttle jockeys will do what they do and we will continue to go out there and try to fix it. We would love to see some new blood and will need help with trail trims. Hope to see you out there. 🐾

Job Opening...

GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE

By Brad Stafford

When I first accepted the position as president of the BGL snowmobile club I knew there would be responsibilities. One is doing the best I can to help with all kinds of requests that come from the landowners, state and town agencies, my fellow club officers, club members and all the SAM members that ride the club's trails. Over the years these requests have come in many forms, such as phone calls, emails and even notes taped to my snowmobile windshield.

As you may imagine, some of the messages go like this: "Where can I get a trail map?" or "Where can I park to get trail access?" Then there are others, such as, "Why don't you just move the Deer Crossing Ahead sign so the deer won't use the snowmobile trail?" Ummm, yeah, sorry to tell you the deer can't read the signs very well. Yes that happened.

Today I will describe one from a few years ago, right after a fresh snow. My phone rang with a number I didn't recognize. For the sake of this article I'll call him "John."

"Hey Brad, John here. Seeing you're the club president, I thought you should know there was a tree down right in the middle of the trail by the intersection on top of Fox Hill that really needs to get taken care of."

I thanked him for the info and then asked how big of a tree and if I needed more than two guys and a chain saw? He replied, "It's not that big, just a dead one about three-inches in diameter. You should just be able to pick it up and just toss it off the trail."

I asked if he could have just moved it himself. His reply, "I could have but it's not my job, you're the president." I took a mo-



PHOTO BY CRAIG WARNER

ment to collect my politically correct words and told John that actually, you're right, it is my job but *not* because I'm the club president, but because I'm a snowmobiler.

The point I want to make here is, yes, there are people out there with club titles, presidents, vice presidents, groomers, delegates and more, but we are also snowmobilers. All those people that throughout the entire year go to meetings, run fundraisers and maintain the trails are all unpaid volunteers. Every time I hear the phrase "I would love to help but I just don't have the time." My answer is "IF" you have time to ride then you have time to help out. I also remind them that when they bought that SAM pass they became an active member of that club.

I always thought "IF" all snowmobilers would remove just one fallen limb or snap

a branch out of the way during every ride, the trails would be so much better.

Now, I'm not asking all of you to carry chain saws and shovels when you go out. But when you see that stray branch or maybe a rock that the groomer has knocked loose into the trail, something that you can easily and safely remove... do it!

If it's too much for you to handle and could be a hazard for the next sled, take a moment and stick a small branch in the snow as a warning to the next rider. Then make a call to the local club and let them know its location. Remember by removing that one hazard you could be saving your own, or your friend's, ski or helmet visor.

Enjoying the trails is a privilege and it's every snowmobiler's job to work together so we can all enjoy the benefits of safer trails. Until next time, ride safe and "Keep the Rubber Side Down." 🐾

Sled Expo

October 18 & 19



The Snowmobile Superstore



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SAM Behind The Scenes

By Randy Toth

SAM is the recognized leader in the promotion and protection of organized recreational snowmobiling in Massachusetts. SAM's activities in preserving trail access while supporting land conservation and environmental protection are well recognized by state and local municipalities. The following is a brief summary of SAM's major initiatives to preserve, protect and enhance your snowmobiling experiences:

1 LEGISLATION

■ SAM Sponsored Legislation

■ Vintage Snowmobile Registration

This legislation would keep antique snowmobiles registered with the state by giving snowmobile collectors a break on antique snowmobile registrations for snowmobiles 25 years old or older and exempt them from today's emission and noise limits.

■ Snowmobile Safety Education

This mandatory safety education legislation would include sections clarifying operator age limits, establishing a snowmobile trail land acquisition fund, expanding the trail maintenance assessment permit, establishing a seat on the Department of Conservation & Recreation stewardship council, and establishing the legal means to prosecute wheeled vehicles damaging snowmobile trails.

■ State Legislators

SAM continues to work closely with its Legislative Consultant to maintain and strengthen legislative contacts with snowmobile friendly legislators and to establish contact with and educate new legislators via attendance at receptions, community meetings and private meetings. Individual campaign donations and other offers of support are encouraged.



PHOTO BY BRAD STAFFORD

2 STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

■ Division of Fish and Game (DF&G)

A meeting was held with the DF&G commissioner and her staff to reaffirm the ground rules and establish a point of contact for dealing with snowmobiling issues.

■ Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

A meeting was held with the DCR Commissioner and his staff concerning snowmobiling issues on DCR lands. A new point of contact was established to facilitate further discussion on any and all issues such as the proposed new State Volunteer Policy and the planned consolidation of DCR Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations (CMRs).

■ Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)

SAM continued working with OLE personnel to clarify the somewhat "fuzzy wording" of language concerning All-Terrain Vehicle, Dirt Bike and Snowmobile age restrictions emanating from Chapter 90B legislation which found its way into the current Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Regulations (CMRs) and continued its practice of hiring off duty OLE personnel to patrol problem areas.

■ Regional, State and Local Recreational Trail Planning and Management

SAM was contacted by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and asked to participate in a feasibility study of community trails along the Route 20 and Route 112 Scenic Byways linking communities and businesses.

■ Massachusetts Trails Conference

SAM has been active in this state sponsored annual trails conference since its inception and has made presentations each year. This day-long event brings together hundreds of trail managers, volunteers and enthusiasts from many diverse outdoor groups.

■ Land Trusts

SAM is actively pursuing and responding to partnership requests from private land trusts, whereupon SAM actively facilitates land acquisition and/or recreational trail easement acquisition to protect snowmobile trails.

3 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION INTERACTION

American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA)

Due to the inability of the ACSA to function as a responsible business entity, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine have severed their formal relationship with ACSA. SAM continues to follow national snowmobile related issues through the Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC) which is a national coalition for the protection of responsible public access to public lands through education, partnerships, legislation and legal action where necessary.

International Snowmobile

Council (ISC) Massachusetts along with Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine continue to maintain membership in the Northeast Chapter of ISC to stay abreast of snowmobile developments throughout the organized snowmobile world (U.S., Canada, Russia, Sweden).

4 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

National Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grants

SAM and its member clubs continued their highly successfully efforts to submit RTP grant proposals and subsequently execute them. SAM helped to fend off congressional efforts to eliminate or drastically alter this worthwhile program.

Land Acquisition Fund Establishment

SAM has established its own dedicated trail acquisition fund to protect its trail system via outright land acquisition and/or recreational trail easement acquisition.

5 STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Off Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee (OHV-AC) Membership

By Massachusetts law, SAM has a seat on the 13 member Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) OHV-AC which meets at least

quarterly to make recommendations to the state concerning OHV safety, law enforcement, trail maintenance/ development and OHV fund expenditures.

Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board (MARTAB)

SAM has a seat on the 12 member DCR sponsored MARTAB Board which reviews and recommends candidate projects for Federal Recreational Trail Funding. MARTAB also sponsors of statewide trail workshops and the annual Massachusetts Trails Conference.

6 SAM OPERATIONS

SAM Trail Permits

SAM performs the development, distribution and tracking of the Trail Permits (memberships).

SAM Trail Grooming

Responsibilities include the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS) map; development, maintenance and

Continued on page 15

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ski-doo

SAM Swap Meet and Used Sled Corral

October 18 and 19
at the Sled Expo

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Only \$10 for an entire weekend of sales exposure! Register in advance online or just show up at the Sled Expo that weekend.

**The Sled Expo: The
Snowmobile Superstore**
Saturday, October 18
9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Sunday, October 19
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM



Swap Meet

Sell and buy used parts, accessories, trailers, jackets, bibs, and other related motorsports gear. Great deals to be had. Clean out your garage and make some cash. Swap Meet is for used products only! New products cannot be sold in the swap meet area.

- Standard Swap Space (size of pick-up truck) \$20 per day.
- Two-Place Swap Space (truck and two-place trailer) \$30 per day.
- Four-Place Swap Space (truck and four place trailer) \$40 per day.
- Walk-in are welcome but are cash only. No credit cards or checks the day of event.
- Register in advance online and pay with credit card.



It's all happening at the Big E grounds, 1305 Memorial Ave, West Springfield, MA
www.sledexpo.com | www.sledmass.com | 413-369-8092

grooming guidelines; and grooming reimbursement fund allocation.

■ SAM Annual Sled Expo

SAM hosts the huge annual Sled Expo at the Big E Fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA where dealers and prospective buyers kick off the upcoming snowmobiling season by selling and buying snowmobiling related goods and services.

■ SAM Board of Directors Meetings

SAM hosts the monthly directors meetings and the annual meeting.

■ SAM Website

SAM hosts a state-of-the-art website and mobile web app (including news, articles, trail condition forums, classified ads, etc.), along with Facebook and Twitter accounts to keep our members informed and up-to-date about snowmobile issues that may affect them.

■ SAM Magazine

The editor, staff writers and proof-readers all contribute to the first class publication of the SAM magazine to keep its members informed.

■ SAM Charity Sponsorship

Camp Sno-Mo (Easter Seals) and Toys for Tots are two major charity events sponsored by SAM.

■ SAM Youth Group Sponsorship

The future of SAM depends upon our youth getting and staying involved.

■ SAM Snowmobile Trail Liability

Insurance SAM continues to ensure that its clubs, members and landowners have access to quality liability insurance.

Finally; SAM must remain forever vigilant because there are anti-access and anti-motorized groups that pose a threat, not only to snowmobiles, but even to those that like to bicycle, hunt, camp or hike in the forests of Massachusetts. These formidable adversaries are generally full time paid professionals, who along with many volunteers, continue to advocate against all forms of motorized recreation, and some non-motorized recreation, on both private and state lands in Massachusetts. Although SAM has considerable recognition as a political force and good team player, we must still maintain a constant presence at all statewide forums to protect the future of snowmobiling in Massachusetts. 🐾

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Member Profile

Brad Rand

Club: Snowbirds Snowmobile Club

Years snowmobiling: 30

Current snowmobile: 2003 Arctic Cat T660 Turbo, 4-stroke

Sled mods: No modifications needed when you ride an "old man's sled!" Purchased saddlebags for my many required accessories such as medications, pain relievers, Icy Hot.

Club position: Newly elected Treasurer of SAM. President of Snowbirds Snowmobile Club. Trail Worker of the Year, 1998. Past President of Leicester Snowmobile Club. SAM Delegate for 10-plus years. VAST Snowmobile Safety Instructor.



FAVORITE RIDING AREA: I've ridden in most of the state. I have to say Hawley, Savoy and Florida are my favorite areas, off of Route 2 / Route 8A.

TELL US A STORY: My most memorable times were while grooming. My "78" Alpine requires constant attention. One time the rear axle spit out from underneath the sled and got caught in the drag. The track was hanging out but I was able to drive it home for many miles while leaning the sled onto the second track.

TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOU:

In my younger years, I managed a nightclub in the Misquamicut Beach area in Rhode Island that used to book the hottest music acts at that time. 1,500 customers, 4 bars and 15 bartenders at age 22! Since then I have settled in Central MA, raised two wonderful children and have been married for 30-plus years. Crazy times at a young age! 🍷

SOUND OFF: I've been riding for 30 years and been involved since the beginning. Volunteering is critical to any club or organization. Not-for-profits are able to run because of donations.

Money helps but donating some time is the best thing you can do. Get involved with your local club.

It pays off!



VOLUNTEER WORK: As a club president, you volunteer for anything that comes up, cooking at events, repairing the warming hut at Camp Marshall 4-H. My favorite is trail clearing in the fall, Sunday mornings working on the trails is the best! I have my own Alpine groomer and drag local trails. Groom all night!



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