

# SLEDMASS

SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS



**17**

Excursions Close  
to Home –  
Massachusetts

**30**

Take Advantage of  
the Connection –  
Vermont







# SLEDMASS

The Official Publication of the  
Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts

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**PUBLISHER:** SledMass is published twice a year, October and December by the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM), c/o Rena Sumner, P.O. Box 386, Conway, MA 01341. Phone: 413-369-8092. E-mail: rena.sumner@sledmass.com.

## ON THE COVER

*Beautiful ski slope scenery in  
Springfield, VT.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Just another day on the trails.*

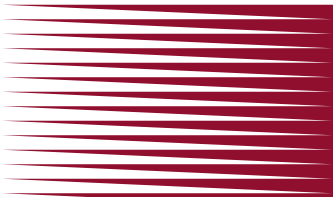
## What a Sport!

**S**nowmobiling, what a sport it is! Around this time of year, I always tend to get a little more anxious. My heart starts to race more as I know what is coming up next. Done is the hot, sticky humid weather. It's now replaced with waking up in the dark and going outside in the freezing cold. This is what I have been waiting for. The season is rapidly approaching and there is so much to do. The never-ending job for clubs, trail clearing and signage continues. Talking to landowners is another task that must be done every year. They give us the privilege to use their property for the sport we love and we must always make sure that an open line of communication is there. Without them, we would not have the fabulous trail system that we have today. We must never take this part of our sport for granted, for as the population grows our open land for snowmobiling shrinks. Make sure if you ever see a landowner out on the trails or anywhere for that matter, make sure you say "Thank you". Next, all of the 130 plus grooming power units and drags across the state have to be prepped and ready to go when the snow flies. Our fleet is a wide variety of vehicles. From snowmobile based, all the way up to Tuckers and Pisten Bullies. It is a daunting task, but there are a few brave souls that relish working on these metal monsters. It is a job that goes unnoticed, but it's vital to keep the fleet moving and grooming the trails to perfection. With all the prep work done, now is the

toughest time of all. We must all sit and wait for the white gold to come down from the sky.

I always have to chuckle a little when I talk to people who have never snowmobiled before. They think it is just like it is on television; "You go off those giant jumps and do somersaults, right?" When you explain to them that we have 2,000 miles of groomed trails throughout the state, they are shocked. People don't realize that snowmobiling is a family sport. Some of our favorite times on a sled have been taking the grandkids with us to a destination, whether it is riding to a restaurant for breakfast, or riding to the local fire tower built in the early 1900s for a bird's eye view of the valley. Destination rides are the best, and doing them with family and friends make the memories priceless. So, we decided to do a Destination Edition of *SledMass*. It is a paper to show everyone what the Northeast has to offer. We are so fortunate to live where we have so many different types of terrain for riding. So, we asked some of our members to give you a taste of where they like to ride beside out their back door. It is a great perspective, local people's experiences riding their favorite destination. Me, I love to ride everywhere and as much as possible while the snow is here, but for me, the best is by far being able to ride out of my backyard and right on to the trails. What a sport it is! 🐾

Jeff Miller, SAM President



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## LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

# Apply Now to The Federal Recreational Trails Program

### RTP APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2019 ROUND DUE IN FEBRUARY

By Lawrence Tucker

It is mid-November and there is a good chill in the Fall air. I have heard people tell me that the signs are indicating a real good winter lies ahead. One person has noticed that the geese have migrated south earlier than usual this year. Another person mentioned that the woolly caterpillar has a colored band in its mid-section and that it is much narrower than usual this year which is a good sign of a real cold, snowy winter. And, just for the record, I don't believe the one about squirrels collecting a lot of nuts, because they seem to always collect a lot of nuts. Putting all this together gives me the feeling that it is going to be a deep snowy winter for us.

While we will have to wait for the deep snow this season, we don't need to wait to find out that there will be more funding for our Trails next year through the Trails Grant Funding Program administered through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The good news is

that it is anticipated that for the 2019 round of the Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP), that the total available funds will be approximately \$4 million. This marks a significant increase over the years prior to the 2018 round.

It is interesting to understand the two reasons that account for this increase in trails funding. First, new for both the 2018 and the upcoming 2019 RTP rounds, is that Governor Charlie Baker has committed an additional \$2

million in State funding for the infrastructure of trails in Massachusetts. The second component of this increase is that since some Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds were about to lapse, they have now been included in the 2019 round and have increased the Federal funding to the range of \$2 - \$2.5 million.

Let's take a step back and briefly review what happened in the 2018 RTP round. In 2018 there was similarly \$2.5 million in Federal funds and \$2 million in State funds provided for Trails improvements in Massachusetts. The program encourages cities, towns,

municipal agencies, and non-profits to apply for this funding. The program awards 30% of the total funding available towards motorized trail projects. There was a total of 126 RTP Grant applications submitted for this funding in 2018 and, of that total, there were 75 projects receiving approval for funding in 2018.

OK, for all of you still curious about what happened with all the snowmobile club applications, the answer is very good news as all snowmobile clubs received approval of their applications in 2018. So, like the title implies; "Apply Now to The Federal Recreational Trails Program". Applications for the 2019 round are due by February 1, 2019. You may go to [www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants](http://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants) to find out more.

One other aspect of the RTP program that I should probably comment on relates to the "Buy America" component of the RTP program. As a reminder to all, if your grant includes purchasing any type of equipment, it must be "Buy America" compliant. And, all equipment purchases exceeding \$10,000 dollars must include three quotes.

**And remember, all Snowmobilers are part of the Trail Connection Team!** 🐾



# You're Invited!

ATTEND, VOTE &  
PARTICIPATE...It's your  
Association!

The SAM Board of Directors invites you to the

## SAM Annual Meeting and Dinner

Relax and enjoy dinner with your friends, while you participate in the business meeting and the honoring of award recipients.

**Thursday, April 4, 2019 • 5:00 PM—9:00 PM**

Registration & Cash bar will be open at 5:00 PM

5:00 PM Social with Hors d'oeuvres

6:00 PM Buffet Dinner

7:00 PM Annual Meeting, Awards & Raffle

\$25.00 per person (includes members and guests of members)

Pre-Registration is REQUIRED! Deadline is March 28

Register online at [www.sledmass.com](http://www.sledmass.com) or call 413-369-8092



# ADAMS SNO-DRIFTERS

## MEETING TIME:

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month starting at 7 p.m. at the American Legion, 160 Forest Park Ave., Adams, MA 01220

## CLUB CONTACT

Brian Janik 413-743-1012

## ABOUT OUR CLUB

The Adams Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club is an organization made up of avid snowmobilers who are dedicated to the promotion of the sport of snowmobiling as an exciting, enjoyable, and safe winter activity for individuals and families alike. The Adams Sno-Drifters club was founded in 1966 mainly as a social organization. Our club is dedicated to keeping the sport of snowmobiling alive and active in Berkshire County. Over the past 52 years, the club has taken part in many efforts to keep areas such as Stafford Hill, Mt. Greylock, Savoy Mountain State Forest, the Greylock Glen, and many privately owned parcels of land available to snowmobilers. Our club is always searching for new members to help promote the safe use of snowmobiles. Any and all support is



*Snowmobiling on Mt. Greylock*

welcome to help us deal with the many issues that we are faced with.

A snowmobile club is involved in simply much more than clearing and grooming trails during the winter. We attended the Adams Agricultural Fair and distributed free snowmobiling literature. Our club has raffles and rides to raise money for a local charity - which is a different person/family each year. We also assist the Thunderbolt Ski Runners with their events on Mt. Greylock.

Trail trims are held every Sunday and continue until it snows. We meet at the Big Y in Adams 9am. Equipment Maintenance is held Wednesday's, 6pm at 36 Crotteau St, Adams.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH 3, 2019**

Silver Fox Endurance Ride/S.A.M. Ride In, Ayrhill Farms, Cheshire, MA 01225

Check our website (<http://adamssnodrifters.webstarts.com>) and our Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=110038205703847&ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=110038205703847&ref=br_rs)) for updated events/rides



*Grooming on Greylock*

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

Ed Janik, 36 Crotteau Street, Adams, MA 01220

Ronnie's Cycle Sales & Service, 150 Howland Avenue, Adams, MA 01220



*Distributing snowmobiling information at the Adams Agricultural Fair*





# BERNARDSTON GILL LEYDEN SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIME

Bernardston Veterans Club  
16 Hartwell Street  
Bernardston, MA 01337  
Last Monday of the month at 7 p.m.  
August through March

## CLUB OFFICERS

Jared Smith – President  
1-413-834-1665  
Dan Hale – Vice President  
1-413-522-4823

## ABOUT OUR CLUB

A couple of years ago when snow goer magazine called the Bernardston Gill Leyden snowmobile club the “Gateway to the Berkshires” as a club we had a good laugh. But if you look at all that our club has to offer we are actually a whole lot more.

Located on the I-91 corridor on the Vermont border we have parking literally minutes from Exit 28. Our main one is the overflow lot of Kringle Candle on route 5&10 and is within walking distance to their store and Farm table Restaurant. Also there is the Windmill motel located on Route 10 where if you chose to make a weekend out of it you can stay trailside.

Once out on the club trails that cover the 3 towns and 70 plus groomed miles, in Bernardston there are a few food options which include the Four Leaf Clover, The Country Corner Store and with a short walk you can get to Hillside



*The BGL club trail map*



*BGL Tracked groomers*



*BGL Leyden fire pit*

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

**Rays Cycle Center**  
322 Wells Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone: 413-773-8718  
Hours: Mon thru Thur 9-530,  
Fri 9-8, Sat 9-4

**Steel Shed Inc**  
39 Bernardston Road  
Bernardston, MA 01337  
Phone: 413-773-9601  
Hours: Mon thru Fri 8-4

Pizza or Antonio's 2 pizza. If your sled needs fuel you can access the Sunoco gas station which also has a Dunkin Donuts. Then from Gill you can enjoy the Scenic French King Bridge on your way to the French King Restaurant and connects to the town of Northfield's trails.

If you chose to bring your own meals, we have 2 locations where our club gathers to warm both our hands and “buns”. These are located in Leyden and the other in Gill. Usually on Sunday afternoons there is an open invitation to all to get together in at the Leyden fire pit where it is encouraged to show off your outdoor cooking skills.

Our a groomer fleet includes Skandic snowmobiles, 2 tracked mini trucks, a tracked side by side UTV and a pair of tracked Geo trackers. These machines and our club operate smoothly because of volunteers and local businesses that include... The Steel Shed Inc, Beckwiths Auto, Ray's Cycle Center and Green River Powersports. Also to help us find our way on the trail with signs and our machines looking sharp Hale Custom Signs has us covered. I encourage all of you to show your appreciation by supporting them with your business.

For all club info on trail reports and activities we do our best to keep our webpage [www.BGLSNOW.com](http://www.BGLSNOW.com), our Facebook page “Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile Club” and our club page on [www.sledmass.com](http://www.sledmass.com).

PLEASE remember as you enjoy our club trails or any other clubs' trails .... Show respect to our land owners and obey all trail sign requests, especially for curfews and quiet zones. Our trails like most in Massachusetts are made possible by generous private land owners who most of them don't even own sleds.

Hope to see you out there... “Ride Safe and Keep the Rubber Side Down!”

## FOR MORE INFO

Website: [www.BGLSNOW.com](http://www.BGLSNOW.com)  
Facebook page: [bernardston-gill-leyden snowmobile club](https://www.facebook.com/bernardston-gill-leyden-snowmobile-club)  
Contact:  
Jeff Miller 413-522-0796  
Jared Smith 413-834-1665  
Brad Stafford 413-374-4201



# Take a Walk in the Woods... With a Chain Saw

A LITTLE TRAIL  
CLEARING IS  
GOOD FOR  
THE SOUL

By Steven Howard

**A**s a snowmobiler I spend all summer waiting for... fall. Wait, why fall? Because its trail clearing season! I spend way more time on trail clearing every year than I do snowmobiling and love every minute of it. If you haven't tried it here are eight reasons I love it.

## IT'S BEAUTIFUL IN THE WOODS IN THE FALL IN NEW ENGLAND.

If I didn't have trail work to do I'd be out walking anyway. The temperature is perfect for being outside, there are no mosquitos, the air is crisp and clean, the leaves are turning golden colors. Its why tourist spend big bucks on driving to New England. We can just walk out our back doors and our trails are not busy with tourist. Our trails in the fall are one of the best kept secrets of New England fall hikes.

## THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A WELL-KEPT AND FRESHLY CLEANED TRAIL.

Start the day with a tangle of downed trees, hanging limbs, brush growing in on the sides of the trails and after a bit turn around and look back at a clear and inviting path through the woods. If you have a job that sometimes takes months to see the results of your work, then a few hours in the woods is all it takes to get visible and immediate satisfaction from your labors.

## MY DOCTOR TOLD ME TO EXERCISE.

There are lots of studies showing that walking is one of the best ways to exercise, but I prefer exercise with a purpose



*Okay, sometimes I don't walk when I can drive a support vehicle.*

or getting something done at the same time. When the fall comes my long weekend walk turns into something more than just a walk for the sake of walking. I'm getting exercise and doing something useful that I, and hundreds of other snowmobilers, will benefit from later.

## I GET TO WORK WITH MY COMMUNITY.

I've been a club member for about 15 years (so I'll always be a new comer), and it's been a pleasure and an honor to get to know many of the folks that are the back bone of the local community. The people you work with on the trails are the same folks that are making the Maple Syrup you eat on your pancakes, give you a jump start when you have a dead battery on your car, keep your chain saws, lawn tractor and snow blowers running, answer a call at midnight to come help you get the groomer unstuck, give you deer sausage from their fall hunt and haddock from their summer fishing trips and on and on. In short, being an active part of any community pays back big dividends.

## I GET TO USE FUN TOOLS.

My favorite is a gas-powered pole saw. I remember the days of a manual pole saw where I stood below the limb sawing back and forth and got worn out after about 6 tree limbs. Now I've got about 12' of length with a spinning chain on the end and can clear hanging limbs on a mile of trails in about an hour. It's still an arm stretcher so best to have a buddy to take turns with. You need a second person to pull the cut brush aside anyway. When you come through the woods at 50 mph in February you really appreciate that there are no snow cover hemlock bows hanging in the trail to whack you in the head.

## IT'S A MINDFUL WAY TO SPEND A SUMMER MORNING.

Mindfulness is the current big word in personal health, but you don't need to do Yoga or Meditation or Tai Chi to experience the health benefits of Mindfulness. Instead think of it as just clearing your head from your daily grind in any

of a variety of ways. My Mindfulness activities include the above, but also motorcycling, snowmobiling, weekend carpentry, and of course, trail clearing. Anything you do that lets you focus on a pleasurable task at hand while relaxing your body and your brain is a Mindful activity.

## IT'S A DAY'S WORK THAT YOU GET TO ENJOY FOR MONTHS TO COME.

When the snow flies we get to enjoy the fruits of our labor and ride trails with pride. We also get to ride trails that other clubs maintain and be impressed by their wide tracks and amazing bridges.

## LAND OWNER'S LOVE HAVING SOMEONE ELSE CLEAR THEIR TRAILS.

Don't forget that what we do is a benefit to land owners. They get to enjoy the fruits of our labors with a clean trail available for their use. Maybe they aren't snowmobilers, but many of them walk their dogs, ride their mountain bikes, cross country ski, get access to back sections of their property, run their syrup lines, or pull out firewood out along the trails we help to maintain. We do our best to thank landowners every year for letting us use trails across their property, but we also get thanks by landowners for keeping up trails and bridges on their property for their own use.

I'll bet you can think of even more good reasons for getting out on the trails each fall, and I hope you get as pumped as I get when the air turns crisp each September and the time for trail clearing work has come. Let's meet any fall Sunday at a trail head for a day of fun, purposeful work. I'll even provide snacks. 🍂





# BUCKLAND RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

This month we'd like to thank two businesses that are staunch supporters of the Buckland Riders Snowmobile Club. Volunteer members and labor are great, but there are times when we just need to drop off a chain saw or sled for repairs our members don't have the time for. So, we turn to our supporting businesses. Not only do they back us with their professional expertise, but they spend money out of their own pockets to advertise on our club page.

## FRANK LABELLE'S OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT SALES AND SERVICE

Frank Labelle's Outdoor Power Equipment Sales and Service has been a supporter of the Buckland Snowmobile Club since they opened in 1971, and we like to support them as well. There's a chain saw in every club sled, poles saws for trail maintenance and winches for running drags, all from LaBelle's. There are not a lot of small, full service, local repair shops still around. Labelle's is one of the local success stories. They grew out of the original shop next to Frank's house and around 2000 built a beautiful new repair shop and display room on the corner of Route 112 and Clesson Brook Rd (296 Ashfield Road is the official address). This location is convenient for folks in the hill towns to get to, but they also offer pickup and delivery if you don't have a way to get your lawn tractor there and back. Frank does most of the transporting and Curtis holds down the shop.

The technicians on staff are factory trained and their turn around on repairs is always timely and their parts stock is extensive. The brands they service and sell cover the basic names in the outdoor power equipment business: Honda, Ferris, Simplicity, Troy-Bilt, Cub Cadet, Still, Yanmar, Timber Wolf and more.

Labelle's is one of our biggest SAM trail pass sellers and always ready to give us a raffle item for our fund raisers. Not only that, but they own land with trails on them and are always happy to let us



*Chips and Chainsaws. A perfect combination.*

do work or repair bridges as needed. So please be sure to thank Frank and Curtis for supporting the Buckland Riders next time you are in the shop.

## CASEY'S WHEELS AND POWER SPORTS

Casey's Wheels Powersports has been a great supporter of the Buckland Riders Snowmobile club. They supply parts and repairs for us and our members at great prices, gift certificates for our fund raisers, and by selling SAM Trail Passes. With easy access off Route 2 in Shelburne Falls, Wheels is a great place to stop for sled supplies on your way to Western Massachusetts or Southern Vermont trails.



*Is it snowing yet?*

Casey Griswold has been in business at 107 State Street since 2012. The automotive end of his business has taken off and he is busy from morning to night in his shop. He is as an off-road sports enthusiast from way back competing in multiple off-road series. Jason Boron, one of the North East's most decorated snow



*Volunteer Work crew at the ready.*

cross racers, also works at Wheels and has the experience and know-how for all your sled needs. Wheels Powersports stocks all the consumables you need for your sleds; oil, skags, studs, skis, spark plugs and more. He's also happy to order anything you need out of his extensive after markets parts catalogs. Wheels is also the biggest VP Racing fuel distributor in the tri state area.

His location is adjacent to Neighbor's shop so stopping for a gallon of 2 stroke oil also means an easy fill up and food stop. If you are driving through or a local off-road enthusiast be sure to check in with Casey the next time you need power sports supplies, parts or repairs. Just stopping for oil and a trail pass, no problem, just tell him thanks for supporting the Buckland Riders.

## MEETING DATES

Second Monday of the month, October through April at the Buckland Fire Station, 7 p.m.

## CLUB CONTACT

Steve Howland, 413-522-3320  
or club@bucklandriders.com

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

**Happy Trails package store** at the Mohawk Shops,  
Rte. 2 in Shelburne

**Frank Labelle's Outdoor Equipment Shop**, Rte 112 in  
Buckland

**Casey Griswold Repair** next to Neighbor's Store,  
State Street, Shelburne Falls

**Shelburne Farm and Garden**, Rte 2 Shelburne

**Wheels Sports**

*Parts Accessories & Service*

**Motorcycle - ATV**  
**UTV - Snowmobile**

SHOCK & FORK SERVICE

**RACING FUELS**

**413-625-6900**  
107 State St. Shelburne Falls, MA.

Owner  
Casey Griswold





# CONWAY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIME

First Monday of the month, September through April, 7 p.m. at the Conway Firehouse, 15 Ashfield Road, Conway, MA 01341

## CLUB CONTACTS

Adam Sokoloski, Delegate  
Craig Warner, Alternate Delegate  
snow@sledconway.com

## ABOUT OUR CLUB

In the last edition, I wrote about what it takes for Conway Snowmobile Club (CSC) to maintain a trail system. This time, let's take a short ride on the CSC trail system with a couple short jogs into our neighboring trail systems of Hill-town Snowmobile Club and the Greater Whately Snowmobile Club.

Starting at one of our easily accessible trailer access point on Sand Gully Road South, just off Lee road in S. Deerfield, and follow the trail across the field to Intersection CN31. At the intersection take a right and follow Trail 4. Trail 4 crosses Route 116 and continues on through multiple intersections, but be sure to stop at intersection CN30, the Smiling Tree, on your way to Corridor 93. At CN06 take Corridor 93 towards Ashfield. Corridor 93 is typical of the trails in Western Massachusetts, it is hilly, twisty and scenic, if you follow all of the signs for Corridor 93 into Ashfield, you can continue on to the Ashfield Lakehouse for lunch.

After lunch, head back on Corridor 93 for until you reach intersection CN10. At CN10 take Trail 5 "south" to CN47 and there you can turn onto Trail 5A "south". Follow 5A "south" until intersection CN43. Take Trail 3 to intersection CN02, where it joins Corridor 93. Look for the signs for intersection CN03 and Trail 11. You can follow Trail 11 all the way back to CN31, where you left your trailer.

If this sounds like a pleasant little ride, then the CSC trail system might be the place for you. There are multiple trails that intersect and allow you to loop around, so you can vary your route all winter. In a typical year, you can ride



*Heading towards the Ashfield Lakehouse on Corridor 93 on the CSC Trail System.*

to a club meeting at the Firehouse, stop for a bite at the Conway Inn, or just tour the town. CSC members can receive a complimentary Conway area map with their membership, extras are just \$5.

None of this would be possible if it wasn't for the most important part of CSC (and neighboring clubs): the landowners. We have the best landowners in the state (we might not be totally objective), that have allowed the CSC and SAM Members access to their land for generations. The ride described in this article is mostly privately held land. While I haven't tried to calculate the portion of our trails that is on private land, I wouldn't be surprised that it is around 95% private.

Private landowners are the reason we have over 120 miles of trails in our system. CSC has been working with the landowners on this trail system for 50 years in order to provide a system that is interesting, useful, and challenging. This is why CSC asks you to ride responsibly and in control at all times. Stay on the trail and be alert for other types of trail users. Some of our landowners snowshoe, cross country ski, hike, or bike on the trail system. This is their land: they get to make the rules. Luckily, our members understand and value the close relationship we have with the landowners on our trail system and act appropriately.

If you still haven't bought your trail pass, you can buy one twenty four hours a day at [www.sledconway.com](http://www.sledconway.com). Like us on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and trail updates.



*Corridor 93 on the CSC Trail System.*

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

### Baker's Country Store

101 River Street  
Conway, MA 01341  
Phone: 413-369-4936

### Ray's Cycle Center

332 Wells Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone: 413-773-8718

### Sunderland Corner Store

101 North Main Street  
Sunderland, MA 01375  
Phone: 413-397-2002

### Hatfield Center Store

60 Main Street  
Hatfield, MA 01038  
Phone: 413-247-6344

### Ciesluk's Market

55C North Main Street  
South Deerfield, MA  
Phone: 413-397-3574

*Buy online anytime  
day or night at*

[www.sledconway.com](http://www.sledconway.com)



# Destination Snowmobiling

## MAINE; NEW BRUNSWICK AND QUEBEC, CANADA

By Tom Rosato, Easy Riders Snowmobile Club

**Y**ou've heard of destination weddings before and how much fun they can be. I have an even better one for you - How about destination snowmobiling? As a lifelong 65 year old New Englander who's been riding for nearly half that time, I assure you that you can have a blast snowmobiling on some of the smoothest, fastest and scenic trails that lie within the state of Maine, and in New Brunswick and Quebec, Canada. Be aware that I am a member of the Easy Riders Snowmobile Club, Marlboro, MA and we have been riding these areas for what seems like forever. Typically, our club trips consist of staying in the same hotel for the usual long weekend trip. However, several of us have really taken to saddlebag trips for the last 10 years or so thru both New Brunswick and Quebec, Canada. My take on destination snowmobiling is detailed below for your reading pleasure.

### MAINE

Riding in Maine normally starts around the first of the year up north and out west. I've ridden from as far south as Bridgton, near Sebago Lake, all the way up to the northern tip of Maine through the wilderness along the Allagash River up to Maine's northern most point. Starting in the south and working your way north, Bridgton is followed by the scenic Rangeley Lakes region, a very popular riding area, home of the Saddleback Inn and Town and Country Motel. From there, it's a short hop northeast to the Forks area and all the establishments that support snowmobiling like Northern Outdoors, Inn by the River, Lake Parlin Lodge and many more. To the north lies the Moose River and the Jackman area, home of Bishops

and Jackman Powersports. From here, one can easily enter Quebec. To the east of Jackman lies the Moosehead lake region, home of famous riding areas like Rockwood, Greenville, Kokadjo, North East Carry, and Pittson Farm. The Moosehead trail connects all these areas. This area is home to the famous B52 crash site. The wreckage is clearly marked and can even be seen in the winter with all the snow. Just north of this area is Chesuncook Lake, the gateway to "The Trains". This is a must see all day trip via some one way small trails that is more than worth it. Millinocket Lake is to the northeast of Moosehead Lake and is also a very popular riding area. The Katahdin Loop trail is located here. Everything north of here lies within "The County", which is what the locals call Aroostook County. Up here, there is crazy good riding pretty much all winter. You can start down in Sherman and ride north up thru the old Oxbow Lodge area. This famous lodge burnt down years ago and the old foundation can still be seen today. To the east, you can ride over to Houlton and then up to Limestone and ride "The Border Trail" along the New Brunswick border. This is a fast-full throttle area with many loop de loops. Be careful. Then keep traveling north to Van Buren, head west to Long Lake, where last year at the Sporting Lodge, many dedicated men and women created a massive 426' diameter carousel in the ice with chainsaws and actually got it to spin. I believe this was a world record effort. What a site it was to see. Next, head to Madawaska and finally head west to Fort Kent, home of the Northern Door Inn and the Swamp Buck restaurant. The Can Am Sled Dog races are held here every March too which is a must-see for your bucket list. Lastly, one can head west to St Francis and then Allagash, have some lunch, get some gas and head north up the Allagash River to the Canadian border at Escourt Station. And don't forget the towns of Ashland, Portage Eagle Lake and Wallagrass that lead up to Fort Kent from the south.



Construction of the world's largest (426' diameter) ice carousel on Long Lake in Sinclair, ME



The Maine trail system consists of wide trails, many of which are logging roads, which are meticulously maintained. No speed limits exist. It can be cold especially as you head north. Non-resident season registrations cost \$100 and can be purchased online. Enjoy.

## NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

Our club has been riding into New Brunswick for a long time. We would usually combine our travel to New Brunswick with a stay at the Northern Door Inn for a weekend in Fort Kent, ME. On one of the days, we would travel to Moose Valley in New Brunswick for lunch and then return. About 4 years ago, we started saddlebag trips through New Brunswick. We would usually start in Ft Kent or Madawaska and would ride north first to Moose Valley for a mid-morning snack, and then proceed east to our favorite spot, Danny's Inn in Beresford, which is just north of Bathurst. We would usually stop in Kedgewick and buy some local honey, cut thru the park, or maybe ride the railroad beds towards Campbellton and eventually make it to Beresford for a nice meal. Keep in mind that you need to bring cash to buy gas at a few of the more remote clubhouses that sell gas. The following morning, we would travel either further east or south. For



*The Trains at Chamberlain Lake in Maine.*

the easterly route, we would end up riding over a frozen salt water bay to eventually reach the most eastern point of New Brunswick in Petite-Riviere-de-l'Île. What an experience, it's one thing to cross frozen fresh water but to cross frozen salt water is not a normal thing to do. We've done it twice now. As a matter of fact, we will probably do it again this year. For the southerly route out of Beresford, we would travel south to Miramichi and then head west and then north back to Ft Kent or Edmundston. Our riding in New Brunswick is usually combined with the free weekend pass they offer in February. Their pass is

3 days – Fri, Sat, Sun - that we take advantage of. Riding in New Brunswick is even faster than Maine as you are going through many remote areas. Non-resident season trail passes cost about \$180 Canadian if purchased before Dec 15 and can be purchased online. Everyone in New Brunswick speaks English for the most part. You got to try it.

## QUEBEC, CANADA

Our club has been riding into Quebec on week long saddlebag trips for the last 10 years or so and actually plan on doing a trip this year. Riding in Quebec is as fast if not faster than New

Brunswick. I'm hoping the trails will be impeccable this year like I remembered them to be. In Quebec, French is the language spoken by all, although most people speak enough English to get by. They are all friendly which means the language barrier is easily overcome. Quebec has so much to offer. Our club has done the Gaspé Loop 5 times, Cote du Nord once, Monts Valins once, Lac Saint Jean twice, NW Quebec once with another trip planned this year. We've had many major issues along the way such as 1 blown piston, 3 accidents, 1 blown fuel pump, 1 health issue, and of course 2 major weather issues. Last year, on a Gaspé trip, 7 riders had to put their sleds on a flatbed trailer and take a taxi to get to a destination half way to where we had planned to be due to blizzard conditions. It cost each of us \$50 for the trailer and \$10 for the taxi. How humbling and embarrassing! The Gaspé can be tough, but oh so worth it. We also encountered numerous minor issues such as heated helmet shields that stopped working, luggage that fell off sleds, many sleds that veered off trail for no reason, etc. Here's the areas highlight's that we have experienced over the years:

**Gaspé Peninsula** – As discussed above, weather can be a major issue to contend with. We have done the Gaspé trip clockwise, counter-clockwise and



*A Must See - The Rock at Percé, Gaspé Peninsula*



through the interior. There are lots of windmills in areas such as Matane and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. You must see “The Rock” at Perce. Years ago, you could sled out to it in the ocean but no more. You have to ride the cliffs in the Mont Saint Pierre region along Saint Lawrence River. It’s very similar to the Going to the Sun Road in Montana at Glacier National Park except you’re on a sled with snowbanks as guardrails. Very scary, especially if it’s icy. You also have to ride Piston Alley in the interior from Murdochville to Chandler. It’s called this because so many riders have blown pistons here. You can open your sled up full throttle for mile after mile after mile on 20’ wide trails. Lots of fun unless you push your 2-stroke too much. If you do push it too much, then Piston Alley gets to put another notch in its belt – haha. Planning for a Gaspé tour can be done through Info Motoneigiste Gaspésie. They’ll make hotel reservations for you and are so helpful. They are located in Chandler at the clubhouse. Be sure to stop in and say hi to them.

**Cote du Nord** – This area is on the north side of the Saint Lawrence River. To get there, you drive your sled onto a ferry in Matane for a 2½ hour trip. Quite an experience crossing an ice covered river. Once on the Cote du Nord, you must travel west and cross the highest and longest snowmobile bridge in North America over the Manicougan River. It’s a must do. If you travel further west, you can take a smaller ferry across the Saguenay River at Tadoussac. If you travel east after taking the ferry across the Saint Lawrence River, there is a lot more to see. Haven’t done that but I suspect you probably need more than a trail sled for some of this riding.

**Monts Valins** – This area has snow in early December with snow remaining until early summer. The high elevations and its northerly location make it a must area to visit. There are lots of trails riding up the mountains. Very scenic.



*An alternate form of transportation on a Gaspé tour due to Blizzard conditions resulting in impassable trails.*

Destination snowmobiling to Maine, New Brunswick  
and Quebec can't be beat in my opinion. Conditions  
are usually outstanding and the people you meet  
on the trails are wonderful.

**Lac Saint Jean** – We have ridden through this area numerous times. A must stop is in Saguenay (Jonquière) at the Delta Hotel. If you’re lucky, you might run into Saguenay Bill who is the knowledgeable expert rider in this area. We have traveled up to this area from the Shawinigan area up thru La

Tuque or even thru L’Étape (much longer), both very enjoyable providing the trails are in good shape. Around the lake are many cute towns – Alma, Dolbeau-Mistassani, Roberval and Saint-Felicien. From the western shore of Lac Saint Jean, you begin your trip to NW Quebec. Be sure to bring cash

as many gas stations beyond Lac Saint Jean require cash.

**NW Quebec** – This is fantastic riding in very remote areas. From Lac Saint Jean, travel northwest to Chibougamau. Then travel west along a railroad bed for miles and miles through Senneterre eventually reaching the Ontario border. Then head back east to Parent and either southeast below Mont Tremblant Park through St Donat or northeast above Mont Tremblant Park through La Tuque and back to Shawinigan. This trip is about 1600 miles over 7 days of riding, our longest ever. We hope to do it again this year. As a side note, be aware that a season trail pass in Quebec is expensive compared to Maine and New Brunswick. It costs somewhere around \$315 Canadian if purchased before Dec 15.

Destination snowmobiling to Maine, New Brunswick and Quebec can’t be beat in my opinion. Conditions are usually outstanding and the people you meet on the trails are wonderful. Just hope for good weather. If you haven’t already experienced this region, I urge you to reconsider and explore it. Safe travels. 🐾

**Jay Kopala**  
GENERAL MANAGER  
**1-888-686-8010**

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# GOSHEN HIGHLANDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIME

First and third Monday of each month  
at 7 p.m. at Spruce Corner Restaurant,  
190 Berkshire Trail West, Goshen, MA

## CLUB CONTACTS

Bryan Osetek, President,  
413-297-6504  
Bill Turner, Vice President,  
413-268-3145

## ABOUT OUR CLUB

Goshen Highlanders Snowmobile Club (GHSC) was established in 2003 with just 38 members that year. We are located in the scenic mountains of Goshen, MA. We offer 42 miles of trails, 16 of which run through the DAR State Forest. Our trail system will bring you around town or lead you to Chesterfield, Williamsburg or Ashfield; connecting you to many points beyond.

Throughout the DAR State Forest you can visit the fire tower, Camp Howe, and if safe, both Upper and Lower Highland Lakes. In town you can reach Spruce Corner Restaurant along Corridor 9 where you will find good eats, homemade desserts, beverages and friendly and trail knowledgeable staff. The Goshen General Store is accessible off secondary 112. Along with club memberships, trail maps and trail passes they carry a variety of snowmobile parts and accessories both in stock and available to order, deli style and convenience store snacks and local goodies.

The trails are maintained solely by volunteers and new faces are always welcome! During the fall most weekends you can find a group of enthusiastic members' brush hogging, trimming, rebuilding bridges, removing obstacles and performing general trail upkeep. We advertise these work bees through a text system and on our Facebook page which we update regularly. Our club provides lunch to its members at Spruce Corner Restaurant following a morning of productive group trail work. During the winter we have a dedicated grooming crew who operate



*GHSCs RTV and Bombi grooming along Secondary 9A.*

a variety of equipment including a tracked John Deere tractor, Skandic, RTV and a Bombi. These are all volunteers and work very hard to provide the best experience possible on our trails. When you see them out there, stop and say hi, and thank them for the great job they do and their dedication to the sport!

Please join us at our bimonthly meetings at the Spruce Corner Restaurant, 188 Berkshire Trail West (RT 9) on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings at 7pm. Always remember to respect land owners, our trails depend on them and ride safely! See you out there in just a few weeks. **#thinksnow**

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

**Goshen General Store**  
31 Main St.  
Goshen, MA 01032  
Phone: 413-268-7268

**Spruce Corner Restaurant**  
190 Berkshire Trail West  
Goshen, MA 01032  
Phone: 413-268-3188



*The DAR Fire tower a popular destination along our trail system.*



*A stretch of Corridor 9 that runs through the DAR state forest.*





# GREATER WHATELY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIMES

Meetings are held from September to April on the second Monday of the month. Meetings start at 7 p.m. This season we have moved our meeting location to the Hatfield Pub, 312 West Street, (Route 5 & 10) N. Hatfield, MA, 01066

## CLUB CONTACTS

Bob Sabola-President, 413-478-0733  
Curt Hale-Vice President, 413-687-3523  
Paul Bordura-Treasure, 978-380-022  
Matt Sabola-Secretary, 413-313-1402.

Website: [www.sledmass.com/clubs/greater-whately-snowmobile-club/](http://www.sledmass.com/clubs/greater-whately-snowmobile-club/)  
Email: [greaterwhatelysnowmobileclub@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwhatelysnowmobileclub@gmail.com)

## ABOUT OUR CLUB

We offer 60 miles of groomed and interconnected trails along the Connecticut River and to the foothills of the Berkshires. We also offer easy access to parking along State Rd. (Route 5 & 10) in Whately. Food, Lodging, and fuel are within minutes of the trail system.

Our club includes 100 members with a core of dedicated volunteers who host club rides, cookouts, and community events. During the past several years



we have worked to improve bridge crossings and trail signage in Whately and Hatfield. These projects were time consuming and complicated but we are very proud of our accomplishments. We appreciate the support that we receive from our friends and neighbors in Whately. Without landowner permission our access to this trail system

would not exist. Please respect our landowners and stay on marked trails. Whately and Hatfield contain a vast amount of farm land. The Farmers may have winter crops that can be hidden underneath the snow. You may not see the crop but it's there and if there is not enough snow cover a snowmobile can do significant damage to the crops. Please remember that this is the

Farmer's lively hood. Think twice before heading out across that open field.

We thank you for your support in the past and hope that you'll join the Greater Whately Snowmobile Club again this coming season. We're looking forward to the 2018/2019 riding season. Ride safe and ride smart!

**Happy Holidays!**



## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

### Muffin's General Store

28 State Road  
Whately, MA 01093  
413-397-3372

### Valley Motor Sports

216 N. King Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-584-7303

### Fishtales Bar and Grill

5 School Street  
Hatfield, MA 01038  
413-349-9804

### Josh's Detailing

16 North Main Street  
South Deerfield, MA, 01373  
413-397-9911

### Hatfield Center Store

60 Main Street  
Hatfield, MA, 01038  
413-247-6344

### Ciesluk's Market

55 North Main St.  
South Deerfield, MA 01373  
413-397-3574

### Curt Hale

126 Christian Lane  
Whately, MA, 01373  
413-687-3523

### Bob Sabola

31 Hepburn Drive  
Sunderland, MA, 01375  
413-478-0733





# HILLTOWN SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIME

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ashfield Fire station

## CLUB CONTACTS

Mike Dufresne, SAM delegate  
HilltownSnowmobileClub@yahoo.com

## TRAIL REPORT

Trails are Closed until the club officially opens them. Trail trims have started, please come give us a hand. We meet at Ashfield Neighbors every Sunday at 9:00 am. Please bring a saw or other tools you have. Call Eli at (413) 530-9469 with any questions.

Visit our Facebook page for up to date information and trail reports  
<https://www.facebook.com/hilltown-snowmobileclub/>

## CLUB EVENT SCHEDULE:

**DEC. 16, 2018**

Community Christmas Party  
Sanderson Academy  
4-6pm

**TDB**

Pancake Breakfast  
Ashfield Lake House

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

**Neighbors Convenience Store**  
244 Maine Street  
Ashfield, MA  
(413) 628-4467

**Michael Dufresne**  
(413) 658-7584



*Bridge repairs on corridor 90.*



*Clark family at our community Christmas party.*



*Club members grooming corridor 93.*





# KNOX TRAIL SNO-RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIME

- Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018 at 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019 at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 9 a.m.

Meetings are held at the Knox Trail Inn, Rt. 23, East Otis, MA

## CLUB CONTACTS

Jeff Gamelli, president  
trailsign@aol.com  
Jim Richard, media director  
knoxtrail@gmail.com  
Sno-Phone: 413-391-3000  
Website: [www.knoxtrail.com](http://www.knoxtrail.com)

## SIXTH VINTAGE SLED AND TRACTOR SHOW

Every Snowmobile Club has a special member that is not an officer or even a board member but goes way beyond "just being a member" and does something really special. In this club, that special member is Mel Scuderi. Mel is the director of the "Be Bold, Ride Old" Vintage Sled and Tractor Show. The sixth "BBRO" took place on Sunday October, 21, 2018 at the Knox Trail Inn in East Otis. It was a nice turnout, despite the cold and wind. Vintage sleds, tractors, owners, and spectators filled the parking lot. Thanks go out to Mel and all who helped put this together, especially Mel's right hand man, board member John Ruffo, and The Knox Trail Inn! Special thanks also to Adam Kinsley of Snap-on tools, NAPA Auto Parts, Robert Ayre of Amsoil, Seybold Enterprises tool donations, and Best Transmission trophy donor. And don't forget the dedicated members of the Knox Trail Sno- Riders Snowmobile Club! The trophy winners were chosen by participant and spectator ballots. The winners roster can be found at [www.knoxtrail.com](http://www.knoxtrail.com). While you are there, find out more about the club! Get the latest club news, trail reports, events, and, at the Knox Trail online store, trail passes, raffle tickets, maps, and KTSR shirts, sweats, and hats.



*Mel Scuderi at work.*



*Mel's merry-go-round... yes it rotates!*

## CLUB EVENT SCHEDULE

### JAN. 19, 2019

The club will hold an "All Sled Ride". Open to all registered sleds, old and new. Meet at L&M Gulf. Time TBA.

### JAN. 20, 2019

Attend the ninth annual drawing for a new 2019 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 Sport snowmobile. Tickets are \$150 each but only 125 will be sold. Entry includes dinner for 2 at the Knox Trail Inn, Rt. 23, East Otis, MA. The event begins at 5:30pm. Inclement weather date is Jan. 28.

### FEB. 10, 2019

Annual Poker Run and Picnic on the Rez. Poor condition date 2/24. Time and location TBD. Check [www.knoxtrail.com](http://www.knoxtrail.com).

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS:

The Knox Trail Inn, East Otis, MA 413-269-4400  
Al Joy Tire Services, Southington, CT 860-628-2728  
Katie's Country Store, East Otis, MA 413-269-4211  
Jim Morweic Snowmobile Parts, Lee, MA 413-447-5755  
Papa's Healthy Food & Fuel, East Otis, MA 413-269-7779  
Farmington River Diner, Otis, MA 413-269-6874  
Trail Passes are available online at  
<http://www.knoxtrail.com/online-trailpass>



**Ninth Annual**  
**RAFFLE**  
& WINNER  
**GRAND PRIZE:**  
**2019 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 Sport**  
*It will definitely be given away!*  
**Only 125 tickets will be sold \$150 each**  
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## FEATURE DESTINATION

# Excursions Close to Home

## MASSACHUSETTS

By Brad Stafford

**D**espite wherever they call home across New England, when snowmobilers are asked “When you trailer your sled to enjoy the sport you love, where do you go and why? The usual answers include Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and upstate New York. The reasons why are obvious, they have more snow and also things like trail size, special destinations and of course easy access to trail side amenities like parking, food, gas and lodging. I have ridden in some of these areas and I agree with it all. But along with the good there is the downside, and the biggest of these places are the travel time it takes to get there. From most of Massachusetts the more popular places are 4-8 hours away. But with all things considered and when Mother Nature does cover us here in Massachusetts with the white stuff, there are plenty of reasons to stay and ride right here in our own backyard of Massachusetts.

Let's start out with some facts, as I bet most of you didn't know that across the state of Massachusetts there over 2100 miles of trails that are maintained by 30 plus clubs that make up the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, aka SAM. These SAM trails are maintained and groomed with a full spectrum of machines from utility sized sleds to the full size units like the Tuckers, tracked mini trucks and 4 wheel drive tractors driven by countless volunteers. There are trails located in the center of the state that connect the Spencer area to Royalston. There is a club located even east of them in the Harvard area. From there looking westward there are riding opportunities from Belchertown through Shutesbury and beyond that up and down

the I-91 corridor you can ride west and north all the way to the Vermont and New York state lines. There is also access in a couple spots to ride into Vermont and New Hampshire.

Throughout all of these SAM trails there are many easy access areas for parking to start your journey, some within an hour from the Mass/Connecticut border, just minutes off I-91. A short drive out the Mass Pike can take you up into the Berkshires to name a few. Once on the trail there are plenty of opportunities for surprise scenic views. Enjoy a planned destination ride and find fuel and food for both you and your sleds.

Hopefully by now I have you thinking more about snowmobiling in Massachusetts and wondering about



*Break time on the trail at the lookout in Rowe, MA.*



*Shelburne fire tower on Massamett Mountain.*



*Corridor 2 in Bernardston looking south down Pioneer Valley.*

the logistics of it. I will try to be brief here and then get back to the fun stuff.

Located on the SAM webpage ([www.sledmass.com](http://www.sledmass.com)) is all the info you will need and a contact list to ask any questions. Because SAM is not financially connected or governed by the state of Massachusetts, You will need to register your sled with the State of Massachusetts and then you will be able to ride on any state governed snowmobile trails in a handful of state parks. To enjoy the SAM club trails across the state you then have to join a club of your choice and get a SAM trail pass which opens up all the above mentioned trails across the state.

Also on the SAM webpage are links to all the clubs across the state and their info about parking, trail conditions and

places to ride to in their areas through their webpages, Facebook links and contacts lists.

All of you that have years of riding have your favorite places to go, including myself. I'm lucky enough to access the SAM trail system from my front yard in my hometown of Bernardston. I enjoy taking new riders and those who have always wanted to try it but never had the chance, out whenever possible. From the house, one of my favorite rides for beginners is north on SAM Corridor trail 2. This takes us up through the towns of Leyden and Colrain. Along the way there are a few scenic lookouts including the fire tower in Shelburne, on the way to the great food at Pine Hill Orchards. It is a nice 3-5 hour/40-ish mile trip depending





# Come ride the SILVER FOX Endurance ride!

In memory of Stan Kopala  
"The Godfather of Greylock"



## S.A.M. RIDE IN

Sunday, March 3, 2019 from 9-4  
Sign In from 9-10

### LOCATION

Ayrhill Farm  
192 Henry Wood Rd.  
Cheshire, MA 01225

\*\* Parking Available \*\*  
(All Clubs Welcome)

Jim Hoellerich's  
Vintage Motorcycle  
Museum  
Will be Open

### FAMILY RIDE to Greylock

(Arrowed)  
(The short way!)

OR

### ENDURANCE RIDE to Greylock

(Arrowed)  
(The Long way!)

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DISCLAIMER: S.A.M. DOES NOT PROMOTE  
ALCOHOL AT THEIR EVENTS



The view from Corridor 2 in Leyden.

on the length of our "pit stops", riders experience and how many side trails we take. If the group of the day is up for it, a ride to the lookout farther west up in Rowe that looks over the old site of the Nuclear Power Plant that includes a section through the Cook state forest and some powerline trails for those that like to ride with that above mentioned "spirit". One of the longest in state day trips that I have been on from my place is up to the Ashfield lake house for lunch/gas/ and stories that logged about 150 miles on my sled. As for out of state rides I have made a day trip from my front door up into the Woodford area in Vermont and friends of mine have traveled from neighboring Northfield, Mass all the way to Pittsburg, New Hampshire.

Moving away from my area to others across the state, every year SAM and the Massachusetts Vintage Snowmobile Club get together and plan a vintage ride in 3 different clubs across the state. As the season goes on and conditions allow, there are plenty of club rides that are open to all and are family friendly. There will also be some local favorites and specialty rides and events that

include The Savoy Kanary Kats Annual Winter Carnival, Chesterfields 4 Seasons Clubs game dinner and The Florida Mountaineers annual "Fat Bastard" poker run to name a few.

The event that is shaping up into one of the state's biggest is the Stan Kopala "The Godfather of Greylock" Memorial ride. Starting in the town of Chester and with the combined effort of at least four clubs and many volunteers, there will be a couple different loops to ride including one to the top of Mount Greylock. With plenty of food, raffles, stories and access to the Jim Hoellerich's vintage motorcycle museum there will be plenty for everyone of all ages and experience to enjoy. Again details on these and others will be on the SAM and club websites.

So if you have had the thoughts of ...I wish I could ride this weekend but don't want to travel 6 hours in the truck, or I wish there were places that my kids or other less experienced riders could go and enjoy some of the best scenery in New England, don't look past what is probably just within an hour or so from your front yard. 🐾





# LEICESTER SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIME

Second Wednesday of the month,  
October through March at Rod &  
Gun Club, 1015 Whittemore St.,  
Leicester, MA

## CLUB CONTACT

Frank Bond, Vice President  
lscboarddirectors@gmail.com

## ABOUT THE CLUB

Our mission as a Snowmobile club is always family and friends and safety. We have an active trail in town that connects to Spencer on ITS 71 and goes north all the way to New Hampshire and beyond. If you ever want to start a new outdoor sport this sport of snowmobiling is a fantastic way to see all the other parts of town that you never knew existed. We are always looking for new faces and members to enjoy the same passion we do! Hope everyone enjoyed the Sled Expo. Now that you have all that shiny new gear lets start hoping that snow is in the forecast. We as a club have been actively doing trail work on Sunday's. The trails should be good to go by the time you are reading this. Big thanks to all the volunteers! We are happy to thank our trail boss John True for the hours that went in to getting the state grant to purchase the new UTV. Much needed to get around with all our supplies to do the trail work we need to do before the snow flies. As a club we are excited to announce we have a new Trail Pass provider in Barnstorm. They are your go to for all your snowmobile needs in our area. So now our trail pass providers are Hanks Marine and Barnstorm. Also you can buy your passes at our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at the Leicester Rod and Gun Club. A great big thank you goes out to Jeff at Breezy Bend RV for all the great things you have done for this club in the past!

I would like to introduce the Leicester Snowmobile club.

**President-** Mike Comeau

**Vice President-** Frank Bond

**Treasurer-** Dennis McGrail

**Secretary-** Mark Rowden

## Board of

### Directors

Kenneth Tencati

Jim Padini

Dave Eaton

### Trail Boss

John True

### Membership

Ken Walls

## Groomers

Frank Bond

Jim Padini

### SAM Delegates

Eric Comeau

### Alternates

Steve Erickson

Greg Conlan

Find us on Facebook

Leicester Snowmobile Club

<http://leicestersnowmobileclub.org>

LSCBoardDirectors@gmail.com



*Trail Boss John True with the new Leicester Snowmobile Club UTV. This was possible by his tireless work to acquire a Massachusetts state grant.*

## CLUB EVENT SCHEDULE

**JAN. 12, 2019**

**Spaghetti Dinner** at Leicester Rod and Gun Club 6 p.m.

**MARCH 16, 2019**

**Annual Roast Beef Dinner and Raffle** at Leicester Rod and Gun Club 6 p.m.



*Bridge that needs attention.*



*Bridge nicely repaired. Way to go guys!*

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

### Hanks Marine

111 Main Street

Cherry Valley, MA 01611

508-892-4788

### Barnstorm

24 Wall Street

Spencer, MA 01562

508-413-2500



*Jim Padini doing trail work. Without the few dedicated individuals we could not get it done. We appreciate you all.*







# Vintage Road Trip

## CHESANING, MICHIGAN

By Tira LaCroix

If you've never driven out to Michigan, you should. Not just any time of the year, but the first weekend in November. This is the weekend of the A1 Vintage Snowmobile Swap meet. Sure, we have swap meets in New England, but never will you see so many vintage snowmobiles and parts for sale in one place.

Our trip started on Thursday about 10:30am. It was raining, but that didn't matter, we were headed on the best road trip ever! Rented a truck to haul the 27' empty trailer (with every intention of filling it) and off we went. We hit New York – still raining, never stopped. Decided to go through Canada to cut

1½ hours off the trip, figured we had nothing in the trailer it should be a breeze. As we approach the border, there are many signs stating autos/RV in one area, trucks in another. After much debating we decided on the truck lane because we had the big trailer. First clue the truck lane was not the place to be, the window the customs agent was behind was a good 3' above our truck window. Watching Jim climb half way out of the vehicle to hand him our passports was amusing (to me anyways). Questions were asked, answers were given, he checked out the empty trailer, he sent us on our way to continue driving in the rain.

Deciding to go on this trip has been a 2 year conversation. I figured we just needed to pull the trigger and say we are going, that trigger was 2 Sno Prince juniors for sale from a guy in MI. If I purchased the sleds, we would HAVE to drive out and get them. We arrived at the home of the juniors to pick up the sleds at 10:30PM – it is now raining hard, and Dave is waiting for us at the end of his driveway, slightly damp. Conversation ensued and had it not been raining we may have been there for hours talking snowmobiles. We got them loaded on the trailer, which was no longer empty. Once again on our way and arrived at the hotel at 11:30PM. Alarm set for 5am (yawn).

Early Friday morning we head out to Showboat Park, Chesaning, MI. The ride seemed to take forever, my excitement was that of a child's on Christmas – we can't get to the swap fast enough. I had only heard of the size of this show, but until you're there, you can't imagine it. We get to the swap around 7. I've never waited in line for so long to get to a swap meet. Truck and trailers as far as the eye can see.

As we pull up to pay I get to meet Diane. Diane and her husband Bill, owners of A1 Upholstery & Repair (check them out on Facebook), run the show. I had spoken with Diane a few days prior. She is one of the most pleasant friendly people I had ever spoken to. She welcomed us with open arms.



Aerial view of the A1 Vintage Snowmobile Swap meet.



I had an opportunity to get to know Diane a bit through email to learn a little about her, as there was no time out of her busy schedule that weekend to sit and chat. She raced snowmobiles for 15 years and is about as passionate about the sport as anyone I know. Her passion and desire to keep the sport alive prompted her to start the A1 Vintage Swap & Show...that was 19 years ago. All the tents, generators, barrels, tables, chairs, banners, shirts, plaques etc. etc. must be brought in to the park and set up and taken away when the show is over. Diane and her husband Bill work tirelessly to pull this off without a hitch. All the show "stuff" is inventoried, organized and filed away at their shop until next year.

Bill gets out in the field bright and early and paints lines throughout the whole park to keep the incoming swap-pers somewhat organized (see Aerial photos). Some guys bring just a few things to swap, others have a lifetime supply of parts and snowmobiles. No matter what you bring, you can have all the space you need.

Once inside, we parked our truck and mostly empty trailer (to the disappointment of others looking to score some goods), and immediately look to the right to spot a Sno Prince. No time was wasted snatching that up. Five minutes in and we had another treasure for the trailer. One reason the Sno Princes are so intriguing is there are not a lot of them around. We bought the only one at the show.

Time to start walking around. Talk about overwhelming. I spent more time walking in circles wondering where I've been and where I have to go than I did actually moving. I was a kid in a candy shop full of peanut butter cups. So many vintage sleds. In no time it became a common sight to see snowmobiles whisked away on dolly's or dragged across the field with the help of another sled. The vibe at the swap was just happy. Who doesn't like to snag a sled they've always wanted for (in some cases) very cheap money.

Friday came and went (too fast). Hunger had set in and we needed a good meal. Thankfully the GPS brought us to Grannys Kitchen - packed parking lot, it has to be good. The atmosphere was cozy. Everyone was locals, chatting about their day, smiling faces, people you knew came to this restaurant very frequently. The food was amazing. It was truly grand-mas down home cooking. The soup was amazing, homemade by Granny Char. Char and her husband, Pitmaster Mike,



have a gold mine in Oakley MI. Service was excellent, food couldn't have been better. I suggest to anyone who decides to venture out to Michigan, this is a must go to restaurant. It was so good we went both nights. Why mess with perfection! Thank you so very much Granny Char and Mike for your hospitality. We will be back!

On to Saturday. Much quicker getting in Saturday morning, we had the almighty wrist band and didn't have to wait in the long line. As we got settled into our spot, we started realizing that Saturday is a whole new day, and right when we had thought we'd seen everything and knew where to find stuff, everything changed. Some people left Friday and didn't come back, a whole new caravan of trucks and trailers arrived on Saturday and filled up the whole field. It was like Christmas all over again. The hardest part of this swap is seeing everything. You meet so many great people that seem like they've been your friends forever and you'd love to stay and chat, but there is so much to see time can't be wasted, or you will see someone drive away with that sled you wanted (sadly, I had this happen).

Needless to say, we left this swap meet 100% satisfied and knew right away this will be an annual trip for us. Jim found a few treasures of his own on Saturday. The best time to shop was when everyone was starting to load up. That's when deals really get made. No one wants to reload those heavy sleds they were hoping to sell. After transporting a couple cutters to the trailer, there wasn't room for much else. Our biggest decision next year will be how much stuff do we bring for the swap while still allowing for enough room to bring home more sleds we don't need.

Highly recommend anyone who loves vintage sleds to head out to Showboat Park, Chesaning, Michigan next year, first Friday and Saturday in November. Tell Diane that Tina sent you! 🐾



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# LUNENBURG SNOW RIDERS

## MEETING TIME

Second and fourth Thursday of the month (September through April) at 7 p.m. at 312 Townsend Harbor Road, Lunenburg, MA

## CLUB CONTACT

Mary Wilson, Club Publications Contributor  
mary.wilson@oracle.com

## ABOUT OUR CLUB

Lunenburg Snow Riders (LSR) provide multi-use trail stewardship across a 4-town area (Lunenburg, Townsend, Ashburnham, and Ashby). LSR, in partnership with other trail stewards, maintains and grooms trails that support recreational use year-round. In April '18, LSR sponsored a Spring Trash Clean-up at Willard Brook State Park in Ashby, and are well underway in trail clean-ups this fall, highlights include: bridge repairs, down tree clearing, and clean-up of established trails. The LSR volunteers are working in concert with Lunenburg Conservation Commission to cut a perimeter trail around a recently logged small town forest, to return this public land to recreational usage. Club members are also working with the conservation commission to map the town trail system.

Lunenburg Snow Riders has submitted a Bridge Project to the Lunenburg Conservation Commission. This 3-year project, which has preliminary endorsement, proposes to replace a failing 140-ft bridge span across Mulpus Brook. Trees will be select harvested from a stand of Hemlock that have been damaged by the Woolly Adelgid. Draft horses will move the trees from the harvest location to an on-site mill. The milled lumber will be utilized to replace the current bridge span. Local clubs are invited to support this project to enjoy the camaraderie that working together brings and enjoy a bit of our hospitality as well. Event dates will be published via Facebook. Please like and follow our Facebook page for updates.

Please ride our trails with care, respect land-owners, and be responsible.



*Spring Clean Up (Apr '18) Willard Brook State Park, Ashby, MA.*



*Cowdrey Nature Center Trail Head downed tree clearing, Lunenburg, MA.*



*Bridge Re-build, Lunenburg, MA.*

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

312 Townsend Harbor Road  
Lunenburg, MA

Central Mass Powersports  
19 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01462  
(978)-429-3000





# MILL VALLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIME

Third Wednesday of the month,  
September through March, at 7 p.m. at  
the Belchertown Recreation Building off  
Rte. 202

## CLUB CONTACTS

John Sansoucy, President  
Contact at 413-262-7832

## ABOUT OUR CLUB

The Mill Valley Snowmobile Club, of  
Belchertown was founded and Incorporated in October of 1971. Joining a  
club helps insure the future of the family  
sport of snowmobiling by protecting  
against discriminatory legislation,  
regulation and taxation. Membership  
includes permission of trails, copies of  
maps, a monthly newsletter, club rides,  
club functions and club accessories. The  
club has a website and an electronic  
mailing system for the club newsletter.  
The club meets monthly on the third  
Wednesday of every month at our  
new location at the town Recreation  
Department building located on Route  
202. The club puts on an annual POKER  
RUN with good eats and plenty of prizes  
usually in late January or early February.

The club has created, built and main-  
tained a trail system of approximately  
100 miles over the years. Our club trail  
system has links to Granby, Hadley and

Pelham. Destinations on our trail system  
include some excellent restaurants  
such as The Grapevine Grill, Almeida's  
Restaurant, and Apollo's Pizza. And, we  
will shortly have a new Pride station in  
Belchertown where one can "gas up"  
their sleds.

Our club has an active Trails Crew  
that goes out most Sundays during the  
Fall and up until it snows. They go out on  
Sundays to avoid the fall hunting season.  
These work projects are advertised via an  
electronic list to our Trails Crew.

And, the club also has an active  
crew of drivers who go out and groom  
our trails during the season. The club  
maintains a fleet of four (4) grooming  
machines with corresponding drags of  
the Mogul Master style.

Please come and join us at one of our  
regular monthly meetings.

## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

**Devon Lane Power Equipment**  
10 Ware Rd  
Belchertown, MA, 01007  
Phone: 413-323-5435  
Hours: 8-5 m-f, 9-2 sat

**Flamingo Motorsports**  
2 Wilbraham St.  
Palmer, MA 01069



*Shown above is one of the machines in the fleet of groomers the club maintains and runs during the winter months.*

## PLEASE BE SURE TO THANK STATE SENATOR ERIC LESSER AND STATE REP. STEPHEN KULIK WHO ARE HELPING WITH OUR TRAIL ISSUES

The Mill Valley Snowmobile Club of Belchertown and the Shutesbury Porcupine Snowmobile Clubs have been working on a vital key link between their two trail systems. We have reached out for support from our legislators regarding this project.

And, I am happy to say that both **STATE SENATOR ERIC LESSER** and **STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN KULIK** have submitted written letters to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on our behalf and in support of this critical project. Much work has been done already on this project, but much remains. On a particular note is that this trail will pass through Pelham and if you know of anyone in Pelham who could help with this project, it would be much appreciated. I should note also that if you are willing to help in any way with this project it would be a boost for us.

So, PLEASE join me in thanking both **ERIC AND STEVE**:

### IF YOU LIVE IN:

Chicopee, Springfield, East  
Longmeadow, Hampden,  
Longmeadow, Ludlow, Wilbraham,  
Belchertown and Granby  
Please thank Eric by phone or email:

**Senator Eric Lesser**  
Phone: 413-526-6501  
or 617-722-1291  
Email: eric.less@masenate.gov

### IF YOU LIVE IN:

Ashfield, Buckland, Conway,  
Deerfield, Leverett, Montague,  
Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland,  
Whately, Chester, Chesterfield,  
Cummington, Goshen,  
Huntington, Middlefield Plainfield,  
Williamsburg, or Worthington  
Please thank Stephen by phone or  
email:

**Representative Stephen Kulik**  
Phone: 617-722-2380  
Email: stephen.kulik@mahouse.gov

If you feel as though you can or would like to help, then, please feel free to  
contact Larry Tucker at 413-533-4092 or at TuckerTrail@comcast.net.



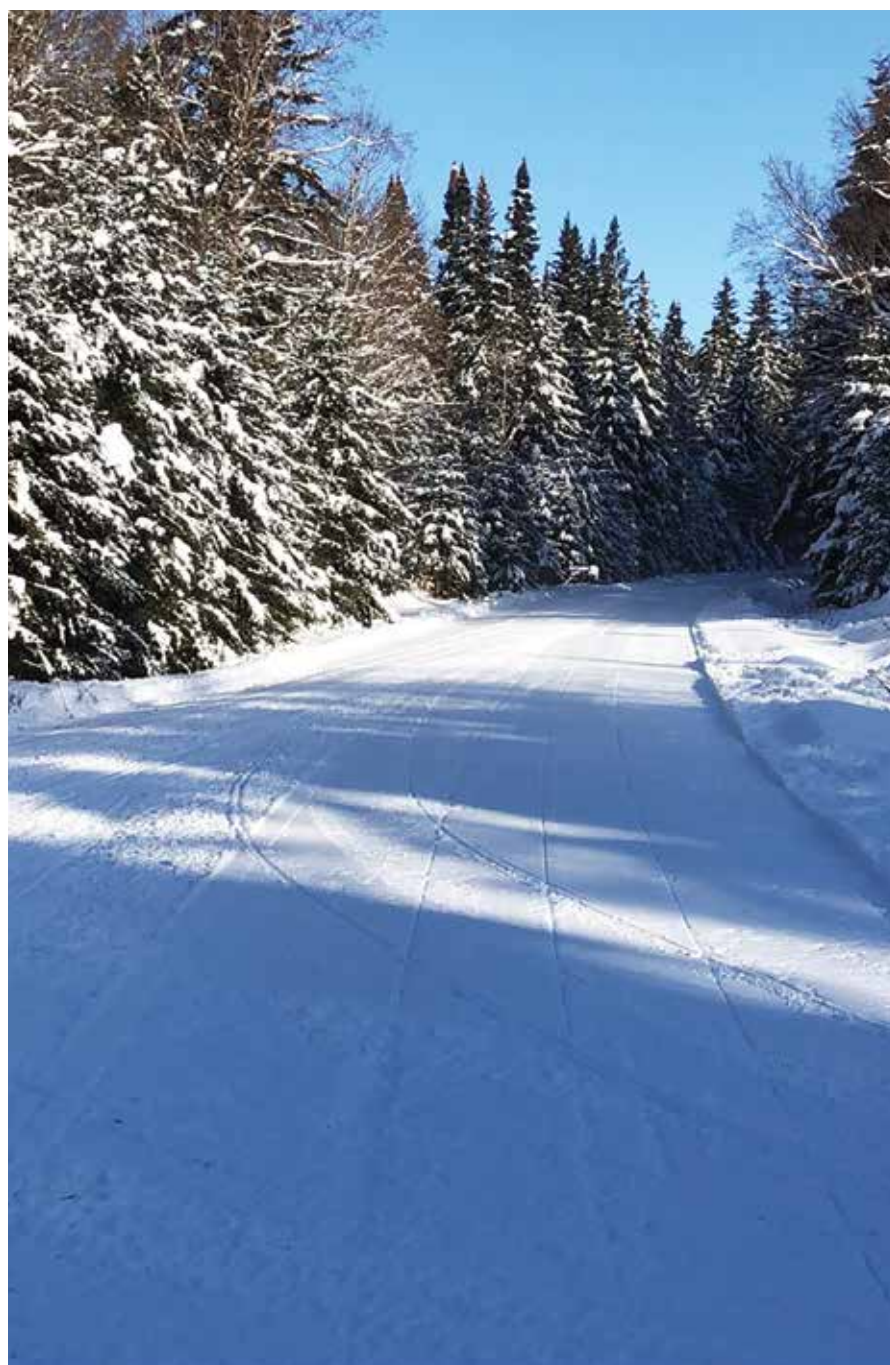
*The snow is falling hard and the sleds are all lined up and ready to go for the clubs' annual POKER RUN during the 2016-2017 season.*





# Travel North for a Midweek Getaway

## NORTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Perry Stream Pittsburg Ridge Runners

By Adam Skoldski, Conway Snowmobile Club

**T**his summer I was asked to write an “infomercial” about this topic. I am not a writer at the *Boston Herald*, but I agreed to give it a try. I have been snowmobiling for a while, since fourth grade. In the early 2000s my father Paul, was first brought to the Northern New Hampshire area by snowmobiling legends Tom Benz and Stanley Lewandowski.

Within a few years things in my life changed to allow me the opportunity to join him and others on trips to the Town and Country Motor Inn in Shelburne/Gorham New Hampshire. I have been going there for over 10 years. I have been able to bring along friends and we have put in thousands of miles on some of the best groomed and maintained trails north of the Presidential Range.

If the snows deep and it’s a “great year for riding” the trails and accommodations across Coos County are second to none. For years we have been staying at the Town and Country Motor Inn located in Gorham where we take advantage of the Winter Getaway Package. The location and the East Side of NH is one gas tank away from South Deerfield, compared to the tank and half to get to Pittsburg.

We normally ride midweek, for those of you that haven’t experienced the deals and steals of midweek riding, talk to your employer about working some weekends and going north Tuesday to Friday. Some early weeks of the year and Mid-January we have found not every lunch spot is open on Tuesday or Wednesday so call ahead or have a flexible plan.

The Town and Country has direct

trail access to trail 19 maintained by the Presidential Range Riders. They operate two Piston Bullies’s and they also have their club meetings at the Town and Country Motor Inn. So if you are staying there you may be able to stop into a meeting and thank them for all the work they do.

From Gorham you can take Corridor 11 South over to the Twin Mountain area. Corridor 11 goes right down the road by the access to Mt Washington and is one of the few trail systems you can use to see Mount Washington.

On our first day we like to do a trip to Brettonwood and Fabyans Restaurant and check in with Stacy, one of our favorite servers, whom we first got to know at the Town and Country years ago. We leave Fabyans and make a loop back depending on time of day and trail conditions. You can keep it short and get back to the Town and Country in about 40 miles, or easily take 11 North through Jefferson and head to the Warming Hut in Jericho State Park using trails maintained by White Mountain Ridge Runners. This will allow you to loop back down into Gorham getting in a good 60 miles or so.

After the ride we most always make it back to our rooms before dark. When booking a room I recommend the first



floor on the backside of the building. If you enjoy Jake brakes and I know some of my buddies do, then ask to get on the Rte. 2 side of the building. We tend to indulge in conversation with cocktails about the day's events, prior to dining.

A good second day ride is to Pittsburg for lunch which is about 200 miles round trip. We have done it in 189 miles with me leading and using the quick route, and as much as 240 miles one March afternoon with Tom Benz and Smokey. We will start off our day in the dining room at the Town and Country using our meal tickets for a complete breakfast.

We always stay on the snow. We have figured out where the snow falls and where it just doesn't. We are able to get good trips in year after year by just knowing the snow. We will travel to Pittsburg when it's early or late season. We have stayed at Mountain View Cabins, Lop stick, Spruce Cone, all which offer different accommodations to fit price ranges or what you have for a group size. One thing to remember is the snow is always east (for the most part) and north of Young's Store, when conditions are marginal early, late, or a low snow year. Don't think south to north when you are thinking about snow conditions you need to think about elevation, and shadowing.

We love eating at the Spa in West Stewartstown NH, you would think riding out of Pittsburg we would ride our sleds down there for lunch. If you can ride into West Stewartstown or ride into Colebrook without riding on dirt, chances are the trails in Gorham, Berlin and Milan are flat covered in snow and it looks like a winter wonderland.

If Swift Diamond Riders (Colebrook area) are saying their trails are open and are fair to good (one of those classifications they should trademark), chances are you will be thinking you made the wrong choice when you are driving up Rte. 3, from Lancaster to Colebrook, looking at grass. Don't get discouraged, the guys and Swift aren't playing games with you, by the time you get to their club house on Diamond Pond Road you will think you are 500 miles away from Rte. 3 because the trails will be ready to ride.

From Swift Diamond Riders you can stay on the snow in three directions, north, east and south. If they are grooming you can head north over Sugar Hill Trail 127, 18, to 134, and take 20 East to 112 Pittsburg Ridge Runners to 5 North across Rte. 3, to 144, South 142, and into

Young's Store, and the Happy Corner Café. You will stay on the mountains, and the crew at Pittsburg Ridge Runners will always have these areas groomed. They might not be grooming around Back Lake, or south of Dorman's and it could be a brown run to the Buck Rub Pub. Loop that back to Swift Diamond Club house and you will have about 100

mile Ride. I have stayed at 45th Parallel Cabins Right across the Street from the Swift Diamond Club House.

During low snow times we also like to stay at Lop Stick Cabins in Pittsburg across from the First Connecticut Lake. From there you can also stay on the good snow and get good riding in from north to east. By staying east of the

Lakes you can make your way down to 112, via 136, to where Umabagog Snowmobile Club meets Pittsburg Ridge Runners. You can follow 112 South to 18 where Swift Diamond and Umbagog meet, which gives you options to go over to the Balsams and over Dixville to Millsfield, or south, east or west on 18 toward Errol, or you can cut over 110, 115, to the Log Haven for lunch.

This all gives you options to avoid the Valleys, with low snow areas you may have to rub some snirt in and out of Errol to get gas. The snow will be good into the Log Haven and you can always get fuel at Swift Diamonds Club House. Infomercial; you need to spend the 5-7 bucks on club maps if you are new to the area, they are all good maps but make sure you do. Just think, it's two gallons of groomer fuel. Unlike Vermont and Massachusetts who really have great statewide maps with their intersections marked with a corresponding reference point, New Hampshire just isn't there yet.

Tom Benz one time was looking at the same sign on 114/12 in Milan after we just rode around in circle. He was telling us we hadn't been there, even when my father was showing him the double runner marks from 3 sleds with Simmons ski's over fresh groomed trails. We were the only ones on it and we made a full circle, but it was a smooth fast circle! The trails in Milan are always wonderful, low traffic, excellent base, excellent grooming. After the evidence was clear to Tom he kind of agreed that he drove us around in a circle. But my Dad always said "the only trails that don't connect say dead end!" After all, aren't we out here to ride in circles anyways?

Another thing that happens in the North Country every year is logging. The clubs work with landowners year round to make sure we can get from point A to B. This will confuse people from time to time. The area north of Errol and into the Swift Diamond Area has excellent riding but from year to year you might be on Trial 18, or 18 A or 18 Alt . It might say east or west but you are really going mostly north to south, but it's always smooth, and they always have snow. So even if you brain is telling you were on 18 last year and it was 110Alt and now they are calling it 18 again, just go with it, you will end up at the right spot, or maybe add an extra loop to your trip. 🐾



*Diamond Ridge Look out off 143 looking over 1st CT lake with Joe Gorey.*



*Trail 11, with my father in the background (Jefferson Notch Road).*



*Glad these guys were in front of us on Jefferson Notch Road.*



*Trail 11 Twin Mt. with Paul Sokoloski and Joe Gorey. Mt. Washington is in view.*





# There's Lots to Love in New York

## NEW YORK STATE

By Lisa Krug Snowmobaby

**I** am lucky enough to say that I grew up on a snowmobile. I've been riding since I was 5 years old when my parents started my sister and I out on a Kitty Cat in our backyard. That's where my love affair with New York snowmobiling began – in my hometown of Ravena, NY, just south of the state capital of Albany. Since then, I've ridden in the Adirondack Mountains (northern NY), the Tug Hill region (central NY) and the Buffalo area (western NY). To say I love New York snowmobiling is an understatement. And there is so much to love!

New York has 10,500 miles of groomed trails created and maintained by our over 230 clubs. Snowfall averages around the state vary greatly, from 90 to over 150 inches, depending on elevation and topography (and Mother Nature, of course). In the Tug Hill region of the Adirondacks and in the southern tier of western NY, where lake effect snows off Lake Ontario and Lake Erie respectively prevail, snow piles up fast and furious during the best of winters.

So, what is there to love about New York snowmobiling? Allow me to share from my experiences.

### TRAIL RIDING AT ITS BEST

One experience I don't yet have is back-country or mountain riding. But I've got thousands of miles of trail riding under my belt. New York trails offer so much fun, from frozen lakes and winding "technical" trails through the protected wilderness of the Adirondack Mountains, to snowmobile "highways" in Tug Hill, to the rolling hills and expansive farm fields of southern western NY. I've had the chance to ride them – and love – them all.

Trails throughout New York also offer beautiful views of all sorts. In the Adirondacks I've seen a dog sled team taking a jaunt down a trail and a family of deer munching on some bird seed right outside the window at one of our stops. I've caught breathtaking sunsets down frozen lakes and across wide-open farm fields. And I've ridden right up next to the absolutely massive wind turbines in Tug Hill and southern western NY. Whether from the top of a mountain, looking out over a ridge or farm field, or down a snowy frozen lake, New York views on a snowmobile do not disappoint.



*South Wales in western NY*



*Near the Flat Rock Inn in Tug Hill*



## DESTINATION RIDING

Riding in New York is not only about the ride, it's about the destination. Trails lead to all sorts of out-of-the-way restaurants, pubs and shops – some you can only get to by sled in the winter, like the Norridgewock Lodge in Beaver River. Every stop has something special about it. You'll find cozy home cooking and unique eats from each region and establishments in snowmobiling areas that cater to snowmobilers with trailer parking and lots of space to hang your gear. Businesses in many areas of New York depend greatly on snowmobilers, and vice versa, to make our adventures memorable!

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY RIDING

My favorite part of riding in New York is its truly family-friendly nature. My first trail rides (besides on my parents' land) were in the Speculator region of the Adirondack Mountains. We started out riding from a friend's "camp" on Sacandaga Lake, and later, when I was about 14 years old, my parents got a camp on Oxbow Lake, just down the road from Speculator. My family has spent winters (and summers) on Oxbow Lake ever since, and my own children love it as much as I do.

Living in western NY, my husband and I built our home adjacent to the Marilla Sno-Mob snowmobile club trails, our home club. This has allowed us to enjoy quick after-work rides to dinner and Saturday afternoon jaunts with our boys (currently 4 and almost 6 years old) for lunch and fun in the snow. We are truly a snowmobile family and I cannot thank my own parents enough for sharing this hobby with us as kids.

## RIDING HIGHLIGHTS

Ready to plan your snowmobiling visit to New York?! Here are some of my favorite trails and stops.

### Speculator region of the Adirondack Mountains

I've put on most of my miles over the past 25 years in the Speculator area, where our family camp is located. For a great visit, book a cozy lake and trail-side room at the Oxbow Motel, which is also in walking distance to the Oxbow Inn, one of our most favorite local lunch and dinner stops. From Oxbow Lake you can venture west towards Salisbury and stop into the always-jamming Salisbury Ridge Runners Clubhouse for a great bite to eat on the trail. Or head



*L-R my sister Laura, my mom and me on Sacandaga Lake in the Speculator region of the Adirondacks. My sister and I are sporting our first trails sleds!*



*Sled parking only at the Salisbury Ridge Runners clubhouse on a Saturday afternoon.*



*All thumbs up from me for a freshly groomed "snowmobile highway" in Tug Hill!*

further west to Ohio or even up towards Boonville and southern Tug Hill for a longer adventure. Heading out of Oxbow to the east and north, you can take my favorite windy woods trail, the Fawn Lake trail, towards the village of Speculator or head up into Perkins Clearing

for some fast riding along wider and well-groomed logging roads.

### Tug Hill region of the Adirondack Mountains

My experiences riding in Tug Hill have always originated from the Edge Hotel

in Lyons Falls. It checks all the boxes on my requirements for hotels, most of all, for cleanliness. It also has a very welcoming timberframe lobby with a huge stone fireplace and space for hanging out and enjoying the delicious breakfast foods (think waffles) included with your stay. From the Edge Hotel, a favorite loop is out towards Redfield and back towards Brantingham for dinner at the Pine Tree Inn. There are too many other great places in Tug Hill to mention. And if you get the chance to ride there mid-week, you'll enjoy snowmobile highways. They do everything big in Tug Hill – especially their groomers! Nothing beats a freshly groomed trail!

### Western NY

Riding at home in the Buffalo area of western New York has become one of my favorites. I love being able to ride right out of our garage, especially on evenings after work and school. A Thursday night ride to dinner or a Saturday afternoon ride to lunch with my husband and boys is the best. Along our local Marilla Sno-Mob trails, we love to make a loop up through Marilla with a food stop at Kodiak Jack's or head over towards Varysburg and stop into Byrnclyff Golf Resort & Banquets (a SnowGoer Magazine Top 100 Pit Stops winner in 2018!). Both have excellent food and a casual, welcoming environment for snowmobilers. Byrnclyff also offers tons of trailer parking, making it a great spot to ride from.

I could go on forever! As you can tell, there IS a lot to love about snowmobiling in New York. To learn more, visit the New York State Snowmobile Association at <http://nysnowmobiler.com/> to view an interactive trail map and get tips and details on riding in NY. I hope to see you on the trails soon! Safe riding and Happy Trails! 🐾

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**BRAAAP**





# SAVOY KANARY KATS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## MEETING TIME

Second Friday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Groomer Garage, 90 Tilton Road, Savoy, MA

## CLUB CONTACT

<https://www.savoykanarykats.org/>  
Sno-Phone 413-448-8866

## ABOUT THE CLUB

Welcome to the Savoy Kanary Kats Snowmobile Club. We should all be ready for riding season... finally!

December 15th is the last day to take advantage of the early bird trail pass deal – it's worth it! We want to thank our advertisers who support SAM and our club by advertising on our club page in the SAM magazine. Please support the advertisers who support us... Northeast Fabricators, Ronnie's of Adams, Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor and The Savoy Hollow General Store.

We owe a huge debt of appreciation to the dedicated and hardworking volunteers who spend their "off time" working on maintaining our awesome grooming equipment. They spend countless hours clearing trail debris, trees and brush; planning club activities and rides; keeping the clerical side on track; planning and creating successful grants each year and keeping our trail system up to our usual pristine standards all winter!

SKK has added a brand new Tucker 2000 groomer to our already substantial fleet to make trail conditions even better and more consistent! Another new Arctic Cat Bear Cat grooming sled, chains saws and tracked Kubota RTVX-1100 will also be added to our grooming and trail maintenance program this season.

We are raffling off a 2019 Ski Doo MXZ 600 Sport with electric start, reverse and 3 year warranty. This has become a traditional event for the Club with only 750 tickets sold at \$20.00 each. Drawing will be held on January 26th at Bass Water Grill (287 South State Road, Cheshire, MA). Tickets are available at The Savoy Hollow

General Store, LP Adams in Dalton, Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor, Ronnie's of Adams, club meetings, and several club members have tickets for sale as well.

The Savoy Kanary Kats annual winter carnival will be held on February 16th at SKK headquarters (Dave Purple's residence at 90 Tilton Road, Savoy). This event includes an arrowed club ride, famous Chinese auction, great food and awesome people will be the highlights! Please plan to attend; it is a great family event that should not be missed!

Our club had an active preseason with many events including Wednesday night equipment maintenance and Sunday trail trims. We also attended Ronnie's of Bennington's Swap Meet on November 3rd as well as the South Side Sales Open House and Vintage Show on November 10th. We were well represented at the SAM Sled Expo at the Big E in West Springfield on November 17th & 18th. These are great events to meet new friends and support snowmobiling in our State. The annual Christmas party was held December 8th at Bass Water Grill and a good time was had by all.

Please check out the SKK website. You will find photos, Club events, newsletter, groomer info and weekly trail condition updates. You can also get updated trail conditions by calling our snow phone at 413-448- 8866!

Here's to the long, snowy, cold riding season we all deserve!! Get out there and ride SAFE!!!!



## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

### Savoy Hollow General Store

688 Main Rd  
Savoy, MA 01256  
Phone: 413-743-5406

### Ronnie's Cycle Sales & Services

150 Howland Ave  
Adams, MA 01220-1101  
Phone: 413-743-0715

### Dalton General Store

200 North St  
Dalton, MA 01226  
Phone: 413-684-0170

Please see our website for additional locations






1548 West Housatonic Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
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## The Savoy Hollow General Store

PROUD PARTNERS OF THE SAVOY KANARY KATS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

The Savoy Hollow General Store is right on Trail SV-26, Corridor 8

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Call: 413-743-8131







# WORTHINGTON SNOWMOBILE CLUB



## MEETING TIME

First and third Tuesday of every month. September to May. Worthington Fire House 7 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

## CLUB CONTACT

Tina LaCroix, 413-579-2297,  
worthingtonsc@yahoo.com

## ABOUT THE CLUB

Our volunteers are hard at work every Sunday cleaning up trails and making any necessary repairs. The rain has made this year's clean up anything but easy. We could always use extra help. The crew meets every Sunday at 9:00am at the Worthington Store. Let's hope mother nature is busy preparing her snow making machines to turn all this rain into snow!

As we get closer to riding season, we would like to remind all riders that the use of the property we ride on is a privilege, not a right. Every year there are riders that get on the trails before they are officially open and do damage to other people's property. Without our landowner's permission to use their property, we would have no trails. We all become kids in a candy shop when the first big snow flies – but we ask that you respect the generosity of the landowners and wait until the trails are officially open. No trails, no snowmobiling.



## TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS

### Deane Messeck Excavating

39 Old Main Rd  
Worthington, MA 01098  
Phone: 413-238-4486  
Hours: Call Ahead.

### Knightville Package Store

201 Worthington Road  
Huntington, MA  
Phone: 413-667-3214  
Hours: Seven Days a week,  
hours vary.

### Listons Bar and Grille

324 Old North Rd  
Worthington, MA 01098  
Phone: 413-238-5353  
Hours: Lunch and Dinner, open until  
close

### Skyline Services

292 Lockhouse Rd  
Westfield, MA 01085  
Phone: 413-562-8020  
Hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 to 5:00

Once again this year we will be raffling off a brand new Polaris Indy 600. Be sure to grab your tickets soon before they are gone. The tickets are \$20. Only 750 will be sold. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on when the drawing will be held.

## CLUB EVENT SCHEDULE

**JAN. 26, 2019**

### 3rd Annual Littleville Fair Snowmobile Drags 7 a.m.

Come to our tent at the Littleville Snowmobile Drags to purchase trail passes, t-shirts and raffle sled tickets (if they are not sold out). Several classes available, something for everyone. Bring what you've got. Kiddie, vintage, and modern classes. Check out the event on the Littleville Fair Facebook page for more details. This is a great event that brings together the snowmobile community and keeps growing every year. Come meet up with old friends and new and have a great day enjoying the drags. Hope to see you there!





# Take Advantage of the Connection

## VERMONT

By Ed Skupski, Conway Snowmobile Club

**M**assachusetts has some great snowmobile trails and I ride locally whenever possible. However, like most of the snowmobilers in the state, I find that I like a little longer season than we have been getting in recent years. As with many snowmobilers I don't seem to have as much time to ride as I would like. And when I have time, well, we have to have snow. In order to increase the chances of having snow, I have spent a considerable amount of time trailering my sleds to a location that is more conducive to an enjoyable riding experience. So, I head north to Vermont.



*We had never ridden the Chester, VT trails before but were very impressed with how perfectly groomed they were.*

Why Vermont? Well, the first part is easy to answer. For me I can be in the Woodford Vermont area with my trailer in about an hour, depending upon traffic and road conditions. It's convenient and unlike the locations that I can trailer to in New Hampshire in the same amount of time, there is a higher likelihood of rideable snow.

Woodford is located in southwestern Bennington County on the "spine" of the Green Mountains and is snowier than lower elevations in the surrounding areas. Last winter I rode from December into April in Vermont. There were some periods where the trails got a little thin, but it was rideable.

The counterpart to SAM (Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts) in Vermont is VAST (Vermont Association of Snow Travelers). In order to ride in Vermont you will need a registered and insured snowmobile. Vermont honors your Massachusetts registration. Basic liability insurance can be obtained through your automobile insurance provider, usually. If not there are stand-alone companies that will sell you a policy. Don't let the need for insurance scare you off, the basic liability coverage required typically starts at \$125 for a single sled, and multiples tend to be a little cheaper per sled. You will also have to join a club and purchase a TMA (Trails Maintenance Assessment) decal, and if you were born after July 1, 1983 you will have to take a safety course. Safety courses are offered by various Vermont clubs and some Massachusetts clubs typically for a small fee, or free.

There are several spots in southern Vermont that area easily accessible by trailer and offer access to the VAST Trail



*Our ride at the Chester, VT poker run.*

System, check out <https://vtvast.org> for locations and directions.

One of my favorite rides starts at the Adams parking lot, which is located immediately off Route 9 in Woodford. From this lot, you will have access to the Route 7 trail. Heading North on 7 or 7A will give you the option of several smaller loops, including the Glastonbury Mountain loop, which really reinforces how much snow this area receives. Alternately, you can take Route 7 to Route 9 and head east into the Wilmington area. The only downside to this area at this time is that you have to plan your fuel stops. Check with the local clubs to find out where the nearest gas is to your planned riding route as the area has undergone some changes lately.

An alternate method of riding in Vermont exists to SAM members with even less use of a trailer. SAM trails about VAST trails along the border. Bernardston Gill Leyden Snowmobile Club, Colrain Sno-Drifters, Indianhead Snowmobile Club, and the Florida Mountaineers all have trails that will lead you to Vermont.

If you wish to access the VAST trail system from the Florida Mountaineers



system, head North on Corridor 3 at the FL-01 intersection. If you are on the Indianhead system, you can access VAST from Corridor 2, either East of IH-22 or West of IH=20, and you will end up at IH=21 which is actually in Vermont. If you are on the Colrain Sno-Drifters system, head north on Corridor 9 from CL-09. And finally, if you are riding the Bernardston, Gill, Leyden system, you can either head north on Corridor 12, from BG-10 or north on 14, from BG-16.

Obviously, I have just touched on the surface of riding in Vermont. I picked the Southern Section of Vermont, as it is so close to the border and often overlooked when Massachusetts riders don't have much snow in their own backyard. I am sure that if you try out the Southern portion of the VAST system, you will want to continue your explorations into the Northern sections. I hope to see you out there this season, whether it is in Massachusetts, or Vermont. 🏂

<https://vtvast.org/>  
<https://www.snobusters.org/>  
<http://wardsboropathfinders.com/>  
<https://www.ezriders.vt.com>



*Parking lot at Airport Rd. In Woodford VT. Plenty of open parking spaces, ride out in many different directions and all beautiful trails!*



*Kelley Stand trails in Woodford,VT have some of the best sightseeing trails.*



*Beautiful ski slope scenery in Springfield, VT.*

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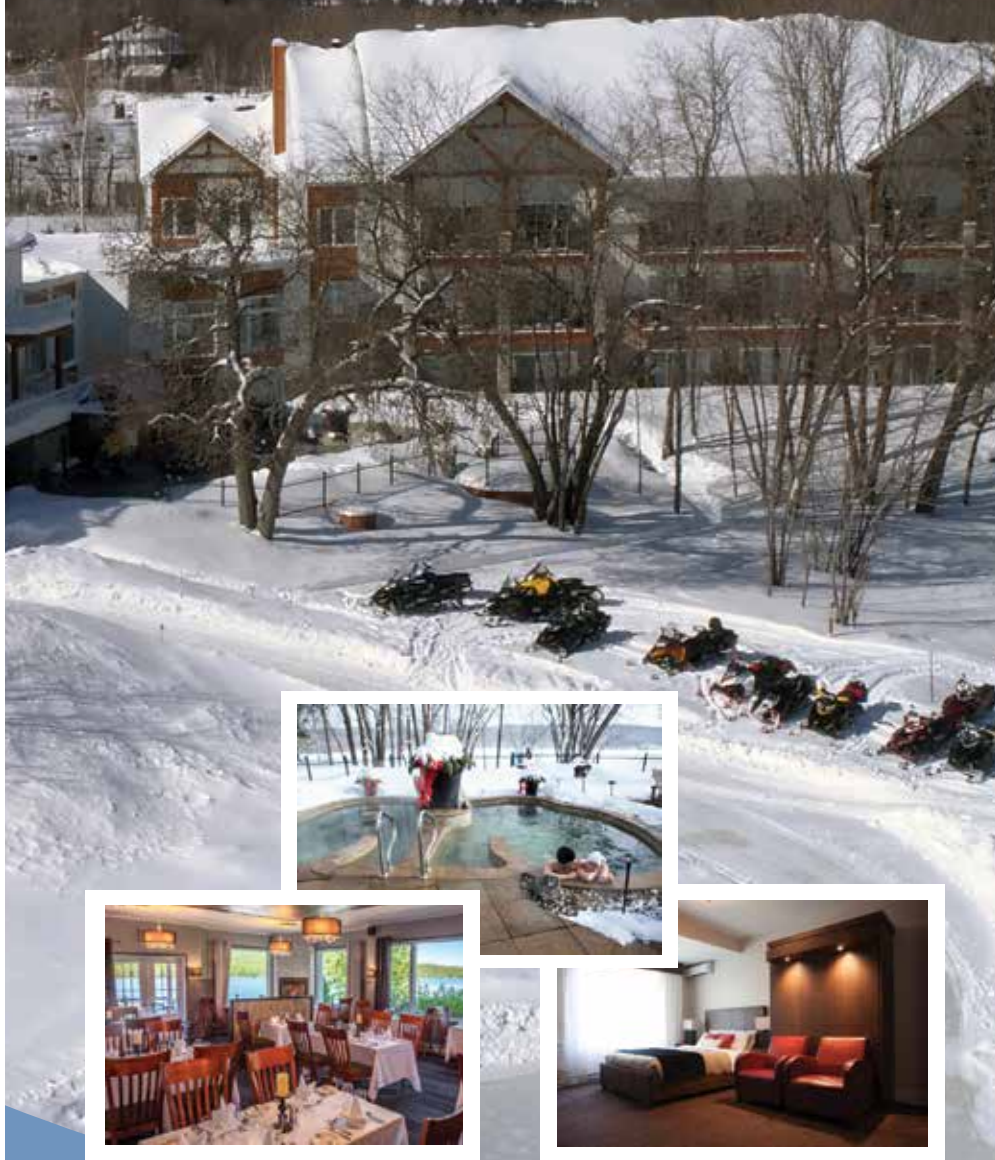
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