

SLEDMASS

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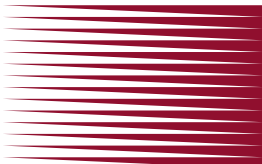
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COVER PHOTO: Fire tower in DAR State Forest by Bryan Osetek

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Starting Fresh

A Fresh new season is upon us and a lot of excitement within the SAM delegation!! As we kick off the 2024-25 season, I would first like to thank and recognize the SAM Board of Delegates. They have put their trust and support in the new leadership, and I see an even deeper level of interest and commitment to support the Massachusetts State Association.

I am optimistic about this Winter and Mother Nature bringing Snow!! Too many “wooly caterpillars” in August which have my eyebrow raised with anticipation. Either way, SAM’s Executive Officer team has worked hard through the summer months refreshing our goals and priorities and setting focus on our most important assets, our valued Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS) and YOU, our members. It is time to promote and share our trail system for winter family fun!!

SAM has most recently voted to redefine the mission of the Trail and Membership Committee, ensuring they have a more autonomous way to bring forward latest ideas and implement them. It is incredible the talent and passion that we have within our Delegation. Moving forward we will be bringing in all interests, advancing the sport of snowmobiling forward within our committees and encouraging other delegates and club members to contribute to the discussions. The value of our volunteers and those that have passion for their trails, their sport and their family’s winter recreation is incredible! I have seen the commitment and growing diversity emerging from our newest members and delegates.



By Susan E. Smiley

Additionally, SAM unanimously voted to invest in a government affairs liaison. SAM will reap the bonus in bringing this person on as he is an actual lifelong snowmobiler; he gets it! SAM welcomes “Chip” Jones into our organization for his oversight and guidance with our state, district and municipal partners. Chip will also be weaving in technical public relations for SAM and this is coming at that critical point in time.

We are again excited to share in the growing success of our annual snowmobile industry show and invite you to join us November 16th & 17th weekend at the BIG E in Springfield. It gets better and better each year!! New this year is our Indoor Swap Meet and we are excited to bring opportunities for those investigating or looking to jump into our sport. Our industry partners remain an extended part of our snowmobile community, and we are grateful for their presence and support.

Thank you for allowing us to share in this exciting new chapter for the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts – there is a bright “white” future ahead!! 🐾



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“We are due”

by Brad Stafford

Ask any snowmobiler in Southern New England and they will agree that the lack of snowfall over the past few years has been very emotional. Everything from disappointment, sadness, frustration and even anger are just some of the few emotions that I have had, and know many others did too. But despite all the negative ones, there were the good ones too. The biggest one I saw in most was optimism.

Whether it is in person, emails or as of now or in a Zoom meeting, any snow conversation almost always include the phrase... “WE ARE DUE!!!”. I agree totally.

Personally, the way 2024 is going with the political unrest, wildfires, hurricanes, murder hornets to name a few why not add a Snowmageddon Winter!! I see the fuzzy woolly bear caterpillar colors, bumper crop pine cones, acorns and my snow blower is busted, so its all lining up for just that... a good ole fashioned, snowy, New England Winter.

I have found that with or without snow during the winter, most snowmobilers that I know are truly 12 month a year enthusiast; that no matter what the weather is outside, they are always willing to talk about their machines, experiences, plans and hopes for next year. Especially those involved in the vintage side of the sport. Having a few vintage rides of my own, Facebook and other social media platforms have groups of all kinds that are alive and well. Hopefully we will have the snow and with proper precautions have the 3 sanctioned Vintage Rides across the state. So not just me, but so many others that have been piecing these old pieces of history will get them back out in the snow.

On another vintage note, a couple years ago the Group that organizes the Winter Festival in Greenfield Mass reached out to the Mass Vintage Snowmobile Club. They wanted to know if we wanted to put on a show. Well of course we did!! The first year was a quite one, but since then, when there is snow, we have been able to drive them around and give rides in tow behind sleds. There have been so





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many stories, great comments and smiles to count. But to see the look of pure joy on the face of a special person, who thought there would never be a way for them to take a snowmobile ride cannot be described in words. It has to be felt....

Another event that I hope comes back this year is the sliding party that the Bernardston Kiwanis Club puts on. They provide the hot cocoa, Hot dogs and snacks while our club and its volunteers provide rides back up the sledding hill. Club groomer sleds, our tracked geo trackers and personal sleds are used to keep the hill full of smiles. Hopefully the snow, and a way we can do this safely, will be here.

SLEDDING OPTIONS

Many of the clubs across the state have their own destinations and share them with others. One of my favorites on my home turf of The Bernardston -Gill-Leyden trail system is our club fire pit in Leyden. When our trails are open, it's almost a certainty that around 1pm on Sundays, there will be a warming and cooking fire going. Years ago, it was just the usual hot dogs and smores. It has since evolved into a weekly cook off. I have had steak tips, marinated chicken, venison, grilled sandwiches and on and on. Most come for lunch, with others just stop in for the usual snowmobile talks. More often than not, a destination will be discussed and a trip from there and back happens. Usually up through Colrain to the fire tower and sometimes beyond.

For those of you that aren't located right on a SAM trail and would have to trailer in,



most clubs have at least one parking area for you to start from. Some of these are just minutes off interstate 91. If there are concerns about not knowing exactly where you can ride once out there, no need to worry. This year there is a new and improved Massachusetts Snowmobile Trail app. That will have turn by turn directions, trail grooming

updates and more. Check out all the details on Sledmass.com.

Once out on the trails, there are endless destinations. They range from great views like the overlook of the old Rowe nuclear plant to the the windmills in Berkshire county. There are also plenty of places for food/gas or even lodging. It

might surprise you just how many local restaurants are available and accessible by snowmobile. Maybe your next favorite one is there waiting for you. If you're really adventurous and are registered in Vermont, you can access the VAST trails from a couple different spots. I have made the day trip to the Woodford area for lunch more than once.

STAY OPTIMISTIC

When I was asked to write up this article I asked what direction it should go in.... It was suggested a nice upbeat one. So far, so good I think... But there's some other things that you all should be aware of. These past few "Lower snow total" years, have taken its toll on our sport. With record low SAM trail pass sale numbers and this year's pandemic rules shutting down fund raisers, most local clubs are at experiencing financial difficulties Every dollar paid for a SAM trail pass goes right back to the clubs which helps to

There are over 2,000 miles
of snowmobile trails in
Massachusetts all within
hours of your house.

keep our trails open. SAM, the Snowmobile Association of Mass, is not a state governed entity. Every decision that is made by SAM is actually the actions of all the delegates of the local clubs. Many of us know that without a snowy year, and the support of the snowmobile owners, which helps their clubs to keep trails open, the way we snowmobile right here at home will change.

NOW this is where many of you are going to say...its not worth it as we don't get the snow that the other states get. I can't argue with that. But hear me out. Nobody knows what the travel and stay restrictions

will be this winter. There are over 2,000 miles of snowmobile trails in Massachusetts all within hours of your house. For about the same amount you would spend on gas and lunch just getting to a northern location you could be registered and be ready to ride in your backyard. Our sport can be perfect for social distancing especially when you ride locally. Endless day trips for the family, small groups and the best scenario would be opportunities to get new and young riders out. SO, may I suggest for that snowmobiling person on your Christmas list, you can find the perfect gift... forget the shakey weight or the foot massager. How about even just a single trail pass... a ticket to ride... a reason to work on your lucky snow dance. These are just a few reasons to get a trail pass.. but the biggest one is "We are due" for a kick a\$\$ snowy winter!

Keep the faith, be kind and Keep the Rubber Side Down. 🐾

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National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) Workshop



Loaded up and heading out on the trails to learn proper trail construction and maintenance. PHOTO BY RANDY TOTH

By Randy Toth

 In June 15th and 16th, the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council or NOHVCC as it is often called, held a trail workshop for OHV trails builders deep in October Mountain State Forest in Western Massachusetts. It was sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator - Scott Morrill who also oversees the 13 member Massachusetts Off Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee.

The NOHVCC instructor and Executive Director, Marc Hildesheim, travelled from Idaho to lead the workshop. Participants came from Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut and various parts of Massachusetts. They represented various trail user groups (ATV, Side-by-side, Trail Bike, Snowmobile) as well as Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) personnel. Arrangements were made to have a convoy of ATVs, Trail Bikes and Side-By-Sides transport the workshop participants around various October Mountain (or should I say Rocktober Mountain) State Forest roads and trails to visit various problematic OHV trail sites. SAM was represented by Randy Toth, Don Allard and Larry Tucker.



People from all over the Northeast came to October Mtn. for this informative workshop. PHOTO BY RANDY TOTH

The workshop consisted of group discussions and practical exercises to solve typical OHV trail problems including hands on participation in trail planning and trail design exercises. The final exercise was to split into three groups and head off into the forest with each group being charged with developing a new bypass trail to avoid several current trail problems such as stream crossing, mud holes and severe erosion in an existing multiuse trail. The final challenge was to make all the new trail sections merge into a single reasonable trail reroute.

While we were all motorized vehicle users, everyone gained a better appreciation for the diverse needs and wants of the individual motorized groups. I found it very interesting and amusing that in the final OHV trail relocation exercise; the trail bike group came up with a steep, twisting, rock strewn, fun filled bypass trail section while the snowmobile group came up with a relatively flat, minimum turn, easily groomable bypass trail section. Meanwhile the ATV group 's bypass trail section was somewhat in between; but closer to the snowmobiler's bypass trail section.

Entertainment was provided by a few of our very knowledgeable participants as one jumped into a pond and came up with a giant freshwater crawfish for us to observe and another discovered that we were apparently being stalked by a snake. She was able to assure us that it was not an invasive species of python that we had to worry about.

Everyone seemed to have a good time as most came back for a full second day. My final takeaway from the workshop was a new found burning desire to purchase a side-by-side but unfortunately there is no place to legally ride one in Massachusetts! 🐍



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Adams Sno-Drifters

As a club we have submitted a variety of articles for "SAM NEWS", "The SAM Magazine", and the SAM website. Some of the topics covered were: Trail activities, club events, political support, charities, and a host of other topics. A frequent theme we as a club have "lived" is the "Three C's – Charity Camaraderie Community".

As a Club we like to think about those things that are more important than simply riding. Our Club is a Family (Camaraderie). We are part of the Community. The Community extends beyond the borders of Adams.

The above topic really hit home this season with the passing of long time member Hank Poirot.

Hank was a caring person that was always there for the three C's. We have designated our 2024 Charity Event Proceeds to "Pop Cares" in memory of Hank. Even in declining health he attended club meetings where his input was sought. As a side note Hank attended our September 12th meeting where he participated in discussions and votes. He questioned members about THEIR HEALTH and "How are you doing?" to this writer. Hank passed later that evening.

His stature as a snowmobiler extended beyond our club. He was a respected member of the extended communities of Adams, Cheshire, Florida, Savoy, and beyond. His legacy endures. 🐾



Hank Poirot

We Mourn the Loss of Hank Poirot 10/2/38<->9/12/24



Mr. Henry S. "Hank" Poirot, 85, of Adams, died on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at his home.

He was born in Florida, MA on October 2, 1938, a son of the late Louis and Marie Louise (Boeniger) Poirot. He attended schools in Florida.

Hank worked as a truck driver for the former General Electric Co., and then retired from the former Lockheed Martin, Pittsfield. Following his retirement he drove for CTL Trucking.

He was a communicant of the Parish of St. John Paul II, Adams. He was a longtime member and past president of the Adams Sno Drifters, the Florida Mountaineers, the Hoosac Valley Motorcycle Club and the Adams Fall Run Committee. He was an avid Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, the former Carolyn Bishop, whom he married on February 8, 1958; four sons, Michael Poirot and his wife Kory of Adams, Donald Poirot and his wife Robin of Cheshire, Richard Poirot and his wife Shirley of Adams and Bruce Poirot of Cheshire; two daughters, Catherine Poirot-Gancarz of Adams and Melissa Poirot of Williamstown; his brother, Charles Poirot of Florida; two sisters, Claire Burdick of Florida and Sandra Bergeron of North Adams; eight grandchildren; three step grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Louis and John Poirot; by four sisters, Adeline Barry, Marcilene Rooney, Marguarite "Dolly" Rowett and Rita Dugal; and by Melissa's longtime partner Ken Kingston.

Hank was a caring, kind soul who always showed love to his wife, his children, grandchildren and his extended family. Although his departure leaves an unfillable void in their lives, they find comfort in the memories and everlasting love they shared.





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CLUB NEWS



Buckland Riders

By **Steve Howland**, President
showland@mac.com

Trail work is certainly an ongoing process. After several years of working on large grant projects we have cycled around to re-decking several smaller bridges. The Ranger has certainly proved its worth not only as a groomer, but also as a trail maintenance vehicle year round. We are also excited to have another new grant funded Ranger going online this fall. With three side-by-sides in the fleet now grooming is much more comfortable and efficient. Huge thanks to the MassTrails grant program for years of support and funding. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Sled Expo in November. We hope you'll stop by the booth to say hi and purchase your trail pass. We are planning to have a table full of great raffle prizes. After that we'll be back in the woods clearing trees and prepping for snow. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. Meeting times are variable this year, so if you would like to be on the club email list or volunteer please send an email to club@bucklandriders.com 🐾



Clearing a new trails on the backside of Berkshire East



Re-decking trail bridges



Delivering the 2024 Ranger



Florida Mountaineers

Florida Mass, never heard of it? Maybe because it's a small town in the western part of the state way up on top of a mountain. It's a beautiful spot where the snow always seems to drop. But one thing about a small town is the fact that they all know each other, and they all look out for each other. Florida is a perfect example of that.

The Florida Mountaineers are truly part of the community. They are known by everyone in town as an organization that goes above and beyond in its community service. The Mountaineers have for several years made sure that all the kids at their school have sleds that the kids can use during



recess. They have given every child a pair of winter gloves and hats to keep them warm during the cold winters in Florida. They have helped remove and build a new play structure for the kids to enjoy along with donating money for the school field trips. The club has truly embraced the giving spirit to make sure these kids enjoy their time

at the school and enjoy those long winter months that we all love.

There is an old saying "it takes a village to raise a child" and the Florida Mountaineers are part of that village. While they spend hours preparing trails and grooming them in the winter, they always take time for the kids. Great job Florida! 🐾



CLUB NEWS



Goshen Highlanders

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 25 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 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



A view from the GHSC groomer in the DAR State forest last winter.



One of the stops to make in the DAR state forest. A full moon and clear sky's makes for a great picture.



Trail Crew putting in some hours towards a RTP grant that the club was awarded.

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 Tuesday 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 🐾

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Speaking with One Voice

I'm Charles "Chip" Jones. And I am a snowmobiler. (kinda sounds like, "Hi, I'm Chip and I'm a sled-a-holic!" Which, by the way, would be true.) I was honored by your Board of Delegates to be voted unanimously to be your new Government Affairs Director, a position which parallels a lobbying consultant, but adds to it the responsibility for working with state agencies, as well as the legislature, and roll in a much needed public relations role.

Why me? In an earlier life, I was the Fire Chief of a call fire department in a small town, like most of you live in. As Chief, I became instantly aware of the need to educate myself in the role and became active in the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. Prior to my time as Fire Chief, I had been a Selectman and developed some "friends" in the Legislature. This lent itself to my being appointed to the Legislative Subcommittee, and later to the role as one of the one of the guys who "walked the halls" of the State House (The Assistant to the Legislative Director of FCAM).

As all of us are seeing this time of year, politics can be an ugly business. But, oddly, this role was the second most rewarding role I ever had, second only to that of father! We used our knowledge of politics to get good things done for people. We managed the initial structuring of the then new phys-



ical fitness standards required by pension reform, in a way that did not significantly overburden the call and volunteer departments statewide and didn't adversely impact career members. We created and funded the Gas School and the dormitories at the Massachusetts Fire Academy. And in doing so, we rebuilt the Call and Volunteers Subcommittee within FCAM, giving smaller communities a stronger voice.

All this was done by creating cooperation and trust....friendships. As we work together, you will see me at your clubs if you invite me. I'll be there. Why? Because for us to be successful and grow, for us to have new trails and to save old trails, with a government focused on a green agenda, we will need to be **one voice**! A voice of conservation, nature and the importance of the outdoors. 🐾



SAM DELEGATES: YOUR TRAILS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Your Trails Committee is asking for your help in filling out the excel spreadsheet that has been emailed to you, with the data on your most important trails and then, to please return it to either Bryan at bosetek217@gmail.com or to Larry at TuckerTrail@comcast.net.

Your Trails Committee appreciates all your help with this project.

The 3-P's of Trails and Your SSTS

By Larry Tucker

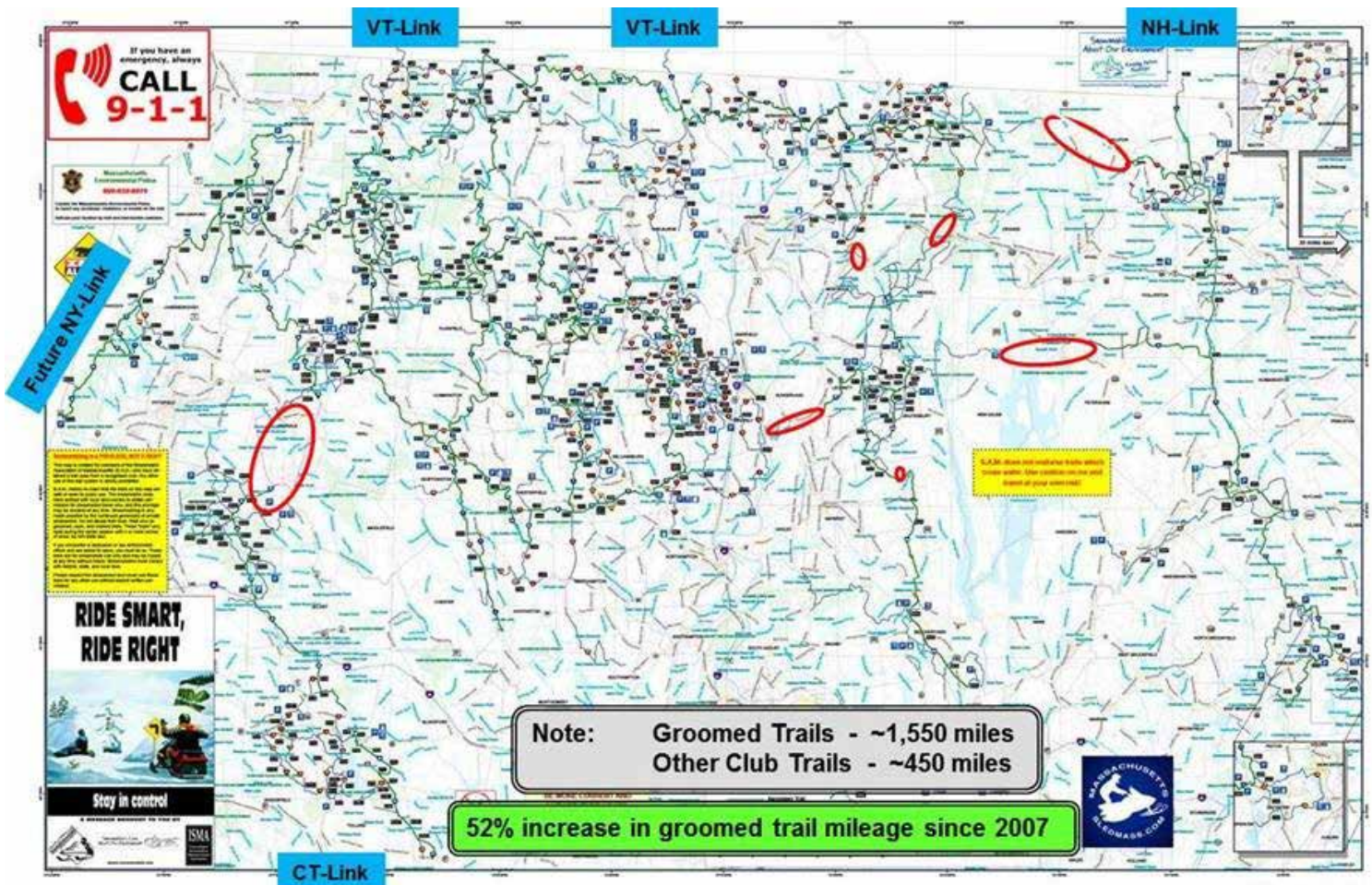
First off, I would like to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to new SAM President, Susan Smiley and new Trails Committee Chair Bryan Osetek and all the Officers who will be representing your *Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts* or “SAM”.

I will digress for just a moment, as it is that time of year when we all take a stab at predicting the weather for the upcoming season. Making our predictions for the weather comprises a dose of hope, luck and guessing. And, if you are waiting for

me to make a prediction, well, that ain't gonna happen. But, I will just mention that it has been a good 5-6 years since I have seen so many acorns fall. So, if this means a season with many blizzards lies ahead, “Are you ready”?

Like most of you, I never stop caring and working on my sleds, so that they will be ready. The next question I ask myself is; “Are our Trails ready, improved and safe?”

The *Statewide Snowmobile Trail System* or “SSTS” is the lifeblood of your Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts. It is the single most important tangible attribute of SAM that was created over 50 years ago and still exists today. What an amazing accomplishment and legacy. We don't know what the future holds for our SSTS, but one thing we can do, is never



RBT 05-22-2017

stop preparing our SSTs for when we will get a “deep snow” winter.

We’ve all heard the TV ad for Colonial Penn Insurance with its 3-P catch phrase (Price, Price and Price). Well, SAM could have a similar “3-P” catch phrase when it comes to our SSTs. It is **“Protect, Promote and Preserve”** our SSTs. And, in recognizing the importance and sometimes fragile nature of our SSTs, SAM has adopted a new, stronger and much more laser-focused approach to caring for our SSTs.

First, we all know the attacks and challenges that our existing trails face each year. There are new landowners, landowners changing their minds and not allowing sleds, new houses on our trail lands, MassDOT promoting paved Rail Trails and on and on. SAM is determined to **“Protect”** what we have now. SAM is determined to prevent the erosion of our current existing trails no matter how small they may seem.

Secondly, SAM also recognizes that our SSTs could benefit immensely by **“Promoting”** the addition of some key, critical and desired **“connections”** in our

SSTs. Connections such as on Corridor 71 in Templeton, the crossing of Route 9 in Hadley, getting from October Mountain up to Greylock and a connection from Belchertown up into Shutesbury which would actually create access to Wendell State Forest and Erving State Forest and which might open up a trail all the way to Greylock —Wow! What a trail system the SSTs can become with all of the trail connections that all of our clubs would benefit from.

And, lastly, we should ask, what happens when, not if, we make these new “connections”? The answer can be found in the third P – to **“Preserve”** not just our new connections, but the entire SSTs. Several ways are available for us to “Preserve” our trails. One is to offer to purchase an easement from the landowners. Another is to move a trail from private landowner over to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) lands, which SAM is working towards in Cheshire. And, still another way, is to affect a change in State Agency policy such as Chap. 90B so that

some trail connections could be made on MassDOT right-of-ways or ROW’s.

Along with the new line-up of Officers in SAM, the SAM Officers are creating a new line-up of committees. They have implemented a Legislative Committee **and** a Trails Committee. The Trails Committee has some crucial goals and one of the first is to collect trail information from all of the SAM delegates for their clubs. So, if you are a delegate, you have most likely been sent a file which the Trail Committee would request that you take a minute to fill in some important data regarding your trails and then email the spreadsheet back to either Bryan at bosetek217@gmail.com or to Larry at TuckerTrail@comcast.net. The Trails committee will then collect, enter, collate and begin garnering information to be used in making reports, presentations for State Agencies and recommendations to SAM.

I know that you will all join me in helping your new Officers of SAM and all the Committees towards making 2025 a great year with many success’s. 🐾



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CLUB NEWS



Knox Trail Sno-Riders

10TH "BE BOLD-RIDE OLD" VINTAGE SLED AND TRACTOR SHOW

Story and photos by John Ruffo

Early morning September 15th this year, the smell of two stroke and sounds from decades ago filled the air at the Blandford Fairgrounds for our Tenth anniversary "Be Bold, Ride Old" vintage snowmobile show and swap meet. Over 40 machines in all forms showed up. From antique rear engines of the early 60's, 70's trail sleds, racers, restored, and even all original! We also had a few what we call "Modern Classics" with the up and coming ol' timers from 1986 to 2000. For another fun activity at our show we did a loud pipe contest. A lot of "stingers" were singing at a high pitch tone, but a 76' Merc Sno Twister was quick to take the throne on that with a rumble of 125.6 decibels! Our farthest traveled, Mr. Bud Gordon with the New Hampshire Snowmobile Museum, came a little over 130 miles away from home! Finally, our best of show was Jim Guachione with his 1970 Ski Doo Blizzard 776cc. With the show wrapping up we also congratulated Mel Scuderi and his family for helping and running the show for KTSR since the beginning. In the early spring of 2013, hearing some shows that have retired for good, Mel and I talked about a show with the Knox club we are a part of. At a board meeting that summer, the "Be Bold, Ride Old" Vintage Snowmobile and Tractor Show and Swap Meet was born. For years we changed from a couple of locations, from the Issac Walton League, the Knox Trail Inn, and today at the Blandford Fairgrounds. This year, I took over the show and Mel has retired to finally



"Modern Classic" entries. 1986-2000



The "Loudest Pipes" winner. A '76 Sno Twister. The earplugs please!

be able to sit back and enjoy the show for once. We look forward to keeping this legacy going for more years to come and would like to thank everyone that made this show happen, especially Mel, his wife Patty, and the Scuderi family. Special thanks also



Jim Moraweic and Paul Richard manning the KTSR booth.

to the Mass Vintage Snowmobile Club. For those looking for events this winter such as poker runs, vintage rides, and vintage ride-ins, you can visit our face book page or our website, www.knoxtrail.com. Until next year, see ya' on the trails! 🐾



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CLUB NEWS



Savoy Kanary Kats

By Sean Anderson, Secretary
seananderson1015@comcast.net

SNOWMOBILING COMMUNITY...

If you're reading this, you're already part of the snowmobiling community, but what does that really mean? There's a wide range of things that make us part of this amazing group of people. Many feel part of it when we're ripping around the woods with a few good friends, others may feel it when they attend a club meeting or volunteering event, some when you're at the local bar sharing stories of a recent snowmobiling trip.

From our club's perspective, there's a million ways to be part of this community. There are countless volunteer roles you can support in whole in in part. A few of the obvious ones include:

- Club President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Membership chair
- Equipment manager
- Groomer Operators
- Trail master
- Webmaster
- Grant writers
- Winter Carnival Committee
- Christmas party committee
- Trail ride coordinator
- Scholarship committee
- SAM representative (and alternate)
- Raffle ticket sales
- Equipment maintenance team
- Trail trim team
- Newsletter writers
- Donation coordinator

All it takes is a wiliness to give back and make the community stronger. Our local club, the Savoy Kanary Kats has been a club for over 50 years. We even have current club members who were part of the original group of families who started the club back in 1972. We're very proud of the impact that they and many others have had on not only the club, but our local community as well. We are not alone as many of the local clubs support their communities too... it's wonderful to see.

We have found several ways to give back and are very proud of our philanthropic support over the years. A few of the organizations we've supported include:



CAMP SNO MO:

Just like SAM, we have been a consistent supporter of Camp Sno Mo in New Hampshire. Camp Sno Mo is supported by Easterseals New Hampshire, and they welcome

all youth with disabilities for over 30 years. Their residential camp keeps children safe and healthy with a low camper/staff ratio and around-the-clock supervision.

<https://eastersealsnh.org/programs/camping-recreation/>



LOOP ROAD RACE:

In support of our local elementary school, they conduct the Loop Road race comprised of a 5k run and 1 mile walk with proceeds benefiting the school. Our club provided a worthwhile donation and many members attended the event.

<https://savoylooprace.org>

SAVOY KANARY KATS WINTER CARNIVAL:

We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of our winter carnival. The family event typically includes a marked ride, poker run, food and clothing (for purchase) and a chance auction with over 100 items. Proceeds from the auction go to support our scholarship program. We have been supporting our community's education and currently allocate \$2,000 per year for up three scholarships. Applications can be



found on our website and consideration is based on need and support of club volunteer opportunities. (Hint - join the club and volunteer and maybe you could qualify for a scholarship for a 2 or 4 year post high school educational scholarship!)

<https://www.savoykanarykats.org/general-5>

ENLISTED FOR LIFE:

A newer organization who received our support was Enlisted for Life, a group dedicated to supporting homeless veterans and veterans in need, ensuring no hero is left behind. This was led by the Adams Sno Drifter's who graciously asked Berkshire Snow Seekers, Florida Mountaineers and Savoy Kanary Kats to participate. An event was held in June of 2024 and raised \$2,300 at the inaugural event. We expect to make it bigger and better next year so watch Berkshire, Florida, Adams and Savoy's Facebook/webpages over the summer 2025.

www.enlistedforlife.com/



OTHER PROGRAMS:

Over the years, we've directly and indirectly supported other programs including Pop Cares, American Heart Association, St. Jude, Toys for Tots and other local charities.

EVENTS:

We do a bunch, and most events are listed on the website, or you can contact a club member. Here's a quick list:

- Equipment Maintenance: Wednesday's all year long 6 PM (except if we're riding or grooming)
- Trail Trims: Sundays September through December 9 AM to ~2 PM
- Club Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month (September through April) 7 PM (Groomer Garage located at 90 Tilton Rd, Savoy, MA)
- SAM Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month (September through April) 7 PM via Zoom
- October: Membership Letter Mailing
- November 16 and 17: SAM Sled Expo (Big E, Young Building West Springfield, MA)
- December TBD: SKK Annual Christmas Party (TBD - check our website)
- January 25: Snowmobile Raffle (Pub 116 located at 788 W Main St, Plainfield, MA)
- February 3: RTP Grant Application Deadline
- February 15: Annual Winter Carnival (Groomer Garage located at 90 Tilton Rd, Savoy)
- April TBD: SAM Annual Meeting, Dinner and Awards Ceremony
- June TBD: SAM Golf Tournament
- July TBD: Board of Directors Meeting (Groomer Garage located at 90 Tilton Rd, Savoy)
- September 13: Savoy Emma Miller Road Race (Savoy School fundraiser)

As you can see, there are a ton of ways you can get more involved. We'd love to see you at a club meeting or trail trim. It's a great group of people who love the sport and we could always use your help.

See you on the trails and remember...

- Join where you ride,
- Support our local businesses, and
- Volunteer!

CLUB TRAIL PASS LOCATIONS AND SUPPORTERS OF OUR CLUB:

- Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor: www.plt.com
- South Side Sales and Service: www.southsidesales.com

- Ronnie's Adams: <https://ronniesadams.com/>
- Ronnie's Pittsfield (passes only): <https://ronniesharleydavidson.com/>
- Pub 116: www.pub116.com
- LP Adams (raffle only): <https://lpadams.com/>
- Friendly Fred's (raffle tickets only): 1173 MA-9, Windsor, MA 01270
- Savoy Kanary Kats Meeting or website: <https://www.savoykanarykats.org/>
- Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts: <https://www.sledmass.com/>

CLUB NEWS:

Club Contact:

<https://www.savoykanarykats.org/>

CLUB MEETINGS:

Our club meetings start at 7 PM at Groomer Garage (90 Tilton Road) on the second Friday of the month beginning in September through April. Check our website for dates and details.

TRAIL TRIMS:

Our trail trims start in September and run until we have rideable snow. Please join us on Sundays at 9 AM at 90 Tilton Road, Savoy, MA and we usually wrap up shortly after noon for some burgers and dogs.

SLED RAFFLE:

This year we're raffling off a 2025 Ski Doo MXZ-X 600R E-Tec 129. It retails for \$14,649 and tickets are \$20 each. See a club member, our webpage or supporting locations listed above for tickets.



As always... stay safe, join a club and get out and ride! 🐾



The Trip That Almost Wasn't!

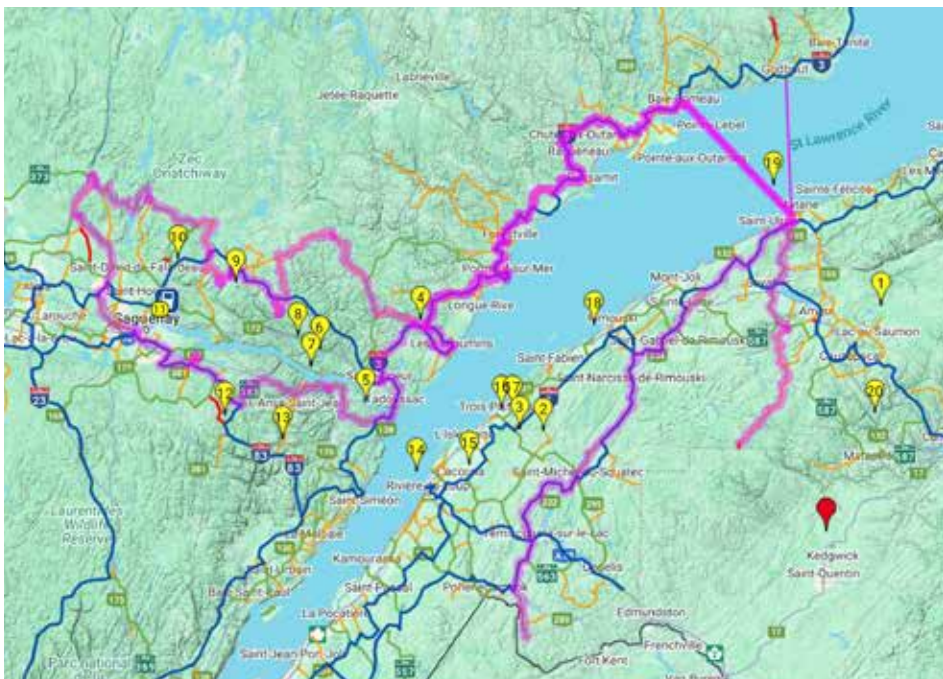
*Fort Kent Maine through Mont Valin area of Quebec and back
February 7th thru 13th 2024*

By Larry McCullough, Easy Riders Snowmobile Club

This was a trip that almost wasn't due to a lack of snow. As all of you are aware, all of the eastern US and Canada had snow issues last season. At one point we were considering the possibility of canceling due to low snow between Rimouski and Matane Quebec on day one. Thankfully, a day or so before we were to leave, that area received 4" to 6" of new snow. The new snow allowed us to pass thru without any issues. A 2nd trip we had planned to the St. Donat Quebec area (1½ hours north of Montreal) in early March, did have to be canceled due to a lack of snow (appx ½ of the trails in the area were closed).

Participants in this 7-day snow odyssey were: myself, Tom R, Ron L, Mark C, Steve V, and Tony W. Sleds included one Arctic Cat, one Yamaha, one Polaris and three Ski-Doos. All ran flawlessly. Planning for the trip included the online maps from both Quebec and New Brunswick along with paper maps and GPS Trailmaster files on our GPS's.

As we often do, we decided to start the tour in Ft. Kent ME passing thru a small section of New Brunswick before entering Quebec. Registration for Maine, passes for New Brunswick (two 1 day passes) and Quebec (a 7-day pass) were required for this trip. Several of the riders had season passes for one or both of the Canadian provinces, and all had registrations for Maine. Day 1 was a run to Matane. Day 2 was a Ferry Crossing of the St. Lawrence and on to Forestville. Days 2 and Day 6 were shorter riding days due to the 3 hours we spent waiting for and traveling on the ferry. Day 3 was a run up the east side of the Saguenay River to the lower Mt. Valin area, staying at the Auberge du KM 31. Day 4 was a loop thru Mt. Valin area and back down to the Auberge des Battures overlooking the river from the west side. Day 5 was a run down the west side of the river, a short free ferry crossing at Tadoussac, then back to Forestville. Day 6 was a run back to the ferry, recrossing the St. Lawrence and staying again in Matane. Day 7 was a run back to Ft. Kent with a stop for Lunch at Moose Valley NB. On the whole, I would rate the trail conditions as good to very good, with the exception of a short 3-mile section near



Or du Pistol, which was a bit rough. Of the trails we rode on this trip, I would say at least one of us had ridden on most of them, say 80–85% at one time or another. Below is a synopsis of each day's ride. I would like to thank Tom R. for his notes on the trip as without them, much of the daily detail to follow would probably be missing.

DAY 1 FEB. 7 FT. KENT ME TO MATANE QUE.

We left the Northern Door Inn meeting for breakfast at Rock's at 6:00 am, then crossing the bridge over the St. John's River to the Canadian border crossing in Clair NB. We left at 7:15 from Rock's, arriving at Quality Inn, in Matane at 6:00 pm. We stopped for gas at 103 miles in Squatec, lunch at 117 miles at Mont Biencourt (ski area) from noon-1:00 pm, gas at 152 miles at St Narcisse at 2:30 pm, and gas in Matane at 228 miles at 5:45 pm. Temperatures were 16 at start and 8 upon arrival in Matane. Trails were excellent all day long except for 561 just over the border into Quebec. Cloudy start to full sunshine.
Travel = 228 miles

DAY 2 FEB. 8 MATANE TO FORESTVILLE

We left the Quality Inn, in Matane, at 7:00 am for an 8:00 am ferry. Sleds loaded first and departed the ferry first. We drove off the ferry at 10:15 am heading to the Manicougan River bridge,



Day 2, Worlds highest snowmobile bridge.



tallest snowmobile bridge in the world, at 13 miles, at 11:00am. We had lunch at 11:45 am at Riviera Pub at 21 miles. The next stop was gas in Forestville (diagonally across from our hotel) at 4:00 pm at 109 miles, arriving at the Econolodge at 4:15 pm. Sunny all day. Trails were great with the exception of a stretch of 3 miles after lunch. Temps were 8 at departure and 19 upon arrival.
Travel = 109

Day 2, The ferry out of Matane.



Day 3, View from top of Sainte-Marguerite.

DAY 3 **FEB. 9** **FORESTVILLE TO** **AUBERGE DU KM 31**

We left Forestville at 7:30am with full sun and 13 degrees. Our 1st stop was gas in Les Escoumins at 68 miles. There were a lot of reroutes on this section. The trail neither matched the paper map, Quebec Federations app nor our GPS's. Lunch was at the Club Sportif clubhouse on Rte 3 at 85 miles, 11:15-11:45. We arrived at Mont Sainte Marguerite lookout at 3:00pm at 169 miles (Elevation 2970). Arriving at the lodge for the night at Auberge KM 31 at 4:30, getting gas before check-in. Trails were great except for approach to hotel. Issues today: Ron's bag fell off, he thought he lost wallet (was in his room under his helmet). Both Larry and Steve used their spare gas, due to both sleds having the Yami turbo 998. **Travel = 197 miles.**

DAY 4 **FEB. 10** **AUBERGE DU KM 31** **TO AUBERGE DES** **BATTURES**

Knowing it would be a long day, we left Auberge du KM 31 at 7:15am. Mark and I squeezed in a coffee while the others waited.



Day 4 The 49th Parallel. The furthest north and west we were.

Lol. Weather was sunny and 24 degrees. Our 1st stop was to Lac du Syndicat lookout at 22 miles at 8:15, with an elevation of 2635. Getting there I took a left turn, one left too early, and had to make a U turn to get back on track. Gas plus brunch were at Relais Onatchiway at 66 miles from 10:00-10:45. We went to the new bridge at the 49th parallel in West Mont Valins at 100 miles at 12:45. Gas was at 166, and again at 196 near hotel. We arrived at Auberge des Battures at 6:30pm in light rain, it having rained for about 2 hours. Auberge des Battures is a higher-level hotel than any of the other hotels we stayed in. The view overlooks a Fiord on the west side of the Saguenay River. We had a most awesome dinner in the dining room. We had a few issues this day, Mark buried his sled at 49th parallel, Tony buried his sled on way back and I needed help after failing to make a 3-point turn. And, for some reason my GPS was acting up and I was about ready to heave it. Grrrrr.. Temps were in the mid 30's upon arrival at our hotel. **Travel = 204 miles.**

DAY 5 FEB. 11 AUBERGE DES BATTURES, BACK TO FORESTVILLE

We left Auberge des Battures at 8:00am in a little drizzle. Gas at 62 miles at 10:30am at La Petit Saguenay. We next took the Tadousac ferry to cross the Saguenay River at 12:30pm. It took a whole 15 minutes. LOL. Lunch was at pizza place in Tadousac at 95 miles at 1:00-2:00pm. Gas again at 116 miles at 3:00pm in Sacre Coeur. The final gas for the day, near the hotel was at 6:30pm, arriving at the Econolodge at 6:45pm. We had off and on drizzle all day long. **Travel = 207 miles.**

DAY 6 FEB. 12 FORESTVILLE TO MATANE

We left Forestville at 8:30 am under cloudy skies and 32 degrees. We stopped for gas and lunch at Pizza Royale in Baie Comeau at 100 miles at 2:00-2:45pm. Arrived at the ferry terminal at 3:45 pm at 116 miles for our 5:00 pm reservations. After crossing, we arrived at our hotel in Matane at 7:30pm with a temp of 34 degrees. **Travel = 116 miles**



Overlooking the St. Lawrence on our way to the return ferry.

DAY 7 FEB. 13 MATANE TO FT. KENT

We left Matane at 7:00am with a temp of 20 degrees and headed due south after leaving trail 5. Really thin on trail 5. In some places the only snow in the fields were where the groomer had packed it. Thankfully, we were only on trail 5 for a few miles. Once we left trail 5 we were on trails that were new to all of us. After getting gas at St. Zenon at 60 miles at 10:00 am, we continued south heading toward the New Brunswick border on a trail that had no trail number that we knew of. Much of the last part of the trail, before crossing into New Brunswick, was new and again did not match our maps, the Federations app nor our GPS's. Our next stop was for lunch at one of our favorite stops, Moose Valley. We stopped there from 1:00

pm to 2:00 pm at 140 miles. Many of us emptied our spare tanks into our sleds and those who thought they needed got some gas before leaving. Trails were great again with some thin areas just before Edmundston. We were quite concerned about the trail conditions between Edmundston and Clair as they had not been very good with some bare spots on earlier excursions through this area, especially where they were logging. Surprisingly, they were in really good shape. We arrived at Northern Door Inn at 5:30 pm at 217 miles. Tony was detained by the US Border Patrol for a short time due to alias issue. **Travel = 217 miles**

TOTAL MILEAGE FOR THE TRIP WAS 1,329 MILES

Overall, this was an awesome trip with the trails much better than we expected with the low snow levels this past season. One benefit of the low snow was that there wasn't enough snow to make the whoopsie duos that you sometimes get. Not sure we ever saw more than a couple of feet up in the Mt. Valin area where we should have found 2 to 3 times that much.

Again, I want to thank Tom R for his notes on the trip.

The ferry crossings, the Manicouagan bridge, the mountain top views, the 49th parallel bridge and the great trails... A trip we all will remember... 🐾



The intrepid crew

ISC 2024, What is That?



Groomer reception
and display

By Jeff Miller

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN



ISC 2024 was held this year in Green Bay Wisconsin. Many people ask, what is ISC? Well, here is the relatively short version of everything you every wanted to know about ISC.

ISC stands for the International Snowmobile Congress, which is a 3- or 4-day event held every year in the month of June. It brings together snowmobilers and Associations from all over the United States, Canada and even Europe. It's packed with seminars, displays and everything in between that has to do with snowmobiles and the sport we love. So, I hope I can give you a slice of this great experience that is called ISC.



Beginning of our daily breakfast update

A photograph of a presentation screen displaying a table of worldwide snowmobile sales for MY2024. A person is visible at a podium in the foreground.

Worldwide	112,650
United States	51,987
Canada	38,599
Sweden	8,931
Norway	4,203
Finland	4,141
Russia	NA
Other	4,789

Worldwide snowmobile Sales

Early arrivals can take a guided tour of the area, sometimes in the form of a motorcycle tour for those who ride to ISC. Also is the FOSPAC(Friends of Snowmobiling Political Action Committee) where for an entry fee you can join in some fun games or events that supports the Political Action Committee.

Our days start bright and early with breakfast with 400-500 of your closest friends and listen to the keynote speaker of the day. Our first day speaker was Drew Nussbaum, from the Wisconsin Dept of Tourism. He shared insights into what Wisconsin has done as a state to promote snowmobiling as a viable tourism destination. Many things mentioned at these events can directly be applied to our home states to improve our sport. After breakfast and our morning speaker it's off to morning breakout sessions. Many of the National Associations hold meetings with their membership to give updates and insight as to what is going on nationally along with elections of new officers.

Throughout the next few days there are several breakout meetings and informational seminars on various issues that could affect our organizations both positively as well as negatively. Some of the seminars at Green Bay were:

- Trail and Mountain Groups Roundtable
- Social media to recruit youth snowmobilers
- 30x30 plan
- International media/Tourism Council
- Trespassing



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01.11 Lake Colby, Saranac Lake, NY (Lake)

01.18 Pine Lake, Caroga, NY (Lake)

02.01 Lake Pleasant, Speculator, NY (Lake)

02.15 Salisbury Ridgerunners, Salisbury Ctr, NY (Terrain)

02.22 High Voltage Hills MX, Greig, NY (SuperXC)

03.01 Young View Farm, West Glover, VT (Terrain)

03.29 Tenney Mountain Resort, NH (Terrain)

Classes: Junior | Women | Trail | Classic | Semi-Pro | Pro & more!

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Hanging with the MapGears gang.

This is just a sample of the valuable information that organizations can come away with from ISC.

It is not all work, there is usually a nightly reception for all to mingle and network outside of the meetings. The groomer reception is always a favorite of people to attend as there is always plenty of food and fun to be had. Another great event is the “offsite” event. This is where the host state shows its guests some of their culture and heritage that best represents their state (and more food). In Green Bay we had a dance and music show of the native American tribe in the Green Bay area. It is a perfect way to see a part of the country’s historical culture that you may not normally see. In Iowa a few years ago our offsite was the “Field

of Dreams” field from the movie even with baseball players from that era. There is also some down time for you to explore the area on your own.

In closing, if you have never been to ISC go! It is an excellent network of likeminded people that are there for the common good. The networking and friendships you create will last a lifetime and only make your own Association better. You will come to realize that your problems that you face are shared by many other Associations. It is comforting to find out that you are not alone with the issues that challenge you and your state. And with the newly created network from going to ISC, it will energize you to get those issues resolved. 🐾



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