

THE KNOX KNEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS
LETTER OF THE KNOX
TRAIL SNO-RIDERS
SNOWMOBILE CLUB
PO BOX 363, EAST OTIS,
MA 01029
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413-269-0243



December ice disaster closes all trails. Volunteers work feverishly to clear debris in time for riding.

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME ICE EVENT

All autumn long, KTSR trail volunteers worked hard to get the trails ready for riding. Just when they finish up and take a needed break before the snow comes, bam, mother nature hits us with a record breaking ice storm. On the night of December 11th, pine trees with needles as thick as your thumb came crashing down. Giant oaks snapped like toothpicks. Century old trees simply toppled over from the shear weight. Most area roads were blocked and power was out for up to two weeks for some. All of this carnage landed across most of the trails, rendering them useless. Dozens of volunteers assembled and went right to work. Some worked with the regular trail crew volunteers and some worked independently. Most of the major trails are now open but a lot needs to be done. Clearing of the

smaller trails will progress through the summer. If it were not for the work of snowmobile clubs, the trails would never be opened. You can still volunteer! Call the snow phone at 413-269-0243 or send an email to the club at knoxtrail@gmail.com

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The club built a bridge over the Clam River in December. The Bridge will be dedicated to Thelma Kennedy who passed away last year. She was the person that wanted to leave Otis State Forest in a natural environment. She was a native in Otis all her life.

We had a bad ice storm in December 2008 and destroyed our trails. The club volunteers have been working on the trails ever



ICE STORM WIPES OUT TRAILS

since. We have the majority of the trails open and ready for grooming. Our new Groomer has been out on the trails and is doing a great job with the snow Otis has. Please drive safe on the trails.

Norm Picard, president



The Thelma Kennedy bridges cross the Clam River on the recently completed trail #8

YOUR TREASURER'S RANT

It has been a busy season! The snow has not been as plentiful as I like it but the frigid temps have preserved what we have and made the water holes solid for mud free ridng. As you ride, pay close attention to the trail surface. Watch out for those "belly bashers"

and “ski clackers”. With reasonable speed you can avoid these exposed rocks. Pay close attention to the brush and sticks along the trails. Although the trail is cleared, some left over twigs exist. They whip pretty hard if you’re going too fast!

Jim Richard,
treasurer



THE CLUB CALENDAR

- Meetings 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month except holidays. Breakfast at 8:30am. Meeting at 9am. Tannery Road clubhouse, Otis. (1)
- Trail work after each meeting at the groomer garage in East Otis center (2).
- Club rides after each meeting at noon. Meet at L&M Gulf (1) in East Otis.
- Poker Run and Picnic Sunday January 25 at the (W19) intersection at the northwest end of the reservoir.

“ZEE MEP”

The new map is up and running. As you travel the trails you may notice the blue and yellow signs at the intersections. These “yellow numbers” correspond with the yellow numbered intersections on the map. As the map evolves, these numbers will remain the same. New intersections will have decimals, ie: 8.1, 10.2, etc. A map is included with your trailpass. If you didn’t get one, send a copy of your pink receipt and a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to KTSR, Box 363, East Otis, MA 01029. Maps are also available online, wherever trailpasses are sold, or by mail for \$1 each. Remember the SASE!



Look for the Map Sleds wherever trailpasses are sold

BOMBI!

manages the electronic shifting of the transmission. The exterior is finished with super slick urethane paint. Graphics are by Giordano Sign of Torrington, CT. A heavy



The Knox Trail Sno-Riders is pleased to introduce to you the newest addition to our groomer fleet. This 1978 Bombi 100 was completely rebuilt by Richard Panella of Holland Patent, NY. It was originally equipped with a 4 cylinder engine and manual transmission. Richard upfitted it with a 1989 S-10 Chevy V-6 engine and a 1995 Camaro automatic transmission. A transmission cooler occupies the rear left deck. It has aluminum cleats and solid filled tires. The cab has all new glass and a new seat and is finished off with rebuilt floorboards and insulation. Since the OBD computer for the engine does not have the functions for a transmission, a Compushift aftermarket computer

duty front brush guard protects the front lighting. A 10,000 lb. Warn winch occupies the center of the guard. Strobe lights are atop the cab and on the drag. A light bar fits above rear window but it was removed in this photo for repair of ice storm damage.

The package includes a Mogulmaster drag. An engine driven hydraulic pump supplies control to the drag via electrically controlled valves. The front of the drag and the rear wheels and pan are easily controlled. The greatest feature of this system is ram steering. The connection between the drag and the Bombi is equipped with two hydraulic cylinders that steer the entire machine by articulation. Most of the turning stresses on the Bombi are absorbed by the cylinders. Precise control of the drag, improved fuel economy, and longevity of the Bombi components are just a few advantages of ram steering. Operating the machine is a breeze. Just a gas and brake pedal, and a joystick in the left hand are the main controls.



Gary Bushey of the Berkshire Snow Seekers explains the workings of a snowmobile to a group of students at the annual Safety Course which was held at the Tannery Road Clubhouse on November 29, 2008

Look for the Bombi as it grooms Miller Swamp Rd., Crossover Trail, Amos Case Rd., Maple Corner Trail, and Lovers Lane. JR

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 you are a guest!

Knox Trail Sno-Riders

PO Box 363
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Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. is a snowmobile club located in Otis, MA. It's purpose is to promote the sport of snowmobiling and maintain a network of groomed trails. Formed in 1971, the club is in its 39th year of providing a great riding experience in the Southern Berkshires. The club is an affiliate member of The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, an association of 36 clubs, helping to make Massachusetts a destination of choice for snowmobiling individuals and families.

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