

THE KNOX KNEWS



NATURE GIVES IN.... PERFECT RIDING CONDITIONS FOR BIGGEST EVENT!

AFTER TWO POSTPONEMENTS, '08 POKER RUN AND PICNIC ONE OF THE BEST EVER!

Perfect conditions combined on Sunday March 2nd for the 2008 Poker Run and Picnic. Plenty of snow, moderate temps, and sunshine plus solid lake ice all at once was any Sledder's dream!

Riders gathered at the northwest corner of the Rez at 11:00am to ride the loop and get cards to make the best hand. The winning hand was 5 fours with jokers.

Check points were closer to the lake and riding the loop was an option. Cards were dispensed at the KT Inn, East Otis FD, the end of the State Forest Road at the dam, at the green bridge, and at the picnic. The loop was a great ride. Trails were groomed and washouts patched. From the picnic one would ride to the KT Inn, back to Latimer Hill (not plowed!) to Big Pond, cross to the Otis town beach to Becket Road and to the KTSR Clubhouse. Up the ATT line to North Spectacle and back down the Knox Trail, across the suspension bridge, and return to the Rez on the Porrell Trail. That's about a 15 mile run. Participants were treated to burgers and hot dogs by Chez Joyce.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hi Fellow Sno-riders, Well it's the end of another season, Time to pack up all the snowmobile related items. Sad time for sure. For the club, it's time to wrap things up for the season also.

We were very fortunate to be able to ride through the old J&D campground this season. Now we have to go back and replace the bales of hay and silt fence to restore the property to the way it was last Fall. We also have to remove the seventy or so fence posts we installed. And last but not the least, is to remove the one hundred feet of snow fence.

The club has been building a ramp each year to get onto Big Pond. Last fall a club member built a reusable ramp to save us from building one from scratch each season. This ramp still does need to be removed

along with the snow fence adjacent to the ramp. We also used some snow fence by Wards Pond and Greenwater Pond which needs to be put away for the off season.

All these items and I'm sure much more, such as signage, are put there to help your snowmobiling pleasure. Without the generosity of all our landowners and the volunteers donating their time and efforts, we would not have the trail system we have.

To all the people involved in working our trails, Thank you very much!

Mr. Bill Taylor



Knox Trail Sno-Riders needs contributions of material and services to help in it's trail maintenance efforts.

Crushed stone, used, new, or cull lumber. telephone poles, machine time, and volunteer labor needed.

Contact the club at knoxtrail@gmail.com or call 413-269-4792

B-52 CRASH SITE



45 years ago on
January 24th...
Views of the historic crash
site of a B-52 Stratofortress
near Greenville, Maine

DESTINATIONS:

A JOURNEY TO ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN

by Jim Richard

For the first time in my sledding experience, my family, some friends, and I took a trip up to the Moosehead Lake, Forks, and Bingham area of Maine. They had been slacking in snowfall for a few seasons but this time they were swimming in the stuff! They have their clubs, trails, and groomers just like we do but the riding there is "huge"! Between the Interconnected Trail System (ITS) which covers Maine with 13,500 miles of trails, and another 10,000 miles of club trails, you can hop on your sled and be gone for a long, long time! Timber companies with miles and mile of roads, accessible abandoned railways, dedicated snowmobile clubs, and other cooperative land owners, make it all possible. See <http://www.mesnow.com/Map.html>

Every sled trip is a blast but to have a "destination" makes it better! A friend's or relative's house, a nice restaurant or lodge, a waterfall, a spectacular view, interesting way point, etc., makes the trip a lot more fun.

This time my crew and I took the 60 mile run from Bingham up ITS87 and 86 to Elephant Mountain near Greenville to the crash site of a B-52 bomber. It is a solemn place where it and most of it's crew met their fate on January 24, 1963

The B-52-C Stratofortress out of Westover AFB in Chicheepee, MA was practicing radar evasion maneuvers on that cold, clear afternoon at an altitude of 500 feet at 280 knots when turbulence and resulting failure in the plane's control system sent it plummeting into the snow covered mountain below. Two of the three crew members

that ejected survived. The remaining six didn't get the chance. According to a plaque at the site, Gerald Adler is the only person to survive an ejection without the parachute opening. He suffered 3 broken ribs and a fractured skull after hitting snow nearly half a mile away with 16 G's of force.

Much of the remaining wreckage and a stone memorial plaque were buried under 4 feet of snow. Numerous American flags fly over this graveyard of men and metal and I could only imagine the hell falling from the sky on that day.

Thanks to the efforts of the Moosehead Riders Snowmobile Club and the Plum Creek Lumber Co. which owns the land, this piece of history is preserved forever and was ours for that short time.

While walking back down the 1000 foot trail marked "NO VEHICLES- FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY" here come three sleds, right up the trail! I asked one guy if he saw the sign but he said they ride up there all the time. Signs? Respect? Go figure.

Find out more about the site at <http://www.moosehead.net/history/B-52.html>



A stone monument inscribed with the names of the fallen aviators

PLEASE send your pictures,
articles, and comments to
knoxtrail@gmail.com or mail
them to KTSR, PO Box 363,
East Otis, MA 01029

Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. is a snowmobile club located in Otis, MA . It's purpose is to promote the sport of snowmobiling. Formed in 1971, the club is in it's 37th. 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. PRESIDENT : William Taylor 413-269-4792 TREASURER: James Richard 413-269-7318 SECRETARY: Corey Tribiula BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bill Roberts, Greg Stevens, Jack Shinkwin, Jason Caufield, Jeff Gamelli, Joyce Taylor, Keith Mackey, Mike Bannish, Norm Picard, Paul Gage, Paul Mastrianni, Peter Chait, Ross Helberg. The KNOX KNEWS is published 4 times during the Snowmobiling season. Send photos, articles, and comments to knoxtrail@gmail.com or Box 363, East Otis, 01029. Copyright 2008, Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. James Richard, editor.

YOUR TREASURER'S RANT

It is said a rotten apple will ruin the whole barrel and we have a few around our area that are ruining our barrel of trails. Many of you know about the loss of the pipeline from the Farmington River to Schoolhouse Road. I will attempt to explain what's up.

Contrary to what many think, the pipeline is not owned by the gas company or the government and is only a right of way across many pieces of private land. Although some stretches are through state forest land, the only entity that has guaranteed passage is the pipeline company.

Private owners, and even the state, have the right to refuse passage of any others for any reason. When you are permitted to ride these stretches, you are a guest!

But a few think otherwise. I have talked to a Tolland Police officer about this situation. He told me that some riders, sled and quad, cut down trees, build fires, tear down the no trespassing signs, and litter. Once a quadder left the pipeline to explore the Tunkias Club property and tear up



the lawn right in front of the clubhouse! And then returned to do it again! Some sledders also invade the club's privacy. He has been threatened and even has had a full can of beer thrown at him. He even caught a guy with a bag of trash on his quad, admitting he was going to dump it in the woods! The owners of the pipeline section are fed up with what is going on and decided to close it.

The officer is a sledder and quadder too. He is just as disappointed about the closures as we are. And it breaks his heart to give warnings and tickets to the riders, especially the guy with his wife and kids. On top of all of this, the quads are wrecking sensitive areas and not enough is being done on trail repairs and bridges around these areas.

I know I'm ranting about what may be one tenth of one percent of the riders but they are out there. They disrespect private property and ruin it for the rest of us. You guys know who you are. Cut it out, now!

Can it be fixed?. The wounds are still open and time is needed to heal. If everyone behaves and seeks alternate routes, some day we will be able to work out a solution with the owners. This will take time and patience. Let's respect their wishes and soon they may again share their resource with us.

See you on the trail!

JimRichard, treasurer

WORKING TO KEEP JD'S TRAILS OPEN

Yours truly made a presentation before the Otis Zoning Board and developer Fred Lary, et al on March 13th. Before a sizable audience, many of which are KTSR members, I exemplified the importance of snowmobiling in our area and the struggle to keep our trails open. I discussed the mission statement of KTSR and the 2003 SAM report showing over \$54 million spent on the sport in Massachusetts alone. A report of such, including photos of our activities, was presented to Mr. Lary and the Board. Mr. Lary was very understanding and seems to realize the importance of sledding in our area. Stay tuned.

MEETINGS:

The next meeting is on Sunday, April 20, 2008. The first meeting of the 2008/2009



Old sleds, odd sleds, and groomer equipment on Poker run day.

season is on Sunday, September 28, 2008.

SNO SHOW:

Bring your pink 2007/2008 Trail Pass stub to the SAM Sno Show at the Big E grounds on October 18 & 19, 2008 for FREE admission!

CASINO TRIP:

The annual casino trip is tentatively set for October 5, 2008. More info will be available as the date nears. Watch the knoxtrail.com website or email knoxtrail@gmail.com.

SNOWMOBILER S PLEDGE

This is from the Franklin County Snow Raiders snowmobile club in Vermont. It applies to all sledders.

I will remember that this land I am traveling on is not mine, but borrowed for the season. It is the home of someone else. I will respect their privacy as I would expect others to respect mine in my home and on my land. Moreover, I understand that I am not the only guest to share this great outdoors. There are others from all walks of life who seek the same privilege of using this land just like me. I will also respect Mother Nature's wild creatures who were here long before us. I will take time to slow my journey, if only to experience the beauty of the season and to enjoy this sport I love. I will remember the Golden Rule. I will leave no blight of litter or abuse on this gift of freedom from life's often sameness. Snowmobiling is a privilege, not a right. Remember, the key to the sport of snowmobiling in Vermont is permission from a landowner.

Knox Trail Sno-Riders

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