

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



LET THE SNOW BEGIN!

LAST SEASON'S RECAP

Last season was a great challenge that reaped great rewards. A once in a hundred year ice storm wiped out all of the trails. A massive effort by dozens of volunteers managed to open most of the trails. Much work still needs to be done.

Snow fall was a bit shy but super cold temperatures preserved the snow we did get. The Groomer Fleet headed by the new Bombi groomer reportedly made riding the best, not in a year, not in ten, but the best EVER!

The season started with a successful Safety course. The Swap Meet had a great turnout. The efforts of volunteers netted KTSR the "Best In Show" booth award at the SAM Sno Show. A super riding season followed with the best Poker Run turnout ever. The record attendance doubled the previous year! The Adopt-A-Highway program was a success. Meetings thru the summer aboard "The Maid of Stars" laid the groundwork for the coming season. Won't you consider joining us?

UH-OH, IT HAD TO HAPPEN

The Trailpass price had to go up. SAM increased the trailpass and club dues and KTSR has to meet the challenge of rising expenses. Therefore the cost of each pass will rise to \$50. This is unfortunate but it had to happen. Look at the brighter side. Compared to the cost of lift tickets, \$50 for a season of groomed trails is a bargain! These funds will go right to work, improving trails and the Groomer Fleet!

IT'S 10/10 TIME AGAIN!

Get your 10/10 Club ticket. They are only a \$10 donation and the fun lasts all winter! They make great gifts. Ask any member, call 413.269.0243 or email knoxtrail@gmail.com. Proceeds go to the Groomer Fund.

WATCH THE TRAILS FOR THE CLUB'S THOKOL GROOMER WITH A NEW ENGINE, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, RAM STEERING, AND PAINT JOB!

Top notch Grooming equipment plus help from Mother Nature made the 2008-2009 Knox Trail Sno-Riders trail conditions the best ever!

COLD WET SUMMER. WILL WINTER CONTINUE THE TREND?

The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a cold winter with lots of snow for the midwest. The east and west coasts will be milder but still very cold.

If last summer's cold and rain spill over into January, we will have a great riding season. Put away your shovels and get out your sled!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and Welcome!

As I look out the window I see the leaves, acorns, and apples, along with night temperatures dropping.

It won't be long now til' the snow will be coming down and covering the landscape in white. Remember to do your pre-season sled maintenance check and get ready for a great snowmobiling season.

The board of directors and members have been meeting during the summer months, formulating plans and projects for the coming

season. Our groomer fleet is being upgraded and retrofitted with the latest technology. There has been, and continues to be, considerable donations of materials and labor toward these projects. Our Grant committee is putting together grants for trail projects and trail maintenance equipment. Our events committee is getting the club booth and merchandise ready for the New England All Power Sports Show at the Big E and the New Boston Crane Service and Sled Swap Meet. Please, won't you send us an e-mail or give us a call and let us know if you want to volunteer? There are many club functions for volunteers to do and we could use your help! Be sure to check out the club web site www.knoxtrail.com for latest news. Have a safe season and see you out on the trail. Jeff Gamelli, president



FROM THE VEEP

Hello all Snowmobile enthusiasts !

My name is Greg Stevens I will be the interim Vice President of The Knox Trail Snow Riders this season, I just wanted to tell you a little about myself.



My love for our sport began in 1973 riding in Otis with my dad. I am now 40 years old and have snowmobiled all over the North East but my love for the Otis area has lasted all these years I am a resident of Middletown CT. and like many of our members, I enjoy the short time it takes to come up from Connecticut and ride!! My father is now 65 years old and can no longer be active in preparing and maintaining our trail system for others to enjoy. Many of our active members do their best to keep the trails open for our younger riders to enjoy, but due to age or injury can no longer carry the load.

As you know, last December Otis was hit by a huge ice storm. Our trail system was devastated along with the surrounding areas. With the help of mother nature we had the best season I've ever seen !! Thanks to the Volunteers!

Now that the snow has melted there is so much work to do. I am pleading with our members who may not have gotten involved to walk our trails in the fall, clear fallen tree branches, and help repair bridges. Even if it's only one day, we need your help. Our club will be more organized this season and will post in advance what trail has been selected to be cleared in an effort to get you involved. KTSR looks forward to meeting new members this fall and hope you can volunteer a little bit of your time so we can all enjoy the riding season

Thanks

Greg Stevens interim VP KTSR

YOUR TREASURER'S RANT

It's me again! The ornery guy who puts this paper together. I wrote this last spring and you may have seen it before, but it is so important it must be repeated. This is one of the greatest dangers riders face. The fact that it usually goes entirely unnoticed is what makes it so dangerous! Is it excessive speed? Thin ice? No, it's:

POOR CONTRAST

The dictionary defines contrast in the visual sense as the difference in visual properties that make an object distinguishable from other objects and the background.

In my 40 years of enjoying snowmobiling, I have witnessed two accidents. Both were related in their cause to one thing: Poor contrast. When an object in your path is indistinguishable from its surroundings, it becomes invisible. In the snowmobiler's "world of white", contrast is essential for safe travel.

So what happens? What are the causes of poor contrast? When a white object, mound, or gully sits in a field of white, light from the sun or your headlight will illuminate the object and produce reflections and shadows which make the object distinguishable from its surroundings. When the sun is setting (or just rising), or the sky is heavily overcast, the illumination and shadows are not as prevalent. At that time, your headlight is not bright enough to overcome the remaining daylight. Objects in your path disappear! In the two accidents, one was caused by hitting a snow covered rock at sunset, ejecting the rider and bending the suspension. The other was caused by the sled going airborne after running up a shoal in a drained lake bed at sunset. Loss of control caused the sled to slam into a stationary sled on the other side sending two riders to the ER and totaling two sleds. In both cases the objects would have been clearly visible had it not been for poor contrast. A sledder could possibly slam into a white vertical wall, not even seeing it until it was too late.

So what can be done to avoid this? The best prevention is to recognize the conditions that cause poor contrast

and adjust your speed accordingly. Keep a mental inventory of as many terrain features and other sleds in your area as possible. If a sled suddenly disappears, there is something between you and the other sled hidden by poor contrast. That sled may reappear just as quickly, and it may be right in your path. Do not wear sunglasses of tinted face shields in poor contrast conditions. Keep your face shield clean and replace if scratched. Avoid overly tinted or opaque windshields. Do whatever is necessary to avoid fogged face shields or glasses.

Recognizing poor contrast and using good judgment in dealing with it will help to make your ride safe and accident free.

Jim Richard, treasurer



THE KTSR SCHEDULE

📅 **MEETINGS:** November 8, November 22, December 13. **NEW FACES NEEDED!** Breakfast at 8, meeting at 9. Tannery Road clubhouse. Map POI 1, Just north of the Farmington River School, Otis

📅 **November 1:** Swap Meet at New Boston Crane Service and Sleds. Visit KTSR at the SAM trailer.

📅 **November 28:** Annual Safety Course at the Tannery Road Clubhouse. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Call Gary Bushey at 413-499-2111

📅 **January 24, 2010:** Poker Run on Otis Reservoir. Location TBA.

📅 **TRAIL WORK:** Parties meet at the Groomer Garage across from the Knoxtrail Inn. Sunday @9am or after regular meetings.

SNO PHONE, TWITTER, WEBSITE AND SAM FORUM

The new Sno-Phone is up and running. Check 413-269-0243 for latest news and events. The Knoxtrail.com website now has a Twitter box for latest announcements from club officials. There is a link to the Knox section of the SAM forum. This is where the Groomer Team will post up to the minute Trail Reports.

ON WITH THE SNOW!

THE SNOW MUST GO ON!



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Knox Trail Sno-Riders

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Don't sit inside this winter. Get out and join the fun!



Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. is a snowmobile club located in Otis, MA. Its purpose is to promote the sport of snowmobiling and maintain a network of groomed trails. Formed in 1971, the club begins its 39th. season and 40th. 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 : Jeff Gamelli VICE PRESIDENT: (interim) Greg Stevens TREASURER: James Richard 413-269-7318 SECRETARY: Corey Tribiula
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Volunteers are the backbone of the Knox Trail Sno-Riders!



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Events



Trail Construction



and FUN!



Adopt a Highway



Your latest Knox Knews has arrived!