

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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SEASON RECAP ISSUE

same low temperatures but with more snowfall. Welcome to our returning officers and our new VP Keith Mackie.

Thank you out going president Norm Picard for all the hard work you've done while facing the challenges of the past season. It was a one-two punch with a major ice storm that closed most of our trails, and then a major snow fall which hampered efforts to re-open them.

The members will be very busy with trail clearing, bridge building, groomer/drag updates etc. in the off season.

Please join us and get involved. New members are always welcomed.

Don't forget to check out our web site off season for new announcements.

Think Snow!

Jeff Gamelli, president

A MESSAGE FROM THE FORMER PRESIDENT

To all of the club members for 2008-2009: We had a great season. Mother Nature was good to us this year. The club had issues concerning groomers, rerouting of trails in East Otis, and building new bridges. The ice storm in December definitely put the club to a test. We needed volunteers and we did get them. I would like to thank all who helped us in clearing trails.

I would like to welcome the new officers for 2009-2010 Season. "President" Jeff Gamelli, "Vice President" Keith Mackie, and the returning "Treasurer" Jim Richard and "Secretary" Corey Tribula.

Thank You,
Norm Picard "Pres." for 2008-2009



The January 26th. Poker Run broke all records for participation.

BIGGEST POKER RUN EVER!

It was a cold day. The calm air, the bright sunshine, and a good solid frozen lake made the perfect combination for the Knox Trail Sno-Rider's hosting of it's annual Poker Run. That Sunday afternoon on January 26th was absolutely amazing.

Although the snow cover on the smaller, rougher trails was a little thin, the frigid temps preserved the supply of snow nature had delivered as well as turn the chocolate ice milkshake mudholes into concrete. The bigger trails, with the help of the fleet of grooming machines, were absolutely phenomenal!

These conditions prompted many Knox Trail and other SAM sledders to join the party and participate in the run. Over 125 entries blasted away all previous records. Rather than have the riders follow a set route, four self-service check points were listed on the entry sheet. With the help of the new map, the entrants could pick their own route and collect tokens to re-

deem for their poker hand. With deuces wild, the two top winning hands split half of the take two thirds, one third. The best hands were 5 kings and an ace four full house. Funds raised by the event help the Groomer Fleet keep the trails in the best possible condition.

THE NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow members.

I hope all of you had a terrific season. I was very busy with club duties, along with clearing trails and grooming.

To be able to ride from December to March here in the Otis area, with a below average snowfall, is not the norm. Low temperatures and little rain helped to preserve the snow we got and keep waterholes closed. I hope that next season will bring us the



MEET THE NEW OFFICER LINE-UP

Elections at the March 22nd. meeting resulted in the following line-up of officers for the 39th. season of the club. Former president Norm Picard stepped down and was replaced by former VP Jeff Gamell. Keith Mackie took over as VP. Corey Tribula stays on as Secretary and so does Jim Richard as Treasurer.



Club officers from right to left are Jeff Gamelli, president, Keith Mackie, vice president, Corey Tribula, secretary, and Jim Richard, treasurer

ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Once again the Knox Trail Sno-Riders club is participating in MassHighway's litter removal project. Sunday April 19th is our scheduled pickup date. Meet at Groomer Garage at 9 AM, weather permitting. A release form must be signed.

A Safety Training Video can be viewed at (www.mhd.state.ma.us). Participants MUST view this video.

GROOMING REPORT

A team of dedicated volunteers using a fleet of great equipment produced what are being called the best conditions ever experienced in this area.

Grooming is a non-stop process. During the off season the volunteers build, re-build, and service the tow vehicles and drags. When it snows, countless hours are put in running this equipment and making the trails the best they can be.

This process is the largest expense the club faces. The club gets an annual reimbursement for grooming from S.A.M based on the one way distance groomed on a trail twice a week. This year that amount is about \$2400. But grooming requires many more trips than that. One trail may require two or three round trips to get into shape and often more than twice a week. This year the fleet logged 303 miles and 502 hours. This calculates the groomers traveled at 0.6 miles per hour which is simply not true. Groomers average 5 to 10 mph so even at just 5 mph, at 502 hours, that works out to over 2510 miles.

Assuming 100 miles of trails, that works out to 25 passes of every mile of trail.

Here are some more statistics:

\$18,047.25 New equipment purchases
\$4956.00 Repair parts and outside labor
\$1261.84 Fuel used to groom

The fuel numbers work out as well. At \$2 a gallon, about 630 gallons were purchased. At a 4 mile per gallon average, you get real close to 2500 miles! As you can see, operating a snowmobile club is expensive! And remember that 99.9% of the labor required is donated! That's why it's important to support the club with your trail pass purchase and any additional donation you can spare. Tell anyone you see running without a pass to get one.

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER RECOGNITION

Continuous membership since the founding of the club, and numerous



terms as president and treasurer, has netted 80 year old member Al Hurley this highest of recognitions.

For his continued dedication and service, a big "thank you!" goes out to you, Mr. Hurley!

YOUR TREASURER'S RANT

WHAT BURNS MY BELT?! This season, over 580 passes were sold. SAM gets \$26 per pass to cover it's operating costs, a full time employee, a \$1,000,000 insurance policy that covers you on private property, magazine printing and distribution, pass printing and recordkeeping, a state lobbyist, grooming reimbursements, etc., etc.. The club gets \$14 per pass, so this year the net was \$8120. Other sources of income are raffles, groomer donations, clothing and map sales, advertising sales, and swap meets.

Looking at the grooming figures, it's easy to understand why membership is so important. Riders who freeload without a trail pass only hurt everyone else. I see so many sleds

without them and it burns my belt! If EVERY sled had a pass, and my estimate is a good half of them do not, the cost per member would drop because everyone would share the load. Since Mass does not require an i.d. number to be displayed on the sled, enforcement is nearly impossible.

Another belt burner is the plague of riders who litter, drive too fast, and vandalize trail signs. A trail map displayed at a parking area was removed as well as some of the trail intersection signs. Hey you, the one responsible. The map is obsolete. You'll get lost!

If the trail is closed, stay off it. And tell your quad friends that club trails are for sleds only unless otherwise posted.

There, I said it. See you next winter.

Jim Richard, treasurer



THE ICE STORM

Many hours of hard labor from a lot of volunteers were required to open up the trails after the December ice storm. Here is a run-down of what the club did. Many, many unrecorded hours and expenses donated by others are not included. Grooming hours are not included either.

Time clearing trails before the ice storm Oct. to Dec. 2008:

Hours: private property: 106
Hours: public property: 174
Total hours: 280

After the ice storm Dec. 2008- Mar. 2009
Hours: private property: 81
Hours: public property: 730
Total hours: 811

TOTAL for all trail clearing: 1091 hours

Club expenses for chainsaw repairs, parts, and fuel: \$303.45

And there is still much more to do!

Stay tuned to website for date of next meeting!



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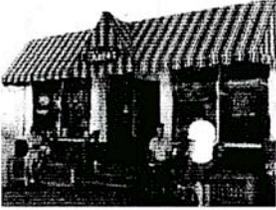
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REMEMBER:
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 your are a guest!

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 will begin it's 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:** Keith Mackie **TREASURER:** James Richard 413-269-7318 **SECRETARY:** Corey Tribiula
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