

Your latest edition of the Knox Knews has arrived!

Knox Trail Sno-Riders  
Snowmobile Club, Inc.  
PO Box 363  
East Otis, MA 01029



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 snowmobile trails. Formed in 1971, the club celebrates its 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 33 clubs, helping to make Massachusetts a destination of choice for snowmobiling individuals and families. PRESIDENT: Jeff Gamelli VICE PRESIDENT: Greg Stevens TREASURER: James Richard 413-269-7318 SECRETARY: Diane Therrien BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bill Roberts, Greg Stevens, Jack Shinkwin, Paul Gage, Jeff Gamelli, Joyce Taylor, Mike Bannish, Paul Mastraini, Peter Chait, Steve DeLand, James Richard, Bill Taylor, and Andy Kutz. The KNOX KNEWS is published 4 times during the Snowmobiling season. Send photos, articles, and comments to [knoxtrail@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtrail@gmail.com) or Box 363, East Otis, 01029. Copyright 2010, Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. James Richard, editor. A Poorsoft Presentation

1971 It's the Club's 40th Anniversary! Help celebrate and win a great prize too! 2011

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MAIL ORDER ENTRY FORM:

YES! I want to help The Knox Trail Sno-Riders upgrade its Trail Grooming Fleet!

Please send  40th Anniversary Raffle tickets to:

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Amount Enclosed: (\$10 per ticket + \$1 per order) \_\_\_\_\_

Checks only- Do not send cash

Tickets may also be ordered on line.

Use your PAYPAL account to send an \$11 donation per ticket ordered to: [www.knoxtrail.com](http://www.knoxtrail.com)

Entries must be postmarked by October 15, 2010. For more information, call 413-269-0243. Press 3 to leave a message. Or email [knoxtrail@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtrail@gmail.com)

Check here if you would like to help sell tickets.

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume 40, Issue 1.0 October- November 2010

# THE KNOX KNEWS

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



A grant from the Massachusetts DCR and Mass Recreational Trail Advisory Board (MRTAB) will be used to purchase a Saratoga Ranger all-season trail maintenance vehicle. Proceeds from the 40th Anniversary Raffle will go to purchase new Polaris and Ski-Doo grooming sleds. This investment in state-of-the-art, clean running 4-stroke equipment will allow club volunteers to bring you the best riding conditions for years to come!

## POWER SPORTS SHOW

The annual Power Sports Show will be held at the Big E grounds in West Springfield on October 16 and 17th. See all there is to see in new and used sleds, ATVs, motorcycles, and PWCs. Vendors will have a great selection of clothing, riding gear, and accessories. This is your best chance of the season to find your next sled and stock up on all of your riding needs.



A big selection of new and used sleds await your inspection at the Power Sports Show!

KTSR will be there with the biggest and best display ever! The prizes for the 40th anniversary raffle will be there and tickets will be on sale. An assortment of Knox Trail gifts and clothing will be available too! Be sure to stop by and say hello!

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone!

Another season is upon us and we are gearing up for full season of snow. Did I say gearing up? Oh yes! The club will be purchasing the following new grooming equipment: A Ski-Doo Skandic and a Polaris Wide track utility sled. Well that's not the end. We have been selected for a 80% reimbursement grant from DCR and MRTAB.

With the help of this grant we will purchase a 2011 Polaris Saratoga Ranger all

season trail maintenance vehicle and tools to improve and maintain 11.2 miles of public trails throughout the year in Otis State Forest near Lower Spectacle Pond. The Ranger will be used to increase the frequency of trail maintenance including winter trail grooming, rock removal, installation of trail markers and water bars, removal of fallen trees and to provide emergency services.

While you were enjoying your summer, the board of directors were working hard behind the scenes to make this season the BEST ever. Helmets off to these dedicated club members.

Calling all club volunteers to help with the trail projects and events. Go to our web site [www.knoxtrail.com](http://www.knoxtrail.com) and the SAM website [www.sledmass.com](http://www.sledmass.com) for complete information.

See you at the club meetings, trail trims, and club events.

Jeff Gamelli, President  
KTSR-Inc.

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

Remember... If you intend to buy your trail pass at any event, bring your Mass sled registration!

Meeting Oct. 10 @ 9 AM, Tannery Road Clubhouse, Otis.

Knoxtober Fest October 10 at the Knox Trail Inn in East Otis. KTSR will be there!

The Power Sports Show October 16 and 17 at the Big E grounds in West Springfield. 9-8 Saturday, 9-4 Sunday

Meeting Oct. 24 @ 9AM, Tannery Road Clubhouse, Otis.

The annual New Boston Crane Service and Sleds Swap Meet 85 South Main St. Sandisfield, MA November 7. KTSR will be there. RAFFLE DRAWING AT 3 PM!

A safety course. Tannery Road Clubhouse in Otis on Nov. 27, 2010. Call Gary Bushy at 413-499-2111.

The Annual Poker Run and Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011 at W-26 on Otis Reservoir. The poor condition date is Jan. 30.

Vintage Ride. Stay tuned for more info.

Meetings on the second and fourth Sunday of the month except for holidays at the Tannery Road Clubhouse in Otis.

## TRAIL PASS 101

The question is usually "Why do I need a trail pass and how do I get one?". If you have a snowmobile and want to ride the Knox Trail system or any other SAM club system in Massachusetts, you must have a trail pass. To get one, your sled must have a Massachusetts registration. To best way to get that is to go on line at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/instructionspage.htm>, fill out the forms and send in your fee. With your registration in hand, you can now get a trail pass. There are 33 SAM clubs in Massachusetts. You become a voting member of the club you get your trail pass from.

As of this writing, Knox Trail Sno-Riders trail passes are available at New Boston Crane Service and Sleds in Sandisfield, Bucksteep Manor in Becket, MA, in East Otis at L&M Gulf, Katie's Store, and the Knox Trail Inn, Land n' Sea in Waterbury, CT and Al Joy's in Southington, CT. Buy on line with your PayPal account at [www.knoxtrail.com](http://www.knoxtrail.com) or through the mail with an application available from the website. You can also get an application by calling 413-269-0243 and leaving a message with your mailing address or by writing to KTSR, PO Box 363, East Otis, MA 01029.

Important: Whichever way you get your trail pass, you will need your Mass registration number, sled make, model, and

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serial number, and a \$50 trail pass fee. Attach your trail pass sticker on the left side of your sled. Keep the pink copy with the sled.

Now all you need is snow!

**REVERSING TRACKS**

By: Jeff Gamelli Sr.

Let's go backwards on our imaginary sled time machine about 40 years ago on the trails in Otis. We have arrived in the time period of the early 70's with this explosive winter recreation SNOWMOBILING now being in full swing. With over 100 brands of snowmobiles on the market, and approximately four Otis local snowmobile dealerships and plenty of riding area around; it was apparent that several clubs were starting to (snow)-show up town by town in Berkshire County. It usually began with a small group of riders at someone's kitchen table talking about an interest in maintaining area trails, grooming trails, having group rides, social gatherings, connecting to other nearby area clubs trails and ; oh yes, did I mention having just plain old FUN!

We arrive on our snow machine; as they called them back then, in 1971 in Otis when a group of local residents who had a great interest in this winter sport formed the Otis Snowmobile Club. They elected Officers, adopted by laws, collected money (\$2.00 membership fee) and promoted the sport. The club first met at the Knox Trail Inn; with Bruce Hawley as the first president presiding and then the club later moved to the old Otis Town Hall for monthly meetings until the early 80's. With little money in the treasury the club bought their first enclosed groomer, a Bombi, through fundraising. Otis was the perfect location with its elevation, open space, State Forests, fields, old unplowed farm roads, logging roads, and plenty of lakes and ponds to ride on. These dedicated hard working people laid a strong founda-

tion for the snowmobiling community for years to come.

Well moving ahead on our sled time machine ten years later in 1981 a new name was adopted for the club which was Knox Trail Sno-Riders Inc. According to Al Hurley who is one of the first founding members and an honorary member today; this new name came about because the Blandford snowmobile club was disbanding and both clubs came to the decision of the name Knox Trail Sno-Riders as the historic Knox Trail lies in both Towns.

Well down at the clubhouse on Tannery Road today people can see on the many wooden plaques hanging on the wall, the vast list of officers that have come and gone during the last forty years. As we all know things are changing very fast these days in the snowmobiling arena I can only hope we can be around for another FORTY years.

**TRAIL SIGN TO THE RESCUE... AGAIN!**

Last year I reported about a Knox Trail sign speeding the rescue of a group of lost ATVers. Well, I happened again!

Club VP Greg Stevenson was heading down Route 8 on the Sunday evening of September 19th. The Alan Road parking area was abuzz with emergency vehicles. Passing the flashing lights, Greg had a feeling he should go back and offer help. When he did, he got a handle on the situation.

That day, some ATVers parked their trailers there and headed off on the trails. Just before dark they called 911 reporting they had a break down and they didn't know where they were. The responders naturally headed to where they had parked, not knowing the ATVers were quite a distance away. There was a lot of confusion as to where the search should go.

Greg asked to talk with one in the group and asked him if they could see any trail signs. He said they could see a sign for

Maple Corner Farm but there a lot of them on the trails. Asking if he saw anything else he replied he could see a sign with "Intersection 8" on it. That nailed it. They were miles away at the intersection of the gas line and Amos Case road. Gerg broke out a stash of KTSR maps and gave them to the responders. With that done Greg left knowing the situation was well under control, thanks to the work of the Knox Trail Sno-Riders!

So when you see those signs out there, please don't disturb them. They're out there for you information, and your safety.

**YOUR TREASURERS RANT**

I am a transplant to the area but I came here for a reason and have something to offer. I grew up just south of here in Torrington. A long time plan of my wife and I involved moving to a place not too far from my business and enjoy an assortment of activities including boating, ATV riding, and snowmobiling. The Otis/ Tolland area around the Reservoir was just perfect. We bought into the area in 1990 but waited until our time was right to build and finally move here in 2005.

Boating has a solid foundation here as long as there's water. ATV riding and snowmobiling have a shakier foundation. Development pressure and dislikes by property owners are a constant threat to good trails. Loss of a trail puts a sinking feeling in my heart. I wonder why these threats should exist at all. Anytime there is a development issue or complaint, there are always ways to accommodate the trails and solve the problem. Rerouting should never be impossible. It should be encouraged.

The trails are an important way to attract tourism. The riders bring business to most local establishments all year round. There is one case where a developer arrives with a grand plan, buys the property, throws out the essential trails that crossed the prop-

erty for 40 years, only to flounder with the economy, leaving a ghetto of once vibrant buildings and clear-cut land. A great local asset (the trails) that would attract buyers to the project were destroyed. Talk about shooting yourself in the foot! I am fortunate to own some developable property in the area. Important snowmobile trails cross it. I would never in my power shut off these trails. As much as these trails pass some noisy vehicles and mis-behaved operators, their importance to others and myself is much too much to give up.

Another pressure is land preservation. The preservationists are a selfish lot. They want the land for themselves. A large tract was recently purchased by preservationists and the snowmobile trail was closed. Now a once well used trail has fallen into disrepair and never reopened after the great ice storm. . God forbid there is an emergency in those woods. There is no way to get in there to rescue anyone or put out a fire!

I try to do as much as I can. I ATV only in areas where it is allowed and try to tread as softly as possible. I volunteer for the local snowmobile club. I am the treasurer, newsletter writer, map maker, and more. Snowmobiling runs in my blood since a teen. The area benefits from it since winter offers very little activity in this tourist town.

If you are property owner and a snowmobile trail crosses your land, thank you! Please, if you plan to build, do accommodate the trail. Contact the club to discuss trail rerouting. The trails tend to attract some who don't follow the rules. Let the proper authorities deal with them first. There is always a way to accommodate the trails!

See you on those trails!

Jim Richard, treasurer  
 KTSR



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