

THE KNOX KNEWS

The official news letter of The Knox Trail Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club
 PO Box 363, East Otis, MA 01029
www.knoxtrail.com
knoxtrail@gmail.com

CLUB EVENTS

- Poker Run and Picnic Saturday February 3rd. with a "poor condition" date of Saturday Feb. 17th. Northwest end of Otis Reservoir
- Trail Work- Every Sunday at 9AM or after the meeting in front of the groomer garage. Call Bill Taylor to be sure.
- Meetings at Tannery Road Clubhouse- Sunday Dec.9 &23, Jan. 13 &27, Feb. 10&24, Mar.9., and Apr. 13. Breakfast @8AM, Meeting @9AM. Trailwork afterwards.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello,
 As I write this it's looking a lot like winter. The club is wrapping up another season of trail work. There has been a lot of de-brushing, etc. We had no major projects this fall but all work done, no less, is very important to the trail network. At this time I would like to mention and thank all for the time spent contacting and working with landowners. Getting a hold of landowners is usually a game of phone tag and patience. The club did get permission from the new owner of J&D marina to continue riding through the old campground for the upcoming season pending the approval of the conservation committee of Otis. All landowners are special people that allow us sno-riders to enjoy the outdoors in the winter. With out them, no riding! If you see any of the landowners through out the season, be sure to thank them. A special thanks' to Fred Lary with keeping

our village of East Otis intact trail wise.

We have decided to combine our reservoir picnic and the poker run on February 3rd. Please join us for a fun day in Otis. We are hoping mother nature is kind to us with ton's of snow. We are also hoping to have club rides following our Sunday meetings this winter. Check out our new website (Thanx Andy) at www.knoxtrail.com for details.

Wishing all of you the happiest of holidays, your president, Mr. Bill



THE TREASURER'S RANT

Hopefully, by the time you read this two things have happened. One, that we are up to our butts (or more) with snow, and two, that someone has stepped up to publish, or just help with this newsletter.

It's good news that Jason has negotiated passage through the condo project for this season. This area is probably the most important hub of the KTSR trail system. Without it there is no access directly from the

lake to Katie's, Knox Trail Inn, the Groomer Garage, Big Pond, Hillbillie's, and Carrington Trail. There are possible alternatives but we have to try to keep all of our options available. Wouldn't a note of thanks from many members be in order for Mr. Lary? Also remind him how important our trails are and ask him to consider a permanent route through the complex. Remind him how much vitality snowmobiling brings to the area and that his prospects may be snowmobilers too!

On the subject of trails, we have to be very vigilant and protect our trails from intrusion. If the sign says no wheeled vehicles, then obey it, remind others, and if necessary, make a phone call. There are plenty of places to ride ATV's without jeopardizing the sled trails. Talk to land owners you know and kindly ask them to allow our passage. Remind them of the liability insurance provided by SAM and the on going trail maintenance by the club. If you are a land owner on a trail, consider deeding recreational trail use across a portion of your property. Legislation is ongoing in Boston to give tax credits for the same!

NEW OTIS PIT STOP !

A great new trail has been cut right to PAPA'S HEALTHY FOOD & FUEL in East Otis, right on the corner of Rt. 23 and Old Blandford Road. They offer complete services with fuel, food, restrooms and plenty of parking. Besides some of the best hot organic coffee around, they offer Boar's Head sandwiches, bakery treats, snacks, and a full assortment of convenience items including Lottery, beer & wine and tobacco products. They are a full service garage and gas station, open early morning to late evening. They also have Trail Permits and Membership Forms available. Check out this unique rest stop if you're in the area or visit their Web Site (www.papashealthyfoodandfuel.com) and you won't be disappointed!



The Columbus Day Cruise at Papa's

Today was the first time SouthEast bay of Otis Reservoir froze completely. Patience and more cold is necessary before anyone and anything should venture out on the ice. Keep a close eye on your kids and pets when near thin ice. When the ice does get safe, one must still be very careful. Many of our trail routes cross lake, pond, and swamp ice. This is not an open invitation to venture out on the ice. Be advised that this club and SAM are not liable for any consequences resulting from unsafe ice. The decision to operate a snowmobile on ice is the responsibility of the operator. Just because a track ahead of you heads out on the ice, factors may be in effect which could weaken that ice, putting yourself in danger. Warming temperatures and liquid precipitation are the enemy of good ice. Be vigilant. Carry safety equipment. I always ask the ice fisherman. They know how thick the ice is!

See the accompanying reprint of the MassWildlife ice strength chart and remember:

- Stay away from "stick-ups". Ice is thin around exposed logs, stumps and rocks.
- Stay away from creeks entering and exiting a body of water. Currents weaken the ice.
- Stay away from areas with numerous cracks, ice ridges and pile-ups
- When in a group, spread out to reduce point loading of the ice.
- Carry Rescue Picks on your person. See how to make your own pair at this website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/claws.html>

Carry a long rope. Stud your track to improve stability and help secure the sled if a tie-off is required.

That's my rant this time. Don't forget- "Publisher Please! See you on the trails!



Jim Richard, treasurer

Send photos and articles to
KNOXTRAIL@GMAIL.COM

THE WEATHER REPORT

This season is taking shape! We are getting plenty of cold to freeze the ground and water for a good base when the significant snow does arrive.



The New Bridge at Greenwater Pond

CLUB NEWS BITES

SNOWMOBILE COURSE

The training course was held at the Clubhouse on November 24. There

were 39 students with 100% pass rate. Randy Toth, Gary Bushey and Bill Taylor ran the course. Thanks guys!

SNOSHOW REPORT



October 13th. and 14th. were two busy days for volunteers Corey Tribula, Mike Bannish, Bill and Joyce Taylor, and Jim Richard. Raffles for two RC Hummers and 50/50 were held. 10/10 tickets were sold and groomer donations received. For two years running, the SnoShow participation has been break-even. However, the exposure to our club is priceless. Vintage sleds were the showstoppers, as

GIVE the PERFECT GIFT and SUPPORT the CLUB too!!!

GIVE 10/10 tickets

What is the 10/10 Club and how does it work?

1. Call 413-269-7318 or email knoxtrail@gmail.com for your ticket(s)
2. Legibly fill out the stub and return it with \$10 for each ticket purchased.
3. On each WEDNESDAY starting January 16, 2008 and for the following 9 Wednesdays the following will happen:
The four 3 digit numbers on your stub will be compared with the last 3 digits of the 4 digit MASS Daily Number.
4. If your number matches, a check for \$50 will be sent to you!
5. If your number is one more or one less, a check for \$25 will be sent to you! Example: MA No. 3456. 456 wins \$50, 455 and 457 win \$25

There is no need to do anything. Your prize will be sent automatically. There are 120 chances to win. All proceeds benefit the KTSR Groomer Fund.

shown in these photos by Jamie Richard.



KTSR SWEAT SHIRTS & TEES

The Club is considering offering for sale a line of official KTSR sweat shirts and tees. The decision to do this rests upon the interest of the membership and others. Taking custom orders eliminates excess inventory, saving the Club money. The printer requires a minimum order of 24 items so if we can secure 24 orders we can proceed. The website will have pictures soon. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, EMAIL KNOXTRAIL@GMAIL or call Bill Taylor or Jim Richard



MassWildlife

This table of ice strength is presented for the benefit of ice anglers and other winter sports people. The figures are for clear, blue ice on lakes and ponds. Reduce strength values 15% for clear blue, river ice. Slush or snow (white) ice is only one-half the strength of blue ice and can be very treacherous. "Honeycombed" ice, which occurs in the spring or during major winter thaws as the ice is melting, is the most dangerous ice, and best avoided unless the angler is certain there is a

safe layer of solid ice beneath the honeycombed surface. Anglers should also be aware that many lakes and ponds contain spring holes and other areas of current that may create deceptively dangerous thin spots in areas that are otherwise safe. Always use caution, and don't venture out onto unfamiliar waters without checking ice thickness frequently.

Keep an Eye on the Ice! -- Winter has made its appearance in Massachusetts at last, but the warm weather and uneven temperatures that have prevailed in the state so far this season mean the condition of ice on the Bay State's water-bodies is unpredictable at best and could be treacherous. MassWildlife urges outdoor enthusiasts to play it safe and check ice carefully before venturing onto ice-covered waters.

HOW CAN I TELL IF ICE IS SAFE?

There are no guarantees -- always consider ice potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Make sure you continue to do this as you go further out on to the ice, because the thickness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake. Be aware that ice tends to be thinner on lakes and ponds where there are spring holes, inlets or outlets. Be sure to wear "ice pins" to aid in getting out of water, should you fall through. Don't venture on to ice bound rivers or streams as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

WHAT DO I DO IF I FALL IN?

As with any emergency, DON'T PANIC! Briefly call for help. It doesn't take long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental functions, so you must act quickly. Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time aiding your buoyancy. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. Try to pull your body up. Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice. This will better distribute your weight. Remember: ice you have previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice, don't waste precious time! You need to warm up as quick as you can to prevent hypothermia. Go to the nearest bob house, warm car, or home. PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM MASS WILDLIFE

Ice Thickness (inches)	Permissible Load (clear, blue, lake ice)
2	One person on foot
3	Group, in single file
5	Group (6-8 people) together
7½	Passenger car (2 ton gross)
8	Light truck (2½ ton gross)
10	Medium truck (3½ ton gross)
12	Heavy truck (7 to 8 ton gross)
15	10 tons
20	25 tons
25	45 tons
30	70 tons

Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. is a snowmobile club located in Otis, MA. Its purpose is to promote the sport of snowmobiling. Formed in 1971, the club is in its 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 32 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: Andy Johnston, 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 2007, Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc.

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Remember to SLED RESPONSIBLY!



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Knox Trail Sno-Riders