

## February '07 Newsletter



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*"Hopefully when you read this newsletter, the trails will be open. If not, please continue to be patient"*

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## Notice! February Meeting Date Change!

The February meeting of the Marcellus Snowmobile Club will be **Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**, not on the second Wednesday of the month as usual.

This is due to the fact that Valentines Day falls on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

The date change is NOT because we all are, how shall I say in polite terms, so highly endeared to our significant other's that we won't be able to make the meeting (even though we are!) because it is Valentines Day.

The real issue is that this happens to be a very busy day for Footprints Restaurant, and they will be using the space we normally occupy to serve dinner to all the love birds out there.

So if you show up at Footprints on Wednesday, you better have your wife (or husband) along with you for a special Valentines Day dinner, 'cause there ain't gonna be no snowmobile meeting there! Instead, there will be a whole bunch of couples looking to chow down before they get down, if you get my "drift".

If you **are** inclined to spend Valentines Day with your honey, why not make reservations at Footprints and help support the owner, Jim, as he has gone out of his way to help the club this year.

If there is snow, then maybe instead you can do a different kind of "riding" (on your sled!), that you haven't done in a long, long time. Happy V-Day.

## Message from the President

As I write this message, I am **STILL** waiting for enough snow to fall in order to do some real riding, like we did, um, 2 years ago! I was waiting patiently; but now my patience has gone out the window where the snow should be! February. Where is the freaking snow?!

Currently the trails technically are **OPEN**, but there really isn't enough snow on them for serious riding. I know everyone is as eager to ride as I am. However, YOU need to decide for yourself whether it is worth it to ride on dirt, mud, stones and water. If you do ride, be gentle on the land; try not to rip it up. Remember, it doesn't belong to you; we are just borrowing it for a while!

Even though you may look out at your yard and think that there is enough snow, or you have ridden a bit and are happy with what we have, the majority of our trails are still thread bare, dirt and rock, with little snow. Many of the trails pass through woods that the snow hasn't fallen on, many go through farmers fields rutted and rock hard, or over their winter wheat crops.

So the decision on whether to ride or not is yours now, the gates are open. If you do ride, ride smart, ride safe, and ride **OFTEN** if we get some real snow.



## 2007 Club Raffle

**This is important!** – Time is quickly running out to sell tickets for the Marcellus Snowmobile Club raffle. Please bring your money and unsold tickets with you to the February meeting, so that we can get a better idea of how many tickets are actually currently sold. As a reminder, the prizes are:

**Grand Prize:** Choice of one of the following- Polaris 550 Super Sport Snowmobile, Polaris Hawkeye ATV, or \$4000.00 cash.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** John Deere 102 Lawn Tractor

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** \$500.00 cash

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize:** \$300.00 cash

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize:** \$200.00 cash

**6<sup>th</sup> Prize:** \$100.00 cash

Tickets are \$20.00 each, and members are encouraged to sell AS MANY tickets as you can! Last year's raffle was very profitable for us; let's make this year's even more so.

The drawing will be held Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Toad Hollow/Marcellus Poker Run to be held at Orchard Valli. See page 4 for details.

Seriously, how about one final push to sell as many as you can before the next meeting. Let's make even more of a profit than last year; it goes a long way to helping out our bottom line and keeping us "in the green". (Or should that be "in the white", as in snow, grooming, riding, etc?). Where's the snow?

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*The club raffle is an important part of our fundraising effort. We need people to sell those tickets like crazy!*

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## Trail Information

What can be said? The trails are **open**; ride at your own risk and use common sense. There really isn't much snow on the trails, but they are open.

Mike Lanning has been putting the finishing touches on the trails with the help of many volunteers who have shown up to help out. Lately, it has been mainly pounding sign posts from here to eternity!

Everyone who has turned out to give a helping hand when needed on the trails, a big THANK YOU goes out to you. If you have been out working on the trails, clearing brush, making bridges, shoveling dirt, pounding stakes, then this is directed at YOU! I don't have the space or the memory capacity to name all the names, so one big thank-you goes to everyone involved.

If snow does happen to accumulate and you are interested in grooming, please contact Mike Lanning. Again, as shown with trail work, the more people we get involved grooming, the better our trails will be, and the easier it will become to maintain the trails.

Don't be afraid to approach Mike or Tom McHale if you are interested in grooming, even if you have no idea what is involved. Learning is half the fun, and getting the groomer unstuck from a snow bank is the other half of the fun. All kidding aside, we do need help with grooming the trails

If you come across a closed gate on the trail that means the trail is CLOSED. Don't go around it, don't open the gate, and don't cut the lock. Turn around, and go home! Even though the season is officially open, if there isn't enough snow, the trails will be closed again. It's Mike and Tom's call, no exceptions! I know it sucks, but by now club members should know why that is, and hopefully you will be riding the trails when this newsletter arrives!



## Club Profile: Officer's Information

**President:** Tom McHale- 673-9206 [tmchale@marcellusnowmobileclub.com](mailto:tmchale@marcellusnowmobileclub.com)  
**Vice President:** Steve Frank- 696-0056 [sfrank@marcellusnowmobileclub.com](mailto:sfrank@marcellusnowmobileclub.com)  
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**Treasurer:** Mary Knapp- 696-6632 [mknapp@marcellusnowmobileclub.com](mailto:mknapp@marcellusnowmobileclub.com)  
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**Board Member:** Charlie Black- 673-2330 [cblack@marcellusnowmobileclub.com](mailto:cblack@marcellusnowmobileclub.com)  
**Address:** Marcellus Snowmobile Club, P.O. Box 111, Marcellus, NY 13108  
**Website:** [www.marcellusnowmobileclub.com](http://www.marcellusnowmobileclub.com)



*Contact any officer when the need arises. That is what we are here for!*

## Financial Statement

**As of 1/3/07**

**Petty Cash:** \$1324.44  
**Checking Account:** \$746.24  
**Savings Account:** \$6515.71  
**Groomer Account:** \$745.40



We finally bit the bullet and purchased the Dell laptop for the club. This computer will be used to maintain all of the club information including membership information, financial information, worksheets, and all of the other reams of forms and paperwork the state requires clubs to maintain



Below you will find a partial list of upcoming events. For a more extensive, up-to-the-minute list, check out the [calendar](#) on our website under "Events Calendar".

<b>Next Meeting:</b>	February 15th
<b>Toad Hollow Meeting:</b>	February 7th
<b>Trailwork:</b>	Ongoing
<b>Onondaga County Association Meeting</b>	February 20th
<b>Great Eastern Whiteout</b>	February 9th-11th
<b>"Toad/Cellus" Poker Run:</b>	February 17th
<b>Camillus Snowmobile Club Poker Run</b>	February 10th





**TOADHOLLOW TRAILRIDERS  
AND  
MARCELLUS SNOWMOBILE  
CLUB**

**\*\*\*\*\* 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 2007 POKER RUN \*\*\*\*\***

\$20.00 PER PARTICIPANT  
(INCLUDES FOOD)

**FEBURARY 17, 2007 (SATURDAY)  
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10:30 A.M AT ANY OF THESE  
PARTICIPATING ESTABLISHMENTS:**

Amber Inn – Drop & Ride  
Preble Hotel  
Moon Dance  
Jr's Kart Lounge  
Orchard Vali –Drop & Ride  
Hill-N-Dale  
Denny's Mountainview  
Tanner Valley Golf Course – Drop & Ride

**SNOW OR NO SNOW!!!!!!!  
COME BY CAR, TRUCK, SLED OR HORSEBACK**

- PARTICIPANTS CAN BUY AN EXTRA HAND FOR \$10.00
  - GET CARD STAMPED AT ALL STOPS – (1 CARD PER STAMP)
  - Dinner For Non Riders For \$10.00
  - Band “ FULLY LOADED” at 8:00 pm
  - Marcellus Raffle Drawing to be held at party- tickets still available
- BE BACK AT ORCHARD VALI BY 6 P.M SHARP!**

***1<sup>ST</sup> Prize \$100.00 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$75.00 \* 3<sup>d</sup> Prize \$50.00 \* 4<sup>th</sup> Prize \$25.00***

# 2007 Benefit Raffle

Marcellus



Snowmobile Club

<http://www.marcellussnowmobileclub.com>

## Grand Prize

Your Choice of:



Polaris 550 Super Sport Sled



Polaris Hawkeye ATV



\$4000 Cash

## Second Prize



John Deere 102 Lawn Tractor

## 3rd Prize

\$500 Cash

## 4th Prize

\$300 Cash

## 5th Prize

\$200 Cash

## 6th Prize

\$100 Cash

**Tickets \$20.00**

Available at:

Clark's Mobil Station (Rt 20 Skaneateles)  
 Bobbett Implement (Rt 20 Skaneateles)  
 or Call 730-6662

\*\*Winner Responsible for Sales Tax  
 on Sled, ATV and Tractor

**Drawing on Saturday February 17th**  
 at Toad Hollow / Marcellus Poker Run

# Rants & Raves

1. A big round of applause goes out to Sarah DeCapio for spearheading our social gathering Saturday, January 20th. We had a god turn out, and for those of you there, I hope you enjoyed yourself as much as I did!

Also, Kudos to Dan Horst and his side kicks, "Not Quite Right", for providing the entertainment. Even though there isn't snow, we can still have fun as a club, as was evidenced on Saturday by all who were there.

2. I wanted to take the time to recognize one of the "unsung heroes" of our club, and that would be our treasurer, Mary Knapp. I don't think many people realize how much work she puts in behind the scenes to keep our club running. Dealing with the state and all of their bureaucratic paperwork mumbo jumbo hogwash is a daunting task at best, and frustrating and cumbersome as well. Not only does Mary handle the money for the club, she also fills out all the forms necessary to get reimbursed by the state. Here's to you, Mary.

Now I know many of you will be sitting out their thinking, "the least that F\*\*\*\*\* a\*\* h\*\*\* could do is recognize me in this stinking newsletter for all I have done", and I couldn't agree more. But just because your name isn't mentioned, we all know that you have put in the time working on trails, working on the groomer, working on social functions, and working on (or off) your beer belly.

So don't feel slighted when we ride on the trail to Foot Prints and your name wasn't mentioned in making the trail. Don't feel badly when we ride the trail between the lakes and your name wasn't named for maintaining it. Don't get upset if you are a landowner whose land we graciously cross in our sport and don't specifically thank. Or if you happen to be one of those members who get calls at all hours about the club, about when the trails are opening, about where to send an application, etc, etc, etc.

This is my special thank you to **ALL OF YOU** as well. And even though your name may go unmentioned, your work most certainly does not go unnoticed.

Finally remember this: if we aren't even able to ride 1 mile this year because of crappy weather, think how much farther we will be ahead of the game next year. So your hard work wasn't all in vain. I know it's not much to hold on to, but a person needs something to lift his spirits after spending so much time and effort and not being able to enjoy the "fruits of his labor".

I guess I would liken it to a farmer tending to his crops all year, only to have them ruined just before harvest by bad weather. Except farmers need to make a living and survive, not ride a snowmobile. So I guess they are on 2 different levels. But similar. I wouldn't know though, because I don't farm, so I don't know what I'm talking about. I do tend to a little garden though, but that doesn't grow either because I get sick of taking care of it. Never mind.

3. On a serious note, I wanted to mention something that troubles me, and should trouble you too. It seems that this has been the deadliest beginning to the snowmobiling season that I can ever remember. Every time I turn on the TV or read the newspaper, there isn't just one accident reported, but sometimes 2 or even 3. I won't get into naming names or events, because we are talking about friends and families loved ones. But it does need mentioning.

Snowmobiling can be a dangerous sport, no matter how many precautions we take, and how many safety features we have. However, we can minimize the danger greatly by just using our heads a little bit more. They used to say in the '60's that speed kills (or so I've been taught in school). But what really kills is speed mixed with alcohol mixed with inexperience. Any one of the 3 are extremely dangerous if not taken seriously, combining them makes for a deadly cocktail.

So please, please, slow down. There are plenty of locations for using the throttle for its full effect, but our whole trail system isn't one giant speedway. Use your head. Stop drinking and riding your sled intoxicated. Once you get on that 150 HP machine and you are drunk, the beer muscles come out and its thumb to the handle bar all the way. Think about it while you are sober, and act on it when you are riding. Finally, use your first ride of the season to get your riding skills back in order. If you have friends new to the sport, help them out by giving them pointers on how to ride a snowmobile safely, while still having fun. You CAN be safer, and have fun at the same time.

I don't want to sound like some old geezer, 'cause I'm not. I just want everyone to take a minute and think about what they are doing before they get on their machines and put their life, their friend's life, or my life in danger because they decided to act stupid. Or worse, they let the speed and the booze decide for them.

I can't stand the bad rap snowmobilers get because of a few people who make poor choices! I can't tell you the number of non-riders who seem to take aim at snowmobile riders as a group every time they read about an accident. They do so because it really wasn't accidental, since it involved speed, alcohol, or inexperience.

People shouldn't have to die or get seriously hurt just to have fun. And our sport is about having fun, isn't it?

# Advertisers Section

We have dedicated this page to anyone who wishes to publish their business card for all in the club to see. For \$20.00, we will print your business card here for each newsletter.

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