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After years of trying, we finally got funded for the "Trail between the Lakes"!



2007 Club Raffle Drawing Results!

The Marcellus Snowmobile Club Raffle took place Saturday, February 17th, at Orchard Vali Golf Course after the Toad/Cellus Poker Run. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Grand Prize: \$4000.00 cash to **Mark Kinney**, of which he donated \$1000.00 to Brian Gale's family and \$250.00 each to Marcellus and Toad Hollow Clubs!

2nd Prize: John Deere Lawn Tractor to Frank **Mincola**, of Franks Moon Dance.

3rd Prize: \$500.00 cash to a **Mr. Burdick**, who donated it to Brian Gale's family!

4th Prize: \$300.00 cash to **Purey Clark**.

5th Prize: \$200.00 cash to **Maggie Horst**.

6th Prize: \$100.00 cash to **Jim Tracy**

At this point, with all the bills paid and all outstanding debt related to the drawing paid, the club profited approximately:

\$9,550.00.

Message from the President

Like many of you, I can't believe that it is March already! We just get to start to ride our snowmobiles, waiting in agony for the snow to fall, and now we are hedging away the days away until we are ready to pack them away and get out the boats and campers.

This season has been a real challenge for the Marcellus Snowmobile Club. We have doubled the number of memberships, mostly due to the two-tier system implemented by the state. In addition, we have also almost doubled the number of miles of trails that we are required to maintain, with the approval of Marcellus's new trail "**S55A**". To most of you, this will still be referred to as the "Trail between the Lakes".

And although I am glad that we finally, after 4 years, got this trail recognized, it also means that our hidden gem will be hidden no more. Furthermore, we will now be **REQUIRED** to maintain it, not maintain it when we feel like it.

At next weeks meeting we need to discuss how we can address these issues. We will probably discuss the purchase of a new groomer, and together we need to figure out how to make our members (that's YOU!) more involved in the club! With these new trails, we will need all the hands we can get! Happy **St. Patty's Day** for all you green wearing (not riding) people.



Financial Statement



As of 11/08/06

Petty Cash: \$117.84

Checking Account: \$334.22

Groomer Account: \$807.35

Savings Account: \$7163.55

We've got bread in the bank, and will be positioned quite well come next year to weather the significant drop in funding that we will be seeing. We will need to be financially prudent, as the state will be cutting our main corridor funding from \$500.00 per mile to approximately \$300.00 per mile, and our secondary funding will be cut from \$300 per mile to \$125.00 per mile. These figures represent HALF of the funding we received in years past!

The state bases the following years funding on the number of registrations it receives by December 31st of the previous year. Since many people chose NOT to register their sleds until after December 31st, the registrations this year were half of what they were in years past. And even though the numbers have picked up somewhat since the snow has been falling, they are still significantly less than last year, and regardless we will receive half the money from the state next year to maintain our trails.

If you know someone who has chosen NOT to register his sled, then it is up to YOU to call him on it when he rides on our trail system, the same trails that he didn't help pay for like you and me!

Trail Information

Please note that the trails have been rerouted in a few areas. The first area is where the trail crosses Slate Hill Road. The snow banks were just too high to cross, and the snowplows were damaging their wings when we cut an opening into the road. The trail now routes South to Schuyler Road, and crosses near the intersection of Schuyler and Slate Hill. Look for the Signs.

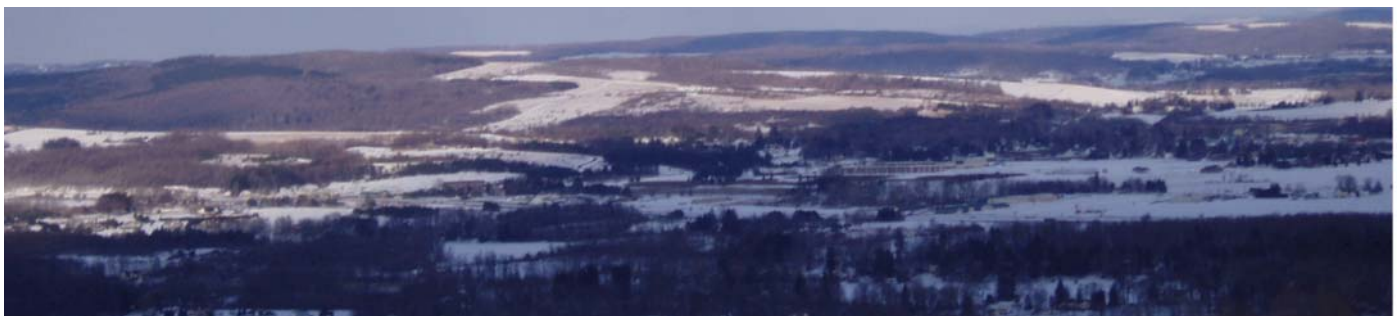
Also- The trail from footprints has changed somewhat. As you come out of the hill from Footprints (which many people have complained about- learn to ride!), a homeowner has asked us to stay farther left across that field, so that we don't get too close to his house. That trail has been re- signed by Dave, so follow the signs and you should be ok!

Anybody interested in grooming see or call Mike Lanning. It really is a fun thing to do, even if you have no clue what you are doing! I can guarantee that you will pick it up fairly easily. Don't be nervous, we won't leave you out there by yourself!

If you come across downed signs, rocks, debris, or garbage, stop and pick it up! Our trails are some of the best in the area, let's keep them that way!



A nice afternoon of riding on the Saturday of the Poker Run. The sun was out; it was warm, who could ask for more



Club Profile: Officer's Information

President: Tom McHale- 673-9206 tmchale@marcellusnowmobileclub.com
Vice President: Steve Frank- 696-0056 sfrank@marcellusnowmobileclub.com
Secretary: Sarah DeCapio- 673-3425 sdecapio@marcellusnowmobileclub.com
Treasurer: Mary Knapp- 696-6632 mknapp@marcellusnowmobileclub.com
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Board Member: Dan Horst- 673-3349 dhorst@marcellusnowmobileclub.com
Board Member: Charlie Black- 673-2330 cblack@marcellusnowmobileclub.com



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

Address: Marcellus Snowmobile Club, P.O. Box 111, Marcellus, NY 13108

Website: www.marcellusnowmobileclub.com



Upcoming Events

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

Next Meeting: March 14th
Toad Hollow Meeting: March 7th
Onondaga County Association Meeting March 20th
NYSSA Annual Meeting/Forum: April 13th-April 15th



Hot Dog Roast Recap

Below you will find pictures from the Hot Dog Roast that took place at Dave and Trish Cryslers house on Saturday, February 3rd. A whole bunch of people showed up, and a great time was had by all who were in attendance! Thanks Dave & Trish!



As I look back over the past 4 years, it amazes me how far we have come as a club. Back then, sitting in the restaurant at the Marietta House, with Dan Horst as our president, things were starting to change, both in the sport, and in the club. A momentum was building, and I certainly could feel it. The days of renegade riding were quickly coming to an end.

Rants & Raves

Dan got the club incorporated, we did some public events like the Vintage Snowmobile Show, and there was always Winter Fest and Olde Home Days to deal with every year.

But now we have a new president, Tom McHale, who has been at the helm for 2 years. As we look back, and forward, I ponder what has been accomplished in those two years?

During those years, the club has grown significantly. Granted, some of the growth is attributed to the two-tier registration process. But even more important than growing, I think our club has **MATURED** into one of the premier clubs in the area.

It has been around Tom that people have rallied to get the trails in the condition that they are in today. Being his friends, Dave Chrysler and I and Tom constantly sit around and talk about how we can *make the club better*. We discuss how can we reroute the trails to get them off of roads? How can we improve the trails to make them safer? What equipment do we need to maintain our trails, and how do we work to secure that equipment? Our biggest quandary is getting the people in the club more involved in day to day activities.

Much improvement has been done to the trails in the past 2 years. The trails are wider, many bridges have been replaced, and trails have been rerouted for safety. Much of the credit needs to go to Tom, he is the one who calls people at home and politely asks that they come help out. He can't do it alone, and it isn't fair for 10% of the members to shoulder all of the work. If everyone would just pick one area to help out, just for a few hours, the results would be unbelievable! Many hands make light work, or so they say.

We have over 200 members in our club. Where **ARE** they every month? They certainly aren't at the meetings. It is extremely discouraging. WE NEED EVERYONES HELP! If we had it, the levels we could reach with the club would be phenomenal. The best in the area. People need to realize this is their club, and they need to put into it that which they want out of it. It should be a GROUP effort, with all involved.

And in regard to the meetings: I am sure some of you, just like me, are sometimes sideswiped by Tom's "gruff" ambassador-like manner to motivate people to get things done. But I can tell you from personal experience; there is NO WAY that I would take his job as president. I am dumbfounded by the number of people who call Tom at all hours of the day and night, weekdays and weekends, who most certainly are not calling for a friendly conversation! So I can fully understand when he has a thing or two to say about people's lack of involvement in the club. Don't take it personally, unless it is towards you!

Many of the people who call Tom believe that they are somehow **OWED** something by the club, and that it is their right to get that payment from Tom. People who wait 4 months to register their sleds, and then can't understand why he won't meet them at the DMV with a voucher in one hand and a piece of toilet paper in the other to wipe their a**. People who feel that it is Tom's sole responsibility to groom every trail, 24 hours a day. Or people who think that every person who disobeys our signs and rules and upsets the neighbors will be apprehended and punished by Tom, as long as he is well informed about all violations.

Where I'm going with this is here- being the president is a thankless job, so try thanking him the next time you see him. And if he seems a little gruff at the meetings, then understand that he has every right to be that way! And be happy it isn't you he has the beef with!

P.S.- Thanks 1 million times over to R.C., and Elvis! Without them leading the raffle drive, we would have made about \$50.00. That is what I'm talking about-Spearheading the effort, taking charge!

I had written and prepared a whole section for this page on the rudeness and dangerous practices of many snowmobilers. This was done after several close calls my group experienced on the poker run, and general disbelief at some riders who just don't get it! Unfortunately, due to my profanity, anger, and racism towards certain **colored sleds**, that section was deemed way too over the top for a family newsletter, and my "editors" cut it. Instead, I decided to use the space below to reinforce safety for all snowmobilers, not just the ones riding a particular **color** sled that seems to account for more problems than the others.

Snowmobile Safety Tips

Never consume alcohol or drugs before or during snowmobile operation. Drinking alcohol before or during snowmobiling can impair judgment and slow reaction time. Snowmobilers who have been drinking often drive too fast. Alcohol also causes body temperature to drop at an accelerated rate, which increases the likelihood of hypothermia. It has been stated over and over again that Alcohol has been shown to be a contributing factor in most fatal snowmobile accidents.



However, Deputy Mike Leviker, head of the Lewis County Sheriff's department snowmobile patrol, believes this is a misconception. "I don't think that alcohol consumption is as great a problem as the public thinks it is," he said. "We had 45 accidents in Lewis County last year. Only 2 were alcohol related." His advice:

Slow down. Speed is a contributing factor in nearly all fatal snowmobiling accidents. Officer Leviker indicates that SPEED is responsible for 75% of the accidents he sees. The other quarter, according to him, is the result of inexperience and not paying attention. Drivers should proceed at a pace that will allow ample reaction time for any situation. Drive at moderate speeds, and drive defensively, especially after sunset.



Carry a first-aid kit, flashlight, knife, compass, map, and waterproof matches. Also a siphon, funnel, tow strap, and spare belt and spare spark plugs. Bring your cell phone, but don't depend on it working. Also, a GPS can be useful.

Avoid traveling across bodies of water when uncertain of ice thickness or water currents. Rapidly changing weather and moving water in streams and lake inlets also affect the thickness and strength of ice on lakes and ponds. Snow cover can act as a blanket and prevents thick strong ice from forming.

Dress appropriately. Always wear a helmet with goggles or a face shield to prevent injuries from twigs and flying debris. Wear layers of water-repellent clothing and make sure you have no loose ends that might catch in the machine or tangle in equipment. A spare set of socks and gloves can be a lifesaver if your originals get wet, as can a second pair of goggles, and a cloth to wipe them down with. A head sock helps.

Stay on marked trails or, where allowed, on the right shoulder of the road. Be alert for fences, tree stumps and barbed wire that may be concealed by snow. Landowners tell us where we can ride, **STAY IN THOSE AREAS!** Don't blaze your own trails across open fields off of the marked trails. Farmers do grow in winter.

Also, **ditch those aftermarket exhaust cans**, or soon we will have nowhere to ride due to the obnoxious noise! This is the land owners #1 complaint. Why is it necessary to make yourself as loud as possible? Identity crisis on your part, perhaps? I have nothing but contempt for people with aftermarket exhausts.

Never travel alone. Most snowmobile accidents result in personal injury. The most dangerous situations occur when a person is injured and alone. Plan to ride with your friends; it is more fun that way! If you must travel alone, tell someone your destination, planned route, and when you will return. **RIDE SAFE!**

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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