

Hodag Sno-News

February 2009

“Sno News is Good News”

www.hodagsnotrails.com

The monthly Newsletter of Hodag Sno-Trails Snowmobile Club; P.O. Box 621; Rhinelander, WI 54501

President – Scott Hetland 362-8040 shetland@printpack.com Vice President – Leonard Gescheidle 369-9165 legsjr@frontiernet.net Editor – Frank Bennett 369-3980 himself@charter.net

SHORTER SEASON FOR 2010? SEE GOV'T ON P. 2 (YOUR HELP IS NEEDED)
SILENT AUCTION – SEE CLUB BUSINESS ON P.1

Trail News: “*♪ Walk on through the rain, ♪♪ with hope in your heart...!*” sang Frank Sinatra, Doris Day, and even Johnny Cash. Now it's our turn to hope. The January thaw came in February this year and stayed longer than forecast. Our trails were rated Very Good before this thaw and will hopefully come through it in at least Fair condition. There was an excellent hard frozen base before the warm winds struck and this is holding together in sheltered areas such as the woodlands which comprise the majority of our system. Bare spots and snirt are the order of the day in open areas however. Freezing weather is forecast before the coming weekend, and if we can get some more snow, we'll be back on track. Hope. Visit www.snowtracks.com/wisconsin/rhinelander.htm for updates.

There will be logging on the McNaughton and Enterprise trail system so please be careful and slow down in these areas.

Club Business: The members present at the January meeting discussed whether to pay down or pay off the \$23,000 loan for the Fendt tractor which was purchased in 2004. This loan, which also includes some money borrowed for other equipment purchases in 2006, comes due May 2009. They voted to pay off the entire balance! We will need to begin to think about replacing one of the tracked vehicles in the next few years. The LMC and Bombardier are each more than ten years old. If we want to maintain our trails with reliable equipment, we need to continue to invest in the equipment.

It looks like we are going to be in the same financial shape as last year in regards to funding. The snow is state-wide again this year and funds will be distributed throughout the state, not leaving much in the pot for supplemental funds. On the positive side, your club received \$1000 from Rhinelander Room Tax monies.

The January 50/50 raffle was won by Jim Forsyth, he won \$35.00 and \$35 came back to the club. Bob Goodin reports that nearly all of the 1,000 “Take Pride & Ride raffle tickets have been sold. He still has a few, so contact him at 369-9280 if you still need to purchase any.

John Schroeder, a Club member from Waunakee was kind enough to donate a nearly new snowmobile dolly for the club to use as a fundraiser. It is pictured at right and the 44” frame will accept any modern sled. We intend to make this available to Club members (and anyone else) through a **silent auction**. Here's how it will work:

Bidders should e-mail the Sno-Trails editor, himself@charter.net with their bid. I will reply by sending an e-mail to every e-mail address we have on our current membership list stating what that bid was. If you're not interested in the dolly and don't want to be bothered by the e-mails, just tell me that in a response and I'll remove your address from the list that goes out. If you can't reach me by e-mail then call my cell phone, (715) 367-0338 and I'll put your bid out for others to see. The winner will be announced in the March issue of Hodag Sno-News and so the bids will close at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, March 10th. I will be traveling during some of this period but should always be reachable by e-mail or cell phone (leave a message with your name and bid if necessary).

A great group from our club got together for an informal club ride on Saturday January 31st. Paul Erdrich, a member from Illinois led a group of 10 sleds on a loop around the east sections of our trails and up near Three Lakes. The group met at Judy's Twin Pines at 10:00 AM and started out towards Sugar Camp for a fuel stop. Lunch at Sankeys in Three Lakes was outstanding as usual.



(Over, Please)

(Informal Club Ride - Cont'd) They went out into Forest County and through Crandon. They ended the day at Holiday Acres for an excellent dinner for the 11 members that made the 125 mile loop, namely: Paul Erdrich, his wife LaNell, and daughter Emily, John Erdrich, his wife Kris, and kids Alexis, Brice, and Shai, Rick and Mary Sweo, and Rick Covin.

The Club ride and overnight stay at the Mole Lake Casino on Monday, February 2nd was a good time for the Twenty-three people who participated. Nineteen sleds made the ride and they report that the new trail to the Casino cuts down the time from Rhinelander to less than two hours. We may have photos next month.

The annual Landowners Appreciation Dinner will be Friday, April 3rd at Holiday Acres. Please bring any improvement ideas or suggestions to the next few meetings. If you can help with the set-up, dinner, or clean-up, please come to one of the next two meetings to sign-up or contact Lenny Gescheidle.

Government: DNR's 2009 Spring Conservation Congress Hearing will be at James Williams Junior High School in Rhinelander on April 13, 2009 at 7:00 PM. This year's Questionnaire may be viewed at:
http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring_hearings/2009/CC-2009-Spring-Questionnaire-Final.pdf

Questions 60 & 61 on page 40 could have a major negative impact on our winter sport. They are as follows:

QUESTION 60 – Would you support a 10-day muzzleloader deer season opening on December 22nd, no matter what day of the week, running through December 31st?

QUESTION 61 – Would you support a 16-day muzzleloader deer season opening the Saturday before Christmas, and continuing through the Sunday following New Years Day? (Example: 12/19/2009 until 1/3/2010)

If this happens it would/could prohibit trails from opening until after the 1st of the year due to landowner issues. The Christmas to New Year snowmobile season is a make-or-break time for our local businesses. **This would devastate the winter economy in Oneida County.** DNR has stated that it will not allow snowmobiling and hunting with a firearm on state land at the same time. Recall also, that Oneida County Forestry, which controls the opening date, requires that all clubs open on the same date. At these annual meetings, advisory votes are taken in each of the separate locations around the state to be used by DNR in their decision making process. This year there are 91 separate questions, so one might expect it will be at least an hour before they get down to Numbers 60 & 61. It is important that the snowmobile community have a large voice in this decision and all are urged to attend and vote on those two questions. Similar meetings will be held throughout Wisconsin on that same date, April 13th. A list of other locations may be found at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring_hearings/2009/CC-Hearing-Notice-09.pdf

Coming Events:

Saturday, Feb 14th - Northern Vintage Snowmobile Race at Stella Town Hall sponsored by Stella Fire Department. Registration 7:00 – 9:00 AM; racing starts at 10:00 AM. *Take Pride & Ride raffle tickets will be on sale (See Bob Goodin).*

Tuesday, Feb. 17th - **HST Monthly Meeting at the Boondocks in Monico at 7:00 PM.** \$10.95 dinner special available for members includes 5 oz. Sirloin Steak and 3 Jumbo shrimp, baked potato, roll w / butter, soup, and coleslaw.

Saturday, Feb. 21st - Forsyth Sunlite Resort Ice-fishing Derby. Concessions, paddle-wheel drawings & camaraderie. Fishing from 10:00- 4:00p.m. Paddle wheel drawings throughout the day. Karaoke @ 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 28th - Northern Vintage Snowmobile Race at St. Germain Community Park sponsored by Bo Boen Snowmobile Club. Registration 7:00 – 9:00 AM; racing starts at 10:00 AM.

Saturday, March 1st - Northern Vintage Snowmobile Race at Sugar Camp Town Hall sponsored by The Sugar Camp Snowmobile Club. Registration 7:00 – 9:00 AM; racing starts at 10:00 AM.

Sunday, March 22nd – Annual Ice Golf Tournament at Fishers Resort on Lake George. Details in next month's *Sno-News*.

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