

“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

Trail News: We're still riding on December snow. The cold weather has saved our trails thus far after our low-snow January and there have been lake-effect flurries every few days which eventually adds up. The trails are frozen solid and packed hard and riding is much better than one would expect from looking at the road crossings. It's time to get out there and do it!

The Bombardier groomer, now our oldest, was down for two weeks but is now back on the job and snow is in the forecast! Shortly after it was returned to service from the electrical failure, the exhaust manifold was found to be cracked. Disassembling the 11 year old broken manifold proved to be a challenge as every bolt and stud fought removal. The water pump was also rebuilt during this time because it had been leaking coolant. This work was completed by the Northwoods Passage mechanic and is greatly appreciated. During the downtime, the Fendt tractor and the new Husky were used to cover the trails assigned to the Bombardier. We have ordered ice spikes for the Husky and installed more aggressive chains for the tractor in order to more effectively handle hills in icy conditions.

Oneida County Forestry did their trail inspection, and we did very well, although we still have some corrections to make such as improving on our directional arrows on both sides of the trail. For readers not familiar with the process, the counties have been delegated the authority to handle the trail funding on behalf of WisDNR and carry out twice yearly safety inspections as part of those duties.

Club Business: Twenty members attended the January meeting at the Tamarack Bar and the 50/50 raffle brought in \$21.00 for the Club. Sale of WRJO's Take Pride and Ride raffle tickets appears to be going well; all tickets are out and we expect to sell all or nearly all of the 1,000 tickets allocated to our Club this year. This should put another \$2,000 in our coffers.

Our own cash raffle is also underway. Tickets cost \$100 each and a total of 125 tickets will be sold. There will be six \$1,000 prizes. This drawing will be on March 21st. Please contact Mary Sweo (369-2621) sweo@frontiernet.net for tickets. The ability to maintain our trails and equipment depends on these types of fundraising efforts. If every member could buy or sell one ticket we would have this covered.

The Club wishes to thank the Town of Pelican Promotion Committee for their generous donation \$1250.



Photo courtesy of Dianne & Michael Syms...Wow!! Thank you...Ed.

(Over)

Club Business(Cont'd):

Elections for Club officers will be held in April, but nominations will be open during the February, March, and April meetings. We will be choosing a Club president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer for two year terms. Unfortunately, Scott says that editor of Hodag Sno-News is lifetime position!

Club Ride: Mary and Rick Sweo are planning a club trip for Feb 21-24 in Upper Michigan. Riders will stay at the Lac View Desert Casino in Watersmeet, MI. Come for 1 day or more. Rooms are \$39-\$69 and members will get \$10 free play, \$5 for food and \$2.50 for a drink. A Michigan trail sticker costs \$35 per sled. You can either leave from here or trailer up to the casino. Please call 369-2621 for more details.

HST Poker Run: This event netted our Club \$133.00, mostly from Fisher's generous donation of the dinner money back to the club. Fourteen participants made the rounds on January 29th & 30th and nineteen came to Fisher's for dinner. The poker winners were: 1st prize of \$75.00 Vicky Lanzendorf; 2nd place \$50.00 Dave Thilmany, and 3rd place of \$25.00 to Scott Douglas. Jill Thilmany won \$38.00 in the 50/50 raffle and Jeff Lanzendorf won one of our Club's cash raffle tickets valued at \$100.00.

City, State, & Regional Activities: The big news, of course, is Senate Bill 406, AWSC's CAP/STEP bill, which, along with its companion AB 598, has come out of Committee and now heads to the Legislature, hopefully in this Fiscal Year. The details have been published previously and the bill may be read at www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/SB-406.pdf, but the net result would be to increase trail funding by about one third. The fiscal analysis has been done by the Legislature and they predict that it will both increase revenues and also increase the DOT's deficit. The reason for this is that the formula for assumed non-highway (snowmobile) gasoline tax revenues would be updated thereby shifting some revenues from the DOT to the DNR's Snowmobile Program. If you haven't already done so, please contact your state senator and assembly person requesting their support for SB 406 and AB 598.

Another state funding issue is the freeing up of nearly half a million dollars held by the DNR as a result of the 2007 Wisconsin Act 226 which increased the Nonresident Trail Pass to \$35 but the Legislature did not change the current statutory formula that permits only \$15 of the \$35 collected from Nonresident Trail Passes to be appropriated for Supplemental Trail Aids. DNR cannot transfer the money from the Snowmobile Account to the Supplemental Trail Aids without prior legislative approval. We hope this will happen in March, thereby increasing our 2008/09 Supplemental funding from 67% to 84%. The Lakeland Times has an informative article about this, which can be found at <http://www.lakelandtimes.com/main.asp?SectionID=9&SubSectionID=9&ArticleID=10874>

The Oneida County Sheriff's Department reports that approximately 170 students have completed the required Snowmobile Safety Course so far this season.

Carol Pederson, a Club member for many years, is also a member of the Oneida County Board of Health. They are conducting a health survey that can be completed online in a matter of minutes and Carol requests those members who would like to participate in such a survey to visit www.co.oneida.gov in order to help identify the most important health issues in Oneida County.

At their February 1st meeting, the Oneida County Snowmobile Council selected Frank Bennett to replace Gene Dallman as the County Representative to the AWSC, thereby keeping this position within Hodag Sno trails.

Coming Events:

Tues. Feb 16 - HST Monthly meeting at Lakeview Inn on Pelican Lake, 7:00 PM

Feb 21-24 – HST Club Ride at Watersmeet, MI. Call (715) 369-2621 for details

Sat. Feb 27 - Great Northern Sno-Cross Series at Eagle River. www.gnssracing.com

March 12 – 14 - AWSC Convention at Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Contact [Marv Haberland](mailto:marvjoh77@sbcglobal.net) for additional information. 920-788-1093 marvjoh77@sbcglobal.net

March 12 – 14 - Great Northern Sno-Cross Series at Eagle River. www.gnssracing.com

Sat. March 13 – Fourth Annual HST **Ice Golf** at Fisher's Resort on Lake George starts at 11:00 AM. Cost will be \$40 for a 4 person team. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Sponsor a golf hole costs \$100 but may be shared by up to 4 sponsors. This event brought in \$900 to the Club's treasury last year and was a good time for all who participated. Call (715) 362-3691 or (888)-249-5794 for details.