

Hodag Sno-News

March 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

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***DNR EXTENDED MUZZLE LOADER SEASON – PLEASE PARTICIPATE – SEE GOV'T-PAGE 2
HARRY HARDY WINS SILENT AUCTION – SEE CLUB BUSINESS ON PAGE 1
FISHERS ICE GOLF-FUN FOR ALL! SEE COMING EVENTS – PAGE 2***

Trail News: The season is most likely over and we hope you had a chance to ride as much as you wished to earlier. The exposed trails are fading fast and Grooming has been suspended unless we receive significant snow. At this writing, we cannot recommend riding the Hodag Trails. It will take at least 4 inches of snow before they would be usable. However, trail conditions can change quickly. Visit www.snowtracks.com/wisconsin/rhinelander.htm for updates. Now is the time of the year where snowmobilers must use their head and stay on the marked trails. Please do not veer off the marked trail to ride on some "fresh" snow. We must respect the properties of the landowners if we wish to enjoy the miles of trails we currently have.

Remember that our leases expire on March 31st. Even if we have early April snow, riders on our trails are trespassers and likely to damage our critical relationships with our landowners.

Club Business: Attendance at the February's meeting was down, despite its having been posted for two months in Hodag Sno-News (Oops!). We attribute the low attendance to the warm weather which prevented members from sledding to the Boondocks in Monico.

We were able to get through the season with only three groomers this year because there was no significant equipment downtime. This is a result of our using newer and better equipment, preventive maintenance, and, of course, good luck. We had only routine maintenance and minor repairs: strobe, drag, hoses, pins, bolts, and light bulbs as well as spare idler wheels and ice spikes for the Bombardier. The Club plans to have an ad for selling the LMC at the AWSC convention (basically sending out feelers for interest). If we can sell the LMC, we may look at purchasing a newer tracked vehicle. These go for over \$150,000 new, so all options for replacement must be considered carefully.

Because of the considerable snow downstate again this year, our supplemental funding is expected to be on the same order as last year's, or about 60%. More details on Club finances will be presented at the April meeting, after the annual board meeting.

We will be accepting nominations for "at-large" board members at the March meeting. The term is two years. Current at-large board members are Larry Dorich, Sue Ohman, and Gene Dallman. Election will be held during April meeting. Typical responsibilities are; provide direction to the Club on financial issues, and Club decision making when issues come up that can't wait for a general meeting.

The Club's Annual Landowners Appreciation Party will be held on Friday, April 3rd at Holiday Acres Resort. An invitation for members is included with this Newsletter. This is always a good time and members are invited. Of course the landowner tickets are complimentary – it's the least we can do for those who make our sport possible! Club Vice President Lenny Gescheidle is organizing the party this year and is in need of volunteers for helping set up, serve, and clean up after the event. There are other chores which need doing also – contact Lenny at 369-9165 if you can lend a hand.

Harry Hardy, a Club member from Rhinelander, posted the high bid in our Silent Auction for the snowmobile dolly generously donated by John Schroeder. The dolly went for \$150.00. We wish to thank all who participated and express appreciation for the 100+ members and other persons who endured the flood of e-mails, particularly in the last few days of the auction.

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Club Business (Cont'd): The club sold all but 10 out of the 1000 WRJO "Take Pride and Ride" tickets and collected \$1,980 of the total \$24,780 raised by all the participating clubs. Thank you Bob Goodin and all the others who sold tickets! The sled was won by Beverly Dittmer of Eagle River who is also the Vice Chair of the Governor's Snowmobile Recreation Council. The happy winner is pictured at right.



Government:

The DNR Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Rule Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual County Meetings, held throughout the state on April 13th at 7:00PM may have a major negative impact on our sport! *This is so critical to the future of snowmobiling in Oneida County that we are repeating it again this month!* Please go to one of the centers (James Williams Junior High School in Rhinelander) or to one of the other locations listed at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring_hearings/2009/CC-Hearing-Notice-09.pdf at the same time and date and express your opinion.

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 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.** 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. 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. Please note that *you do not have to stay for the whole meeting - the vote is now done on a scanable ballot. You can come to the hearing, register, get a questionnaire and ballot, complete your ballot and leave without attending the hearing.*

Coming Events:

Saturday, March 21st – Northwoods Vintage Race Banquet at Northwoods Banquet Center. Details at www.nvsrs.org

Tuesday, March 17th – HST Monthly Meeting at Birchwood Lodge, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 22nd – Annual Ice Golf Tournament at Fishers Resort on Lake George. Tee off 11:30 AM. Four Person Scramble. Snowmobiles or ATV's are strongly recommended! Specialty Holes: Forsyth's, Northwoods and Fishers will have a contest at their bars. Remember all the money raised is for the Club! Reception will be back at Fisher's with prizes. All proceeds will benefit the Hodag Sno-Trails! \$40.00 per 4 person team. Limited to 18 teams. Contact Billi Fisher 362-3691 for details.

Monday, April 3rd – HST Landowners' Appreciation Party. Holiday Acres Resort. Cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6:30

Tuesday, April 14th – HST Monthly Meeting and Board Meeting at Hodag Lanes. Details and times in next month's *Hodag Sno-News*

Monday, April 17th – DNR Spring Hearings- see above. Mark this date on your calendar and please attend!