

# Hodag Sno-News

April 2010

“Sno News is Good News”

[www.hodagsnotrails.com](http://www.hodagsnotrails.com)

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

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**Trail News:** Our Club was awarded Oneida County’s Dick Rust Memorial Trail Maintenance Award for the 2009/10 season at the April meeting of the Oneida County Snowmobile Council. This is the first time HST has been so honored, and the presenter pointed out that the award recognizes improvement in the maintenance of our trails. The County Forester uses the following criteria to make his choice: trail signage accuracy; inspection fixes on a timely basis; trail brushing; trail conditions; and accuracy of paperwork. Many clubs spoke up to congratulate HST on their efforts. In accepting for the Club, President Scott Hetland (shown at left holding the award) was quick to note that the recognition is not his but rather belongs to the people who did the work. Nevertheless it is an honor for our Club to be so recognized. We will have the plaque for a year and will have to decide where to display it. Imagine how much better we could have done had there been more snow?

**Club Business:** Elections for officers will be held at the April meeting. Nominations for all positions are still open and we have only one firm candidate. Pat Wahouske has agreed to run for another term as Treasurer. Please attend the April meeting and help us select leaders for the next two years.

**Cash Raffle:** Thirty four people attended the Drawing Party for the raffle at Holiday Acres on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Each winner received \$1,000 and the Club netted \$5,670 on the raffle. The winners were:

Kent Hepner	Rhinelander	WI
Bill Dotson & Sharon Clapper	Rhinelander	WI
Sherry Loomans & Arlynn Loomans	Rhinelander	WI
Scott & Nancy Bundy	Big Bend	WI
John Erdrich & Paul Erdrich	Aurora	IL
	Rhinelander	WI
Mike & Tammi Christian	Pelican Lake	WI

Also, the food and camaraderie at the party was excellent and a good time was had by all present – see below.



“Horse Race” participants, l. to r: Kim Goodin; Kathy Baker; Kathy Bennett; Donna Forsyth; Jean Fish; & Sharon Clapper. Sharon is pictured here with her race winnings; she also was the only cash raffle winner present at the party but her \$1,000 raffle check had to await State paperwork.

**Landowners' Appreciation Dinner:** Another successful party! This one in appreciation of those generous souls who make our sport possible with no reward but this yearly banquet.



Fifty members and eighty-three landowner guests attended the banquet, which was held at Holiday Acres on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The banquet featured the Skip Wagner Trio – and they even let HST's own Kenny Dumar sit in for a bit. It also provided a venue for the Club to express its appreciation to Mayor Richard Johns by presenting him our first-ever 'Friend of Hodag Sno-Trails' award in appreciation of his support of snowmobiling in the Rhinelander Area.



Thank you everyone who helped to make this dinner a success, but thank you even more to our land owners!

**Fisher's Resort Fourth Annual Ice Golf Results:** This event grows bigger and more enjoyable every year. The 2010 winners were Dave Luckrich, Frank Speckt, Don Knutson and Tom Froelich. They have won this tournament for the 2nd year in a row! There were 11 teams participating in 18 holes of golfing fun. The event, which was held on Lake George on March 13<sup>th</sup>, raised \$1,234 for the Club; up about \$400 from 2009. Hole sponsors were:

Fisher's	The Hodag (misc. donor)	Al Gen Dinner Club
Hempfer Insurance from Wausau	D & R Drywall from Odessa, TX	Sears of Minocqua
Farmers Feed Store	Baileys Town and Country	Rollie and Karen of Lake George
Bucketheads	Tater K Racing	Baker Racing
Northwoods Hideaway	Rocky's Roadhouse	Monico Log Cabin
Print Pack	Rusty Nail	Wayne's Place
Kurey Farms From Appleton	Lurv's Kozy Korner	Heppy Hour Kent Hepner
Birchwood	Northern Lakes Amusement	Walker Painting
Forsyth's Sunlite Resort	Leonard Gescheidle	

### 2009/10 Trail Review:

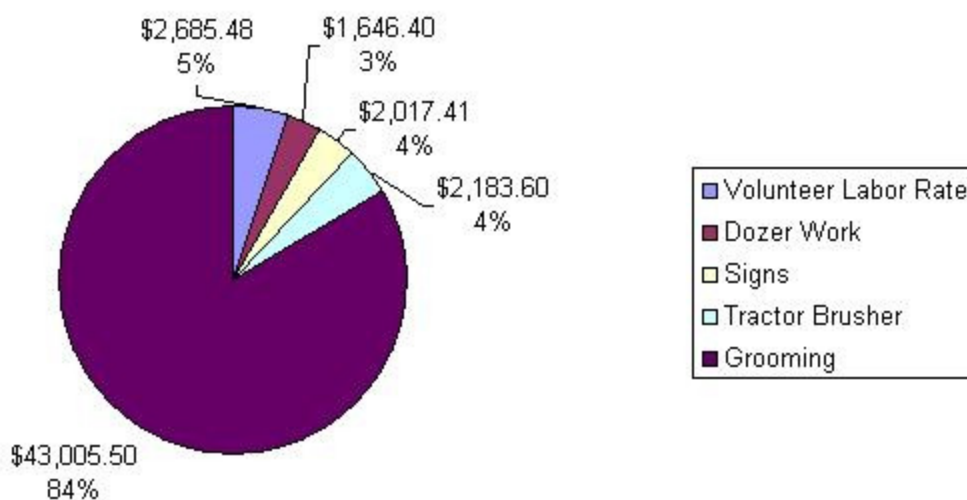
Our trails were officially open from December 17th to March 10th (84 days).

The Club will be submitting \$53,564.00 for grooming and non-grooming work for the 2009-2010 snowmobile season.

The chart at right shows the distribution of this work and the amounts which will be billed to the DNR Snowmobile Fund this year.

Members understand that this is for State funded (Corridor) trails only and that there is no reimbursement for the Club trails which account for roughly one third of our total trail miles.

2009-2010 Trail Maintenance Summary



**March Meeting:** Twenty-six members attended our March meeting at Fisher's. Many of the items discussed appear elsewhere in this newsletter, but there was general agreement that the new traction equipment for the groomers was a huge success. Trail bosses and their crews were reminded to remove necessary signs and temporary fencing for the off season. The members present voted to present the 2010 'Friend of HST' award to Mayor Johns and there was a 'Thank-You' to Forsyth's Sunlite Resort for the \$60 raised for our Club by their recent ice fishing tournament. No new nominations for officers were put forward, and the matter will be decided in April as per the Club's bylaws. Scott Hetland won the 50/50 raffle which paid \$24 to him and the Club both.

**Membership:** HST is ending the season with 120 members. We are especially grateful to the 45 members who live outside the Rhinelander area and still see fit to support HST. You may be able to help out big time! (See below)

**Legislative Issues:** Passage of the CAP/STEP legislation, which would increase trail maintenance funds by about \$3 million per year without substantially affecting Club members, continues to be our biggest legislative goal. **This bill is currently stalled in the Joint finance Committee** and their last agenda for this season does not show that it will be discussed. Politicians listen to their *constituents*, and unfortunately none of the Joint Finance members represent our area. All Club members received an e-mail a few weeks back which listed the membership of the Joint Finance Committee. If one of those members represents the district in which any of our non resident members vote, then a call to that Senator or Representative's office could make a major difference in trail funding.

Note to HST's non-resident members: Please check that list to see if any of the JFC members represent your State Senate or Assembly District, and call their office requesting support for SB406/AB598. If you need another copy of the JFC members list, please contact the Editor ([himself@charter.net](mailto:himself@charter.net)).

There are numerous other snowmobile-related bills moving through the legislative ooze, and some are supported by the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs and some are not. SB406/AB598 remains the major issue.

HST's Vice President Lenny Gescheidle and past V.P. Ken Dumar were among the 400 snowmobilers attending the legislative 'Storm the Hill' event in Madison on March 30<sup>th</sup>, a few of whom are shown below:



They visited the offices of both Senator Jim Holperin (for the bill) and Representative Dan Meyer (against it). Perhaps we may be able to convince our Representative from Eagle River otherwise, but the main issue right now is to get it out of the Joint Finance Committee. Thank you Lenny and Ken, for your continued support of our sport.

**Club Miscellany:** Jeff Forsythe received his Eagle Scout award on Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Jeff thanks the Club for giving him the opportunity to complete his service project which was the Slaughterhouse Creek Bridge re-build.

### **Coming Events:**

**Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** HST's Final meeting of the season. 7:00 PM at the Haven on Lake Julia Road

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> HST's Adopt-A-Highway trash pick up. Start time will be 10:30, meet at Pelican Ranch road and the Hwy 8 bypass as usual. Contact Ken Dumar (362-1556) for any questions. Lunch to follow.

Tuesday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> First HST monthly meeting of 2010/11 season. Location to be announced.

Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> Annual swap meet and snowmobile show; St. Germain, WI. Call (715) 542- 4HOF for info.

Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> Vintage Grass Drags at Sugar Camp Midway. Visit [www.nvsrs.org](http://www.nvsrs.org) for details.

September 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Hay Days Grass rags & Swap Meet, Almelund, MN. [www.snobarons.com](http://www.snobarons.com)

***Have a safe & enjoyable summer! - - Frank Bennett, Editor, Hodag Sno-News***