

Hodag Sno-News

MARCH 2014



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“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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Trail News:

Trails:

- The sun is high, the end is nigh. Get out and ride. Trails close March 31. (Weather permitting)
- Trails are still in good shape, but the roads are getting rough. Grooming is difficult.
- Due to the deep snow, some of the trail signs are covered. This is a safety issue for curves, stops, and intersections. When you are out riding, please uncover these signs. Record your time and give this to Scott Hetland, so he can turn in the time to the county. This is the basis for our funding. Use this form:

http://www.hodagsnotrails.com/hst_newsletters/_files/trail%20work%20form%20Final.pdf

Groomer Ride Along:

Once the season opens, all that matters to riders is “where the track meets the trail”. This is a function of snow, temperature, and grooming.

I had never been in a groomer, so I asked Jerry Baker if I could ride along on his shift. He said sure; we’ll stop for dinner, but pack a bag with boots and bibs, “in case we have to walk out”. (That’s comforting.) We met at 2:30 and got going about 3:00. It was about -15F. Between the Pisten Bully and the drag, the rig is about as big as the Exxon Valdez. We stopped for fuel at a Club tank on the highline. Because of the cold, it seemed to take forever to pump 20 gallons. We groomed around town then headed out towards Three Lakes. The cab was nice and warm. Along with steering the rig, the driver needs to make frequent adjustments to the drag: front wheels, rear wheels, and stiff hitch. Most went smoothly. There were difficult spots along Hwy C between the power poles and the roadway. A few times we needed to make Y-turns in the woods or on a road. (I think Jerry could parallel park the thing if he had to.) I was amazed at how tight some of the trails are.



“Captain” Jerry Baker does pre-flight checks before his grooming shift.

Groomer Ride Along cont:

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This is why we need to brush up high for the groomers. The wind was really blowing across the potato fields with some drifts. We got back at 10, and Jerry still had log books to fill out.

Thanks Jerry for the education.

The Club has three groomers with multiple shifts per week. Most grooming is done at night when you never see them.

Give a "Thank You" to all the drivers.

Club Business:

February Meeting:

Jim chaired the February Club meeting, held at Forsyth's Sunlite. There were 24 people in attendance.

- Trails are great.
- We have lost some groomer drivers.
- The Husky was down for a broken hose.
- The tractor fried a tire.
- The Pisten Bully had a blown fuse.
- Please watch map boxes to make sure they are full.
- Vintage race attendance was down. Concession profit was minimal. Much discussion followed.
- Take Pride and Ride. We tried multiple times to get 500 additional tickets, but were unsuccessful. Much discussion followed.
- Donna Forsyth presented a Room Tax check from the Town of Pelican.
- The Elcho club sickle bar brushing equipment is available for about \$40 per hour with operator. We will check with Larry on a trial area. We will need a group to follow and clear clippings from the trails.
- Planning for the Landowners' Appreciation Dinner. Tim Knowles will be the announcer. Door prizes are needed. Funds were authorized to purchase large prizes.
- AWS Convention. A standing motion was passed to reimburse expenses for those attending as the Clubs representatives.
- We will not be staffing the Hot Dog stand at Shoeder's open house this year.
- A letter was received from the government requesting more information on our Non-Profit status application. (We responded and have since received our Non-Profit Status.)
- Donna Forsyth won the 50/50.

Elections of Officers:

Club Officer positions will be up for election during the April Meeting. Club President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer are the Officer positions. There are no nominations thus far.

Fund Raisers:

- Take Pride and Ride:

WRJO 94.5 is again running this year's "Take Pride and Ride Raffle" for a 2014 Ski-Doo grand prize.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. *All our ticket money goes directly to HST.*

Tickets need to be returned by February 19th. (The HST meeting is February 18th) The drawing is February 22nd.

Tickets are available from Rick Sweo at 715-490-6836 or sweo@frontiernet.net and at the Club meeting.

- Ice Golf:

Note the date change.

The Hodag Sno-Trails 8th Annual Ice Golf Tournament will be on Saturday **March 29**. Tee off will be at 11:30 AM at Fishers Resort on Lake George. 18 holes on the Lake. Four person scramble. \$40 per team. All proceeds benefit Hodag Sno-Trails. Snowmobiles or ATV's are recommended as "golf carts".

Contact/register at Fisher Resort. Russ or Billi Fisher at 715 362-3691 for details.

- Maps:

If you notice an empty map box, be sure and ask if they have any maps to refill the box. Many times extras are left with the manager. Contact Keith, 715-362-0799, Lenny 715-369-9165, or Mary 715-490-0958, for more.

Landowners Dinner:

This will be Friday, April 4th at Holiday Acres. Cocktails are at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30. Club members may attend for \$10 each. To attend, contact Mary Sweo 715 490-0958 before April 1.

Friend of Hodag Sno-Trails:

Please bring nominations for this 2013-2014 Award to the March meeting. Voting will take place at the March meeting.

Annual Audit:

The HST Board of Directors will conduct the annual audit of the Club's finances prior to the April meeting. The results will be shared at the April meeting.

Membership:

There are 103 members.

Talk to your friends and fellow snowmobilers. Remind them to join a club. No club, no trails. It is the only way trails can remain open in this area.

AWSC Convention March 28-30:

This will be in Green Bay. The club has (2) rooms reserved. The early registration deadline is March 17th. Anyone interested in attending contact Mary Sweo at 715-490-0958 for more information.

County & State News:**County:**

- Due to the deep snow, trail signs are covered. This is a safety issue, and needs to be corrected.
- OCSC will spend \$100/Club on TV ads for snowmobile safety along with the Vilas county alliance.

The monthly meeting of the Oneida County Snowmobile Council is held on the 1st Wednesday at the Oneida County Courthouse at 6:30PM. Anyone may attend. Enter thru the doors on the North side.

State:

- Because of the early and great season statewide, clubs are low on funds for grooming and maintenance.
- Supplemental funding could be only 50%. Also, there will be no GPR (General Purpose Revenue) snowmobile funding this year. However, representatives will try to get funding into next year's budget to cover both years.
- CAP/STEP: Assembly Bill 407 & Senate Bill 343.

Both bills have cleared the Joint Committee on Finance. There could be a Senate vote 3/18.

- Snowmobile fatalities 2013-2014 Season (thru 3/10/14):

State: 22

Oneida County: 0

For Sale:

(2) 2002 Yamaha V-Max 600 Triples \$2,200 each. Will sell as a pair or individually. Call Rick @ 715.490.6836 for more information.

Coming Events:

Tues. March 18 - HST Monthly Meeting: 7:00 PM at Al-Gen.

Sat. March 29 - 8th Annual HST Ice Golf Tournament: Fisher's Resort on Lake George

March 28-30 – AWSC Convention: Green Bay;

Fri. April 4 - Landowners' Appreciation Dinner 5:30 PM at Holiday Acres.

Tues. April 15 - HST Monthly Meeting: 7:00 PM at The Haven.