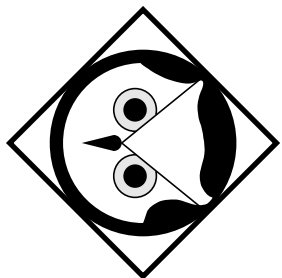


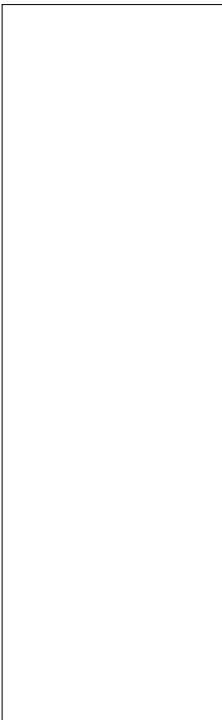
Track & Trails



SNOBIRDS SNOWMOBILE CLUB
April 2005 

**SNOBIRDS Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 666
Menomonee Falls, WI 53052**

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(for latest info, call 252-I.N.F.O.)

Snobirds meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, 8:00 p.m., at the Village Bowl in Memononee Falls, N86 W18830 Main St.

Please join us! Guests are welcome!

---- April 2005

12	General Meeting	Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
21	Smelt Cleaning	See MAP, this issue
22	Smelt Fry	
26	Board Meeting	Scott Makowski, 7:30 p.m.

---- May 2005

7	Adopt-a-Highway	Whiskey Corners, 9 a.m.
8	Mother's Day	
10	General Meeting	Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
24	Board Meeting	Kelly Wellhausen, 7:30 p.m.
30	Memorial Day	

---- June 2005

14	General Meeting	Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
19	Father's Day	
28	Board Meeting	Gary Breuckman, 7:30 p.m.

---- July 2005

4	Independence Day	
12	General Meeting	Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
19	Adopt-a-Highway	Whiskey Corners, 6 p.m.
26	Board Meeting	Al Schultz, 7:30 p.m.



Event Hotline, **252-INFO** (252-4636)

see our club information on the Internet at <http://www.snobirds.org/>

Views expressed in this publication are those of the Author of the Article, and may or may not reflect the views of the Snobirds Snowmobile Club. Opposing viewpoints will be tolerated, and may even be printed. Correspondence may be sent to Snobirds Snowmobile Club; Gary Breuckman, Editor; P.O. Box 666; Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53052-0666.

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Adopt a Highway 2005

Well folks it's that time of year again. Spring is in the air and all the snow is gone. Seven full months of people throwing trash out the windows of their cars and trucks has caught up to us.

With the snow gone it is easy to see what has to be done!!

Here without further ado is our new schedule for this year.

Saturday May 7

Tuesday July 19

Saturday October 1

Both Saturdays will start at nine A.M. and you will note that the July date is a Tuesday. All starts will be at Whiskey Corners where we debrief as usual.

The October date is tentative right now, but I will let you know in plenty of time if and when a change is necessary.

The July start time will be at 6 P.M.

Please try to fit one or more of these dates into your summer schedule.

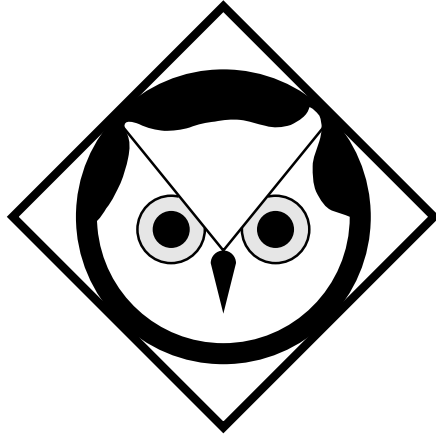
The walk down Hy 74 is a lot more pleasant with many Snobirds rather than just me and Judy.

Here's hoping to see you on the road.

Joe M.

SNOBIRDS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

ANNUAL 2005 SMELT FRY ALL YOU CAN EAT!



AT: St. Agnes Church
12801 W. Fairmount Ave.
Butler, Wisconsin
(3 Blocks North of Hampton)

FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd

4:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

\$7.75 Adults, \$5.00 6-12 years

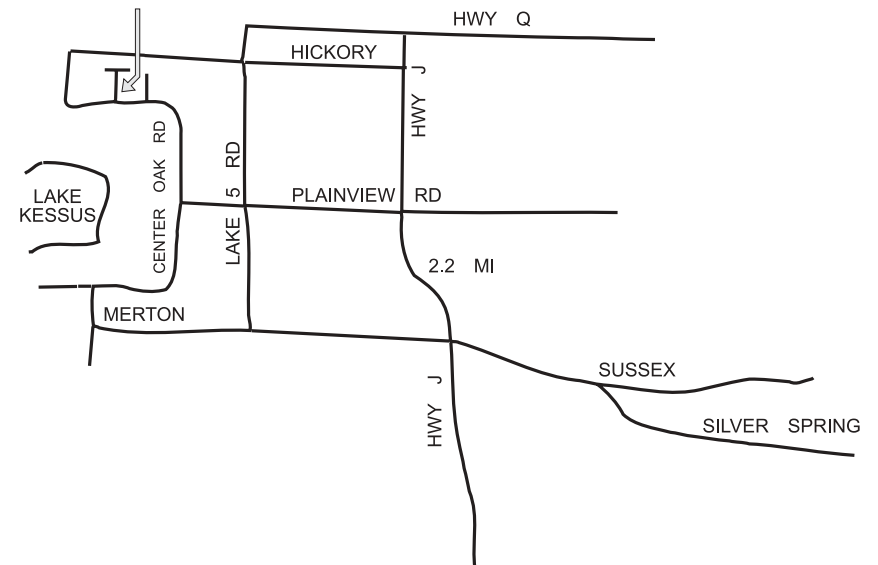
(\$8.50 and \$5.50 at the door)

under 6 free, accompanied by an adult

Smelt Cleaning Party April 21st.

Below is a map to the location for our Smelt Cleaning. Signup at any club meeting. Come join the fun and help prepare for the Smelt Fry. Smelt Cleaning runs from 3:30 p.m. Thursday until midnight. Setup on Friday starts after 1 p.m.

Dennis Wankowski
Phone 538-1163
W283 N8654 Theresa Marie Dr
Fifth house on right



Snowmobiling in Vermont

By Bill Schultz

Sunday, March 6, 2005 in the early afternoon we arrived at the Panorama Motel in Hampton, N.Y. We had driven from Waukesha, WI about 1000 miles (900 freeway and 100 regular highways).

After getting settled in our rooms, Peter Flynn, owner of Panorama, showed us the way to Bonnie Bearslee's home so we could purchase our VAST (Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Inc.) trail passes. The passes cost \$95.00, good for one season and you must join a club. We joined the Poultney Valley Snow Devils at a cost of \$8.00.

Because it was still early, we decided to take a ride and see what Vermont's trails were like. From the Panorama we crossed the road, rode through a field and ended up in Vermont on the VAST trail system. Since we were going to ride the VAST trails system all week, I decided to try club trails. Luckily Bonnie had given us a club map. The intersections on the club trails are not marked. We put on a little over 30 miles, went to eat and early to bed. Looking out the front window of our room, we could see the mountains in Vermont. At night we saw the lights of the snowmobilers riding the Vermont trail.

Seventeen people had told me they had interest in going to Vermont. When the time came, only seven went – six Snobirds and one Uper. The others were sick, made other plans or just did not want to go.

Matt Tetreault, trails assistant for VAST, helped me a lot to organize this trip. He recommended points of interest, furnished state trail maps and suggested routes. In my opinion, the Vermont State Trail Map far exceeds our Wisconsin State Trail Map. Vermont shows all the corridor trails as does Wisconsin, but in addition some of the main club trails, places that have food, gas and lodging. Also the map tells the mileage between intersections on the corridor trails. All intersections are identified by two letters and two numbers (as RD58). The letters indicate the county and the numbers indicate the intersection. A big THANKS to Matt!

We hit the VAST Trails heading north early Monday so we could ride in daylight to see the sights and hopefully not get lost. The trails wound left, right, up, down, in the valleys, along the sides and up to the tops of mountains; we crossed many bridges that span the various rivers and streams. Some of the bridges are covered, some are open like ours and some are long suspension bridges. It is beautiful country!

We met the first trail groomer Monday. It was a Ski-Doo snowmobile pulling a small drag. He got stuck a couple of times going around a sharp corner and up a hill, but he would lift the drag up hydraulically, back up, lower the drag and then was able to proceed. Matt had told me the VAST trails are always groomed twice a week and sometimes three times. After seeing this groomer I was not impressed.

Later in the week we ran into the large groomers like we use in Wisconsin. They did a beautiful job. The trails were groomed perfectly. They also would get stuck going around a sharp corner and up a hill but also worked their way onward. Talking to one groomer operator he told me VAST pays the owner of the groomer \$10.00 for each mile groomed. The owner must purchase and maintain the groomer and furnish all fuel and parts and pay the operator \$2.00 a mile to operate the groomer.

Our first stop Monday was the Wooden Barrel Country Store in Chittenden, VT. Most of the county stores have two gas pumps out front, all kinds of groceries, other store items and a grill where you can get a sandwich, fries, soda etc. This store had an outhouse as the public restroom. Most of the other stores had inside restrooms. We got gas and Pepsi and continued on to "Bunk-er Hill" which is the top of a mountain. You can see for miles in any direction. We all signed their log book.

Our destination for the evening was the Waitsfield Inn in Waitsfield, VT. It is a bed and breakfast, very nice and very clean. All the rooms are identified by names of people who had lived in the Inn. The Inn had an enormous living room with many couches and chairs where you can hang out. It is owned by Rhonda and Mike Kelly who did everything to make us welcome and enjoy our stay. Each sleeping room had its own complete bathroom. Rhonda and Mike made us a huge breakfast the next morning.

The temperature Monday was in the 30's. About an hour from Waitsfield it began to drizzle lightly, just enough to distort our vision through the shields. Monday night it rained hard. We could hear it real well hitting the metal roof of the Waitsfield Inn.

Tuesday morning I got up at 6:00 A.M. and it was still raining; by 7:00 A.M. it turned to snow. I walked out to the trail and it was covered with big puddles. I decided we would wait until 10:00 A.M., hoping that the water would soak into the snow or freeze into ice. Since we started late I planned a direct route east to our evening destination, the Comfort Inn in St. Johnsbury, VT (St. Jay's). We probably missed some scenic sights, but it was still a pretty ride and was snowing all day.

In some places on our trip they got six inches of snow and some got eighteen inches. On Tuesday and Wednesday it was hard to follow the trail because of all the new snow. Vermont marks the trail intersections real good, but when we crossed open fields, they have stakes with green flags so far apart we could not see them one to the next. We had to decide which looked more like the trail. Lakes are not marked at all! Thursday and Friday were a lot easier. Many of the trails were freshly groomed, and others had tracks from local snowmobilers who had been out riding the new snow.

Everyone on this ride got stuck, went off the trail and slid into a fence or fell off the ramp of the trailer except Sue. Here we were six macho guys with 800, 900 or 1000cc sleds and Sue showed us how to ride on her 550cc sled. Since I was leading I got stuck the most, four or five times. No big problem; everyone helped stomp down the snow under and in front of the sled, then pulled on the skis while Sue drove the sled to solid snow.

We stopped in Danville, VT at a modern country store for gas and a Pepsi break. About a block from the store I came to an intersection. The directions I had to get to the Comfort Inn in St. Jay's did not seem correct according to the intersection signs. I went back to the store where some local riders were taking a break and asked for directions. The leader of the group said they were going that way and would show us the trail to the Comfort Inn. They did and we got to the Inn with no problem. All the people in Vermont were friendly and helpful to us. They were all

surprised we left all the snow in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to ride the trails in Vermont.

Wednesday morning we got an early start and headed south. It had stopped snowing and it was easier to see where we were going. There are no taverns every 10-20 miles as in Wisconsin, only country stores usually about 50 miles apart. Fortunately for Sue there was an occasional outhouse on the trail.

Our evening destination was the Lake Morey Resort on Lake Morey at Fairlee, VT. The trail took us to Lake Morey. As I said before there were no markings and no tracks on the lake. Lucky it was early and still light, I could see the resort. A groomer operator I had talked to said the lake had at least three feet of ice and there was nothing to worry about, so we crossed the lake straight for the resort.

Christine at the resort had said she would have dinner for us at 6:00 P.M. I thought she would just make one selection, but we were offered whatever we wanted from the menu. All excellent meals. Early in the afternoon I rode into "downtown" Fairlee to find a gas station and a place for breakfast. Next morning when we got up we were told they would serve us breakfast at the resort. Again, excellent. We were the only seven people staying at the resort Wednesday night.

The Lake Morey Resort is an enormous place. The coming weekend they had all the rooms booked. There were at least three dining rooms, a bar, a huge swimming pool, an exercise room and a meeting room. Our rooms were very large and clean.

Thursday morning we again left early heading west to Pittsville, VT. About noon we came upon a tree across the trail with two trunks, each about one foot in diameter. There was no way the seven of us could move it. I suggested we go back to the last intersection and find trails round the blocked trail. Bud and Sue insisted it would be nothing to go around the tree in the woods. After an hour of stomping down the snow, breaking off branches and removing saddlebags, Bud, Sue, D.J. and Howie drove their sleds through the new trail. Bud drove the other three sleds around the tree.

As we were putting our saddlebags back on the sleds a young guy on an Arctic Cat came to the tree. He went through our new trail and brushed against a tree ripping off his saddlebags. He walked back to get them; some of the straps to hold the bags were gone. He had started at this home in Maine, went across Ottawa, Canada to Vermont and then south in Vermont. Six hundred miles in three days all by himself. His plan was to go further south in Vermont then go east through New Hampshire and back home to Maine. I hope he made it.

Thursday's evening destination was the Clear River Inn and Tavern at Pittsville, VT. It is my kind of place to stay when snowmobiling. You can walk out of your room and your snowmobile is right there. On the same property next to the motel is a tavern and restaurant where you can hang out at night. Everyone had a few drinks before dinner. All the dinners were alright except Dan's steak was so tough he could not chew it. The waitress offered Dan anything else he wanted or else cut the price to one-third. I think she was very fair.

The owner of Clear River suggested we have breakfast at the Swiss Farm Inn, a bed and breakfast. It was a great recommendation. Breakfast was either five or six dollars, depending on what was ordered and all the orange juice, milk or coffee you wanted. The servings were very generous.

Howie offered to lead us Friday which I thought was great. I could ride in the back, look around and not have to think which way to turn. Bud helped Howie lead. The original plan was to go south-west back to Poultney, VT and then with whatever time left we would investigate the area. Howie decided to take us north-west. It worked out well. We went through the Green Mountain Park, which seemed like at least 20 miles long. The trail was a nice gradual winding road. From there we went west to East Middlebury, VT that had a modern country store where we bought gas and lunch. Around East Middlebury was the first time we rode on flat land for any distance in Vermont.

From East Middlebury we rode straight south back to Poultney, VT. Since it was getting dark, I talked everyone into having dinner at Perry's Main Street Eatery in Poultney. The meals were inexpensive and had too large a serving.

After dinner Howie gave the lead to Bud, who got us back to the Panorama. We loaded our sleds onto the trailers and most of our clothes and bags in the trucks. I talked everyone into leaving for our drive home at 6:00 A.M. Only one person grumbled.

We left a little after 6:00 A.M. D.J. and I arrived in Brookfield, WI at 11:00 P.M. The grumpy person talked the others into stopping for dinner at 7:00 P.M. and then getting a room. I do not know when they got home.

In my opinion the people who did not go on this trip lost out on a great ride. We put on 650 miles. The scenery is beautiful and way different than Wisconsin. The trails are excellent and well maintained. The people are all the nicest you will ever meet. If you get a chance, you should snowmobile in Vermont.

Smelt Help

Want to volunteer for something? Area Chairpersons and seconds are:

Smelt Cleaning
Main Kitchen
Smelt Kitchen
Beer & Soda
Raffle Wheel
Hall Setup
Hall Access
Ticket Sales

Tom Pollich, Kevin Bonnell
Dawn Wilfert, Scott Makowski
Ron Wendt, Ralph Culver, Tom Pollich
Kelly Wellhausen, Al Schultz
Dick Brunow, Brian Geoffrey
Bill Schultz, Al Schultz
Sue Nuck, Ed Pollich
Gary Breuckman