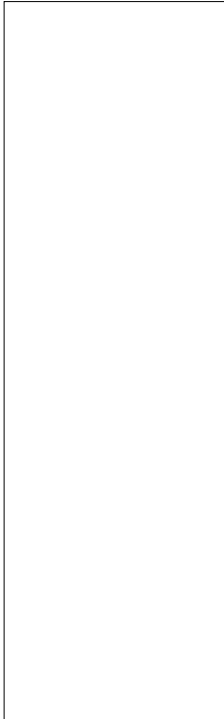


Track & Trails



**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!

----- February 2005

3-6	Laona Snofari	Dick Brunow
8	General Meeting	Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
10-13	Eagle River Snofari	Casey Wibbert
14	Valentine's Day!	

---- March 2005

8	General Meeting	Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
5-13	Snowmobile Vermont	Bill Schultz
18-20	AWSC Convention, Wausau	
	<i>Support Scott Makowski for AWSC President!</i>	
22	Board Meeting	Ron Wendt, 7:30 p.m.
27	Easter Sunday	

----- April 2005

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

---- May 2005

10	General Meeting	Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
24	Board Meeting	Kelly Wellhausen, 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.

© Copyright 2005 - Snobirds Snowmobile Club Inc. - All Rights Reserved

LAONA "2005" SNOFARI

at the Cheney Motel
Superb Trail Ride Weekend

Thursday through Sunday
February 3 - 6, 2005

Plan: Group rides available or ride on your own

Place: CHENEY Motel, Large & Modern
Hwy 32, West side of town, On the Trail
Supper Club on site, fine Steak dinners
Coffee available in all rooms.

TRAIL RIDE FEATURES:

Ride the 100 Mile Snofari and Lumberjack Memorial Trails through the Heart of Nicolet National Forest Countryside
250 Miles + of weekend trail riding planned
This area offers mile after mile of superbly groomed trails, adequately spaced pit stops with gas & oil, food & beverage and 2 casinos are also within riding distance.

Some waterbeds and no-smoking rooms available on a 1st come 1st serve basis. 20 rooms reserved. Rooms available for club members only through December 24th. Non-members may sign up after that date if any rooms are available. Sign up for 2 days, 3 days, or more.

For Room Assignments or Additional Information contact:

Dick Brunow
Club sign-up
ends Dec 24th
W165 N10439 Wagon Trail
Germantown, WI 53022
Phone: 262-255-7141

Want a t-shirt? (smelt, that is...)



There have been many comments at past Smelt Fry events how nice it was to see all the workers in the Smelt t-shirts.

This year we would like to get the shirts out early so you can wear them beforehand as advertisements or when selling tickets.

The club is covering the entire cost FOR WORKERS. If you want shirts for others you can purchase them at cost.

Please see Bonnie Pollich at a meeting, or call her at 262-251-2314, to order yours.

US Forest Service plans for the Future - With Us in Mind

I recently attended two sessions with the US Forest Service where we discussed outdoor recreation, snowmobiling and forest management. The meetings were positive and emphasized the need for all of us to educate the next generation about our forestlands and the rural communities that serve them.

The rural economy, which is dependent on snowmobiling, is under pressure because of job loss and population decline. The rural community and the gateway communities to our forests and National Parks serve as the hubs of activity for the visitors to these great lands. They serve the Government employees that work and live on these lands. The gateway communities supply the water and sewer infrastructure, the stores, the restaurants, the banks and the schools that are needed for society to maintain its existence adjacent to the forests.

There is a growing separation between those living in urban areas and those in the rural areas and we need to help bring these groups together, since most of us interact with both segments of society.

The issue of forest wildfires is high on the business plan of virtually every U.S. Forest. Wildfires have destroyed substantial sections of our National Forest land and these fires have a terrible impact on tourism. Wildfires destroy millions of feet of quality timber each year, timber that could be used for housing. For a period of time our forests were not adequately managed and fuel was allowed to build up in the forests. Firebreaks were not maintained, access roads for fire fighting equipment were closed thereby allowing wildfires to ravage our forest heritage. Most saw mills in the United States are now closed. As these saw mills closed, the logging crews that had worked our forests for years also left. These logging crews served as a key segment of our wildfire-fighting group. They not only had knowledge of the land, but they also had the equipment and the ability to fight fires. These volunteer firefighters, who were members of logging crews, are no longer working in our forests.

The ill conceived "preservation approach" which led to the devastation was joined by an attack on the timber industry. Today, in the

United States, we harvest approximately 2 billion board feet of timber per year. In the early 1980's we harvested 10 billion board feet per year from our forests. Our forests now generate over 20 billion board feet of new growth a year and we continue to only harvest 2 billion board feet per year. More than 65% of all the wood used in the United States for building homes, schools and churches is imported from outside the United States. The importing of wood is adding to our negative account balance and has cost the United States economy hundreds of thousands of jobs. Understanding what is happening to our timber industry is important. Timber paid the bills at the Forest System and it paid for many college educations, as well as many family homes and churches. The decline of timber harvesting in our forests impacts on the budget, which ultimately impacts on recreation activities.

The Healthy Forest Initiative, promoted by President Bush and passed by the US Congress in 2003 is a major step forward in reducing the fuel build up in forests throughout the United States, but we still have a long way to go. Many of the Healthy Forest Initiatives continue to be opposed by members of the Environmental Community.

The meetings ended on a positive note highlighting the many benefits recreation on public land offers all of us. The Forest Service agrees with snowmobilers, believing that healthy forests and recreation are good for the social fabric of society, good for families, great for children, and great for the economy. Today's leaders of the forest service understand the tasks ahead of them and are looking for your support to accomplish them. The US Forests belong to all of us. I encourage you to participate with your local forest management team. If you snowmobile in a National Forest, I encourage you to stop by the office and volunteer to be a friend of the forest and participate in any way you can in helping maintain our forests and keeping them open and healthy for our families.

#

Ed Klim
President, ISMA
1640 Haslett Road, Suite 170
Haslett, MI 48840
(517) 339-7788 phone
(517) 339-7798 fax
www.snowmobile.org

President's Report

Scott Makowski

New's from the Presidents desk: TRAILS IN WAUKESHACOUNTY WERE OPENED ON JANUARY 6, 2005 after a 7" snowfall hits area. Hope everyone had an opportunity to get in some local riding time. Trails may be open for some time because more snow is in forecast for the following week.

NEW Trail maps are available to club members, pick yours up at a club meeting or stop at a sponsoring business to get one. All local snowmobile dealers should have them at their stores.

At the last club meeting, the club honored Ralph and Mary Culver with a lifetime membership for having belonged to the club for 35 years and still active. Congratulations to Ralph and Mary.

Hope everyone has a chance to sign up for some of the many planned trips on our calendar of events. We try to offer a diversified schedule to fit into many of your plans. Winters are short and we try to make the most of them.

Remember to make your calendar for April 22, 2005 which is our Annual Smelt Fry fundraiser. We will need everyone's help to keep this a successful event. Remember, also Smelt Cleaning Party on April 21, 2005

That's about it for now. Always THINK SNOW and RIDE SAFE!

Tomahawk Snofari 2005

by Bill Schultz

After years of canceling the Tomahawk Snofari, we finally had good snow in 2005! Some people canceled, but we still had fifteen Snobirds and two non-Snobirds staying at the Bridge Inn on the shore of the Wisconsin River in Tomahawk. The two non-Snobirds were my daughter, Sue, and her husband Jeff. Jeff had snowmobiled only once before four or five years ago at Phillips when the temperature was twenty below. He froze and said he never wanted to snowmobile again. I finally talked him into trying again. The temperature was in the twenties ABOVE each day. He had a great time and is talking about going again. Maybe we can make him a Snobird!

Thursday we rode to Schultzie's Bar and Grill just outside of Rhinelander. Schultzie's took over the Woodpecker. Frank, the original owner of the Woodpecker, was one of the people who built and maintained the Northwoods Passage Trail System. The Schultzie's had a fire shortly after purchasing the Woodpecker that leveled the building. They built a nice new bar and grill. They are not as involved in the trail system yet, but they are very nice people and probably will be involved soon.

Friday I cut the trip short. It was Jeff's first day back on a snowmobile and some others I thought might want a shorter trip. I was wrong. After four miles or so, Jeff got on Lake Nokomis and zoomed past some of the older snowmobiles. He got the hang of the hand signals and seemed to fit right in. The new lunch stop didn't turn out as good as I had planned, but I guess everyone survived. Dinner as at the Bridge Inn each night and Friday and Saturday morning breakfasts, so we did not have to suit up for these meals.

The plan was to have two groups – fast and slow. It did not happen except for a short time on Saturday afternoon. Al led the

group each day and did a fantastic job – setting a good pace and watching that we all stayed together. Thank you, Al.

Saturday it was back to the plan, but only one group of seventeen sleds. We had a Pepsi stop and then to see what High Point Village was about. We rode into the parking lot with most of the group and met the lady owner, who offered to show all of us the Village. The problem was I had lunch planned and we had to be there before 2:00 P.M., we there was not enough time. I asked if I could come back next weekend. She said to do so and I did which I will tell you about later.

From there it was to a scenic outlook near Timm's Hill. I pulled in first and got stuck in a three foot snowdrift. It took Jim Metzger, Jeff and Sue to help me out of the drift. Next Sue flipped her sled on its side. She lifted it upright, hopped on and took off. Jeff got stuck where he stopped to help me but worked himself out all by himself. Other than these occurrences, no one else had any problems that I am aware of.

We rode on to Timm's Hill and some of the younger folks climbed the many, many steps to the top of the lookout tower. Many of us had been there before and did not need the exercise.

Sunday we rode to Tomahawk Lodge for their excellent Sunday Brunch. Bill, the owner, told me about High Point Village on a previous Pepsi stop. After brunch we rode back and the Snofari was over.

Judy rode with us this weekend and the next weekend. Most of you are aware of Judy's condition last winter. A man had driven through a red light and hit her while she was riding her Harley on July 4, 2003. She couldn't get around and needed more operations. Now, only a year and one half later, Judy was riding just as she had before. You know this had to take lots of effort and determination. Judy is a miracle lady!

The following weekend five of us Snobirds rode from Phillips to High Point Village located just south of Timm's Hill at W3075 Country Rustic Rode in Price County. The Village was built and is owned by Lyle and Kathy Blomberg.

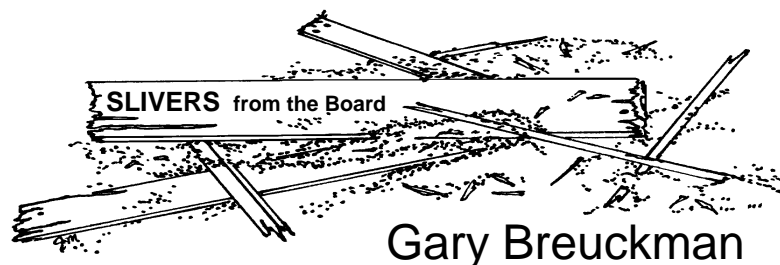
Kathy greeted us, invited us into the lodge which is also their home, brewed coffee and served us Danish. Such hospitality to perfect strangers!

Kathy told us how she and Lyle bought a tavern fourteen years ago. It burned down, so they started High Point Village. The Village consists of the lodge, six separate cabins, a community hall building, workshop building and covered storage area. This is all built on hilly, thick wooded land. Each building has its own name and theme. They were all designed and built by Kathy and Lyle. The cabins have all the conveniences of your own home. They can be rented by the day or week.

Kathy is an ambitious lady with a million ideas and enough drive to accomplish them all. She has raced in the Birkenbeiner ski race seven times and came in as high as eleventh. Both she and Lyle have won many medals. When you look at Kathy you would think she is a trim beautiful thirty-five year old lady. Someone had told me how old Kathy is. It is hard to believe she is fifty-seven. Kathy has more ideas to expand the Village and I am sure she will. She is going to race in the next Birkenbeiner. Kathy is a real inspiration.

I tried to talk one of the group leaders into taking his group to High Point Village. I know if he saw the Village and met Kathy and Lyle, he would also think it would be a great location for a Snofari. They did not go – their loss.

If you are in the area do visit High Point Village.



We have some applications for the Lake States Resource Alliance, if any members are interested. See Scott at a meeting.

AWSC has a co-op program based on new and renewal memberships, we have a \$66 credit we can use for printed items (covers half the cost, with requirements that have to be met on the items). We might be able to use this towards our map ad, or we can assign it to WCSA and they can use it for membership brochures or other items.

Our safety school had 37 in the December class, and 28 in January. We have some money for expenses from the class fees and are considering some sort of shirt or jacket for the instructors to wear at classes.

We talked about the Smelt Fry for a while, the date this year is April 22nd. Prices will be the same as last year, unless we discover a large price change in the smelt. We need to decide and print tickets this month. We're trying to make sure each department head has a second this year, both to cover any emergencies and also to allow for the future. The list of folks to contact will be in the next newsletter, so you will know who to call for the area you want to help with.

The AWSC Convention is next month, Scott is running for President. The club will donate \$200 towards his campaign costs. Anyone wishing to attend the convention please see Scott.

The Board approved one new membership and five renewals. That brings us to 60 families so far.

Snowmobile Vermont

By Bill Schultz

The Vermont Snofari is schedule for March 5 through March 13, 2005. We would travel to Vermont one weekend, snowmobile through the state for five week-days and drive home the following weekend. If the temperature would be 40 below or 40 above or snow conditions were not ideal, the trip would be rescheduled.

All snowmobiling is done on well-marked trails that must be groomed at least twice a week, most of them three times. There are many beautiful and interesting sights to see in Vermont. The destinations each night are about 100 miles apart, so there will be plenty of time to see lots of things.

If interested or have questions, call

Bill Schultz

262-781-5995

2004 Guys' Ride

By Bill Schultz

The snow was great at Eagle River on the days we planned for the Guys' Ride. Most of the trails were in excellent shape. Red did a perfect job leading us all over the north woods in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

We had a small turnout -- 11 guys. Quite a few guys who had wanted to go had things come up and could not make the trip. It turned out to be the smallest group ever but a very nice bunch of guys.

There were a few problems. I blew a hole in my oil filter because I don't know what tool to use to install it. "Dummy". The best part was that I got to ride a Polaris from Star Lake to Eagle River, thanks to George. One guy had his oil light come on; Al saved him by always carrying spare oil. Another guy had his main clutch spring break, the wire to the temperature gauge pull loose and a piece of the track break. Everything was fixed and the sled made the whole trip, almost 600 miles.

We ran into a few closed trails because of high water crossing the trail. One night about 5:00 P.M. we were about 20 miles from Eagle River and the direct trail back was closed. Our roundabout route was over 60 miles. I had one guy grumble because we got back late and it cut the time short for telling stories, eating and drinking. I

know we wore this guy out. The last day, because of him, we started at 11:00 A.M. and were finished at 3:30 P.M. This guy is not a Snobird!!!

The most amazing guy was Bud. He decided to ride with Jim and Darrel. If you know Jim and Darrel, you know how they ride! The first day was Eagle River to Copper Harbor and back to Houghton-Hancock. The second day was a roundabout way back to Eagle River. It was a 485 mile trip in two days riding at Jim and Darrel's pace. Bud stayed with them, got back in one piece and was able to talk about it. Bud is almost twice the age of Jim and Darrel; he is amazing.

We stayed at the Hiawatha Motor Inn. Al and Dawn bought the Inn last year and have been improving it ever since. The rooms are big, warm and clean. You can go out of your room to a common hallway or outside to your snowmobile. Al and Dawn are snowmobilers and great snowmobile promoters. They also are willing to help you in any way they can. Al gave me two gift certificates for our club for two free nights at their motor inn. If you go to Eagle River, think of them; you will enjoy staying at their inn.

It was a great trip with fantastic guys. Now all we have to do is hope the snow continues for the rest of the winter so we can make the rest of the snofaris as planned.

SNOBIRDS email list

Gary Breuckman

Officers and Board Members, and a few of the more active email users in the club, been quietly testing an email list for the past month or so. It's now time to invite any interested club member to join the list.

What use is a mailing list? Primarily it's to promote activities and member communication - so if you have a short notice trip, some snowmobile clothing or equipment to sell, or just a news article you've found, this is a quick way to share it with those on the list. The club also may occasionally post official announcements there as well as in our newsletter.

Anything mailed to "snobirds@snobirds.org" will be forwarded to those on the list. There's also an online archive you can visit to look up old posts, and if the volume of email should get larger, you can optionally select 'digest mode' and receive one email a day with all the day's posts inside.

Yes, folks have been sending email between members for some time. The big advantage of the list is that if your email address changes, you just go the list page and change it. No emails lost because someone didn't have your new address.

Your email address is kept private, the only way folks on the list will have it is IF you send a post to the list, since it will have your address in it.

The easiest way to sign up for the list is to visit this web page and fill in the blanks, (there's further info on that page, also).

<http://www.snobirds.org/list/>