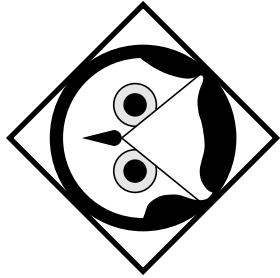


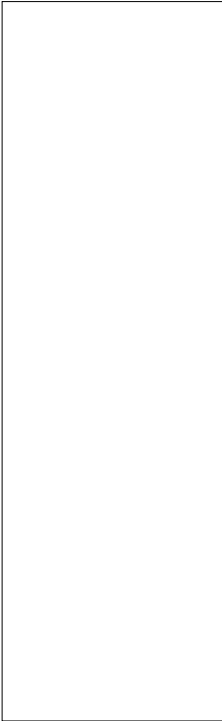
Track & Trails



SNOBIRDS SNOWMOBILE CLUB
March 2005 

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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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!

---- March 2005

8 General Meeting Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
5-13 Snowmobile Vermont Bill Schultz
18-20 AWSC Convention, Wausau
Support Scott Makowski for AWSC President!
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.

---- June 2005

14 General Meeting Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
28 Board Meeting Gary Breuckman, 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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AWSC News

Scott Makowski

It's been awhile since you've seen this column in our magazine but not a whole lot has happened in that time. Lots of meetings, not much being accomplished. The annual convention is coming up on March 18 – 20 in Wausau, WI. This looks to be an exciting time. We will have an opportunity to exchange ideas with other clubs as well as have some fun socializing with old friends and making new ones. The officer elections will be held on Saturday morning and hopefully I will be elected President. It will be a great honor to do this because I will be following in one of our members, Ralph Culver's, footsteps who was the President back in 1976. Also I will always represent the Snobirds and do my best to emphasize the good leadership abilities learned though the years.

The sound issue is now back in the hands of the DNR. They need to decide whether to adjust the decibel level up to what the snowmobile community has requested or drop it altogether. If they do the later, we will go after our own legislation to get this done, it means satisfying landowners requests and keeping our trail system intact as we know it today. Hopefully we can have a answer and put something in effect for next season.

You may have heard something about a dual registration program, which would benefit those who belong to clubs and the AWSC with lower snowmobile registrations. This is a program, which is just in the talking stages at this point, but in early talks the DNR registration people are at least interested. Two States have a program similar to this right now. (Vermont and New Hampshire) The non-club members pay a higher fee to register their snowmobiles with the extra monies going into the trail program fund to be used to improve the trails. All the details have not been worked out yet but the program has more positives than negatives and is worth looking into at this time. We'll keep you informed as things proceed

WCSA Report

By Bev Makowski

Not too much is happening at the County Snowmobile Association right now, however a few items of interest were discussed at the last meeting. Waukesha County was officially open for almost 2 weeks this past season and the groomers were out and made some money for their efforts. With this and some donations from various clubs the debt on the second Tucker should be able to be paid off at the end of this season.

The TRAILS CLOSE officially on MARCH 15 in Waukesha County, I hope many of you had the chance to get out and ride the local trails when they were open. Mother Nature sure gave us an up and down weather pattern this season. If anyone would like to help some of our neighboring clubs take out the trails this spring contact Ed Pollich and he'll put your name on the list. This is usually a fun event with some special benefits involved for those who help.

AWSC director and rep elections will take place at the March meeting with WCSA officer elections being held in April. If anyone would like to be a rep from our club to WCSA please contact me and we will get it done.

AWSC News, continued...

on this issue. If you have any comments or thoughts on this give me a call or contact me at a meeting to express your feelings. That pretty much covers what's been happening.

We probably will have a new AWSC director for Waukesha County (Dave Rowley) and a new county rep to AWSC (Bev Makowski) effective for the annual convention because I have stepped down from that position in order to run for the President.

Fun in the Winter

Jeff Klaiber

February 13, 2005

To all Snobirds, friends, kids, spouses, and other involved snowmobile enthusiasts:

As most of you are aware, a couple of newcomers joined your group twice over the past month: Once in Tomahawk, the second time this past weekend in Eagle River.

The newcomers were Big Bill's daughter, Sue, and her husband, Jeff (me), and Bill had invited us to join the Snobirds for a weekend.

We did. And because we had so much fun, we did so again this past weekend.

I cannot overstate the enjoyment we both shared and experienced on both occasions. On so many levels, and in so many ways, Sue and I had quite literally some of the most fun we've ever had. I'm not the one who likes to waste people's time with overly descriptive and unnecessarily detailed descriptions of stuff. But indulge me for a few paragraphs. Consider it an action-packed, sincere and heartfelt thank-you, along with a few observations.

First of all, the actual snowmobiling itself was nothing like I thought it would be. And though I had indeed ridden once before, it was so cold and miserable on that occasion that my mind blew out all the memories on purpose and I never retained any real recollection of what snowmobiling was all about. Put it this way: When you can see your breath *in the restaurant*, at breakfast, you know it's cold out.

Fast-forward to January and February 2005. Sue and I join the Snobirds for two incredible weekends. And while I cannot speak for

Sue, I do know that she had as much if not more fun than I did, and she shares my appreciation for those treasured memories.

To lump it all into a quick summary, the Snobirds were so incredibly friendly it almost defies adjectives. I've been around a lot of groups of people, a lot of sports, a lot of varied folks over the years and I am completely sincere when I say this: Never before have I met a group of people as friendly and helpful and genuine as the Snobirds. In addition, you are one of the most fun-loving, warm, and funny bunch of people I've ever known.

While I don't know all the names quite yet, a few who were especially kind to me were Dick, Ron, Ed, Bonnie, Tom, Al, Dennis, Kenny, and Jim. And many more, including, of course, Big Bill. You all made us feel welcome in so many ways.

On the trails, for example, Al, Dennis, (or whomever was leading) accommodated me by going at a slower rate of speed so I could keep up. In addition, everyone always pulled over at trail intersections to make sure everyone was still together. I must admit, having to make everyone wait for me was not something I was thrilled with. But I sure was grateful that everyone did.

Another aspect of the whole experience I cherish is the actual sport itself. As a novice, I see it with different eyes than all of you. And what I saw and felt and thought of and sensed was that this is a very serious, and very seriously cool, sport. I respect it and did so from the outset. Missing 200 foot tall trees by 18 inches at 60 mph makes you think. At every moment, I respected the potential danger inherent in the activity and applied all my brain-power and developing skills and abilities to make sure that I made it through.

Which was one of the best parts of the whole thing for me – that it took a lot of focus, and that I learned (with considerable help from my wife Sue) at least some extremely basic skills. I cannot overstate the exhilaration I felt going 80 mph on a lake, or cornering and

sliding through a snaky forest, or hitting full throttle out of a temporary spin-out and hearing the engine whir. And for my skinny body, it was a workout. Trying to get the sled around corners took a lot of pulling and leaning and it was far from sedentary.

I further learned to appreciate the planning and preparation that goes into setting up one of these trips. It takes a lot of cooperation and time to coordinate such a group event. At a broader level, I also learned that all the trails in the state are maintained on a voluntary basis by clubs like the Snobirds. That is an incredible testament to the camaraderie abundant in the sport.

So – thank you all. Thank you for being so kind and introducing me to a world I heretofore had little knowledge of. I hope to see you all in the future. And until then – I wish you smooth trails, both on and off the sled.

Jeff (and Sue) Klaiber

Smelt Help

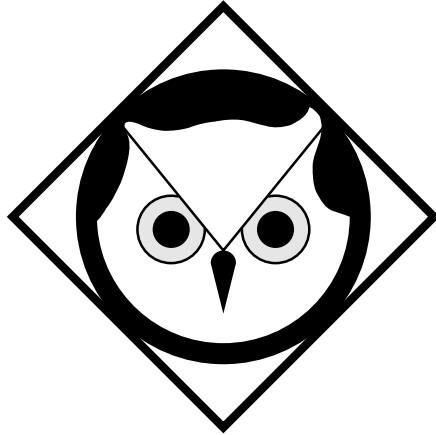
Want to volunteer for something? Area Chairpersons and seconds are:

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

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

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.

Laona 2005

Dick Brunow

Well Mom Nature threw us her usual curve again on our Laona Snofari weekend. We've had low snow, no snow, good snow, extremely cold (-40°) and then this year we had extremely warm.

We had close to record setting temperatures, 40's and even low 50's.

Oh, and even some rain on Sunday morning. We had 31 people staying at Cheney this year, 29 Snobirds and two friends of Wayne and Dawn Wilfert.

When we first started out Thursday morning the trails were to die for – flat, smooth, with adequate to good snow cover. Our group of early arrivals went out scouting and checking out new trails. We ran the new railroad grade trail down from Laona to Carter. The trail was in excellent condition with the exception of some churned up rocks in a few areas. We later checked out a short new section of trail, a result of moving the junction off of the LMT trails system and on to the beginning of a Tombstone Pickerel trail that lead down to the Rolling Stone & Pickerel Lake area. The junction was moved about two miles north to a more open and less congested area, a good move I felt. Dennis Mayer had been in the area the weekend before and thought maybe the trail had been closed or lost when the junction wasn't where he remembered it being.

After arriving home he made a few phone calls and thus found out about its new location. It was good to know that the main feeder trail to the southwest was not gone just simply moved. After running the portion of trail and some of the old we turned around and headed back to the LMT trails. I then decided to stay on the LMT trail to connect with the 100-mile east of Crandon – BIG MISTAKE!! The

old trail used to bypass Crandon to the east but due to a land owner issue that portion of trail is now closed, so we had to go thru Crandon on poorly marked trails and dry roads. We eventually found the trail we wanted and were back on track again. The temps kept creeping upward into the 40's. The trails were holding up very well despite the warmth. There was a very good ice base on the trails and that pretty much kept these in good condition all weekend despite the temperatures. The trails also firmed up nicely during the first several nights as the temps dropped below freezing.

Friday Dennis ran his group and I mine to Post Lake Inn for lunch. A nice place with good and reasonably priced food. He lost a couple of riders from his group due to illness and overheating problems, and I lost three of my group to sled problems. All made it back to the motel safe and sound.

Saturday I led my group on the poker run ride which ended at Wild Rose Pub & Eatery. Most of us merely donated to the raffle wheel, we only had one winning ticket as I recall. By this time Saturday afternoon the snow was disappearing fast due to sunny skies and warm temperatures. Upon returning to the motel and hearing the predicted low temp for Sat night was 36° with rain included, I decided to cancel the Sunday morning ride. Good thing, since it was raining when we got up.

All in all I felt the weekend was relatively successful, despite Bonnie's mishap in the parking lot (ouch), the illness, overheating and sled problems. We managed to party every night in our somewhat smaller than usual party room, that's always fun. Thanks to Ron and Pat Wendt for sharing their room again this year.

F.Y.I., Laona is moving next year, not the town, just the snofari! Time to move on. Stay tuned to your Track and Trails for more details.