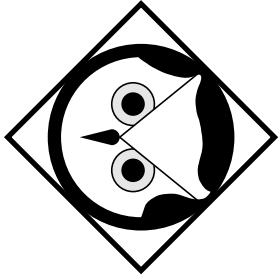
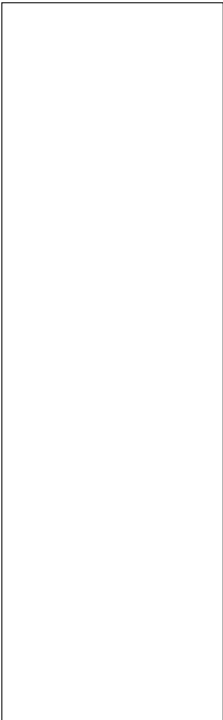


Track & Trails



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Snobirds meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 pm, at the Village Bowl in Menomonee Falls, N86 W18830 Main St. **Please join us! Guests are welcome!**

---- February 2006

1-5 Carter Snofari, Indian Springs Lodge 800-777-1640 Dick Brunow
9-12 Eagle River (Valentine's Day) Snofari 715-479-5151 Casey Wibbert
14 General Meeting Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.

---- March 2006

5-12 Northern Minnesota Snofari Bill Schultz
14 General Meeting Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
17 St. Patrick's Day
28 Board Meeting Dick Brunow, 7:30 p.m.

---- April 2006

11 General Meeting Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
14 Good Friday
16 Easter Sunday
25 Board Meeting Scott Makowski, 7:30 p.m.
27 Smelt Cleaning
28 **Smelt Fry**

mark your calendar, keep the dates open!

---- May 2006

9 General Meeting Village Bowl, Menomonee Falls, 8 p.m.
14 Mother's Day
23 Board Meeting Kelly Wellhausen, 7:30 p.m.
29 Memorial Day

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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Northern Minnesota Snofari

March 5th - 12th, 2006

note date change!

We will snowmobile on fantastic trails with beautiful scenery and also many places to see and tour. There will be groups of different speeds or bring your own group.

Sunday: Trailer to Grand Rapids, MN (Approx. 475 miles) Stay at Sawmill Inn.

Monday: Tour Itasca State Park, See headwaters (beginning) of the Mississippi River. Stay at Super 8 in Fosston, MN.

Tuesday: Tour Digi-Key Corp., largest distributor of electronic components, lunch at Black Cat Sports Bar and Grill, displaying 40 years of Arctic memorabilia, tour Arctic Cat plant, stay at Best Western, Thief River Falls, MN.

Wednesday: Tour Polaris factory, lunch at Brenigan's, which adjoins the Polaris Experience museum. Stay at Can-Am Motel in Warroad, MN.

Thursday: Marvin Windows are made in Warroad. The city is famous for the manufacturing of ice hockey sticks, especially for the Olympics. Tours available for both factories. Tour Lake of the Woods, which has a city of ice fishing shacks, some very elaborate. Stay at Day's Inn in International Falls, MN.

Friday: Ride to Kettle Falls on the 34-mile Rainy Lake Trail, see the Falls and the famous Kettle Falls Hotel, built 1913. More lake riding to Crane Lake for lunch. All lake trails are well marked and safe. Stay at Fortune Bay Resort and Casino in Tower, MN.

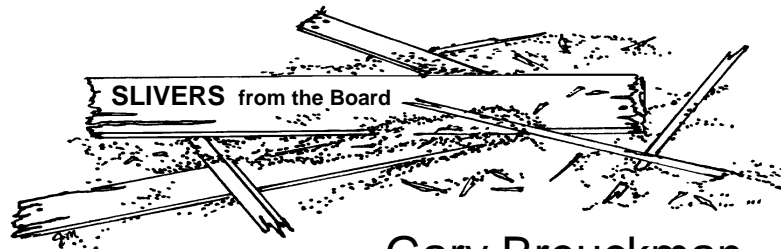
Saturday: Ride back to Grand Rapids viewing the Hull Rust Mahoning Mine (largest open pit mine, 3 miles long, 600 feet deep). Cross Powers Bridge, longest bridge in MN.

Sunday: trailer home.

Gamblers will find casinos accessible by sled at Thief River Falls, Warroad and Tower.

For more information or reservations call:

Bill Schultz 262-781-5995



Gary Breuckman

Several people made special contributions to our float in the Menomonee Falls Christmas parade: Custom tow vehicle was from Bruce & Sherri Wankowski, Lowboy trailer from Dean Havel, setup and teardown site Ed & Bonnie Pollich, Casey Wilbert and Mike Carlson co-chaired the event and it went very well, Scott Makowski got some special Usinger Elf costumes.

Our Christmas party was held at the Sussex Bowl - the goal was to have EVERYONE party, and no one have to work, so all the food was catered. Total cost was about \$900, which was \$200 for the room and the remainder for the catering. Everything went well.

Our club also hosted the WCSA Christmas party, same location, next day... We again spent about \$200 for the hall, and \$375 for food. After the standard reimbursement by WCSA our net cost was about \$225.

We donated some money to the Waukesha County Groomer Corporation, and asked for stock shares. Apparently no one does that anymore, and they had to go look for them. We have received 3 shares of Waukesha County Groomer Corporation.

Both sessions of Safety School are complete. 30 graduated in November and 33 graduated in January.

Slivers from the Board, continued...

The Smelt Fry is coming! The deposit and paperwork for the Smelt Fry have been sent in, the permits have been applied for, Ralph Culver will get the bartender's license and be our 'official' bartender.. Dick is building up an inventory of prizes for the raffle wheel, if you have anything you can donate please contact him.

Looking at the leftovers last year, we will buy 50 pounds less fresh smelt for this year. (which would be 600 pounds for this year). Bonnie suggested burnt orange for the 2006 Smelt Fry T-shirts. We will continue with the beverage in cans, which has worked out well.

Joe Schumitsch has asked if we will sponsor him in the M.S. Ride. His goal this year is to raise \$1,000. The club provided a \$50. donation towards his goal.

Scott is again running for president of the AWSC and asked for the support of the Snobirds. Bonnie Pollich and Bonnie Strube will be a co-chair of the hospitality suite. The club will donate \$250 towards Scott's campaign.

The Board accepted 8 renewal memberships. We now have a season total of 52 renewals, 8 new, 1 carryover, 1 lifetime accepted. We have 62 total memberships. There are 8 memberships from last year that were not renewed, so as of now we are exactly even with last year. We expect a few more renewals yet!

Remember the Smelt Fry is April 28th, with the cleaning the day before. The Board still needs to review the expected price of smelt, and set the price, and then tickets will be sent out. Shirts will again be available to workers at no cost, watch for the sign up at meetings or see Bonnie Pollich.

Carter snofari picture, see also the cover...



Safety Class, January 2006



GUYS' RIDE at HOME

by Bill Schultz

The Guys' Ride has been a tradition since 1983. It started by staying at the Oneida Village in Three Lakes and then at the Hiawatha in Eagle River. One year it was cancelled for lack of snow anywhere; a couple of years we had to go to the U.P.

The ride location is decided the Monday prior to the scheduled weekend. This year it would have been Houghton-Hancock, MI and north. Most guys did not want to trailer that far for a couple of days of riding. Wednesday Northern Wisconsin got sufficient snow, but it was too late. I had already set up the rides to start in Waukesha County which had just enough snow.

Thursday

We unloaded at the Village Bowl in Menomonee Falls which is right on the Bug Line Snowmobile Trail. Bob Niemi had arrived a couple of hours early and had scouted out the trails, so we made him leader. We started riding at 12:30 P.M. and Bob took us north on a trail that intersects with the Bug Line to Ackerville, where we stopped for lunch and sodas. We came back to the Bug Line and rode west to Sussex. At Sussex I was talking to a couple of snowmobilers who told us about a trail going north off the Bug Line that goes to Northern Wisconsin if you want to go that far. We took the trail for awhile, but time dictated that we should turn around and go back to the Village Bowl.

Friday

We trailered to downtown Dousman where there is a convenient parking lot right next to the Glacial Drumlin Trail. Al Schultz took over as leader and gave us our longest ride of the weekend. Al took us to lunch at Capn's Corners just north of Jefferson where we had sandwiches and sodas. There we saw two groomers waiting to go!

The Glacial Drumlin Trail starts east for snowmobiles at Wales and goes west to Cottage Grove. There is one break in the Drumlin at Jefferson Junction, but there is a snowmobile trail joining both links. Both the Bug Line and Drumlin Trails brought back memories of riding the U.P. on abandoned railroad right-of-ways.

After lunch Al took us on a nice loop through northern Jefferson County ending back on the Drumlin. It was getting dark, so it was back to Dousman and our vehicles.

Saturday

We started our ride from Denoon Park which is close to Muskego. Since Bob lives in Muskego and had knowledge of the area, he was unanimously elected leader. He took us on many trails leading to the Dover Inn in Dover for a nice lunch.

The Dover Inn must be a very popular stop for snowmobilers. The whole lot was full of tracks; I assumed they were from snowmobilers stopping for a fish fry on Friday night. Later in the afternoon as we rode past, there were sleds parked all around the Inn.

After lunch Bob took us all over the area. I probably got him in trouble with Judy by getting him home late because I wanted him to take us here, there and everywhere. We rode from 9:15 A.M. to a little after 4:00 P.M.

For me it was a great experience. I had not snowmobiled in this area since the late '80's. I always would hear that so many trails had been closed so I thought riding was very limited.

That idea is wrong. We started all three days in Waukesha County which is ideal for me. It took me 20-30 minutes to travel to each of the starting spots. Every starting place had a nice lot where we were welcome to park and unload, and the trails started right there.

THANK YOU DICK!

By Bill Schultz

A big thank you to Dick Bruno for arranging the Carter Snofari.

The Indian Springs Lodge was the nicest place I have ever stayed on any Snofari. The rooms were large, very clean and as warm as you desired. It was an exceptional rate when you deducted the cost of the breakfast and the discount on the dinner. Breakfast was a full breakfast of your choice and dinner had many choices all reasonably priced, less a 10% discount.

Thursday and Friday the trails were almost in perfect condition. Very seldom did I hit a bump. I did learn that I need to know the trail system if I ever have the privilege to return. Saturday we had a plan to go and ride smooth trails. The plan was changed by our two leaders who claimed they knew the trails. I believe 80% of the trails were somewhat bumpy. We also were led on the longest way to each destination. People I talked to during and after the ride confirmed our original plan would have made a smooth Saturday ride.

But again let me point out the benefits staying at the Indian Springs Lodge. Besides the restaurant there is a pool, hot tub, gas station and casino right on the premises. There is plenty to do for anyone and everyone.

Since the Snobirds have a half dozen Weekend Snofaris each season, I'd like to suggest we have Dick set up six Weekend Snofaris each season at the Indian Springs Lodge. We could not have it any better!

The Snobirds who did not go on this snofari lost out; those who did, I am sure, had a fantastic time.

Thanks again, Dick, for arranging a great weekend; it was the best!

We snowmobiled in Jefferson, Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha Counties—all from close to home! We were on Corridor 40 which goes west to Cassville on the Mississippi River, Corridor 13 that goes to Eagle River and north, and also Corridor 9 which goes north to Crandon and further north. It reminded me of Dennis Mayer and the trips he organized for us from Menomonee Falls to Northern Wisconsin and the U.P. and back. If we start getting snow that stays maybe we could do this again.

I want to thank Bob and Al for leading us on great rides. Also thanks to Bud Jaske for pointing out the correct directions. Bud amazed me how he knew where we were in some little burg and which way to turn to get where we wanted to go.

This was the worst turnout ever for the Guys' Ride. There were four of us Thursday and four of us Friday and Saturday.

Most of the trails were good riding. Some parts of the system had been groomed, probably just to test out the groomers because there was not enough snow to cause moguls. We did pass one groomer operating through a swamp. It is nice to know if we do get and keep snow that the groomers are available to keep the trails smooth. Many of the trails were through farmers' fields which were very nice, some wound around trees in the woods and a few were ditches along roads.

As we rode past people in their yard I would wave, thanking them for letting us ride on their property. They all waved back, so I guess they were happy we were enjoying our ride.

One person I did miss was our Vice President. He always does something unusual for me to write about. I hope he is with us on the trails next year.

If you get a chance and the snow stays, ride down here. I believe you will enjoy.