

THE KNOX KNEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS
LETTER OF THE KNOX
TRAIL SNO-RIDERS
SNOWMOBILE CLUB
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413-269-0243



The rebuilt THIOKOL GROOMER debuted at the Nov. 22 meeting. Hard work from dedicated volunteers made the overhaul a reality! These are the guys that made it happen. Left to right: Pete Chait, Greg Stevens, Jack Shinkwin, and Joe, Kaz, and Cristian Kasa.

THIOKOL GROOMER READY TO WORK!

Throughout the late Summer and Fall, a dedicated team of Club mechanics bolted, welded, painted, fabricated, and did all the other things necessary to reincarnate the Club's old Thiokol Groomer. A V-6 engine and automatic transmission replaced the old 4 cylinder and standard. Still to come is an electrically controlled hydraulic ram steer package. This system drastically improves control and durability while provided improved safety and ease of operation. A special note of thanks goes out to Roland Goulet of Sullivan Glass in Winsted for supplying the new windshield and rear door glass and weather-strip. The Thiokol will join the Bombi as the flagship groomers of the Knox Trail Sno-Riders!



This old workhorse had seen better days but will now see a whole lot more!

THE POWER SPORTS SHOW

Thank you goes out to everyone who visited Knox Trail's booth at the POWER SHOW. It was the most successful one ever! The new show format included snowmobiles, atvs, watercraft, and RVs. The generous merchants donating prizes and the hard working volunteers made it all possible!



Corey Tribula staffs the Power Show booth with help from Paul Richard

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all!

We are starting to gear up for the upcoming season and wouldn't you know its has already snowed. I came back from a the SAM meeting on Nov.5 and by time I hit Rte. 23 in Blandford it was snowing hard and turning white everywhere. Hopefully this will be of what's coming down to stay in the months ahead.

Our strong team of volunteers have been amazing, spending countless hours on trail maintenance and doing a complete overhaul of our old Thiokol grooming machine and drags. Bill Taylor is our SAM delegate and still attends the monthly meetings. He tells me he's been a SAM rep. for nine years and has missed only one meeting. Jim Richard our treasurer is the person who produces the club maps, newsletters and the voice on the snowphone. Our fix it man, whether its day or night, for many years has been Jack Shinkwin. When comes to our grooming equipment, I can tell you folks these guys are dedicated and are part of the backbone of the club. I will mention more volunteers in presidents spotlight in up coming months.

At this time our membership is up over last year and donations in materials and funds keep arriving daily! SAM passes, maps, newsletters are now available at many locations throughout the area and you can go on line for more information at www.knoxtrail.com. Come on down and join us at a meeting or one of our many club projects or functions. Have fun and make new friends. I look forward to seeing you at the club picnic/poker ride and our first club Sam sponsored vintage snowmobile ride. I like to thank all of the Landowners for giving us the opportunity of using their land for our trail system, and our local area businesses for supporting us.

This winter, have fun, keep safe, and look for our grooming team with a thumbs up.

Jeff Gamelli
president, KTSR



THE SAFETY COURSE

The annual Safety Course was held on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Clubhouse. Kudos to Gary Bushey and Randy Toth of the Berkshire Snow Seekers for providing the training, and hosts Joyce and Bill Taylor. Over twenty attendees earned their VAST Certificate, which is valid anywhere driver training is mandatory.

Melissa Allard video taped the course for her thesis "Snowmobiling in Massachusetts". Melissa is a senior communications major at Emerson College in Boston.



Randy Toth



Gary Bushey



Melissa Allard is making a video about snowmobiling in Mass.

LETTERS TO THE CLUB

My family has been snowmobiling in the Otis area since the 70's and last year truly was the best trail conditions I can remember.

We rode from the reservoir to October Mtn. and ran into groomers both ways! They were coming out as we were going in, smooth virgin snow both ways.

This was really a treat since we still ride sleds from the 70's. That four inches of suspension travel on the vintage Puma and TNT Silver Bullet didn't bottom out even once!

We could actually ride sitting down. The kids didn't bounce out of the Ski-Boose either.

The price of a SAM pass was well worth the riding conditions.

See you at the Power Sports show.

Mel Scuderi

As you know, every club, organization, etc., has members who could be called 'unsung heroes'. Our club is no different.

Well it is good that long-time members like Al Hurley have been recognized for his contributions to the Knox Trail Sno-Riders, others perhaps not so visible should also be recognized and awarded a big 'thank

you' for all they do, too.

Although it may seem like a conflict of interest, the member I would like to endorse as one of those 'unsung heroes' does sit on the board of directors for our club, I would like to go ahead anyway, as I feel credit must go where credit is do. And that credit, in our opinion, goes to Paul Mastrianni.

On many a cold Saturday morning during the riding season have we arisen to the sight of smoke curling from Paul's cottage chimney. We know this is usually a sign that Paul is up and preparing for what usually proves to be a long day of either grooming or clearing on any of the trails we all are known to ride. On occasion we have ridden with Paul, either to breakfast, or for a long day's ride to Bucksteep Manor, and we can tell you there is a no more dedicated snowmobile rider than our friend and neighbor Paul Mastrianni. His dedication and enthusiasm for the sport we all have come to love is plainly evident by the bringing along of at least one small chainsaw, stopping periodically on the rides we have taken with Paul over the years to cut either a hanging branch or a fallen tree and thus making the trail a little more safe for not only us, but for others to ride as well. Often has he told me of the amount of miles he has put on his sled on any given day; after the December '08 ice storm there had been more than enough work to do on the trails, with many other volunteers working along side Paul to help clear away the widespread damage done to the trail system. Tired as he must have been after such rigorous work done out in the bitter cold, his devotions never wavered, quietly claiming all the while just how much had been achieved that day and how good it was to have gotten the job done.

Now I'm not saying that the trail work has been done by Paul all by himself. That is certainly not true, as we have seen others out doing the same, either with our neighbor or with other members on many an occasion. But as we live just down the street from Paul, and have seen him up early most every Saturday and Sunday, heading out to either a meeting or out to clear trails, we see a man out doing what he loves best, keeping the trails safe for all to enjoy, and taking some time out in between for a ride himself on those cold, crisp mornings most of us live for during the short weeks which make up the snowmobiling season.

In essence, we would just like to reiterate just how much we have appreciated Paul's efforts and hard work all these years, and that they haven't gone totally unnoticed. We wish other members of the Knox Trail Sno-Riders would do the same, as he certainly is deserving of such praise and recognition.

Sincerely,

Gregg and Monica Alexander
East Otis

THE KTSR SCHEDULE

MEETINGS: December 13, December 27, January 10, January 24, February 14, February 28, March 14, March 28, April 11 NEW FACES NEEDED! Breakfast at 8, meeting at 9. Tannery Road clubhouse. Map POI 1, Just north of the Farmington River School, Otis

January 24, 2010: Poker Run on Otis Reservoir. Location at W26

February 7, 2010: VINTAGE RIDE. Park and register at P3. Additional parking will be available.

TRAIL WORK: Parties meet at the Groomer Garage across from the Knoxtrail Inn. Sunday @9am or after regular meetings.

SNO PHONE, TWITTER, WEBSITE AND SAM FORUM

The SNO PHONE is where you can get the latest trail reports and event announcements. Leave a message for the club here. 413.269.0243.

You can now follow the club on Twitter @Knoxtrail.

Knoxtrail.com now has a direct link to the SAM forum

YOUR TREASURER'S RANT

With all of the copy in this KK, a first I thought there would be no room for a rant. Well here's the room, and here's my rant.

You know what bums my belt? The Mass sled registration set-up. It's too complicated and poorly executed.

Money is like water; it follows the path of least resistance. Out of state sled money flows right past MA because a rider cannot go into an establishment, present his identification, sled's info, insurance card (if required), and MONEY and get a MA sled registration, just like they do in Maine. No, he's got to go to Springfield or Pittsfield and wait in line or wait for the mail, then get a SAM pass. Forget it! He'll ride somewhere else!

If the MA reg. and SAM pass were rolled into one and sold by authorized private merchants, rider-ship in MA would go thru the roof! Furthermore, MA would save a ton by eliminating most of the paperwork of registering sleds.

And another thing. This would eliminate SAM pass cheats. When I see a sled without a SAM pass, they are unidentifiable because MA has no serial number on their sticker. Cheats wear out the trails without paying and there isn't much an individual can do about it. Mr. Legislator, are you listening?

Your Treasurer, Jim Richard

See you on the trails, hopefully real soon!



VOLUNTEER!



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Knox Trail Sno-Riders

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Don't sit inside this winter. Get out and join the fun!



Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. is a snowmobile club located in Otis, MA. Its purpose is to promote the sport of snowmobiling and maintain a network of groomed trails. Formed in 1971, the club begins its 39th. season and 40th. year of providing a great riding experience in the Southern Berkshires. The club is an affiliate member of The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, an association of 36 clubs, helping to make Massachusetts a destination of choice for snowmobiling individuals and families.
PRESIDENT: Jeff Gamelli VICE PRESIDENT: (interim) Greg Stevens TREASURER: James Richard 413-269-7318 SECRETARY: Corey Tribiula
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Volunteers are the backbone of the Knox Trail Sno-Riders!



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