

THE KNOX KNEWS

The official news letter of The Knox Trail Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club
 PO Box 363, East Otis, MA 01029
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CLUB EVENTS

- Poker Run and Picnic has been moved as of the time of this writing. It does not appear the conditions will be good on Feb. 3rd. It will now be on Sunday February 17th.. with a "poor condition" date of Sunday March 2nd. Northwest end of Otis Reservoir at 11am to 3 pm.
- Trail Work- Every Sunday at 9AM or after the meeting in front of the groomer garage. Call Bill Taylor to be sure.
- Meetings at Tannery Road Clubhouse- Feb. 10&24, Mar.9., and Apr. 13. Breakfast @8AM, Meeting @9AM. Trail-work afterwards.
- The Izaak Walton league of America, Berkshire Chapter is having an Ice Fishing Derby on February 9th on Lower Spectacle Pond, Cold Spring Rd. in Sandisfield. 7am to 1pm. Heaviest fish wins. 1st place-\$500.00, 2nd-\$300.00, 3rd-200.00. Also raffle prizes, Log truck load of firewood, deep sea fishing tickets for two, (3) \$100.00 prizes and more. Food and refreshments are available. Contact me for tickets at 413-269-4792 or william.a.taylor@hs.utc.com
 Thank you, Bill Taylor

work, grooming equipment, grooming, and this upcoming season's events. Everyone is anxious to get started as the thrill of the ride is coming. You try to organize trail clearing, trail re-routes, bridge building, etc. You spend the fall prepping the trails. Next comes the concerns of the groomer equipment, what to keep, what to get rid of, and what to fix. During that time you have club events which take planning and volunteers. Fall goes well, the groomer contract is in and the vendors are ready to sell your passes. Come on snow.

Now you are waiting for people to buy passes early to help fund the club. Then it finally snows. The riding begins and you feel your ready. All the vendors are selling passes and the rush is on. You have to keep checking to make sure they have enough passes. Nobody wants to turn down anybody. The groomers start getting used, the trails are good, every one is happy, life is good.

Then in one week the weather gets warm, the rain comes and deci-

mates the trail system. Living in southern New England sure has its challenges. Now you have to cancel some events and wait for more snow. When it comes, the mad rush is on again to supply passes and start grooming again.

In the Sate of Massachusetts there are 36 clubs, all dealing with the same issues. About two percent of riders do all the volunteering of time and monies to take care of the trails for the other ninety eight percent of riders. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their efforts. Being a club president brings a lot of stuff to the table. Without the board of directors, officers, and everyone who helps with the club, the club would not exist. No club, no trails, no riding!

Mr. Bill Taylor

President, KTSR



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello Fellow Sno-riders,

I would like to tell you a little story about running a snowmobile club. As fall approaches, you get the board of directors together to discuss trail

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THE TREASURER'S RANT

From my last Rant, my wish that we would be up to our butts in snow when you read it came true. December was good to us but a big rain wrecked it. Then a hard freeze and a couple of small storms brought it back, only to get wrecked again by a January thaw. Riding has been shot since then. I hope by the time you read this we are back up to our butts in snow!!!

This is a tough area for sledding. Sometimes we have oceans of snow while our northern friends have little. Sometimes we have squat. Holding on to a good base is the bottom line. Even two feet of snow over open brooks, puddles, ponds, and swamps amounts to nothing. Right now, the base is rock solid because of the cold nights. We seem to be in a snow drought right now

but in my memory, the biggest snowfalls happen in February and March. Whatever, the conditions here usually beat out those a few miles south! Nature, bring it on!!

This is my third Rant and my third Knox Knews. No one has stepped up to publish it so I guess I'm the news letter guy for now. Putting the letter together is not that hard. The three most difficult items are content, content, content! You can help. Send me an article or some pictures. I am sure you've done something, have seen something, or know something that the readers would find interesting and/or entertaining. Just e-mail me a couple of

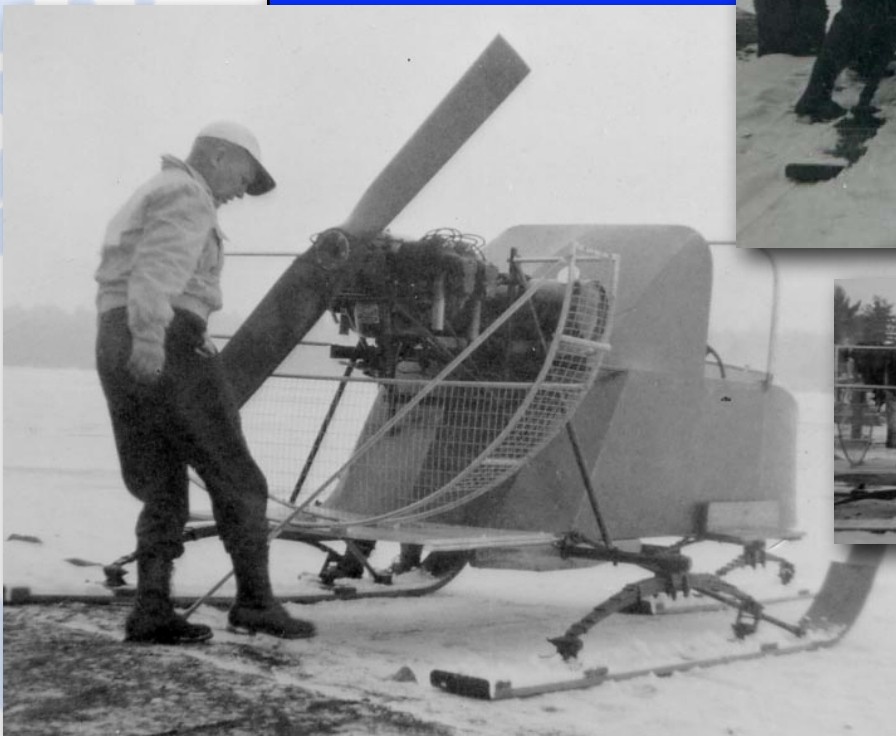
paragraphs or a few pictures. Your name will accompany any article unless you want to remain anonymous. Heck, your work could even end up in the SAM magazine! Send stuff to knoxtrail@gmail.com or box 363, East Otis, MA 01029.

And now some trail logic...

*When taking off, don't gun it and blow a big pile of snow followed by a big rut in the trail. This just makes a big bumps that make riding miserable and makes more work for the groomers. Start off easy. If you really want to blow snow, do it off the beaten path.

SLEDDING ON AIR!

This is early power sledding on the Rez! Jeff Laramy of East Otis supplied these pictures of his grandfather and his sled taken in January 1956. Notice there wasn't much snow then either. Any idea what it has for an engine? Looks like a flat four cylinder aircraft engine. And are those Model A springs? JR



*When going down a steep, narrow trail, yield to those going up. They need all the momentum they can get. If you pull off when going down, you got a helluva better chance of restarting than they do!

*Never out run your ability to stop. If you need 100 feet to stop and can see only 99 feet ahead, you're just asking for it. Slow down for corners and hill crests. Night riding may allow this rule to be bent but remember, deer, moose, fallen trees, and rocks, etc. don't have lights!

*Learn the hand signals. Here is a link: www.mesnow.com/HandSignals.html. Quite often a rider will hold up the number of fingers for the number of sleds behind him and the last sled will show a clenched fist.

This is to all of those who have purchased trail passes. There is no guarantee for snow but you still came through with your support. You could have gotten your pass from any of the SAM affiliated clubs but you chose ours. All of the club officers and the board of directors thank you for choosing Knox Trail Sno Riders.



See you on the trails!

Jim Richard, treasurer

Send photos and articles to

KNOXTRAIL@GMAIL.COM

CLUB NEWS BITES

It's been a slow news day.

Andy has been busy with the website. Jason and I will get the copy ready for the "hankie map". The trail

thru the old campground was completed.

Our first 10/10 drawing on January 16th. resulted in one \$50 winner. G. Singer matched 884 of the 2884 number drawn. No one had 883 or 885. There were no winners on the January 23rd. drawing. No one matched 059 ,058, or 060 of the 8059 number drawn.

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Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. is a snowmobile club located in Otis, MA. It's purpose is to promote the sport of snowmobiling. Formed in 1971, the club is in it's 37th. 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 : William Taylor 413-269-4792 TREASURER: James Richard 413-269-7318 SECRETARY: Corey Tribiula BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Andy Johnston, Bill Roberts, Greg Stevens, Jack Shinkwin, Jason Caufield, Jeff Gamelli, Joyce Taylor, Keith Mackey, Mike Bannish, Norm Picard, Paul Gage, Paul Mastrianni, Peter Chait, Ross Helberg The KNOX KNEWS is published 4 times during the Snowmobiling season. Send photos, articles, and comments to knoxtrail@gmail.com or Box 363, East Otis, 01029. Copyright 2008, Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc.

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