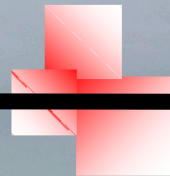


December 2015 Newsletter



HSF Meeting January 20th

The next club meeting of the 2015-2016 season is coming up Wednesday January 20th at 7:30pm. Join us for dinner!! The Legion will be serving up a fine dinner as always. Donations are welcome to support the Legion. The cash bar will also be open.



Letter from the President

I hope we can say winter is just around the corner. It sure is the wrong time of the year to have such warm weather.

I would like to thank everyone who is marking trails and preparing our equipment for grooming. In order to open trails, the general rule is we need 6 inches of snow. We need to remember the trails are on private land and that through the generosity of the landowners, we get to use their property. It seems that some snowmobilers forget it is a **privilege** and not a **right** to ride the trails. Because people are not listening or don't care, we have lost the permission to use some properties. It takes many hours and leg work to reroute a trail and obtain permission for its use.

Thank you to all the new and past members who have joined the club. We hope to see you at meetings and our functions and participate in helping improve our club. New people and new ideas are always welcome.

This is a big club with lots of miles of trail. It takes many dollars to keep the club operating. Most of the money comes from trail funding but it doesn't cover all our expenses. We need to do fund raising such as Hilton Applefest, Rochester Snow Show, and NYSSA raffle tickets to meet our expenses. We hope you will consider participating in these functions. If you go to the Hilton Sno-Flyers website, you will see all of our functions for the coming year. Hope to see you at one of these events.

If someone knows how to make it snow, it would be nice to make it happen in the next few weeks. Thanks!!

Tom Francis, Club President



Hilton Sno-Flyers 2015-2016 Calendar of Events

Meeting Schedule and Location 7:30 PM

FERRIS GOODRIDGE AMERICAN LEGION POST 330

691 TRIMMER ROAD

SPENCERPORT NEW YORK 14559

January 20th February 17th

March 16th April 6th



Letter from the Vice President

I want to say something new, something fresh, something that might inspire someone to cross the line from spectator member to participating member. We need more members to just become more involved in some way, any way, to add their energy and talents to the efforts made by the small minority, for the benefit of the majority.

Now for the new and fresh...

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

That's not new is it?

How about, "What goes around, comes around."

Still not new....

Ok, "If you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem."

No, we've heard all these before.

I guess I cannot come up with a better way to say that our club and the whole sport would be better if everyone pitched in and put something into it so that they could ride their snowmobiles close to home, because after all, "Many hands make light work".

Imagine this: You come home from work on a Friday night, eager to get the sled out and take a ride to Stones or the Dakota or even out to the Byron Hotel, the Viking or the Braddock Bay establishments. The trails are in great shape. They must have been groomed this morning or late last night. It's good they finally put up those junction signs directing us to where we want to go. The trail marking has gotten a lot better these last few years too.

I remember there were a couple of big water holes on the way to Hamlin. Where did they go? This bridge is new. I'm glad someone is making this trail better so I can enjoy what little time I have, to ride more. It's good to be a member of a club that has the equipment to do the job, a big trail system, is well known and respected by many, is improving all the time and most importantly, allows me to ride practically from my own house. This is great! I belong to this club. Maybe I should go to one of the club meetings, show MY support and even ask if I can help. After all, "Many hands make light work".

Marty Sauer, VP



Trail Updates

Trails:

Many of our members that attend our regular monthly meetings may be aware of the following information that I'm going to share but with the start of a new season, it's worth sharing for the benefit of those members that don't always make the monthly meetings.

The HSF are responsible for over 100 miles of trail that we install and maintain. Just about all of the trails travel over private lands.

Landowners are very gracious to allow us to use their land for our snowmobile trail. Without them we would not have trail for all of us to enjoy. It's very important that we respect the

landowners, their land and the marking system on their lands. Over the last couple of years New York State Snowmobiling has requested that all clubs begin using a double marking system. By this I mean, there are stakes on both sides of the trail, clearly identifying, and the area we have been given permission by the landowner to ride. Please respect this marking system and "Ride between the stakes " As long as we continue to be respectful and responsible, we will have a trail for years to come. On another note related to trails, weather permitting, we will be out with our tractor brush hogging many sections of the trail. Time and weather permitting we will also be out with our tractor smoothing out the trails with our new cultivator.



Trail changes

Don't make the assumption that a trail we rode last year is in the same spot this year. Each year when we install the trails, there may be changes based on landowner requests, crops planted in a certain area, re-routes, property sales or improvements that we make based on improved safety. There are many factors that come into play with respect to the location of the trail. Please use caution especially after the first snow before the groomers get a chance to get out, that white gold can sometimes hide obstacles under it that aren't easily detected. If you happen to come upon a safety issue, or a sign that may have been knocked down by wind, a snowmobile, or a groomer, please make every effort to let us know so we can get it re-installed.

New trail markings:

Last year we implemented our new trail intersection signs at all intersections. These signs include, trail intersection numbers as well as corridor numbers that correspond with our maps. They also include directions to destinations, town, food locations, fuel etc.. This year one of our goals is a new stake marking system where each stake has a 1 inch square highly reflective material on both sides of the top; you will notice these at night where they really stand out. This is in addition to the typical orange blaze reflectors or directional sign that are normally on the stake.

One final trail note:

Any time you see someone that is a trail boss, give them a thumbs up and a **Thank You**. These trails don't just magically appear, there are many guys spending many volunteer hours behind the scenes meeting with land owners, trimming trees, pounding stakes, installing signs, walking the trails before the snow flies to make them safe for the enjoyment of others.

Hats off to all those guys and gals...Happy Trails !!

Dan Gurbacki, Trail Coordinator (469-6789 cell)



Groomers and Grooming

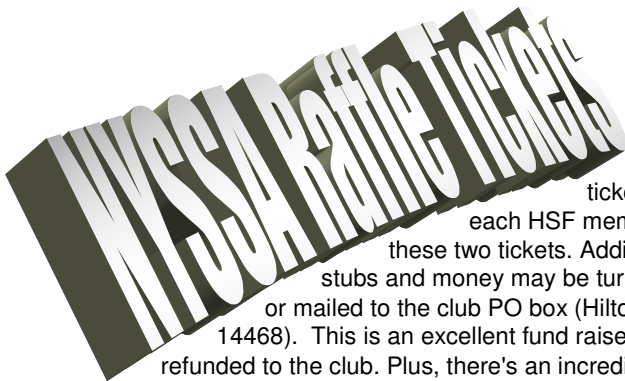
Without going into great detail regarding the status of our machines, when the snow flies our 3 groomers will be ready. We have about 75% of the repairs, improvements and PM'S completed and are on target for a 12/21/15 start date. There is no better feeling when you are out riding and you come upon a trail that is freshly groomed. Being the first sled down that trail is something that you have to experience to be able know what's it feels like. We at the HSF try our best to have our trails in great condition but there are many factors that come into play with respect to grooming,

Because of the area we live in, when we have adequate snow our trails can see quite a bit of traffic. As with most areas, it's difficult on the weekends to keep up with and maintain the trails with the high amount of traffic. We typically try to groom on Thursday evening or Friday during the day before the weekend, and then the entire trail system again on Saturday night and again on Monday or Tuesday. We typically try to groom late at night so the trail has adequate time and can set up hard. There can sometimes be the perception the groomers haven't been out. It does happen where because of the high traffic in some areas, no matter how much grooming takes place, the trails can't be sustained. It's best to ride early because as the day goes on and more sleds hit the trails, the trail, depending on the area, can't hold up. Many factors come into play with respect to grooming.

Please be alert, as groomers may be out at any of time of the day or night. The Groomers will be out providing the following conditions are met:

- Snow Amount (The amount of snow on the ground is enough to groom)
- Temperature (The temperature is cold enough to be able to move and pack the snow)
- Groomer Operators (We have enough operators who wish to volunteer their time to make the trails flat for you)
- Equipment (Equipment is up and running in good working condition) Break downs can occur , when this happens , the other machines do double duty
- If the above conditions aren't met, we will not groom

Dan Gurbacki, Trail Coordinator (469-6789 cell)



Club members will be receiving two raffle tickets in the mail very shortly. We encourage each HSF member to either sell or purchase (themselves) these two tickets. Additional tickets are available for sale. Ticket stubs and money may be turned into Steve Woodward at club meetings or mailed to the club PO box (Hilton Sno-Flyers, PO Box 48, Hilton, NY 14468). This is an excellent fund raiser for the club. Half of every \$5 ticket is refunded to the club. Plus, there's an incredible list of prizes given away in April!!



Thank You

This Fall I've been a little preoccupied with family and work, which has taken away from my "Hobby Time", and like most of you, we have more than one "Hobby" to fill our spare time. This past summer was a good one for riding motorcycles, I racked up more miles than in the previous three or four seasons combined, even though most of it was commuting to work. I did have opportunity to ride to a couple vintage snowmobile shows, a couple cruise nights and even an evening out on the boat. It's amazing how many snowmobilers I've gotten to know over the years and how many of them I run into at these other events. We all share a love of motorsports and we all have an appreciation for what it takes to make any of them possible. It goes beyond buying a big, mechanical device, registering and insuring it, and changing the oil once in a while. We get to know our equipment; how to drive it, when it runs right and when it doesn't. It wasn't always this way, we had to learn this somewhere, some from our fathers (or mothers) and some from friends. So I'd like to say Thank You to my Dad for exposing me to Car and Boat Care and Maintenance, My Uncle for his Passion of Motorcycles, and an Old Friend for his Passion of Snowmobiles. As I got more involved in snowmobiling, I made more friends through club activities and learned that it's really a year round hobby. I was reminded of this on Saturday when I stopped at the Groomer Barn to pick up the Stakes and Signs to start Marking Trail. I found a half-dozen barrels full of freshly painted stakes with the reflectors already attached! I went into the storage trailer and found that all of the stakes have reflectors attached, So it's time to say Thanks Again – to Dan Gurbacki and all of the Club Members that have doing all of the pre-season prep work for the trail and on the Groomers.



If you've read this far, you can see that I am saying thank you to all that have led me and the Club to this point, and it was through the help and guidance of others that I learned all about snowmobiling. It's your turn and mine to pass this knowledge and experience along to friends and family to continue enjoying our hobby. **Thanks.**

Rich Manley - Honorary Board Member

Treasurer's Report

Last winter was great for snowmobiling. It was so good that it caused us to spend significantly in groomer fuel and fuel oil. We stayed within our budget, but did spend more than normal. As a result we came into this year with a slightly lower budget. We only budget with money we have available for the next year. We as a club get most our monies from the **trail fund, memberships, and fundraisers**. The money is needed to maintain and upgrade equipment, pay for rent and utilities for the groomer barn, purchase stakes, signs, wood and bolts for bridges, insurance, and other associated costs.

Trail Fund: It is important to log all volunteer time in with Marty Sauer. We need to turn in the proper paperwork to get our trail funding.

Memberships: It would be appreciated that if you use our trail systems and enjoy them, to become members and register your sleds before waiting for the snow. We pay the bills whether it snows or not, and this gets you ready for snow while supporting your club.

Fundraisers: We appreciate all the volunteers that supported our fundraisers so far this year. The Hilton Sno-Flyers were at the Monroe County Fair and the Hilton Apple Fest selling french fries. We were also at the Rochester Snowmobile Show that was held at the Garden Factory where we generated income from vendors, food and festivities. All in all those three events brought us in a gross income of \$13,700 in sales. After all expenses, we netted around \$7,450 profit to go back into the club. Those profits do not include additional NYSSA ticket sales, clothing, and memberships at the Snow Show. Our club is financially healthy thanks to the volunteers that put their time in to help. If you have not had the chance to volunteer, we welcome you to be part of the engine that keeps our club the premier club that it is. We are now selling NYSSA raffle tickets and would welcome help selling them.

Thank you and have a great winter.

John Miller

Club Contact Info

Hilton SnoFlyers
PO Box 48
Hilton, NY 14468
585-234-0629

President: Tom Francis
585-352-4758
President@hiltonsnoflyers.net

Vice President: Marty Sauer
585-813-7068
martyadtech@gmail.com

Treasurer: John Miller
585-317-6289
treasurer@hiltonsnoflyers.net

Membership Chair: Scott Proctor
membership@hiltonsnoflyers.net

Recording Secretary: Mary Bishop

Trail Coordinator - South: Dan Gurbacki
585-469-6789
dgurbacki@diamondpkg.com

Trail Coordinator - North: Wally Korzenieski
585-415-8115
wkorzen@gmail.com

Director: Steve Woodward

Director: Rick Wilson

Director: Alan Bertch

Director: Rich Manley
585-329-1140
mr_manley@frontiernet.net

Hilton Sno-Flyers Text Alert System

The HSF text alert system that debuted earlier last year will be active again this season. It is being used to get important club information out to people quickly that may not have access to the internet at all times. Text alerts will be sent out mainly by John Miller with the approval of The Board of Directors. Other board members will also have the ability to send out alerts. Text alerts will consist of Trail information (opening – closing), hazardous conditions, in-season re-routes, emergency work details, club meetings, club events and major work details. The system is secure and your phone number will never be sold or shared. You will also never be spammed. We will do our best to keep the alerts to a minimum and you can always cancel the service by replying STOP. Hopefully this system will spread to members that don't come to meetings or visit the website much so they can keep informed about important club news. To sign up, just Text **SNOFLYERS** to **84483** to receive alerts from **The Hilton Sno-Flyers**. Msg. & data rates may apply.





SMALL INCREASE FOR A BIG IMPACT



If you have already joined your club you could not have avoided noticing that most club memberships went up \$5 this year. On April 21, 2015 the club delegates who attended the NYSSA Annual Meeting adopted a resolution calling for the minimum membership fee to go from \$25 to \$30. Many clubs were already charging this higher amount. Unfortunately, there was no alternative to implementing this modest increase in membership fees. Eighty percent (\$4) of the increase will go to the clubs with \$1 dollar going to SLEDNY. The clubs need the money to pay for trail maintenance. The \$1 to SLEDNY will assist the 501c3 not-for-profit in its snowmobile education mission and assist in bringing down the attendance cost of the Educational Forum. Visit www.sledny.org for more information on SLEDNY. The increase represents less than two gallons of fuel and we hope you understand that it is needed to keep the clubs doing what they do so well: maintain over 10,000 miles of trail.

56 ENGAGEMENT

New Fox Shocks Promise Next-Level Adjustability

Imagine making good time down an otherwise smooth trail when, suddenly immediately ahead of you, you see an extremely rugged corner with big moguls. Instead of just bracing for impact, what if you could immediately increase the compression damping of your shocks without even slowing your snowmobile? Sound farfetched? Such new shock technology could be making it to a snowmobile near you in the not-too-distant future. That's the word from the Fox Factory, which unveiled

a new, high-tech version of its QS3 shocks at the Haydays Grass Drags & Swap Meet event in September.

The QS3 (Quick Switch 3-Position) shocks, found on select Arctic Cat, Polaris and Yamaha snowmobiles for 2016, allow riders to switch between three different compression rates – with positions 1, 2 and 3 representing soft, medium and firm – using a three-way switch mounted on the shock's remote reservoir. This simplified method of adjustment, Fox and its snowmobile



manufacturer partners hope, will make more riders more willing to set their shocks for the riding conditions being encountered, rather

than using 20-plus position clicker shocks that some consider intimidating.

By the winter of 2016-17, though, Fox plans to bring the level of simplicity one step further by having the shocks remotely adjustable using a handlebar-mounted switch as part of the Racing Application Development (RAD) package. The switch would be tied into a stepper motor inside the shocks, which would then instantly change the settings, according to Rick Strobel of Fox.

The RAD shocks will be tested this winter on racetracks, trails and in the backcountry, with a mission to release them for the following season, Strobel said. Already, three years of testing and development has gone into the shocks, Fox officials said.