

# February 2012 Newsletter



Established 1969

[www.hiltonsnowflyers.net](http://www.hiltonsnowflyers.net)

## HSE Meeting February 15th

The next club meeting of the 2011-2012 season is coming up Wednesday February 15th at 7:30. Join us for dinner!! The Legion will be serving up a Beef on Weck. Donations are welcome to support the Legion. The cash bar will also be open.

## Letter from the President

Hope you all had a nice holiday and Happy New Year to all. I have no control over this horrible winter we are having. However, I would still like to say sorry about it. Keep your heads high. The club's treasurer John Miller is predicting we will have some type of winter weather this season and the trails will be opened. I sure hope he is right. Even though its been a bust season, volunteerrism has been up for us. I would like to thank all that have participated. A poor winter has long implications to a snowmobile club. Next season we will see a downturn in memberships, along with a downturn in active participants within the club. The poor weather even gets the officers of the club down, along with the everyday run of the mill member.

Club elections will be upon us very shortly. It looks like we will have openings for President, Secretary, Membership, and two board of directors. We will be looking for three trail bosses in the southern trail that are nonelected positions. *As always, think snow!!*

**Jim Meyer, Acting President**

## Letter from the Vice President

This sure has been a bummer of a winter. Hopefully, the month of February will produce enough snow so the trails can open. You need to remember that the trails are double staked and you have to keep right. Please respect your fellow snowmobilers and our landowners. There is no Hamlin Winter Festival this year because of lack of volunteers. Seems this is a problem with all organizations. Our volunteerism is up this year, but more hands are always welcome. Election of officers and directors are soon up for elections. The club is always looking for new faces and ideas. Get involved and you will see what it takes for the largest and best club in Monroe County to function. Someone please do a snow dance!!!! Thank you.

**Tom Francis, VP**

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## Mid-Season Report from the Treasurer

This is a great time to let those of you know who have not personally attended our club meetings how the Hilton Sno-Flyer Treasury runs. Our forefathers in the club made some really great moves to insure the club is run responsibly. The budget that we approve each year is only for what trail fund money was generated from the previous year and the cash we have on hand as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. What this means in a nutshell is that we do not run a budget on speculation on what income we may get in the future. This year's income is currently accumulating for next year's budget.



As for this year's budget, we are on plan, the line-by-line budgeted categories are doing well. We have plenty of funds to run efficiently through this winter, should we get one.

So far this year we have spent quite a lot on groomer repairs, bridge improvements, and we have added many trail stakes and paint. These improvements were voted into this year's budget and are not any surprises. We have double staked the trails this year. Double staking means that we will be riding for the most part between the stakes, not on the outsides of them.

If I need to convey any bad news it was our Apple-Fest income. Mother nature came in very cold and wet for us, quite miserable. Fortunately French Fries are a low cost upfront. We were lucky that we were able to, sell unopened fries at a loss, and still make a meager profit overall. Other vendors were rumored to have finished with losses. Many volunteers worked very hard in bad weather to pull off the event. This weather scared many customers away. We finished with the lowest profit that I have ever seen and have been involved for the last 16 years in this event. Income, we netted somewhere around one thousand dollars, normally we net between thirty five hundred and six thousand. This loss of income will be felt next year when we plan the budget.

Due to the warm weather many people have not registered their sleds for this season; this will significantly decrease the trail fund moneys that we will receive next year. Next year we may have to run a bit leaner as a result of those two events. Even with this we are still a very resilient and healthy club.

Please come attend a meeting where you can get to know more about the club, the meetings are informative and the social aspect is very rewarding.

Thank You.

**John Miller, Treasurer**





# Hilton Sno-Flyers *GROOMING* *INFORMATION*

**Please be alert, as groomers may be out at any of time of the day or night. 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)**

**If the above conditions aren't met, we will not groom.**

*Please check trail conditions at the Hilton Sno-Flyers webpage or call the Snow Phone.*

[www.hiltonsnoflyers.net](http://www.hiltonsnoflyers.net)  
Snow Phone: 5852340629

## Just rambling at this point...

So here we are in the middle of our non-season. When there is snow, there is enthusiasm for the sport and the club. What is there now? Is there expectation that it will come, or is there disappointment that it's not going to happen? It is going to be different answers for different people.

I almost feel foolish for saying this, but the actual riding of my snowmobiles is only part of what I get out of this sport. For me and many others in the sport, snowmobiling is year round. Sure, there's nothing like a morning ride in fresh powder on smooth groomed trails or riding to meet friends for dinner and drinks at a trailside restaurant. But there are other snowmobile related activities that are not riding. Here are some examples. I will start at what would be considered "this season".

Late in the summer, Dan Gurbacki, with help from Peter D'Orzio and others was still working to get the PB240 back into service. Dan had work details at the groomer barn for the 240 work and a myriad of other jobs to be done. As I've said before, this provides great camaraderie with fellow snowmobilers and contributes to the club. Trail Coordinator Fred Bradshaw and a dedicated core of helpers built or repaired several bridges in the north section over the late summer months.

In October, the Hilton Applefest is a fun and worthwhile club activity. In normal years, this is the club's biggest fundraiser. We have as many as 18 club members each day to man our booth. Usually everyone has a good time and friendships are formed or reinforced.

In November, Fred had a major bridge detail near Lawton Road. This involved spanning a fast moving creek with 7 telephone poles and then decking them over. The decking boards had to be loaded onto the large blue trailer at the groomer barn in preparation. Dan borrowed Bob Hills tractor and Wally trailered his over. Generators, air compressors, impact drivers, chain saws and tractors were used. This is cool stuff for young and older boys alike. To be a part of such a worthwhile project is satisfying.

On November 14 the Snow Show was held at Doan Dodge in Greece. This was a big success. Those of us that worked at that event were involved from 8 am to 6 pm. This is a fun day, seeing and talking to the various dealers and seeing other club members.

Later in November, there was trail to be installed. The Rhino and Tucker were used. There are many people and much effort involved in marking over 100 miles of trail. This marking used many additional (1000) stakes due to the double staking. These were painted orange or red over the summer by the likes of Randy Spurr, Mario and son Brock and Steve Woodward and his son.

Thanksgiving weekend is usually a big work weekend and this year was no exception. Dan and crew were working on the 240 and trail was being marked. Nick and I installed part of my section that weekend also. We were also getting ready for the first annual Brockport Festival of Lights Parade. Julie Wrench and Gary Van Streader were working with my family to pull this together.

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> was the parade and preparations consumed most of the weekend. Sunday, Gary brought his trailer and we prepped the float to go to Brockport. At the staging area for the parade, several club members, then several more showed up to help. This was amazing to experience. In total I think we had 18 club members participate in this Sunday night event. I would say that everyone had fun. The names of those participating were posted on the website and can be seen there under the topic "Brockport Parade". It was GREAT to have so many come and show our spirit to the Brockport community.

December 22, opening day for trails, came and went. There was no snow to speak of so the trails would not be opening on their earliest possible date. Between Christmas and New Years, marking my section of trail was completed. We were ready IF the snow came and the trails opened.

Since New Years day, Dan and crew have completed all repairs on the 240, and almost all trail is installed. There was a major new trail established as an alternate to the wetlands on Whitter Rd. This trail is west of the previous crossing of Whitter Rd. This reroute has been in the works for close to 2 years. Thanks to Dan Gurbacki, Bob Hill, Robert Colby and Jim Meyer, among others, for making this happen.

Gary VanStreader has done some repairs to the Polaris 6 wheeler.

As I started this article, it is ramblings. Snowmobiling is a year round sport. If you think that it's only something to do while there's snow on the ground, Think again!! You are not getting all you can from it. None of the many events and activities in this article involves riding a snowmobile, yet I feel that I've had a busy season already.



**Marty Sauer, Director**

## *Hilton Sno-Flyers Text Alert System*

The new text alert system is being implemented 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 Steve Frosini (Webmaster) 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.**

**Steve Frosini, Webmaster**



### Club Contact Info

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

**President: Rich Manley**  
**585-329-1140**

**Vice President: Tom Francis**  
**585-352-4758**

**Treasurer: John Miller**  
**585-317-6289**

**Membership Secretary: Jim Howard**  
**585-394-0875**

**Recording Secretary: Julie Wrench**  
**Trail Coordinator: Fred Bradshaw**

**Director: Dan Gurbacki**

**Director: Marty Sauer**

**Director: Rhonda Ferrari**

**Director: Robert Colby**

**Special Appointee: Peter D'Orazio**

**Past President: Jim Meyer**





## **Groomers and the South Barn update: 02/01/2012**

### **Groomers:**

Currently, if the snow was deep enough, all three groomers are in a state that they can be used. Lets keep our fingers crossed that we will get the chance to use them this season. Although our machines can go out, there are always some small items that can be worked on. Here are a couple items that if someone had a few minutes, they could assist with:



- Tucker side panels have loosen up. Need someone to re- rivet them.
- Install 20amp/110 volt female plug on the PB-100. This is used for the engine heater. Currently, it has the European style. The manufacturer wants \$80.00 for the adapter. Someone could pick it up at Lowes for about \$10.00 and install it.
- Install new 24v lights on the drag that is up at the North barn
- Cleaning the inside of the PB-240

### **South Barn:**

The south barn has become a critical asset to our club. Our club groomers are stored here, many of our trail stakes and supplies are stored here. Many repairs are completed here as well as many activities related to the club start here. With any building, there are improvements that can be made. Here is a list of items that need attention:

- Need someone to install new ballasts in (2) of the 8 foot lights over the work bench
- Installing tool peg board over work bench
- Assistance with repairing the small garage door
- Installing (3) windows at the south barn
- Installing new exhaust fan in the office at the barn
- Installing new GFI for our fuel pump

### **Other activities:**

- Polaris tracks installed
- Blue trailer battery installed and tested for the brake away brakes
- Adjusting the knives and pan guides on the drags
- Welding lower outer strips on the tucker drag
- Installing side guides on the McEntosh road bridge 10 inches to a foot high
- Assistance with a re-route in the Scottsville area, installing a bridge and clearing a section of woods
- Some one to assist with installing grooming information at key sites along the trail

***If you feel that you can help out with any of these activities listed, call me and we can go over the activity that you think you can assist with. 585-469-6789***

**Dan Gurbacki, Director**

# Hilton Sno-Flyers 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

**Meeting Schedule and Location 7:30 PM**

**FERRIS GOODRIDGE AMERICAN LEGION POST 330**

**691 TRIMMER ROAD**

**SPENCERPORT NEW YORK 14559**

**November 16th      December 21st**

**January 18th      February 15th**

**March 21st      April 4th**



<b>February 4</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Club Ride</b>
<b>February 11</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Club Ride – hosted by Rich Manley</b>
<b>February 18</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Club Ride</b>
<b>February 25</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Club Ride</b>
<b>March 3</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Club Ride – hosted by Jim Howard</b>
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Club Ride</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Club Ride</b>
<b>April TBA</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Adopt a Highway</b>
<b>April 20-22</b>	<b>Fri - Sunday</b>	<b>NYSSA Forum - Conference Center at Lake Placid</b>

## Trail Report

A few of us completed two crucial culvert bridges on the Whittier Road re-route earlier this month (January). All we need to do now is install some sides on the larger bridge. This would conclude all of the bridge building for this season...unless someone knows of another club that needs our bridge building skills. We would be willing to loan out our skills for a nominal fee.

The double-staking on our trails was implemented by the state. If and when we get to go out and ride, snowmobilers will see two stakes side-by-side which is called a gate. Snowmobiles should ride through the gate. The stakes are placed 20 to 25 feet apart and there should be about 500 feet between each set of gates. By doing the double staking, hopefully, we can keep everyone on the trail and keep any land damage (if any) limited to the trail we ride on. Soon we will be going out (conditions permitting) and GPSing the trails for the state and 911.

**Fred Bradshaw, Trail Coordinator**

