

February 2014 Newsletter



HILTON SNO - FLYERS

Established 1969

www.hiltonsnoflyers.net

Letter from the President

HSF Meeting February 26th

The next club meeting of the 2013-2014 season is coming up Wednesday February 26th 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.

I am hoping that by the time you would be reading this newsletter, our trails would be open. Sure thought the snow we had in December meant we were going to have a banner winter. It sure has been cold, which makes for a very dry snow fall and not very groomable snow. I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard preparing the trails and the grooming equipment. Your time and efforts are much appreciated.

I would like to thank all the new members who chose to join the Hilton Sno-Flyers. We hope to see you at our functions and will participate in helping to improve the club. New people and new ideas are always welcome.

There has been a big change in the accountability as to how the club can account for the money we receive for trail funding. This means that any money that is spent for maintenance and replacement parts for the groomer fleet can no longer be used toward trail fund money.

If the groomers aren't grooming, we are losing money. The dollar amount per person to install, remove, and maintain trails has been increased to \$15.00 an hour. Stakes, signs, lumber and culverts are still a deductible amount. This now means that we need to improve at raising more money on our own. The fund raiser events like the Monroe County Fair, Hilton Applefest, Snow Show, and the NYSSA Raffle tickets become more important to keep the club running. This is a big club and your participation is needed at all these events.

The NYSSA Forum is held this year in Rochester at the Convention Center, April 25 thru 27. We would like to send the full number of delegates we are allowed, which is 24 or 25 to represent the club. We are interested in sending members that do most of the work and members that want the club to move forward. If you are interested, please contact a board member for more details. You will meet people from across all of New York State Clubs and attend seminars to learn more about how snowmobiling is conducted in the State and other clubs.

Someone make it snow and hope to see you on the trails!!

Thank you.

Tom Francis, Club President

Inside this Issue:

- Letter from the Pres
Page 1
- Letter from the VP & Club Calendar
Page 2
- Club Webpage
Page 3
- Treasurer's Notes
Page 4
- Trail Update & groomer Status
Page 5
- Contact Info
Page 6

Hilton Sno-Flyers 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

Meeting Schedule and Location 7:30 PM

FERRIS GOODRIDGE AMERICAN LEGION POST 330

691 TRIMMER ROAD

SPENCERPORT NEW YORK 14559

September 4th & 18th October 2nd & 16th

November 20th December 18th

January 15th February 26th

March 19th April 2nd



Letter from the Vice President

The season is underway and we have had only a couple of days of riding. We work hard in the spring, summer and fall to get everything ready and to raise money to help support the efforts involved. It is frustrating for all of us to work and prepare for something that is not guaranteed to happen. We only hope (and pray) that there will be enough snow to ride on.

We were and are ready though. You should all be pleased that there are more bridges, culverts and route improvements than ever before. Through the efforts of Dan Gurbacki, Wally Korzenieski, Tom Francis, the trail bosses and numerous other dedicated members, there have been many improvements to the trails to eliminate hazardous conditions and allow for better riding in less than ideal conditions. We all know that conditions change with the temperature and amount of snowfall. We feel that we cannot rely on an extended freeze or very heavy snow coverage to make passage of an area safer or easier for less skilled riders. We need to fix these marginal areas. This will greatly improve the trails. As the season continues, the work continues, to address the trouble spots, whether on a permanent or temporary basis. We don't feel that we'll ever be "done" improving the trails but that they will be "under control".

It is fairly well understood that Trails are what the Hilton Sno-Flyers are about. In support of the trails we need people and equipment to do what it takes to make the 100+ miles of trail happen. Think about it!!! Over 100 miles are signed, so that in a snowstorm or the dead of night, you can find your way to your destination and then back home. This is a ribbon of land, over 100 miles long, that crosses roads, streams, gully's, fields, some with crops and dense woods. Also to make the trails even possible, we need the permissions from the Landowners who own the land that the trail crosses. This is our most precious asset, the landowners' permissions. An incredible amount of time and effort goes into the support operations and the actual preparation and maintenance of the trails.

This brings us to the people who do the work, the landowners and the money. In the off season, there are fundraisers, parades and other events that we participate in for the purpose of community relations or fundraising. Many of the club members who work so hard during the snow season also work hard at these events. In addition to the money that is raised, we see many benefits from these efforts. It is not uncommon for a Landowner (our most precious asset) to come up us at an event to say hello or to compliment us on what we're trying to do. We also see current members who may be persuaded to become more involved or prospective members who may join our club. We feel that our presence and involvement in our communities, along with the consistently positive message, is paying off in terms of the security of our trail and our acceptance as part of the community. We have and will continue to operate in a financially conservative manner, making careful investments in equipment to provide the best long term results.

The Hilton Sno-Flyers work hard to remain the best snowmobile club in our area. Our current club leadership has the technical, financial and organizational skills needed to keep the club moving forward and to lay the groundwork for the future. Please continue to support the club and to do your part to assure a place to ride in western Monroe County.

Marty Sauer, VP





The next club meeting is February 26th. It has been rescheduled from the 19th. Spread the word!!



Hilton Sno-Flyers Webpage

As many of you are aware, our website was down for several weeks in early November. The website was originally created by Sean Mullen, a longtime member of this and several Orleans County clubs. There was a major update to the site several years ago by Steve Frosini, another longtime member. Sean had hosted the site along with several snowmobile sites, at no charge to the Sno-Flyers. Steve has been acting as the webmaster for several years. In October 2013, Steve notified the club that he would no longer be the site administrator.

When the site went down in November, Sean Mullen, John Miller, and Tom Bishop worked hard to get it back up and running. All of the sites that Sean Was hosting went down and there was no support to be had from the hard-to-contact hosting company. John Miller has since opened an account for the club with GoDaddy, a popular hosting service. During the process of reviving our site, it became apparent that software updates were needed to ensure reliability and editing capabilities.

The club is now faced with the need to have our website rebuilt by a paid website developer. It will still be updated and edited by club member volunteers, who will be trained to work with the new software. The software is user friendly. The quotation to rebuild our website is approximately \$600. The Board has the ability to make non-budgeted expenditures up to \$300 without member input. Any amount over that requires a majority approval from voting members. We have the funds available from other budget categories that have not been fully used.

At our next club meeting on February 26, you will be asked to vote on this expenditure.

Tom Francis, President



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!!

Treasurer's Notes

Hope everyone is doing well and finding trails.

I would like to make people aware of two items that will be voted on during the meeting on February 26th. (Be aware this is one week later in the month than the normal date).



Website:

As noted previously by Tom, our website is running under a very old version of Joomla. We have lost some of its functionality and the site has been unstable and sometimes crashes. We need to upgrade to either a current version of Joomla or we are considering a WordPress application, either way the site will be reconstructed to a new website which would be stable. We do not wish to wait for next year's budget, therefore we will be asking for an active member vote at our next meeting to get the membership OK to re-allocate funds from an unspent budget item to fund this.

Constitution Update:

We will be voting on Constitution Changes at the next February meeting. The changes were explained at the Meeting on January 15th and here they are explained in detail:

Changes in *italic red*.

- o We will be changing the name *from Constitution to By-Laws*, (Multiple references throughout directly relating to this term will be changed)
- o [Section III.B "Active Member"] include terminology (Also see Corporate Member and Honorary Member.)
- o [Section V.A. MEETINGS] Add (*However, if the first Wednesday of September is before Labor Day, the September meetings will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.*)
- o [Section V I. C. VOTING] Add (*Nominations for open positions on the Board of Directors will be open from the January meeting and will close at the March meeting. Any nominations will be submitted to the nominating committee for recommendation. No nominations will be accepted after the March meeting. Elections will be held during the April meeting.*)
- o [Old Section VI.C. moved to VI.D.] changed [Any non budgeted purchases involving the expenditure or commitment of more than \$300 that was not voted into the current year's budget will require discussion prior to a final vote at the next scheduled meeting following a notice of the issue in the newsletter *published at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting conducting the vote.*]
- o [Section VII.B.2.A. Ad Hoc Committees] (*Took out Trails, added Monroe County Fair, Changed Parades to include WinterFests, Added Nominations.*)
- o [Section VII.B.2.C. Corrected to VII.B] change (Each committee shall submit a written report when so designated *to the Board of Directors.*)
- o *Note the last two sections will be renamed to Section VII.B.2 and VII.B.3*
- o [Section IX.C. The Board of Directors] added word (The *immediate* past President may serve on the Board at his (her) own discretion.
- o [Section XI.4 General Budget] added wording (Moneys approved by budgetary vote for Emergency Fund line item can be spent in its entirety *on any other existing line item* with a majority board vote.)

If any member has questions before the meeting regarding either of these votes or would like a copy of the current constitution please call John Miller at 317-6289.

Thank You.

John Miller, Treasurer



Trail Update & Groomer Status

Groomers:

The **PB-240** is in position and ready to go. Recently the middle section of the trail was panned from Robert Colby's farm south to McIntosh road in an effort to pack down the snow that we do have in hopes to build a base

The **PB-100** is in position ready to go. Recently the north section from TRS was panned north to the bay and also panned north towards Hamlin

The Tucker is in position ready to go. The south section has been light on snow in the fields especially with the high winds lately.

South Trails: All south trails are in and marked with the exception of the alternate power lines route. We are fortunate that the power lines are frozen quite solid at present. One of our goals for this year is to have this route in place. This is about a 2 mile stretch. We have all the signed permission slips for this route; we just need to get it in. This is pretty significant because this alternate route by – passes 11 water holes that have been a nuisance over time.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, you may call me....Dan Gurbacki 469-6789

Dan Gurbacki, South Trail Coordinator

North Trails: All north trails are in and marked but the maintenance continues. A couple of weeks ago, we installed a new bridge on the C4D Trail between Sweden Walker Road and Lawrence Road. The bridge spans a typically wet area that usually drove snowmobilers off the trail to look for a "dry" spot to cross. Many thanks to the crew that participated in this project.

In an attempt to fill in water holes and general wet areas along our trail system, we contacted a few people about obtaining wood chips for filler. Josh Miesch of JM Tree Service (and club member) volunteered a large supply of wood chips. He also coordinated with Al Sigismondi of Al's Maintenance (also club member) to haul the wood chips to needed locations. Al generously offered to haul four truckloads of chips for us. Many thanks to both of these guys!!!

So far, two truck loads of wood chips have been delivered to Hamlin for spreading in the woods just south of Lawrence Road. Josh Miesch also moved and spread a large portion of the chips along that section of trail with his Bobcat. With two large piles of chips remaining, we still have more material to haul into the woods and spread along the trail.

Just a warning to all riders, we have a couple of fields near Hamlin Beach State Park that have very deep ruts. It is unlikely these fields will ever be "smooth" this year. The farmers harvested their crops late in November when the ground was very soft resulting in unusually deep ruts. Very shortly after the harvest, we went into an early deep freeze and the ground froze before there was any chance of smoothing out the trail. ***Please use caution when riding through these areas.***

Wally Korzenieski, North Trail Coordinator



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: Joe Dispenza

Director: Mary Beth Mannix
585-503-1115
hsfgear@gmail.com

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.

