

Hilton Sno-Flyers News • January 2010
www.hiltonsnoflyers.com
Snow Phone: 234-0629
President: Rich Manley - 329-1140
Vice President: Tom Francis - 352-4758
Trails Coordinator: Mike Waeghe - 202-6202



From the President - Rich Manley

Despite the lack of snow, the Club has been busy. The Club has been working on the new South Groomer Barn. Mark Allen of Allen Heating and Cooling did a great job of setting up the furnace that John Miller donated. Mark surprised us by running additional ductwork to distribute the heat in the shop. On Saturday, January 23 there was a work detail to clean up the building and grounds to get it ready to move in. Thank you to all that showed up - the barn is now cleaned up enough to move in. Thanks to Phil Leone of Regional Roll-Off for the dumpster, we filled it! Dan Gurbacki will be installing a new entrance door, if he hasn't already. Mark Allen has volunteered to come back to install the hot water heater that John Miller donated, and make the bathroom operational. The Security System and Overhead Door are now on the schedule.

The cold is forecast to return along with snow and we will be faced with the same conditions that we had to start this season. Open or running water and soft ground will cause us to hold off opening the trails right away. The Whittier Road to Powerlines section of the trail will not open until the area is frozen. Take the time to add the Snow Phone to your contact list in your cell phones (234-0629) and call before you ride. The Board Members will try to keep the message updated daily with trail status and conditions.

The Gates Winterfest was on Saturday, January 30th, and was it cold. that didn't stop the crowd from coming out. The Hamlin Winterfest will be on Sunday, February 21st, check the web for any other upcoming events.



South Groomer Barn after the Clean Up Work Detail on Saturday, January 23, 2010

From the Vice President - Tom Francis

What a bummer of a winter so far!

Hopefully the weather will cooperate soon, so we can ride our local trails. There have been some improvements made to the north trails to eliminate the water holes. The improvements on the south groomer barn are moving along very nice. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that have worked on the most recent work details. Please watch the web site for all the upcoming club activities.

SOMEONE, PLEASE DO A SNOW DANCE!!!!!!! - Tom



South Groomer Barn.

Interior of main shop. Furnace installed on right with partial view of new ductwork. Hot water heater ready to be installed in bathroom at left front corner of the shop. Overhead door not quite closed yet...



January 2010 Membership Report - Jim Howard

I think most everyone knows that the Club has maintained a Microsoft Access Database on club membership since I have been your membership secretary. This year makes 5 years of record keeping and 6 in the club for me. When I first started this job I input the last 3 years that were available to me. That makes 9 years of records available.

The cool thing about Access is you can do all kinds of record searches comparing this and that. The program is cool enough to cause me to waste time looking for trends and statistics that really aren't important but to kill some time when it is 40 degrees out in the winter. If I actually had some training on it I might be dangerous but lucky for you I am self taught and have limited computer skills.

So what does it mean? Here are some statistics and numbers from the database. Currently the database contains 2275 unique entries. They are landowners, organizations and members. Address changes with members do not cause duplicate entries; just changes the address upon renewal. No info has ever been removed from the database, it just keeps growing.

- 09/10 current membership: 1132
- 08/09 membership: 1151
- New members this year that are not in the 9 year database: 236
- Members common to both recent years 805, that means that 327 members did not renew from last year. Surprisingly enough is that the statistics are similar to last year.
- Members with the last 4 consecutive years: 447 (First year of SRRA Bill)
- Members with the last 5 consecutive years: 198 (Rumor of SRRA)
- Members with 9 consecutive years: 30
- Numbers by zip code: 14468 (217) 14559 (158) 14428 (89) 14464 (71)
- Out of State members: 3

The NFL Conference Championship games start in a couple hours so I will get the numbers off my mind, forget that there is no snow and go sit on the couch with my favorite snowmobile magazine and bowl of munchies. That's right, I also have to look at my football board for the game, I got 0 & 7 in the NFC and 8 & 5 in the AFC.

THINK SNOW!

Groomer Report - Dan Gurbacki

All three of our groomers are ready to go. The last of the repair /Preventative ,maintenance type items that needed to be taken care of have been completed. The Tucker and the PB-100 are at the North barn. The North trail sections typically get more snow early on so until the snow starts flying again and the south sections of trail, get enough snow . Those machine will be located there . The PB – 240 is at Colbies farm .

HSF Survey Results Summary by Marty Sauer (Board Member)

As most members of this club are probably aware, we've recently completed a member survey to try to gain insight into the true thoughts and opinions of current and former club members. I, for one was curious about what would be the result of asking questions and opinions of people who seem to have pretty strong opinions about how things should be done. The survey was distributed as part of a mass mailing that went out to over 1100 snowmobilers. There was also an online version if some preferred this method. There were 135 responses, about 2/3 were from the mailed version. Not all respondents are current members. These are the results. I've tried to put mere numbers into some useful context. The numbers are facts; the comments are mostly my interpretation of what the numbers mean.

133 of the 135 Ride the club trails. (Not much of a surprise here). 72.6% do not come to club meetings. Most meetings have from 50 to 70 members. 74% say they are not involved in work details or other activities. Even with comparatively low participation in meetings and work details, 86% say they would become more involved if they had good reason.

To the question of "What is the main reason to belong to Hilton SnoFlyers?"; 34% say it's to support the club and the sport, 26.6% say that it's because of the trails. (I'm in the club whose trails I ride), 25% give what is thought to be the most popular reason, Registration fee reduction. It's great that 60+% say that it has to do with OUR club.

I asked for an overall 1-10 rating, 10 being highest. The overall average was 8.084. There was one rating of 2. There were 33 ratings of 10. Of those 33, 12 are active members and 21 don't come to meetings or work details. Apparently we are meeting the expectations of those people, active or inactive. Of the lowest ratings, there was one 2 and the rest 4s and 5s - total 11. Of those 11, only 3 say they would not be interested in getting more involved in the club.

"What aspects of the club need most improvement?" There were blank spaces on 32% of the responses. 15.5% said "not sure" or "no suggestions" 13.3% said "Good Job, I'm satisfied or none that I can see" Comments about Trails account for 10.3%. Grooming was next at 8.1%. The remaining comments vary from constructive to airing of grievances of various sorts. All Officers and Board members have a summary of each response and have specifically reviewed the "need improvement" comments.

"Would you participate in new activities" (Social and family oriented). 53.3% say yes. 14% said no or probably not.

"Have you met new friends through the club?" 54.4% Yes. 35.5% No. The best I can figure is that people meet on the trails or used to be involved in work details and meetings but answered no to the meeting and involvement questions.

Lastly, "Do you feel that you're well informed about the club and events?" 81.3% said yes. 12% said no. The reason given was lack of internet access. We're trying to figure out how to best communicate with that segment of our membership who doesn't use computers to find information about the club.

My conclusions to all this information are that the club Does satisfy the majority of its members and the general perception of the club management as to how things are going regarding member satisfaction is correct. In short, No Real Suprises. I have noted that there are 86 people who responded that while they don't attend work details or other events, they would be willing to. (If given good reason) This could almost double our pool of volunteers, allowing us to do better at our current projects or begin new ones. This survey, the results and any comments are open for discussion. I can be contacted through the website , by phone @ 813-7068 or at a club meeting. Thanks to all who participated.



Caledonia TrailBlazers Winterfest

Sunday Feb 7, 2010

12 - 4pm

Jones Hall Rt. 36 , Caledonia, NY

Open to the public, ride your sled in!

- **LUNCH FOR \$8 PER PLATE, TILL SOLD OUT**
- **KIDS UNDER 10 FREE**
- **SNOWMOBILE AND GROOMER DEMOS, WEATHER PERMITTING**
- **MEMBERS BRING YOUR SLEDS & TRAILERS FOR A SHOW & TELL**
- **MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP & RENEWALS**
- **ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF FAMILY FUN**
- **CHINESE AUCTION**
- **50/50 RAFFLE**



JOIN THE FUN!



PROFESSIONAL SNOCROSS SET FOR RETURN TO FINGER LAKES

Racing of a different breed to take over Farmington oval

FARMINGTON, N.Y. – Horsepower of a different breed will take over at Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack with the AMSOIL Championship Snocross Series Eastern Nationals returning to Western New York for the second consecutive winter. The two-day event, complete with amateur, semi-pro and professional racing, along with an aerial freestyle show is set for Friday and Saturday, February 5 and 6, 2010.

The Eastern Nationals mark the fifth stop of nine on the 2009-10 AMSOIL Championship Snocross Series (ACSS). Regional, Semi-Pro, and Professional level races, including finals for men and women are scheduled both days of the event, with Rock Maple Racing, a regional snowmobile circuit, competing for points in the national race.

“We’re very excited to be able to bring professional snocross back to Western New York,” said Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack president Chris Riegle. “Last year’s event drew in over 13,000 spectators to witness some of the top names of snocross, and this year’s event will be directly after the Winter X Games in Aspen. We look forward to seeing some the best in world compete once again.”

Mens professional riders expected to appear include Tucker Hibbert, a four-time Winter X Games gold medalist; including the past three years (2007-2009). Winning his first gold medal at the age of 15, Hibbert currently holds the record for the youngest gold medalist in Winter X Games history and has enjoyed tremendous success on the ACSS circuit. Hibbert, who didn’t compete in the Eastern Nationals last year at Finger Lakes is expected to be joined by defending AMSOIL Pro Stock champion and five-time Winter X Games medalist, Levi Lavallee. Also expected to compete are TJ Gulla, Robbie Malinowski, and Ross Martin.

Other than the anticipated appearance of Hibbert, changes from last year include condensing of the event into two days and having a large portion of the professional racing under the lights both days. Also new will be adjusted ticket pricing for kids 5-11, while children under 5 will be admitted free.

In addition to racing, fans can expect various snowmobile-related vendors, sled demonstrations, prize drawings and more. Friday evening will also be complemented by autograph sessions with many of the professional riders and a return of the aerial freestyle acrobatics of The Monster Energy Slednecks Invasion Tour. A fireworks show will close out the event on Saturday night.

Tickets are required for racing action which begins at 3 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday. Advance tickets for adults (age 12 and up) are \$25 for a one-day pass, or \$40 for a weekend pass. Junior tickets (age 5-11) are \$15 for a one-day pass, or \$20 for a weekend pass. Also available are Family-Packs consisting of two adult and two junior weekend passes for \$99. All tickets are available for purchase at Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack, all Tops Markets, and Tickets.com. Tickets are also available on the days of the event for an additional \$5 for each adult ticket and an additional \$3 for all junior tickets. The gaming floor and thoroughbred racing simulcast viewing areas at Finger Lakes will remain open with no admission charge throughout the entire weekend.

About AMSOIL CHAMPIONSHIP SNOCROSS SERIES (ACSS): ACSS, governed by ISOC (International Series of Champions, Inc.), consists of nine national races during the 2009-2010 season. For more information, visit www.isocraing.com.

About Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack: In operation since 1962, the facility added gaming to its offering in 2004 with a \$10.5 million expansion. Over 1.6 million visitors annually now enjoy nearly 1200 slot machines, a 280-seat buffet restaurant, sports bar and grill, as well as live and simulcast thoroughbred racing. Gaming doors open at 10am and racing gates open at 11:30am daily. For more information, visit www.fingerlakesgaming.com.

The following is a tentative schedule of events (all times approximate):

Friday, February 5, 2010:

3pm: Doors Open 5pm: Semi-Pro Race: Semi-finals and Finals

7pm: Pro Race: Semi-finals and Finals

9pm: Pro Race Autograph Session

10pm: Monster Energy Slednecks Invasion Tour

Saturday, February 6, 2010:

9am: Doors Open

9am: Regional Races: Semi-finals and Finals

1pm: Semi-Pro Races: Semi-finals and Finals

5pm: Pro Race: Semi-finals and Finals

10pm: Fireworks Show

Osceola Snowmobile Club

— DASH FOR CASH —

~ Put **CAMP 2** Back on the Map ~

CASH PRIZES: \$1,000.00
\$300 ♦ \$100 ♦ \$100

Drawing: February 13, 2010
at the Annual Torchlight Ride
www.osceolasnowmobileclub.com

\$5.00 each