



SNOWRATS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

WWW.SNOWRATS.COM

Well, it looks like the snow is gone for another season. Hope everyone has had the opportunity to get away and have some fun over these past couple of months. An early season snowstorm in December gave us all false hopes of a good year for local snowfall. At certain times, there was enough snow at Lake Taghkanic to do some riding. For those of you that took time to go, we hope the trails and signs were to everyone's liking. More snow next year sure would be nice. Unfortunately, it is time to go and remove all the signs and do some trail clean up. Work details below.

WE HAD OUR **10TH MEETING** OF THE YEAR ON **APRIL 1ST**. SOME OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED ARE: RE-WRITING THE OUT DATED BY-LAWS OF THE CLUB;
CHARITABLE DONATIONS;
RENEWING SPACE AT THE STORMVILLE FLEA MARKET;
THE YEAR END DINNER ON APRIL 12TH AT GREENBAUMS
SUMMER BBQ PICNIC SCHEDULED FOR JULY 13TH;
LAKE TAGHKANIC WORK DATES;

Lake Taghkanic work details: **The scheduled dates have changed:**

Sunday April 20th: Removal of all signs.

Sunday May 4th: Repairs on existing bridges. Start to build new bridges.

Sunday May 18th: Trail clean up and finish bridges.

We meet at Gracies Diner on route 82 near the Taconic State Parkway at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast, then off to the Lake for a 9:30 meeting at the maintenance shop. Chairman Moe will direct us from there. Hope to see as many members as possible come out to help, Thanks.

Summer Picnic: Sunday, July 13th has been picked as the date for a summer time BBQ picnic. In years past this has been held out near Candlewood Lake, Conn. We are also thinking about having it at Lake Taghkanic, since we all know where it is and we also spend time cleaning and grooming the place, we might as well use and enjoy the site for all it has to offer us. We want to keep the date of Sunday July 13th open so, plan your vacations accordingly. Come on out and meet your fellow SnowRat members and families. It would be nice to meet all of you. Keep watching the website for further updates on the location of the picnic.

Please check out our website at
WWW.SNOWRATS.COM
for the most up to date info on all
of our events.

Communication safety system:

This system has been a big hit. These lights are seen all over the trails. It is a good idea and is catching on quickly. Steve only has a couple left. Save money, buy now. Call Steve Bechtold at 845-226-6564.

Business cards: The sponsorship advertisement page has had a very big showing of interest by our members. We have eleven business cards already and hopefully there are more on the way. This advertising is open to any business, not just members businesses. Tell your friends and ask around, let's try to get more. A sample page is being put together for informational purposes now. The finished page will be ready for the new year of newsletters. Remember we are asking for a \$25 donation from members, and a \$35 donation from non members for this advertising. Mail checks and cards to : SnowRats Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 1095
Hopewell Jct., NY 12533

Newsletters: Some members at our last meeting suggested that, to save the club some money, they would prefer to have the newsletter e-mailed to them instead of postal mail. This is a great idea and could save on supplies and stamps. If anyone would like to have the newsletter e-mailed to them, please e-mail Tom at snowratsnews@optimum.net and let him know.

Charities: WE HAD A GUEST ATTEND OUR MEETING, **TERESA GILLI, OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS**. SHE STOPPED BY TO SEE IF THE SNOWRATS WOULD BE ABLE TO DONATE, SPONSOR, OR EVEN PARTICIPATE IN SOME OF THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES THAT ARE INVOLVED IN PROMOTING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS. AS IN ANY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, MONEY IS ALWAYS NEEDED TO KEEP THINGS GOING IN A FORWARD MOTION. IF ANYONE WOULD PERSONALLY WISH TO GET INVOLVED, OR DONATE ON THEIR OWN, PLEASE CONTACT : **TERESA GILLI, TEL. 845-878-9722 FAX 845-878-9375 E-MAIL TGILLI@NYSO.ORG OR GO TO WWW.SPECIALOLYMPICSNY.ORG**

ALSO: TOM CAME TO THE MEETING WITH A SUGGESTION ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED WITH "**THE PINK RIBBON RIDERS**" ORGANIZATION WHO JUST HELD THEIR **4TH ANNUAL NEW YORK SNOW RUN** ON MARCH 1ST AT THE OLE BARN IN INLET, N.Y. THE EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS, WITH OVER 300 RIDERS PARTICIPATING. TOM HAS REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION FROM THIS ORGANIZATION SO HE CAN PUT A PROPOSAL TOGETHER TO PRESENT TO THE CLUB FOR GETTING INVOLVED WITH THEM NEXT YEAR. "**THE PINK RIBBON RIDERS**" IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT RAISES MONEY TO HELP BREAST CANCER PATIENTS WITH EXPENSES INCURRED DURING TREATMENT OF THIS AWFUL DISEASE. THEY HELP OUT WITH EXPENSES SUCH AS, TRANSPORTATION, GAS, FOOD, AND EVEN HOUSE HOLD BILLS. THIS IS A GREAT CAUSE TO BE INVOLVED IN.

IN REGARDS TO GETTING INVOLVED WITH THESE TWO GOOD CAUSES, THE CLUB HAS DECIDED TO DONATE SOME OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE SLED RAFFLE TO THESE CHARITIES. WE ARE ALSO THINKING ABOUT HAVING OUR OWN CHARITY RIDE, POSSIBLY THE 2ND CLUB RIDE IN 09' TO RAISE MORE MONEY FOR THESE GOOD CHARITIES. **MORE INFO TO COME:**

Membership renewals: Will be going out in July or August so that when your snowmobile registration renewals are mailed to you from D.M.V. in August, we will be working on the new vouchers for you. This allows you to register your sleds early.

Early registration is VERY important. It allows clubs that do grooming, to receive more funding sooner for the up coming season.

For you, it does not matter when you register your sleds, but for the clubs that do all of the grooming, it is VERY important to register early.

The cost of registration to you, is the same, whether you register in September, November or even January, it still costs the same. SO, to help the clubs that give us some of the best groomed trails to ride on, it is VERY important for you to register as early as possible. THANKS. Help promote sledding in New York.

Year end dinner: April 12th at Greenbaum and Gilhooley's. For those who are going to join us, appetizers will be at 7 p.m. with mini pizza's, fried veggies, pigs in a blanket, Swedish meatballs and chicken fingers. For the main course, you have a choice of prime rib, stuffed chicken, and fillet of sole. Can't wait to eat! A great deal for \$30 per person. Come on out and have some fun with your fellow SnowRats.

MUD BOGS AND TRACTOR PULLS: The SnowRats have been invited to bring our raffle sled to a spring festival in the town of Clinton. The festival is hosting ATV mud bog racing. There is also going to be garden tractor pulls. There will be lots of things for the children, with a hay maze, giant slide and other activities. This is being sponsored by Teixeira's Polaris who has invited us to come up and display the raffle sled. If anyone is interested in stopping by to say Hi, please do.

Location: FRANCES J. MARK MEMORIAL PARK
337 CLINTON HOLLOW RD. CLINTON CORNERS N.Y.

SATURDAY APRIL 26TH. FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

About 2-3 miles north of Salt Point Turnpike on County Route 18, west of Taconic Parkway.

RAIN DATE : SUNDAY APRIL 27TH.

Anyone that is thinking of going, call Steve Bechtold. We may need to get tickets?
226-6564

Our President, John Occhino, is going to attending the annual forum meeting for the NYSSA this weekend in Niagara Falls NY. Unfortunately, John is going to miss the year end dinner because of this. We are lucky to have John as a member of an NYSSA committee so that the club can keep up with the snowmobiling politics at the state level. It is always good to know where our registration money is going and for what. Thanks John.

By-laws: The by-laws that are in place right now, were written back in the 70's. some of the rules do not apply and/or they need to be modified to make them work. Our Vice President Donnie VanVoorhis is going to head up a committee to draw up these changes and present them back to the club. Good luck Don.