

Letter from the President

Happy New Year....everyone! It's been awhile since my last newsletter, so it's about time I fill everyone in on what the board has been up to lately.

Beginning in July, Pete Probasco started applying for grooming grants with both SnoTRAC and the Borough. Though there were some Delays with SnoTRAC funding this year, we were granted **\$9,557.18**. Unfortunately, this is \$338 less than we received last year. Let me remind everyone that SnoTRAC money comes only from your snowmachine registrations and in the past several years registration renewals have been falling. An example, in 2017 DMV collected **\$196,964** from registrations and this year, 2019, DMV collected **\$171,769**. That's **\$25,195** less for grooming and trail maintenance. This is why it is so important to keep your snowmachine registrations current. Please check that your snowmobile registrations are current and register them if they are not. We have also been given a grooming grant from the Borough in the amount of **\$12,587.82**. Between the two grants we should be able to groom all our trails and keep them in good shape. Look for us to start grooming first part of January. We still need help grooming so if you are interested let us know.

Trails....

Finally! In September we got trail easements recorded for the Big Rock and Tolsona Trails!! For those who have followed this over the years you'll know this has been a long time coming. Thanks to Ryan Sorensen, with Edge Survey, he was able to compile all the documents needed to bring this long drawn out project to a good ending.

One of our next trail easement projects discussed is to apply for an easement for the Cindy Trail . This will start at the Tolsona Trail intersection and end at the Big Bay Trail intersection. This will give us easements on two loop trails between Lake Louise and Crosswind Lake. We'd like to begin the process this year if all goes well.

It's time to mark the Lake Trails again. Last year it turned 20 some below the day we planned the work party so we had to cancel. Though the trail finally got marked, it was done so by individuals going out on their own doing different sections.

This year we'll try again **Saturday, December 28th**. We'll **meet at Lake Louise Lodge at 10:00 am**. The task will be to chainsaw a slots in the ice and pound a markers into the slots every 1/10th of a mile. We have all the saws and tools needed and believe it or not, it goes quite quickly with several crews. If we get enough crews together we could just about finish in one day. All you have to do is dress for the weather, bring what snacks you like for the trail, and a sled helps too, but not necessary. If enough help shows up, we can get the whole trail marked in a day. **Call or text Harry Holt at 232-9080 if you can help**. May I also add, your fuel for the day will be paid for by the Club. Come with a full tank and we'll fill you up at the end of the day.

Though this will be our first work party this year, it won't be our last. During this season as the days get longer watch for more **Work Party Announcements**. I'll publish a tentative schedule towards the end of January so plans can be made to participate. Even if you can't make it to a work party, you can always make a difference while on a trail. If you see limbs hanging down covering markers, take the

time to cut them out of the way. Also any hazards you come across move them out of the way or mark them best you can and let us know where they are. Remember, **SAFETY** is our main goal.

Groomers...

Let me start out here by saying that we have three yellow groomers available to all members to use anytime they like. Two of which can be pulled behind most any snowmachine and the larger one I'd recommend a larger utility snowmachine . If you haven't used one of these around your cabin before, do yourself a favor this year. You'll find one at each of the Lodges next to a sign on the lake and one on Lake Susitna at Harry Holt's. Use them as long as you need them, bring them back when finished.

Big Foot got a good thorough going over this fall by Rob Williams. We hired Rob this off-season to troubleshoot and repair a number of systems on the Big Foot that were giving trouble and not working correctly. He was able to correct all the mechanical issues and also upgrade the existing lights. He converted all the existing lights to more efficient LED bulbs and mounted two additional light bars to give us much better visibility at night. We also hired Dama Industries to sandblast and paint the groomer pulled behind Big Foot. That will be finished up very soon so we'll be putting it into service sporting a new paint job this year.

Last spring we had the Tucker hauled to Meyers Equipment Repair's shop in Palmer. We're having Frank install a new steering conversion kit we purchased from Tucker when we broke down last year. It required the front end to come out from the rig and some cutting and welding be done. He is also repairing damage to the blade mounts when we lost an attach pin last run of the year. Repairs will be finished soon and we'll haul it back to the lake to start grooming shortly after New Years.

As stated before, the plan is to start grooming first part of January if all goes well. Right now all reports say there is lots of overflow on the lakes and marginal snow off the lakes. In the next few weeks I'd anticipate more snow and cooler temperatures and conditions to improve. We'll monitor the ice and snow conditions and decide then. Plan is to start first with the Crosswind and Tolsona trails preparing for the CB300 sled dog race. Then continue moving on to the other trails as conditions dictate.

Once again we need to hear from anyone who would like to learn to groom and commit to helping this season. Contact Harry Holt or Randy Arndt if you are interested and would like to help.

Club Events...

Earlier this Fall, many of you were asking about a schedule of lake activities this season. Since then hopefully you have all found the complete list of activities on our web page and are planning to enjoy at least one activity if not several. Two important dates that involve all our club members are **Wolf Pack Weekend** on **March 7th** and the **Annual Membership Meeting April 5th**.

On **Wolf Pack Weekend**, we haven't settled yet to where we are going for our trail ride on Saturday but for sure we will be going on another great afternoon ride. Afterwards, **The Basket Auction** will be held at the Point Lodge. As in the past, we'll start the auction at 7:00pm. and try to finish the up around 9:00pm. We'll then continue the evening with Roger providing music for dancing. Start getting your baskets together and plan to spend the whole day and night of fun. Also if you will be looking for a room, be sure to call both lodges for Wolf Pack Weekend deals.

The **Annual Membership Meeting** says it all. This is the last meeting we have each year and is probably the most important for the club's well being. It will be held at the lake, **April 5th** at one of the lodges.

We need some members to step up and volunteer to serve on the board. Right now some board members have served almost ten years and are beginning to burn out. We need new blood to take the club forward with new ideas and enthusiasm. Please let any board member know if you would be interesting in stepping up to the challenge.

Besides electing new board members, this is when we discuss all our Club business for the year and chart a direction for next one. This is why it's so imperative members set aside this date to attend this meeting to show support for our club!

Safety First ...

Let me wrap this letter up with one last message.....**Safety First!** Now that the holidays will soon be behind us, we all start to look forward to hitting the trails doing what we like to do. Now is a good time to take moment to check over all your safety and survival gear. Go through the backpack, making sure all your gear is in working order. Ask yourself.... Has your first aid kit been restocked, does your flash light work, got a shovel and probe, folding saw, extra clothes? These are just a few things. The point is before you go out next time, check all your personal safety gear and make sure it's ready to use, should a situation arise. One last thing too.... **LEAVE A TRIP PLAN!** Let someone know where you are going and when you should get there.

Have fun this year.....Get Involved.....Ride Smart!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

See you on the Trail,
Harry