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THINK SNOW!

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Affairs, Safety**

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International Snowmobile Manufacturers
Association (ISMA)

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OUR WEBSITE**
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A QUOTE TO NOTE

“Striving for success
without hard work
is like trying to
harvest where you
haven’t planted.”

—David Bly, politician

**This issue mailed
on or before July 21st.**

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MOVING FORWARD



The events of the last several weeks should make all of us pause and thank those who help protect and defend our rules of law and order. More importantly they protect and defend each of us. We should all work together to remove prejudice/bias in our lives. Freedom of speech carries with it much responsibility and accountability for our actions and speech. Protests are a part of our present society. They must be done with respect for all involved and free of violence. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to those who have been affected by violence. We must work together for each other.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR POLICE OFFICERS, SHERIFFS' DEPARTMENTS, STATE POLICE, BORDER PATROL, MILITARY, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, FIRST RESPONDERS AND ALL OTHERS WHO WORK TO HELP PROTECT AND KEEP EVERYONE SAFE. (If you meet any of the above take a minute to thank them for their service.)

Update: Senate Bill (648). This bill was finally passed in the last days of the budget negotiations. The Bill separates the ATV/Snowmobile Restricted Account monies by the percentage of registered vehicles for each. It also changes the complexion of the State Advisory Committee. The liquid fuels tax monies remain untouched.

It is now the right time to advocate for an increase in the Snowmobile Registration Fee. Ten (\$10) dollars does not buy much these days. In future Keystone Snowmobile articles I will detail what other states are charging for registration, permits and trail fees. We have been blessed by many

volunteers from our clubs who have maintained over half the trails in Pennsylvania for over 45 years without charge. Most of these trails are open without cost to the public. The Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association (PSSA) Mini-grant Program does not cover all the costs of grooming and maintaining these trails. Costs are much higher than ever. Times have changed. Club and PSSA memberships have declined in the last ten years. We need every snowmobiler to help cover the costs of maintaining over 6000 miles of snowmobile trails.

PSSA is working on a proposal to increase the Registration Fee. It will have the potential to help clubs and put more dollars into trail maintenance and grooming across the state. We are working with elected officials to develop the correct wording for an appropriate presentation. I will keep you informed as we develop this proposal. It is only a proposal nothing is in final form. Suggestions are always welcome. Send them to me at: ottilia@roadrunner.com

Remember to renew your PSSA membership on-line as soon as possible. Tickets for the trailers and snowmobile chanced off at the PowerSport Show are in the mail. Please return them promptly. THINK SNOW!

Liz Krug, President

NEWS FROM PSSA'S GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR



Hello, PSSA Members, Club volunteers are working on 15 projects funded in Round I of PSSA's

Round 20 DCNR grant. You will see results of these projects in the upcoming snowmobiling season!

Work is ongoing for the PSSA Phase II and Phase III Signs projects. If you have volunteered your time and/or GPS'ed trails for these projects, please be sure to submit this time and mileage to me as soon as possible. We have funds in the grant to help pay for the mileage expenses and we need the volunteer time to help us meet our

20% match requirement. You can download the submittal forms from the website, www.pasnow.org, under "Organizations and Club Members", "Downloadable Documents for Clubs", "Navigational Signs Grant" and click on "Volunteer Work Record-Phase II" or "Volunteer Work Record-Phase III". Thank you for your help on these projects and helping to ensure safety on the trails.

I continue to work on obtaining sponsorships and grants for a video project to showcase snowmobiling in Pennsylvania for "Snow Trails TV" on the "Destination America" program, which is part of the Discovery channel.


In regard to PSSA's Round 22 DCNR grant application, hopefully we will hear an announcement this fall!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Lori Elliott


PSSA Grants Administrator





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**Summary Version – Full Report
Presented at the International
Snowmobile Congress June 9, 2016**

The winter that wasn't (at least in the confines of Pennsylvania and much of the northeast) is now relegated to scrap heap of history and we are promised a change in the atmospheric pattern for the coming winter. Let's do our best snow dance!

Midwest Chapter Meeting – September – I was able to attend the Midwest Chapter meeting in Eagle River, WI in conjunction with the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Business was done; fun was had and worthy individuals (like Past President Sutton and friend of Pennsylvania Snowmobilers Dave Wells of Snow Goer magazine) were duly honored for their service to the sport with induction into the Hall.

Fall Shows – My wife Kathy and I represented ACSA at the Big East Snowmobile Show in Syracuse, New York in early October and at the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association eastern show in York, Pennsylvania late in the same month. We were among friendly snowmobilers at both locations which is always an energizing experience. For those of us so involved in the legislative, land use and educational aspects of the sport it is a bit disheartening to recognize that many, many snowmobile enthusiasts have little knowledge of the challenges ACSA, as the

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATIONS' PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015 -2016

national voice for snowmobilers, is immersed in on a near daily basis. They just want to have a good time on the snow with their friends and families, as it should be. Our forever dilemma is how to connect with these folks and have them understand who ACSA is, why we are necessary, and what we have done and will do for them. We must address this "elephant in the room".

ISC Planning Meeting – Looking back, October was a busy month. I was privileged to attend (and chair) the ISC Planning Meeting in Rapid City, SD. The job was made much easier by the excellent organization of host South Dakota Snowmobile Association and their committee chair Diane Hiles. We spent a very full Saturday reviewing details for this ISC, receiving an excellent report on the 2015 event from the New York State Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) and discussing the preliminaries of the 2017 ISC. It is a great experience to have the collective wisdom of the planning committee available for a full day of talks, policy reviews and the occasional monkey (or in this case horse sense) business. As most of us know, an ISC is a very big undertaking that speaks to the ability of snowmobilers to organize and keep the sport viable for a very large constituency that, as previously stated, may not recognize what is being done to protect

their rights to ride and their ability to do so in a comfortable manner.

United States Forest Service Enlightenment Ride – March – We are well aware of the challenges we face with regard to land use issues, the Over the Snow Vehicle Rule, federal land law enforcement, etc. It behooves snowmobilers to work cooperatively with the USFS. Cooperation is more easily achieved when the potential cooperators understand each other's issues. Such is life and our challenge with these interactions.

This year we had the opportunity to get some national USFS office players - Joe Meade (our good friend), Director Recreation Heritage & Volunteer Resources; Jamie Schwartz (another friend), Partnership Coordinator Outdoor Ethics Program Manager, as well as members of the Region 9 (Milwaukee)* staff and Hiawatha National Forest staff, together for a couple day ride near Munising Michigan. The well designed and efficient event included an on the trail discussion with a local business owner about the importance of snowmobiling to his restaurant. The USFS personnel were educated, had some fun (they like fun just like us!) and went away with a better understanding of what we are all about. I'm now even more of a believer in this type of interaction. It ultimately benefits ACSA and snowmobilers everywhere to have a "not just when there is a crisis" type relationship with our partners at the USFS. Thanks to our Executive Director, Michigan Snowmobile Association and Polaris for their support of this important activity (and for the participation from the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs)!

DC Fly in - April – Once again the leaders of the snowmobile community descended on our nation's capital to tell our story to our elected representatives. This is not an inexpensive trip but it is critical to our sport. Many, if not most, of our issues involve some facet of government. They may be political or administrative challenges. The right of all of us to pursue happiness as

we see it in our recreational endeavors cannot be compromised. An engaged snowmobile community must be seen and heard. The world is run by those who show up. ACSA, with our state associations are that voice.

Finally, by conference call, we held monthly Executive Board meetings throughout the year and three Full Board Meetings to address association business.

By now I suspect you are tired of the verbiage and long paragraphs – so how about some bullet points?

Some Challenges/Opportunities:

- Over the Snow Vehicle Rule – the proof is in the pudding – that being the implementation of the rule at the local forest level.
- Legal Challenges – we expect more land use lawsuits from our well-funded adversaries
- Fat Tire Bikes on trails
- Snow Bikes – a new winter activity
- Recruiting Youth to our sport and organization
- The presentation of Climate Change as a fait accompli by adversaries, media and government officials

This is the report of the President for 2015 – 16. I once again thank you for the honor of being able to serve you in this office!

Sincerely
Bob Kirchner, President
American Council of Snowmobile Associations

**Note to PSSA Members – The Allegheny National Forest is part of Region 9 and reports to the Milwaukee office. It is to our benefit to have a working relationship with these management staff members.*

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KEYSTONE ENERGY FORUM TALKING POINTS ON RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARD

ASK: The Administration should lower the EPA ethanol mandate to below 10 percent to prevent damage to our cars and small engines and to preserve consumer choice.

Background

- Serious vehicle and retail infrastructure compatibility issues exist with gasoline containing more than 10 percent ethanol (E10). This is known as the E10 “blendwall.”
- The Congressional Budget Office in its 2014 report recognized the economic harm inflicted by exceeding of the E10 blendwall. I am happy to see EPA recognizes the E10 blendwall.
- I am concerned that despite EPA’s waiving the standard in recognition of the blendwall, the Administration proposed rules that would exceed the blendwall in 2016.
- The ethanol to gasoline ratio should not exceed 9.7%. This small tolerance vs. 10% is needed to account for the difficulty of blending exactly 10% ethanol into every gallon, and to preserve a market for consumers that choose E0, or clear gasoline.

- EPA turns a blind eye to the demand for E0 when in fact consumer demand for clear gasoline ranges about 5% of gasoline demand. Contrast that with E85 demand, which is less than 0.1% of gasoline demand.
- E15 and E85 are not the answer to the ethanol blendwall. We remain very concerned that EPA presumes E85 demand will drive total ethanol volumes to exceed 10% of gasoline supply in 2016 and beyond. E15 suffers from liability, vehicle warranty, CRC (Coordinating Research Council) testing, service station infrastructure and consumer acceptance concerns.
- The U.S. consumed approximately 75 million gallons of E85 in 2014 (according to EIA data), yet EPA estimates consumption could increase to as much as 600 million gallons in 2016. According to EIA data, E85 demand has always been less than 100 million gallons per year, which makes a 6 to 8 fold increase next year unlikely.
- Any retail station, branded or unbranded, is free to offer E85. However, the associations representing gasoline retailers were very clear in comments to the proposed rule that a lack of consumer demand was the primary reason retailers are reluctant to install E85 infrastructure.

Editors Note: The above was submitted by President Krug without any instruction for action.

GOD’S COUNTRY BLACK FOREST SMC

Howdy, from a hot and very dry top of the mountain, Pigeon Hill Road, Germania, PA. Remember when I told you about cool wet weather affecting the planting of my crops? Things have really changed. We need rain very, very desperately. The streams are very low and some have already dried up. This is not a good sign so early this year.

Ticket sales for our summer picnic cash drawing are going well. We still have a lot of members that have not replied yet. Please check your “file 13” and mail us your ticket stub. Thanks!
 Calendar of Events:

- Thursday, August 4th 2016: Monthly meeting 7:30 pm at the clubhouse. This is the deadline to place ballots for any offices or a seat on the Board of Directors. We currently have 2 empty Board of Directors Positions. Please try to make this meeting. We have a lot of important business to take care of that night.
- Friday afternoon-evening, September 2, 2016
 Husking corn
 Cleaning clubhouse for picnic
 Prep 500 club drawing tickets
- Saturday, September 3, 2016
 Summer picnic 11:00 AM until 5:00 pm
 2:00 p.m. sharp - Election of new officers and Board of directors.
 500 Club drawing, food, games, Bingo, & Swap Meet
- Saturday, September 17, 2016
 Work Detail, groomer maintenance/ service, trail maintenance, cleaning clubhouse, painting and staining. 8:00 am - ??
 A light breakfast and good hot lunch will be served
- October 15, 2016
 PA State snowmobile safety class
 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
 A light breakfast and lunch will be served
 Sign up by calling:
 Rick Yonkin @ 814.435.2389 or
 Bryan Junkins @ 717.418.5107

If anyone can help on Saturday, September 3rd, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with our summer picnic, please contact any officer or director. We would greatly appreciate the help. See you at the meeting or the summer picnic for sure!

Thank you for your time and support
 Bryan Junkins, President

God’s Country Black Forest Snowmobile Club

See photo next page.



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A QUOTE TO NOTE

“Never tell people HOW to do things. Tell them WHAT to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

—George S. Patton,
 military leader



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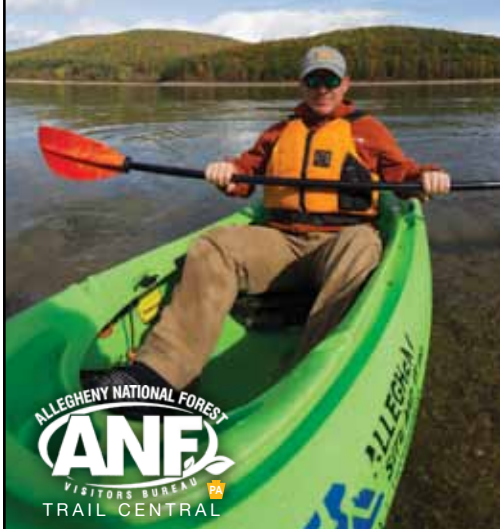
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SLED CORRAL 2016 WILL HONOR THE FOUNDER

The 2016 installment of the popular PSSA Used Sled Corral will have a special meaning for many Pennsylvania snowmobilers. This year, we will honor the memory of the man who originally had the idea of selling used sleds and trailers for PSSA members at the annual show.

Back in 1993, Wilbur Nauman, of Ephrata, Lancaster County, conceived the basic notion of what has become one of the most popular parts of the annual show. Wilbur was already deeply involved in our sport and PSSA, as the owner of Nauman Snowmobile Transport. Hundreds of snowmobilers traveled to destinations all over the North-American snowbelt with their machines being safely hauled to and from in Wilbur's custom-built semi trailer. And when we say custom-built, we mean that Wilbur built it himself! There were three decks in the trailer, and when everything was filled up, 30 or more machines were pulled behind Wilbur's beloved "St. Pete", a 1975 Peterbilt tractor. Wilbur typically served as tour guide and trail boss for the groups and he regularly rode in excess of 10,000 miles on his snowmobile each winter.

The "1993 PSSA Annual Fall Show and Convention" was held the last weekend of October at the Lancaster Host Resort, and a portion of the parking lot was designated as "Wilbur's Used Sled Corral". The next year (1994) the location was the same and more machines were registered for sale. The Used Sled Corral was off and running and growing, as was the rest of the show. For 1995, the show moved to York and the York Fairgrounds Memorial Hall. It was during this time that the fairgrounds was doubling the size of Memorial Hall, however the new section would not open until 1996. PSSA held their show in the original section of the hall, and Wilbur's Used Sled Corral was again in the parking lot next to the building.

For 1996 the show was now double the size in floor space, with the new section of Memorial Hall being finished. A decision was made to move the Used Sled Corral indoors, and Wilbur handed off the project to Peggy & Henry Hartman, editors and publishers of the Keystone Snowmobiler. Being indoors eliminated the issue of rain (and one recent year, snow!) which was not very good for selling used equipment. Wilbur continued his snowmobile transportation business, and several years in late Fall he hauled loads of used machines to the White Star Snowmobile Auction in southern Michigan. Dealers and individuals found an outlet for their excess inventory through this arrangement.

The 2016 edition of the PSSA Used Sled Corral is being presented in honor and memory of H. Wilbur Nauman, as he passed away November 18, 2015.

As the PSSA show returns to the Lebanon Expo Center, the Used Sled Corral will feature drive-thru unloading and loading service. We will consign snowmobiles, trailers, ATV's and motorcycles. More information will follow in the next several editions of this newspaper. Make plans now to sell your used equipment or buy that perfect machine you have been dreaming about. To our faithful volunteers who make the Used Sled Corral possible, we look forward to hearing from you and scheduling your help for this year.



Below: This photo, courtesy of the Keystone Snowmobiler archives, shows the very first time "Wilbur's Used Sled Corral" was part of the PSSA show in October 1993. Note the wet blacktop as it had rained that weekend.

THIS WINTER, GET SMART!
Take a Snowmobile Safety Course.

Remember! *The best snowmobiling is safe snowmobiling.*

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Below: Wilbur Nauman gets a surprise from Dale Hartman when he see's the model of his truck that Dale constructed.





PENNSYLVANIA POWERSPORTS SHOW

26th Annual Event

OCT. 28-30, 2016 | Lebanon, PA

Admission: \$8 for the Weekend

Friday 5-9 pm | Saturday 10am – 6 pm | Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

With snowmobiles, motorcycles, ATVs, boats, travel, clothing, gear and accessories, trailers, a used powersports corral, and vintage powersports showroom all under one roof, the 26th Annual Pennsylvania Powersports Show is not to be missed. Join us as the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association returns the Pennsylvania Powersports Show to the Lebanon area!

New in 2016!

- ATV, Motorcycle & Garden Tractor Sled Pull featuring the "Rude Dog Sled"
- Accident Scene Management Presentations
- 4x4 Truck Contest

Sponsor Information

Platinum Sponsorship - \$5,000

- 20'x40' exhibit space
- Logo and sponsor credit in all print advertising, social media, email blasts, print materials, website, cover of the show program, and welcome signs at the show.
- Opportunity to provide one handout item to be distributed to all attendees at the entrance
- A full page ad in the show program
- 100 VIP passes for your customers/staff

Gold Sponsorship - \$2,500

- 20'x20' exhibit space
- Logo and sponsor credit in print advertising, social media, email blasts, website, cover of the show program, and welcome signs at the show
- A half page ad in the show program
- 75 VIP passes for your customers/staff

Silver Sponsorship - \$1,000

- 10'x20' exhibit space
- Logo and sponsor credit in print advertising, social media, email blasts, website, cover of the show program, and welcome signs at the show
- A quarter page ad in the show program
- 25 VIP passes for your customers/staff

Vendor Information

Exhibit space includes:

- 8' high backdrop and 3' high side drape
- (1) 8' long table, covered and skirted; (2) chairs
- Company ID sign
- Exhibitor badges
- Listing on the PSSA website
- Listing in the show program
- Social media advertising
- Free parking
- (6) VIP passes

Booth rates are as follows:

- 10x10 - \$400
- 10x20 - \$660
- 10x30 - \$840
- 10x40 - \$960
- 20x20 - \$960
- 30x30 - \$1,500
- 20x50 - \$1,600
- 30x40 - \$1,800
- 30x50 - \$2,000
- 40x40 - \$2,100
- 1,700+ sq ft - \$1.25 per foot
- 10x10 for Clubs (PSSA chapters only) - \$90

Reserve Your Space by Emailing
papowersportsshow@gmail.com
 or calling 717-474-8472

PENNSYLVANIA POWERSPORTS SHOW

OCTOBER 28-30, 2016

LEBANON VALLEY EXPOSITION CENTER & FAIRGROUNDS

The show committee would like to bring you up to date on things that will be taking place at the show this year.

We will be having the Powersports Corral again this year where you can sell your Powersports equipment & trailers. Henry Hartman will be in charge of the Powersports Corral.

There will also be the Used Clothing booth for you to sell your used clothing, boots, helmets, gloves, etc.

A Snowmobile Safety Course for children between the ages of 10 and 15 years of age will be held.

Bring your Vintage Snowmobiles, Motorcycles and ATV's for the Vintage Powersports Show.

We will be giving away 2 Blizzard Trailers this year. PSSA is proud to announce that Blizzard Manufacturing will again be sponsoring the Powersports Show.

The PSSA Benefit Auction will be held again this year. We will need items to sell at our auction. The items are provided by dealers, resorts, businesses, clubs and individuals.

New this year, we will be holding a Modified Garden Tractor and ATV Pull on Saturday of the show. Come and see the show and also get to see the Garden Tractor and ATV Pulls. The details are in this issue of the paper. (see page 8)

Volunteers will be needed to help with the show.

If you have any questions, you can send them to papowersportsshow@gmail.com or rogerr@dejazzd.com.

Thank You – PSSA Powersports Committee

Roger Auker, Chairman

Janet Auker

Doug Blouch

Travis Mathna

Bill Sowers

Emily Summey & Davey Naftzinger, Promoters



Above: Dutch Trail Cutters member Mark Lausch (left) displays a basket for sale during the popular and entertaining PSSA Benefit Auction at the Powersports Show.

Below: Come to the Powersports Show for the best selection of used equipment to be found anywhere in Pennsylvania!





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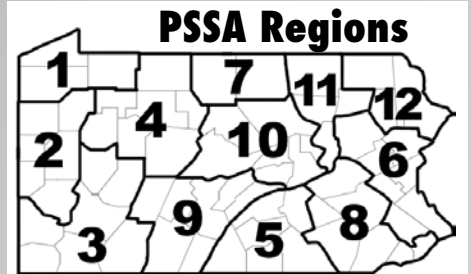
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SNOWMOBILE SAFETY CLASSES



County
Date
Time

PSSA Region
Location
Sponsor

Contact

Berks County
October 22
8:00am-4:00pm

Region 8
Trinity U.C.C. of Rehrersburg, Rehrersburg PA
Appalachian Snowmobile Club

Ann Riegel at 717-933-1039 or sariegel@comcast.net
Pre-registration required by September 30th

Lebanon County
October 29
8am to 4pm

Region 8
PSSA Powersports Show- Lebanon, PA
Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association

PSSA - 1-888-411-PSSA or www.pasnow.org

Potter County
October 15
7:30am-4:30pm

Region 7
God's Country Black Forest SMC Clubhouse, Germania, PA
God's Country Black Forest SMC

Rick Yonkin 814-435-2389 or Bryan Junkins 717-418-5107

York County
November 12
8:00am-4:00pm

Region 5
Conway-Runkle Annex of Dubs Church, Hanover, PA
F&S Yamaha, SMC of Adams County, Pigeon Hills SMC

F&S Yamaha 717-632-6382
Limited to 40 students

Forest County
November 12
8:00am-4:00pm

Region 4
MACA Building, Pine St Marienville PA
Forest County SMC & Marienville Trail Riders SMC

Nelda Martin 724-664-4951 or Ed Fiejdasz 814-927-8767

Clinton County
November 20
7:30am to 4pm

Region 10
Hyner Mountain Snowmobile Club
Hyner Mountain Snowmobile Club

Dan Casey at 570-875-3006 or dcasey@ptd.net
Limited to 30 students

Lancaster County
December 3
8am to 4pm

Region 8
Akron Fire Company, Akron, PA
Sports 'N Turf of Lancaster & Dutch Trail Cutters SMC

Janet Auker - 717-859-5455 or 1-866-791-6384
Limited to 40 students

Cambria County
Jan. 14, 2017
8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Region 9
Chickaree Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club
Chickaree Ridge Runners SMC & Martin Marine Sales, Inc.

Clint Elias 724-349-5369
Class Limited to 30 Students

SAFETY CLASS REMINDER

ATTENTION Clubs, Dealers, Safety Instructors - Please schedule your Safety Class dates as soon as possible and send the information to the Keystone Snowmobiler for inclusion in our Master List of Snowmobile Safety Classes.



HYNER MOUNTAIN SMC

Hello from Hyner Mountain Snowmobile Club. Just want to let everyone know what has been happening up on the mountain. Well, we're into mid-summer and that pretty much puts things at a standstill. July and August are really our "off months" at the lodge. These are the two months out of the twelve that usually no snowmobiling talk goes on - it just doesn't! Even when some of us get together, whether at a restaurant for an evening dinner, or maybe some camping trips, or wherever, snowmobiling is not mentioned during July or August... interesting.

The end of June had some members up to the lodge, including some of our previous members for our annual chicken bar-b-que. Unfortunately my wife and I were not able to make it, but I am pretty sure it was a real good weekend. The weather, I know, was just beautiful; the food, I am sure, was good (including the many desserts brought up by the members); and again, I am

sure the company was good as well. I do mention this month after month; "the camaraderie at a snowmobile club just may be second to none." A few of our past members, who have retired from snowmobiling, were in attendance as well. That was nice!

Well again, it's summer and really nothing is going on, but with September and fall not far off and coming quickly, we'll probably start thinking and talking about snowmobiling! Well that's about all for now. Hope you're all enjoying your summer. Talk to ya next month.

Dan Casey

Photos at bottom of opposite page are from the Hyner Mountain 2016 Spring Work Weekend.

CALENDAR OF PSSA & CLUB EVENTS:

- * August 10–Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler BIG September issue
- * September 10–Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler October issue
- * October 10–Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler November issue
- * October 28-30–PSSA Powersports Show, Lebanon Expo Center, Lebanon, PA
- * November 10–Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler December issue



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PSSA MEMBER CLUBS

(REGION)
UNDERLINE INDICATES 100% PSSA CLUB

ACE SNOWMOBILE CLUB (R 12)
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 HONESDALE, PA 18431
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 1005 LAWTON STREET
 TARENTUM, PA 15084
 724/448-7399

APPALACHIAN SNOWMOBILE CLUB (R 8)
 BERKS COUNTY
 7171 ROUTE 183
 BETHEL, PA 19507
 717/933-1039

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 SYLVANIA PA 16945
 570/297-2598

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 BELLEFONTE PA 16823
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 ANNVILLE PA 17003
 717/273-1282

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 HUGHESVILLE PA 17737
 570/916-0302
 www.sledsandtreads.com

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 LEOLA PA 17540
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 SNOWCAM: <https://sites.google.com/site/hynermountainsnowcam/>

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 814/837-7808

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VINTAGE FLASHBACKS

By Henry Hartman

In the fall of 1964, a new company appeared in the small village of Thetford Mines in Quebec. The name of the firm was Fiberglass Industries of Thetford, Inc. In the winter of 1965, this company started building a snowmobile named the Sno Jet. With only 3 employees and a manager, they produced and sold 25 machines that season!

The following year about 100 temporary workers were hired and they built 1,150 snowmobiles. Three hundred of those were exported to the United States. Those machines had a list price of \$895.00 US dollars and were powered by a single-cylinder 300cc Hirth engine rated at 13.5 hp.

Over the next several years, sales grew rapidly and the lineup of models grew as well.

In the summer of 1968, the snowmobile business was sold to a Texas-based company named Conroy Limited, who owned the Glastron Boat Company. Glastron was given control of the new snowmobile division. Snowmobile production remained in Quebec.

By 1970 there were 13 models along with 10 racing types. In 1971, nearly 28,000 snowmobiles were manufactured with 80% being sent to the US. Auto-racing brothers Al & Bobby Unser and also Mario Andretti were spokesmen for Sno Jet advertising.

In 1972, general economic conditions and other factors caused an overall decline in the snowmobile business. By this time, Sno Jet was using Yamaha engines nearly exclusively. Previously, they had featured Hirth, Sachs, and Yamaha powerplants. (A major difference between the Sno Jet version

and the Yamaha-brand snowmobile engine was the Sno Jet engines did not have oil injection, while Yamaha did have it on their own machines.)

In the early 70's, Sno Jet was heavily involved in racing, and had many winning campaigns with their "Thunder Jet" race sleds. Well-known driver Jim Adema was "the guy to beat" in many classes. In 1973, Jim won the "Pennsylvania Governors Cup" race at Justus, PA, on a Thunder Jet!

But the economy took its toll and by 1974 the company built only about 15,000 machines. At a time when many companies were quitting the snowmobile business, Sno Jet tried to hang on through the tough years. Amazingly, Kawasaki was interested in getting into the snowmobile game and in November of 1975, they bought the rights and assets of Sno Jet, but not the production facility. The racing department was eliminated, and the 1976 models ended up being built in Thief River Falls, MN by Arctic Cat! The machines were branded "Kawasaki Sno Jet", had Yamaha engines, and were built by Cat! The snowmobile business sure has some interesting and twisted history!

The total number of those 1976 models was about 4,200, quite a reduction from the large numbers a few years earlier.

Kawasaki started building their own snowmobiles in Nebraska for the 1978 model year. In a future column, we'll examine the Kawasaki snowmobiles and their history.

The advertisement shown above right was originally seen in the October 1973 issue of Snow Goer magazine.



A QUOTE TO NOTE

“We must always take sides.

Neutrality helps the oppressor,
never the victim.

Silence encourages the tormentor,
never the tormented.”

—Elie Wiesel, writer and activist

KURTZ MOTORSPORTS INC

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Kawasaki

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