

The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association

Keystone Snowmobiler

January 2016
Volume 27 Issue 1

www.pasnow.org

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The Laurel Highlands SMC Christmas party snowman created by the Hay family. See article on page 10.

VINTAGE FLASHBACKS

A number of PSSA members have mentioned that they are enjoying the Vintage Flashbacks column we started in the November issue. We appreciate the positive comments and are having some fun with this ourselves!

Starting off this new year, the January edition of the Keystone Snowmobiler is packed full and there is very little extra space to print an old advertisement from the 1970's. In last month's installment, we featured the Kellett Blue Goose, which was manufactured here in our home state of Pennsylvania. The question was "Do you know how many others were built in our state?"

Here's a little hint: There were a total of four (4) manufacturers producing snowmobiles, that we are currently aware of. Additionally, there was another firm that explored the possibility of getting into the snowmobile business and built only 2 prototypes. And one of the manufacturers built parts and components that were then shipped to a plant in another state for assembly.

So we'll ask for your patience and we will have another installment in the February issue. In the time till then, do some research and see if you can answer the question about snowmobiles built here in PA!



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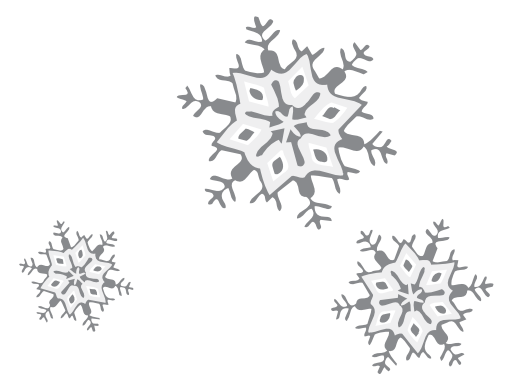
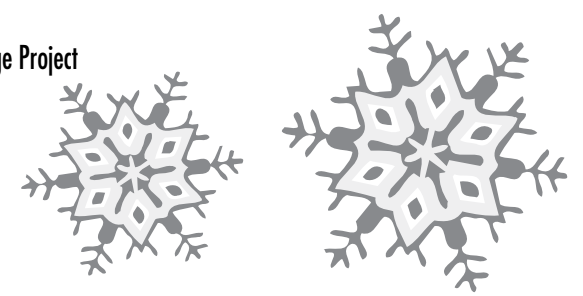
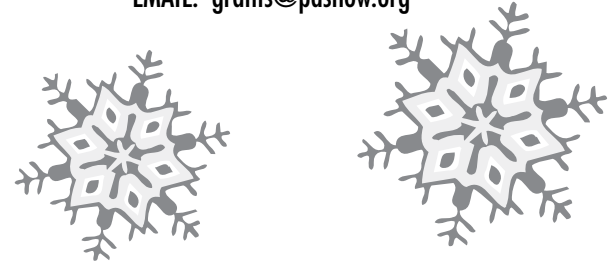
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This issue mailed on or
before December 17th.

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MOVING FORWARD



HAPPY HOLIDAYS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hopefully we can end the present year and begin the New Year with good snow and good, safe riding. Happy Snow Trails!

If you are a hunter I hope you had a successful hunt.

As many of you are aware trails in your area may have different opening dates. Check with your local clubs for their start dates. Most state and local trails opened December 13th. The ANF opened its trails December 19 and Game Land trails will open the third Sunday in January after hunting season is finished. Trails depend on snow and trail conditions. Check before you leave for a ride. Respect landowner property. Stay on the marked trail. Ride in a safe manner. Show your appreciation to the landowner for their generosity.

As an update to the December "Moving Forward" article the Board met several times to evaluate the data for the West and East shows. During the Board meeting held December 10, 2015 the Board voted to do the following: **Suspend the West show at this time; Form a committee to research possible new locations and date for East show.** The data showed the present location is very expensive, advertising is high and more snowmobile related vendors are needed. **The results of this committee will be shared with the Board and a decision will be made regarding this show at that time.** Check the website www.pasnow.org for updates before you receive the February Keystone Snowmobiler. All suggestions should be sent to Roger Auker, Committee chair.

The Board also voted to continue with a Voucher Raffle with a first prize of a \$6000 voucher, second prize of a \$1000 voucher and a third prize of a \$500 voucher to be spent at a PSSA member business. Winners will be drawn at the summer Board meeting.

The Board members will be distributing toys etc. to needy children during

the holidays. This is an annual event sponsored by the Snow Angel Fund that is especially needed during the Christmas season. You can make a donation via the website or send a check.

Video Mike from the Saturday morning TV program "SnowTrails TV" has been invited to be a speaker at our annual membership meeting. Video Mike will show videos of his "adventures" in other states and explain how his program has worked for others. The Board is interested in producing a state-wide video showcasing PSSA and all our clubs. This proposal is projected to be a quite extensive two-year project. Lori Elliott, grant administrator, is researching grant possibilities via Tourism Bureaus, International Snowmobile

Manufacturers Association and others. If you are aware of possible funding sources in your area please either e-mail/call me or Lori with pertinent information. We will do the follow up work. Thank you.

Clubs are encouraged to invite your local representatives, state, federal, city and township officers etc. to take a snowmobile ride. We need to be proactive to inform these people of who we are and what our agenda is. **Many of these people will make decisions that will affect the future of snowmobile trails which you ride.**

The PSSA Right to Know Law (RTKL) request for snowmobile registration information was denied by DCNR. We will continue to research the Federal Law pertaining to this request.

Glen Knisely, before he retired from the Board, made a suggestion to the Board to establish a small group of consulting attorneys to be available to advise the Board. In return for their service PSSA would publicize their business etc. An attorney knowledgeable in Federal Law would be a huge help to our present RTKL request. Please send me the names of any attorneys you know who might be willing to help PSSA.

Updates: Senate Bill (SB 648) and (HB970) are making their way thru the process to pass a bill. SB 648 was referred to Tourism and Recreational Development on December 10, 2015

HB544/SB 72- (Moul-R- 91st Legislative District) – Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA)-landowner liability issues –This Bill is now out of committee and on its way to be considered by both House and Senate. We need to put pressure on our local representatives to pass a bill to strengthen landowner protection when the landowner allows a trail on their property. Please e-mail or call your local offices and support these bills.

SB1088 – provides for the inclusion of Off Highway Motorcycles in restricted account and Discretion in designation of certain highways, roads etc. for snowmobile, ATV and/or OHM use. This Bill refers to Land owner liability. SB 1088 is 35 pages long and well worth your time to read it. (Go to: www.legis.state.pa.us)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, further providing for short title of chapter, for definitions, for restricted account, for registration of dealers, for registration or snowmobile or ATV, for limited registration snowmobile or ATV, for certificate of title for snowmobile or ATV, for transfer to or from dealer, for transfer of snowmobile or ATV by operation of law, for issuance of new certificate following transfer, for suspension and cancellation of certificate of title, for application for certificate of title by agent, for perfection of security interest in a snowmobile or ATV, for satisfaction of security interest, for release of security interest, for assignment by secured party of security interest, for snowmobile or ATV purchased from dealer, for fees, for records, for snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee, for operation on streets and highways, for designation of snowmobile or ATV roads, for

special snowmobile or ATV events, for operation on private or State property, for operation by persons under age sixteen, for operation in safe manner, for additional limitations on operation, for accidents and accident reports, for liability of owner for negligence, for liability insurance, for head lamps and tail lamps, for brakes, for mufflers and noise control, for enforcement personnel and procedures and for penalties for violation of chapter; and making editorial changes....

First Keyword Hits:

... any highway, road or street within its jurisdiction may designate any highway, road or street within its jurisdiction as a **snowmobile road**, an ATV road[, or both,] or OHM road and may, in its discretion, determine whether such road shall be closed

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THINK SNOW!

LIZ KRUG

PRESIDENT

**Note: next Board meeting –
February 2, 2016 at 8 pm**

NEWS FROM PSSA'S GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR



Happy New Year, PSSA Members!

PSSA is inviting legally constituted PA snowmobile clubs to apply for another round of mini-grants. This will be Round 1 of the DCNR

Round 20 grant. The maximum cash award for each mini-grant will be \$4500. As always, a 20% match will be required either in volunteer time or in cash for equipment, replacement parts or fuel. This would bring the total project cost to \$5625.

There will only be one round for this grant. We are waiting on announcements for our Round 21 grant application, but announcements can't be made until the state budget is passed, and there are no guarantees. Please keep that in mind as you prioritize your trail and equipment needs.

The mini-grant application will be emailed and mailed to clubs and can be downloaded from the PSSA website. For more details, please see the press release below and keep an eye on the PSSA website for updates.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Lori Elliott
PSSA Grants Administrator

The Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association Announces Request for Trail Grant Applications

The Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association (PSSA) invites all legally constituted snowmobile clubs in Pennsylvania to submit applications for available mini-

grants. Applications can be downloaded from PSSA's website (www.pasnow.org) or requested by emailing grants@pasnow.org or by calling 717-236-2050, ext. 127.

Applications will be accepted until February 26, 2016.

Projects are to be used for groomer and trail improvement/maintenance equipment and expenses, including fuel, on any trail considered open for public use. Clubs should apply to DCNR for groomers. Funded projects that meet these eligibility requirements must be completed by October 31, 2016.

Eligible activities include:

- Maintenance and renovation of existing trails (new bridge projects must be approved by DCNR and funded by sources other than PSSA)
- Development/rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and linkages
- Lease/rental of trail construction supplies, parts and heavy equipment.
- Purchase of trail maintenance supplies, parts and heavy equipment, excluding hand-held tools, chainsaws, etc.
- Groomer maintenance expenses
- Grooming equipment (Exception: Application for groomers should be made through DCNR)

Before making application for a mini-grant, all expenditures and volunteer labor hours from all previous PSSA mini-grant awards (except current mini-grants that have not yet ended) must be documented and final reports must be submitted and approved by PSSA. If a club needs assistance in the application process, the club's regional director or the PSSA Grants Administrator may be contacted for assistance.

This project was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program Snowmobile/ATV Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and through the efforts of the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association.

POE VALLEY SMC

Greetings from the Poe Valley Snowmobile Club. We just had our annual Christmas Party at the OIP in Burnham. Everyone who attended had a great time with the free food and fellowship. Many topics were discussed at the meeting. The main topic was where's the snow and cold? I know everyone that's reading this newsletter is thinking the same thing. Each year is a bit worse when it comes to not enough snowfall. Although last



year we did have snow over Thanksgiving, but it's really hard to remember with the warm temps we've been getting. We usually wait till after hunting season before we do our trail cleanup in Rothrock S.F. This year it may be even later than that. We celebrated the "Snowmobiler of the Year Award" at the party. It was unanimously decided that the award would go to the late E. Thomas Yeager. He was a very avid snowmobiler and was very active in the club, Tom was a founding member of the Poe Valley Snowmobile Club and also on the Board of Directors. We miss

his great personality and his warming smile everyday.

I know he's smiling down on us just waiting to see us riding during the first measurable snowfall. Tom will be dearly missed. Well that's all for now. Ho Ho Ho Pray for SNOW !!!

Don Spangler, President, PVSC

HYNER MTN. SMC

Hello from Hyner Mt. Snowmobile Club. Just wanted to let everyone know what has been happening up on the mountain. WAITING! As I sat down to type, there were only three days to go until the 2015-2016 snowmobile season started. As you are reading this, the season has already begun (per the calendar, that is). Still we wait! We wait for Mother Nature to get angry, drop the temperatures, and then dump some snow. Well, let's just hang on to the old saying "good things come to those who wait". Now, for a serious tip. We want to say thank you very much too all the businesses that purchased ad's on the 2015-2016 North Central Pennsylvania Snowmobile Map. Without your generous support, we would not have such a good map to use out on the trails. Well that's about all for now. Don't forget, our sno-cam is up and running so just keep logging on throughout the winter watching for the white stuff. When we do get some snow and start riding remember: ride safe, ride sober, and have a great time. Also, if your riding brings you past the lodge and you see us there, stop and say hey. We do have some memberships available, just a thought! Talk to ya next month.

Happy New Year!
THINK SNOW!!

Dan Casey

GOD'S COUNTRY BLACK FOREST SMC

Howdy, Howdy from the top of the mountain, Pigeon Hill Road, Germania, PA. Well, hunting season is about over, hopefully everyone was successful. Our weather has been really warm for this time of year, but the long range forecast has us back to normal. THINK SNOW!, because our time has finally arrived.

Don't forget to obey our trail signs and markers. We have some major changes in our trail system this season due to crops and joint land owner decisions to move our trail to the opposite side of Pigeon Hill Road from Fowler Road to the club house. Please follow the trail or we could lose this area til next year. Remember, use of these trails is a privilege, not a right!

P.S.S.A, Bill & Sharon Sowers, Bryan & Wanda Junkins, and God's Country Black Forest Snowmobile Club have made a \$300.00 donation to go to a family or families in need to have a nice Christmas for their children this year.

Don't forget our first breakfast will be served January 3, 2016 from 8:00 am until 11:00 am. See you then! Please remember to ride safe and sober. Leave tracks, not trash. I'll see you on the trails. I will probably be in our groomer, so smile, and give me a wave. I'm gone!

Bryan Junkins, Pres. G.C.B.FSMC

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CALENDAR OF

PSSA & CLUB EVENTS:

- * January 10—Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler February issue
- * February 10—Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler March issue
- * March 10—Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler April issue

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RED ROSE SMC

Our club is still in operation. We had some money that we donated to four different places: Lebanon Rescue Mission; another Water Street Mission; also Teen Central where we had a tour of the place; and Manheim Central Food Pantry. They all were really thankful for the donations.

Our club has 7 – 8 family members. We are always looking for more.

Think Snow and have good riding.

Betty Ruhl

Right: Red Rose member, Marlin Ruhl (left), presents Teen Central with a donation.

Center Right: Red Rose member, Rich Ebersole (left), presents the Lebanon Rescue Mission with a donation.

Bottom Right: Marlin Ruhl presents the Water Street Mission with a donation.



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FOREST COUNTY SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Now the average person wouldn't expect members of a Snowmobile Club to be busy when there isn't snow. But, for all of us in love with the sport of snowmobiling, we certainly don't claim to be average. Over the last few months trail work has been ongoing in the Allegheny National Forest. Ditches dug, culverts and gravel placed and brushing done (see photo below). Maintenance on equipment is an ongoing project.

On Saturday November 28, we had the privilege of hosting, along with Marienville Trail Riders, a Safety Course at the Harmony Twp. building (see photo below) in West Hickory. We had a lot of fun. We also had Deputy Sheriff Hayes from Forest County come and give a presentation on laws and rules for the trails. He was a great asset to the class. Hope to see you on the trails in the ANF.

Nelda Martin, FCSC



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The article this month features four main events that have recently occurred at the club.

1. November 14, 2015, LHSC Snowmobile Safety Class
2. November 14, 2015, LHSC Snowmobile Trail Workday
3. November 20, 2015, LHSC Annual Banquet
4. December 6, 2015, LHSC Christmas Party

1. The Snowmobile Safety Class was held on Saturday, November 14, 2015, from 8:30-4:30 P.M. A total of 48 students took the class, and at least half of them were adults. People came from PA, West Virginia, and Maryland to take the class. The Pennsylvania students arrived from the following counties, Westmoreland, Somerset, Fayette, Allegheny, Butler, Armstrong, and Beaver. We had a total of 6 instructors, Jim Wilkinson, Shelly Buckles, Jim Tweardy, Cindy Gallick, Tim McCune, and Tim Costello. The topics covered everything from law and history to what types of clothing to wear. Much of the class time was interactive listening to the input of our students. We have required adults to take the class with their kids - because "We Could See the Writing on the Wall." By this, I mean needing clearances to work with the kids. By January 1, 2016, all Safety Instructors for snowmobiles in PA must have the clearances to teach the youth of America. Bill Bennett was there taking videos and pictures of the class. In the kitchen, we

LAUREL HIGHLANDS SMC

had four women working, Margaret Klink, Linda Walker, Allyson Harcum, and Michelle Kovacevic. Cooking on the grill outside was George Verbanic. The menu was full of entrees and desserts offering quite a variety to the participants. The crew did a great job as usual serving lunch and snacks throughout the day to the group of 48 students, 6 instructors, and the trail workday participants. Thank you to all the volunteers at LHSC and the students for taking the class! We enjoyed teaching the class, and by the way all of the students did pass.

2. The Snowmobile Trail Workday was held on Saturday, November 14, 2015, from 9:00-4:00 P.M. The crews led by Brad Hoover and Scott Buckles covered a large amount of trail

territory on the route 31 side. They brushed back a few narrow trail sections, dug up rocks, moved downed branches, and cleaned out several culverts. Doug and Jacob Hay, Allan and Sheila Knupp, Junior Walker, and Bob Ainsley completed the work before returning to the club.

3. The LHSC annual banquet was held November 20, 2015, at Oakhurst Tea Room with 67 members in attendance. "Doc" William Lewis and his wife were in charge of this event. They spent countless hours finding an appropriate venue and shopping for door prizes. Thank you for the hard work. The menu consisted of a tasty all you can eat ham, beef, chicken, soup & salad, and dessert buffet. After



4. On December 6, 2015, we held the LHSC annual Christmas Party. Brad and Sherri Hoover along with their daughter, Chloe, were in charge. A total of about 30 people showed for this event. It was a covered dish dinner with the club providing the paper ware, drinks, and main entree. An arts and crafts time for the kids was prepared by Sherri and Chloe for an after dinner treat. The kids all worked together on their own mason jar crafts, and also received a nice Christmas gift from the club. A special thanks to the Hoovers for making this event a success. In the Believe it or Not Edition of the club, at the party, the kids actually built a 3 foot tall snowman. AMAZING!, in these low snow conditions. That shows the determination of snowmobilers to make the best of the weather.


At our December 10th meeting, DCNR was there to inform us all about the trails. More information on this meeting will be found in our next article. As always, you can go to our website at www.lhsc.net to check out any and all events. Also, check out our Facebook page.

December 13th marked opening day on our trail system. Sadly, there was not significant enough snow to go for a ride. Hopefully, things will turn around before the next issue is due.

Upcoming Events:
 January 14, Club Meeting 8:00 PM
 January 23, Poker Run 11:00 AM

Until next time, "Keep Christ in Christmas", and be safe on the trails this winter.

Jim Wilkinson & Shelly Buckles



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dinner, we drew names out of a bucket for the door prizes. Everyone in attendance received one of their choosing. The snowmobiler of the year award went to the very deserving "Race Committee". This group of individuals did an excellent job of running the races. Thank you race committee! Congratulations!



Above: The kitchen staff receiving a thank you gift.



Above: Cindy teaching hand signals

Right: The Race Committee winning the Member of the Year Plaque.



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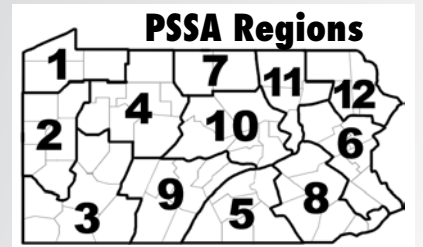
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Date
Time

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9:00am-5:00pm

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Wales Sno-Drifters SMC

Jim Johnson 814-897-5799 or jjcubman@gmail.com

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8:00am-4:30pm

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Chickaree Ridge Runners SMC & Martin Marine Sales, Inc.

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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.

A QUOTE TO NOTE

“The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.”

William Arthur Ward, writer

PA. GRAND CANYON SMC

Like every other club in our snowmobiling family our club is putting the finishing touches on our clubhouse and the equipment just waiting for the first big snow to come. In the near future gasoline will be delivered for the gas tank and be available to club members. Our membership applications have been updated and will now include a family membership.

With Christmas not far away our December meeting was hosted by Ron and Nancy Tyson at their Colton Point Motel just up the road from the clubhouse. A Christmas party preceded the meeting that was well attended.

Back in Jan/Feb. of this past snowmobile season I wrote about the probable closing of the DCNR Parking Lot in Ansonia up on the Colton Rd. due to renovation of the maintenance building. Having just received an update that parking lot **WILL REMAIN OPEN THIS SNOWMOBILE SEASON** due to various issues. They most likely will start renovation in the spring of 2016 as a new tentative date as of now.

Trail Closure: On a negative note we lost one of our trails this winter: The rail bed starting approximately 1 mile east of Gaines and

running parallel to Rt. 6 from the Rough Cut Lodge, (across from Shin Hollow Rd.) for two miles to the Rexford Bridge at the Log Cabin Inn has been closed. This leg of rail bed goes through many peoples' private property. About a mile into this trail from the Rough Cut Lodge one individual property owner has a gate across the trail. The Grand Canyon SC has had a working relationship with this property owner for many years up until this upcoming snowmobile season. This year when the property owner was approached as to when we can have the gate opened for snowmobile season we were told the gate will remain closed this winter. The reason for the gate remaining closed and our loss of access to this trail is this quote from the property owner "I'm sick and tired of being woken up at 2AM by snowmobilers racing through my property, I've had enough". When out riding late at night and enjoying yourself and approaching houses, slowing down until you clear those homes might help avoid what has happened here.

Let's keep our fingers crossed for a good sledding season but, most importantly a Safe One!

Jim Baney (aka Grousegirl)

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There is no charge for either the 2016 Try Our Trails Permit or the registration process, but to access OFSC trails, this printed permit must be affixed to the sled to which it is assigned in accordance with Ontario law. Any sled on OFSC trails without this permit from Feb. 13 to 15 is operating illegally and the operator can

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To order a Try Our Trails or Multi-Day permit online or get more information about snowmobiling in Ontario, visit www.ofsc.on.ca.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) is a volunteer led not for profit association that provides the voice for organized snowmobiling in the Province of Ontario.



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A QUOTE TO NOTE

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—*Michael Korda*, writer and editor

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