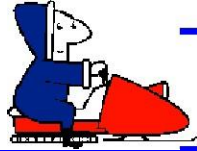




# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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*Celebrating 37 Years as a Not-For-Profit Volunteer Organization  
Dedicated to the Preservation of Snowmobiling!  
1975-2012*



## NEWSLETTER

September 2012

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Membership
- In Memory
- New Equipment
- Trail Work
- New Trails
- Business Support
- Landowners

### 2012-2013 Officers:

*President:*  
Deb Christy

*Vice-President:*  
Marshall Weekes

*Secretary:*  
Pam Rose

*Treasurer:*  
Joel Howie

*NYSSA Director:*  
Craig Laplante-Director  
Danny Collins-Alternate

### MEMBER CLUBS:

- Boondockers
- Childwold SnoPackers
- Colton Sno Skippers
- Cranberry Lake Mountaineers
- Dairyland Snowmobile Club
- Edwards Snowmobile Club
- Grasse River Groomers
- Hermon Sledders
- Heuvelton Punchlock Travelers
- Tri Town Trailblazers

### EARLY RENEWAL HELPS TRAIL FUNDING AND YOU COULD WIN A NEW SNOWMOBILE TRAILER

Have you heard that due to the lower than normal sled registrations in New York last winter, the funding for grooming is being drastically cut, plus we had less membership funds last year all due to lack of snow. St Lawrence County as well as clubs across the state are trying to figure out how to carry on as usual and stabilize the funding stream. We have to do the work first, spend the money, and then we get it back. As you know we groom as much as the conditions allow and will find a way to make it happen, but it's a burden that seems to fall on the backs of fewer and fewer people. Your thoughts?

**All members that join for the 2012-2013 season between April 1 and October 15, 2012 will be entered in a drawing thru NYSSA for a Triton Trailer or \$1000.00. The Big Giveaway drawing takes place October 15.**

Please feel free to get your 2011-12 membership by joining on-line with a credit card, send back the printed application with your check, and stop in at Boyden Brook or Travel Unlimited (which has moved to 367 Judson St Rd. in Canton). SLCSA is still only \$25 for an individual or family membership.

Thank you for your quick response with membership this year. It really helps get the state funding from your registrations into our hands faster!

**WE WANT YOU**

**To Register Your Sled by November 30**

*Preserve our Snowmobile Trails by joining a club and registering your sled today!*

# IN MEMORY



*Richard "Dick" Miller ~ Founding Member 1985 to 2012*



It was with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to our great friend, mentor, and supporter Richard "Dick" Miller. On behalf of the St Lawrence County Snowmobile Association and NYSSA we mourn Dick's passing and celebrate his life. Our thoughts and prayers went out to his family and many friends. Dick was truly a legend in his time. His dedication and fierce loyalty set a shining example for the rest of us as volunteers. Dick Miller passed away January 6, 2012 at the age of 93. Dick was instrumental in helping the St Lawrence County Snowmobile Association in its start up. He also helped NYSSA with drafting their bylaws and by serving as our director for many years. He helped us get our first loan for our first groomer. Dick will be greatly missed. God Bless him!

***EQUIPMENT - EQUIPMENT - EQUIPMENT - EQUIPMENT***

***17 CLASS A GROOMERS    7 CLASS C GROOMERS***

SLCSA continues to work hard placing equipment all over the county, and presently own 17 Class A groomers, which are the large groomers with drags, and 7 Class C groomers, which are sleds and drags. We are proud to say our groomers, sleds, and drags now total over one million dollars in equipment. Our newest groomer is a 2012 Tucker below. Our 2006 Tucker is being moved from Shurtleff's to Parishville this season. Our 1997 Tucker was freshly painted last year and is being moved to its new home in Edwards.

We continue to stretch our grant funds and your membership dollars to add and upgrade equipment.

St Lawrence County is the largest county in the state. We divide our county into grooming areas, to cover a total of 530 miles of funded trails and 140 miles of unfunded trails. We start at Black Lake and worked our way across the county. We are so fortunate to have acquired the amount of equipment we have.

The arrival of our newest 2012 groomer, to be placed at Shurtleff's. Ralph Collins is one of our dedicated members. He groomed \_\_\_\_ hours last season for us. We'll look forward to seeing him on the trail in our new groomer.



2006 Tucker 1000, previously used at Shurtleff's, moves to Parishville for 2012. (Grooming is done by SLCSA)



1997 Tucker was freshly painted before moving from Parishville to its new home in South Edwards. (Groomed by Edwards Snowmobile Club)



**A million dollars worth of groomers are useless without INVALUABLE VOLUNTEERS to operate them!  
OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!**

### COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

In 2007 two-way radio communications were added to all our groomers thanks to the donations of National Grid and volunteer help from Larry Peck. We also applied and received our own FCC license frequency to use for communications. SLCSA is in the process of meeting the FCC narrow band requirement for 2013.

In addition to radios we have Communication Beacons in each groomer so if you use helmet communicators to talk with other riders; you will hear a signal so you know the groomer is close by on the trail.

*These are just two additional ways we are trying to give our members a safe enjoyable riding experience.*

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### EDUCATION - VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Our volunteers not only give their time for trail work and grooming they also take time for training classes.

**SLCSA holds training classes for:**

- First Aid, CPR and Blood Borne Pathogens
- Signing- How to sign the trails correctly.
- Chainsaw Class
- Grooming- Operation and maintenance of the groomer and drag.
- AANR - (Adopt a Natural Resource Agreement) which regulates how we maintain and groom trails on state lands.

The latest class we were offered in conjunction with NYSSA and DEC is the **NYSSA Trail Stewards** training class- This class involved a morning class room session for Regulations on snowmobile trail maintenance within the ADKs, as well as the proper manner in which Trail Log forms are to be filled out. This training will lead to those attendees being able to go to the next level, once correct trail logs and interaction with DEC officials has been successful. In the afternoon we went out on a trail and put our class room skills to task with hands on training. Pat McCluskey, Craig Harris, and Deb Christy went to Speculator Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> to take this class.



### EDUCATION - YOUTH SAFETY CLASSES

Experienced snowmobilers volunteer their time to make the sport safer and more enjoyable for everyone.



Youth ages 14 through 17 years old may operate a snowmobile on lands upon which snowmobiling is allowed, without adult or other supervision, if they have completed a snowmobile safety-training course recognized by the State of New York. If youth ages 14 through 17 years have not completed the training course, they may operate a snowmobile if accompanied by (within 500 feet of) a person who is at least 18 years of age. Youth ages 10 through 13 may operate a snowmobile, on lands upon which snowmobiling is allowed, if they have completed a snowmobile safety training course recognized by the State of New York and are accompanied by (within 500 feet of) a person who is at least 18 years of age.

Children less than 10 years old or less than age 14 without a safety certificate, may operate a snowmobile only on lands owned or leased by their parent or guardian.

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### TRAIL WORK - BRIDGES – BRUSHING - WASHOUTS

#### ST LAWRENCE COUNTY - 530 Miles of Funded Trails 140 miles of Unfunded Trails

In January we had a washout on our Hay meadow trail (S88). Ron Page donated the equipment. Danny and Pat Collins trucked and operated the Bob Cat to fix the major washout from Hurricane Irene’s heavy rains:



## TRAIL WORK - BRIDGES – BRUSHING – BUILDING NEW TRAILS

The Edwards Club has worked hard on (S80C) this summer. Matt Pierce, club member and owner of Pierce Trucking, volunteered the trucking of equipment and the operating of the track hoe Saturday and Sunday. The approx 2 mile section was a mess at start and not passable for a groomer and very questionable for sleds. Matt moved approx 100+ rocks and 25+ stumps to make an old skidder road like a fresh groomed gravel trail.

John and David Clark brushed the trail. Gary Bullock, Stub White, Chuck Fuller, Craig and Robert Kirkpatrick were all support for parts, tools and transport vehicles. THANK YOU all for the support and hot hours of work. This has been on the Edwards Club radar for a bit and it is a relief to complete the project.



**Together we achieve the extraordinary!**

We continue to focus as much time and money as we can towards trail maintenance. Equipment is important to groom the trails, but good trails are important for our riders, saving wear and tear on the equipment, and safety.

WE HAVE THREE BRIDGES WE ARE HOPING TO REPAIR IN THE FUTURE :



Stone Dam Bridge on (S86) Stillwater Hunting Club is presently closed due to disrepair. We have been meeting with DEC but due to funding and permits have not been able to pinpoint a date on replacement yet.



6' wide bridge by Clear Pond (C8) in Parishville.



Bridge on Gold Mine Trail (C8) in Parishville

New York State "Corridor 8" is a 150-mile corridor trail from Lewis County through St Lawrence County to Franklin County. The missing link of this vital corridor is getting across the Racquette River from Colton to Parishville to Franklin County. In 1988 we lost our bridge in Childwold that was our connection to Franklin County. In 1999 we were awarded a federal grant to put in the Carry Falls Bridge but were not able to get permission thru the State Racquette Boreal UMP in 2006 to use these funds to complete our bridge project. Presently our only connection is down the side of the Stark/White Hill Road for 11 miles in the Towns of Colton and Parishville. Our goal is to get our trail off the 11

miles of Stark Rd for safety reasons and unpleasant riding on the road edge.

Our alternative is to use the Stark Rd for about 5 miles to the Goldmine Trail up Picketteville Rd thru Rock Pond and Clear Pond over to the White Rd and onto Jones Rd to continue on into Franklin County Trail System. Curran Logging has done a magnificent job of repairing the Gold Mine Trail. They put in a temporary bridge over the existing deteriorating bridge so they could access this land. Once this bridge is removed October 8 we do not know if the old bridge will be able to be used any longer or if we will have to close the trail. Our hopes is to somehow keep the existing bridge there and are currently talking with DEC, the land manger, Brookfield, the bridge owner and anyone else who is willing to listen. It would be our best interest to try and keep this existing bridge due to permit process to replace this.

The other issues we had on this trail was major beaver flooding on Picketteville Rd and Rock Pond Trail. These areas were once up to your chest in water. Thanks to all our volunteers the beaver have been trapped and the water has now cleared. You can now walk thru these two areas in your sneakers. The last issue to completely open up this trail for our large groomer is the 6' wide Clear Pond bridge which would have to be replaced with a larger bridge. We have been told by DEC that we need an amendment to the ump before we can replace this bridge and start using a large groomer here. This year we will continue with the sled and drag and hope by next year our (C8) Corridor will be groomed with our large groomer.

### DEVELOPING FUTURE TRAILS

The majority of our snowmobile trails are logging roads. These logging roads were made available for our use thru the generosity of land owners with land use agreements and easements the state has purchased for our recreational rights. We offer our one million dollar liability insurance thru New York State Snowmobile Association in exchange for the use.

In earlier years snowmobilers and loggers had always shared logging roads and we just signed them with 'logging ahead'. In 2006 we had a fatality with a snowmobiler meeting a logging truck.

Since 2006 we have tried to look for alternative trails during logging. We appreciate using all the logging roads as our trails and want to do what we can to work together. We call each fall asking land managers and logging companies what locations they will be logging, so we know where we have to add alternate trails to be opened by December 15. Due to the logging markets it was hard for land managers to tell us where they were going to be logging until just before our season was about to begin. This left us scurrying to get alternate trails in before our members started riding.

In September we met with DEC and all the major land managers that are part of our trail system to discuss logging operations. We wanted a more organized approach and asked DEC and all the major land managers to get together and meet with us in the fall before hunting season started. We looked at the main logging routes and what options we had for permanent alternate trails that we could switch to when logging operations were going on.

Our first new trail will be an alternate trail for Horseshoe that will be over by Center Pond. We will be walking and marking the trail with DEC and filing for permits for a bridge that is needed before this trail will be in place. We hope to have it open next year. We will work on other alternate trails in the future.

For our second new trail we are partnering with Franklin County Snowmobilers to open from Pitch Fork Pond Rd in Tupper Lake thru Piercefield, crossing the river on State RT 3 Bridge, up Gull Pond Rd and connecting to our trail S88. This gives us an alternative trail to connect to Franklin County when there is not enough snow to cover the rails to get there. It also brings riders from Franklin County and surrounding areas into St Lawrence County to support our local businesses.

A third new trail we would like to see rerouted for safety reasons is the trail up Stove Pipe Alley (C7C) to Rt 3 in Childwold. We have permission to cross the Rayonier easement off Stove Pipe Alley. We hope Childwold Snopackers will get local permissions to connect the trail into the back of the Thirsty Moose.

Our fourth new trail we are working to get open is from Rt 56 to Thirsty Moose. We used to call it the river trail. We have permission to cross easement land from Rt 56 thru Moose Head Outing Club. The second parcel is owned by Lyme Timber and the land manager wants the town, state or county to sign an easement agreement, along with our insurance, for us to use this part of the trail. We would like this trail to be our permanent logging alternative for C7A. We will let you know more as this proceeds.

Our fifth new trail is being developed by Dairyland Club to connect St Lawrence County Trail to Jefferson County. We are to the county line but are waiting for Jefferson County to make their way to our county line.

Our sixth new trail is being developed by Grasse River Groomers from Madrid. They have agreed to try and connect their trail from Madrid to Waddington at the request of Waddington members and the Village of Waddington Board. This will be an additional 10 miles of trail.

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### SPEED LIMIT

There is a **55-mph speed limit** on New York's trails unless otherwise posted lower.

We urge riders to travel at "reasonable and prudent speed for the existing conditions". *Reasonable* means remembering that many families are out riding together, enjoying the outdoors. Slow down when you meet other sledders, ease up when you come to a curve, bridge or rise in the trail.

If you are unable to control your sled  
enough to keep it to the right hand side of the trail  
and stop in a safe and prudent manner -  
**you're riding too fast!**

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**THANKS TO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & LOCAL BUSINESS**

We continue to work with our county chamber to promote tourism with our county trail map each year. Our merchants are great support by advertising on our map, joining as business sponsors for \$50, and being part of our Business Discount Program. We thank the following businesses for their support:

The County Chamber and these businesses support us, so please help support them!

- |                            |                      |                        |                           |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adirondack Pharmacy        | Doug’s Tavern        | Mervin Eno Post 1523   | The Hideaway Cafe         |
| American House             | Edwardsville Grocery | Newton Falls Hotel     | The Ole Smokehouse        |
| Awekwsasne Casino          | Fletcher Motel       | Nice n Easy            | Windfall Bar & Restaurant |
| Backwoods Inn              | Fun Unlimited        | Norridgewock III       | Thirsty Moose Pub & Grub  |
| Barstow Motors             | The Glow Tavern      | Padgett’s Stores, Inc  | Travel Unlimited          |
| Blevin’s                   | Canton Optical       | Parkway Polaris        | Turner Inn                |
| Boyden Brook Body Works    | Jim’s Auto           | Pine Cone              | Twin Lakes Hotel          |
| Catamount Lodge            | Kunoco               | Raquette Sports Center | Wayne’s Gas               |
| A1 Limo & Detailing        | Stone Manor          | Rt 68 Sales & Service  | Jocko’s Bar & Grill       |
| Chip’s Place               | Leberge & Curtis     | Sovie’s                | The Grapevine             |
| McFadden Dier Leonard Ins. | R-J Rental           | R/M Conklin Agencyy    | R. Day Trucking           |
| Inn on the Greens          | Last Lap             | Mac Tools              | McAllister’s Liquor       |
| Skunk’s Nest               | Timber Tavern        | Wood’s Service & Trk   | Echo’s on the Lake        |
| Cranberry Lake Lodge       | Madrid Hotel         | Clifton-Fine Hospital  |                           |

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**THE NORWOOD PARADE!**

Danny Collins placed our 2008 Tucker representing SLCSA and Colton Snoskippers in the Fourth of July Parade for the second year in a row.



## THE TUPPER LAKE PARADE!



Craig Harris, Pat McCluskey and Mike Davies of Childwold Snopackers placed our 2006 Tucker in the Tupper Lake Parade. They got rave reviews with second place for the most different machine.

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### COMMUNICATION

We all use e-mail more and more to communicate. It's faster, cheaper and easier. We can't stress enough how important it is that we have member's e-mail addresses. Thank you to the members that have been including their email when they join on line or send in our application. We have about half of the member's emails at this time. We would like to send you electronic newsletters in 2013 so please include your email this year.

Generally, the County Association e-mails information to the club president or secretary, and they in turn, should forward it on to their members. If there are members without e-mail, we are assuming clubs will pass on important items to them via phone or mail.

The county association does not send any junk mail or advertising. We absolutely do not share e-mail addresses with anyone else. This year we are working on our website so you will have one site for the whole county to let you know trail conditions and other important information about our sport. Keep checking [www.slcsa.org](http://www.slcsa.org) for more news.

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**THANK YOU    \*\* LANDOWNERS \*\*    THANK YOU**

We can't forget to thank our many landowners. Without their generosity, we would not have trails to ride. We extend a sincere "Thank you to our landowners" for allowing us to ride snowmobiles on their properties. We also would like to thank those of you who rode our trails in a responsible, law abiding manner last season in order to ensure these trails remain open another year. We must always remember that these landowners are not required to allow us to use their land...it is a privilege they are extending to us!! Let's respect their rights!

**LOCAL CLUBS**

St. Lawrence County is a large county, so local clubs were formed in different areas to help us carry out our goals, including: Boondockers Snowmobile Club, Childwold SnoPackers, Colton SnoSkippers, Cranberry Lake Mountaineers, Dairyland Snowmobile Club, Edwards Snowmobile Club, Grasse River Groomers, Hermon Sledders, Heuvelton Punchlock Travelers, and TriTown Trailblazers.

Local clubs know their neighbors in the area and make agreements with neighbors to develop a trail across their land and in exchange for our liability insurance. Clubs also ask people in their community to join their organization so they have volunteers in that area to help brush, clear and sign trails. They ask local contractors to donate their equipment for a project now and then. They are the eyes and ears for that part of our trail system and alert SLCSA if issues arise.

Without their dedication, we would not have such a great trail system! A huge thank you to all!

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**THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT**

Please continue to get out there, pitch in and work on trail maintenance and development. We need volunteers to donate time to keep our trail system going. If you appreciate the efforts of SLCSA, show your thanks and support by sending in your annual membership today! Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at St. Patrick's Church meeting hall on Rt. 56 in Colton at 7pm. Members are encouraged to attend all meetings as well as local merchants and the general public. For more information or to volunteer, contact us at 315-265-0898 or email us at slcsa@northnet.org.

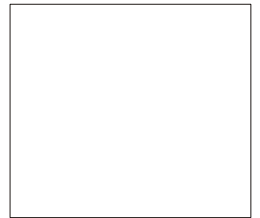
As you enjoy operating your snowmobile in the great outdoors, please remember to ride safely, to respect the rights of others, and to protect and care for the natural environment around you. If you do, you and everyone else will be able to enjoy the pleasures of snowmobiling for many years to come.

**Happy Trails!**

Deb Christy  
President, SLCSA



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