

Maine Snowmobile Association 534th Directors Meeting

December 12, 2017 • Augusta Civic Center, Augusta

At 7:06p.m., President John Monk called the meeting to order and thanked all the people who attended the meeting. He was overwhelmed with all the people who attended due to the storm.

Secretary's Report - There were no corrections or omissions on the November secretary's report. Jerry Major motioned to accept the minutes as distributed, second by Roland Bowie, vote follows.

Treasurers Report, Barry Ryan read the treasurer's report.

President John Monk thank everyone who participated in the Maine Snowmobile Show. It was on par with years past and possibly even better. This year there were 115 clubs who participated in the Super Raffle. It was a good season for all those who participated. John would still like to meet all the clubs throughout Maine. He's been invited to a lot of club landowner dinners and regional meetings. He's recently gone to Sherman for the Benedicta Sno-Gang landowner dinner and also down to meet the Norway Trackers. John recently met Bob Chadbourne at a club meeting landowner dinner. He got to meet him face to face and understand his concerns. "It was very rewarding."

Jackman Border Patrol, Bill Hannan and John Benway reported on the snowmobiling on the Maine and Canadian border. The border is referred as the slash. The slash is a 20 foot wide cleared area marking the border between Maine and Canada. The center of the slash is the actual border and is marked by granite and cement markers placed at regular intervals along the slash. The International Boundary Commission is responsible for the slash itself. Some of the duties they fill are periodically inspecting the slash, clearing the slash of brush, and maintaining the boundary markers. Those are done so the laws of both the United States and Canada can be properly enforced. When it comes to snowmobiling, people wonder if they can snowmobile along the slash. In black and white terms, yes, you can snowmobile along the slash. Although, something to remember, the responsibility of knowing where you are at all times rests with the individual. Snowmobilers need to understand that the center of the slash may not be clearly marked during the winter months as it is during the summer months because of snowfall. The boundary markers may be under snow in most cases. As a recommendation on behalf of the Border Patrol, they suggest snowmobilers do everything possible to stay on the half of the slash closest to the United States. The Border Patrol also realizes the possibility may exist that a snowmobiler may stray over into the Canadian side of the slash due to obstacles such as a ledge, rock, or down trees. If you do stray over to the Canadian side of the slash, you are subject to Canadian laws and regulations. The Border Patrol is mostly concerned with cross border activity. Where you start from point A in the United States to point B in Canada without going or returning through the border point of entry. You risk getting arrested, paying a fine, and getting your sled seized.

Snowmobile Program, Joe Higgins reported the snowmobile season has started. All the municipal grants are in and the deadline for the club grants is December 31st. The deadline for the windstorm in October for the catastrophic grant is December 29th, 60 days after the event. The capital equipment grant deadline is June 15th. If a club is interested in equipment, call the Maine snowmobile program and the office will send your club an application and answer any questions you may have.

Executive Director, Bob Meyers reminded everybody that when snowmobiling starts to report trail conditions so Peg can put it on the trail condition page so the information can be updated for sledders to see.

There have been a lot of stories on the news of clubs struggling. Good news, it seems to be waking people up.

There has been a spike in online membership purchases and people have been calling the office for contact information for clubs to help. "If someone offers to help, say thank you. Accept their offer." If people want to help, let's make sure we can let them help.

Central Region, Jack Lord reported things are looking up and he has a regional meeting at the Skowhegan Sno-Hawks club house coming up.

Eastern Region, Eileen Lafland reminded everybody of the eastern region meeting that will be held January 17 in Holden. The trails in the eastern region have about 2 inches of snow.

Western Region, Roland Bowie reported things are looking up in the western region. ITS 117 is now open and clubs are are still busy working on the trail.

Coastal Region, Dave Watson stated not much is going on in his region. There is about 6 inches of snow in his area. There is still issues with club membership and club volunteers. There is a section of ITS 89, which is at the start, down in Lebanon. The club has no help. They're saying they aren't going to open the trails this year. "Anybody and everybody you already know. Invite people to join. Get involved. If it's not out doing trail work or fundraisers, just being a member and giving them money. Everything will help."

Safety, Al Swett let everybody know to contact him in regards to doing safety checks in your area. His contact information is in the monthly paper. The LifeFlight video Al's been working on is coming along well and looks to be finished in January. He's going to be working with a gentleman from New Hampshire on ice, water, and safety precautions coming next month as well.

New Business: Frank Carroll would like to try and help the snowmobile sport become safer, better for the state, better for the clubs, and try to find a way to raise more money which is badly needed to support the clubs and what we all do. He feels strongly with mandatory membership and that the users of the trails should pay. He would like to put a committee together. Everybody club has the same issues, there's less people every year to help with trails. 65,000 to 80,000 people register their sleds every year and about 9,000 of them join a club. That's less than 15%. There's a lot of money to be made to move forward but it also opens an avenue for correspondence, build relations, communicate and educate. Boondocking is killing us all. We're hearing about it all the time and trails being closed. We work hard to open them again and every year there's an issue. If you can't come out and help with work, help us financially with new memberships. "We all need to pull together and work on this issue." He let everybody know that the start might be an idea of mandatory membership but might end with something else. Contact Frank Carroll, President of Route 11 Streakers, in regards to joining his efforts and creating a strong committee related to this issue.

The 50/50 of \$113 was won by Gail Ryan. The Wales Ridge Runners was drawn for the Pot o' Gold, but no director was present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14p.m.

Submitted,
Candice Pinkham MSA Secretary