

MAINE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Director's Meeting 560

Secretary's Report

October 20, 2020

At 7:00 PM President Mike Grass Jr. called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Pretty good turn out.

Motion was made by Jerry Major and seconded by Jack Lord to accept the secretary's report as distributed, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read by Lori Hemmerdinger.

Mike stated the dedicated account is the profits from last year's Super Raffle funds, the account is still untouched and also the credit line is still untouched because of our reduced payroll. Copy to be filed at the office.

President's report

Mike said he made a surprise visit to the E-Ville Riders in Elliotsville TWP meeting, one of the three per year. The sixteen members in attendance maintain and groom 42 miles of scenic trails, they made him feel very welcome, and they blown away this new club was visited by the MSA president.

Mike then recognized the steering committee members, putting in a lot of time without a dime of compensation. Al Swett has taken over Susan's job since she left a month ago, picking up mail and answering the phone. Lori Hemmerdinger has been going into the office one day a week, paying bills, posting money received, balancing the books, doing reports. Bob Flagg is our I.T. guy, dealing with the servers and performing behind the scene things we don't even know about. Eileen has been posting memberships as they come in, doing 370 in one day. An all time record. This is how MSA is running, all volunteer. (A round of well deserved applause.) Bob spoke of the trail traffic, predicts will be an all time record this season. Needing snow statewide, we get what we get, and make it work.

Executive Vice-Presidents' Report

Al Swett stated the phone has been ringing non-stop, getting E-mails from New York, Connecticut, Virginia, and all over the Northeast because they can't go into Canada. They have heard such good things about Maine. They want to come here. They want to know where to go. Incredible. It's just incredible! Gets some snow, we will have some darn good riding. The only problem with that is I've learned that some restaurants are struggling to stay open. There have been three applicants for office manager. Raffle tickets are coming in like crazy. Brought some raffle tickets down. Ordered more raffle

tickets, they're going like wildfire. Memberships are coming in like incredible, incredible rounds of memberships. From all over. A lot of folks are signing up from the newspaper or online. The office help are doing a great job Bob, Lori and Eileen, keeping things running smoothly. (Al) Enjoys doing it, has a passion for snowmobiling, has a fondness of everyone, and means that sincerely, for the all the clubs whether a small club like this or a thousand member club, we are all in this together. It all comes to a full circle. We are all going to make. That is what MSA is all about. The phone is right there call me.

Dave Watson- Thank you Ossipee Mountaineers for hosting this meeting. Recognized the 9 coastal clubs represented. Seeing a lot of trail work being done on Facebook. We want to see snow down here, it's been awhile. It's a family and a passion, and want to ride from home.

Eileen Lafland- Eastern region is rolling right along. Has a Club in the eastern region that she has entered 65 NEW MEMBERS, said they are going to double their memberships and well on their way. Marion's club is hosting a 10 club meeting tomorrow night. People are very excited, hope they can get things going. Some of the clubhouses are too small to meet, so they are calling in, still figuring out how to meet, went to a meeting in the groomer barn. Keep going everybody!

Jim Boyce -Things are going great in the Western. Got the club packets out on Sunday mornings. Got to meet with Phillips, Salem, New Vineyard and Weld, and clubs around me. Doing really well. Good news in Carrabassett Valley J.V. Wing finally got landowner permission from a big landowner, so they are good to go. The Weld Club has taken over a section of ITS 89, making the trails wider and brushing them out. In Kingfield, we have only 60 miles of trails and 10 new landowners, people are moving up, they are coming from everywhere. Spoke of his new best friend, a landowner from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Expressed the importance of signage, can never have enough signs, stop and stop ahead, it's not for the locals, it's for the people from away. Salem just invested in a Cricket machine, so their signs are nice and neat. Things are happening in the Western Region, good omen with the snow, hope for the ground to freeze first. The snow is coming!

Al tried to contact Matt Stedman in Ashland by the video chat, but failed to get through.

Jack Lord- From 95 to Jackman, Lexington, Cambridge everyone is scared of how much traffic we could end up with in the Central Region. How they are planning more grooming. Clubs are patching instead of replacing bridges being conservative on spending. New bridge going up in Jackman, also a hotspot, reservations are filling up very quickly.

Al is trying to put a showcase ride together at the Skyline for this winter. Still working on the details. This is what our passion of snowmobiling is all about. Incredible the dedication of the Vice Presidents to travel to these meetings. This is what we do. This is what MSA is here for, the best trails in the Northeast. No question about it. Thanks to you guys.

Standing Committee Reports

Mark Chinook MSA Trail Committee Jim Boyce is my poster child of signage, go to Kingfield, they do a fabulous job.

Trails Committee had a couple of meetings. Map is in the works, coming out next week, with some changes. Couple of things are time sensitive that you get in the MSA membership packet like officer update form and from Joe Higgins the grant applications, Municipal Grant deadline of December 1st and the Club grant deadline of December 31st. Jack brought up that the physical address for the club address would be helpful to deliver the membership packets, putting only P.O. Boxes make it difficult to hand deliver.

Think we are going to have a busy winter.

Jim brought up how he puts out garbage cans on the trail to collect bottles, cans, and trash, how the landowners really appreciate it.

There was discussion of how clubs are losing landowners permission at an alarming rate from disgruntled landowners. Also how there are a tremendous amount of real estate transactions.

Al Swett Safety Committee Report- Attended a safety meeting in Brookfield Renewable Resource which controls almost all the dam water flow in Maine. If there is a fatality on the water, it is investigated to find out the cause, if there was a change in the dam height, what the flow rate was, how could it be prevented. Very interesting meeting.

IFW is joining MSA with doing the safety posters. Which are on display and are available. LMK if you want help with a safety check.

John Monk Steering Committee- Acknowledged one of our newest members to the Hall of Fame Jerry Major. (Round of applause.) The MSA has discussed a \$10.00 increase for residents with \$5.00 being allocated to the trail system and \$5.00 to the Capital Equipment Grant and a \$20.00 increase for nonresidents with \$10 trails system and \$10 Capital Equipment being allocated. All the other states have raised their residential registrations to around \$100. and we offer way more trails. John also requested that everyone reach out to their respective clubs and ask for a response in writing as to what they feel would be a reasonable/acceptable, club voted and supported registration increase. Your input is important to establish an average, which will be proposed. We did pretty well with our capital equipment grant all 33 requests were funded.

When he went into IF&W he became aware of LD 1824 effective 9/19/2019. Basically the definition of a snowmobile has changed, if it is not defined as a snowmobile it can't be registered as a snowmobile. If it is a groomer like a S-10, it can be registered as a

groomer. This to prevent registering a vehicle and it going onto the snowmobile trail for a joy ride, the town offices are supposed to catch this. A snowmobile is propelled by mechanical power designed to travel over ice and snow and is supported in part by skis, belts, or cleats. Snowmobile does not include a motor vehicle as defined in Title 29-A.

Ross Hanworth, Executive Director of New Brunswick Federation Snowmobile Club, Canada called to say they we not grooming the boarder trails, the boarder is closed indefinitely.

The people who drive long distances to attend these meetings, I can't thank you enough.

Why is there were only 5 regional directors, not one from every county? Number one reason is financial, more efficient, lack of manpower, the major rivers divide in general. The long and short of it. Don't be ashamed to ask for help.

His brother recently sold a "98" Ski-doo Skandic W/T for it's rare liquid cooled motor for \$750. for a race sled motor with dual exhaust. Later he saw it on Facebook posted as transmission with no motor \$1000.

Really sticky to compensate a landowner because of the fee would conflict with the no fee-state liability coverage.

Instead of Mandatory Membership like N.H. maybe mandate a trail pass, but not at the same time as the registration increase.

Would like to include a coastal regional legislator, who works well with the snowmobile clubs, to spread the bill out across the state.

Unfinished Business

Did everyone get their newspaper? Thanks to Bob and Lori for putting the paper together. (Round of Applause.) They put in 21,000 inserts into the paper in one night, with a little help from their friends. (Round of Applause.)

Wildwood Restaurant and Cabins in Brownville is sponsoring a super super raffle drawing if your club that sells 400 or more super raffle tickets, you could win!! (Check your paper for details.)

New Business: Debra Gould from Dover has come up with an activity to benefit Clubs 75% and MSA 25%. Details TBA. Jack Lord made the motion, seconded, motion carried.

MSA calendars available and online clothing website updated.

Mark is looking for a club to sponsor a Trail Workshop.

50/50 Raffle was won by Jim Roux, President of Southern Maine Snow Goers S.C.

Pot of Gold Northport Ridge Riders, Inc. not present.

Next meeting Mt.Kineo Lodge #109, Guilford, Me. 04333 November 17th at 6:30

A motion to adjourn, seconded, carried at 8:26

Ossipee Mountaineers S.C. thank you for hosting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Barker