



Board of Directors

Pete Friedlieb, President

Catherine McLynn, Membership

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Randy Zupan, Suomi Hills Trails

Tom Sobolik, Treasurer and Blueberry Hills trails

Bob Conzemius, Secretary, staff Meteorologist

Carl Nordgren, Doan Lake trails

Keith Murphy, Webmaster

Boomer Moritko Trails and Equipment

Craig Stertz, Ski Clinics

Rick McDonald, Legion Trails

Tom Nelson, County Trails

Trail Bits March 2022-Pete F

Your board met at the KAXE studios in the teeth of one of the blizzards we've had lately. There was a lot to talk about:

Donations-We have received many member contributions thus far and it will help us a great deal in maintaining and upgrading our equipment and paying associated expenses. We have had many business donations as well:

Arden Bike, Automotive Electric, American Inn, Blueberry Bowl, Brewed Awakening Buckhorn Resort, Bigfork Valley sports med, Chad's Meats, Country Kitchen, Edge of the Wilderness Lodge, Florio's, Forest Lake Rest, ,Grand Itasca Clinic, Green Heron B&B, Hotel Rapids, KAXE, Klockow's, Mallard Point Res., Marcell Lodge, Meds 1, Rapids Brewing, Sugar Lake Lodge, , Timberlake, Timberwolf Inn, White Oak Inn, Zorbaz, Get Fit Itasca, Visit Grand Rapids.

New Brochure-Catherine has updated our Ski Trail Brochure to include revised descriptions of trail levels, eliminating trails no longer being groomed by the State and providing more Club info. The brochure is available on our website northernlightsnordic.org and also will be at civic organizations headquarters and various businesses.

MYSL-Minnesota Youth Ski League volunteers at Mt. Itasca and Blueberry have coached about 170 kids at beginner through advanced levels. Catherine commented on how amazing it was to see the progress of these new ski enthusiasts

Grooming Reports-groomers report that their snowmobiles are frequently getting stuck in the heavy snowdrifts. Getting unstuck is a challenge. It involves a guy pulling a winch cable through waist high snow, or chest high depending, and attaching the cable around the base of a tree. Then wading back to the winch itself which is attached to the snowmobile. Then carefully running the winch to

hopefully yank the snowmobile out. So it gave me thoughts that maybe y'all might be interested in the boys of winter and their steeds.

Fun Facts Groomers

We have around 13 folks grooming our 8 trails. Some trails might have just one and for others 3 or 4 might be available. All are volunteers. They appreciate you picking up sticks on the trail and also tramping down drifts with your skis to make it easier for them to groom.

Median Age 70,

They report that lately it feels like the 70 nowadays feels like 70 from the old days and not the new 60 or somethin'

Groomer Disposition-loves cross country skiing, loves putting down a nicely packed and tracked ribbon through the woods, intrepid.

Groomer Appreciation Day will be in April-an invite will be sent out. Hope to see you there!

Equipment needed to groom

involves a pulling machine small, medium or large. A drag or roller behind to pack the snow and a track setter.

Exhibit 1 Small our most common machine-the snowmobile that is iow geared for pulling more like a tractor than racing like a Ferrari.



The drag behind is controlled hydraulically to put greater or lesser pressure to pack and track. Most have 4 stroke engines and hold up about 8 years or so. With one exception a classic 27 year-old beast operated by Bob C. at Mt Itasca

Exhibit 2

Modified side by side 4 wheeler with cab and tracks added. Medium size and more expensive but has an advantage in packing with more weight and also the tracks make it much less likely to get stuck.



They can be real handy when there's a snowmobile broken down in deep snow. This one took 4 of us pretty much all day to get out.



Small picture but big machine, a PistenBully, like the one used on ski hills and trails at Mt. Itasca



That's it. Happy Trails to You Until We Meet Again!