



CONNECTIONS

MilleLacsTrails.org

MilleLacsTrails@yahoo.com

Message From the President, Steve Pearson

A lot has happened at Mille Lacs Trails in the past few months. We sold the Tucker groomer and purchased a Piston Bully which was delivered to our club house in late October. We are excited about this purchase and look forward to many years of service to keep our trails in excellent shape. In addition to the Piston Bully, we purchased a used Bombardier 180 to round out our groomer fleet. We are all set for the season ahead and all we need is snow. Lots of snow. For the past year and a half covid kept us from regular club meetings, but now we are meeting on the first Thursday of the month and I encourage you to attend our meetings in order to stay abreast of club activities and club business. We need your input and involvement. You can stay informed about Mille Lacs Trails by visiting our web site at www.millelacstrails.org as well as Facebook. This newsletter is another way to be informed and we appreciate Lori Bird, for taking on the task of making it happen. But the best way to get involved is to attend our monthly meetings. Let's get together and do some club rides this winter. See you on the trails!

BOARD MEMBERS

CEO	John Coombs
President	Steve Pearson
Vice President	Darrell Kelly
Gambling Manager	Christy Holloway
Shop Coordinator	Al Pearson
Membership Director	Calvin Mattson
Grant Writer	Paula Fisher
Trail Master	Dean Fisher
Secretary/Treasurer	Paula Pap

Upcoming Events

Snowmobile Training

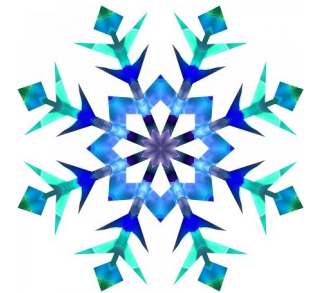
Saturday, Feb 5th

Meet-and Greet

Saturday, February 19

Landowner Appreciation Dinner

Spring



Club Meetings
1st Thursday 6:30 pm
31844 235th Lane, Aitkin MN



Family Christmas Event – Christmas In Malmo

By Evon Pearson, Event Coordinator

Christmas In Malmo was **Saturday, December 11, 2021**, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mille Lacs Trails sponsors this event for children and families to provide a lunch and some fun. Families register and children receive a Christmas stocking. Crafts were available and kids received an opportunity to write a letter to Santa (Santa will reply!). Santa arrived and presented a nice gift to each child 12 and under. At that time, there was an opportunity to have your child visit with Santa with a photo opportunity. Malmo Lions also provided vision checks and helped us serve. Thank you to all who helped provide a fun and special event for families.



Mille Lacs Trails Meet and Greet

By Paula Pap, Event Coordinator

Mille Lacs Trails held their very first Meet and Greet on **Saturday February 1, 2020**. 93 riders stopped by, and we gave away 18 prizes throughout the day. It was fun to share stories with fellow snowmobilers, and hear them comment on how great our trail system is! The campfire hotdogs, chips, and hot cocoa were a big hit! Due to the pandemic, we had to skip 2021 – but we are coming back strong, so mark your calendars for Saturday February 19th 2022 as that is the day the Mille Lacs Trails will be hosting their Annual Meet and Greet event. Keep an eye on social media as we will be sharing event details as we get closer to the event.

Take a Load Off!

Check out our new Mille Lacs Trails benches at the Farm Island Store and Nitti Hunter’s Resort. The unique benches came from Nelson Country Benches of Little Falls. The club is looking to place two more. Take a seat and enjoy the view. from our new benches.



Clean Up, Clean Up, Everybody Clean Up

A dedicated bunch of volunteers tramped along Highway 47 ditches to keep our roadway clean. The group celebrated afterwards with a bonfire, hot dogs, and ice cream! We were fortunate to get it all in before a nasty storm blew in.



Snowmobile Training

February 5 @ 10:00 am

Mille Lacs Trails Clubhouse

Contact Paul @ 320-684-2488

— Limited seating



HEY MEMBERS — GET ON THE BUS!

Walk into the massive gleaming museum tucked back among the trees is like stepping back in time. Rows and rows of snow machines fill the sprawling museum owned by Les Pinz of Isle. The walls are lined with vintage snowmobiles, snowsuits, patches, posters, trophies and more all dedicated to the sport, industry and history of snowmobiling.



RSVP A MUST

Fall Member Event - Les Pinz Snowmobile Museum

Thirty members made the trip to see the unique collection of memorabilia of Les Pinz. Everywhere you looked was a piece of history with a story to go along with it. It was interesting to see the varying technology, styles, and colors. There were even a couple models sporting leopard print seats. I can’t imagine who would race on that! A good time was had by all.

Fish House Parade / Annual Vintage Snowmobile Display

By Jeff Tidholm

After learning that Lundberg Plumbing and Heating were unable to host their Annual Vintage Snowmobile Display, I thought it would be a great event for our club to carry on. So I then thought it would be best to team up with the Aitkin Sno-Drifters for they host a yearly vintage ride in February. They agreed and the event planning was on. Paula and I teamed up while John and Sue Buhlman from the Sno-Drifters. Paula and I secured a 15x30 enclosed tent and the overall layout of the event while John and the Sno-Drifters coordinated getting all the vintage sleds there that day. Block North Brew Pub also made a donation towards both clubs to help pay down the overall cost. The day was a big success. Paula sold a table full of club clothing, signed up new members and even took in a donation on our side of the tent with Cathy from the Sno-Drifters handling registering the people's choice contest votes with cash awards being handed out on their side. All together there were 28 vintage sleds on display. Lundberg Plumbing & Heating was still involved and sponsored our heated tent with 4 heaters running wide open keeping the chill to a minimum. John and his crew also had 2 above ground campfires burning outside in the middle of the sled display with many families enjoying staying warm near them. Block North had their bar inside the tent with us also, along with their charbroil burger stand right outside that served nearly 100 burger baskets during Aitkin's World Famous Fish House Parade. All volunteers involved with this event agreed next year could be even bigger if the club agrees to let us put it on again.



Trail Tales

By Dean Fisher

Being that trails open on December 1, we have already started a few projects. A couple new culverts have been placed. One location is on the new trail along Highway 12 and the other west of the intersection of Jewett Road and Highway 47. Another install is planned on the North Mille Lacs Trail near the golf course. At this time the corn is still standing in that field, so we will have to wait until it is picked.

Other maintenance will be done in some areas after deer season is over. We will also get some work done on trail clean-up day.



Membership Update



By Calvin Mattson, Membership Director

Mille Lacs Trails currently have 106 memberships of which 7 are new members. So far for 2021-2022 we have 71 members that have renewed along with 3 new members.

A big welcome to our new members: Joni Emery, Nicole Fisher & Joe Tveit, and Nikki and Lon Nicko along with their son Henry. We invite you to ride and enjoy our fabulous trails, come to our meetings and get involved in some of our clubs fun activities.

We had a booth at the Aitkin Fish House parade on Friday Nov.26. We hope to sign up a few new members.

On a practical matter, when you fill out the membership form, write clearly as one letter or symbol will make e-mail undeliverable. Also send me any changes in address, e-mail, phone numbers, etc. I thank you for your prompt response to our annual membership drive.

As one snowmobile company advertised, a few years ago, "Days get shorter, nights get colder, life gets better" is the motto of every snowmobiler.

Shop Talk



By Al Pearson, Shop Coordinator

As we move towards winter, we are better prepared than ever to meet the challenges ahead due to our focus on preventative maintenance in the off-season. This is critical to assure maximum availability of our machines during the winter months.

All our support machines: snowmobiles, UTV, 6 Wheeler and Skid steer have been fully serviced and ready to go to work. As far as groomers are concerned, a lot has changed since the end of last years trail grooming season. We decided to replace our 2012 Tucker groomer with a new 2021 Pisten Bully trail groomer. This was done for several reasons but let's just say the timing was right to get maximum value out of our main groomer before it reached a point of having to invest in major repairs. Our new Pisten Bully is a state-of-the-art unit with all the bells and whistles. This is a machine we should hopefully feel comfortable owning many many years. We took delivery of the machine in late October and are now familiarizing ourselves with all its capabilities. Also, we decided to try and find a newer version of our 1994 secondary Bombi 160 groomer with the thought being our old 160 can then be used primarily for early trail opening due to its light weight. With some inquires, we located a Bombi BR180 for sale within the state that was 10 years newer and much less hours than our old 160. We purchased that machine for minimum cost and just brought it back to our shop on November 18. We are now preparing that unit for the winter grooming season. As far as the shop is concerned, we continue to try to upgrade tooling and improve our shop operations to improve efficiency and safely.

It's been a busy fall and early winter with a lot happening at our facility in Malmo but we are prepared and ready to go into the grooming season. A big thanks to all who help me around the shop and with the equipment, it's so appreciated. Thank You.



On-going Activities From Our Sponsors

Sponsor	Bingo	Meat Raffle	Pull Tabs/ Tip Board
Barnacles Resort & Campground	Wed 6-8 pm	Fri 5 pm Sat 5 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs
Castaways Resort		Thurs 5 pm Sat 1 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs Tip boards
Farm Island Store			Pull Tabs Tip Board
Fishers Resort			Pull Tabs Tip Board
Glen Store & Grill			Pull Tabs Tip Board
Hunter's Point Resort	Wed 6—8 pm	Fri 5:30 pm Sat 1:00 pm	Pull Tabsabs Etabs
One Stop Mini			Pull Tabs
Riverside Pub		Thurs 5 pm	Pull Tabs Tip Boards Etabs
Sue's Bait			Tip Boards

Ongoing Club Events

4th of July Parade	Independence Day
Highway Clean-up	Fall & Spring
Fish House Parade	Friday after Thanksgiving
Trail Clean-up & Club Decorating	Saturday after Thanksgiving
Christmas in Malmo	2nd Saturday in December
Meet-and-Greet	3rd Saturday in February
Landowner Appreciation	Spring

Trail Conditions

Trails opened December 1! Do your snow dance!



Follow us on Facebook  and our website **MilleLacTrails.org** to keep up with ongoing activities!

Do you have a story to share or a suggestion for the newsletter?



Contact Lori Bird, Communications Coordinator, at MilleLacTrails@yahoo.com

Thank you for supporting the Mille Lac Trails