

Mille Lacs Trails Meet and Greet

By Paula Pap, Event Coordinator

The 2nd annual Mille Lacs Trails Meet and Greet was held Saturday, February 19th at the Fred White Memorial Shelter. The wind was blowing and it was chilly, but we still had over 120 sleds stop in for a hotdog and hot beverage. There were even a few that braved the cold and made a smore over the fire.

This years event was extra special as the White family bundled up, dug out their vintage sleds, and brought Joanne White to the shelter.

It was a GREAT day! The Meet and Greet Committee, which is made up of Dean & Paula Fisher, Jeremy and Suzy Anderson and Paula Pap want to thank all of you for making this event such a big success. Make sure to mark your calendars for next year – the 3rd Annual Mille Lacs Trails Meet and Greet will be held Saturday February 18, 2023 – just look for the dancing hot dog!!



Membership Update

By Calvin Mattson, Membership Director

Mille Lacs Trails currently have 107 memberships of which 12 are new. A warm welcome to our nine newest members:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mike and Tannajean Bubalo | Kent and Laurie Hicks | Brian and Anne Najdek |
| Kevin Christensen | Richard and Lindsay Hults | Brian and Mary Reuss |
| Jon and Jan Hegman | Jeffrey and Michelle Huxford | Bret and Andrea Swan |

We hope you had a chance to ride and enjoy our fabulous trails this winter. As you know, it was one of the best snowmobiling winters in recent memory.

We also invite you to come to our meetings and get involved in some of our clubs fun activities. We meet 6:30 PM the first Thursday of each month at our clubhouse, a mile north of Malmo.

Thank you for your interest in our club.



Snowmobile



Club Ride

By Lori Bird

We successfully resurrected the club ride where club members and friends hit the trails together and share laughter with good conversation at a community establishment. The rides were on Wednesday and Saturday meeting at the Clubhouse. Mother Nature accommodated with decent weather. Around a dozen riders participated in each ride. Expect more dates next season.



Trail Tales

By Dean Fisher, Trail Master

At the time of this writing it looks like the riding season has come to an end.

Overall it was a pretty good season. The start was a little late but not bad. Luckily we had a big snowfall at the beginning because after that we didn't get a lot of snow. Then at the end we had another big snow that got everyone jacked up. But a couple weeks later we have above average temperatures to shut us down.



Everything seemed to work out well this year. The new Pisten Bully was a dream to operate and worked as well as expected. The used BR 180 also worked out well. We had a few minor issues with it but nothing terrible. I believe we racked up just under 600 hours on the grooming equipment this season.

When the trails close on April 1 we still have a few projects to do. This includes washing and maintenance on most of the equipment. Picking up temporary signage. Closing gates. Possible bridge maintenance.

I would like to thank everyone that visited our area and patronized our local businesses. I would also like to thank all of the land owners that allow the trails to cross your property. Without you it would be nearly impossible to have the trail system that we do.

Shop Talk

By Al Pearson, Shop Coordinator



All is well as it concerns our shop and grooming equipment, very few issues or problems. Our new Pisten Bully has performed flawlessly with just some getting use to how it operates and is maintained. The machine is very fuel efficient using just slightly over 3 gallons per hour which is an improvement over the Tucker. We installed a new toolbox on back of the Bully to handle storage needs as it does have less in-cab storage. Our two Bombi's, the BR160 and BR180 we just bought, have had some usual minor issues with oil leaks, broken cleats, etc. We did break a suspension axle on the 180 and had a failed oil cooler but were able to repair and replace it within a couple days. Also, our Dodge 1 ton truck failed a transmission so we did spend some money repairing it but now it is much more road ready. All other support equipment has been working well with no significant concerns. We do have a new Mogul Master Drag on order which we intend to use behind the Pisten Bully. Due to supply chain issues, it now appears unlikely that we will get the new drag in time to use this season. I have done a lot of organizing and decluttering in the shop starting with a new toolbox. We have a lot of tools and can now actually find most of them.

In preparation for the off-season, I have created a new updated maintenance checklist for all of our major pieces of equipment. This is a long list of things to do and we will be in need of a volunteer or two in the April/May time period to assist in the shop. Some projects can be deferred to next fall but it's best to minimize surprises and get as much done in the spring as possible. If you are mechanically inclined and don't mind getting your hands dirty, please let me know.

A big thanks to all who assist and support our efforts to maintain this operation.