



CONNECTIONS

MilleLacsTrails.org

MilleLacsTrails@yahoo.com

Message From the President, Steve Pearson

The 2023 snowmobiling is upon us and I wish for a safe and enjoyable year ahead. At our December club meeting, we discussed a number of items of interest. The Piston Bully we purchased last November worked flawlessly and anticipate the same for the year ahead. We also discussed arranging a club ride up north in the Orr area in early February. Check the Mille Lacs Trails web site and Facebook for details as they become known. We are also planning several local club rides as we did last year. Again, you will need to check our web site and Facebook. A better way to stay up to date is to attend our monthly meetings held the first Thursday each month. At our last meeting we approved the construction of another trail shelter and could use some volunteers to build it. It will be built at the shop so you won't have to brave the winter elements during construction. A lot of club business is discussed and voted on at our meetings and I encourage you to attend and participate in the club's business. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and contact Lori Bird if you have news to share.

Membership Update



By Calvin Mattson

Mille Lacs Trails has 96 members signed up so far for the 2022-2023 snowmobile season, of which 3 members are new. Our club gives a warm welcome to our newest members: Mike and Karin Martinjako, Justin and Dawn Johnson and Glen Bihler. We hope you have a chance to ride and enjoy our fabulous trails this coming winter.

As I write this, we are expecting our first major snowfall of the season. Checkout our website: millelacstrails.org and Facebook for the latest information on trail conditions during the winter season.

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 Coordinator	Dean Fisher
Secretary/Treasurer	Paula Pap

The Big Snow!

By Lori Bird

Mother Nature blanketed our trails, trees, and signs with a foot of wet, heavy snow the week of Dec 12. We love the snow but the storm left many trees bowing and branches scattered making our snow highways impassable. Our trail masters, Dean and Jeff, have been working endlessly to get our trails back in shape. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest trail updates.



Fish-House Parade

By Paula Pap

We had another successful event at this years World Famous Fish-House parade that was held in downtown Aitkin on Friday November 25th. Mille Lacs Trails was happy to partner with the Aitkin Sno-drifters providing a display of vintage snowmobiles. Visitors were able to vote on their favorite Unrestored and Restored sleds and we gave out \$600.00 in prizes to the winners. We welcomed several visitors to our heated tent where they were able to ask questions about the trails, warm up by the heaters and browse through the latest apparel that we had for sale. It was great fun listening to other snowmobile enthusiasts “brag” about how good our trails are. Dean Fisher and Jeff Emery brought some of our equipment that we had on display and later drove in the parade. Special shout out to Lane Anderson, Henry Nicko, Greg Fisher Christy Holloway, Nicole Fisher, Chris and Sonja McElroy for helping out. Also, thanks to John & Sue Buhlmann and all the Aitkin Sno-drifters volunteers– it is so much fun when clubs work together for an event, and Peter and his staff from Block North for allowing us to hang out with ya! Jeff & I keep thinking of what more we can do. Make sure to mark your calendars for the day after Thanksgiving next year. We plan on making it bigger and better. You are not going to want to miss it!



Great Response for Mille Lacs Trail Christmas in Malmo 2022

By Evon Pearson

Santa, Mrs. Claus, Elf and more than 25 other helpers served at least 46 family’s lunch, photo ops, vision checks available from Malmo Lions, and a time to enjoy a wonderful Christmas celebration. We had 83 children through age 12. The children received a Christmas stocking filled with activities and treats. The families visited with Santa and crew and were given a wrapped Christmas gift. Kids wrote letters to Santa and Mrs. Claus responds to them for Santa.

We had 25 more kids than last year. It was nice to get back to a more traditional event this year. People were so complimentary and appreciative. Thank you for those who served with preparation, serving, and cleaning up – you did a great job.



Snowmobile Trail Map Boxes

By Jeff Tidholm



Here is the Story of the long overdue “Thank You” to the people who constructed and painted the clubs new trail map boxes you see on our trail system. Late last fall Curt Buhlmann of the Aitkin Sno-Drifters volunteered to build map boxes for our club as he did for their club. The Mille Lacs Trails took him up on his offer and bought enough material to build 10 map boxes. When they were delivered to my shop I decided to post to our Facebook page if anyone would like to take the role of painting them and right away I received a message back from Ann Najdek of Oak Grove MN. Ann along with husband Brian also have a cabin on Sunset Lake and ride our trail system often. She drove up to meet me at my print shop to pick them up along with the bright yellow paint that Curt used on the Sno-Drifters boxes he built. When completed I visited their cabin to pick them up so our trail groomers Dean F. and Jeff E. could get them up on our trail and chosen intersections throughout. Ann & Brian also joined and are now members of the Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Club. Volunteering is a big part of what keeps clubs strong so - Thank you again for all your time.



Shop Talk

By Al Pearson, Shop Coordinator



As we moved into the early season of trail maintenance our equipment, for the most part, held up well with only minor issues. Our focus is and will continue to be on preventing problems versus dealing with unexpected and expensive emergency repairs but we still have to be able to respond quickly if an issue arises.

As far as detailed issues are concerned, we had plenty of shop projects going on in the past few months. The BR180 had an unexpected fuel system issue that we discovered as we were preparing the machine for winter. This required us to hire some outside expertise to get everything resolved. We have had a few issues with the Polaris Ranger side-by-side, primarily related to the track system. The new Argo has functioned as it should with no real issues. I'm told it indeed does float but is a rough ride on frozen ground. All grooming equipment is ready to roll for the most part and look forward to seeing more snow so we can put things to work. With some good volunteer help, we did some reorganizing of the cold storage area to accommodate the expanded gambling storage room.

Once again, thanks to all who assist and support our efforts to maintain our ever-expanding fleet of equipment. We truly are privileged to have such a nice and well-equipped facility to support our trail maintenance efforts.



Trail Improvement

By Dean Fisher

We took advantage of the warm temperatures at the end of November to work on some of our ‘problem’ areas. With no frost in the ground, it was much easier to level out the ground and remove stumps and rocks. A lot of the problem areas on the Long Lake trail got leveled and widened a bit. This will make grooming much easier and a smoother ride for you!



On-going Activities From Our Sponsors

Sponsor	Bingo	Meat Raffle	Pull Tabs/ Tip Board
Barnacles Resort & Campground	Wed 6 pm	Fri 5 pm Sat 5 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs
Castaways Resort		Thurs 5:30 pm Sat 1 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs Tip Board
Farm Island Store			Pull Tabs Tip Board
Fishers Resort	Closed for the Winter		Pull Tabs Tip Board
The Glen Store			Pull Tabs Tip Board
Green Lantern		Thurs 6 pm	Pull Tabs Tip Board Etabs
Hunter’s Point Resort	Wed 6 pm	Fri 5:30 pm Sat 1:00 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs Tip Board
Riverside Pub		Thurs 5 pm	Pull Tabs Tip Board Etabs
Sue’s Bait			Pull Tabs Tip Board

Club Meetings

1st Thursday, 6:30 pm

31844 235th Lane, Aitkin MN

Upcoming Club Events

Snowmobile Training	Saturday, January 7
Local Club Rides	Thurs & Sat *
Club Ride in Orr	Early Feb *
Trail Meet & Greet	Saturday, Feb 18
Landowner Appreciation Dinner	Saturday, April 29

* Keep an eye on our Facebook page and web site for details

Share your photos and stories in the newsletter

Contact Lori Bird, Communications Coordinator,
by emailing MilleLacsTrails@yahoo.com



Follow us on Facebook, Mille Lacs Trails Inc, and our website, ***MilleLacsTrails.org*** .

Thank you for supporting our trails!