



# CONNECTIONS

MilleLacsTrails.org

## From the President, Steve Pearson

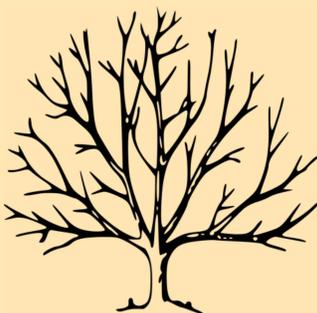
This is the time of year when we are getting ready for the winter ahead at our house. There are lots of things that need attention, The same holds true for your snowmobile club. We held our annual meeting and election on October 2 at the club house to kick off the new snowmobiling season. Our financial situation is strong. Our trail grooming equipment is serviced and ready for action. We have two nearly new Piston Bully groomers so we don't anticipate equipment issues. The only thing we are hoping for is lots of snow so we can put our groomers to work!

There have been some changes to the Board of Directors. Al Pearson resigned as shop coordinator as well as not running again for his board position. Jeff Emery replaces Al on the board. The shop coordinator position is unfilled, and we are looking for someone to step up and assume this role. Al kept our equipment in top condition and Mille Lacs Trails owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Calvin Mattson, Paula Fisher and yours truly agreed to new terms. Paula Pap served as Secretary and Treasurer for many years. She is stepping back from her secretary role but will continue as treasurer. Hats off to Paula for her many years of service. Christy Holloway will be our secretary until a new secretary is appointed. So, if you are willing to assume this role, please let me or any board member know.

It goes without saying, but we need snow this winter. Despite two brown years in a row, our membership numbers are holding strong. As snowmobilers we must be eternal optimists so keep the faith and continue to support Mille Lacs Trails snowmobile club. Remember to attend our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month.

### Election Results

- President—Steve Pearson
- Membership Director—Calvin Mattson
- Grant Writer / Grant in Aid - Paula Fisher
- Jeff Emery ([Welcome](#))
- Secretary - **Open**
- Shop Coordinator - **Open**



### Administrative Secretary Wanted

*If you are organized, detail-oriented, and outgoing, this role is for you!*

- Take accurate minutes at all club meetings (general and board)
- Maintain & distribute official records of said minutes in a timely manner
- Work with person(s) in charge of website & Facebook to effectively communicate club meetings, events, etc.
- Maintain important club papers
- Paid position

Contact Steve (218) 851-4655 or Christy (218) 839-8878 if interested.



## MN USA Region 2 Annual Meeting

*By Calvin Mattson, Membership Director*

Darrell Kelly and I attended this meeting held at the Itasca DriftSkippers Clubhouse on April 12, 2025.

There was a large attendance with the MN USA President Mike Clevenger and Vice President Scotty Harder in attendance. There are 34 clubs in Region 2. With two poor consecutive snow years, MN USA's membership has fallen from 10,000 to about 8,500 members. Grant-in-Aid funding was discussed and it was felt the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> benchmarks would not be met. Director Mike Banovetz encouraged clubs to look into charitable gambling to help with funding for clubs.



Many other topics were discussed. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, no loud pipes will be allowed on snowmobiles in Minnesota with some exceptions such as racing events etc. Fines will be \$250, \$500 and \$1000 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> offenses. Another hot issue that MN USA has been lobbying against was the proposal of conducting an EAS (environmental assessment worksheet) for the construction or expansion of a trail, except for rerouting one mile or less of an existing off highway vehicle trail. So far that bill hasn't been passed. It would make new trail construction very expensive, having to conduct an EAW.

A couple of other bills that MN USA has been pushing such as sales tax exemption for materials used in trail improvement and a snowmobile license plate for vehicles for helping the funding situation did not pass the MN legislature. Also Director Randy Vannet of Region 2 gave a demonstration of the new membership format that is being implemented. He has been instrumental in developing the new system. A few other issues were discussed, too numerous to mention here. You can keep up with legislative news, each month in the "Minnesota Snowmobiling" magazine.



## Calling All Members

*By Calvin Mattson, Membership Director*



Mille Lacs Trails had 106 members for the 2024-2025 snowmobile season. Thank you for your support in our snowmobile club. It keeps our club strong and viable.

The following 2 paragraphs are a repeat of an article I posted in the Winter 2025 newsletter. Being MN USA is making these major changes to membership, I felt it important to post this part of the newsletter again.

For the past year and one half, MN USA has had a new office administrator named Kelly Hesli. MN USA has made and is changing a number of items to membership rosters that will take effect in Fall 2025. All members from a household will be listed individually. Therefore one member will be listed primary and the other as the secondary member. MN USA will also designate a primary club for those members that belong to more than one club. Members will only pay dues to their primary club. They also don't want members to pay dues beyond the current membership year.

Emails are becoming very important. Most communications will be done through email in the future, due to high postage costs. All members with an email address should now be receiving a monthly edition of MN USA's "Newsledder" via email.

MN USA has updated their website to reflect these changes. Members can log into their accounts to access their benefits, profile, and other member-specific information. Their email address is required for access to this new portal. Also, should they forget their password, they can reset it themselves using their email.

### Shop & Equipment Update

By Paula Fisher, Grant Writer

We are excited to share that Mille Lacs Trails has been awarded a Federal Recreational equipment grant for 2025! This grant will assist the club in the purchase of a new Polaris Ranger 1500 with tracks. This type of machine is used typically before and after the trails are officially opened. The club needed an updated machine with more towing capacity, winch power, and horsepower to complete heavy-duty projects in difficult environments. The track system, DuraTracks, is American-made locally in Minnesota. They are integrated specifically for the Polaris RANGER XD 1500. Check out their website for more information:



<https://www.duratracks.com/xd-1500-tracks/>



### Searching for Volunteers!

By Evon Pearson

**VOLUNTEER**



This is a great opportunity to have fun and serve!

Christmas In Malmo is scheduled this year for Saturday, December 6, from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Last year we had 84 kids come to receive a Christmas stocking filled with goodies, do a craft, receive a wrapped Christmas present, and have lunch. Their families came, had lunch, visited, and took a photo with Santa.

We would really love to have you be a part of this special day. We need help in many ways: set up on November 29, registration, serving lunch, craft distribution, photography, emcee, bus tables, dessert table, clean up after event.

We would appreciate your willingness to assist us. Please call me at 218-851-9306 if you are available to help. The community enjoys this day and will make the Christmas holiday more joyful for everyone.



### Club Meetings

1st Thursday of the month @ 6:30 pm

31844 235th Lane, Aitkin, MN



**On-going Activities From Our Sponsors**

Sponsor	Bingo	Meat Raffle	Pull Tabs/ Tip Board
Castaways Resort	Wed 6 pm	Thurs 5:30 pm Sat 1 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs Horse Races Tip Board
Farm Island Store			Pull Tabs Tip Board
Fishers Resort			Pull Tabs Tip Board
Glen Bar & Grill		Wed 6 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs Tip Board
Green Lantern		Thurs 6 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs Tip Board
Mudflats Bar & Grill		Fri 5 pm Sat 12 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs Tip Board
Riverside Pub		Thurs 5 pm	Pull Tabs Etabs Tip Board

**See you in the spring!**

**Closed in Nov**

**Upcoming Club Events**

Fish House Parade, Aitkin	November 28
Trail Clean-up & Clubhouse Holiday Decorating	November 29
Christmas in Malmo	December 6

\* Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details

**Trail Report**

*By Dean Fisher*

As the summer season is coming to a close, we are getting ready to start some trail work. No huge projects in the works so far, mostly general maintenance like brush cutting, grading, and signage. A couple bigger activities coming are a new gate on private property and possibly a new bridge over a ditch along the North Mille Lacs Trail.

We will keep you posted on any new projects that come up.

Hopefully we receive more snow this season compared to the last two seasons!

Hope to see you on the trails!

Share your photos and stories in the newsletter

Contact Lori Bird, Communications Editor, by emailing [MilleLacsTrails@yahoo.com](mailto:MilleLacsTrails@yahoo.com)



Follow us on Facebook, Mille Lacs Trails Inc, and our website,

**BOARD MEMBERS**

CEO	John Coombs	Gambling Manager	Christy Holloway	Grant Writer/Grant & Aid	Paula Fisher
President	Steve Pearson	Treasurer	Paula Pap	Trail Coordinator	Dean Fisher
Vice President	Bobbi Machesky	Membership Director	Calvin Mattson		
Secretary	Open				

**Members at Large**

Clubhouse Activities Coordinator	Don Wiebusch	Shop Coordinator	Darrell Kelly & Don Wiebusch Interim
Communications Editor	Lori Bird	Jeff Emery	

***Hope to see you out on the trails in Dec!***