



CONNECTIONS

MilleLacsTrails.org

From the President, Steve Pearson

We finally have the snow we have been wishing for and praying for the past two years; that means our groomers will be busy keeping our trails in top shape. Our groomer team of Dean Fisher and Jeff Emery have been working hard to get our trails ready for your pleasure. When you ride the trails around the area you know when you are on the Mille Lacs Trails system because they are the smoothest and best groomed.

As we begin a new snowmobiling season, we have some changes to announce. We are pleased that Doug Coil has agreed to be our shop coordinator replacing Al Pearson who kept our equipment and shop in top shape for many years. Paula Pap who has been our secretary and treasurer for many, many years, resigned both positions. We owe Paula our gratitude for her service. Our new secretary is Joy Borden, whose father is Fred White, one of the founders of our club. Our new treasurer is Rachael Coombs. We are pleased to welcome these new people to our leadership team.

As always, I urge our members to get involved with the club and the various activities. The best way to get plugged in is to attend our monthly meetings, which are generally on the first Thursday of the month. Check our website and Facebook page for the latest information and trail conditions.

Enjoy the snow and I hope to meet you on the trails.

Snowmobile Safety Hybrid Class



Event details

Class date & time: 01/18/2026, Sunday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Instructor: Paul White

Students MUST pre-register by contacting Paul White at pwhite0611@yahoo.com

Provide the following when registering:

1. Students full name
2. Age
3. Parent/Guardian name and contact information

Requirements: Must be 11 years of age before class start date listed above to be eligible to take this class and bring online completion voucher to class and bring online completion voucher to class.

Parent/Guardian is required to attend the first part of class (approx. 30 mins) to complete paperwork. Students will participate in small group activities, incident review, a review of laws, operation and proper equipment and then an online course review. After the classroom session, the students will participate in the snowmobile familiarization and the riding course.

Location

Aitkin

Date

Jan. 18, 2026

Time

10 a.m.

Directions

Mille Lacs Trails, 31844 235th Ln, Aitkin MN 56431

More Information

Contact Paul White at pwhite0611@yahoo.com.

[Go to event website »](#)

Add to calendar

Find another class

DNR: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/events/safety_training_class.html?id=84790

Preparing for Christmas in Malmo



By Paula Pap

As the holiday season approaches, there's always plenty of work to be done before the Christmas in Malmo celebration. One of the most important tasks is finding just the right gifts for the kids—and making sure each one is wrapped with care.

For more than 10 years, my daughter Nikki and I have taken on this joyful responsibility. This year, we had a special helper: my 13-year-old grandson, Henry. Together, we used a “divide and conquer” approach—splitting up the list of ages and gifts so each of us could focus on a portion. Henry jumped right in, taking his section of the list and off he went. His enthusiasm and efficiency saved us a great deal of time!

Of course, once the shopping is done, the gifts have to be loaded up. That's Nikki's specialty—she's an incredible packer and somehow manages to fit everything neatly into the car.

Last year, we welcomed the Pilots of Clear Lake 4-H Club to join us in wrapping gifts as part of their community service projects. After the wrapping was complete, we all gathered to enjoy pizza from The Glen Store and Grill—a tradition that makes the hard work even more rewarding.

The Pilots of Clear Lake 4-H Club is one of the largest in Aitkin County, with members of all ages and a wide variety of project areas. Each year, they take on community pride service projects. This year, the kids voted to help Mille Lacs Trails by wrapping gifts for Christmas in Malmo. In past years, they've donated supplies to Wild and Free, created birthday bags for local food shelves, and provided snacks to the Aitkin Area Youth Center. This year, they've chosen to donate funds directly to the food shelves.

Beyond the holidays, the Pilots of Clear Lake 4-H Club also shines at the Aitkin County Fair, where their projects and service work are proudly displayed. Be sure to check out their Community Service Board at the fair—it's a wonderful showcase of the many ways these kids give back throughout the year.

Through all of these efforts, the Pilots of Clear Lake 4-H Club continues to show their commitment to giving back and strengthening our community. Their involvement makes Christmas in Malmo even more special, reminding us that the season is truly about generosity, teamwork, and joy.

Hope you had a Happy Holiday!



Share your photos and stories in the newsletter

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

Smiles, Organized Chaos, and Christmas Fun

By Evon Pearson

Mille Lacs Trails and community volunteers decorated and prepared the clubhouse on November 30 and hosted Christmas in Malmo on Saturday, December 6, 2025. The weather was marvelous with snow on the ground and roads were good. Over 70 children visited Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Elf! Lots of pictures were taken of families with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Elf if desired. We even had three new babies (one month, 10-day old and 7-day old)!

All children 12 and under received a Christmas stocking filled with fun things to do and of course candy and an appropriate gift for the kids to open. The families were invited to have hot dogs, mac and cheese, chips, and festive cupcakes.



There were at least 16 volunteers for this event on the 6th; seven to decorate; and three to buy the appropriate gifts. The Pilots of Clear Lake 4-H Club wrapped the gifts. This is a great opportunity to serve the community and be part of the holiday season. This is also a great way for Mille Lacs Trails to support our community in addition to snowmobile trails.



Shop & Equipment Update

By Doug Coil, Shop Coordinator



As the new grooming season starts, I begin the role as shop coordinator. Al stepped down from the position in September and I took over in October. I hope to keep the shop running as well as he did. A big thank you to Al for his time and dedication. That being said, I don't have a lot to report. Repairs that have come up have been pretty minimal - brakes on the Argo, brakes on the club truck, and repairs on the Trail Boss drag. The club is waiting for grant money to move ahead with the purchase of a Polaris Ranger 1500. This is expected soon.

The early snow and cold weather will make a good base for the trails. I hope everyone gets a chance to use them. Be safe and have fun!

On-going Activities From Our Sponsors

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

See you in the spring!

Trail Report



By Dean Fisher

What a start to the snowmobile season with the snow we received at the end of November and the first week of December! With all of the fresh snow we got off to a great start on the trails. We were able to get quite a few of our trails groomed but not all because of not enough ice in the swamps.

Fast forward a couple weeks and guess what we get, warm temperatures and rain! Unfortunately this will slow our grooming down until we get more snow. In the meantime we still have some prep work to do on the trails and wait for more snow. Be patient. When the snow shows back up, we will be back out to groom it up.



The groomer made an appearance at the world famous Fish House Parade in Aitkin on Nov 28.

Upcoming Club Events

Club Meetings	First Thurs (Jan 8, Feb 5, etc)
Snowmobile Safety Training	Jan 18
Landowner Appreciation Dinner	May 2
Highway Clean Up	Spring & Fall
ATV Training	Summer

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



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

BOARD MEMBERS

CEO	John Coombs	Gambling Manager	Christy Holloway	Grant Writer/Grant & Aid	Paula Fisher
President	Steve Pearson	Treasurer	Rachael Coombs	Trail Coordinator	Dean Fisher
Vice President	Bobbi Machesky	Membership Director	Calvin Mattson	Secretary	Joy Borden
Jeff Emery	Member at Large				

Members at Large

Clubhouse Activities Coordinator	Don Wiebusch	Shop Coordinator	Doug Coil	Communications Editor	Lori Bird
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Hope to see you out on the trails!

Edited by Lori Bird