

Maine Snowmobile Association 535th Directors Meeting

January 16, 2018 • American Legion Post 31, Auburn

At 7:01p.m., President John Monk called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report - There were no corrections or omissions on the December secretary's report. Jerry Major motioned to accept the minutes as distributed, second by Mark Chinnock, anonymous vote follows.

Treasurer's Report, Harvey Chesley read the treasurer's report.

President John Monk has been invited to half a dozen club meetings to go and speak. He had a great time last week at the Bridgton Easy Riders meeting and potluck supper. "Excellent meeting." They treat each member with respect, like a family should be. They asked intelligent questions, they were informed, the president led a great meeting and "I took some lessons from them". John is looking to make more club meetings. John reached out to the executive board in regards to membership. There are 58 clubs who haven't turned in memberships. The board replied that the clubs have been extremely busy with trail work since Christmas and it looks like clubs just haven't submitted in their paperwork yet. John would appreciate that we all get into the clubs and get into their neck of the woods. "I've found that to be more effective than waiting for them to come to this meeting." Even if it's a neighboring club. Go to their club meeting and see what's happening. If you go to one, send John an email. Let him know what's happening. This year marks 50 years for the Maine Snowmobile Association and the annual meeting should be over the top. We should have games, events, door prizes, anything to celebrate 50 years. Come up with one of your club events. A dessert made from one club or an auction gift from a club. Any creative ideas will work to make this event big.

Executive Director, Bob Meyers reported things are very busy at the office and things are going well.

Memberships are coming in and it's important that clubs submit their memberships as soon as they get them. Bob got a phone message from a guy in New Hampshire and he said he was out riding and found a backpack on the side of the trail. The backpack contained a camera, gear, and a MSA membership card. The guy who called stated the name on the membership card and membership number but it wasn't traceable because the club who sold the membership hasn't submitted anything in to match it up.

Aside from that, the MSA has seen a large spike in online membership purchases through the online store. An average of \$1400 in online memberships have been sold the past two months and are on pace to do that or more this month. Be sure to get your memberships in quickly. People want to see the paper, and not getting it in can lead to other issues, like the lost backpack.

Registration numbers are looking good. As of last week, registrations were at 38,593 which is 52 more than the same time last year. Residents are up 3%, non-residents are down 15%, mainly because some other states have a little snow this year.

We are again doing a weekly "Snow Report" with the Maine Office of Tourism and Ski Maine. It seems to get a good response from all over the Northeast.

The trail conditions page has been very busy with lots of traffic. When things change, be sure to get your updates into Peg to she can post them. We're hearing from folks looking for conditions all over. If you're posting to a Facebook page or your own web site, send her the link and she'll put it up.

The Legislature is back, but for the most part we won't need to do anything over there. The only thing hanging is a carryover bill about funding for the Landowner Relations Program that likely won't be dealt with until the end, probably around early April. Since it's an election year, legislators have been very busy passing out cases of ITS maps to businesses in their districts.

Vice President, Mike Grass Jr. reported the Golf Scramble that was done last year is set again for this year, Saturday June 23. If you don't golf, you should still come. There was so many door prizes last year that everyone got two prizes, some got three. The annual banquet is April 21 in Newport.

Eastern Region, Eileen Lafland has an eastern region meeting coming up and 13-14 clubs who will be attending.

Next month the directors meeting will be held in Millinocket at the Northern Timber Cruisers clubhouse.

Central Region, Jack Lord reported there is some damage from last week's storm. There are a few bad spots and to take caution while riding.

Western Region, Roland Bowie reported the western region has a good base but to look out for washouts and low areas due to the warm weather.

Coastal Region, Dave Watson stated the 4-8 inches that is scheduled to come tonight will help but not much. The coastal region lost a lot of snow with the warmer weather. Dave is not sure if the 8 inches will help but with time things will be back in running again.

Trails Chair, Mike Grass Jr. reported there is one issue statewide. Burlington has a logging operation going on and there is a 10 mile reroute going around it. It's located on ITS 81 and the reroute is currently being worked on and signed. Grand Lake Stream is coming two extra miles to meet them to complete the reroute. Mike has received his first batch of inspections and reminded everybody to make sure the stop ahead and stop ahead signs are up. Those are most important starting out the season, followed by grooming.

Membership, Bob Meyers:

Family - 6,717

Business - 1,731

Central - 1,416
Coastal - 1,190
Eastern - 2,367
Northern - 1,272
Western - 2,176

Supervisor of Recreation Safety, Mike Sawyer has been working very closely with Al Swett, Joe Higgins, John Monk and Mike Grass Jr. to look at what can be done with safety messaging. Looking at safety signs that are battery or solar operated. Any thoughts are welcomed. Life is changing a lot and technology is becoming more challenging with messaging.

Old Business:

Frank Carroll is looking for everyone to work together and give input in regards to mandatory membership or trail pass. Franks contact information is the paper and he's looking for all input, good or bad. He's also looking for people to join his committee in regards to this topic.

New Business:

Harvey Chesley shared a couple events. Dysart's Sno-X on January 27-28 at Hermon Speedway 95 from 10a.m.-dusk. Tickets are \$10.00/day, \$15.00/weekend, or \$20.00/VIP seating. Children under 7 years are free. Meet the racers on Saturday from 5p.m.-9p.m. at the Dysart's on Broadway. The Pejepscot Sno-Chiefs are hosting their 25th annual World's Greatest Sleigh Ride on February 20 from 10a.m.-2p.m. in Lisbon Falls, Upper Main Street. Jerry Major shared Norway Trackers Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser on January 20 from 5p.m.-7p.m. Eric Spear shared Saturday from 11a.m.-3p.m that Central Maine Powersports is having an open house and his club, Hillside Family Riders will be cooking hot dogs and burgers, and anybody who signs up to be a member of his club will receive a \$25 gift card to Central Maine Powersports.

The 50/50 for \$87 was won by Tim Morin.

The Streaked Mountaineers club of Buckfield was drawn for the Pot of Gold. No director being present, the prize was forfeited.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

Submitted,
Candice Pinkham
MSA Secretary