

Maine Snowmobile Association 543rd Directors Meeting

December 18, 2018 • Augusta Civic Center, Augusta

At 7:05 p.m., President John Monk called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: There were no corrections or omissions on the November Secretary's Report. Motioned by Peter Ford to accept the minutes as distributed, second by Jerry Major, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Barry Ryan read the Treasurer's Report.

President, John Monk welcomed everyone to the meeting. John has been attending meetings; Dixfield, Corinna and many different areas. John has been able to speak to many different people outside of the Bangor area and has found that the work our volunteers do is incredible. Joe Higgins was unable to attend tonight's meeting but John reminded everyone that grants need to be in on December 31. Dick Peck has resigned from the Scholarship Committee Chair and Harvey Chesley will be filling in. John thanked Dick for his dedication to this position.

Executive Director, Bob Meyers reported "Well, it's been a wild few months and now that the Super Raffle drawing is here, we can settle down and start thinking about snowmobiling, except for a few things.

IF&W says registration numbers so far are very strong.

The new Legislature has been sworn in and will convene on Jan. 2; Janet Mills will be inaugurated on January 2. The deadline for submitting bills for this session is December 31, and shortly after that a list of bills will be released. That will give us an idea of how busy we'll be this legislature. Committee assignments will hopefully be announced by the end of this week, and we'll be able to get a handle on who we'll be working with.

As I've mentioned a couple of times, we're making a hard push on educating people about off-trail riding. In spite of what some people think, they're not always welcome on some land. The results so far have been good. We've had it on social media and in a number of newspapers.

This Friday, we'll be having our annual safety press conference with the Warden Service to kick off the season.

Also, the week after Christmas we'll be starting the third annual Snow Report that we do in conjunction with Ski Maine and the Office of Tourism. The PR firm for Tourism sends out a weekly report to all the broadcast media in the Northeast every Thursday with info on events, conditions and what's going on. We also include lots of pictures and video, so we need lots of media. If you're out riding and have a nice picture you took, send it along. We like to collect everything on Tuesday.

Also be sure to get your trail reports in – Peggy is now updating as often as needed."

Executive Vice President, Mike Grass Jr. played a trivia game with the attendees.

Eastern Region, Eileen Lafland reported water is an issue in some areas and other do have snow. Clubs have been working very hard; there are several new bridges in the region and culverts have been replaced due to damage from beavers.

Western Region, Roland Bowie – Roland was unable to attend but his report was read by Peter Ford. Things have been busy and the western region and the snow on Thanksgiving week set most clubs back with downed trees. The Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club and the Rock O Dundee Riders have been doing some last minute reroutes to keep trails open. Roland visited The Minot Moonshiners club and the Poland Snow Travelers; both have been busy getting trails ready. The Norway Trackers hosted a pot luck dinner and meeting to plan a rally ride and future club trip in February. Roland also visited with the Auburn Sno Groomers club. This club has become active again over the last 4 years after being inactive for 12 years. They are now a club of 15 members and sold 500 Super Raffle tickets this year. Upcoming events in the region include the MSA Director's Meeting on January 19 hosted by the Shiretown Riders in Farmington, the blessing of the sleds on February 9 hosted by the Dixfield Poodunck and Mexico Trailblazers, the Arnold Trail Snowmobile Club Annual Polar Blast the week of February 7 – 9 and the Snodeo in Rangeley February 24 – 26.

Central Region, Jack Lord reported that Skowhegan north has snow but Skowhegan south does not. With plenty of snow up in the mountains and windmills. The weekend rain will create a mess within the region. Jack also stressed that there are discrepancies in the maps, as they were published prior to recent reroutes. Also beware of logging roads and watch for signs saying "No Dual Use" – Stay off these roads.

Coastal Region, David Watson reported that his region has been working hard getting trails open.

Trails Committee, Mark Chinnock thanked everyone in attendance for all of their hard work and talked about the dedication of 2 members in particular; Jim Boyce from the Kingfield Snow Wanders and Tom Webster from the Bog Hooters for their unwavering dedication to their clubs and the sport.

Safety, Alan Swett reported that he has been sending out the safety posters. There will be a groomer rodeo on January 19 at the Medway clubhouse and a groomer certification class will also be held. Also a Lifeflight demonstration on February 2 at the Medway clubhouse. There will be a helicopter onsite and rescue simulation will take place and a 50 mile ride to Whetstone and back.

Fundraising, reported by Bob Meyers. 34,339 Super Raffle Tickets were sold this year. The top ten selling clubs were as follows:

Interstate Snogoers – 4,093

Hillandalers SC – 1,658

Moonlite Sno-Skimmers – 1,203

Quad County Snowmobile Club – 1,190

Glenburn Lakeside Riders – 1,095

Moosehead Riders - 996

Alna SC - 871

Bridgton Easy Riders - 840

Palermo SC - 793

Litchfield SC - 755

Lucky Club Drawing was won by the Central Aroostook Snowmobile Club.

Bob is looking for someone to store the Super Raffle drum; storage must be clean and dry.

Hall of Fame, Beth Bowie reported the nomination forms are being distributed to the clubs, they can also be sent via email and the deadline for submittal is February 1. Beth thanked Jon Holmes from the Poodunk Snowmobile club and Eric Spear from the Hillside Family Riders in Lewiston who have joined the committee. Beth would like to have representation from all of the Regions and will continue to look for new members.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Bob Corthell, VP for the Bridgton Easy Riders presented Paul Gallant of the Interstate Snogoers a \$200 donation toward the replacement of their groomer which was destroyed in a fire. Bob challenged each club to do the same.

Pot-O-Gold – Damariscotta Lake Snowmobile Club. They were not present.

50/50 winner – \$174 by Carroll Whitman of the Manchester Country Riders.

Next meeting will be held on January 19 hosted by the Shiretown Riders Snowmobile Club.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hemmerdinger