



Fifield Sno Drovers CLUB NEWSLETTER

**Mike Sloane – President
W761 Whitmore Rd, Park Falls, WI 54552**

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14th at The Lanes – 7 pm
Below are the Minutes from the February 15th meeting at Musky Jack's

Meeting called to order by President, Mike Sloane at 7:00 pm

A Quorum was met with 26 members attending the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members.

SECRETARY REPORT

Minutes from the January meeting were emailed to all members. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Pat Ley /2nd by Joe Carper. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

The February Treasurer's report was presented by Melissa Dupke-Bourgeois which included expenditures, deposits and ending balance. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Lynne Clemens/2nd by Ann Sloane. Motion carried.

Membership: 281 (includes individual, business and landowner memberships)

TRAIL AND EQUIPMENT REPORT

The trails remain closed. Mike Ida on behalf of Roy Funk reported that the trails are ready if we get the opportunity to open them. The equipment is also ready for use. There are two areas of the trails that remain questionable whether we could run them as they are wet. These areas are the "bed and breakfast" and Stein's. If we get snow, we would run the trails on snowmobiles to pack them down.

There was a groomer show held in St. Germain on Thursday, February 8th. Several individuals from the Club attended the show. Lulich was there and available to answer questions. On Thursday, February 15th, Swiderski Equipment Inc. came to Pike Lake to provide literature, trade in value for our current groomer, etc. We have been invited to Prentice to test out the Bushbender's Tucker on Saturday, February 17th. Tuckers are more reliable now and two individuals can ride in them. This is good for safety reasons and to alternate drivers. The Tucker is 4 to 5 feet shorter than our current groomer. The Tucker has a 125 gallon fuel tank as compared to our current groomer which has a 50 gallon fuel tank. The size of the

current groomer's fuel tank is too small for extended runs which causes the operator to return to the yard to top off the fuel. The larger fuel capacity would reduce our unfunded trail use. The weight difference between the two units is also considerable. The Tucker weighs 15,000 lbs. while our current groomer weighs 23,000 lbs. The Tucker's reduced weight may better accommodate weight restrictions on certain bridges. The current cost to operate our groomer is expensive. We must consider this as well as the initial equipment investment. The PCSTA would like the purchase transaction to take place no later than April 2024. The PCSTA is valuing the opinion of the Sno Drivers and will honor our request. More information on this will be presented at our March 2024 meeting.

GROOMER UPDATES

Mike Ida informed those in attendance that the groomer operators are restless and bored and have wanted to get out to groom the trails.

COUNTY MEETING

Mike Sloane and 10 other Sno Drover members attended the PCSTA meeting on February 12, 2024 which was held at MT Pockets. Mike reported that the bridges to be rebuilt on trails 121 and 102 will be done in 2025. The 182 bridge has been completed.

The Next Gen Riders group is looking for members and are available to help with brushing projects if we need them. These are individuals 25-35 years of age.

Mike Sloane reported that the PCSTA has earned sufficient dollars to pay the insurances for the County.

OLD BUSINESS

Melissa Dupke-Bourgeois reported on the Winter Run including a separate reconciliation of the Winter Run income and expenses. This reconciliation included the purchase of 50 hats for those completing all stops on the Run in future years. Seven individuals completed the Run this year leaving an inventory of 43 hats. A clarification was made that if you complete all stops on the Run in year two, you will receive a pin indicating this. This is true for subsequent years as well. The Winter Run will be discussed by the Board for 2025 with thinking that the Run will be moved to later in the season and additional time will be allowed to complete the Run.

Mike Sloane informed the members that the Winter Run is our only snowmobiling event and that fundraising was not the driving force behind the event. In 2023, 110 Run Sheets were sold while in 2024 only 65 were sold. The bars and our sponsors were very appreciative of our efforts to patronize them. Thank you to all volunteers who helped with the Winter Run.

Annual raffle ticket sales have been slow with 218 tickets yet to sell. We could possibly extend sales of the raffle tickets into June. Melissa Dupke-Bourgeois will check to see if this is possible.

NEW BUSINESS

The AWSC convention will take place in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin from March 22 through March 24. The election of officers for the AWSC will take place on March 23rd. Mike and Ann Sloane as well as Melissa and Mary Dupke-Bourgeois will represent the Sno Drivers.

The possibility of a Club ride (ATV/UTV) was discussed with a target date of Saturday, March 2nd. Plans will be finalized soon. We could possibly coordinate with the Dirt Devils. Watch our Facebook page for details.

The Worker's Party will be held at The Birches on March 10th. If you supported the Club by volunteering during the year, please feel free to attend. The Board has decided not to issue gift certificates to the groomers this year as the groomers had not met the requirement of grooming three times. They will be provided a free membership as in previous years.

The revised By-Laws were ratified by the membership with a motion by Jim Clemmons/2nd by Derek Dieringer. Motion carried.

Peggy Kuss made a motion to donate \$200 to a scholarship fund for Kaylee Hamann. Following discussion, Peggy withdrew the motion. A new motion was made by Peggy to pledge \$300 to a scholarship fund started in the name of Kaylee Hamann who lost her life in a snowmobile accident in 2023. Ann Sloane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ann Sloane to spend \$150 for the KAOS raffle which takes place at the March AWSC convention. Bonnie Ida seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thank you to Musky Jack's for the great pizza and service!

MTA by Joe Carper/2nd by Cindy Ley at 8:09 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Kuss, Secretary