

◊ Caledonia Trail Blazers ◊

P.O. Box 161 Caledonia, N.Y. 14423

October 2006



DEDICATED TO SAFE AND ORGANIZED SNOWMOBILING SINCE 1996

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**WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THE
NEWSLETTER:**

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Visit use on: www.caledoniatrailblazers.com

New Registration

The club has received the vouchers from NYSSA. How it's going to work is: 1) When you fill out your 06-07 membership you will receive a voucher filled out by the club. When you get the voucher, send the voucher into DMV with \$45 per sled and your registration bill stating you owe \$100. The voucher will act as \$55 off your registration. The voucher is good for more than one sled as long as the voucher membership address matches the sleds registration from the sleds address. 2) You can go to DMV join our club there and have them handle everything or 3) Go online to the NYSSA website, join our club and get your voucher. Last we knew this wasn't up and running yet.

Trail Work

Pat Pearse has organized Trail Work every Sunday Morning in October. Please meet at the Gunsmoke at 8am. We really need those of you available to come out & give a hand. Without these work details you would not have any trails to ride when the snow falls. Please volunteer a few hours of your time now for many hours of enjoyment this winter!

Fall Fest-Calling all New Members

Fall Fest will be Sat October 21, 2006 at Freeman Park in Mumford from 12pm to 4pm. If you know someone who is interested in joining a club please bring them along. We will have hamburgers and soda for everyone along with games for the kids & music.

There will also be a **swap meet**, so bring any sleds, trailers, parts clothing etc that you would like to sell.

Please bring out your sleds & trailers to show off your stuff!!! If you have any antique or unique sleds please bring them out, everyone would love to see them!

That's get everyone in the "Think Snow" mood & have a great time!

We are also looking for donations of corn stalks, hay bales & pumpkins for decorations. Please contact Mitzi Kern if you have these items Available 746-1740

Youth Snowmobile Safety Course

Once again the Caledonia Trail Blazers will be offering a fall safety training course. The course will be offered Sat October 21st & Sun October 22nd at the Caledonia Fire Dept. If you would like to sign up or have any questions please contact Bill Schneider at 538-6057 or Brad Schneider at 768-6299.



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Attention Snowmobilers

The SRRA [Snowmobile Rights and Responsibilities Act] is here. Whether one likes it or not, this "Act" has now become a Law. SRRA was Not written because George Pataki and the New York Legislators in Albany want more of your *money*; it was lobbied for by your fellow snowmobilers, whom are members of NYSSA [New York State Snowmobile Association], which for years worked hard at developing and maintaining trails for your enjoyment.

The perception of many outside the snowmobiling arena is that "snowmobilers ride everywhere and anywhere they want", or "All they do is run from bar to bar raising hell." These are just a select few of the many negative comments that I hear when someone finds out that I am involved in the sport.

The fact of the matter is that these issues do exist and are just one of the reasons SRRA was lobbied so hard for. I have heard a lot of grumbling about the increased registration rate this year. "Why would NYSSA want higher registration rates for its fellow snowmobilers?" one might ask. Snowmobiling is *privilege* that comes or should come with rider responsibility.

The days of riding anywhere one chooses are over. With development and urban sprawl, riding areas are becoming harder to come by. Neither NYSSA, New York State, nor the trail fairies build or maintain the 10,000 miles of trails in New York State. These trails are built by devoted, dedicated *volunteer* snowmobile club members, which annually speak with and develop relationships with *gracious* land owners across the state to obtain permission to ride on their property. 85% of New York State trails are on private property. The clubs obtain permission to mark and lay out the trail, then submit a trail "Grant in Aid" application to the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation [OPRHP] with their proposed trails. The club then needs to show proof to OPRHP of time and monies laid out to maintain the trails to the best of their abilities, all before they are reimbursed for their efforts. The trail program, although administered through OPRHP, has always been and should continue to always be a user paid Program, not paid for with non-user tax dollars. Without the gracious landowners and the clubs marking and maintaining the trails where the landowners allow, there would be no trail system. Do you see a pattern forming here? This is done long before winter arrives, or the season is over and we can took back and say it was all worth it. It is done in good and bad snowfall years *alike*. The last thing a devoted, dedicated *volunteer* club member needs to hear is that the trail is being closed, due to permission not being granted because a couple Yahoos chose to ride in less snow than is needed to protect the crop in the field, before the snowmobile season even opens (during deer season), or that the snowmobiler was riding somewhere where they should not have been. The club is then faced with having to reroute the trail or losing it all together. So people, the volunteer club members, who were frustrated and not knowing how else to get to the riders who choose not to join a club started looking for a way to get the word out about these issues. The general thought among the snowmobile community was a better informed riding public would make snowmobiling a better, safer, more tolerated, and respected activity. So NYSSA and its members lobbied for the registration increase with a discount for club members. The thought was the folks that did not wish to join a club would at least help support them with the additional money coming back to them for better equipment to help maintain the trails. Those who choose to join the clubs would hopefully become a more informed snowmobiler through education, newsletters, and perhaps even step up and help with the marking and developing of the trails. I am unsure of whether I agree with SRRA. I do not know if it will make you a better snowmobiler or make the sport a more tolerated and respected activity. I also do not believe that it will suddenly Eliminate all of the Yahoos from the sport. I do believe the more people that understand how the trails we enjoy are developed and, maintained, the more people may appreciate and respect the privilege.

Recently, I have seen a few advertisements in the newspaper stating "Join a Club - Save \$55.00 on Your Registration". Although this statement is true, I would encourage you to join a club, not to just save \$55.00, but also that you may become a more responsible, safer, and informed snowmobile rider. Most club memberships are \$25.00 for a single membership, slightly more for a family membership. This allows you to register each of your snowmobiles at the reduced rate of \$45.00, and you may even meet a new friend or two.

Perhaps working together in the snowmobiling community, we can change the perception that the -general public has of snowmobilers to a more positive, community involved, respectable image that we all want to portray.

Sincerely, Kevin Fisher - Genesee County Snowmobile Association President

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October

Tues. Oct. 3	Board Meeting (Jones Hall)	7pm
Sun. Oct 8	Work Detail at the Gunsmoke	8am
Tues. Oct. 10	Club Meeting (Jones Hall)	7pm
Sat. Oct. 14	Grass Drag & Snowmobile Show, Ontario Cty NYS Steam Pageant Grounds, 5 & 20, Canandaigua	10am-4pm
Sun. Oct 15	Work Detail at the Gunsmoke	8am
Tues. Oct. 17	Board Meeting (Jones Hall)	7pm
Sat. Oct 21	Fall Fest Freeman Park Mumford	12-4pm
Sat. Oct 21	Youth Safety Snowmobile Course, Cal Fire Dept	TBD
Sun Oct 22	Youth Safety Snowmobile Course, Cal Fire Dept	TBD
Sun Oct 22	Work Detail at the Gunsmoke	8am
Sun. Oct 29	Work Detail at the Gunsmoke	8am
Sun. Oct 29	Hilton Snow-Flyers Snow Show, Doan Dodge	10am-4pm

November

Tues. Nov. 7	Board Meeting (Jones Hall)	7pm
Tues. Nov. 14	Club Meeting (Jones Hall)	7pm
Tues. Nov. 21	Board Meeting (Jones Hall)	7pm