

❖ Snow Travelers ❖

Volume 1999-2000 Issue 8

April 2000

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April Meeting
7:00pm Wed April 19
Northern Power Sports

FST Associate Members

Angel Creek Lodge
 Arctic Man Ski/SnoGo Classic
 Backwoods Lodge
 Beaver Sports
 Boat Shop, Inc.
 Chatanika Lodge
 Cleary Summit Bed & Breakfast
 Compeau's Inc.
 Denali State Bank
 Fort Knox, Fbks Gold Mining, Inc
 Flying Dutchman Plowing
 Gary L Sawdy, DDS
 Hill Paint Company
 Maclaren River Lodge
 Miranda Electric
 Newmont Exploration
 North Pole Travel
 Northern Power Sports
 Persinger's Marine
 Phillips Recreation
 Polaris Junction, Delta Jct
 Reed's Snowmachine & Marine
 Reindeer Mountain Lodge
 Rothmeyer Optical
 Sno-RV Snowmobile Rentals
 Tatonduk Outfitters
 Telford's Toy Shop
 Two Rivers Lodge

Please show your support for the businesses that support us!

Fairbanks Snow Travelers Contact Numbers

New Board Members Announced!

Secty: Lee Johnson 452-2897
 SLED PHONE 479-SLED
 Editor: Crystal Goula 458-8261
 E-mail: crystalg@mosquitonet.com
 Snow Travelers Home Page:
 www.fairnet.org/fst.htm

Here Come the Rides!

Well, this is it... Another season winding down. Last item on FST's list is the Snowmelt Potluck.

May

SnowMelt Lunch - End of season, award winning, world famous SnowMelt Lunch. Contact Juan or Crystal at 458-8261 or email us at crystalg@mosquitonet.com. Since the last General Meeting, the FST board decided to try something different this year. We are arranging for a hot lunch and salad bar at Chatanika Lodge on Saturday, May 20, at 2:00 pm. You will need to

RSVP by Wednesday, May 17, to attend. Members are covered. Spouses and family of members will be \$12/person, and non-members will be \$15/person. Meal information and any updates will be posted on the FST web site and the SLED line when they become available. To RSVP, send an email to Juan or Crystal or call 458-8261. They also need to know how many people will be in your group. They will notify Chatanika restaurant of the number of people attending the Snowmelt Potluck by Wednesday, May 17. See page 4 for more details.

ELECTION RESULTS

Thanks to all who showed up at the March meeting to vote. Below are the new board members for the 2000-2001 season. If by some chance, you were not consulted prior to nomination and election, and do not wish to serve as a board member, please contact Crystal at 458-8261, or email at crystalg@mosquitonet.com.

Darrell Bohn
Juan Goula
Hank Grant
Don Hulshizer
John Johnston
John Megyesi
Dick Ritchie

Sue Geist
Crystal Goula
Leroy Gross
Lee Johnson
Greg Kalal
Bob Potter

Trip to Maclaren River Lodge headed by Bob Potter.

Day 1, March 24

Five club members met at Carrs in North Pole. The group started the trip at 9:30am and arrived at Paxson Lodge at 12:30. It was snowing, with some wind, and visibility was very low. After a good lunch at Paxson Lodge, the group mounted up to tackle the trip up the Denali Highway. It was a grueling ride. We could not travel more than 20 to 25 mph. Stopped at Tangle Lakes for a visit with the caretaker and a coffee break, then back to the road. The rest of the trip was difficult. Very low visibility, many side hills and bad bumps, but we arrived safely at Maclaren Lodge at 4:45pm, tired but in good shape. We were greeted happily by the lodge crew before we signed in. The rooms were comfortable, sparse but warm. Supper was served family style, lots of it, and good. The weather was still bad so we visited the bar and watched TV.

Day 2, March 25

Next morning, after a good night's sleep in comfortable beds, we woke to a lovely clear sky and sunshine with the temperature in the mid 20's. A perfect day for sledding. Breakfast was served family style. Then off to play. There was a foot or so of new snow since last night, so we had to make all new trails. We could go in any direction and have a ball. Two of us worked our way to 7 mile Lake, looking for the trail to Summit Lake, but did not find it. Anyway, we spent a great day in the mountains. Back at the lodge we relaxed before supper, then sat in the bar and listened to snowmachine war stories before bed time.

Day 3, March 26

Up at 7:30am for another filling breakfast (eggs, french toast and sausage), then we prepared for the return trip home. The weather was bad, snowing and blowing. Two of us took off about 9am but only covered 4.3 miles before being turned back by whiteout conditions. At about 10am a group of seven people were also heading towards Paxson, so we joined them as they had a leader who was more familiar with the road than we were. When we reached Summit Mountain the wind had abated a little so we continued the trip. One machine hit an unseen dip and rolled off the road. Luckily both machine and rider survived intact except for a little bruised pride. His buddies pulled him out and all continued to Paxson. Even there the weather was still bad, but not bad enough to keep us from home.

Altogether an enjoyable weekend. The facilities at Maclaren Lodge were comfortable and the atmosphere pleasant so everyone had a good time. There were 30-40 machines there, about half of them from Cantwell. The probable reason for only a few FST members taking the trip was that there are a limited number of rooms available at Maclaren Lodge. Perhaps we can plan farther ahead next year. I took a video of the trip if you need any pictures.

John Megyesi

All photos are courtesy of John Megyesi



Snowmachine recovery on Maclaren Lodge trip.



John Megyesi, on Maclaren Lodge trip. Notice video camera strapped to machine



Moose Creek Cabin-FST Chatanika ride, 3/11/00



Haystack Mountain-FST Chatanika ride, 3/11/00



Classy-fied Ads

Use this space to sell or trade your snowmachine stuff. **Very** reasonable rates, friendly and knowledgeable staff, but best of all, an audience of thousands!

25 words or less, only \$3.00
Call the Newsletter editor at
458-8261 for more info.

FOR SALE: Tough, dependable custom-made toboggan sleds in both 7' and 9' lengths. Constructed from UHMW (Tivar 1000) and complimented with solid hardwood trim. Built for Alaskan conditions. Quality toboggans at competitive prices. Northern Sled Works. (907) 479-8599.

Business Ads

Remember, as a benefit for our CURRENT FST Associate Members, we will run for one month a Business Card size ad for FREE! Submit ad to Newsletter Editor.

Business Card Size	<u> </u>	\$5.00
Quarter Page	<u> </u>	\$15.00
Half Page	<u> </u>	\$20.00
Full Page	<u> </u>	\$35.00

*-Additional Rates Possible-
Call the Newsletter Editor at 458-8261.*

Treasurer's Report

Bank account balances as of March 1, 2000.

Regular checking	695.57
Regular savings	10,824.14
Gaming checking	296.70
Gaming savings	<u>1,764.64</u>
Total	13,581.05

Hank Grant, Treasurer



Meeting Notes

March General Meeting

Elections - John Johnston announced that election ballots were included in the March newsletter. People needed to fill them out and return them before the end of the meeting.

Snow Melt Potluck - John Johnston said that a volunteer was still needed for this event. Last year it was on May 22, and would be about the same time this year. It is believed the Dog Musers Hall is already reserved.

SnoTRAC - The Avalanche Seminar was held March 4, 2000 and about 110 people attended. The seminar was paid for with a Safety and Education grant from SnoTRAC. Additional money was used from a TRAAK Recreational Trails Program grant. The North Pole Winter Carnival Snowmobile Safety Seminar was held on March 5, 2000 at the Corps of Engineers at Chena Lakes. The Northern Lights Club was there and put on avalanche beacon sessions. Tim Ristow won a GPS in a drawing that Compeau's sponsored. Compeau's also had Mini Z's there. Howard Theis had his virtual Arctic Man ride there.

Rides - The White Mountain ride had about 15 people participate and they picked up another 4 people on the way. John Johnston led the ride.

Bob Potter reported that the Maclaren area is in great shape. About 40 people were out at the lodge last weekend. The next couple weekends were booked. The trail to Lake Louise and Summit Lake have been broken in. He estimated the mileage to be about 50 mile from Summit to Maclaren and another 80 miles to Lake Louise. The Thunder on the Tundra snowmobile race from Lake Louise to Maclaren will be held Arctic Man week. The Denali Highway is snow covered and in good shape from either Paxson or Cantwell. Ice scratchers are recommended for some stretches. People should call Mark Weber at 474-4811 for reservations. They are working on a poker run for April 29, 2000, the last weekend of April.

Denali - John Johnston announced that Denali is still open. The Park Service decided to put off any more closure attempts this year.

Speaker - Jim Stratton, Director Division of Parks. Jim gave a short history on SnoTRAC. The legislature appropriated estimated revenue from the point of sale (POS) registration money to Parks. They formed

SnoTRAC to give grants for snowmobile projects. The grant process closely followed the process that was being used for the TRAAK grants. Seven safety & education as well as fifteen maintenance and development applications were received. SnoTRAC scored the grants and then met to discuss the projects. They reorganized the application and the top scoring application was not recommended for funding. The criteria used to reorganize the applications was not the criteria that was advertised. The Mountaineering Club appealed the process to the Commissioner and he directed Jim to have SnoTRAC rescure them all with the new criteria. Jim admitted that DNR failed to guide SnoTRAC in the proper process. He wanted to accept the original funding list but the Commissioner said they had to do it over. SnoTRAC is scheduled to meet on March 20, 2000 and will be redoing the grant process. Jim believes they need a geographic distribution because all the grants went to the Mat-Su valley this time. John Megyesi asked why agencies are even eligible. Jim responded that there are areas of the state that do not have any organization other than an agency that could or would apply for the funds. An example is the Kroto Creek Trail head. Up to 200 vehicles use it on weekends but it did not have any toilets. DNR applied for the funds to get the issue resolved. Jim stated that SnoTRAC strayed from the proper process and Parks failed to correct it.

Bob Potter asked if the number of registrations can be used to decide where the funds are spent. Jim pointed out that a large portion of the registrations are from Anchorage but snowmobiling is illegal there so they would not be eligible for the money or they would always end up with a majority of the money. Idaho has people record where they want their money spent at the time of registration. That way people can direct their money to the areas they ride.

Jim said about \$188,000 may be available this year from POS. DNR has included in their budget. John Johnston said that ASSA will not accept or apply for the POS money because they are afraid to compete with Parks. Greg Kalal asked if parks could get DMV to mail out snowmobile registration renewals just as they do for cars. Jim said DMV said they were going to do that but it was taking longer that expected. SnoTRAC can bring this up at their meeting.

John Johnston asked if projects funded by TRAAK can still be funded by SnoTRAC for the exact same project with POS money. Jim said he was not aware that had happened. He said it can be prevented in the future.

Jim said that POS appropriations are not directly connected to the money taken in. Also, in future there is a chance that gas tax could be tapped as a source of funding.

Lee Johnson asked Jim to comment on the project to use TRAAK money to fund project to record trail easements. Jim gave a history of the issue of trails disappearing. The Park Service had a project to GPS trails and the plan of this project is to get them recorded on status plats. DNR is currently working on prioritizing the list of 85 trails that have been GPS'd. They want to record some trails in each part of the state.

Tim Ristow asked about the landowner liability law. Jim said if a landowner grants a conservation easement then they are indemnified from liability. Lee Johnson said he was concerned that landowners that currently have trails across their land but do not have conservation easements would not be protected. Many people may not be willing to grant a restrictive easement such as a conservation easement. Jim said the current legislation is an improvement and more improvement can still be made. Lee Johnson noted that the Borough is considering a tax break for property owners that grant these easements. Jim said that Parks is working on a handbook to assist with recording easements. This should help individuals get through the process of having trails recorded.

Dick Ritchie asked about money to mark the trail from Angel Creek to Circle Hot Springs. He knew that there were trail marking projects going on in the villages. Jim said he should talk to Lee Johnson about applying for TRAAK funds. Lee Johnson clarified that the village trail staking projects were DOT projects using Federal Highway funds since the trails were the only transportation system many villages had. The TRAAK funds were recreation oriented and would be better suited to the project of marking the trail to Circle Hot Springs.

NORTHERN POWER SPORTS

Arctic
Cat

General Meeting, April 19

Yamaha

Come to the General Meeting at Northern Power Sports at 1980 Van Horn Road. Northern Power Sports will have technical people on hand to answer any questions about your machines.

Food!



Great
Deals!

Annual Snowmelt Potluck

Where: Chatanika Lodge
When: May 20, 2000 at 2:00 pm
What: Baked Ham and Turkey, with stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, dinner rolls, gravy and salad bar.

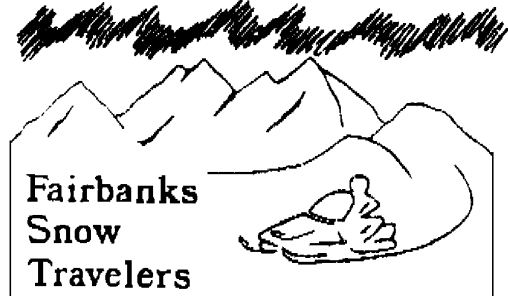
RSVP BY MAY 17

Contact Juan or Crystal at 458-8261 or send an email message to crystalg@mosquitonet.com for more information or to RSVP.

FAIRBANKS SNOW TRAVELERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail application to: P.O. Box 80053
Fairbanks, AK 99708
(907) 479-SLED

Home Page: www.fairnet.org/fst.htm



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Home: _____ Work: _____

Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Areas I Most Frequently Ride: _____

Type of Snowmobile I Ride Most: _____

Referred by: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: New Renewal

Family - \$25.00_____ Other Family Member Names: _____

Associate - \$35.00_____ List the name of the Association, Business, Incorporation, Organization, Group, etc. as you want it to appear on the front of the FST newsletter:

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CAN YOU HELP WITH?

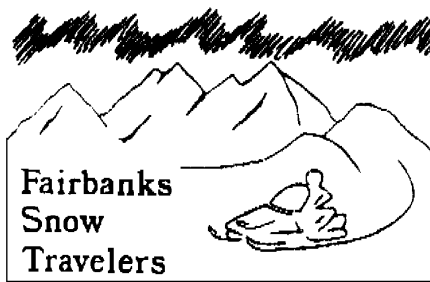
Trails _____ Publicity _____ Newsletter _____ Special Events _____ Search/Rescue _____

Safety Seminars _____ Other - Specify _____

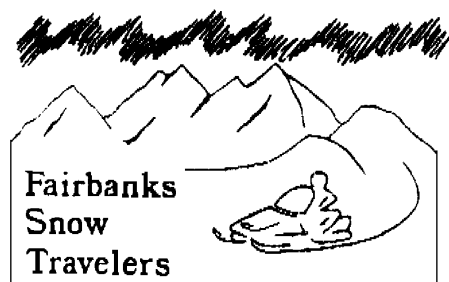
The member(s) signing below, with the full knowledge, assume(s) all risks and potential dangers of participation in activities and events of the Fairbanks Snow Travelers (FST). Therefore, I/we, hereby release and discharge FST, its agents and or officers from any and all claims, demands, actions, judgments and executions which the undersigned now have or may have in the future for themselves or for the undersigned heirs, executors, administrators or assigns against said FST, its successors or assigns for any and all personal injuries and property damage which may be caused by or may arise out of the participation of myself or family in the above-described Fairbanks Snow Travelers events, and understand that riding a snowmachine can be potentially dangerous including possible damage or injury to myself or property. I/we also understand that FST is not responsible for trail conditions, weather or other acts of nature. I/we the undersigned hereby acknowledge that we have read this release and understand all of its terms. I/we execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of the significance.

Signature of applicant

Date



FAIRBANKS SNOW TRAVELERS NEWS



MEETING SCHEDULE

April 19, 2000	Regular Membership Meeting	7 pm, Northern Power Sports
Schedule for Upcoming Meetings:		
May 3, 2000	Board Meeting	7 pm, Gold Rush Saloon
May 20, 2000	SnowMelt Potluck,	TBA
June 7, 2000	Board Meeting	7 pm, Gold Rush Saloon
July 5, 2000	Board Meeting	7 pm, Gold Rush Saloon
August 2, 2000	Board Meeting	7 pm, Gold Rush Saloon
September 6, 2000	Board Meeting	7 pm, Gold Rush Saloon
September 20, 2000	Regular Membership Meeting	7 pm, TBA

FAIRBANKS SNOW TRAVELERS
 PO BOX 80053
 FAIRBANKS, AK 99708



*See Page 1 & 4 for details
 on the SnowMelt Potluck*

