

❖ Snow Travelers ❖

Volume 1999-2000 Issue 7

March 2000

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March Meeting
7:00pm Wed March 15
Compeau's



Here Come the Rides!

Well, this is it... Another riding season winding down. Let's have some great final HURRAHS before the snow truly melts.

March

General Meeting, 15th

White Mountains ride & cabin trip 11th, Meet at lodge at 10:00am. Plan on getting there a little early to pick a good spot. This is the same weekend as Chatanika Days, so there will be lots of people. For more info on this ride, turn to page 3. Contact Chuck at 389-2594 or John at 488-4795.

Maclaren River Lodge Ride, 24-26 - Call Bob Potter at 488-1525 to sign up and for

more information. Plan to depart from the North Pole Safeway/Carrs at 9:00 am on the 24th and trailer to Paxson, spend Friday and Saturday at the lodge, and return on Sunday.

April

Board Meeting, 5th

General Meeting, 19th

Arctic Man Ski and Snow-Go Classic - 7-9th Sponsored this year by Tesoro. A high-speed race where snowmachine drivers pull skiers uphill on a 5 mile (8 km) course, then skiers race downhill. Call 456-2626, fax 456-2626, email arcticmn@alaska.net, or check web site <http://www.alaska.net/~arcticmn/> for details.

(Continued on page 3)

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.*
- Darby's Performance Machine*
- Denali State Bank*
- Fort Knox, Fbks Gold Mining, Inc*
- Flying Dutchman Plowing*
- Hill Paint Company*
- John's Snowplowing*
- Maclaren River Lodge*
- Master Craft Construction*
- 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

Pres: John E. Johnston 488-4795
 E-mail: bearqst@mosquitonet.com
 V. Pres: Leroy Gross 488-3966
 Treas: Hank Grant 479-2623
 Secty: Lee Johnson 452-2897
 SLED PHONE 479-SLED
 Editor: Crystal Goula 458-8261
 E-mail: crystalg@mosquitonet.com
 Snow Travelers Home Page:
www.fairmet.org/fst.htm

THIS IS THE BALLOT FOR THE MARCH GENERAL MEETING ELECTION. BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING. WE NEED MEMBER SUPPORT TO MAKE THIS ELECTION HAPPEN!!!

Need to write-in 2 additional people.

Please vote for 11 board members:

Sectry: Lee Johnson: _____

Sue Geist: _____

Juan Goula: _____

Crystal Goula: _____

Hank Grant: _____

Greg Kalal: _____

John Megyesi: _____

Cliff Cullings: _____

Darrell Bohn: _____

Write-ins (Name & Position):

Need 13 board members. John Johnston is automatically a board member. Leroy Gross is automatically a board member as treasurer.

Originally printed in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, March 4, 2000 Page B1
State troopers keeping an eye on snowmachiners
By **AMANDA BOHMAN**
Staff Writer

Snowmachiners cruising down sidewalks and on busy roads--coupled with a statewide rise in snowmachine-related deaths--has prompted local troopers to start patrolling on their own Polaris RMK 600s.

This is the first time a trooper detachment has made a concerted effort to scout snowmachiners on their own turf, according to Alaska State Troopers spokesman Greg Wilkinson. The Fairbanks detachment is the only one in the state doing it.

Wilkinson said it's a result of "numerous" calls from citizens complaining of reckless snowmachiners.

The patrols began last Sunday along Geist Road, Chena Pump Road and University Avenue. Troopers have also contacted snowmachiners driving on the river, said Sgt. Ronald Wall, rural unit supervisor and the trooper heading up the patrols. "It was a real punishment," he joked of the task.

While the patrols aren't the worst duty at the department, the reasons for them are serious.

This winter is among the worst on record for snowmachine-related deaths, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Snowmachiners have drowned, died of exposure, been crushed to death by an avalanche, fatally hit trees and telephone poles, and had fatal falls in the state this winter. One unlucky snowmachiner was killed when he inadvertently drove off a cliff.

"It's just nuts," Wilkinson said of the 20 snowmachine-related deaths in the state since Oct. 27.

Ten fatalities occurred in 1999 and 10 so far have occurred in 2000. By comparison, only one person was recorded by the department to have died in a snowmachine-related accident in 1998.

No snowmachiner has died in Fairbanks this winter, according to state records, and troopers want to keep it that way. A woman in Delta Junction, however, was killed last month after she fell off a snowmachine and was hit by one coming from behind.

"We want compliance. We're not out to issue citations. What we want to do is gain compliance for safety purposes," Wall said.

Starting as soon as next week the troopers plan to issue violators citations, with fines as much as \$300 for those snowmachining on an unregistered vehicle.

The fine for driving a snowmachine on a bike path is \$20, Wall said.

Lee Johnson, a board member of the snowmachine-advocacy group Fairbanks Snow Travelers, is glad troopers are checking snowmachine registrations.

But when it comes to snowmachiners' rights of way, he believes Wall and others could be interpreting the law the wrong way.

The state is becoming increasingly less tolerant of people who drive recreational vehicles, he said.

"I hope they're addressing the complaints and not going after easy targets, which may be the people who are out there lawfully," he said.

Johnson, who is also on the governor's citizens advisory board on trails and recreational access, said the law is clear that snowmachiners cannot ride on the roads but ambiguous about trails next to highways.

He doesn't want to see the state forbidding snowmachiners access to trails they have been historically allowed to use, he said.

Wall said troopers are patrolling trails in the Fairbanks metropolitan area. Troopers, who will be in uniform but driving unmarked snowmachines, will be paying particular attention to sidewalks and bike paths.



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!

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458-8261 for more info.

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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



Pictures of trip from Pike's to Nenana. Courtesy of Darrell Bohn.



Meeting Notes

February General Meeting

About sixteen people were in attendance. The February FST newsletters were mailed prior to the meeting and members reported receiving them.

Elections - John Johnston announced that due to the small number of members in attendance the elections would be postponed until the March general membership meeting.

John Johnston announced the deal offered by Denali State Bank. FST members that purchase a snowmobile during the meeting get 10% down, 6% interest for 4 years.

Financial Report - Hank Grant gave the financial report. FST Checking \$695.57, FST Savings \$10,824.14, Gaming Checking \$296.70, and Gaming Savings \$1,764.64. Total \$13,581.05

Funding Position - John Johnston was elected to the funding position at the February Board meeting.

Avalanche Awareness - Cliff Cullings has worked with the TV stations an advertising. They were willing to give us a break on the advertising costs. John Johnston had a supply of flyers for people to post around town. The workshop will be held at the Schaible Auditorium on the UAF Campus on Saturday March 4, 2000.

(Continued from page 1)

May

Awards Potluck - End of season, award winning, world famous SnowMelt Potluck. **NEED A VOLUNTEER TO COORDINATE! NOT A DIFFICULT JOB!**

Chatanika Ride Info: Here is the route for the ride. We are taking the Yellow Trail from the Chatanika Lodge over Haystack and on to the Moose Creek Cabin. From the Moose Creek Cabin we will travel the Moose Creek Trail to the Wickersham Creek Trail Shelter, then west on the Wickersham Creek Trail to the junction with the main trail from Wickersham Dome, near Lee's Cabin. Then we will follow the main trail back to the Moose Creek Cabin and the Yellow Trail back to Haystack. Once on Haystack we'll follow the Green Trail down to the Chatanika River and take the Orange Trail back to the Lodge. This trip is about 70 miles for those of you who ride slurp-a-saurses. Remember, GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE at Chatanika. Several people are going to meet at the Lodge at 9:00am for breakfast. All are welcome. This weekend is also Chatanika Days at the lodge. If you trailer out there, park in a spot that will be easy to get out of as it will be a zoo there by the time we return from the ride. Ron is going to clear parking areas on the opposite side of the road from the lodge. That would probably be the best place to park. Chatanika Days is a blast with outhouse races, snowmachine tug-a-wars, etc. If you have never been there for them you should check them out. The temps. up here on Cleary Summit are hitting the mid 30's during the day and dropping into the teens at night. The trails are in great shape. Any questions call Chuck Johnson at 907-389-2594, or John Johnston at 488-4795.

From Darrell Bohn: Angel Creek to Circle Hot Springs run 3/18. This is an over night trip. Call Circle Hot Springs for info. As a note, Angel Creek is one of FST Associate Members.

Safety & Education - The ASSA safety ads will continue to run through the season. FST's public service announcements are still running.

Separated Trails - There was a lot of discussion on DOT blocking trails and making hazards at trail crossing as well as along trails. In some places, such as Chena Hot Springs Road, the trail has been completely destroyed and people are now riding on the snowbanks or along the road instead of on the trail.

SnoTRAC - John Johnston announced that the board is still in the process of scoring the applications again. The board is scheduled to meet again on March 17, 2000 in Anchorage.

Speakers - John Johnston announced that Jim Stratton, Alaska State Parks will be the guest speaker at the March 15th meeting.

Rides - The trail ride from Pikes to Nenana on February 12, 2000 was a great success. Seventeen went on the ride. The group rode down the Tanana River to the Rosie Creek Trail and then went cross country through the Bonanza Creek area before crossing the Parks Highway near Skinny Dicks and connecting with the Dunbar Trail on to the Monderosa for lunch. After refueling in Nenana they returned on the Tanana River. It was about 120 miles round trip.

February 26, 2000 is the ride from Tacks General Store to soak at Chena Hot Springs Resort. Chena Hot Springs has snowmobile events scheduled for that weekend. John Johnston was planning to ride out from his house to check out the trail.

Bob Potter announced that they will be breaking the 40 mile trail from Maclaren River Lodge to Munson Lake this coming weekend. Anyone wanting to help is welcome. The ride to the lodge is scheduled for March 24-26. The plan is to depart from the North Pole Safeway/Carrs at 9:00 am on the 24th and trailer to Paxson.

Adventure Crew 92 - The Boy Scouts are sponsoring a ride at Cantwell on March 18 - 19, 2000. The ride is for 15 to 20 year olds. People can call Ritchie at Northern Power Sports (452-2762) for more information.

There was a discussion on Summit Lake cabin owners and mountain riders not supporting registration and clubs because they do not ride trails. It was pointed out that registration money is paying for avalanche training and could be used for other things such as parking areas. It may be true that they do not see a direct benefit today but people need to think long term and support efforts to secure access and provide opportunities for the future.

FST Elections

Because of **LOW** turnout at the February General Meeting, elections have once again been postponed. We will hold elections in March According to our bylaws, we have 13 seats: 4 officers and 9 board members. With the current board members that are running for re-election, we still have four vacant positions. Consider getting involved. If you want to make a difference, the best way is to be on the board. Help shape and guide this club! (See Ballot on Page 1)

COMPEAU'S

Ski-Doo General Meeting, March 15

Come to the General Meeting at Compeau's. Compeau's will have technical people on hand to answer any questions you have about your machines.

Food!



Great Deals!

NORTHERN POWER SPORTS

Arctic Cat General Meeting, April 19

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!

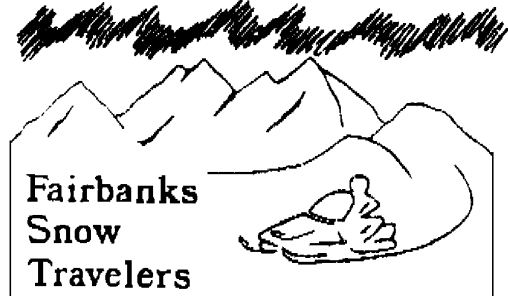


Great Deals!

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?

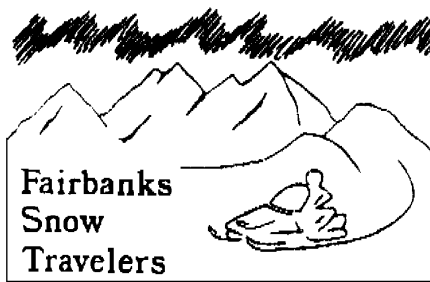
Trails _____ Publicity _____ Newsletter _____ Special Events _____ Search/Rescue _____

Safety Seminars _____ Other - Specify _____

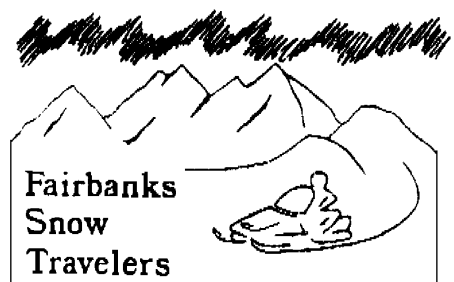
The member(s) signing below, with the full knowledge, assume(s) all risks and potential dangers of participation in activities and events of the Fairbanks Snow Travelers (FST). Therefore, I/we, hereby release and discharge FST, its agents and or officers from any and all claims, demands, actions, judgments 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

March 15, 2000 Regular Membership Meeting 7 pm, Compeau's

Schedule for Upcoming Meetings:

April 5, 2000	Board Meeting	7 pm, Gold Rush Saloon
April 19, 2000	Regular Membership Meeting	7 pm, Northern Power Sports
May, 2000	SnowMelt Potluck	

FAIRBANKS SNOW TRAVELERS
PO BOX 80053
FAIRBANKS, AK 99708



**WE NEED YOUR VOTE!! COME
 TO THE MARCH GENERAL
 MEETING AND VOTE FOR YOUR
 BOARD MEMBERS!**

