

# ❖ Snow Travelers ❖

Volume 1999-2000 Issue 3

November 1999

**Editor's Note:** If you want items included in the monthly newsletter, please have them to the editor no later than the first Wednesday of the month.

**November Meeting**  
**7:00pm Wed Nov 17**  
*Persinger's*  
 205 Old Richardson

## 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*  
*John's Snowplowing*  
*Lasalle's Burner Service*  
*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*  
*Telford's Toy Shop*  
*Two Rivers Lodge*

**Please show your support for the businesses that support us!**

## Here Come the Rides!

If you are interested in any of the rides, contact the person listed. If there isn't a name listed, stay tuned. List will be updated as people volunteer for the rides. Several members went on a Pike's to Badger Den lunch ride. This proved to be an easy day-trip. Look for that ride to pop up a couple of times over the course of the year. Watch future newsletters for updates or call the SLED line at 479-SLED.

### November

**Board Meeting, 3rd**  
**General Meeting, 17th, Persinger's**  
**Maclaren River, 20th (overnight)**  
 Contact Bob Potter at 488-1525. More information at the end of the ride list.

### December

**Board Meeting, 1st**  
**General Meeting, 15th, Compeau's**  
**Chatanika**  
 Chuck Johnson ..... 907-389-2594  
**Fireworks - Dec 31st**

### January

**Board Meeting, 5th**  
**General Meeting, 19th**  
**Princess-Two Rivers**  
**Maclaren River**

### February

**Board Meeting, 2nd**  
**General Meeting, 16th**  
**Pike's to Nenana - In conjunction with**  
**Iron Dog.**  
**Ride & Soak at Chena Hot Springs**

### March

**Board Meeting, 1st**  
**General Meeting, 15th**  
**White Mountains ride & cabin trip - In**  
 conjunction with Hay 100 Haystack Race.  
**Tolovana Run**

### April

**Board Meeting, 5th**  
**General Meeting, 19th**  
**ARCTIC MAN**

### May

**Awards Banquet** - End of season awards banquet. Need suggestions for awards. Provide your ideas at the September General Meeting.

### **New Ride Info for November:**

Bob Potter suggested a ride to Maclaren River Lodge earlier than our ride listed in January. He says the riding is good and the snow is plentiful. So, FST added a ride to Maclaren in November. Anyone interested in going out on this overnight ride should plan on meeting at 9:00 am, Saturday, November 20, in North Pole, in the Carrs/Safeway parking lot. Bob will be leading the ride. He has over 21 years of

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### **Fairbanks Snow Travelers** **Contact Numbers**

Pres: John E. Johnston 488-5001  
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 V. Pres: Leroy Gross 488-3966  
 Treas: Hank Grant 479-2623  
 Secty: Lee Johnson 452-2897  
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 Editor: Crystal Goula 458-8261  
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 Snow Travelers Home Page:  
[www.fairnet.org/fst.htm](http://www.fairnet.org/fst.htm)

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experience riding in this area. Bob plans to drive from North Pole to Paxon Lodge, unload in Paxon, and ride to Maclaren River Lodge. There are several options available for rooms, so he will need a head count for reservations. It is about 42 miles from Paxon to Maclaren River lodge, an easy late day trip. Meals are available at the lodge ranging from at least \$8.00 for breakfast and lunch to \$14.00 for dinner. Gas is available at the lodge for \$2.25/gallon. If you have any questions, you can contact Bob at 488-1525 (home) or 353-6916 between 8 am and 4 pm.

**Trail Updates**

*From Ron Lutrell:* I've been out riding all day. The snow in town is better than the best from last year. Last weekend we went to Summit, great snow but the light was flat. Again the snow was deeper than in April of last year. The weekend before we did a cabin trip in the White Mountains, where again there is more snow so far this year than the best days last year. It could still use some more. My son and I broke trail from Crowberry down to Beaver Creek. It was beautiful, with enough snow to climb the hills. We're headed to Maclaren River Lodge tomorrow. I hear there is enough snow to run the road in.

*From Lee Johnson:* I rode out from Chena Hot Springs Road to Gilmore Dome. Trail from Smallwood to Gilmore had not even been broken yet. Riding was pretty good.

*From Chuck Johnson:* We have more snow on Cleary Summit now than we got all last winter. We groomed the Red Trail to Chatanika and it is in great shape. At Chatanika they report that the Yellow Trail to Haystack is good. Make sure you ask about the Chatanika River crossing before you leave the lodge. We groomed from Cleary to the Alpha C trail and the Alpha C trail to Fish Creek, then rode from Fish Creek to Iowa Dome. The trails are good, however be watchful on the lower portion of the Hillbilly Highway for stobs that could puncture a tunnel. The Hillbilly Highway is the trail from Fish Creek to Iowa Ridge. The trail from Iowa Dome down into Iowa Creek and on to Chena Hot Springs Road has not been broken out on the Iowa Dome end. Anyone in the Chena Hot Springs Road or North Pole areas interested in maintaining that portion of the trail? We will maintain it from Chatanika to Iowa Dome. It is currently groomed from Chatanika to Fish Creek. It is broken out from Fish Creek to Iowa Dome. At this point Fort Knox is not using the road on Iowa Ridge, so we are using the road rather than the trail they put in for us. That could change at any time. Need more information call Chuck at 907-389-2594 or the Chatanika Lodge at 907-389-2164 or Sno-RV at 907-389-7669.

**FST Snowmobile Safety Program**

The program is starting slowly. Juan is still planning on doing one safety seminar at the North Pole Winter Carnival, in March. Ron Lutrell from the Eielson Northern Lights Snowmobile club provided Juan with some presentation and safety training material. Juan thinks it looks really good. Watch the local TV channels for the PSA's. Let Juan know if you see one, and what time it was played. If anyone is interested in helping out with the safety program, or has any information to contribute, please contact Juan Goula at [juang@mosquitonet.com](mailto:juang@mosquitonet.com) or call him at 458-8261.



**Interested in Chatting with other Snowmobilers on the Internet?**

The Snow Travelers and ASSA Internet lists are up and running. This is a really good way to communicate good riding areas, mechanical problems and fixes, and general snowmobiling tales. If you are interested, send an email message to John at [bearqst@mosquitonet.com](mailto:bearqst@mosquitonet.com), and provide your name and full email address.

 **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.

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**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.

**FOR SALE:** 1994 Polaris Indy 500 EFI, SKS (Long Track), Reverse, Fox Shocks, \$2000.00 Call Chuck Johnson toll free 1-888-389-2594. We have enough snow here on Cleary Summit for a test drive. Visa, Master Card and American Express accepted.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00**
- Quarter Page \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00**
- Half Page \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00**
- Full Page \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00**

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



# Meeting Notes

## October General Membership Meeting

Member Survey - John reviewed the preliminary results of the survey that was mailed to all of the FST members with the September newsletter. Most respondents supported the direction that FST has taken. Trails as well as safety and education were the issues receiving the highest support. Members were happy with the scheduled meeting dates and times, but suggested that there be more rides of all kinds. Other suggestions were more newsletter articles from members about rides and events.

ASSA - FST is continuing the program of buying 100% memberships in the Alaska State Snowmobile Association (ASSA) for all new and current FST members. Tickets for the raffle have only been available since the board meeting earlier in the month. Tickets had to be turned in by the end of the meeting.

Prizes - FST will award a prize to the person selling the most raffle tickets this year as well as a prize to the member recruiting the most new members. Awards will be at the Snomelt Potluck in the spring.

SnoTRAC - John Johnston summarized the budget. Of the \$120,000 available from point of sale registrations, 14% (\$16,800) will be used for the operation of the SnoTRAC board. No money will be spent to pay for DNR staff. Of the remainder (\$103,000), 5% (\$5,200) will go to ASSA to support trail mapping projects, 15% (\$15,500) will be available for safety and education grant, 80% (\$82,500) will be available for trail grants. Trail grants require a 25% match and the money must be used on snowmobile trails. The applications are available now and are due by December 1, 1999. Tim Ristow mentioned that he followed up with Therriault and the Governor vetoed the legislatures' intent language not allowing DNR to use the funds for staff. John said that ASSA is preparing to be the recipient of funding next year.

Safety and Education - Juan Goula met with Ron Lutrell last weekend and the program is slowly coming together. There will be radio and TV ads, presentations in schools and 3 seminars for the public. One of the seminars is the North Pole Winter Carnival at Chena Lakes. John Johnston said they are looking

for volunteers to help with the seminars.

Becoming an Outdoor Women - Bob Fath said this program, sponsored by Fish and Game, will be held at Chena Hot Springs. FST sponsored snowmobile maintenance, riding, and loading training before, have been asked to come and do it again. It will take place on November 13 from 8:00am to 11:30am. He has a couple people lined up to help so far. Anyone interested in helping can contact him at 451-5620.

Bob Potter said that there was 2 feet of snow at Maclaren Lodge as of this last weekend. They have a new bunkhouse that holds 10 people and can rent the whole thing out for \$250. They are planning a New Year's Eve celebration and the Lodge is working to put in a trail to Lake Louise and Munson Lake and an overland route to Summit Lake.

John Johnston announced that Bill and Ellen Whitcher would celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a party at Ski Land on October 31st.

Badger Road/Richardson Hwy Interchange - Lee Johnson talked about DOT's design study report and the recent Trail Advisory Commission meeting about the project. DOT is claiming it will be easier to cross from the Badger Road area to the Dike trail after the project. They are not making any special provisions for trail crossing at this time. The project will be going to the Planning Commission for local approval soon. Anyone interested in the project should contact DOT or one of the Trail Advisory Commission members.

Winter Transportation Study - No one has heard what is happening with this study. It was supposed to be complete by the end of September but the final meetings were not held as scheduled.

Ballaine Lake closure - The lake has now been fenced off to keep the public (snowmobilers) off the lake. Lee Johnson recommended to the UAF Trails committee that they construct their fence on University property and leave the lake open.

Steese Highway Project - Chuck Johnson said the ROW brushing has been completed and DOT did a real good job in making the road safer to drive. Also, the ROW's can now be used by snowmobiles and ATV's and should keep people from having to drive

down the shoulders of the road. He recommended people thank DOT for their work.

Memorandum of Understanding - John Johnston said the MOU with the Chena Flood Control Project Area is complete. The MOU was signed by FST, Corps of Engineers (COE), the Borough (FNSB), Northern Lights Snowmobile Club (NLS), and ASSA, and recognizes snowmobiling as the major winter activity in the project area. The project area ranges from the Tanana River to Chena Hot Springs Road and Eielson to Nordale Road. The COE has GPS'd all the trails in the project area and is in the process of making maps.

Rides - Rick Bernier announced he is working with the Delta Snowmobile Club on some interclub rides. They want to match up groups to ride in the different club areas. Chuck Johnson said there is currently 1 1/2 feet of snow at Cleary Summit. He has groomed the trail down to Chatanika although there is only about 6 inches of snow down low. The Fairbanks-Circle trail is good. He is scheduling the ride from the Hot Springs Road to Chatanika the first weekend of December. John Johnston said the fireworks for New Year's Eve are scheduled to take place at the University. He is working with the University on the issue of how FST can be involved with the event when snowmobiles have been banned from campus. Leroy Gross was not present but he was nominated for organizing the Princess to Two Rivers ride. The MDA Charity Ride last year was good. FST wants to look for someone else to support the year, such as the Literacy Council or Salvation Army.

Pull Tabs - Arctic Bar and Skip's Cache are selling tabs for FST. John Johnston is working on FST selling pull tabs via an operator rather than individual vendors, as we are now doing. FST could max out our permit in 6 months with \$25,000 to \$45,000 for FST. Our options are to continue being a vendor as we cannot have two permits or to work with Randy as an operator and set up ASSA to be the vendor taking over at the Arctic Bar and Skip's Cache. The board voted for the second option. John Johnston is still working with our accountant on financial issues.

# PERSINGER'S

## Polaris General Meeting, November 17

Come to the General Meeting at Persinger's at 205 Old Richardson Highway. FST will be trying to arrange some similar financing deals as have been available in the past years.

Food!



Great Deals!

# COMPEAU'S

## Ski-Doo General Meeting, December 15

Come to the General Meeting at Compeau's. FST will be trying to arrange some similar financing deals as have been available in the past years.

Food!



Great Deals!

**Individual/Family Membership Increase**

Due to rising costs, FST will be increasing the membership fee for individuals/families. The new rate will be \$25.00 starting January 1, 2000.

You may pay for up to a two year membership at the current \$15.00 rate.

\$5.00 of that membership fee will go towards an ASSA membership. Only the first name on the application will be submitted to ASSA.

**FST Elections**

It's election time again. We have a few openings on the board this year. Due to personal reasons, Leroy Gross will not be running again for Vice President. Because John Johnston is heavily involved in ASSA and SnoTrac, he will not be running again for President. Hank has also relinquished his position as Treasurer. The Treasurer's position is not an elected position, but is appointed by the board. So far the election list consists of:

President:	Vacant
Vice Pres	Vacant
Secretary	Lee Johnson
Treasurer	Vacant

Current Board Members:

Rick Bernier,	Juan Goula
Crystal Goula	Scott Heidorn
Chuck Johnson	Greg Kalal
John Megeysi	Sterling Muth
Sue Geist.	

At this time it is not known how many of the board members will be running for another year. Please contact a board member if you are interested in having your name added to the list, or nominating someone for a board position.

**Survey Results**

When these results were tabulated, 30 surveys had been returned. A few more have been received, but have not been tallied yet. Numbers indicate the average of the responses. Range was from 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important).

**Should FST be involved in:**

- 1 Politics: 4.10
- 2 Trail Construction: 4.63
- 3 Trail Maintenance: 4.20
- 4 Safety & Education: 4.63
- 5 ASSA: 4.41
- 6 SnoTrac: 3.82
- 7 Dealers: 3.80
- 8 Other Businesses: 3.77
- 9 Other Snowmachine Organizations: 4.20

**FST Meetings**

- 10 More Guest Speakers: 3.57
- 11 Variety of locations: 2.67
- 12 Current time/date ok?  
23% No  
76% Yes
- 13 Most liked thing about meetings:  
Info about trails and rides, learning about snowmobiling, and socializing with fellow riders.
- 14 Least liked thing about meetings:  
Political discussions, lack of progress, and rehashing old topics.
- 15 How to increase attendance:  
Door prizes, drawings, keep order, publish agenda, and instructional seminars.

**FST Rides**

- 16 More out of town rides:  
67% Yes  
23% No  
10% No Comment
- 17 More multi day rides:  
53% Yes  
33% No  
14% No Comment
- 18 More local area rides:  
83% Yes  
10% No  
7% No Comment
- 19 Ideal ride:  
Circle, Eagle, Chatanika, Cantwell, Chena Lake, Chena Hot Springs with hotel pkg, Tolovana, warm food & drink along the way.

**FST Newsletter**

- 20 Member articles: 3.59
- 21 Articles about rides and events: 4.21
- 22 Articles about associate members: 3.15
- 23 Like best about newsletter:  
Ride/trip reports, action alerts, trail development, easy to read, Darby's Tech Tips, Lines from Leroy, and President's Corner.
- 24 Like least about newsletter:  
Few articles, sent out too close to meetings, and too short,
- 25 Additional comments:  
Send out earlier, add maps, more trail info, articles on clothing and equipment/parts, and add more ride info and member experience articles.
- 26 Interested in electronic version: 4.25

**Member Demographics**

- 27 Number of sleds:  
1 machine: 18%  
2 machines: 32%  
3 machines: 29%  
4 or more machines: 21%
- 28 Brands: (some respondents own more than one brand of snowmachine)  
Arctic Cat: 6  
Polaris 15  
Ski-Doo 13  
Yamaha: 0
- 29 Type: Answers are varied. Further summaries will appear in future newsletter.
- 30 Type of Riding: Answers are varied. Further summaries will appear in future newsletter.
- 31 Typical areas: Answers are varied. Further summaries will appear in future newsletter.
- 32 Hope to explore: Answers are varied. Further summaries will appear in future newsletter.
- 33 Membership type:  
Family/Individual 87%  
Associate: 13%

Future newsletters will have more summaries, and the board will begin to address the comments included in the surveys.

### ASSA Raffle Results

ASSA would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the 1999 Safety and Education Raffle. The net profits from this event will be utilized in the ongoing Safety and Education goals that ASSA has set for this season. Special thanks go to Bombardier Corporation and Alaska Mining and Diving Supply.

Special congratulations to the winners of the first, second and third prize.

Mr. Gary Johannes was the winner of the full face helmet (which he will need to wear to keep the grin off his face).

Ms. Shannon Schilling of Kenai was the winner of the pair of avalanche beacons.

Ms. Catherine Lynch of Anchorage was the grand prize winner of the MINI Z.

Once again, a big thank you to all the participants in this event with a major hand to those contributing to the success of the Safety and Education fundraiser.

Kevin Hite

*Editor's Note: FST sold 287 raffle tickets, and NLS sold 180 tickets, which was 100% of the tickets NSL received. Not too bad, considering we had a very short time to sell the tickets. Way to go FST and NSL!!*



### Treasurer's Report

Bank account balances as of November 11, 1999.

Regular checking	1,070.57
Regular savings	11,082.72
Gaming checking	381.99
Gaming savings	1,503.06
Equipment Inventory	<u>3,409.00</u>
Total	17,447.34

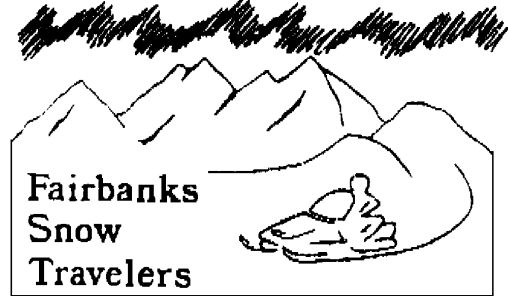
Hank Grant, Treasurer

**Editor's Note:** Watch this space for updates from Maclaren River Lodge. Mark gave me an update at the Winter Show. He said a lot of changes are taking place with Maclaren River Lodge. They have already been out riding. And Maclaren River Lodge has rentals now, if you want to bring guest.

# 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](http://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 - \$15.00\_\_\_\_\_ 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?**

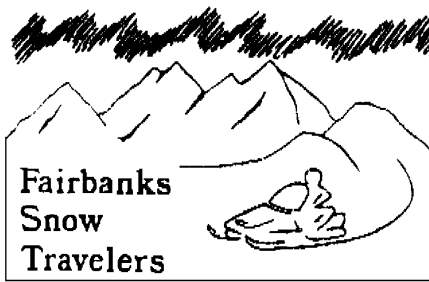
Trails \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events \_\_\_\_\_ Search/Rescue \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Seminars \_\_\_\_\_ Other - Specify \_\_\_\_\_

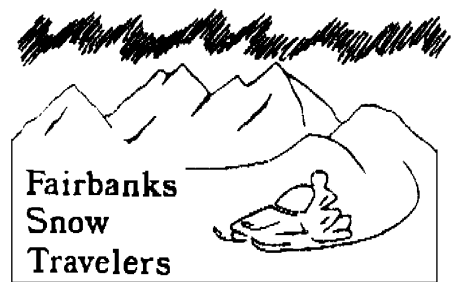
The member(s) signing below, with the full knowledge, assume(s) all risks and potential dangers of participation in activities and events of the Fairbanks Snow Travelers (FST). Therefore, I/we, hereby release and discharge FST, its agents and or officers from any and all claims, demands, actions, judgments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

November 17, 1999      Regular Membership Meeting      7 pm, Persinger's

Schedule for Upcoming Meetings:

December 1, 1999	Board Meeting	7 pm, AGC, 2001 Van Horn Road
December 15, 1999	Regular Membership Meeting	7 pm, Compeau's
January 5, 1999	Board Meeting	7 pm, AGC, 2001 Van Horn Road
January 19, 1999	Regular Membership Meeting	7 pm, TBA

**FAIRBANKS SNOW TRAVELERS**  
**PO BOX 80053**  
**FAIRBANKS, AK 99708**



If this date is older than 03/31/99, then it is time to renew your membership. See page 5 for important information regarding membership fees. Membership form is on page 7.

