

❖ Snow Travelers ❖

Volume 2004-2005 Issue 1

September 2004



October Meeting
 Wed, Oct 20, 7:00pm
 Northern Power Sports

FST Associate Members

- Accent Tax and Accounting
- Angel Creek Lodge
- Arctic Man Ski/SnoGo Classic
- Auto Trim Design
- Backwoods Lodge
- Beaver Point Lodge
- Chatanika Lodge
- Cleary Summit Bed & Breakfast
- Compeau's Inc.
- Cut N' Strut Grooming Co.
- Darby's Performance Shop
- Denali Manor B&B
- Denali State Bank
- Fairbanks Motor Sports
- Fairbanks Realty, Inc.
- Flying Dutchman Plowing
- Gary L Sawdy, DDS
- Helpful Handyman
- Northern Power Sports
- Northern Sled Works
- Regency Court Mall
- Tangle Lakes Lodge
- Tatonduk Outfitters



The Fairbanks Snow Travelers annual elections for board members is coming up in November. We postponed it from our usual October elections because of timing with other events. We have 7 seats to fill and could sure use some new blood on the board. If you have any interest in helping out the FST, please consider including your name on the election ballots.

Current Board Members are:
 Dean Allen, Pres Gerald Goodman, VP Crystal Goula, Sec
 Kim Wood, Treasure Tim Ristow Allen Onderik
 John Johnston

Presently known names of nominees or returning board members:
 Dean Allen John Johnston Crystal Goula
 Tim Ristow Rick Webb

Watch your for ballots in the October or November newsletter.



President's Corner:
 Early winter greetings to all:
 It's time for the club to get active again, which means we have several things to do.

- 1) We are looking for volunteers to work our booth at the winter show on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of October.
- 2) We are working on the swap meet for October 9th, so start gathering your excess stuff to bring down and sell. This year the meet will be held at the Polaris Outpost on Old Airport road.
- 3) We are holding elections for officers. WE NEED PEOPLE!! An infusion of fresh energy would be greatly appreciated by all.
- 4) We are going to firm up a ride calendar. We will be looking for input and support into the selections.

The club is offering a cheap renewal price at the show. If you haven't renewed yet, or wish to join for the first time, the Winter Show is the place to do it! I would encourage everyone to take time and visit our website at www.snowtravelers.org to review our events calendar and see what other club members are up to. We have the buy/sell category and a section for discussing mechanical issues. It's a very nicely done site. John Johnston moderates it and has done a terrific job of building the site up.

Come see us at the Winter Show and sign up for board elections! Then we will see you at the Swap Meet!
 Dean Allen



Please show your support for the businesses that support us!
 You may notice this list is a little shorter than usual. Please review the membership expiration date on your newsletter. We want to keep your business's name on this list

Fairbanks Snow Travelers Contact Numbers

President: Dean Allen
 Vice Pres: Gerald Goodman
 Secretary: Crystal Goula

SLED PHONE: 479-SLED
 Editor: Crystal Goula 458-8261
 Email: crystalg@gci.net
 Snow Travelers Home Page:
www.snowtravelers.org

Fairbanks Winter Show



Fun for the entire family!



Little kids too!!

Come visit the **Fairbanks Snow Travelers** at their booth at the Winter Show, Carlson Center. Enjoy all the shopping, browsing, events and workshops of the Winter Show. And don't forget to sign up for all the drawings!! FST draw daily for a winner of a free membership and large patch.

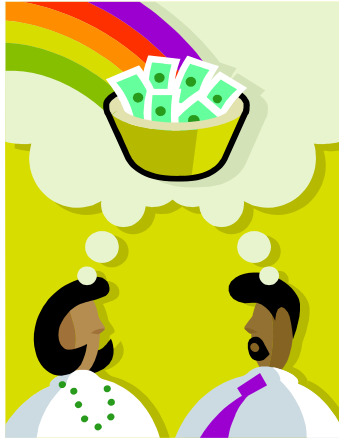
October 1: 4:00-8:00 pm

October 2: 10:00-6:00pm

October 3: 11:00-5:00 pm

Renew your membership at the show, and
get a **\$5.00** discount.

Anyone interested in helping set up the booth on Friday, October 1, or man the booth, please call Crystal at 458-8261.



FST Annual Swap Meet



Join us at Polaris Outpost, on Old Airport Road, **October 9**, from 11:00am—3:00pm for the FST Annual Swap Meet. Need to find the dream machine of your life, or sell the “lawn decorations” to make the spouse happy? Then FST’s swap meet is the answer to your problem. You never know what pot o’ gold awaits you!!



\$5.00 “Seller Donation” to FST for a space at the swap meet.

Call Dean at 457-7502 for more information.



PRESEASON SNOWMACHINE PREPARATION

By Joe Westfall

For years I have tried to convince my bride Sheila that the garage is my sacred palace. It is the place where our motorcycles reside in the summer while the car and truck set outside to absorb the summer rains and the ultraviolet rays from our wonderful sunny days.

I also tried to convince her that the garage was the most appropriate place to store our snowmachines in the winter, so they could thaw out and be available for the proper maintenance they should receive throughout the winter. Meanwhile, the road vehicles could set outside to accumulate frost and snow and stay frozen so the road salt would not attack the bodies so efficiently.

This logic works up until the first time she has to use the ice scraper on her windshield or plug the car in so it will be properly pre-heated for the weekday commute to her work. At that point she usually points out the flaws in my logic. The premises of her logic start as somewhat vague and progress to very clear. It goes something like this: "If you love me..."; and progresses to, "Are you going to go out and scrape my windshield and plug in the car?"; and if all else fails, "What confidence do you have of your probability of continuing to live here with me?". Those premises lead to one clear conclusion: She gets the garage for the winter!

Given that, I try to do the preseason preparation on the snowmachines while the snowline is still above 1500 feet.

There are two ways to do the preseason preparation. (1.) Take your machine back to your dealer or trusted repair shop. (2.) Do it yourself, which I will discuss here.

The snowmachine consists of three (3) major subassemblies: (A.) Drive Train; (B.) Chassis; (C.) Body.

Consider the drive train as everything starting at the air box, gas tank and oil tank, and continuing through the entire engine, exhaust system, cooling system, ignition system, continuing through the clutches, the brakes, the chain case, the drivers and finally to the track and everything that touches it.

Consider the chassis as everything from the ski tip through the suspension and steering, the tub, bulkhead and tunnel, continuing to the slide rail and rear suspension components.

Consider the body starting at the front bumper, up through the hood, windshield, rider controls, instruments, all the lights, the seat, and finally out to the rear bumper and snow flap.

During the inspection if you find anything wrong you make a note to (or immediately)

repair or replace the discrepancy.

Let's start with (A.) the drive train. At the gas tank get last years sour fuel out so it can be used in equipment not so sensitive to strict fuel requirements (like the snow blower, lawnmower, commute vehicle, or campfire). Make sure the oil tank is full. Check the air box for twigs and dirt. Check carburetor (or throttle body) boots and mounts for proper fit and cracks. For carburetors, remove the jet access plugs and check it for fuel gum deposits.

Remove the spark plugs, check the engine compression (no more than 10% variation), and replace with new properly gapped plugs. Inspect the exhaust system for external oil deposits (they indicate leaks). Any exhaust leaks will adversely affect the very critical exhaust tuning.

For liquid cooled engines, all hoses, clamps and heat exchangers (later) get checked for fit, routing and cracks (does yours have a belt driven coolant pump?). Is it time to replace the coolant? For "cross flow" fan cooled engines check fan bearing end play and check the belt for tension and cracks. Check wiring harnesses for wear and proper routing. Check both oil and fuel filters. Check the starter rope.

Remove and check the drive belt for width, length, cracks, and scorches. Compare it to your new spare belt. Check movement, wear and alignment of the drive and driven clutches. Check clutch sheave (belt) surfaces for any signs of grooves or rubber deposits (especially at the outer edge of the drive clutch). Burned rubber indicates slippage, which must be corrected. Clean the clutches, install the belt and take a permanent marker and draw a line from the inner surface of the sheave to the outside edge on both clutches. This will, later, show you how far the belt is being shifted on each clutch. Where the mark still exists, the belt could not get to.

Check the chain case tensioner adjustment (if manual), and replace the chain oil. Check drained oil for excess metal filings. Check upper chain case seal for leakage. Check the wear limit on the brake pads and the surface of the brake disk. Grease that zerk on the idler end of the drive shaft.

Now secure the hood and put the machine on its side. I prefer to use one ski handle and the front bumper to leverage it over, instead of stressing the handle bars and steering post. Besides, it is easier on my back.

Now check the lower chain case seal, the track drive sprockets, the drive shaft, and the bearing at the other end of the shaft. Check for missing or damaged track drive lugs, track clips, and the track paddles (and traction studs, if used). Rotate the track completely during inspection. Check all idler wheels for damage and smooth as glass bearing operation. Jiggle each wheel to check side play. Is it time to replace the slide

rail hyfax? For liquid cooled engines, check all heat exchangers and connectors for damage and leaks.

Now let's start with (B.) the chassis. As we work back toward the front we continue in the slide rail area by looking for any cracks, bends or damage to the inside of the tunnel. Check the shocks for damage and leaks. If your shocks are re-buildable, how many miles under or over the limit are you? All the springs get checked, and all fasteners on the slide rail assembly are checked for proper tightness. Grease every rear suspension zerk and inspect the old discharged grease for presence of rust. Check the tub for damage and missing fasteners.

Back at the front skis move the airborne one around to check for excess steering system slop. If the ski movement is sloppy check to see if the handle bar movement is sloppy. Check the bottom of the skis for damage and wear. Check if your carbides are still sharp from front to back. Grease every front suspension zerk. Check front shocks for damage and leakage and all front suspension components for damage and all front suspension fasteners are checked for proper tightness.

Now grab the upper airborne ski handle with both hands and carefully put the machine back upright. Now check the ski toe out/in and handlebar centering.

Now let's start with (C.) the body. Check the hood, headlight and windshield for damage. Pledge furniture polish will often revive a nasty looking windshield. I use it on the hood too, but not on the seat. Yeah, it gives it that lemony fresh smell. Open the hood and check for damage to snow screens, sound deadening and heat reflecting materials. Check all rider controls for proper operation (throttle, brakes and all switches). How old is the brake fluid? Check the seat for tears and tightness. Check the back bumper and snow flap. Did we remember to check the tool kit?

Now secure the hood and put at least enough fresh gas in the tank to check the track alignment and check all the lights and electrical controls and to get it on the trailer.

Oh yeah, the trailer. Well the hitch has not rusted off and the tires all seem to be there. Good enough.

There is a genuine smile of accomplishment on my face as I confidently load the season ready machines onto the trailer. Meanwhile, I also notice there is a genuine smile of victory on Sheila's face while she is driving her car into the garage.

Joe Westfall and his bride Sheila are the cofounders of the Alaska Snowmachine Search Rescue & Recovery Team (ASSRRT). They are in Alaska Mountain Rescue Group and are IASA Certified snowmachine safety instructors. Email: Joe@Westfall-Werke.us



General Meeting at Northern Power Sports



Fun at Northern Power Sports



Come to the October General Meeting for fun, information on the upcoming rides, and club updates from your board.



Time: 7:00 pm
Wednesday, October 20.



Door Prize Drawing— must be current FST member to be entered in drawing.



FAIRBANKS SNOW TRAVELERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

New Renewal

Home Page: <http://www.snowtravelers.org>

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Home: _____ Email Address: _____

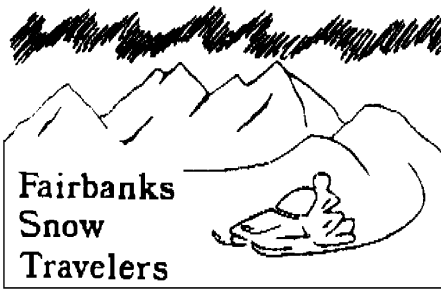
Family - \$25.00 _____ Other Family Member Names: _____

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: _____

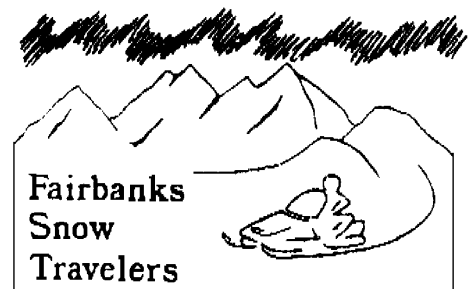
The member(s) signing below, with the full knowledge, assume(s) all risks and potential dangers of participation in activities and events of the Fairbanks Snow Travelers (FST). Therefore, I/we, hereby release and discharge FST, its agents and or officers from any and all claims, demands, actions, judgments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



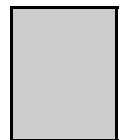
FAIRBANKS SNOW TRAVELERS NEWS



MEETING SCHEDULE

October 20, 2004	Regular Membership Meeting	7:00 pm, Northern Power Sports
Schedule for Upcoming Meetings:		
November 3, 2004	Board Meeting	6:00 pm, TBA
November 17, 2004	Regular Membership Meeting	7:00 pm, Polaris Outpost
December 1, 2004	Board Meeting	6:00 pm, TBA
December 15, 2004	Regular Membership Meeting	7:00 pm, Compeau's

FAIRBANKS SNOW TRAVELERS
PO BOX 80053
FAIRBANKS, AK 99708



See you at the Carlson Center
 Fairbanks Winter Show! Don't
 forget, \$5.00 discount if you renew
 your membership at the show!!