



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Notes from your President

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving. The weather is holding up nicely Hard to believe it this warm at Thanksgiving but the better for the heating bills. The board decided last month to build a information Bulletin board on our trail system and place it at the J & S Oil trail head. The board also decided we will be dedicating it to Felix Pinette one of our original members. Hopefully we can have that ready this spring. Just a short month till Xmas and we will be into some good snowmobiling we are going to be joining the Sabbatus club again this year for their Annual Snodeo on Sabbatus lake that will be held Feb 20- 21 weekend. Hope you all have a safe and Merry Xmas.

DALE GILES
President TTR

Notes from your Secretary

I hope everyone is staying healthy. The holidays are approaching us very quickly. The Christmas get together is on Dec. 2nd at 6pm, it is a pot luck meal and gift exchange. So come, bring your favorite dish, a gift of no more than \$10.00 dollars and have fun. The 50/50 raffle at Nov. 4th's meeting was won by Lawrence Staples, and the pot of Gold was won by Craig Daigle but he was not in attendance so the money is added to next months drawing.

Hope to see you all at the Christmas get together,
Your secretary, Ginny Dickford

Trails Report For Dec. 2009

It tis the Season, for getting the trails ready for snowmobile riding. Mother Nature is not helping at all, then again she has not helped all year. The trails are very wet and full of mud holes that we are not able to fix due to the excessive amount of rain we have seen this year. But we have been doing a lot of trimming and bridge repairs. I'll ask again if you are out on the trails please bring a pair of clippers or a pruning saw and help out by cutting the limbs back to the tree. Just snipping them out of the trail can cause big problems for riders during the winter and the summer. It leaves hard dead limbs out there to run into or poke an eye out with. So please cut them off back at where they come out of the tree. Hunting is still going on so please respect the hunters and give them their time in the woods without us chasing all the game away which only leaves us to shoot at. Have a great Xmas and New Years; hope to see everyone at the next meeting. You will miss a lot if you don't come. Ho Ho!!

Dave Anderson
Trailmaster TTR

Note from Santa: **Is everyone ready for a party???????** Santa will make a visit at the annual Christmas party!



*****Monthly SOCIAL NIGHT *****

Wednesday Dec 9th at 6:00pm at the Grid Iron, Lewiston off Rte 196 Bring your family and friends and have a fun night out.

Notes from your Treasurer

Hi all

Hope all is going well and you haven't caught that swine flu! We had a great Thanksgiving and now gearing up to Christmas. The club have several plans for the 2010 year so please come to our meetings or check the web site for upcoming events. This month is our annual Potluck and Christmas dinner. Dinner starts 6pm with a short meeting and Christmas swap after. We have a surprise guest this year, **SANTA** will appear, so if you got little ones bring them along and have a great evening with friends and family. Remember any member of the club can bring any family member to this event. Lets have a big turnout to mark the end of another good year for our club's activates.

Note: for the Adult Christmas Swap - presents should not cost more then \$10. We also ask if you are bringing a child please let either Ginny Bickford or Dale Gile know so we are sure we have enough presents for all!.

I hope all of you have a safe and happy holiday!

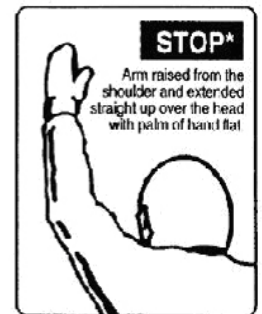
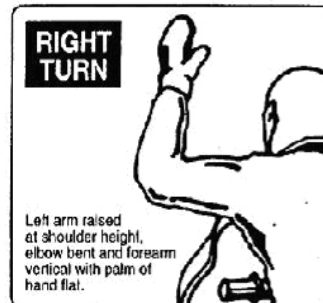
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Dan,
Treasurer TTR

NOTE: We will again have Bean Suppers starting in Jan-March 2010. Please come and get involved in these fun suppers. Help support this event by cooking your favorite dish or dessert to make these dinners well worth their time and efforts! We will announce the Jan date at the next meeting



Snowmobiling Hand Signals:



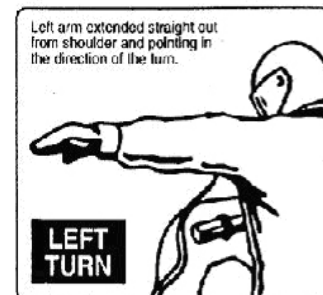
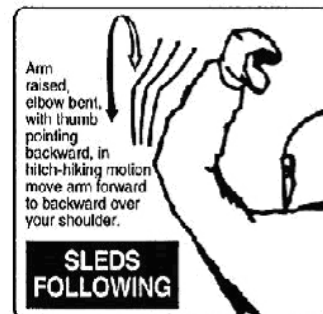
*In some jurisdictions, the STOP signal may be indicated using the right arm, since the left hand is used for braking. Snowmobilers should watch out for and be prepared to stop for either signal.

Ride Right In Maine

The "Pot of Gold" Drawing



LAST MONTH **LAWRENCE STAPLES** NAME WAS DRAWN AND BECAUSE HE WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING HE WOULD HAVE WON \$25 BUT HE THEN DONATED THE MONEY BACK TO THE CLUB! PLEASE ATTEND OUR NEXT MEETING YOU MAYBE THE NEXT LUCKY WINNER! THE POT WILL NOW BE WORTH **\$25.00** PLUS AT NEXT MEETING!



Board of Directors

William Brigham (207) 721-9813	Renee Benner 207-353-8417
Randy Bickford (207) 353-6315	Timothy Doyle (207) 837-0225 (Assistant Trailmaster also)
Rocky League (207) 353-3257	Bryan Chonko (207) 729-3483 Student Representative

Some Simple Steps to Snowmobiling Safe Riding:

RIDE TO THE RIGHT - Only makes sense. Odds are good that an automobile traveling in the left hand lane of the road will sooner or later run into another car head on. Same goes for sleds. It is required by law that a snowmobiler operate to the right of center on the trail when approaching or navigating a curve, corner, grade or hill - why not just stay to the right, even on straightaways.

RIDE SOBER - Don't drink and ride. Don't let anyone in your group drink and ride. Maine has a [tough snowmobile OUI law](#). Restaurants, Inns, Lodges and Resorts welcome snowmobilers who want to have a few drinks with their friends. But please do it after you've finished sledding, not while riding. Be a good friend and lift the keys of a fellow snowmobiler who thinks he's OK when he's not.

RIDE AT A REASONABLE SPEED: Speed on a Maine snowmobile trail is measured on a standard of reasonable speed for the existing conditions. If you cannot control your sled safely at the speed that you are traveling in the current conditions - you're speeding. Slow down. Snowmobile clubs across the state host radar runs, hill climbs and races all season long. If you want to ride hard and fast, do it at one of these events, and take home a trophy to boot!

USE HAND SIGNALS: The consistent use of a simple set of [standardized hand signals](#) on the trails keeps movement orderly and predictable. These standardized signals inform other sledders of your actions and allow everyone around you to anticipate the need to slow down. The MSA has distributed thousands of copies of these hand signals over the past five years and reports from the trails are that signal usage is up significantly. Good job, folks. This simple skill is one that every snowmobiler can learn and use to increase their safety on the trails.

RIDE DEFENSIVELY: You and your group can do everything right, and still encounter a sledder who's doing everything wrong. Don't let their poor judgment or illegal behavior injure you. Always expect the unexpected from the sledder coming toward you. If there is a problem, you'll be prepared to respond and avoid a dangerous situation.



...And keep an eye out for 4 legged animals as well. Moose and deer live where you're sledding. **Wildlife always have the right of way.** If you come up behind a moose on the trail stay far away and wait for the animal to lumber off. If any large animal shows an interest in the fact that you are on the trail, turn around and leave. Don't turn off your sled and follow animals on foot to get a better look. You may get a much closer look than you wanted.

These additional steps will protect you even further: Carry a map and stay on the trails. Shortcuts can not only be hazardous if you don't know the area, sledders can get "turned around" pretty easily out there. Why bother heading out across unmarked open tracts if you have 13,000 miles of signed trails?

Don't snowmobile alone. If you run into mechanical trouble, you'll have someone along who can truck you back home; bury your sled, and there's extra hands to help dig out; take a wrong turn, and there's someone else to blame...

Take care crossing public ways - on busier roads, have a member of the group check for traffic and direct sledders across.

Let someone know where you're planning to go and when you plan to return. An itinerary form left with a friend, the motel staff etc is invaluable if you actually run into trouble on the trail. If your return is delayed, contact the person aware of your trip plans if at all possible, to head off an unnecessary search effort. Print out a few [itinerary forms](#) and have them available for your next trip... and check weather reports before heading out. Ever been on a sled in a white out? Enough said.

Dress appropriately (layers) and wear a helmet. No one should operate a snowmobile without the protection of a helmet. A life saver in the case of an accident, your helmet will also keep you protected from the occasional tree branch "face slapper" and inclement weather.

Carry a basic repair kit. Saves a lot of frustration if you have a spare belt, a couple tools, etc. with you. (An even better idea is to give your sled a good going over before every trip.)

Don't cross frozen bodies of water unless you are absolutely sure of ice thickness. Trails generally will not lead you across ponds or lakes unless there is no reasonable alternative. Bridges are provided to cross rivers and streams. However, you will find some places where you may cross water, such as marked passage on well frozen lakes - check locally for current ice thicknesses.

Don't overdrive your lights. Don't tangle with a wire, stump or rock on a fast machine in the middle of a cold, dark night.

Remembering these safety guideline will help you to Ride Right in Maine and enjoy Snowmobiling the Way It Should Be **-Fun and Safe**

Go to www.atvmaine.org for Information on upcoming ATV Events

Go to www.mesnow.com for Information on upcoming Snowmobile Events

OFFICERS

Topsham Trailriders
ATV/Snowmobile Club
PO Box. 421 Topsham, ME 04086

President – Dale Giles 725-6015
Vice President – Roger Bickford 353-8946
Treasurer – Dan Parlin 725-7056
Secretary – Virginia Bickford 353-8946
Trailmaster – Dave Anderson 725-8779

Thanks to our Business Members!

Bickford Garage, Lisbon Falls
Brilliant Motors, Topsham
Tri-Sports, Inc., Topsham

Waite Electrical, Topsham
Enterprise Electric, Inc., Lisbon Falls
Crowley Energy, Topsham

Atlantic Regional Credit Union, Brunswick
Weeks Custom Metal Fabrication, Bowdoinham
Woody's Performance Center,
Topsham Technical Sales and Service of New England

**The Topsham Trailriders meet the first
Wednesday of every month at 7 P.M.(this month
6pm). at the Topsham Fairgrounds Exhibition
Hall, Topsham. Any interested snowmobilers and
ATV riders are encouraged to join us.**

This newsletter has been seen and approved by members of
the board of the Topsham Trailriders.

Topsham Trailriders
PO Box 421
Topsham, Maine 04086

Postage

Next Meeting - Dec 2th 2009 at 6pm Topsham Fairgrounds