



NEXT EVENT

Elections of board members and officers will be held at the April meeting.

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting was called to order by Dale Haug with introductions

CLUB RIDE at Cedar Lodge, Hayward, WI.

George and Linda Giffin put on a great event at Cedar Lodge. The snow was nearly non-existent due to a major melt down on Wednesday before the weekend. But the accommodations and views were second to none. On Saturday, after a HUGE breakfast, the group road (OK, so it was in George's Suburban) into Hayward, stopped at the winery, the fish museum, the Angry Minnow, around the lake past the original Famous Dave's restaurant, and of course to the Beer Hunter (now called the Road House) bar. The guys did get our need for speed with a quick ride on Spider Lake and some trails after the ice softened up a bit. For dinner, Dave provided a fantastic beef Wellington and George cooked it to perfection along with all the sides. Sunday saw another HUGE breakfast with eggs, bacon, chili, toast, pancakes and coffee, followed by pack up and a sad departure.

TAKE THE FISH HOUSE OFF THE LAKE PARTY

The TTFHOTL Party was a great success. 10 members meet for the club ride at 10:00 and rode about 50 miles before meeting back at the Club House for a BBQ at noon. About 35 members ate burgers and brats and socialized in the sunny but breezy conditions. Bret brought out the Cat Kitchen Grill and wood for the bon fire. After lunch, the group road to Lord Fletchers and back.

The club house has been stored for the season at the Wings of Watertown pheasant hunting preserve (for free). Check it out at www.wingsofwatertown.com

VINTAGE SNOWMOBILE SHOW UPDATE - MIKE SHULZ

This year was another great success! Over 650 vintage sleds road on the trail ride on Saturday, and over 600 sleds were on display on Sunday. There was R.O.L.A. racing on Saturday and drag racing on Sunday. Total gate receipts were \$44,000 this year vs. \$36,500 last year. Saturday's attendance was huge due to the nice weather, but Sunday was a bit slower. The Carver County Snow Runners www.ccsnowrunner.com collects the gate receipts, and had a successful year after all expenses. The Vintage Club actually lost money, but hopefully, the Snow runners will help them out. Our club received \$2,500 from the Snow Runners for our estimated 250 hours of volunteer effort.

Next year the dates are Friday January 29, 2010 (Setup) and the show is January 30th and 31st. The featured snowmobile will be John Deer, so it should be another popular event. www.mwvss.com

GUEST SPEAKER: Doug Frandsen state lobbyist for MnUSA

Snowmobiles are a big issue at the State Legislator. As a group, we are good at getting together on big things like the stud issue. When studs were allowed on state trails, the next year there was a big ho-ha because there were marks on the Munger trail. After looking into the issue, MnUSA determined the marks were from roller blades! (And the complaints went away)

In 1983 MnUSA successfully lobbied to put all snowmobile tax funds into a dedicated snowmobile fund. The fund gets its revenue from the gas tax, registration fees, and trail permits. Annual revenue is from these dedicated sources is \$7,000,000, which goes to support the 20,000 miles of State Trails, including groomers, grooming, bridges, sinage, etc. The majority of money goes towards trail development and maintenance. Mainly grooming. Grant in aid accounts for the majority of the funds (where local clubs receive grants for trail development and maintenance). Only 2,000 miles are directly maintained by the State. The DNR takes a chunk for their over sight, conservation officers get a piece, and County sheriff's take a piece.

MnUSA is watching closely to keep a hold of our tax revenue. Remember, the State is \$4.5 billion dollars in the red (Offset by a one time \$1.8 million federal infusion). There are a lot of people trying to covertly (and overtly) take our money!!

For example, the DNR wanted to take money from the dedicated fund to advertise an "Enjoy Minnesota" campaign. While this sounds admirable, this money needs to come from the public relations fund, not the snowmobile fund. So MnUSA said no to the \$55,000 request for the "enjoy Minnesota" campaign.

The DNR also wants \$400,000 to improve parks. MnUSA is saying "maybe" because it could be used for actual snowmobile trails.

The DNR Division of Trails and Waterways is being dissolved. It is being merged with the division of Parks and Trails. MnUSA is not opposed to this merger, and is taking a wait and see approach and does not expect to see too much change.

Trespass. There is currently a proposal to make the whole state such that you NEED express permission to ride on any private land. He is on the committee and wants to protect us.

Open bottle liquor law: Boats and snowmobiles can have open liquor. ATV's and Cars can not. Huh?

He is not afraid of the people who want to shut down snowmobiling like Minnesota for Responsible Recreation, but he does care about stuff that gets stuck in at the last minute in bills.

A Question was raised about the possibility of a joint trail sticker for MN, WI, MI or some type of reciprocity system. Doug said he will bring it up in tomorrow's meetings.

There is and constitutional amendment to use \$41,000,000 of revenue from the new "outdoors and arts" fund to buy land presently owned by the Blandin Paper Company in Grand Rapids. He thinks this is a great thing that should go through. It is great snowmobile riding, and this will secure public land for generations to come.

LEGISLATIVE MEET AND GREAT

Tuesday March 10th. 4-6 at Kelly Inn. Clubs must invite their own legislator. Dale will e-mail and call our four legislators.

Our theme to the legislators: **Protect our dedicated fund because snowmobiling is important to the state economy and the quality of life in Minnesota. And it is important for MY quality of life.**

TREASURER REPORT

\$3,000 balance before \$2,500 from Vintage Snowmobile show.

There was discussion to donate \$270 to Westonka Food Shelf. The Feinstein Foundation will match 85% so the total donation would be \$500. Motion was made and approved. Pat & Sharon presented a \$270 check to Westonka Food Shelf, on March 6th at 12:30. A motion was made to donate \$500 to MnUSA to keep them in the black. The Motion was approved.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

For President: Kurt Silton nominated Steve Schoop who accepted and was approved.

For Vice President: Joe Novack nominated Jeff Cordes who accepted and was approved.

For Secretary: Paul Holden was requested to continue in the position. Paul accepted and was approved.

For Treasurer: Pat Scherber was requested to continue in the position. Pat accepted and was approved.

2 board positions: Doug Borman and Tom Scherber have completed two years. Thank you!

For Board Members: John Pooler and Kevin Nobrenga were nominated and accepted.

These are the current nominations. Voting will be at the April meeting.

A Big Thanks to this year's officers and board members and to next year's nominees.

The membership dues invoice was mailed with the Nov newsletter. More dues were paid timely so we will do this next season

Wearables give away: Stephanie Silton.

36 people tonight!

LOOKING AHEAD:

Trail De-Marking to be scheduled at the April meeting.

Deck party either May 15 or May 29 hosted by Chris and Mari McGraw

Al and Alma's boat ride June 26

Spirit of the lakes parade. July 18. Fireworks.

Maxwell bay boat party August 2 or 9?