

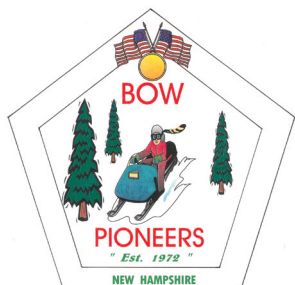
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THE BOW PIONEERS

SNOWMOBILE CLUB NEWSLETTER

Bow, New Hampshire

February 2006



President's Message - By Paul Zahensky

Let me start by saying what a disappointing season for snow this has been! Even the North Country, Maine and Vermont which typically have good snow fall amounts even when we don't are experiencing poor trail conditions due to lack of snow. There are spots in the high country where you can find pockets of good snow, Diamond Pond area, Coleman State Park are a couple. Oh well there are a few weeks left and we can remain hopeful the season will go out with a big burst of snow!

Other club business going on even without snow:

- We are working with the landowner and the Bureau of Trails to work out a solution to the trail condition on the Dunbarton Powerline trail system. I will continue to keep you apprised of the progress made.
- The Board of Directors has agreed to review the current set of club By Laws and will suggest updates to the general membership at the March meeting. There will be a vote taken at the April meeting.

• Membership count as of January 30th is 338 members which is about 60 short of our membership count from last year. There are 110 new members this year.

• We are still looking for two people to fill the chair positions for the Flea Market coordinator and the Fund Raising coordinator. I am extremely disappointed to have to report that due to no one volunteering to take the chair position for overseeing the flea market, the spring flea market has been cancelled for this year. I cannot overemphasize the importance of volunteering to help your club, or there will be no club!

• Craig and Marie Ott have volunteered to fill the chair of Advertising Coordinator(s). They will coordinate the effort of soliciting companies to advertise on our web-site, map and newsletter. Thank you Craig and Marie for donating your time to assume this responsibility along with your other duties as Trail Administrator and Club Secretary.

• The club raised \$688.00 to benefit the Easter Seals drive this year. There were numerous donations totaling 288.00 and (4) \$100.00 donations from individuals! Thanks to all who donated for this very worthy cause!

• Don't forget to see Marie Ott if you volunteer for any club activity, she has a volunteer immunity form which needs to be completed and kept on record with the club for insurance purposes.

Since I don't have any local riding trails to speak of this month (again), I thought I would share a write up by Keith Froliks about the clubs "Die Hard Ride" which took us to Canada again this year:

O' CANADA 2006

It was the second week of February and all were

depressed. The decision had been made to scrap the sledding trip from Colebrook, NH to Moosehead area in Maine. Just not enough snow to make it out of the Pittsburg region. So two short days before our scheduled departure, the lights went off and we decided to search for snow. On line trail reports in Canada seemed bright. We gathered on Monday evening, made phone calls and hotel rooms were found. We were going to leave in just two days for the six-hour journey to St. Georges, Quebec.

Wednesday came and four hours of work was enough. The sleds were loaded, gear packed and I picked up Paul at 1 pm and we headed out. One last phone call to my better half and off we went. There were no signs of snow until we reached Jackman, ME almost five hours later. We stopped at Bishops Motel and purchased our Quebec trail passes to save time in the morning. You can actually buy your passes on line by going to www.hardcoresledder.com, under the Quebec section and choose Saguenay Bill. He accepts PayPal and has the pass to you in two business days. On to the border crossing and another thirty minutes to our hotel, Auberge Motel Benedict Arnold. We met the others in the pub for a "Blue" and a bite to eat.

Thursday morning we were up early and warming up the sleds at 7:30 am. The temperature early on was about 3 degrees above zero and later in the day it was in the high teens. A heated face shield was a necessity. We locked the vehicles and trailers in the secured parking area and off we went. There were thirteen in our riding party for Thursday and Friday. Six short miles to Club Motoneige Rendez-Vous for breakfast. The biggest challenge was communicating with the local French-speaking woman who would cook our breakfast at the local club. These clubhouse units seemed to be every ten square miles or so and they were responsible for grooming the trails in that area. Eggs, bacon, home fries and coffee certainly hit the spot. An hour later we were on our way.

We headed north on Trans Quebec Trail 75. This ran along the power lines with rolling hills. The trail was in very good shape, especially since this area had the least amount of snow cover on our trip. Then a sharp right on to Trans Quebec Trail 55 east at the Club Motoneige Beauceville, which had a three lane drag strip. Some more power lines and tree lined forest areas through the towns of Lac Ethchemin and St. Pamphile. After about 100 miles, we had lunch around 1 pm at the golf course in St. Pamphile. Luckily the waitress spoke very good English. An hour later we were off again continuing on Trail 55, which took a turn to the north. Very shortly we hit the Club Motoneige de la Cote de Sud and a turn to the east on Trans Quebec Trail 35. This was long straight away sections on old railway beds with thirty-foot drop offs on both sides. We found out how the sleds would hold up to long high speed stretches. We filled up with gas at Relais de la 540 in Mont Carmel as there is no more gas until we arrive in Riviere du Loup. For those less fortunate, filling up was a necessity, but my 600 HO SDI gets 18+ MPG and could have probably made the remainder of the journey. We took Trail 35 for 80 miles to Regional Trail 526 for another 18 miles. Then a quick local connector to Trans Quebec Trail 5 east to Riviere du Loup. It was about 5:30 pm and very cold after the sun went down. We traveled a total of 213 miles on day one. We checked in at the Hotel Universel and locked the sleds in the secured parking area. Some of us enjoyed a dip in the hot tub and others a relaxing beverage. We all made it on our first day chasing the snow.

To read about the rest of our adventure, please visit the web-site @www.bowpioneers.org

Paul Zahensky, Club President
E-Mail: Zahensky@comcast.net



"A reminder that the Annual Landowners Dinner is Thursday, March 16th at the Bow Community Center at 6:00PM. Please come to share a meal with our landowners and show our appreciation. This is a pot luck dinner, so please contact Lisa Nadeau at 225-6207 for what food is needed."



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***IMPORTANT NOTE: Please be considerate to the landowners and refrain from riding the trails after 10:00PM. I don't think anyone wants headlights shining in their windows or hearing exhaust noise after that hour. It is due to the cooperation of the landowners that we have a trail system, lets show them some courtesy. THANK YOU!



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