



## Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

The 2016 / 2017 season is just around the corner. Our Club held its first meeting last week to get an early start on the necessary preparations for the sledding season.

Here are some of the highlights since our last newsletter.

- ❖ We held our Annual General Meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre. We reviewed our year and the successful construction and opening of our new Groomer storage facility in Seven Sisters. At the end of the AGM new **Executive** was installed:

John Fleming – President  
Jason Wiebe – Vice President  
Kim Oswald – Secretary  
Gus Wruck – Treasurer

### Directors

-TRAILS

Brendan Arsenault & Wally Sokoliuk

-GROOMING

Dave Baleja

-INFASTRUCTURE

Robert Stelko

-PUBLIC RELATIONS

Kim Oswald

-MEMBER SERVICES

Vacant at this time

- ❖ At the AGM we also made some amendments to our operating by-law by adding a **REGULAR**

**GENERAL MEETING** to our procedures. This means that at those meetings all club members have the right to make motions and vote.

- ❖ We now have some club merchandise for sale that bears our club logo. The items would be great Christmas gifts for the sledder in your family. The items are shown on our CLUB MERCHANDISE PAGE on our Website [www.eastmansnopals.ca](http://www.eastmansnopals.ca)



- ❖ Our webmaster has made some changes to our website and we have added a CALENDAR that will show all of our meetings, events and work parties. We encourage you all to take a look at the site. If you have any suggestions please let us know.



- ❖ **PARADES:** This season the Club put floats in the Lac du Bonnet Canada Day Parade, the Pinawa Birthday Parade and the Whitemouth celebration. We hope that through attendance at these events we can raise our profile in the communities that we ride through and attract new members and corporate sponsorship.



- ❖ **CLUB MAP:** Our committee is close to finalizing our 2016/2017 club map with additional corporate sponsorship. When you are out riding this winter, be sure to support the businesses that support our club.
- ❖ This winter watch for the Eastman SnoPals "CHASE THE ACE" hosted by the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.
- ❖ The Agassiz Hut will receive a much needed face lift this fall. We will be changing out windows and doors, adding insulation and wall board. This shelter is owned and maintained by our Club. It is through club membership and specific fundraising that we maintain our shelters. This shelter sees a lot of non-snowmobile traffic in the off season and we would encourage **ALL users** of the shelter to obtain a club membership and help to support the club maintain the shelter.
- ❖ **VOLUNTEERS**

Our club is always looking for members and volunteers. We see large numbers of snowmobiles on our trails and visitors to our warm up shelters and not all of the riders are members of our club. Your SNOPASS gives you

the authorization to ride the trails but it is your **CLUB MEMBERSHIP** that pays for the warm up shelter, supplies, solar lighting and firewood. If you are not a current member please consider taking out / renewing your membership and help the Eastman SnoPals provide the best infrastructure and trails in the Region. Club membership applications are found on our website or you can email: [info@eastmansnopals.ca](mailto:info@eastmansnopals.ca) for information.

- ❖ Trail 763 cleared. The wind played havoc with the trees along trail 763 south of Milner Ridge this summer. A work party on ATVs spent the day Wednesday and used a couple tanks of chain saw gas clearing dozens of blow down trees from the trail. The trail is now ready for grooming.



- ❖ Our next meeting will be at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters on Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. Optional dinner off the menu will be at 6:00p.m.
- ❖ We encourage all Executive members and Club members to take a look at the Agenda for the **SnoMan 2016 Congress** listed on the SnoMan website. This year the Congress will be on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Canad Inns Club Regent Casino Hotel



## Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

- ❖ The leaves are just about gone which means snowmobile season is fast approaching here in the Eastern Region.
- ❖ Our club held a REGULAR GENERAL MEETING on October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.

### Highlights of our Regular General meeting

SnoMan Annual Grooming and Trail Maintenance cheques were received. These funds are derived from SnoPass fees and distributed to the 52 clubs in the province on a per kilometer groomed basis. These are the club's main revenue stream that keeps our 3 groomers on the trails throughout the season.

The club is looking at obtaining additional merchandise with the Club Logo and our stock should be available for Christmas. We attempted to get a booth at the Lac du Bonnet Christmas Craft Show but the event is full.

Grooming Director reported receipt of some back-up parts for the groomers and outlined the preventative maintenance that is planned. A groomer operator check sheet was reviewed by our Maintenance supervisor.

Trails Director(s) reported that we have re-stocked and painted our supply of sign posts and have ordered a quantity of new signs for our trail system.

Infrastructure Director reported significant action on our projects.

- Gravel base was enhanced in the groomer building and packed.

- Shelving has been added to the groomer building for signs and other equipment



- The Agassiz Shelter renovation project moved forward with the installation of a new door, 4 new windows, interior siding and a solar light package.



Member Services director reported on our advertising campaign for our CLUB MAP and for SHELTER ADVERTISING

- ❖ Events for the upcoming year were discussed in length and specific dates will be nailed down at our November meeting for our 2016/2017
  - Club Ride
  - BBQ
  - Social evening

- ❖ Our TRAIL MAINTENANCE team have started to put out some signs along our 297 km trail system.
  - If you would like to help out in the preparation of our trail system please drop us an email and we will provide you details.
- ❖ The CLIPPER should have an upcoming article on some of the work our club members have been doing to get ready for the season. The article will also comment on some issues we have had during the off season. It is sometimes frustrating to see the way that some people abuse our Agassiz Shelter. The shelter is unlocked and there for the use of anyone needing shelter in the Agassiz Provincial forest. All we ask is that the users respect the building and its contents.  
Damage and theft will be reported to the RCMP for enforcement action.
- ❖ Our Club has just sent an email to current and past members to solicit interest in holding a **SNOMAN TRAIL SIGNING COURSE** in Lac du Bonnet. If you are interested please send us an email.
- ❖ Members and guests are reminded to take a look at our website  
[Eastmansnopals.ca](http://Eastmansnopals.ca)  
as there is a lot of information about the club and activities.
- ❖ We encourage all Executive members and Club members to take a look at the Agenda for the **SnoMan 2016 Congress** listed on the SnoMan website. This year the Congress will be on **November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>** at the CanadInns Club Regent Casino Hotel
- ❖ Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** with optional dinner at 6 pm at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.



We have scheduled a **SNOMAN TRAIL SIGNING COURSE** for our club members.

The course will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Lac du Bonnet Fire Hall on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

All members are encouraged to attend.

It is our policy that at least 1 person on each signing work crew has successfully passed the signing course.

All Groomer operators are expected to have taken the signing course.

There is NO COST

We hope to see you there.

If you are planning on attending please drop us an email so we have an idea on numbers.

[info@eastmansnopals.ca](mailto:info@eastmansnopals.ca)





## Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

- ❖ The hint of snow and freezing temperatures are talked about on the evening weather forecast.... So our season MUST be approaching.
- ❖ Our club held a REGULAR GENERAL MEETING on October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.

### Highlights of our Regular General meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>

Shelley Marion was installed as our new secretary due to the resignation of Kim Oswald.

The Club THANKS Kim for her service on our board over the last 3 years.

A report from Forestry was received and discussed. There are several potential conflicts with logging operations in our area this winter that we will work with Conservation to keep a handle on. The logging may require minor adjustments to our trail during the riding season. Keep your eye on the WEBSITE for TRAIL INFO and watch for signs along the trail. The good news for this riding season is that the CENTERLINE trail # 761 from Seddon's Corner to Trail 763 (The Agassiz Hut corner) will be open all year as there will be NO LOGGING in that specific area.

The Eastern Region brought forward the idea of starting a HIGH SCHOOL BURSARY which would be awarded to high school students from the Region who are a member of a snowmobile club and who volunteer with that club. The design of the bursary is to encourage the youth to get involved with

recreational snowmobiling and the clubs. Our club approved the idea and our support will be taken back to the Regional Association.

The equipment maintenance crew have been busy getting the 3 groomers and drags ready for the season. The oil has been changed and routine maintenance issues addressed. This year our Maintenance Supervisor has introduced a PRE-TRIP check sheet to assist in identifying issues before they become problems.

We have added new LED amber lighting to our #2 groomer and drag and to our Bear Cat to warn of maintenance activities on the trail.

We have received our POSTERS and MAPS and now are getting our KIOSK signs ready for placement in Elma, Lac du Bonnet, Seddon's Corner and Pinawa.

The RM of Lac du Bonnet has provided "in kind" work to our club and has cut the long grass along the rail bed (trail 62S) to allow for better snow pack and grooming. Additionally they have removed an earth berm on Trail 764 at Wildrose Road which caused some grooming problems last year. Our THANKS to the RM of Lac du Bonnet Public Works Department!

Several work parties have picked up all of our equipment and signs from 2 obsolete trailers in Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa and centralized our inventory in Seven Sisters. It is GREAT to have all of our equipment and inventory in 1 location.

The Elma crew have been busy with the replacement of siding and soffits on the 3's company shelter. It looks GREAT and is ready for riders anytime.



Our club is planning a 2 day ride to Hecla on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. A block of rooms has been secured at \$99 per night. It is going to be a great trip. Mark the date on your calendar. If you want to come along let one of our Exec members know so we can assign you a room.



We will be hosting our CLUB BBQ again this year at KINGS KOOKOUT. The date is weather dependant but we are looking at the end of January or the beginning of February. Watch our calendar for exact dates.



- ❖ Our TRAIL MAINTENANCE team continues to put out some signs along our 297 km trail system.
  - The high water in areas is proving to be a barrier and much of the work will have to wait till we get some "freeze"
  - **If you have some spare time and would like to come along on a work party please give us a call or send an email to get specific dates.** Some are on weekends and some are through the week.
  
- ❖ Our Club hosted the **SNOMAN TRAIL SIGNING COURSE** in Lac du Bonnet on November 9<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time going through the on-line course and generated a lot of site specific discussion as to the "how" and "why" of putting up signs.
  
- ❖ Our goal is to provide signage that makes our trails safe to ride and impossible to get "turned around" on. If you ever have comments on our trail signing please drop us an email.
  
- ❖ Members and guests are reminded to take a look at our website [Eastmansnopals.ca](http://Eastmansnopals.ca) as there is a lot of information about the club and activities.
  
- ❖ Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** with optional dinner at 6 pm at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.

Our meeting attendance is slowly creeping up. We encourage all members and guests to attend. We hope to see you there.

If you have not purchased your 2016/2017 membership yet, please contact one of our executive members and we can make that happen.

Watch for us in the Christmas parades in Whitemouth and Pinawa.



## Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

- ❖ The snow has arrived as have the cold temperatures. We have cautioned riders to stay on solid trails as the swamps, marshes and waterways **HAVE NOT FROZEN** to allow for safe operation.
- ❖ Our club held a REGULAR GENERAL MEETING on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.

### Some of our Club Highlights since our last news letter

Our signing work parties have been out putting up some signs in preparation of our first route with the groomers to "pack" the trails. If you would like to get involved in one of our trial work parties send us an email at [info@eastmansnopals.ca](mailto:info@eastmansnopals.ca)

The grooming process is that the first pass by the groomer is just to pack the snow, fill in holes and level out the trail. Usually additional snow is then required to allow for the 2<sup>nd</sup> pass at which time the groomer will actually use the drag to groom the snow on the trail and after that pass the trail will be officially opened.

So you can see that we are still a ways away from having groomed trails that are safe to open.

Our GROOMING DIRECTOR is hosting a workshop for our groomer operators at our groomer building in Seven Sisters on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. This will give all operators and club members wanting to get involved in the grooming aspect of our club an opportunity to go "hands on" with our groomers under the direction and supervision of our experienced operators. At this time our Maintenance Supervisor will

be giving "guided tours" of the groomers from a maintenance point of view. It is one thing to say "conduct a pre-trip inspection" it is totally another thing to know what to look for. This event will give our operators a great opportunity to hone their skills. **If you are interested in participating in our groomer operations come by and take part in the workshop.**

We have put out of Club Kiosks in Lac du Bonnet, Seddon's Corner and Pinawa. The Kiosks have the SnoMan map on one side and our club map and club notices on the other side.

Planning continues for our CLUB RIDE to Hecla on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. A block of rooms has been secured at \$99 per night. It is going to be a great trip. Mark the date on your calendar. We NEED TO KNOW if you are attending. **We have set a dead line of December 31<sup>st</sup> to register for this ride.** Contact any of our executive to register.



We confirmed again that we will be hosting our CLUB BBQ again this year at KINGS KOOKOUT. The date is weather dependant but we are looking at the end of January or the beginning of February. Watch our calendar for exact dates.



Our crew participated in Santa parades in both Whitemouth and Pinawa this month. It has proven to be a great opportunity to showcase of club and to attract new members.

Our Trail Director and his committee has been busy with some minor trail modifications for the upcoming season. **Watch for these modifications on our website TRAIL page as the season gets rolling.**

We have received our order for our new club golf shirts and zipper hoodies. They would make great Christmas gifts for the sledder in your family.



Same are available by contacting our club or any executive member.

- ❖ Members and guests are reminded to take a look at our website [Eastmansnopals.ca](http://Eastmansnopals.ca)  
There is a lot of information about the club and activities.
- ❖ Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** with optional dinner at 6 pm at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.

We hope to see you there.

If you have not purchased your 2016/2017 membership yet, please complete the membership form found on our website and send it to us or contact one of our executive members and we can make that happen.

Your membership supports the club with a small financial contribution. It also signs you up to receive the SNORIDERS WEST magazine and lists you on our membership list which covers you by our liability insurance when participating in work parties.