



Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

The snowmobile season is well underway for the Clubs in Manitoba but I must say that it has been a very difficult start for our Club.

This week we have finally opened all of our trails north of PTH 44 with the exception of a portion of trail 764 through the bog between Hwy 11 and Halfway Hut. These trails are now our priority but the issue is the lack of freeze in the bogs.

I was absolutely amazed with the lack of freeze under the snow. We are told that we had the warmest November in history and December brought us the 2nd highest snowfall since 1908. When you put that much snow on the ground that is wet and not frozen there are bound to be issues.

And yes..... We had issues

On January 4th groomer 2 broke into the bog south of highway 44 on trail 764. We had packed that trail a dozen times and at least twice with our C drag (4.5' drag pulled behind our work sled) but we found out the hard way that the bog was not frozen enough to support our groomer. The



first picture is of the groomer surrounded by snow with the invisible bog below.....

and the 2nd picture is after a hoe dug out the slop from around the machine. 2" – 6" of ice and 2 feet of bog water waiting to swallow up our groomer.



With some help from a 45000 lb excavator we were out of the bog and back on the trail. It turned out to be a slow return as we had to chip all the frozen bog off the unit and clean up various moisture issues.... But with some long hours by our volunteers we got it back on the trails.

Just as our recovery team got home groomer # 3 broke through ice on a bog near the Agassiz Shelter on trail 763. This time it was a case of bad ice that gave away. The operator with some volunteer manpower was able to detach the drag and get the groomer out and then using a long cable get the drag out of the water and back on the trail....

So that is how the week started. Then there were the loose wheel bolts that caused issues for groomer 3 on trail 761.



Volunteers went out and had to take the track off the machine in the middle of the trail to make the necessary repairs and get the unit operational.

So 2 days later we were back on the trail and made it back to Lac du Bonnet only to find a flat tire on the opposite side of the groomer.



Another tire change which required taking the track off again.

I have helped take the track off a groomer 4 times in my life..... 3 times in the last 10 days.

By the end of the week our volunteers and operators were tired and quite frankly a little "bog" shy.

That's where the story gets good. We reached out to our friends at the Lee River Snow Riders Club and they agreed to help us pack/groom several of our outstanding trails that run through boggy areas north of Pinawa.



And YES they came. And YES they groomed. By the end of the day we were able to open 768 from Pinawa to the Winnipeg River and 66 from the Lee River Snow Rider junction to the Seven Sisters dyke.

Our own machine was able to groom 769 from Pinawa to the junction with trail 66.

Then there is our dedicated volunteer from Seven Sisters who was determined to pack and open trail 770 from Seven Sisters to Whitemouth. A couple of sessions of packing by several members and their families and countless hours of grooming with our work machine towing a C drag at 15km / hour and I am thrilled to report that 770 is now open connecting Whitemouth / Elma / and the south end of Whiteshell Provincial Park.



And there he is..... riding when the packing and grooming is done. Thanks Don!

As I write this newsletter I am happy to say that most of our high use trails are groomed and open.

Our volunteers will continue to work on 764 south of highway 44 and trail 62 south of Molson.

This is my first year as President of the Eastman SnoPals and I have to say it appears Mother Nature has handed us a difficult year.

Some of the Riders are impatient and vocal. We all pay for SNOWPASSES but some of us spend 40+ hours a week trying to put up signs, pack trails, groom trails and do rescue repairs to equipment in the wilderness.

Please be patient with all of the clubs. This season is a difficult one and we have not seen the end of the difficulties with temperatures this weekend forecast to be able 0. That scenario is very hard on trails and equipment.

Over the month I have been impressed with the numbers of our new members who have stepped up to help the old tired veterans of the club.

THANK YOU

Your help, support and company on the trails is very much appreciated.

The issues that we have faced this month have forced us to look at our core function. How do we groom trails?

The equipment we currently operate has served us well but with the bog scenario we are facing this year we have to look for options that would allow us to do a better job.

We have struck a GROOMER COMMITTEE to collect all of the information on the various makes and models of groomers and drags so that our membership can make informed decisions as we move forward. The Committee had hoped to have something concrete to bring to the membership at the end of this month but as we have found out the question and answers are much more complex.

The committee continues to look for a replacement groomer and drag that would allow the club to get into deeper snow, pack trails without the drag attached and groom over bogs with less risk of breaking through.

One of the main issues is weight distribution. A groomer like the Lee River groomer has a weight distribution of just over 1 lb / sq inch of track area and our current tractors are 4 times that distribution.

We are in the market for a GROOMER and eventually in the market to sell one of our tractors and drags. If in your personal travels you identify any information on this topic please bring it to the attention of an Executive member.

- ❖ Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday February 15th at 7 pm with** optional dinner at 6 pm at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.

Let me finish this newsletter with my favorite picture of the month.....



RIDE SAFE

PLEASE RESPECT the LANDOWNERS.....even if the field looks smoother than the trail ... You **MUST** stay on our trail.

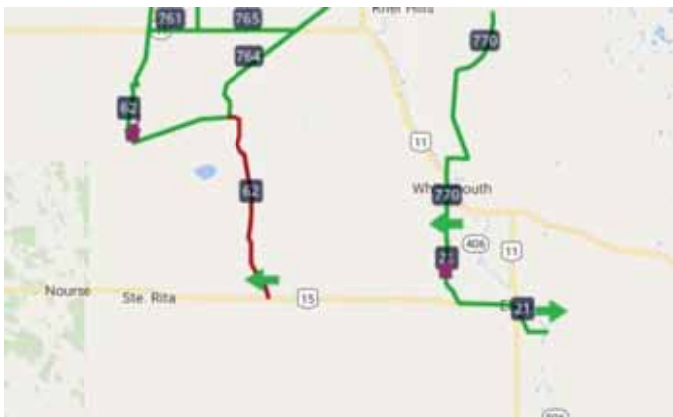
John Fleming President, Eastman SnoPALS



Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

The season appears to have straightened out in February after the problem filled month of January.

During February we groomed and opened all of our trails with the exception of trail 62 south of the junction of trail 764. A large family of beavers moved in and we anticipated an increased level of flooding but nothing like we found at freeze up. This month we still had thick ice with 2 feet of open water lurking below. We could not put our groomer over that area. We did however meeting with Conservation and have now arranged for two registered trappers to go in and remove the beavers.



Once that is done we will apply for a permit to remove the beaver house. It is not much consolation for this year but all said and done we should be in a better position to groom and open 62 south to highway 15 next season.

We met with officials in the Whiteshell Provincial Park and with their support have applied to SnoMan to take over a 7 km stretch of trail 66 from the Seven Sisters Dam to the junction of our trail 770 to Whitemouth.



When approved this section along the south dyke of the Seven Sisters ForeBay and the trail through the field will be groomed by both our club and the Whiteshell Provincial Park as the dyke has always been

problematic with large drifts. It will also simplify our map as it would then include this section of trail on the SnoPals map where now there appears to be a void as it is only included on the Whiteshell club map.

Your volunteer groomer operators have been busy this month with significant grooming 4 days each week and not withstanding a couple of flat tires it was a rather incident free month.



We took on the novel approach with a running creek on trail 62 south of Molson and build a corduroy log bridge and then packed it down with snow to create a safe ride.

It is absolutely amazing how much running water there is still out there in the forest after months of winter.

We hosted a great HOT DOG OPEN HOUSE at our Kings Kookout location on trail 768 on Saturday Feb 18th. We saw over 100 riders and served up almost 80 smokie dogs, played Stationary Poker Derby and sold some embroidered club hoodies.



The winning hand was held by Ernie with four(4) sixes. Well done !



We delivered a couple sleigh loads of wood this last week to Halfway Hut and to Kings.



The club has an important decision to make this month.

Our Groomer Committee has come up with a proposal that they are bringing back to the membership to vote on.

Our by-laws require that all CAPITAL EXPENDITURES over \$20,000 be decided on by all membership at an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING or a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

SGM

Special General Meeting

The Board called a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING to be held on February 27th at 7p.m. at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters.

We would encourage ALL active members of the Eastman SnoPals to attend this meeting.

Our next Regular meeting will be held on March 14th at 7p.m. at the Tourist Hotel in Seven Sisters. We had a great crowd at the February meeting. Hope to see more of you at the March meeting.

Ride Safe

John Fleming – President

Eastman SnoPals Inc



Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

There is GOOD news and BAD news!

The BAD NEWS

Unfortunately our season ended very quickly on March 6th after another thaw cycle that took out much of the trail base. We were hoping for some late season snow but it missed the East and covered everywhere else in Manitoba.

So it is what it is. !!

The Season was full of challenges for the club with the very mild wet November and then the unprecedented snow load in December. The swamps did not freeze until well into January and then we had a thaw and rainy week. The swamps posed huge problems for the club with water running across our trails in many spots and the unstable base which lead to several "stuck" groomers.

The GOOD NEWS

The club members pulled together and we came through the season with smiles on our faces.

Our volunteers worked some long and hard days keeping our equipment running and our trails groomed. Short as the season was we had some amazing trails....

At least between the snow melts.

We had a great KINGS KOOKOUT BBQ on February 18th where riders on trail 768 were treated to a BBQ of Dancyt smokey dogs



and given an opportunity to try their hand at our "stationary poker derby" where Ernie was the eventual winner with four 6s. The 50/50 pot gave him a \$83 payday. It was a beautiful sunny day and a great time to tell stories around the outdoor fire.

Our THANKS to all who came out for the event!!

We even did our first "RIDE" to Hecla on February 27th. Unfortunately the ride was by car as the trails were not safe across the lake but the 5 couples who made the trek had a GREAT time. The hotel and spa was fantastic and the camaraderie was a lot of fun. We will do it again next year and hopefully take our machines.

Many riders have told us that our renovation to Agassiz Hut on trail 763 was a very welcomed project and all of the riders who stopped by to warm up appreciated the work done by our work party last fall. It is such a beautiful part of our trail system and some new windows, door and interior finishing has elevated the riding experience.

We are already looking forward to next season. We had some issue with trail 62 south of Ridge Riders Hut as a large beaver dam had flooded over the trail and made grooming impossible. With the guidance of Conservation and the help of 2 local licenced trappers we are actively addressing the issue and hope to get permits to remove the beaver house shortly. This process will allow us to re-open trail 62 for

next winter and again meet the trails on highway 15.

And now for the exciting news.

At our SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING on February 27th the club authorized the purchase of a 2007 Prinoth Husky groomer.



Here it is in the shop in Sudbury being pre-serviced. It will be delivered to our building in Seven Sisters on March 24th. We will be sending out an email to all members as soon as we know the exact time as it will be an opportunity for all Operators, members and supporters to take a close look at the new groomer. The addition of this unit to our fleet will allow for better and earlier grooming of our system. The big difference is weight distribution over the frozen swamps and snow filled ditches. Our New Holland conversions placed about 5 lbs per sq. inch of track where the Husky runs at about .8 lb per sq. inch. A huge difference. Prepacking of the trails will always be a necessity but with the weight distribution of

the Husky we should be able to groom sooner with less risk to the machine and operator.

Equally as important is the ability to run with 2 operators on the trail which provides a new level of comfort and enhances our level of safety to our volunteer operators.



Our Groomer Committee worked long and hard searching the internet and dealers for a machine that met our needs and budget.

Our membership thanks all of those members for their hard work and I am sure that we will all see the benefits of their labour next season when we hit the trails with the Husky.

Our next regular meeting April 11th 7p.m.

Tourist Hotel, Seven Sisters

Social hour and dinner from the menu at 6p.m.

MARK YOUR CALANDER

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday May 6th followed by a dinner and social evening.

May 6th 2017

There will be door prizes at both the meeting and social evening.

Watch for an email update on location.

If you have some time and wanted to help the SnoPals this is your opportunity to come out, socialize and put your hand up to take on a project..... a couple of hours, a day work party or a seasonal role.

Or maybe you just want to come up and spend the evening with the Club... that is OK too.

Hope to see you all at the AGM

[John Fleming](#)

[President Eastman SnoPals](#)

info@eastmansnopals.ca



Club Meeting !



Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

The club held its last Regular meeting on April 11th in Seven Sisters.

The season is winding down and our volunteers have been out removing signs and collecting our equipment to finish off the year.

We have already made a long list of items that will be worked on over the off-season including:



A Shelter Committee has been struck to review our current inventory of trail shelters and come up with a plan to move forward with upgrades and renewals. Our club has never had a long range plan for our

shelters and this is a tremendous step forward to provide the best possible experience for our riders. If any of our members have suggestions for this committee please email your comments to info@eastmansnopals.ca



We have identified eight (8) trails or portions of trails that need to be reviewed with potential widening / straightening or re-location. All of these trails have been assigned to club members for research, consultation and recommendations for the upcoming season.

We have decided to continue with our club clothing project and will be ordering an inventory of shirts / hoodies for sale over the summer and into next season.



If anyone is interested the items are displayed on our website EASTMANSNOPALS.CA and can be ordered by contacting any club Director.

MARK YOUR CALANDER

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Pinawa Golf and Country Club on Saturday May 6th at 6:00 p.m. followed by a dinner and social evening in the lounge at 7:30p.m.

May 6th 2017

There will be door prizes at both the meeting and social evening.

Memberships for the 2017 / 2018 season will also be available.

At the AGM we will be voting on several amendments to our BY-LAW one of which would be to include **FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS** at a reduced price.

By-Law amendments will also come forward to redesign our **number and roles for DIRECTORS** and an amendment to our procedure for Advance **notice and proxy voting** at Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings.

If you have some time and wanted to help the SnoPals this is your opportunity to come out, socialize and put your hand up to take on a project..... a couple of hours, a day work party or a seasonal role.

Or maybe you just want to come up and spend the evening with the Club.... that is OK too.

Hope to see you all at the AGM

John Fleming

President Eastman SnoPals

info@eastmansnopals.ca



Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

The season came to an end of May 6th as we held our Annual General Meeting.

It was a great year for the SnoPals as we continued to move forward with our development of trails, infrastructure and trail shelters.

Mother Nature did not cooperate with us as best she could but the Club made the best of a mediocre year.

We have continued to make progress on our Strategic Planning goals

- ❖ We have upgraded our grooming equipment with the replacement of one of our New Holland tractors with a Prinoth Husky with a new 9'6" drag.
- ❖ We have developed a committee to provide for a long range plan for our trail shelters
- ❖ We have consolidated all of our financial business at the Sunova

- Credit Union who have become a strong supporter of our club
- ❖ We have completed a financial review of our books for the first time in 10 years
 - ❖ We have re-structured our BOARD to better reflect the delineation of the coordination of tasks for our board members.
 - ❖ We voted in a strong Board to take us forward into 2018
 - President – John Fleming
 - Vice President – Jason Wiebe
 - Secretary – Shelley Marion
 - Treasurer – Gareth Senkow
 - Grooming Director – Dave Baleja
 - Trails / Infrastructure West – Don Marion
 - Trails / Infrastructure South – Robert Stelko
 - Trails / Infrastructure North – Wally Sokoliuk

- Trails / Infrastructure South
–Dennis Soloway
 - Member Services – Rob
Tashiro
 - Director at Large – Ernie
Wiebe
 - Director at Large – Brendan
Arsenault
- ❖ Our President now sits on the
SnoMan Board as an alternate
representative from the Eastern
Region Snowmobile Association.
 - ❖ The Club is continuing with the
production and sale of club
embroidered shirts and hoodies.
Pictures are available on our
website EASTMANSNOPALS.CA
and can be ordered by
contacting any Board member.

The snowmobiling season may be over but the club work to prepare our equipment for next season is on-going.

We will be posting some off season work-parties on our calendar on our website so if you have some spare time give us a shout and come out and lend a hand.

We have some organization and clean up to do at our building in Seven Sisters this spring before we all get busy with summer activities.

We have to relocate our trail 62 at Molson and there will be a “brushing party” to clear the right of way.

There will be some “carpenter parties” at Agassiz and Ridge Riders shelters so if you are semi-skilled with a hammer give us a shout.

On a personal note I would like to THANK our Directors and members for the work that they put in to enhance the activities of our club last season. I find it very encouraging that we have added to our membership list and more members are stepping up asking to help the club.

Together we can make our region one of the most desirable snowmobiling destinations in the Province.

Have a great summer.

Watch our calendar. Come out and lend a hand.

John Fleming – President
Eastman SnoPals



Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

Can you feel it? The leaves are falling quickly and snow is right around the corner.

We have been reading the almanac and there are 2 versions: one that has above normal snow and one that has less than normal.

Start your snow dance now!!!

Your DIRECTORS met in September to get things organized for the upcoming season.

2017/2018 DIRECTORS

President: John Fleming
Lac du Bonnet

Vice President: Jason Wiebe
Whiteshell

Secretary: Shelley Marion
Seven Sisters

Treasurer: Gareth Senkow
Seven Sisters

Member Services: Rob Tashiro
Whiteshell

Director at Large: Ernie Wiebe
Seven Sisters

Director at Large: Brendan Arsenault
Lac du Bonnet

North Trails and Infrastructure: Wally Sokoliuk
Lac du Bonnet

South Trails and Infrastructure: Robert Stelko
Elma

West Trails and Infrastructure: Don Marion
Seven Sisters

East Trails and Infrastructure: Dennis Soloway
Pinawa

Grooming: Dave Baleja
Lac du Bonnet

SHELTER COMMITTEE

This committee has been tasked with developing a short term and long term plan for our trail shelters.

The shelter committee members are Jason Wiebe, Rebel Lister, Wally Sokoliuk & Mark Krupka. They are always looking for new ideas and members who will help maintain and keep an eye on our shelters.

So if you have anything that you want to share with any of our DIRECTORS drop us an email at info@eastmansnopals.ca

This year we have secured a booth at the Lac du Bonnet Christmas Craft show on November 18th at the Community Centre in Lac du Bonnet. It's your opportunity to purchase you INDIVIDUAL \$20 or FAMILY \$30 memberships.

We will also have a selection of club embroidered shirts, hoodies and our new freezer jackets available or you can make a special order.



This year we will also have the SNOMAN WINNERS CHOICE raffle tickets available. Try you luck you could be riding a new machine before the season is over.

REMINDER THE 7 TH ANNUAL SNOMAN AGM & CONGRESS IS COMING UP

November 3rd & 4th, 2017 - Canad Inns Destination Centre Club Regent, 1415 Regent Avenue West, Winnipeg

- Snoman Annual General Meeting
- Workshops
- Awards Presentation & Banquet

You can find your registration form on the SnoMan web site.



We are doing a renovation to our Ridge Riders shelter on Saturday Oct 28th. You can drive to the shelter via the Julius Road. If you have some time and would like to help send us an email.



Wednesday Oct 18th
7p.m.

Tourist Hotel, Seven Sisters



Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

NOVEMBER is here and we have some white stuff on the ground.

The boats have gone into storage and the snowmobiles are getting ready to do.

The Eastman SnoPals have been getting ready to go too.

Since our last newsletter we have mounted equipment boxes on the new groomer and a new equipment box on the old drag behind the New Holland.

The SIGNING crews have been busy with the painting of over 100 new / replacement sign posts. Each post is now reflective red with an additional reflective band around the top. We do this for the safety of our trial riders. So when you are on the

trails please respect the signs and sign posts. If you see that signs have fallen down, been shot up / stolen or missing and you cannot fix it PLEASE send us an email so we can fix the problem.

Our groomer building is very close to having the donated electric furnace installed. It is not our intention to heat the building 24/7 but it will certainly put a smile on our mechanic's face when we have to do some maintenance in the shop.

On Saturday Oct 28th we held our RIDGE RIDERS SHELTER WORK PARTY. It was very successful. We had 8 members make the trip down the long road and put on their work gloves. We strapped the existing 25yr old shingle roof and covered it with a new steal roof. We cut a hole in the north wall and installed a new window. The additional light in



the shelter is fantastic. We then insulated the building and put up OSB on the ceiling and walls but not before installing a solar panel and 2 – 12 volt LED fixtures on a timer switch. There are still 2 12 volt exterior work lights that are power from jumping onto your machine. We hope that everyone will respect the shelter and help us keep it clean and in good order. We hauled a multitude of garbage from around the shelter so we are on a “new page” so to speak. Let’s keep it looking presentable.

- Use the garbage cans If you had room to haul in your food and drink containers you must have room to haul them out.



Thursday Nov 2nd an ATV brushing patrol of trail 763 from 761 to 62. There is some dead fall that has to be moved to allow for grooming operations. We will also be doing the finishing touches on the Agassiz shelter.

We are meeting on PTH 44 at the 761 junction at 10:15 am

REMINDER:

SNOMAN CONGRESS is this weekend. It is never too late to register and attend. Go to the SNOMAN web site for details.

SNOPALS memberships are due for 2017/2018. You can purchase your membership from any of our Directors / at any of our meetings and at the Lac du Bonnet Christmas Craft Show on Nov 18th.



Tuesday NOVEMBER 7TH at 7p.m.

Tourist Hotel, Seven Sisters



Merry Christmas

Our club volunteers are out there on the trails almost every day now.

We have been getting our equipment ready to go for the season grooming kickoff.

The Massey in Whitemouth has been checked over and ready to roll. We are even going to put a new radio in the unit so the operators don't have to sing to themselves as they drive.

Our Unit 2 the New Holland has a newer drag installed and we have done some hydraulic updates to control the drag better. It is not a new unit but has a strong heart and is ready to roll.



Our newest unit has been checked out mechanically and we have done some warranty repairs over the summer. The Shop Industrial came out in November and gave all of our operators an orientation to the new groomer and drag. Our next step is

to set up a training schedule so that we can get all of our operators certified on the new unit. We are looking forward to the enhanced abilities of this unit when it comes to weight distribution and overall performance in heavy snow conditions.



It is a big job to get all of our signs ready and we are well over halfway getting the signs out on the trails. As I write this we are just waiting for the end of the week to put our signs out on trails north of Pinawa east of the Winnipeg River as rifle deer season is still on till the end of the week.

We have been out to all of our shelters and they are just about ready to go. We still need to cut and or haul some wood into a couple of locations and deliver 1 port-a-pottie.

I hope that you will appreciate the upgrades that we have done over the off season to 3s

Company near Elma, the new roof, interior and solar lighting to Ridge Riders and the solar lighting installation at Agassiz in the Agassiz forest.

Our club provides these shelters for your enjoyment. All we ask in return is that you treat the shelter as if it was your own... clean up before you leave.

If you see issues that need to be fixed please drop us a quick email and let us know so we can get the repair done.

If you see people abusing our property we would ask that you pass this information onto us immediately via email or call a Director. We still find that there are some people out there who take some enjoyment out of damaging our property and stealing our axes, brooms and garbage cans.



We will be scheduling some work parties to pack trails, put us signs and cut wood. Please keep your eye on our FACEBOOK site, our Website calendar for updates as soon as we schedule them.

2017/2018 memberships

Memberships are now available from any Director of the club or on our website. At our Annual General Meeting we approved INDIVIDUAL and FAMILY memberships.

Individual \$20 Family \$30

The income from memberships goes to the upkeep of our shelters and other functions.

Many of us are members of multiple clubs so please think about supporting the Eastman SnoPals with your membership renewal this year.

What does membership get you?

Firstly it gets you a feeling that you are involved with our great club and are supporting the good work and trail system that we have.

Secondly, this year we will establish an EMAIL list of **CURRENT MEMBERS**. As we groom our trails these current members will get email notification of trail conditions on a day by day basis so they will not have to wait until the

SnoMan TRAIL CONDITIONS are posted at the end of each week.

All snowmobile clubs in the province are now selling the Snoman Winners Choice raffle tickets.

\$1 from every ticket sold stays with the club that sold you the ticket.

When you are in local businesses look for the tickets or contact any Director and get your tickets to win a new machine and help to support our club.

**Snoman's Winners Choice
Raffle
One Grand Prize**

SKI-DOO	POLARIS	ARCTIC CAT	YAMAHA
MXZ Sport 600 Ace ES \$11,354.00	Switchback Pro S 600 \$13,699.00	ZR 6000 ES 137 \$14,349.00	SRViper RTX \$14,199.00

May not be exactly as illustrated

Tickets \$2.00 each 35000 Tickets Printed

Draw Date: February 15, 2018 - 2:00 PM **Draw Held:** Snoman Office - 2121 Henderson Hwy - Winnipeg, MB

You can still order these very nice
freezer jackets with our embroidered
logo on both front and back.

\$65



We have an assortment of
embroidered golf shirts in stock.

Sizes M L XL XXL

Colors – black, charcoal and blue

\$35



And we have a supply of our new
black ball hats with the new
embroidered logo \$25

We are only making a couple of \$ per
item and the profit goes toward club
activities.



Tuesday January 9th
Meeting - 7 p.m.

Optional dinner and
Social hour – 6p.m.

Tourist Hotel, Seven Sisters