



# SNO-EAGLES, INC. SNOWMOBILE CLUB

## Eagle River, WI



### NEWSLETTER - April 2018

Website: [www.sno-eagles.org](http://www.sno-eagles.org)

Facebook: Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter Season. The snowmobile season is over for 2017-18 and it was a Huge Success! We must again thank our Trail Boss Brian, all the Groomer Operators, all the Groomer Maintenance Volunteers and certainly all the countless Volunteers who worked on our trails throughout the year. Our mission in the club is to provide the best and safest snowmobile trails in our area of responsibility. The club did a great job. What's next? I am glad you asked. Trail maintenance this fall, groomer maintenance this summer and fall and most importantly the club enters into the warm weather with its many fundraisers to help fund our club. We should all watch our Sunday emails for more information regarding Brat & Bake Sale July 3, raffle tickets, Vilas County Food Booth and other activities. Please watch our website [www.snoeagles.org](http://www.snoeagles.org) for updates, news and activities throughout the off-season. I will be looking at better communication within the club and how better to solicit ideas from members. Your officers will be working on getting our non-profit status changed to 501c3 for donations to be fully tax deductible and we will also be looking into By-law changes. Over the off-season, the club will not have monthly newsletters so I urge all members to watch the Sunday emails and the website for news and updates. You can volunteer for activities on our website or contact us via email. Have a great off-season and enjoy Eagle River.

#### **Let's Thank our Of the Year awardees:**

Groomer Operator of the Year: Dan Towne

Volunteer of the Year: Jim Joritz

Big Dumper Award: Jim Klug (breaking his leg on a trail ride)

*Howard Wolf* President

#### **TRAIL BOSS REPORT**

Looking back...

Officially on March 19th the snowmobile trails came to a close in Vilas County. We had just enough snow to keep the trails open, mixed in with a good base and cold weather to keep trails consistent. In some ways you can't ask for much more other than more frequent and heavier snowfalls. I really liked seeing snowmobile trailers filling hotels and sleds parked in front of bars, restaurants.

My biggest concern going into the fall was the increased water level in the swamps and marshes. The club approved to purchase the ARGO as it proved to be an asset and security to packing ice and snow into the swamps. In turn that preparation made the swamps better and those trails opened with the entire system. The swamps were good all season and my concern was rested.

During the season we struggled to keep equipment running as really cold temperatures mixed with a string of bad luck put a ringer in the schedule for our dedicated volunteers. Those volunteers were called upon at all hours of the night, as they answered the call to repair. We had times where we would repair a unit, then lose another one for several nights. Fix that unit to have something else break a day later. At one point we were down to one machine on the trails for a week. We made it work as we kept up with the trails and traffic and nobody noticed. As Trail Boss and to which my wife would testify if asked. I almost sleep with the phone taped to my head thinking about our grooming units on the trail each night. The sense of security was knowing we had good operators, committing to making the trails look the very best given the conditions. They deserve all the credit.

As we look to spring and summer the club is looking to sell one grooming unit to purchase a new or newer unit. The price is upwards of \$175,000. All said and done we would most likely have a shortfall of about \$100,000. If you have ideas for fundraising or can contribute please contact the club. To keep up with the trails and reduce the burden of breakdowns we must look at replacing a unit in the very near future.

Have a great summer as I already look forward to fall trail brushing.

*Brian Scheid* Trail Boss

### **LAST MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE YEAR**

Our last membership meeting until September will be Thursday April 19 at **Buckshots** at 7 PM. Refreshments will be served before the meeting about 6:15 PM. Come and raise a toast to our past season and to the hard work we did in making it a fun and safe for everyone this year. Get more details on our very busy schedule of summer activities. Sno-Eagles isn't just a winter only club anymore!

### **NEW OFFICERS ELECTED**

At the March meeting, the following officers and board members were elected: President – **Howard Wolf**, Secretary– **Natalie Spiess**, Board Members – **Glenn Dalton & Francis Mathieu**. Congratulations to all of them.

### **OFF SEASON ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The riding season is over, but Sno-Eagles is still here and will be active until the snow flies again. Listed below are upcoming activities. We hope that you can join in as a participant or volunteer to help with planning. There's more to being a member of Sno-Eagles than buying a discounted trail pass to ride our great trails. The same small group of people now plan and lead most club activities. They are getting old, tired, & cranky. The club really needs some new blood to be infused into our activity leadership. The off season is a great time to do it.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT OUT**

Monthly Saturday Night Out get togethers will continue over the spring and summer. This is our chance to stay in touch during the off season and to thank those businesses that support Sno-Eagles with map ads and/or donations. If you have never attended a SNO event, join us for one or all of these upcoming events. No meeting – just a great dinner out with friends from Sno-Eagles. **Cheryl Storms** has REALLY been busy lining up destinations. **RSVP Cheryl at 715-479-5599 or [snoeagles@gmail.com](mailto:snoeagles@gmail.com)** . As usual – cocktails at 5:30 PM & dinner at 6 PM.

Mark these dates on your calendar now:

- ✚ April 28 - Spang's Italian Restaurant– St. Germain
- ✚ May 15 - VFW – Eagle River (This is a Tuesday Chicago Night event)
- ✚ June 30 - Kathan Inn – Sugar Camp
- ✚ July 28 - Sweetwater Spirits and Resort – Eagle River
- ✚ August 25 – Bauer's Dam Resort - Conover
- ✚ September 29 – Burnt Bridge Tavern & Restaurant - Conover
- ✚ October 27 – Lief's Cafe– Eagle River
- ✚ November 24 – 70 East Road House – Eagle River
- ✚ December – Christmas Dinner

### TRIGS FOOD STAND AND BAKE SALE

In the past we have had 2 of these events each year at Trigs. Because of difficulty in reserving good dates, we will only have one event this year – so we need to make it a good one. This year's event will be on July 3 which is a Tuesday. We need your help to be successful. We need you to do one or more of the following: work at the event, bake cookies, or become part of the calling tree to call members to remind them of the event. To schedule a time to work, call **Fred Rockafellow** 715- 891-2737. To volunteer to make calls, call **Cheryl Storms** 715- 479-5599. She will give you a short list of names to call. The more volunteers we have, the shorter the list.

### FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

The day after the bake sale, Sno-Eagles will join in the Eagle River **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**. As in the past we will have two vehicles in the parade – a truck pulling a snowmobile trailer with sleds and a groomer pulling a drag. Miss Sno-Eagle, Cara Swendson, will be riding on the float We need help decorating the float (right after the bake sale at Trigs). We also need some great new decorating ideas. Let's be creative this year. Time to relive your high school days of building homecoming floats. Call **Howard Wolf**: 262-442-4876 to volunteer.

### SUMMER PICNIC

Each year Sno-Eagles has a summer picnic at Riverside Park in Eagle River. This year the status of the event is iffy because we don't have an event chairman - yet. Time to step up and be a hero. Info on past events and more info will be provided to make the job much easier. Once again, call **Howard Wolf**: 262-442-876.

### OTHER STUFF

There could be lots more activities. The list of activity ideas is endless. But we need people to turn these ideas into reality. Listed below are the officers and their phone numbers. Call up your favorite person and discuss your idea – or – call if you have no ideas but just want to help. People will help you.

### OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President	Howard Wolf	262-442-4876
Vice President	Chuck Bodie	715-477-0507
Treasurer	Fred Rockafellow	715-891-2737
Secretary	Natalie Spiess	540-841-0477
Board members	Glenn Dalton	208-830-7083
	Ron Engels	715-479-5322
	Carole Linn	715-479-6873
	Francis Mathieu	715-479-4132
	Brien Scheid	715-891-2332

## **MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

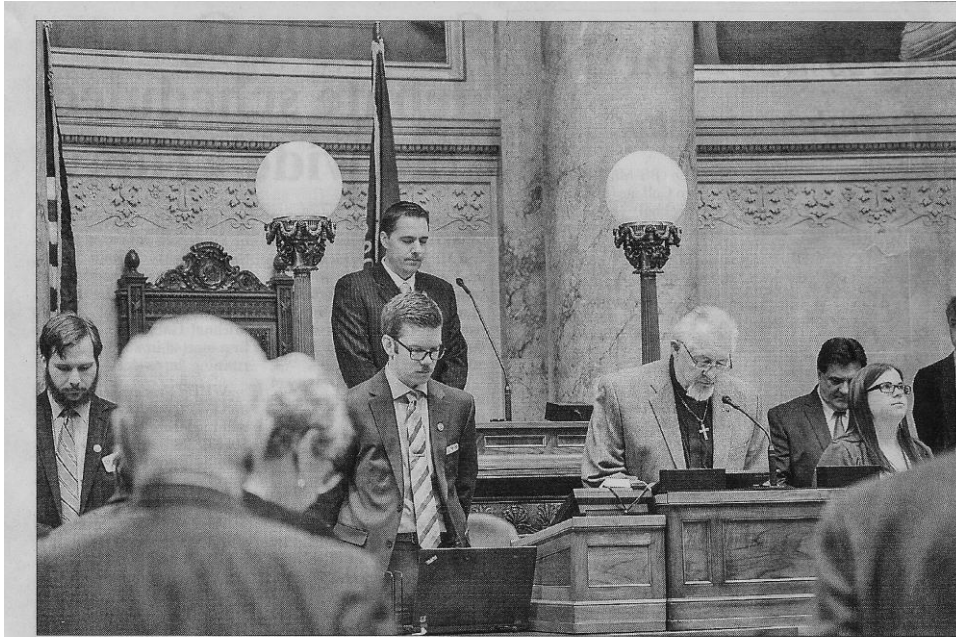
Only three new members to report as the end of our season has arrived:

Lawrence & Jennifer Creadon – Genoa, IL

Jim & Brandee Nieckula – Eagle River (owner of Certified Service on Chain O' Lakes Road)

Chris & Tara Petreikis – Eagle River (new owner of Trackside)

### **SNO-EAGLE MEMBER IN THE NEWS – CHUCK SHEFFLER (THE REV)**



DERBY TO CAPITOL — The Rev. Chuck Sheffler of St. Germain, who each year says a prayer prior to the World Championship Snowmobile Derby in Eagle River, gave the introductory prayer during the Wisconsin Senate Floor Session at the State Capitol in

Madison March 20. It was the first time Sen. Tom Tiffany had the opportunity (both as an assemblyman and senator) to host the individual providing the introductory prayer before the Legislature. —Contributed Photo

### **AWSC MEMBER BENEFIT: ACCIDENTAL DEATH POLICY ENDS ON MAY 11, 2018**

We received a notice that the \$3000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Policy that members now receive as a benefit from the AWSC will end on May 11, 2018. American Income Life Insurance Co (AIL) is discontinuing this coverage for AWSC members. Bad News! No information on possible replacement coverage.

### **STAY IN TOUCH**

During the summer we don't publish our newsletter. This is the last issue until fall. Sno-Eagles will, however, continue to notify members of upcoming events and important news via email updates. If we have your email address, we have you on that list. If you haven't furnished us with an email address or it has recently changed, please send it to: [snoeagles@gmail.com](mailto:snoeagles@gmail.com). We don't want you to miss something important. We will also post items on the calendar on our website. I want to thank those members who have made positive comments about the Newsletter this year. I appreciate it.

*Ken Storms* – Editor



**Annual Membership Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2018**  
**Eagle Waters Resort, Eagle River**

1. Meeting was opened at 7:00 by President Rusty Wolf. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the opening.
2. Pres. Wolf acknowledged a few people in attendance. Our Miss Sno-Eagle Cara Swendson and Laura from Eagle Waters, who welcomed and thanked the Sno-Eagles for a great season. Laura also said she was going to donate the appetizers and all thanked her for the donation.
3. Secretary Report: Pres. Wolf as Acting Secretary briefly discussed the Feb. 2018 minutes and Ken Lambrecht made a motion to approve, Karen Engels seconded and the motion was accepted.
4. Treasurer's Report: Treas. Fred Rockafellow gave the Feb. 2018 financial report. Fred also mentioned that he is working with the firm of Anderson & Mertz to get the club IRS 501c3. Wally L. made a motion to accept the Treas. Report, Steve Linn seconded the motion and motion passed. Fred will wait until April to contact Mertz with the 501c3 status.
5. Introduction of the Officers and Directors: Pres. Wolf introduced Bev Dittmar, who is a member of the club and also the Chairwoman for the Governor's Council on Snowmobile Recreation for Wisconsin.
6. Election of New Officers and Directors: The March meeting is also the Annual Meeting of the club for election of some officers and directors. This being an even numbered year, the office of President, Secretary and two Directors will be voted on. Fred Rockafellow will run the election tonight. Fred gave brief instructions, for voting only one person per membership will receive a ballot and vote. Ballots will be placed in a basket and then counted by Audrey Stearns and Elaine Kloiber. Fred asked 3 times each for write in candidates for President, Secretary and Director. No write in candidates for any position were announced. The election started and had a little confusion that lasted about 45 minutes. Ken Storms protested the election results due to faulty process and flawed the results. Fred counted ballots again while the President continued with the meeting. After the confusion ended and ballots counted, Fred announced that the President Rusty Wolf was re-elected and Natalie Spiess was elected Secretary, Glenn Dalton and Bugs Mathieu were elected Directors. Prior to the announcement, each candidate was given 3 minutes to state why they wanted to be elected. Both President Wolf and Holly T. were asked several questions from the floor with answers given.
7. Chamber of Commerce Comments: Kim Emerson, the Director of the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce was invited to speak at the meeting. Kim thanked the Sno-Eagles for making us proud to be called the Snowmobile Capital of the World ®. Kim commented that she heard all year from visitors how wonderful our snowmobile trails were. Kim thanked the Sno-Eagles for

storing the Journey's Marathon towers and for putting the towers up and tearing them down each year. Finally, Kim had many positive comments pertaining to the Feb. 18-19 AWS Snow show and ride, Celebrate Wisconsin Snowmobiling Event. With the assistance of many members of the Sno-Eagles, the City of Eagle River showcased the area as a wonderful tourist attraction. Kim thanked the many volunteers from the club that helped out during the event. We had over 300 guests register at the Snow Show at the Derby Track and over 80 snowmobilers that went on the Monday snowmobile ride. The rest stop with hot chocolate was a great idea and sponsored by our club. Brian Scheid put together a fantastic video of the event which was shown to the club. Kim mentioned that she thought it was a spectacular event for Eagle River.

#### 8. Committee Reports:

- a. Clothing sales: Elaine Kloiber has various items of Sno-Eagles clothing for sale. Carole Linn and Elaine have worked many hours to try and get the Store on our website. This will happen in the near future.
- b. Ride with pride: Steve Linn gave the final report on the Ride with Pride raffle for 2017-18. The club thanked Dick Decker from the Derby Track and Chris Petrikas from Trakside for their donations and support of the raffle. There are four clubs, (Sno-Eagles, Three Lakes, Phelps, and Conover) that run the raffle. This year the raffle had record sales of \$21,233. This is a 39% increase over last year. The Sno-Eagles portion will be \$10,616. Steve thanked all his volunteers who helped sell and distribute raffle tickets. Trakside announce that it will donate a snowmobile/ATV again next year for the raffle.
- c. Miss Sno-Eagle: Cara Swendson gave the club a brief recap of what it has been like to be Miss Sno-Eagle to date. She has had fun and that is great.
- d. Weekday Away: Marv Radloff gave a short update on the club Weekday Away this year. The club only had 14 members take part in the ride and fun in White Pine, MI. Maybe more next time, but the members did have a great time.
- e. Communications Report: Holly gave the club a brief update on what she does for the club with daily telephone messages on trail conditions, the Dept. of Tourism updates and Chamber updates as to trail conditions throughout the year. She is finalizing the Business Support program for the year and preparing the "Thank you" newspaper ad for the donors. Holly places diamonds and chevrons into an envelope and gives to the President for his Thank you letter and mailing. Holly mentioned to all to please support the businesses that support our club.
- f. Publicity Report: Carole Linn gave the club a wrap up report of the year in Publicity. Throughout the year the club has had two articles in

the Snowmobile News, many articles almost weekly in the VCNR and that she continues to send out each Sunday a Constant Contact email which really gives each member a weekly update of events and news.

- g. Newsletter and Membership Report: Rusty made a point to ask the club to thank Ken for his work with the monthly newsletter. Ken mentioned that the April newsletter will be the last for this season. Ken said that of the \$30 for a membership, only \$20 comes to the Sno-Eagles with \$10 going to AWSC. AWSC gives the members a \$3000 AD&D insurance policy and publishes the monthly Snowmobile News. Ken also mentioned that a provision for groomer fund donations was added to the membership application about 5 years ago. Ken also told the club that a longtime member Ron Waller has recently passed and his obit is in the VCNR. His funeral is scheduled for Mar. 31.
9. Trail Boss Report: The club Trail Boss Brian S. gave an update on the groomer equipment. The BR-180 is in need of a radiator. Brian asked all the Groomer Operators present to come to the front of the room so the membership could see our operators and thank them for another wonderful year. The Board of Directors named Dan Towne as the Groomer Operator of the Year for 2017-18. The club thanked Dan.
10. Upcoming Events:  
Board of Directors Meeting Apr. 10 at Eddie B's  
SNO at Lumpy's  
Next meeting Apr. 19 at Buckshot's Bar & Grill
11. Old Business: There being no Old Business, we moved on.
12. New Business:
  - a. Rusty thanked all our many volunteers who make this club and who do all the hard work for the club
  - b. Holly T. suggested by-laws changes be made to accommodate members not present for the meeting. Fred Rockafellow stated that last month the club formed a committee to look into by-law changes. This issue is already being discussed. Judy P. asked to be added to the By-Laws committee and Pres. Rusty added her to the committee. It is assumed that the committee which is chaired by Fred will meet during the off-season to make recommendations to the board.
  - c. Volunteer of the Year Award: The Board of Directors has given the award of Volunteer of the Year for 2017-18 to Jim Joritz. Pres. Wolf made comments about all the volunteer work Jim has done on the groomer equipment and the shed.
  - d. Big Dumper Award: Each year the Big Dumper award (a large flushable plastic toilet) is presented to a member that did something odd on the Wednesday or Thursday trail ride during the year. This year Ron and Rusty announced that the Big Dumper Award will go to Jim Klug for breaking his leg while snowmobiling in a large group in January. Congratulations Jim.

13. 50/50 Drawing: Elmer Jensen won the 50/50 raffle worth \$205.

14. Adjourn: there being no further business Karen Engels made a motion to adjourn Keith Nettesheim seconded and motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted by

Howard Wolf

Pres. Sno-Eagles (Acting Secretary)