



## **SNO-EAGLES, INC. SNOWMOBILE CLUB** **Eagle River, WI**

### **NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023**

Website: [www.snoeagles.org](http://www.snoeagles.org) Also on Facebook: Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club

*SNOWMOBILE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD* °

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

Greetings from the "Snowmobile Capital of the World"

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We all have something to be thankful for. Sno-Eagles membership continues to grow and we have many active volunteers. Special thanks to our volunteers who helped with brushing, signage, fencing, and getting our equipment ready for the season. Together, we do so much more! We are also grateful to our landowners, meeting sponsors, map advertisers, community partners, and members who support the club. It's an amazing group of people who help make Eagle River a premier snowmobile destination. Thank you!

This week we had our annual Christmas Party at Eagle Waters Resort. We had the largest turn-out ever with 103 people attending. Thank you, Chris Westfall, Pam Hupf, Deb Bahr, Jenna Jane, Laura Koranda and the entire Eagle Waters staff for the delicious food and music. The venue was absolutely amazing and the Christmas spirit was enjoyed by all. We're delighted so many of you were able to attend!

Recently, the temps have been rather mild. The lakes and swamps were freezing; however, the warm weather these past few days has taken a toll on what we had.

This week, repairs on the Trail 10 washout will begin, and the trail will be ready for the season. We hope colder temps and snow will move in soon so we can begin prepping the trail base. However, it's not looking good right now. Please follow our website and Constant Contact messages for the latest updates.

Remember to get your trail passes for your sleds. Members get a discount. See our website <https://snoeagles.org/> for more information.

As we get ready to kick off the snowmobile season, we cannot stress enough to "Ride Right." We have over 200 Ride Right signs on our trail system to remind everyone to:

1. Stay on the right side of the trail
2. Ride sober
3. Ride at slower safer trail speeds
4. Stop at all stop signs
5. Stay near barrels at water crossings
6. Ride on the trail and respect landowners
7. Yield to groomers

We wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Keith Nettlesheim, President Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club  
[Keith@snoeagles.org](mailto:Keith@snoeagles.org) 715-617-2898

### **VOLUNTEER OPORTUNITIES**

Upcoming activities will be announced in our electronic News of the Week. We use an electronic sign-up service called TimeToSignUp. Just click on the link and it will take you to the sign-up form where you will see all the shifts we need help for. It also shows who has volunteered for a shift. Once you sign up, you'll receive a confirmation email. Prior to the event, you'll be notified of pertinent information. TimeToSignUp is very easy to use.

If you have never volunteered for an event, we encourage you to lend a hand. It's a fun opportunity to get involved, meet new people, and help the Sno-Eagles. If you are someone who has volunteered before, we hope you'll sign up again. We can't do it without you!

**We will need MANY VOLUNTEERS for our events.**

Thank you all in advance...

Sandy Lathrop – Volunteer Coordinator

### **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

If you're on Facebook, check out the Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club page. If you haven't looked at it lately, please do so. Dan Dumas is now in charge of this important source of club information and is doing a terrific job. Note: this is different from the page named "Sno-Eagles CLUB MEMBERS ONLY". The club Facebook page can be viewed by anyone and has attracted lots of folks looking for information about our club and its activities. Our livestream membership meetings are also posted on our Facebook page. Thanks, Dan, for your hard work and creativity.



The Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club is committed to promoting safety on the trails. Here's your chance to help make a difference and sponsor a brand-new sign that will be placed directly on the trail system this season to enhance safety and remind riders to **Ride Right!**

Not only does that mean staying to the right on the trail but riding safely and respectfully. Your sponsorship of \$15 per sign covers manufacturing, delivery, and placement of the sign on the trails.

Sponsor as many as you would like. Our goal is to cover the trail system with these new safety reminders while raising funds to support the proud groomers of the Snowmobile Capital of the World!

Visit our [Club Store](#) and sponsor some signs and join the safety campaign today!

Please Note: These signs are NOT shipped as you are sponsoring the placement of the signs on the Sno-Eagles trail system. Signs will be placed on your behalf.



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **December 28, 2023** - SNO @ Chanticleer Inn 5 pm (Thursday night)
- **January 2, 2024** - BOD meeting World Snowmobile HQ 6 pm
- **January 11-14, 2024** - 23rd Vintage Championship Races
- **January 18, 2024** - Membership Meeting Buckshot's Downtown 7 pm
- **January 18-21, 2024** - 61st World Championship Snowmobile Derby
- **January 25-28, 2024** - Women on Snow
- **January 26-28, 2024** - Weekend Away – Mercer, W
- **January 27, 2024** - SNO @ Eagle Lanes & Lounge 5 pm

### **NO-EAGLES RECEIVES TWO MAJOR GRANTS**

## **Eagle River Tourism Promotion and Development Grant committee awards \$24,000 to Sno-Eagles**

The Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club is thrilled to have been awarded \$24,000 from the Eagle River Tourism Promotion & Development Grant. The grant is to help not-for-profit organizations promote four-season tourism in this area. This award made it possible for the Sno-Eagles to purchase a new groomer drag to help ensure we have reliable, working equipment.

With updated equipment we will be able to consistently provide safe and enjoyable well-groomed trails throughout the season. Since Eagle River is "The Snowmobile Capital of the World," it is important for us to maintain excellent trails. This is also a vital part of our economy that allows local businesses to thrive during the winter months.

The Sno-Eagles would not be able to do everything we do without recent grant awards. We are very thankful for this support!



## **Sno-Eagles awarded Polaris TRAILS GRANT funding**

We are extremely pleased to be the recipient of a \$10,000 award from the Polaris TRAILS GRANTS program. This grant supports trail preservation, helps protect the environment, and promotes safe, responsible riding. We were the only club in Wisconsin to be given one of their 11 awards this fall. Our award is to help repair part of a trail that was washed out last spring, add a culvert, and install fencing and signage along this trail. This trail is an important corridor providing a connection to several other communities and trail systems. You can read more about these generous grant awards here: <https://www.polaris.com/en-us/news/community/polaris-donates-more-than-100000-to-off-road-and-snow-organizations/>

We are very grateful for this award from Polaris that allows us to re-open an essential trail this season and ensure it is ready for future generations to enjoy!

The washout work is scheduled to be started later this week just in time as it has started to snow up here 😊.

## **2024 Women on Snow**

An Eagle River tradition since 1986.

The weekend package includes condominium lodging, guided trail riding, fuel, lunch, and dinners. A Saturday night themed banquet is full of prizes and surprises.

Registration is open October 1 – December 15, 2023.

For more information – email [somenonsnowwi1@gmail.com](mailto:somenonsnowwi1@gmail.com) check out our website [www.womenonsnow.org](http://www.womenonsnow.org) or like us on Facebook.

## **SATURDAY NIGHT OUT**

We're mixing it up a bit in December with Saturday Night Out (SNO) on a THURSDAY NIGHT! This fits nicely between Christmas and New Year's Eve. We did this event in 2022 and had a great crowd of Sno-Eagles attend. Last year, the trails were open and many came by sled. Will they be open this year? It's right on the trail!



**Please join us at the Chanticleer Inn**

Thursday, December 28, 2023  
Cocktails: 5:00 pm  
Dinner 6:00 pm

RSVP to Cheryl by [email](#) or call her at 715-479-5599 by 10 AM Wednesday, December 28, 2022

## **Snowmobile Safety Instructor Training Class Scheduled**

**Become a snowmobile safety instructor!**

The WDNR is conducting a **virtual** Snowmobile Safety Instructor training on January 31, 2024 from 6-8:30 pm. This training is open to anyone interested in becoming a WDNR certified snowmobile instructor or to recertify if you're already an instructor.

RSVP is required to receive the Microsoft Teams Link on the day of the training. In addition, materials will be mailed out to attendees ahead of time.

For those wishing to become an instructor, a background check is required. In addition, the Policy and Procedure Manual open book exam must be completed prior to the class. This can be downloaded from the WDNR website

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Volunteer/InstructorPolicyProcedures>

Contact Kim Chroninger, WDNR Outdoor Skills Trainer at 608-575-3615 or via email at [kimberly.chroninger@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kimberly.chroninger@wisconsin.gov) for more information or to sign up.



## **HELMET SAFETY LIGHTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**



- With up to 200 lumens of light, the Blizzard Buster makes you more visible to other riders.
- Better visibility, even in the worst snow dust conditions day or night.
- The Blizzard Buster provides an increased level of safety for all snowmobilers, especially families and groups.
- With its unique patented design, our built in splitter connects the DC power from your snowmobile to both your heated shield and the Blizzard Buster.
- Highly efficient LEDs draw less than 0.5 watts. Does not interfere with the functionality of the heated shield.
- Each light has 12 different colors that you can choose from with a built in waterproof switch.

**Available for purchase in the Sno-Eagles website store for \$69.99**

### **MORE NEW MEMBERS**

We have more new members to our Sno-Eagles family this month. **Welcome to all of you!**

Jean & William Arndt  
Alan & Rita Celusta  
Rodney & Michaela Gygax  
Brett & Natalee Mead  
Jeff & Lori Miller  
Terry & Carrie Schalinske  
Tom & Wendy Swinsky

Eagle River  
Ephram, WI  
Eagle River  
Eagle River  
Eagle River  
Eagle River  
Manitowish Waters, WI

### **REMINDER ABOUT WISCONSIN TRAIL PASSES**

All snowmobiles operating in Wisconsin are required to display a Wisconsin Trail Pass (purchased separately from your snowmobile registration). Members of the AWSC and a local club (like Sno-Eagles) will be able to purchase these annual passes for \$10 instead of \$30 for each of their personal sleds registered in Wisconsin. We have been told that no warnings will be given this year – ALL NON-COMPLIANT RIDERS WILL BE TICKETED. The fine for riding without a trail pass is \$295. Don't take a chance by not spending the \$10 for a trail pass.

If your membership is current, you are all set to buy your discounted trail passes. Do it now – the trails will open soon! Contact the AWSC at [www.awsc.org](http://www.awsc.org) to purchase trail passes. Don't go to the DNR or a local gas station to purchase these discounted trail passes. They will only sell you the regular \$30 stickers. You must purchase the discounted passes through the AWSC.

It's not too late to purchase your stickers but DO IT NOW! You can ride with your emailed sales receipt if you don't get your stickers before the trails open.



# General Membership Meeting Minutes

## November 16 – Off the Chain

1. Open Meeting at 7:12 pm, Welcome & Announcements - President Keith Nettesheim
2. Pledge Of Allegiance
3. Welcome New Members, Introduce Officers & Directors - President Keith Nettesheim
4. Opening Comments: Virtual Broadcast Announcements - President Keith Nettesheim
  - a. 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to the Weekend Backpack Program.
  - b. Meeting sponsorship - Thank you to all of our livestream sponsors that allow members to watch from all over the country! From Eagle River: *Wild Eagle Lodge, Wild Eagle Corner Store, Sage Fine Dining, American Family Ins. Dave Mroczynski Agency, Offgridderz (Generac), World Snowmobile Headquarters and Museum*; From Three Lakes: *DuWayne Kreager Ins.*; From Antioch IL: *Body Craft Inc.*; and special thanks to Off the Chain for hosting this meeting. Please support these businesses!
5. Secretary's Report – Secretary Cindy Fruhwirth
  - a. Approve October 19, 2023 minutes  
Rusty Wolf motioned to approve, Jake Meyer seconded; Motion carried  
Additionally, we were awarded another grant - \$10,000 from Polaris' T.R.A.I.L.S Grant Program for repairs to Trail 10 that washed out last spring. We are the only WI club to receive one of their 11 grants and are very grateful to Polaris for supporting the Sno-Eagles! See details here: <https://www.polaris.com/en-us/news/community/polaris-donates-more-than-100000-to-off-road-and-snow-organizations/>. We were also awarded \$24,000 from the Eagle River Tourism Promotion and Development Grant Committee for the purchase of a new drag. We want to formally thank the Chamber and the Committee again for supporting our club! We wouldn't be able to do all that we do without these grants! We are trying to maintain 100% up time so we can groom constantly to keep the trails in the best shape possible for tourism to help the local economy!
6. Treasurer's Report – Dave Cyrtmus  
We are ahead of our Fiscal YTD basis, so are off to a good start for the season.
7. Trail Report – President Keith Nettesheim
  - a. Trail updates
  - b. Signing and Brushing – Trail Managers Mark and Lori Heeren About 70 people helped between the two Saturday brushing dates. Hand off inspection from UTV trails went well. About 80% of the signs and fences that had to be taken down are re-installed. The new 13S had old utility post stumps that have been cut down. Thanks to everyone who has helped get the trails in shape for the season!
  - c. New Drag -Director Doug Miller  
Selected an Ultimate drag that was already manufactured and was able to be delivered within about 2 weeks of learning the grant was awarded. It is complete with options that will make grooming more efficient.
  - d. Trail Counters - Director Doug Miller  
We now have 6 counters installed to help determine how much traffic we have on our trails. This will help us with future requests for grants, business owners' questions, etc.
8. Fundraising Report – Vice President Roger Rosenthal
  - a. Groom to Ride tickets – have been distributed to local establishments... see our website for locations to purchase tickets: <https://snoeagles.org/groom-to-ride-fundraiser/>. Purchase from Sno-Eagles locations to benefit our club!
9. Dual Sport Update – Vice President Roger Rosenthal  
Met with three parties that are interested in getting involved in a local UTV club. Studying and reviewing options at this point to see if this is a viable idea.
10. Junior Sno-Eagles – Director Brian Hunter
  - a. Family Ride – taking a new approach to include the whole family, not just kids. If you have ideas, contact Brian to help us move forward. Will get information about a family ride in the future.
11. Activities Report – Director Carole Linn
  - a. Saturday, November 25, Eagle Waters - Dueling Piano Comedy Show, "Howl at the Loon."

- See the *News of the Week* emails or Events on our website for details about tickets and raffles. December SNO will be on Thursday, Dec. 28 at the Chanticleer; January will be on Saturday, Jan. 27 at Eagle Lanes & Lounge.
- b. Christmas Party – December 7 at Eagle Waters - Chris Westfall and Pam Hupf are coordinating. Tickets are available on our website (homepage). Traditional buffet dinner with live music by Jenna Jane and raffle prizes for \$35 per ticket. Invite your friends and family... this is open to the public!
  - c. Weekend Away in Mercer – January 26 – 28 - Event Organizer John Favorite  
See the Events tab on our website for details. Great Northern Hotel rooms that were reserved are full. On Dec. 12 at 9:00 am, they will open up rooms that have not been reserved by other groups.
12. Membership Report – Director Carole Linn  
Have 370 members YTD with 35 new members, 18 Associate members, 35 map advertisers, and 9 complimentary/honorary. Received 97 (27%) Champion Campaign donations (with about half not asking for the gift) and 30 (8%) Groomer Replacement donations from the website.
  13. New Webmaster Christine Forer – President Keith Nettesheim  
Christine lives in Wausau, but owns rental properties and comes to ER often. [Christine@sno-eagles.org](mailto:Christine@sno-eagles.org) is her email address if you need to report something for the website to her.
  14. Social Media Update – Dan Dumas  
Have almost 15,000 followers (85 new followers in the last month). Started using Instagram this month.
    - a. Helmet Lights – LED safety lamps that plug into the helmet heater cable. They are available in the Store on our website.
  15. VCSA Update – Secretary Cindy Fruhwirth
    - Trails can open after the end of antlerless hunt on Dec. 10 and have been inspected; we do a great deal of work to prep the trails, especially in the swamp areas to be sure they are frozen enough for riding. Vilas County opens trails together after all 11 clubs vote to approve opening.
    - Legislative updates: The bill to increase the cap for reimbursing grooming and maintenance expenses is still in the state assembly but has very good support. The bill to allow signs on state property should be on the Governor's desk to be signed.
    - 21,220 Trails passes have been sold in WI so far this year.
    - Maps for all 11 clubs have been printed and most have been distributed to local establishments.
  16. Member Comments – President Keith Nettesheim  
Doug Miller reported that John Dee passed away – he produced the John Dee Report from the UP.
  17. 50/50 raffle – Kathy Rockafellow – Fred Rockafellow won and donated all for the Backpack Program.
  18. Adjourned at 8:02 pm – Bugs Mathieu motioned to adjourn, Rusty Wolf seconded.

***Submitted by Cindy Fruhwirth, Secretary***

