

OSSA  
NEWSLETTER

*JANUARY 2017*

## *Message from Vice-President*

Hello Ohio Snowmobilers. The annual OSSA Ride In is almost here. The Ride In will be held in Chautauqua Lake, New York, at the Chautauqua Suites, Meeting and Expo Center, Mayville, NY. The dates are Thursday January 26 thru Sunday January 29, 2017. The western New York area offers some of the most picturesque scenery, beautiful views and of course, over 200 miles of groomed trails that wind through the country side.

Each evening we will have dinner prepared for us in the hotel banquet room, and share stories, have a few prizes, and just plain old fashioned fun. Also each evening we will have a theme, Thursdays is, Crazy Hat night. We ask you find the most outlandish hat to wear and share in the festivities. The Craziest hat winner will receive a prize, so get the creative juices going, ( maybe check out Amazon.com) and see if you can out do your riding buddies. Friday's theme will be Sports Attire. Show your support to your favorite sports team, football, baseball, hockey, NASCAR, you get the idea. Let's be real creative and see who is the biggest and best sports fan in attendance. Again a prize will be awarded to the best attire. Saturdays theme will be Club attire, wear your club shirt, hat, sweats, you name it. A prize will go to the best club themed attendee. Each morning we will offer guides to anyone that is not familiar with the area. You're always welcome to ride on your own and explore the area. When snowmobiling in NY you must register your sled in NY and join a NY club or pay the extra \$100. I recommend joining the Chautauqua Lake club, as they maintain the trails in the area as well as grooming. If the event is cancelled, due to no snow, we will make announcements on Facebook and the OSSA web site [www.snowmobileohio.com](http://www.snowmobileohio.com). This event is family friendly and kids are encouraged to attend. Adult entertainment will be available in the lounge after dinner each night, that's where the stories are really interesting!

So get those reservations made, sleds checked over, trailers spiffed up and let's ride. Hope to see some old friends and meet plenty of new friends as well.

Gary Hines

## *Message from Safety Director*

Well, Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. I do know of some people that got a chance to go riding over the holidays, so I hope all of you had a great ride. We are getting ready for the OSSA Safety Course at Observatory Park in Montville, Ohio on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5:00. Please call or text me at 216. 870. 8891if you are coming, just so I have an idea if I have 10 kids or 100 kids. I always like to remind everyone to make sure that they have their drivers licenses and insurance cards with them at all times in case you get stopped on the trail. Also don't forget to have your proper registration and insurance papers for your truck and trailer in case you get stopped for a traffic violation.

Until next month, ride safe,

Tim Doerr

## AWARDS

Every year OSSA awards a snowmobiler and business of the year. Last year I was the lucky recipient of the snowmobiler of the year. It was a huge honor to receive such an award. Just to know that all of the hard work and many hours devoted to making the OSSA better didn't go unnoticed. As I won the award, I felt that a lot of other people deserved it as much if not more than I did. Take a look around your meetings or trail parties, I am sure that you see someone that deserves to be acknowledged. Take a few minutes, download the application, and fill it out for a deserving member of your club. This is the same for the business of the year. There are so many businesses that support snowmobiling. It doesn't have to be a dealer. Last year's winner was Mangia, Mangia, a restaurant that is very giving to the snowmobile community. The applications for these awards are found on the website: [www.snowmobileohio.com](http://www.snowmobileohio.com). Look under the "Resources" tab and click "About OSSA". The deadline for the application is Feb. 1, 2017.

Each year OSSA gives a \$500.00 scholarship to one of our members. The application can also be found along with the Snowmobiler and Business of the Year forms. It is a form to fill out and an essay to write. Not too bad for a chance at \$500.00. As the parent of 2 winners in the past, I know it's like pulling teeth to get the student to actually fill out the form, but it is worth all the threats in the end.

The last award that I will write about is the Charity Match. OSSA will match up to \$100.00 a donation that a club makes to a charity. The limit is 5 clubs. To submit for the charity match, a request letter and proof of donation should be mailed to the post office box by Feb. 1, 2017. If there are more than 5 requests, OSSA will have a random drawing and 5 winners will be chosen.

Each of these awards is just another way that OSSA gives back to the clubs. Hopefully we get a lot of participation.

Thanks,

Jennifer Hines

## *International Snowmobile Congress 2016*

Every year the OSSA tries to send a representative to the International Snowmobile Congress to represent the state of Ohio. The board that we serve on is ASCA ( The American Council of Snowmobile Associations) We have a voting seat on the board and this is where we learn about things that are going on nationally in regards to snowmobiling and what effects that it might have on us as a user group in the future. Some of the things that are discussed and voted on are issues that we face in the National forests in snow states. As we all know there are a lot of people that have some deep pockets that if it was up to them we would never be able to ride our snowmobiles on any public land that we pay taxes on. If these people win that argument that means that we would not be able to enjoy the use of the public trail systems that we all spend most of our winters riding on in Michigan, New York , Yellowstone, Canada and where ever else you may travel. I have been very fortunate that I have been able to give up some of my time travel to these congresses and learn the issues we face as a user group on the national level. The amount of money that this group needs to raise to keep fighting the legal battles that we face is astronomical so whenever you get a chance as an individual or organization to support your local clubs, state organizations please do so. We as an organization pay dues every year to support ASCA and this is why we have our fundraisers and dues so we can do our part in keeping access to snowmobiling on public lands. Some of the other issues that were discussed at this year's congress was safety. There have been some concerns in regards to the popular snow bikes that are hitting the market place and some decisions need to be made to see how to classify them, the question is are they a motorcycle or snowmobile? I'm sure that we will all read a lot more about this in the future. Another topic that was being presented to the ASCA board and is in discussion is the current hand signals that we use. There has been some concerns raised about the safety when riding your snowmobile that you take your hands off the handle bars to give a signal and that is not safe so stay tuned for some upcoming discussions on that topic. Another issue that is still going on is to have a common place for all snowmobiles no matter what state you are from to have the registration stickers in one designated location. I know since I have been involved with snowmobiling it has been an ongoing debate and hopefully one day everyone can agree where to put a sticker. Another topic of discussion is how do we get our youth involved in snowmobiling? I know from the local club meetings that I have attended if you look around the room we see very few of the younger generation involved in organized snowmobiling but when we are out ridding they are everywhere. I know that all states face this issue along with many of the local clubs in our area. I won't bore you anymore in this newsletter about the issues we have at hand on all levels of snowmobiling. If anyone would like to discuss any of the above topics or if there is anything else you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks Chip

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

### *RIDE-IN*

Jan. 26-29, 2017 at Chautauqua Suites in Chautauqua, NY. Guided rides, corn hole tournament, pizza party. Rooms starting at \$90.00 + taxes per night for 2 people. Special food prices for dinner each night, must have meal ticket for entry into banquet room. See website for more information. For reservations, call (716)269-7829 and mention OSSA.

### *WINTER FUN DAYS*

Winter Fun Days will be held on Feb. 26, 2017 from 2:00-5:00 at Jewel's Dance Hall on Route 307 in Austinburg, right on Greenway Trail. We will have door prizes, Chinese auction items, and a gift basket auction. Raffle winners will be announced. Winners for awards will be announced.

### *Safety Classes*

OSSA will host a safety classes at Observatory Park in the Geauga Park system in Montville. It will be held on Jan. 8, 2017 from 12:00-4:00.

### *Cash Raffle*

This year OSSA has decided to have a \$5000.00 grand prize on the annual raffle ticket. There are also 15 additional prizes available. The clubs will be selling the tickets for the chance to earn 20% back. Anyone needing tickets should contact: Brett 216-536-5483.

## *CLUB NEWS*

### *South County Drifters*

The club will be hosting their annual Reverse Raffle on Feb. 11 at the Community Center in Colebrook. Call John for tickets 440-645-3760. The club's next meeting will be held on Jan. 8, 2017 at noon at Colebrook Lounge in Orwell.

### *Montville Highlanders*

The club will host their annual Reverse Raffle on Jan. 14 at the Montville Community Center on Route 528. Call Chip for tickets 440-477-0054 or contact a Montville member. Thanks to members who helped with trail work. Please remember to stay on the trails and respect the land owners and their property. The Highlanders are also selling tickets for a gun raffle. Contact any member for tickets.

### *Grand River Trail Riders*

The club won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for their float in the Jefferson Christmas parade. Thanks to all who helped. The club will have a Fun Day on Saturday, Feb. 4 starting at 9:00 at the club house. They will also have a club ride on Sunday, Feb. 12. Location will be determined by weather and snow conditions. Info will be posted on Facebook and emails will be sent out.

## *GEAUGA PARK*

Geauga Parks is accepting applications for snowmobiling in Observatory Park. To obtain the application: go to [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org). Scroll down to "Bulletin Board". Click "apply to snowmobile at Observatory Park". Scroll down to: "To download the updated snowmobile permit, please click here". Download the form, print, fill out completely and sign. Return permit, either scan and email back or send by mail. Information is found at the top of application. Please read all information and instructions. There is a full listing of hours that the park is open to snowmobiling.

## *BUDGET*

When members of the OSSA board attend club meetings, the question is always asked on where the money goes that comes from dues and the raffle. OSSA has about 380 members who pay \$15.00-\$20.00 for a yearly membership. There are also about 40 commercial members who pay \$50.00 for the year. Last year OSSA made about \$2300.00 on the raffle. That may seem like a lot of money coming in, but the money going out is almost the same as what comes in. The biggest expense is the magazine (newsletter this year). The cost for that is about \$600.00 per month. OSSA awards a \$500.00 scholarship and up to \$500.00 for the charity match. OSSA belongs to Mid-West Chapter which is our district organization. The dues for that is \$50.00 per year. The next level is ACSA (American Council of Snowmobile Associations). The dues for that is \$1000.00 per year. To keep current with information, OSSA sends representatives to the International Congress every year. That cost varies on where it is held and how many are able to attend. Last year's expense was \$1837.00. OSSA obtained a grant to buy a tracked tractor and groomer to be used on the Greenway Trail a couple of years ago. Part of the agreement with Grand River Trail Riders is that OSSA will pay for the maintenance and insurance on the equipment. Grand River pays for the fuel to groom the trail. The cost of insurance is \$1300.00 for the year and the maintenance was \$125.00 last year. OSSA also bought trail signs and passed them out at club meetings. There is also costs for having taxes filed, costs for the safety classes, postage, office materials and other travel expenses. The money that is brought in barely covers the expenses, plus having some money in the bank enables OSSA to apply for more grants in the future for more equipment for the clubs.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!*

## COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

**American Powersports**  
3690 Speedway DR  
Findlay, OH 45840  
419-422-9253  
[www.americanpowersport.com](http://www.americanpowersport.com)

**Bair's Powersports**  
4617 Emmett Boyd Circle NW  
North Canton, OH 44720  
330-966-2247  
[www.bairspowersports.com](http://www.bairspowersports.com)

**Barry's Auto Repair**  
369 Footville-Richmond Rd  
Jefferson, OH 44047  
440-576-8852

**Bay Mills Resort & Casinos**  
11386 West Lakeshore Dr.  
Brimley, MI 49715  
906-248-3715  
[www.4baymills.com](http://www.4baymills.com)

**Bronzwood Golf Club/ Bar & Restaurant**  
9645 Kinsman-Pymatuning Rd.  
Kinsman, OH 44428

**Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau**  
201 North Mitchell St.  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
800-22-LAKES  
[cadillacmichigan.com](http://cadillacmichigan.com)

**Christie's Sales Inc**  
3746 Mahoning Ave  
Warren, OH 44483  
330-847-0860  
[www.christie-s-sales.com](http://www.christie-s-sales.com)

**Colebrook Lounge**  
817 State Route 322  
Orwell OH 44076  
440-422-3131

**Concord Motorsports**  
8109 Crile Rd  
Concord, OH 44077  
440-354-4140  
[www.concordmotorsportsohio.com](http://www.concordmotorsportsohio.com)

**Creekside Inn**  
1938 State Route 322  
Orwell OH 44076  
440-437-5223

**Easton Trucking**  
1349 Route 322  
Orwell, OH 44076

**Frontline Builders, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 602  
Newbury, Ohio 44065  
440-567-1185

**Grand River Manor**  
1153 Mechanicsville Rd  
Geneva, OH 44041  
440-466-9229

**Great Lakes Auto Network**  
2824 North Ridge East  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004  
440-993-2195  
[www.greatlakesautonetwork.com](http://www.greatlakesautonetwork.com)

**Gwinn Brothers Construction, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 150  
N Bloomfield, OH 44450  
440-685-4700

**Hemly Tool**  
9700 Madison Rd.  
Montville, OH 44064  
866-654-6607  
[www.hemlytool.com](http://www.hemlytool.com)

**Hide-A- Way Lakes Campground**  
2034 S.Ridge Road West  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

**JD's Pit Stop**  
2635 Route 322  
Orwell, Ohio 44076  
440-437-2028

**Jewel's Dance Hall & Saloon**  
1770 Mill St.  
Austinburg, Oh 44010  
440-275-3418

**Johnny K's Powersports**  
420 Youngstown-Warren Rd  
Niles, OH 44446  
330-544-9696  
[www.johnnykspowersports.com](http://www.johnnykspowersports.com)

**Kiene Recreation, New & Used Parts**  
4500 RD R  
Pandora, OH 45877  
[www.kienerecreation.com](http://www.kienerecreation.com)

**LBL Litho, Inc**  
365 West Prospect St.  
Painesville, OH 44077  
1-877-9-SNOMAG  
[www.lblprinting.com](http://www.lblprinting.com)

**Loudermilk Tractor & Cycle**  
7606 Center Rd.  
Ashtabula, OH 44004  
440-969-1211  
[www.loudermilks.net](http://www.loudermilks.net)

**Mangia Mangia**  
11081 Kinsman Rd.  
P.O. Box 206  
Newbury, OH 44065  
440-564-2227  
[www.mangiamangiagood.com](http://www.mangiamangiagood.com)

**McGinty's Irish Pub**  
5324 Route 45 (corner of Rt 6)  
Rome, Ohio 44085  
(440)862-2290

**MTP Trucking, LLC**  
11810 Hilldale Dr.  
Mantua, OH 44255  
216-407-7222

**North Ridge Yamaha**  
5929 North Ridge West  
Geneva, Ohio 44041  
440-466-2712  
[www.nrys.com](http://www.nrys.com)

**Olde Town Grille**  
15924 W. High St.  
Middlefield, OH 44062  
440-632-0932

**Ottoco Gaskets**  
8767 East Ave.  
Mentor, OH 44060  
440-744-4900

**Pro Polaris**  
4873 S County Rd 25-A  
Tipp City, OH 45371  
937-667-1250  
[www.polarispro.com](http://www.polarispro.com)

**Ramada Hotel & Conf Center**  
2650 South I75 B L  
P.O. Box 473  
Grayling, MI 49738  
989-348-7611

**SAK Automotive**  
7998 Mayfield Rd.  
Chesterland, OH 44026  
440-729-0999

**Shelatz Appliance Repair**  
37 Wall St  
Jefferson, OH 44047  
440-576-2543

**Sledheads of Frederic**  
6636 North Old 27  
Frederic, MI 49733  
989-344-7669  
[www.sledheadsusa.com](http://www.sledheadsusa.com)

**Sonny Lanes, Inc.**  
696 State Route 534  
Geneva, OH 44041  
440-466-4371

**Trailite Sales, Inc.**  
5240 US 20A  
Delta, OH 43515  
800-448-7922  
[www.tritontrailers.com](http://www.tritontrailers.com)

**Trail Performance**  
12085 Stafford Rd.  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

**Twin Motors**  
7540 North Ridge East  
Madison, Ohio 44057  
440-428-8946  
[www.twinmotors.net](http://www.twinmotors.net)

**United Cycle & Sled**  
6970 Callow Rd.  
Painesville, Oh 44077  
440-254-4574

**The Waters Inn**  
10565 Old 27 South  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-5636  
[www.thewatersinn.com](http://www.thewatersinn.com)