

OSSA
NEWSLETTER

February 2017



OHIO STATE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
February 2017 NEWSLETTER
P.O. BOX 1512
CONCORD, OH 44077

Message from the President

Hello Snowmobilers

Well, all I can say is what happened to the snow? As I am writing this article it is 60 degrees outside and all I can see is green grass and not even a single snow pile here in northeast Ohio! The season started promising when we got 3 feet of snow in early December and a lot of clubs were able to get out their grooming equipment and lay down some good trail bases but after a few weeks it was all gone! This weather we have been having the last few years has not been very kind to all of us who look forward to the white stuff every year. Once again we had to cancel the annual OSSA ride-in and all the planning that went into it was all for nothing again this year. At the next OSSA board meeting I am sure it will be another long discussion on the possibility of changing locations and the dates around to give us the best case of having snow but who can really tell when and where it will snow in 2018? The next event that the OSSA will be having is at Jewels Dance Hall on February 26th. This is where we will be doing our annual raffle drawing for \$5,000.00 cash along with 16 additional prizes. We also will be awarding the Snowmobiler of the year, Business of the year and our scholarship winner also. This is a great fun filled event for the whole family and a great opportunity to meet members from all the clubs. If we have snow you can also ride to the event from some of the local clubs trail systems and parking areas or if you prefer you can also drive by vehicle to the event. This is the last event that we have for the season and it's fun to spend the afternoon talking to fellow snowmobilers about the riding season that they have had or if this weather keeps up the lack of! Clubs please keep selling the raffle tickets it's a good fundraiser for the clubs since you get 20% back of your ticket sales. Well that's it for now, pray for some snow and be safe!

Chip Hofstetter

Message from Vice-President

Hello Ohio snowmobilers. In this fast paced world we live in, social media has become a way of everyday communication. In the snowmobile world, trail conditions, maps, and destinations are literally at our fingertips. If you need a part, buying or selling something snowmobile related there is a place to get people to see it.

This can be a great tool when used properly. At a recent OSSA meeting, the discussion came up concerning, how we monitor social media posts. Some clubs are now only allowing their paid members and land owners access to their club sites, others allow the general public access to their sites.

We all agreed that policing the sites and posts is very important. If someone is crying the blues because of trail closures, due to a lack of snow, the comments are normally appropriate. On the other hand, when the comments turn negative or disrespectful, they need to be deleted or banned from the site.

We are all volunteers and we do the best we can to communicate in a positive manner. Social media is here to stay. We need to use this tool to educate and inform.

A closing thought, "If you wouldn't say it to your Moms face, why post it to social media?"

Do the snow dance!!!

Gary Hines

Message from Safety Director

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year,

Well, unfortunaly this winter has been a total bust for snowmobiling so far but hopefully February and March are nice to us. We had our first snowmobile safety class at the Observatory Park in Geauga Parks in Montville on Jan. 8th and we had a great turn out with over 35 People in attendance. I would like to thank the Montville Highlanders for providing the pizza and pop for lunch for everyone. I would also like to say thank you to Mike Pasco and Mike Myers for their help in the classroom, like they say many hands make light work. I would also like to say thank you to Tim and Leah Knauser for purchasing and donating a new television with a built-in DVD player for the safety courses. I also want to remind everyone to slow down and enjoy the scenery. I urge all of us parents to remind our kids to slow down as well, I have all of the kids who are taking the safety class to write stories about riding snowmobiles and they always mention about how they like to ride very fast.

Ride Safe,
Tim Doerr

GEAUGA PARK

Geauga Parks is accepting applications for snowmobiling in Observatory Park. To obtain the application: go to 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.

Winter Fun Days

On February 26, OSSA will host a Winter Fun Days at Jewel's Saloon and Dance Hall in Austinburg. The event will start at 2:00 and run until about 5:00. The winners of the Cash Raffle will be announced at the event. All of the awards, such as Snowmobiler-of-the-Year, Business-of-the-Year, Scholarship winner, and Charity Matches will also be announced. We will also have Chinese Auction, 50/50, and a live auction with baskets that are donated by the Ohio clubs. We have had some very interesting baskets donated in the past and it's always lots of fun listening to the banter that goes with the bids.

This event was designed to have a public place to draw the raffle winners in case the Ride-In was cancelled. It is also a great local place to get together with fellow snowmobilers without having to travel for the weekend or spend a lot of money. This is always a great day and we have had a lot of positive comments. Hope to see you there!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

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 Feb. 5, 2017 at noon at Creekside Inn in Orwell.

Grand River Trail Riders

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. The annual reverse raffle will be held on Saturday, April 29 at the Jefferson Expo Center in Jefferson, Ohio. As a reminder for club members, door prizes and items for Chinese Auction are needed. This year's charity is the Austinburg Cemetary Improvement Project. Members of the club, along with Austinburg Trustees and staff, are going to install a permanent fence along the front and side of the cemetery.

Ohio State Snowmobile Association

Along with

Jewel's Dance Hall

Presents

“Winter Fun Days”

Sunday, Feb. 26 from 2:00-5:00

At

Jewel's Dance Hall on Route 307 in
Austinburg, Ohio

Door Prizes ~ Chinese Auction ~ 50/50

Annual awards to be announced at 4:00

Raffle winners drawn at 4:30

Come by car or snowmobile!

Here's your chance to meet OSSA board and
officers.

Also on hand, members from local clubs to
answer questions.

Join a club!!