

NEW YORK SNOWMOBILER

N L I N

RIDE NY TRAILS

ABOUT

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EVENTS

SAFETY





By Joshua Ponte

The Official Publication of the New York State Snowmobile Association PO Box 740 Central Square, NY 13036

www.nysnowmobiler.com

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2022-2023 NYSSA Officers and Staff

From L-Rosanne Warner (Secretary), John Occhino (Treasurer), Jennifer Senf (Executive Director), Dave VandDerline (Vice President), Ed Zalar (President)



President's Message by Ed Zalar, NYSSA President president@nysnowmobiler.com

Well, as much as I hate to say it, it looks like the snow season has ended and spring is here. Time to get the sleds ready for their long summer sleep and get the Spyder out and ready for the road. For many of us, this will be remembered as the season that wasn't, at least in our own backyards. But, for some, that was exactly where they rode this year. I know of a couple of families who simply watched the kids ride in the backyard when we got snow and then watched it disappear a day or so later. Things started off with 2 huge snowfalls in November and then again in December, giving us all hope for a great season, yet mother nature had other ideas.

Many clubs in western NY never opened their trails at all this season and some only for a few days. Even the North Country of the state had a late start to the season. I did manage to put some miles on this year. Unfortunately, two-thirds of them were out of state. I rode in the Tupper Lake area and Cranberry lake region for a couple of days. The riding there was absolutely phenomenal. I tip my hat of thanks to all the clubs in those two areas. In and around the Tupper lake area was new to me, though I have ridden further north in the Malone area. I had never stayed and played in Tupper Lake before. I stayed at a hotel named "Shaheens" which, as I understand, has recently been sold and will be under a new name soon. The new owners are currently renovating the whole Inn. The manager assured me that you will still be able to get to the website in the future using that name, even after it officially changes. He also had no idea what the new name was going to be. The trail leads right to the Inn. It was a nice place to stay with very reasonable rates.

Well, NYSSA's and SLEDNY's annual Educational Forum and annual meeting are on the horizon. Hope to see you there.

Membership and registrations were down statewide, as I am sure Jen will be addressing those numbers in her article. It certainly is difficult to get excited about our sport when you have to travel to get to snow. We all know that some folks wait until there is good snow on the ground before they join and register their sleds. I can understand that line of thinking, but the clubs depend on not only your dues money but they also depend on the money that registrations generate for the trail fund, so I would encourage everyone to join a club and register your sleds when you get your renewals. Groomer payments don't stop in the summer months or when snow fails to fall. So again, I would encourage you to join and register early.

Thanks again to all the clubs and volunteers across the state of New York that dedicate their time and resources to make our sport enjoyable during the winter months. Have a great 2023 in the warmer months and think snow.

Ride Safe and Ride Right



From the desk of the Executive Director by Jennifer Senf nyssaoffice@nysnowmobiler.com

This season may not be the worst year for registrations and membership, but it ranks close to the top. The low snow across the state takes its toll on the sport. Club memberships are down about 20% from the 2021/22 season, which impacts the clubs. The majority of your membership dues go directly to the clubs. The remaining \$6 is shared between NYSSA and SLEDNY, Inc. The five dollar NYSSA fee has been the same since 2006 and supports the corporate



infrastructure, safety initiatives, the website (nysnowmobiler.com) and membership site (www.membership.nysnowmobiler.com), professional lobbying activity, legal counsel when needed and more.

One dollar from each membership goes to SLEDNY, Inc. These funds support education initiatives such as the Educational Forum, the Safe Trails Education Program (STEP), the Take A Friend Program and more.

Club membership allows a registration discount on every sled registered. All but \$5 of registration funds go into the Trail Development and Maintenance Fund, which goes to the clubs for trail maintenance activities.

Club membership also has other benefits.

NILICO (National Income Life Insurance Company)

Some members may receive a mailing in the coming weeks with information about a free benefit from NILICO. NILICO has been a partner of the association for over 12 years. Every member, including spouse/partners or children under 18 listed on a family membership, is covered by an accidental death and dismemberment policy. It is a free policy, so keeping your membership current and without a lapse is important. If you return the benefits card, a NILICO representative will contact you to confirm your information. They will also ask to meet with you over a Zoom meeting to discuss other insurance



products. If you are interested, please say yes. Do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions regarding the program.

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Insurance

Sled Insure

Sled Insure specializes in Snowmobile Insurance and offers NYSSA members an additional 5% discount on their snowmobile insurance premium! Other discounts are also available, such as Multiple Sled Discounts and Safety Course Discounts. They can write your coverage the same day and fax or email your NYS Insurance ID Cards immediately! Call 518-725-7000 or visit us at www.SledInsure.com.

Farmer's Insurance

NYSSA members will now have access to special rates and benefits from Farmers Insurance. Farmers provides coverage throughout New York State

Call 866-586-6048 or click HERE to get your free, no-obligation quote today. Be sure to mention reference code: E9C

American Safety Institute

One of our other programs is an online defensive driver program through the American Safety Institute. The course is just \$22. You can reduce up to four points on your license and get up to a 10% reduction on your car liability and comprehensive coverage. The reduction lasts for up to three years. Click this link for more information https://ssa.asicourse.com/checkout?course=dwngb.

American Hearing Benefits

American Hearing Benefits is a convenient hearing benefits program that provides access to free hearing consultations and significant discounts on hearing aids through our nationwide network of hearing professionals. As a member of NYSSA, you and your family are entitled to the following hearing savings through American Hearing Benefits:

Free annual hearing consultations for you and your family Free one year supply of batteries
One year of free office visits
Free Deluxe Warranty Plan, including loss and damage 60-day trial period
Financing plans available

To learn more call #888-511-2534 or visit www.americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/NYSSA

For a list of all NYSSA member benefits click HERE



RIT Clean Sled Team

By Elaine Greenfield-Personal Anecdote

In Fall of 2019, I embarked on a journey to the Rochester Institute of Technology. I attended the club fair, and an array of extracurricular clubs and teams beckoned, promising a taste of adventure and the opportunity to foster deep connections with like-minded individuals. It was the RIT Clean Snowmobile Team that truly caught my eye. With a perfect blend of camaraderie, grit, and innovation, this team seemed to embody everything I was searching for in a group of peers.

As I settled into my role within the team, I was struck by a sense of belonging that surpassed my wildest expectations. Despite my status as a

first-year student, the team embraced me with open arms, entrusting me with important tasks such as helping with an engine rebuild and reworking the wiring harness. It was clear from the start that my contributions were valued, and I was eager to pour my heart and soul into this shared endeavor.

Perhaps the defining moment of my journey with the Clean Snowmobile Team came during a snowmobiling trip to the stunning wilderness of New Hampshire. Invited by an executive board member, I eagerly accepted the invitation; anticipating the rush of wind on my face as I carved through snowdrifts and reveled in the natural splendor. From that moment on, I was hooked, entranced by the freedom and exhilaration that came with snowmobiling in the great outdoors.

Now, as I look back on the countless hours of hard work and collaboration that have brought me here, I am humbled and honored to have been entrusted with the role of Team Manager. My heart swells with pride and gratitude as I reflect on the journey that has led me to this point, and I am determined to do everything in my power to ensure the continued success of this remarkable team. For me, the Clean Snowmobile Team is not just a group of individuals working towards a common goal; it is a family, bound together by a shared passion for innovation, exploration, and the beauty of the natural world.

Team Overview

Our team, composed of a group of passionate individuals, is committed to expanding our knowledge beyond the confines of the classroom. With a focus on each individual's education, we work collaboratively on team projects and in project-specific groups to achieve our shared goals.

Our team proudly participates in the SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge, an esteemed competition hosted by the Society of Automotive Engineers. This annual event, held in Eagle River, Wisconsin, provides a platform for university teams to showcase their talents in designing, building, testing, and tuning a snowmobile that can compete against other top-tier teams.

The ultimate goal of the competition is to create a snowmobile that is more environmentally friendly, efficient, and quiet, without sacrificing performance. To achieve this goal, the competition is structured around four major pillars: noise, performance, emissions, and fuel efficiency.

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Our team's projects for the 2023 competition season were based on these categories and included an exhaust rebuild, friction testing system within the track, accelerometer data acquisition system, additive manufacturing, and engine tuning. Through our diligent and collaborative efforts, we aim to push the boundaries of what is possible and leave a lasting impact in the field of snowmobile engineering.

The competition features event-based challenges including acceleration, emissions, noise, and endurance, to name a few, where our team competes head-to-head with other university teams. In addition to these challenges, we are also required to



generate a technical design paper and deliver multiple oral presentations, showcasing our comprehensive understanding of our design and testing processes.



2023 Competition Results

Our team's hard work and dedication paid off at this year's competition, where we secured a remarkable 5th place finish overall. Notably, we received first place honors in three separate categories including Design Paper, Sales Presentation, and Subjective Handling; reflecting our exceptional skills in these areas. We also placed second in both Acceleration and Design Presentation; attesting to the strength of our performance across a range of criteria.

Throughout the competition, we were able to complete

all events, which speaks to our team's perseverance and resilience. We had an absolute blast competing this year, and we are proud of our accomplishments and the strides we have made in advancing snowmobile engineering.

Moreover, the competition provided us with numerous opportunities to expand our professional and collegiate networks, allowing us to forge valuable connections with experts and peers in our field. These connections will undoubtedly serve us well as we continue to explore the cutting-edge frontiers of snowmobile engineering.

Overall, we look back on our experience with a sense of pride and accomplishment, as we have not only made significant contributions to our field, but we have also forged lifelong connections and memories that will stay with us for years to come.

The RIT Clean Snowmobile Team is looking to obtain a test engine with the goals of testing and analyzing modifications to be implemented on our competition snowmobile.

We will be utilizing an out of chassis dynamometer system, and determined starting with a running snowmobile is the best way to peruse these goals. The required engine does not need to be an exact match to our competition engine, but does need to be comparable.

The specifications that we require are as follows:

- two-stroke
- two cylinder
- semi-direct fuel injection
- electronic oil injection

Please reach out to us by sending an email to <u>cleansnow@rit.edu</u> with any leads on obtaining a snowmobile meeting these requirements.



RIT Clean Snowmobile Team with NYSSA at The Big East Show



RIT Clean Snowmobile Team

Club Corner

GPS Requirements

This excerpt is from the Parks email to sponsors on January 12, 2023

All grant funded trails with GPS data dated prior to January 1, 2020 will require GPS updates in order to remain eligible for funding for the 2023-2024 grant season. Please check your mileage tables for trails with GPS dates of 2019 or earlier and remind your trail maintenance entities that 2019 dated trails should be GPS'd this season and that data must be submitted to Parks for the upcoming June 1st deadline. There will be no extensions beyond the June 1, 2023 deadline.

April 21-23 Lake Placid

Club Volunteer Class Sessions

- Groomer Operator
- Chainsaw Certification
- First Aid, CPR and Bloodborne Pathogens
- Robert Rules of Order
- Insurance sessions
- Legislative Updates
- And more!

Don't miss the comedian on Saturday night!

Of The Year Awards will be presented at the dinner banquet.



SLEDNY 12th Annual Vintage Show Saturday, April 22, 2023



The Olympic Center Lake Placid, New York

The New York State Snowmobile Association and SLEDNY, Inc. will be holding its 12th Annual Vintage Sled show during the 2023 SLEDNY Educational Forum.

Dash Plaque Sponsored by: Voss Signs



NOTE: Due to fire codes, please be sure that all sleds have very little fuel in them. (Empty is best).

- No full tanks.
- → Please be sure to wheel all sleds across the floors at all times.

**** DO NOT DRAG OR DRIVE SLEDS ON FLOOR****

- 1 Antique 1968 and Older (Original)
- 2 Antique 1968 and Older (Restored)
- 3 Trail Sled 1969-1975 (Original)
- 4 Trail Sled 1969-1975 (Restored)
- 5 Trail Sled 1976-1985 (Original)
- 6 Trail Sled 1976-1985 (Restored)
- 7 Trail Muscle All Years (Original)
- 8 Trail Muscle All Years (Restored)
- 9 Race Sled All Years
- 10 Custom Class Any Year
- 11 Most Unique
- 11 Cutter Combo Class
- 13 Mini Sled Class
- 14 Farthest Traveled
- 15 Best of Show
- 16 People's Choice

- ✓ Sled registration is \$10.00 each sled.
- ✓ Sleds cannot be registered in multiple classes.
- ✓ Friday Sled Unload Times: 10am
- ✓ Saturday Sled Unload Times: 7am
- ✓ Saturday Registration Opens: 7:00 am
- ✓ Saturday Sled Judging will begin as soon as the sleds enter the complex and are set up.
- Awards will be announced at the Awards
 Luncheon on Saturday Lunch tickets sold separately.
- ✓ Please bring your own tables and chairs. There is a charge to rent tables and chairs from the Convention Center.
- ✓ Sleds delivered on Friday will be locked inside the convention center for the evening. Security will be onsite for the duration of the event.
- ✓ Lodging and meals are available at an additional cost.



2023 SUPER RAFFLE





Sponsored by
New York State Snowmobile Associaton
In support of N.Y.S. SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
Drawing April 29, 2023

Tickets \$5

WINNER'S CHOICE OF THREE TOP PRIZES!

2022 Polaris Switchback XC 146 ES

Courtesy of Polaris Industries & NYS Polaris Dealers 2023 MXZ600 Sport EFI

Courtesy of Ski Doo & NYS Ski Doo Dealers \$5000 CASH

Courtesy of NYSSA



Know Your Snow!

Article Submitted by Tom Pota

Sure, we all snowmobile, at least those who read snowmobile magazines about snowmobiling anyway. (And if you don't, you owe it to yourself to try it. It's very fun. Go on, try it. This article will be waiting for you when you get back.) And we snowmobile on snow (thus the name "snow"mobile. Ahhh it makes sense now, doesn't it?), but many times it isn't all just snow. There are several combinations. The snowy terrain on which you ride varies from elevation, temperature and the surrounding environment, and sometimes it's not all snow. It is important to recognize the differences and operate your snowmobile accordingly. Many of these conditions have been identified.

Snow: Just that, snow. The most common. White cold stuff.

Snirt: Snow/dirt. Very common in low snow situations and in high traffic areas where the snow has been beaten down.

Snice: Snow/ice. Snow, but with ice lurking underneath. Be careful. Traction and braking are greatly reduced, if present at all. When someone says "Oh that's nice", make sure they aren't referring to "snice", because snice certainly isn't that nice.

Snood: Snow/wood. Snow with wood mixed in usually seen while traversing logging operations.

Snebbles: Snow/pebbles. Tiny pebble snow mixture. Not very concerning for riding on it for short periods. I haven't seen fruity or cocoa snebbles yet, but please let me know if you do.

Snavel: Snow/gravel. Snow mixed with gravel. This will wear carbides, skis, sliders and reduce sled cooling if engaged for an extended time, and steering will be reduced. Think of snavel as snebble's bigger brother.

Snocks: Snow/rocks. Sounds like a cats's name, "Come here Snocks, come on Snocksie", but unfortunately, there's nothing remotely cute about snocks. Snow and rock combination trails should be avoided or at least traversed with extra caution. Steering is greatly affected, with sled damage and/or loss of control a major concern. Snocks is snavel on growth hormones, though to be clear, to my knowledge, no one has ever witnessed snavel taking any performance enhancing drugs. You should really re-evaluate your choice in riding locations if you find yourself snowmobiling on snocks.

Snoulders: Snow/boulders. Okay, the likelihood of encountering snoulders is almost zero unless you snowmobile in the opening sequence of The Raiders of the Lost Ark Movie or a Roadrunner Cartoon. Some experts say if you are riding and come upon a snoulder rolling toward you to "turn around and move away at a speed greater than that of the approaching snoulder" while others say by the time you see the snoulder it's probably too late and you should change your name to Flat Stanley.

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Snavement: Snow/pavement. (Formerly known as "snoad", snow/road, but when snowmobilers hear someone say snoad, they immediately get excited and ask where and how much?). Found where trail sections meet or travel along a plowed road. Excessive travel on snavement wears carbides, in fact, according to "Carbide Today Magazine", it accounts for 91.7% of all snowmobile carbide wear, making it the number one carbide wearing surface over past 14 consecutive years.

Snud: Snow/mud. Messy, usually the bookends to the season, found early and late. Messy. Just avoid it unless you're going for that cool "hey look at me, my sled is covered in mud" look.

So there you have it, the many different types of snow. So go forth and enjoy riding while being cognizant of what you're riding on, as it may not be all snow. But please don't let your mind wander and think of all the things that could be and thankful they are not. Such as: "Pure as the driven snirt", "Frosty The SnockMan", meteorologists calling for 6-12" of Snebbles, or schools declaring "Snud Days". (Ooops. Too late. J)

Sled manufacturers are currently testing prototype

"ROAST" (Ride Over Any Snowy Terrain) settings to improve traction and ride control for future sleds.



April 21- April 23, 2023 Lake Placid

We are excited to be back at The Lake Placid Conference Center for the 2023 Educational Forum and Annual Meeting. The Events and Promotions Committee is planning some fun entertainment, an extensive list of educational sessions and a great opportunity for snowmobilers across the state to get together at a great destination.





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ALL IN STOCK BLIZZARD TRAILERS!







For Sale

SLEDNY, Inc. is selling its 2015 Arctic Cat Pantera 7000 Limited.

The snowmobile has approximately 1,400 miles. The snowmobile is being sold as is.

The winner will have until May 30th to complete the transaction.

The minimum bid is \$4,000. All bids must be received by Friday, May 5th, 2023.

Click **HERE** to place a bid











BIG MOOSE YAMAHA

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1537 HALFMOON PKWY, RT 9 CLIFTON PARK, NY gttoyz.com

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12220 OLEAN RD CHAFFEE, NY pioneermotorsport.com

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5654 HORATIO ST UTICA, NY sportsunlimitedny.com

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2886 STATE ROUTE 8 SPECULATOR, NY villagemotorsportsny.com

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Farmers Insurance Aligns with NYSSA

NYSSA members will now have access to unique rates and benefits from Farmers Insurance. Farmers provides coverage throughout New York State as well as our members that reside throughout the country.

When a devastating earthquake hit Los Angeles a few years after the Depression began, the call from our L. A. Home Office went out immediately: "Pay them. Pay them all." And when we paid for the damage to customers' cars, Farmers became the first insurance company to offer comprehensive auto coverage.

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Be sure to mention reference code: E9C





Thank You Trail Defenders

Donations may now be tax deductible under the IRS code.



D Weaver Canastota, NY E Roser Rome, NY

There are three ways to donate to the Trail Defender Fund

- 1. Donate to Trail Defender at the time you renew your club membership online.
- 2. Mail a check (please put Trail Defender in the memo line) to

SLEDNY, PO Box 740, Central Square, NY 13036 3.Donate using PayPal Click Here



Business Spotlight



Midas Hudson



Midas Hudson is your one-stop shop for brakes, oil changes, tires and all your auto repair needs.

Midas stores are owned and operated by families in your community dedicated to providing high quality auto repair service at a fair price. And their work is backed by our famous Midas guarantee*. Whether you need an oil change or tires, factory recommended maintenance, or brake repair, your local Midas has you covered.

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If you have a question that you would like to ask NYSSA send your question to nyssaoffice@nysnowmobiler.com

Question:

When can I join my club for the 2023-24 season?

Answer:

Club membership starts each season on April 1st.
You can join your club <u>HERE</u>

Thank You to The Forest Preserve Users Inc.

From Joshua Ponte, a friend, member, volunteer, and rider.

I would like to recognize The Forest Preserve Users Inc. in Montgomery County for their outstanding effort. From the amount of work the club leaders put in, the trail work in the off season by volunteers and paid contractors, endless signs and markers, to the staff during pancake breakfasts! This club has some of the best marked trails in the area. When you are riding with your family with young kids (not everyday riders), everyone knows where the trail is and what road you're at when you come to one. I want to thank all the members, land owners, and groomers who put in the time and effort to make local riding possible.









Real Estate entals

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Oswego
140 E 13th St,
Oswego, NY 13126
1-800-474-2445
www.ihg.com



Charlie's Inn 44 Junction Road Lake Clear, NY 12945

www.newyorksnowmobiling.com



Holiday Inn Express & Suites Malone

3351 State Route 11 Malone, NY 12953 518-483-1210

www.facebook.com/malonehiexpress



The Edge Hotel
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1-866-348-4211
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Real Estate entals



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https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/615297566537981193?source_imp_ression_id=p3_1660161016_DJ94UTHBKN9kLxTb

If you have a property that you would like to advertise, please contact the NYSSA office at 1-888-624-3849 ext 104 or

nyssaoffice@nysnowmobiler.com

Business Member Listing

Dealers, Parts and Accessories

Big Moose Yamaha Inc 5511 NY-28 Eagle Bay, NY 13331 315-357-2998

www.bigmooseonline.com

Don's Polaris Inc.

278 Moose River Trail Old Forge, NY 13420 315-369-3255

www.donspolaris.com

Fun Unlimited

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fununlimited23611@gmail.com

GT Toyz Motor Sports Marine

Halfmoon Parkway U.S. 9, Clifton Park, NY 12065

www.gttoyz.com/ (518) 930-2272

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www.inglesperformance.com

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www.pioneermotorsports.com

Roberts Sports LLC

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https://www.robertssports.com/

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652 E Main St, Malone, NY 12953 518-481 9999

www.robertssportsofmalone.com/

Smith Marine

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www.smithmarineagain.com

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www.waitemotorsports.com

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www.WoodysTraction.com

Convenience Stores & Fuel

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Food Services

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Business Member Listing

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https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charlies-Inn/152428841476719

Kuyahoora Resort

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Shaheens Adirondack Inn

314 Park Street Tupper Lake, NY 12986 518-359-3384

www.shaheensadirondackinn.com

Tailwater Lodge

52 Pulaski St Altmar, NY 13302 315-298-3434 www.tailwaterlodge.com/

The Edge Hotel

3952 State Route 12 Lyons Falls, NY 13368 315-348-4211 www.theedgehotel.com

The Gansevoort Retreat

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Groomer Equipment

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Manufacturers

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BRP/Skidoo

565 Rue del la Montagne Valcourt, Canada www.ski-doo.com

Polaris

2100 Highway 55 Medina, MN 55340 www.polaris.com

Yamaha Motor Corporation

418 Stump Road Montgomeryville, PA 18936 https://yamaha-motor.com

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Insurance

Farmer's Insurance 866-586-6048

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Trailers

Fisk Distributing Inc

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3911 State Route 8 Wevertown, NY 12886 518-251-2424 www.tcmurphylumber.com

Conference Centers

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Check out their video

Top 5 Reasons You Should be Maintaining Your Snowmobiles Traction Here

In the spirit of corporate giving, BITEHARDER will contribute 10% of each sale from a NY Rider back to NYSSA. In turn, NYSSA will dedicate those funds to the Trail Defender Fund.



PO Box 740, Central Square, NY 13036 888-624-3849 / Fax 888-317-2441 E-mail: nyssaoffice@nysnowmobiler.com www.nysnowmobiler.com



As the unified voice for NY Snowmobiling, NYSSA works year-round to promote the sport and protect the trails needed for winter enjoyment. NYSSA is recognized and accepted in Albany, across the state, and nationally as the organization that represents the rights and needs of New York's snowmobilers.

Next NY Snowmobiler Publication:

May 2023

NYSSA Calendar of Events

May 6th

NYSSA Board of Directors Meeting

Theodore's-Canastota

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