



Hill & Valley Riders Inc., P.O. Box 61, Honeoye, NY 14471

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Website-- www.HillandValleyRiders.com

Facebook Page-- @HillandValleyRiders

August 2020 Newsletter

NEXT MEETINGS

8/20, 09/17, 10/15 11/19 and 12/10. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at the Honeoye Fish & Game Club @ 7:00 p.m. **Exception** is the Christmas Potluck, second Thursday of December. Potluck Dinner 6:00 p.m.; business meeting 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership renewal forms are enclosed with this newsletter. Snowmobile registration renewal and club membership renewal starts in Late August, 2020. **State funding we receive is directly influenced by timely registration renewals.** Please don't wait until the snow flies to renew your membership and register your snowmobile(s).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Deadline for Membership renewal is **December 1st, 2020** for clubs to receive funding that will apply to this snowmobile season. After December 1st the funding will go into next season.

There are several ways to join or renew your Membership to our club:

There are several ways to join or renew your membership to our club:

1. Complete the enclosed form and mail it back. Select on the form whether you want it E-Mailed or mailed to you. **(**ALL Business memberships need to be printed and mailed in. Online registration is not possible).**
2. Visit our website, click on "Membership" and then along the left hand side there will be a "Join Our Club Here" with an NYSSA logo. Click on that logo and it will take you to the NYSSA website. Click on individual or family "Join" then you will be asked to login or register, pay by credit card and print out your voucher immediately.
3. Visit our website, click on "Membership" and then download and print out the membership form on our website and mail it in (similar to #1).
4. Join at a meeting and your voucher will be E-mailed or mailed out the next day! No more blank vouchers allowed.

Sara Graham is our HVR/NYSSA Administrator. She produces any vouchers and insurance certificates for landowners on behalf of the club. Please contact her with any membership questions.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA:

For latest news, events and trail updates:

- Visit our website www.hillandvalleyriders.com
- "LIKE" our page to receive newsfeed on Facebook (@HillandValleyRiders)

FINANCIAL:

Petty cash, savings and checking are discussed at meetings. Currently we have two groomer payments; current to July 2020.

	<u>Payment/Mo.</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Pisten Bully Snow Cat	\$205.72	\$2675.74
Tucker Snow Cat	\$228.33	\$3632.12

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TBD. Stay tuned regularly to postings on our Website and Facebook. There may be some other events weather dependent.

THANK YOU:

Thank you to all the landowners on our trail system that allow us to snowmobile through your property. We are grateful for your generosity and look forward to another good year of snowmobiling for the 2020-2021 season. There are approximately 210 landowners we work with every year to obtain and secure permission for use of their property for our snowmobile trails. A club representative will be calling you for permission for the upcoming season during the months of September-November. In Livingston County, you will receive a letter and official permission document to sign-off on and mail back to us. This is required by Livingston County. Ontario County a phone call is acceptable for permission.

Unfortunately, due to snowmobile registrations being down due to poor winters and the COVID-19 Pandemic slowing the refund process down because of NYS Parks Employees on furlough and working from home we cannot afford to do the landowner appreciation voucher this year as we have done in past years. This was a program we started to say thank you to all of our landowners. Our Snowmobile Club is in a cash reserve mode so that we can avoid default on snowmobile groomer loans/insurance payments etc. Hopefully, our reimbursement/funding will come through from NYS Parks, as the funding is from Snowmobile Registration Dollars and not from any NYS Tax payer dollars. We hope NYS doesn't rob the fund due to

NYS financial budget shortfalls due to COVID-19. This has happened before, approximately 15 years ago. We believe tough times are ahead so we are taking measures to limit spending and preserving our cash.

If you are a landowner that rides snowmobiles, we offer a free club membership for allowing us to utilize a trail through your respective property. **Please, fill out the attached form, write YES you're a landowner on the trail system and mail the form to us.** By filling out the form it allows us to have the most up-to-date information for addresses and phone numbers. We ask that you do this every year, every member needs to do this to get a voucher mailed (or emailed) so that you can register your sled for \$45.00 through NYS DMV.

TRAIL WORK:

We have some trail work already happening. At Sandy Bottom a large tree fell and flattened our bridge. We are working with the Town to install a new large culvert pipe and bridge. The pandemic has slowed this process down but we are hoping to continue the project soon. Our Club purchased the concrete culvert support blocks and gravel for the foundation. Much of the Sandy Bottom trail work has been done by the Town and HVR to improve the main trail in Sandy Bottom as a multi-use trail for the community.

There is trail work needed on C-4 to move a larger bridge section into place off Cole Rd. to the Cratsley Rd. Bridge. Clint VanDewark and Rich VanAmberg need your assistance to help make this happen.

Placing a bridge on the Misty Glenn Trail is a current project that is moving forward at this time.

Inspection of all bridges is needed this year and should be done by September. We need to make sure all bridges are safe for groomer access and for snowmobilers.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I'll start out by saying we lost one of our youngest members, Robbie Unger, who was really dedicated to the sport of snowmobiling. He helped with bridges, offered use of his equipment and was learning the art of grooming. He was an EMT and was heavily involved in our community. A Final Call rang out for Robbie on July 11th 2020 in his honor.

Last year was a relatively low snow year again for our area. Riding areas to the North of us and up in the Adirondack areas had a great year for snow. It has always been challenging around our area to keep snowmobilers due to the fluctuation in temperatures and snow amounts. This past year we had warmer than usual weather in January and February. The most snow we had was during the deer hunting season in November through December, which caused a whole lot of issues for us. With that said, we still need to put forth good effort to make sure our trails are safe, has good trail marking and good trail riding etiquette as outlined in the NYSSA guidelines and NYS Park trail marking guide.

Dave Arnold, our Equipment Coordinator is coordinating all groomer repairs so anyone that is mechanically inclined and can help it would be appreciated. We can also use some additional trained groomers that are good at handling equipment, please reach out to us! You can contact Dave at his email address or phone listed on the front page of this newsletter. For the limited snow that we had, our groomers (Dave Arnold, Dave Phillips, Rich VanAmberg and Robbi Unger) did an amazing job.

I want to thank Kevin Barrett for getting the permissions for the new trail to Wayland, the Spud Lake Trail. Kevin did an outstanding job on this project and with the help of his son and Rich VanAmberg, they successfully marked the trail. Kevin is now working on the continuation of S-49 to Livonia. He will be working with Brandy VanZandt and some others in that area to get this accomplished. The trail has been GPS'd and is being coordinated with Livingston County Planning Department.

We can always use more Trail Coordinators or participants to help installing signs at the start of the season. Please come to one of our meetings and we can set you up with an area of responsibility. It isn't difficult and we can definitely use the help.

I want to finish saying that last year was a horrible start to the season, with approximately five landowner complaints about people riding their snowmobiles on their properties during hunting season. The snow did come early in November and some people took it upon themselves to ride anyway along with opening gates, taking down trail barricades and ignoring signs that stated "Deer Season, Trails Closed." As President, I worked through each landowner issue, with investigation and working with law enforcement to find the culprits. In a number of cases we found out who did the trespassing and wrongful deeds. They were NOT club members and their sleds were NOT registered. The people said they didn't know the trails were closed during deer season, even though signs are posted as such throughout the trail system. By their selfish acts, it caused landowners to be upset with us, which in turn jeopardized the closure of some of our main trails, with no other work arounds to re-route a trail. We have a great trail system, however, screw ups like riding through closed trails during deer season is a good way to have everything shutdown. Once it's gone, it's gone. Frankly, I found it very disrespectful to the landowners, to the hard working officers of our club and to the club members who work so hard to develop and maintain a beautiful trail system in our area. We, HVR certainly didn't need the hassle and unnecessary work of dealing with these issues. And the landowners that we work with that look to us for support should not have to deal with this sort of blatant disregard to private property when it was totally avoidable. Please spread the word to family, kids, and friends.

Unfortunately, there are those types of people out there, that don't register their sleds, they don't belong to a club, they generally don't care and they would/will trespass anyway, whether our club had a trail marked there or not. At least with a club representative, the landowner has someone to call if there is a problem and there is insurance on the trail that covers anyone, even a non-club member, which is a good benefit. These types of trespassers just don't care and they will ride their side by sides, 4-wheelers and dirt bikes where they want till they are caught. Our Snowmobile Club can't police it all but we are there to help where we can.

We will be placing more hunting signs around so that they can be seen in strategic areas at trail intersections and trail heads. We will be working with law enforcement this coming year to patrol trails and enforce trails closed during deer season. If you see someone disrespecting private property contact the authorities and HVR ASAP.

We had no other complaints and NO noise complaints due to modified exhaust. If you are one that modified your exhaust, then you are creating an issue for our trail system that we have all worked so hard to achieve.

There has always been a riding time curfew in the townships, particularly on and along any town roads. The curfew is expanded to trails as all the trails cross roads, run along roads and down some seasonal type roads. It is our expectation that all abide by the ruling. It's Town Law and it can be fineable if you're breaking the law. The riding times are as follows:

During the Week: Sunday through Thursday 8:00 AM till 11:00 PM.

During the Weekend: Friday and Saturday, 8:00 AM till 12:00 Midnight.

This was our pro-active approach to do something right to avoid any further consequences or issues. It is our intent to be good stewards in our community and always be thoughtful of our landowners, neighbors and friends that live near or on the trail system that we have established through their respective properties.

FUNDING AND GRANT COORDINATOR:

HVR members did a great job entering work hours into the state online database. Recording and submitting hours, location and specific work completed is key to receiving member registration money back to HVR. This process can be very simple but it has to be done in a timely fashion. You have 60 days from the time you did the work to get it into the system. This seems like a long time but it is easy to forget to log that 1 hour or that 2 hour time frame. But these 1 and 2-hour volunteer hours are huge for HVR on a low snow year. Without these logged hours, we would not be able to get our trail funds back to us. In summary, PLEASE document and log your volunteer hours for all trail work! If you are still unsure of the process feel free to contact any HVR officer or attend a meeting. Remember that even the fee you pay to register your sled is part of that; HVR can get back that money, but for that to happen, we need those volunteer hours and grooming hours logged into the state's system.

HVR is one snowmobile club that has a unique situation, as we have a large amount of youth in our area that rides snowmobiles. We also have a School that supports it, and our trail system runs right through town and across School grounds. HVR works with the School District to mark the trail accordingly and also provide trail access to the desired snowmobile parking area located by the auditorium entrance on the North East corner. Students that ride typically coordinate rides and come in together, so please be sure to talk with your kids and watch for HVR trail conditions this winter for days they can ride to school, or ride to a game or concert. Please ask your child to also talk to their teachers, as they can help students with a place to keep their helmet since they do not fit in a locker.