



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

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**Website--** [www.HillandValleyRiders.com](http://www.HillandValleyRiders.com)

**Facebook Page--** @HillandValleyRiders

## Summer 2021 Newsletter

### NEXT MEETINGS

8/19, 9/16, 10/21 11/18 and 12/9. 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, 2021. **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021** for clubs to receive funding that will apply to this snowmobile season. After December 1<sup>st</sup> the funding will go into next season.

### **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 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](http://www.hillandvalleyriders.com)
- "LIKE" our page to receive newsfeed on Facebook. Type this into the search engine in Facebook [@HillandValleyRiders](https://www.facebook.com/HillandValleyRiders) to find us!

### FINANCIAL:

Petty cash, savings and checking are discussed at meetings. All groomer balances were paid off in April; Current to July 2021

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

To Members, Volunteers, Officers, Landowners, Business Owners-- To show our appreciation, we celebrate all the landowners that allow us to operate our trail system on their property to join us for a picnic. It would be nice to meet the people that share their land with us. We will be cooking Hots and Burgers, enjoying cold beverages, playing games for fabulous prizes, and having a 50/50 raffle. Members are encouraged to come and bring a dish to pass, stories from the past, and plans for the coming season. The picnic will be held **Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> at Sandy Bottom Park, 4:00 – 7:00.** Mark your calendars now, as the date gets closer and if you want to join us, please do. Any questions or to let me know your planning to attend (RSVP not required but helpful ) call or text Dave Mac 585-880-2038 Hope to see you there!

### THANK YOU:

Thank you 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 2021-2022 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.

**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:**

Our snowmobile club completed a lot of trail work last year that really enhanced our trails and ability to accommodate our larger groomers. Here is a list of work completed last year and a big thank you to landowners allowing us to do it.

1. Removal of the old Sandy Bottom large bridge and reused and placed on the C-4 trail on the Cratsley Property off Big Tree and Cole Roads.
2. Construction of a new bridge on the Misty Glen Trail on the Chentow Property.
3. Construction of a new bridge on the Wayland Trail on the Brehm and Caskey Property.
4. Trimming out of brush on many trails in the riding area on multiple landowner's properties.
5. Piston Bully Packer work repacking bearings, installing new guide tires, fluid changes, filters and various repairs.
6. Purchase of a new groomer drag from Arrow Industries where Dave Arnold and his wife drove to New Hampshire to pick it up. This drag will be hooked to the Pisten Bully Snow Cat.

We have some trail work already underway this year with some work on the Kip Gillen Bridge on S-41A. There appears to be some work to be done on the east end of the bridge where it is sagging some. We are working with the town to install a new large culvert pipe. The pandemic had slowed this process down but we are hoping to continue the project soon and completed by this fall. Our Club purchased the concrete culvert support blocks and gravel for the foundation.

Inspection of all bridges is needed this year and should be completed by August 2021; We need to make sure all bridges are safe for groomer access and for snowmobilers.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Last year was a relatively good year for snowmobiling as it allowed for approximately 6 good weeks of riding where you could ride just about anywhere in NYS. There were rides reported leaving from our area and going all the way to Salamanca Area. Rides to Arkport and Birdsall were fairly common among members. Riding areas to the North of us and up in the Adirondack areas had a great year for snow also. Snowmobile sales hit an all time high and no new sleds could be found. Used sleds were bringing a premium price. The pandemic got people outside and doing things, which was great news for the snowmobile industry. The Snowmobile Trail Fund maintained by NYS Parks was granted to us for reimbursement which was needed badly by clubs for all the work, materials, labor and equipment put into the season.

Our Groomer Operators, Dave Arnold, Dave Phillips, Rich VanAmberg, Scott Wohlschlegel, Clint VanDewark and Corey Weston put a lot of time into keeping the trails groomed; It is the best job to date for grooming trails in our club. We continue to look for competent groomer operators; this entails having experience running equipment, minimizing operating costs by not breaking equipment and paying attention to detail when running it. Dave Arnold, our Equipment Coordinator is facilitating all groomer repairs so anyone that is mechanically inclined and can help it would be appreciated. You can contact Dave at his email address or phone listed on the first page of this newsletter.

I want to thank Kevin Barrett for coordinating the final permissions for the new trail to Livonia, S49A. Kevin Schuster, a member that lives in the area assisted as well since he knows that area well. This was a major accomplishment that opened the area up for a lot of riders from Livonia and it gave our club access to Livonia area business such as the West's Shurfine and gas station.

We can always use more Trail Coordinators or participants to help install 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 hard and we can definitely use the help. The more people helping, the easier it makes all of our jobs.

Last year there were a few landowner concerns where snowmobilers didn't follow the signs and stay on the trail. As President, when I get those types of calls I investigate quickly and ask questions to fully understand the situation. Last year some of the issues were caused by our own error of not signing trails properly. It's easy to say that people should know the trail but it is easy to get confused sometimes when you're riding an area you don't ride all that often. I found two landowner concerns where we as a club, including myself, didn't mark the trail well enough and it caused people to guess and wander off trail. Thankfully, the landowner contacted me and we addressed the issue and everyone was happy with the result. There are cases though, where stakes/signs are placed in fields or perhaps near people's lawns and snowmobilers didn't follow them when in close proximity to the landowner's house. A general rule of thumb should be that where there are houses, especially going through someone's lawn, staying on the trail is a must, keeping the noise to a minimum (loud exhaust or modified exhaust) and demonstrating respect for the landowners that give us permission to be there is a must. There are many trails that lead into towns where snowmobilers need to be attentive and understand that they have a PRIVILEGE to be there. Please follow all signs and keep noise to a minimum.

Last year we put up new signs that said DEER SEASON, TRAILS CLOSED UNTIL and then the date. We had zero complaints last year for trespassing during deer season. This year deer season may be extended to January 1st. This is a law the NYSDEC has passed in the Southern Zone. Counties may opt out of the program if they wish. At this time I don't know about Livingston or Ontario Counties. However, if it is adopted, you will not be able to ride until after the first of the year. Please coordinate with the landowner for putting up signs if you want to get them in the ground before the ground freezes. Most landowners are willing to let you in during deer season as long as you contact them and let them know.

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 the following:

**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 proactive 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. We have a great area to ride in and great landowners that work with us.

### **SCHOLARSHIP NEWS:**

Taylor VanDewark, a long-standing youth member of our club applied for and was awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship through NYSSA (New York State Snowmobile Association). Our snowmobile club sponsored him with a letter of support that highlighted the work he had done both in the club and in Boy Scouts. Congratulations Taylor!

Olivia Smith, a long-standing youth member of our club was awarded the very first HVR Scholarship Award of \$300.00. She has volunteered many hours in our club working with her step-father, Dave Arnold grooming, riding along to spot potential hazards and giving him rides to and from the groomer locations. Congratulations Olivia!

If you have a 2022 High School Senior who attends Honeoye, Naples, Wayland or Livonia School Districts get them involved with our club as a work volunteer so that they may qualify for this scholarship. We want our youth involved in our club. We are hoping to offer more in this department in the future if the interest is there.

### **FUNDING AND GRANT COORDINATOR:**

TO ALL HVR MEMBERS--The Trail Funding process is changing to an online system to track all man-hours and grooming hours. It is critical we track every hour we have and not lose sight of these man-hours. The system has been offline since May 1st and we currently do not have a time that the new system will be back online. I can not express enough that we must log and track all our hours so we can get our trail funding dollars back to HVR. I am proud to say that HVR has done an amazing job in the past and we want to continue this moving forward. Please be diligent!

Other changes in trail funding is how the clubs receive their funding. The program is moving to a single payout process vs the 70% and 30% pay out. In the future this means all funding will be received at the end of the season which will in turn mean we need to forecast expenses and prepare for unknowns. Another major change that some clubs are pushing for is a 100% reimbursement of expenses and the removal of the trail mileage rate baseline. This would remove funding based on trail miles and run it off an expense basis. HVR's stance on this is to maintain the trail mileage rate baseline and have a pre figured budget based on NYS registrations and trail miles. Our reasoning is because this gets you a number you can PLAN with. We believe fully in the ability to budget and plan expenses to make the best of our trails and grooming abilities. There is a strong push from clubs up north to get rid of this because they want to groom more but do not have the budget to do so. To break this down here is the catch, if you only have a pot of let's say \$100 and 50 clubs across NYS all are told they each get \$2, you plan on that budget. If you tell all 50 clubs the pot is \$100 and at the end of the season we will prorate it and divvy out all the funds... you have no baseline; 10 clubs could spend \$5, 10 clubs could spend \$1, and 30 could spend \$2 like they have in the past. Just with this scenario the clubs all spent \$120 but the budget did not allow for it and HVR cannot predict what our neighboring clubs are spending nor are we able to predict what Tug Hill is spending. What you are left with is a scenario where none of us will get full reimbursement of our expenses and we will be fighting each other to stay afloat financially. So it is critical for us as members to track everything. Go even further and send notes to NYSSA and Parks and Recreation and promote a program that will benefit EVERY club and the future of the sport of snowmobiling.

### **BUSINESSES ON MAP:**

The winter newsletter will contain our map. If you want to keep your spot on the map or if you would like a spot on the map contact John Morsheimer using the email and phone number listed on the first page of this newsletter! You have until 10/31/21. Make sure you check the "Business Box" on your membership form with the \$65 check.