



MOUNTAINEERS' ECHOES

Newsletter Of The Uncanoonuc Mountaineers

Al Lambert, President

February, 2005

President's Message

What a winter! It was bad enough to have to cancel the adult weekend but we then had to cancel the club ride on January 22nd as well! We were lucky enough though to throw together a club ride on January 29th leaving Goffstown High School and riding to Clough State Park. For many of us it was our first time out this season! Pretty sad isn't it? Although it was put together quickly, we had a very good turnout. I'd like to thank Daryl for doing a great job on getting the trails into shape given the conditions he's had to work with. We had a few minor mishaps (a lost idler wheel and a few times that the group got separated) but we all eventually managed to find each other, eat lunch together and returned to the High School! One thing for sure, it was a beautiful, sunny day and a pleasure to be out on the snow. The next scheduled club ride will be on February 19th following the Family Outing on Glen Lake. We may (weather permitting) try to sneak another date in there as well. This season has been so strange that we may not want to pass up any opportunity we can to get out and ride before it's all gone again for another season!

Once the Adult Weekend was cancelled, we began the task of trying to find another weekend that was available and would work for the most members. The best that we were able to come up with is the weekend of March 11-13th. We will, of course, be getting tons of snow in February and March so don't worry about whether there will be snow or not! (I hope!) If you want to sign up for this Adult Weekend, let Lee Forcier or myself know so that we can be sure to have enough rooms for everyone. The one advantage to riding in March is that it's a lot warmer than in January and the days are longer!

The February meeting is also the time for anyone wishing to have their graduating High School senior apply for the club's scholarship to request an application. To be considered for the scholarship the applicant must meet these

requirements: be a senior in an accredited high school with a graduation date of June 2005, be the son or daughter of a member in good standing of the Uncanoonuc Mountaineers of Goffstown for a minimum of three years and must be accepted to an accredited postsecondary learning institution for the 2005-2006 academic year. Anyone meeting these requirements can give me a call at 497-4023 to receive an application.

The Easter Seals Weekend was, to say the least, different! When you consider that we have attended this event with temperatures of 20+ below zero with many unable to start their vehicles or sleds due to frozen gas lines, you'd of thought that this year the event was being held in early spring and not early February! Amazingly enough, there was some limited, but good, riding to be had in the surrounding area. On Saturday a group of us headed up to Errol to get in some riding before this weird season comes to an abrupt end! Despite the mild sunny day, it was not without a mishap! But, that's a story for another time and person to tell! Actually, the weekend was full of mishaps of all types! I'm hopeful that this remains a unique an isolated year!

As for our club donation to Easter Seals, once again all who help with our many fundraisers should be very proud to know that we placed 3rd in county and 4th in State with our \$4,611.00 donation. That amount was made possible by the addition of a \$550.00 personal donation by Ron & Sherry Allie. Thank you both very much! Even though we didn't take first place, it's an amazing accomplishment for a club our size to even place in the top 10, let alone to get 4th place! We also received the Club Participation Award for having the most club members in attendance for the Ride-In. Awesome! For all who helped out again and again, the kids of Camp Sno-Mo thank you (as do I) very much! We all look forward to next year to see what we'll be able to achieve for these special kids.

The next meeting is on February 14th (And yes, I know that it's Valentines Day!) at 7:00 p.m. at the Rec Center. I hope to see you there, but will understand if attendance is low! Happy Valentines Day to the ladies and let's hope that there's more snow with those flowers and chocolates!

Your President,
Albert Lambert

B.S. from Bill

Hello all,

Date: January 8th, 2005. **Time:** Midmorning. **Weather:** Snowing (finally). The Uncanoonuc Mountaineers Safety Class could not have asked for better conditions to get the attendees in a better mood. After a so far dry year, snow was finally falling at a good clip and riders were getting excited. Unfortunately, that snowfall would not be enough to ride extensively, but the mood was set. We had 25 or 26 attendees and lots of help. Thanks to Lee F., Dick P., Bud G., Jeff F. and Al L.

Date: January 23rd, 2005. **Weather:** The Blizzard of 2005. In Manchester my unofficial weather station reported 15 inches of the fluffy white stuff. Finally, enough snow to ride. But, this is one of the few times I wish I lived in Mass. (OK, not really, but it sounds good for the article.) They got up to 38 inches and I was thinking about heading south to ride. Still we had enough by the next Saturday for the club to form in impromptu ride.

Date: January 29th, 2005. **Time:** 10am. Within 24 hours we had organized 18 sleds and 22 riders just on word of mouth. I guess a lot of us were itching to get out there. What a day to ride. We started out from the high school with the thermometer in the mid-20s, the sun shining and a lot of smiles from those of us happy to be on the sleds again. Time to ride, play and have fun.

To those last couple of points I need to first humble myself and mention my patented "Slow Motion Fall Off". When we arrived at Clough State Park we took some time to play by the dam near the Dunbarton Country Store. A little speed run for us adrenaline junkies up and back down the field. On my first trip back I was feeling good so I tried to pull a little slide stop. It worked perfectly at first. I turned the sled left and skidded to a stop, almost. At the last moment the track caught, the sled tipped and I dumped off. That is the third time in as many seasons that I have done that in front of the club. When will I ever learn?

Later in the ride we stopped to let the group join back together. Let me take a quick second to say thank you to Daryl Raskett for being a fine leader and getting us safely to and back from Dimitri's. At this stop, Dave M. pulled off the side in some soft snow. What he didn't know was that Todd* had parked right behind him. Dave jumped on the throttle as he pulled away and unknowingly blasted Todd and his sled with a nice layer of "frosting". Time passes and we get to Kimball Pond. Time for payback. But instead of just Todd getting Dave, Daryl decides to help out and the two of them roosted (for those that don't know the lingo, that's spraying them with snow)

Dave quite well. Payback is a b*&\$%!

Finally, I don't think that Cheryl's incident with the tree will ever be gone from our memories, but Glen* certainly did his best to be put in the elite class of having a run in with a non-moving bark covered object. I don't know if it is technically in Bow or Dunbarton, or even Goffstown, but as some point there is a trail junction where NH 11 and NH 6 split, out there along the power lines. At that junction is an 8-foot tree trunk stuck in the ground and supported by a pile of rocks marking which way to go. Our Mr. Which Way Do I Go? decided that he would split the difference and who cares about the fact that the signpost is in the way. I know he tried to blame Daryl and his sled but neither excuse holds water. Daryl was stopped and telling him where to go, which I am pretty sure wasn't into the sign, and his wife drives the exact same sled and she had no problem. At least resetting the signpost didn't require a college degree and we had it back up in 30 seconds.

Finally, the Ride-In is here and the bulk of New Hampshire's snowmobilers are headed to Gorham. Let's wish for more snow that we can ride and enjoy the outside activities along with those that take place indoors. Also lets hope we set a new donation record for Easter Seals!

No more BS for now,

Bill Lofgren

* I must apologize for not knowing all the new members, or for that matter all the members, period, by first and last name. Heck, I have a tough time with first names, so if you are named in this article and it wasn't you, I again apologize.

Club Member Items for Sale

02 Blizzard 12' black enclosed trailer drive in/out, "V" nose 6'6" interior height \$5,000.00. Call Lee for more info, 497-4429 or 759-5999

2 peach face love birds with cage \$75.00.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(mark your calendars!)

Feb 14th: monthly meeting

Feb 19th: Family Outing on Glen Lake then a night ride

Feb 20th: Club daytime ride

Mar 11th-13th: Adult Weekend

Mar 12th: Club daytime ride

Mar 14th: monthly meeting

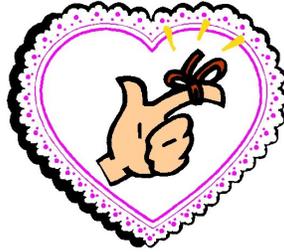
Apr 11th: monthly meeting

Apr 16th: Pot Luck Supper at Bill & Annie's house

May 14th: Banquet, final meeting, election of officers

Jul 9th: Summer Family Outing at the Lambert's

DON'T FORGET...



Next Meeting: February 14th, 2005

Echoes is the official publication of the Uncanoonuc Mountaineers of Goffstown Inc. Echoes is published monthly from September through June. Letters and articles are welcome, please submit to Eileen McGiaffini by the 25th of the prior month. (e-mail to davinmcgia@aol.com or call 487-3938.) The Uncanoonuc Mountaineers is a non-profit organization and member of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association since 1976.

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