



THE BUZZ

November 2006

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2006

7:00 pm @ the Hilltop Restaurant

THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH (Sept.-April)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This issue of the President's Message is devoted to the Groton State Forest Management Plan. If you have been reading my previous President Messages, then you will know what is at stake. If you and/or your fellow sled heads like our trail to Bennett's Mill and then "over the mountain" to Groton State Forest, then read on and do exactly as I am informing you to do. If you don't care about riding this trail and enjoy the snowmobile trail that heads to East Montpelier, crossing Route 2 twice, onto to the railroad bed to Lanesboro, and then onto Groton State Forest land, then ignore this issue of the President's Message and ignore telling all your friends about the proposed Seyon Pond Watershed Natural Area and how they need to write an actual letter to those who have the power to prevent the closing of 2500 acres of Groton State Forest land to snowmobiling. I am fed up with people thinking that "All I want to do is ride, man, other people can do that stuff...I am too busy, Dude, I can't be bothered right now, you dig". It is all fine and dandy until the 4,000 acre Sholem Land is sold to an environmental group and zap, we lost our access to Groton State Forest and have to rely on the East Montpelier trail. We would also lose our grooming contract with V.A.S.T. since we now do not have enough miles to qualify for a V.A.S.T. Grooming contract!

Prove me wrong... Tell me that you still care. I am taking my gloves off here because this issue is very real and it deserves all your attention. The future of snowmobiling as well as the future of Sno-Bees is at stake here.

We have to write actual paper letters to two individuals that I will list below. Emails can be mistaken for SPAM and can be easily overlooked. I am going to give you some bullet points to say in your letter. I cannot write the letter and just have you sign it since those in power look at all these form letters as just one vote. It has to be in your handwriting or from your own Word document. ***Print it, put a stamp on it and mail it! THE END OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS DECEMBER 8, 2006.*** Get yours done this week!

Points to Consider in Your Letter:

1. We need to show to those who have the power over this Groton State Forest Management Plan that we need to have available to us the old snowmobile trail that went from the end of the Gore Road in Plainfield to Seyon Pond in the Groton State Forest due to the potential sale of a 4,000 acre parcel of land known as the Sholem property.
2. This trail from Gore Road to Seyon Pond has to be included in the Groton State Forest Management Plan.
3. This trail is a favorite trail for you and your family and that if access to Groton State Forest is denied in the future; you will experience significant hardships in not being able to explore that area of the Forest.
4. You understand that from the Washington County side of the Forest, there is no trailhead for access to Groton State Forest. The trail that comes out of the Orange parking lot has one private landowner that can shut down all forms of recreation on the path. We recommend, therefore, that a new trailhead is developed at the end of Gore Road and a new 7 mile trail is constructed where the old snowmobile trail went from Gore Road to Seyon Pond back in the 1970's. In fact, this is the same trail that the State groomed back then for a multi - use winter recreational trail!
5. You have no interest in a "Natural Area" where horses, mountain bikes and snowmobiles are not permitted. You feel that a compromise can be worked out with those who want this Seyon Pond Natural Area. Let the trail from Gore Road to Seyon Pond be constructed and this group can have a "Natural Area" on both sides of the access trail so that you and your family can use this 7 miles access area to enjoy exploring this newly created "Natural Area" by mountain bike, horse and by snowmobile in the winter.

Compose your own letter and send them by December 8, 2006 to:

Dave Willard
Vermont Forest and Parks
1229 Portland Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-2099

Commissioner Jonathan Wood
Vermont Forest and Parks
103 S. Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-0601

Show me you care about our trails! Write your letter NOW! Show this to a snowmobile friend who is a Vermonter and have them send a letter is as well!

Trails Coordinator Lionel Cyr and Trail Master Jim Morrill want to thank all those who participated in the V.A.S.T. Volunteer Weekend on October 21, 2006. Special thanks to Bob Campo and Tina Hatch for cooking up the lunch after this event! Also, due to the strong winds that we have experienced, all trail trustees have to inspect their trails to insure that there are now trees down on the trail. Make sure that you contact your landowners before you clear these trails

Membership Chairperson, Patti Booska is still looking for all the emails from our members so that everyone in our Club can receive our newsletter by email. We can save over \$300 per month if we do not have to mail them. Please get your email to Patti at membership@snopees.com

Our ***Sno-Bees Snowmobile Swap Meet*** for ***Saturday, December 2, 2006*** at the ***Canadian Club*** on Route 14 is still on. Bring your sled and any other snowmobile accessories that you want to sell and join us! For more information, call Todd Heath at 249-1777.

Thanks!

John "Keep Seyon Open for Riding!" Plante
President

John Plante - President- 476-4785
Todd Heath- Secretary- 249-1777
Lionel Cyr-Trails Coordinator- 479-9604
Angela Leclerc – Webmaster – 476-5009
Chris Campbell– Director – 479-0486
Brent Tewksbury – Director – 476-9960
Scott Lange – Director – 476-6009
John Black – Director – 476-6236
John Berkeley – Director - 479-2729

Theresa Berkeley - Vice President- 249-2678
Ryan Bellavance- Treasurer- 476-4573
Jim Morrill- TrailMaster- 479-0474
Patty Booska- Membership- 476-9695
Mike Perrigo – Director – 476-7957
Bob Plante – Director – 479-5529
Bob Campo – Director – 479-1286
Dave Watson – Director – 479-1469
Gray Ricker – 479-0280

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.snopees.com (Memberships Available online)