

Northern Lights Snowmobile Club
February 24, 2020

Meeting was called to order by President Jay Schuette at 7:01pm. Other members present include: Linda Schuette, Jim and Joyce Nykolayko, Sue Frank, Mark Wahlberg, David Wheeler, Karl and Chris Gaffron, Rick Gensler, Scott Swendson, Steve Swendson, Kylee Swendson, Eric and Jackie Wick, John and Nancy Zabel, Faye and Joseph Maschke, Dave and Cindy Bacon, Mark Wallesverd, Bonnie Lamb, Mark and Rosie Obukowicz, Tom Nykolayko, Cindy Nelson, John and Sue Younker, Paul and Carol Steinhauer, Reg and Karen Videgar, Larry Roth, Morse Hintz, Pete and Mary Gromoll, Kim Lewis, Al and Deb Huntington, Cheyanne Warren, Clint and Diahn Zimbeck, Jessica Pollack, Jerry and Kathy Gilbertson, Ken and Carol Zator, and Blake Wanderlich.

Jay welcomed all in attendance, including new members, and thanked Bonnie Lamb and Bonnie's Lakeside for hosting the meeting.

MINUTES – Sue Frank stated that the minutes from the January meeting will be posted on the NLSC website within the week and encouraged everyone to read them and to contact her with questions and concerns.

SIGN IN - Jay asked all in attendance to please sign in, and to purchase 50/50 tickets as the proceeds offset the cost of the food served at the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Joyce Nykolayko reported on the financial statement of the Club to date. She indicated a beginning balance of \$1,234.75; total income of \$29,173.00; total expenses of \$19,213.15; with a net income of \$9,959.85 and an ending bank balance of \$11,194.60.

CLUB QUEEN – Linda Schuette reported on the details of installing a Queen for the NLSC and TL Trails. The NLSC Board approved sharing the financial commitment with TL Trails. Linda asked for someone to volunteer to assist with the role of selecting a Queen.

Cheyenne Warren, former Miss Sno Eagle shared her experiences as Miss Sno Eagle, Derby Princess, and her application for Miss Snowflake. Her experience with the selection process was a panel of 5 judges who asked questions of the candidates to draw out their personalities and interests. The Queen will be required to attend the meetings and events of TL Trails, NLSC, Derby, and any other items of importance. Diva Snow Gear has donated a snowmobile suit for the Queen. The Tiara and Sash have been chosen. Five judges will be needed with one being from the NLSC. The Queen will receive a \$500 scholarship. The ultimate age group will be a senior in high school. Interviews will take place in September-October each year.

Jessica Pollack, Derby Royalty Coordinator, spoke about the number of contestants that typically apply and stated that it all depends on the class size, year, and what other activities are taking place.

Jay encouraged volunteers to come forward to assist with the Queen selection process.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The positions of Vice President and Treasurer expire at the end of this season. Eric Wick and Joyce Nykolayko indicated that they have someone interested in these positions and are looking for any others that may be interested. Elections will be taken at the March 16, 2020 meeting. If you are interested, please see Eric or Joyce.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Linda Schuette reported on the club membership numbers and indicated that we have 445 current members. She noted that clubs with 10 or less members have to disband. She shared that being a member of a club is a wonderful experience as the people are great and snowmobiling is a great sport! She also complimented TL Trails on the fantastic condition the trails are in! With the Club's overnight ride to Mercer, she learned that the Mercer Club has just under 1,000 members.

WEINIE ROAST SUMMARY – John Zabel reported on the results of the Weinie Roast that was held on February 16. The event was very well attended and a huge success overall. John thanked everyone who helped out with the event. The main helpers were Mary and Pete Gromoll, Jay and Linda Schuette, Karl Gaffron, Dave Wheeler, Susie & Scott Kuhn, Jackie and Eric Wick, Jim Nykolayko, Karen and Reg Videgar, Ed Grulkowski, John's wife Nancy, God, and the weather. Pete Gromoll stated that a participant donated \$100 to the Club and commented that Three Lakes has the best trails in the area. John asked the Club if they could get a warmer for the hot dogs and buns. Jim stated he has a generator available to power it. Bonnie stated that she has warmers the club could borrow. The event raised \$1,145 which will go to the Three Lakes Trails.

OVERNIGHT RIDE SUMMARY – Jay reported that 45 members attended the overnight ride. He asked for input on a location to go to next year and if staying in Wisconsin is desired, or if Michigan is a desired destination. He will take a poll at the next meeting in March.

WEEKLY RIDE LEADERS – Jay shared the list of the leaders of the weekly rides. All rides leave from the Three Lakes Shell Station. The leaders are as follows:

Tuesday 9:30 am – Jerry Gilbertson

Wednesday 9:30 am – Eric Wick; Wednesday 8:30 am spirited ride – Jim Nykolayko

Thursday 9:30 am – David Wheeler

Friday 9:30 am long ride – Mark Obukowicz; Friday 10:00 am short ride – Jay Schuette

Jay mentioned that the weekly rides will continue as long as the trails continue to be in good condition. He noted that some of the trails are limited now as many of the roads are bare.

TRAIL REPORT – Scott Swendson from Three Lakes Trails reported on the Junker Sled Race. The race was very well attended and extremely busy. He apologized for running out of concessions. There were many more spectators than last year and the beautiful weather attributed to that.

Scott reminded everyone of the upcoming gun and meat raffle to be held Saturday at Bonnie's Lakeside.

He notified the club that the Kip Zent family donated funds to provide satellite GPS service phones in all of the groomers as many areas do not have cell service. Formerly, one of the groomers experienced a medical emergency while grooming and did not have cell service. It is a miracle he survived. Thank you to the Zent family for their generous donation.

Scott stated that Three Lakes Trails will continue to groom and that all trails are in excellent condition and reminded everyone to watch the Facebook Page for updates.

KAOS REPORT – Kylee Swendson updated the Club on KAOS. Kylee is active with KAOS. She attended leadership training and was part of a 150-mile snowmobile ride with KAOS. Judy Peterson gave her a plaque for support. A new youth board was elected and Kylee was elected as their Treasurer. She will be attending the International Snowmobile Congress Conference in Canada. Jay thanked Kylee for her report.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS – Jay stressed that it takes many volunteers to complete all of the tasks of running a successful snowmobile club and asked the members present to come forward to volunteer for many different events including the Christmas party, July 4th float, the overnight ride, and meeting organizer. Eric Wick volunteered to assist the current committee with the overnight ride.

ITEMS OF INTEREST – Jay noted that a new feature is beginning to appear on snowmobiles. A light is mounted under the mirror with a toggle to show green or red. The red light indicates that there are more sleds behind you, while the green light indicates that you are the last sled in the group. This feature is designed to keep two hands on the handlebars rather than signaling how many sleds are following you in your group.

GROOM TO RIDE – Jim Nykolayko reported on the ticket sales and indicated that to date over \$6,400 in tickets were sold while only \$5,000 were sold last year. Thank you to all of the volunteers and establishments with the ticket sales. A special thank you to Ken and Carol Zator for selling numerous times at Trackside. The final date and time to get your tickets is Friday at noon. Jim asked everyone to turn their tickets in to Joyce at Burkett Realty. Three Lakes will get 35% of the total ticket sales. The drawing is Saturday at noon at Trackside.

OPEN ITEMS – Jim Nykolayko gave a huge thank you to Three Lakes Trails for the outstanding condition of the trails. He noted that the Club has received numerous comments on their website regarding such.

Jim also apprised the Club of the Iron Dog Race which takes place in Alaska being 2,400 miles long. A total of 29 teams participated while only 11 teams finished. There is a tracking tool to follow it. He stated it is very fun to watch with great camaraderie.

There was some discussion regarding safety on the trails. There are too many accidents happening and many have experienced oncoming traffic at excessive speeds and venturing into the oncoming lane. Discussion about what can be done to improve safety on the trails.

Jay thanked everyone who helped make this a great year!

Jay noted that the next meeting is scheduled for March 16 at 7:00 pm at Pike's Pine Isle.

The 50/50 drawing was held and Morse Hintz had the \$100 winning ticket. Congratulations to Morse.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Frank
Club Co-Secretary