

# THE KNOX KNEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS  
LETTER OF THE KNOX  
TRAIL SNO-RIDERS  
SNOWMOBILE CLUB  
PO BOX 363, EAST OTIS,  
MA 01029  
WWW.KNOXTRAIL.COM  
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413-269-0243



## OTIS... THE SNOWMOBILE CAPITAL OF MASSACHUSETTS?

Are you kidding? Not! In a recent BBC web article entitled "What can data.gov.uk do for me", writer Michael Blastland discusses 'visualization sites'. These tools cull the torrents of public data on the net and present it in meaningful ways. He discusses the Google Public Data Project and a site called "Many Eyes". Here is what he had to say about one of the examples he chose:

"How about the top 50 communities in Massachusetts, by snowmobile registrations? As I write, I'm checking Many Eyes, a visualisation site where people take any piece of this torrent of data that interests them - or any piece of data from anywhere they choose - graph it this way and that, and post it for anyone to see. Some are better than others. Snowmobiles in Massachusetts is in one of the latest.



The snowmobile capital, if you really want to know, is the town of Otis, population 1,396, with 200, apparently. About one snowmobile for every seven people."

When I saw this, I nearly fell off my Ski-Boose! After a little research, I found Savoy with 1 sled per 7.5 people, and coming in third, Windsor, with almost 9. Lanesborough has the most snowmobiles registered at 282, but it works out to only 1 sled per 10 people.

Do you think the presence of the recreational jewel Otis Reservoir and the great Knox Trail Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club has anything to do with this? I believe it does! JR

I want to thank our VP Greg Stevens for his support and unending energy, Corey Tribula for the hours of membership work, and Ross Helberg for dedicated hours of off and on season trail work and handling the paperwork for the club's SAM Grooming contract.

Don't forget to join us for the vintage ride Sunday, Feb. 7th.. Visit our web site at

The annual Poker Run and Picnic was held on the Rez on Sunday, January 24. The rain held off until the last minute. Trails were in great shape after many hours of grooming. Within 24 hours, most of the snow was gone.

## ANNUAL POKER RUN AND PICNIC

The annual Poker Run and Picnic took place on Sunday, January 24th. Riders began registering at 11am. By the close of registration, 100 entries were made.

The course led riders to 4 checkpoints where tokens were picked up. A bonus checkpoint got an extra card. The winning hand was 4 eights.



New Boston Crane was on hand to demonstrate their newest sleds

KTSR volunteers served up lots of burgers and dogs. The Bombi and Thiokol groomers were on display as well

as demo sleds. Thank you to all who played and donated.

Unfortunately, as the run was wrapping up, the rain started and the next day warm temps and lots of rain shut down all of the trails. Four inches of new snow fell during this writing, but a lot more is needed. We still have Feb. and March!

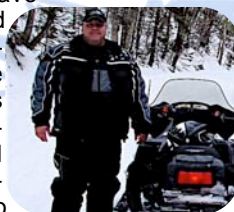
## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

Well, we had a great start of the snowmobiling season with mother nature holding on to what little snow we had until Jan. 24. Right at the end of our successful poker run and picnic, the water pipe was opened full blast, taking away what snow there was that had made fair to good riding. I want to say thank you to those who participated and helped organize this event. EPO's were on hand at the event, paid by SAM grant funds, to ensure your safety and enjoyment.

As I write this letter the snow has begun to fall and let's hope it keeps up until our trails are back in shape to ride and groom.

Our meetings have been well attended and have had fantastic breakfasts. The Ten/Ten raffle has started with two winners on Jan. 27. SAM Trail passes are selling strong thanks to our vendors and the on-line registration process through pay pal.





[www.Knoxtrail.com](http://www.Knoxtrail.com) for further updates. The vintage ride has no "poor condition" date.

Have safe and fun winter season wherever you may ride.

Remember, without club volunteers and land owners, there is no club or trail connecting system.

See you on the trails

Jeff Gamelli  
president, KTSR



SAM Legislative Chairman and Safety Instructor Randy Toth was a guest at the Poker Run Picnic

### FROM THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Stevens is your new Vice President. Here is his report...

Hello all:

I just wanted to personally thank all of you for your help and support in preparing for a very successful Poker Run/ Cookout on the reservoir. We had 100 participants. Many hours were spent out grooming, the groomers were moved to the event location, and members offered the use of tables and cooking supplies. Members also volunteered their time to set up and break down the site, cook, and man the tables. The food was great!!

We all have very busy lives outside of the club, but when help is asked for, everyone steps up and we get things done!!! There is



The Bombi and Thiokol Groomers were on display at the Poker Run

no doubt there are no I's or Me's in this club. Weather permitting I'm looking forward to our next event, The Vintage ride Feb 7th. . Members have already volunteered to prepare approximately eight different meals. It should be another great event

to promote our club. We have worked hard so rest up, and thanks again!

Greg Stevens,  
VP KTSR

### THE KTSR SCHEDULE

MEETINGS: February 14, February 28, March 14, March 28, April 11 NEW FACES NEEDED! Breakfast at 8, meeting at 9. Tannery Road clubhouse. Map POI 1, Just north of the Farmington River School, Otis.

February 7, 2010: VINTAGE RIDE. Park and register at P3. Additional parking will be available.

TRAIL WORK: Parties meet at the Groomer Garage across from the Knoxtrail Inn. Sunday @9am or after regular meetings. Call Jeff Gamelli at 413-427-8609

### SNO PHONE, TWITTER, WEBSITE AND SAM FORUM

The SNO PHONE is where you can get the latest trail reports and event announcements. Leave a message for the club here. 413.269.0243.

You can now follow the club on Twitter @Knoxtrail.

Knoxtrail.com now has a direct link to the SAM forum.

### YOUR TREASURER'S RANT

In my last rant I griped about the poorly executed snowmobile registration system in Massachusetts. I made the error in saying that state sled registrations were available by visiting Pittsfield. This is incorrect. The only walk-in registration office is in Springfield. This further exemplifies my rant!

Back at reality, I have been very, very busy with club stuff. This newsletter, the map, the Sno-Phone, and bean counting take up lots of time. The mapping department includes sign-age. All of the reflective arrows, slow, caution, and stop



A trail mark trouble spot gets new signs to guide the riders. The confusion at Greenwater Pond is no longer!

needed. I discovered a very durable material that makes weatherproof self sticking signs in a laser printer. Over a year of testing proved they are quite durable. Since they are so much easier to make than the original laminated intersection signs, and stick better too, I designed a system of trail numbering. These round blue KTSR shields are popping up all over the trail system.



You will find the "SAM 95" corridor signs too. Signs are being added to indicate by-pass trails, private and closed trails, and points of interest. Here and there are signs pointing

the way to the gas stations and restaurants in East Otis.

Quite a few signs are up east of the river. When the riding improves, more and more will be set



up. I am very familiar with our trails. It's my goal to make everyone else familiar with them too!

Anyway, a rant is not a rant without a gripe. My latest belt burner is about the morons who disregard the fencing and postings that are supposed to keep sleds out of areas our landowners don't want them in. This behavior WILL cause trails to be lost. A rider at Greenwater Pond blatantly disregarded the fencing at the east end of the lake near trail 4/95. Last year the same thing happened and the club had to repair a dock and canoe. If this land owner shuts us off, we will lose the only trail to October Mountain.

Jim Richard,  
treasurer KTSR

**THINK SNOW**

riders were not sure which trail to take at the intersections. A trail numbering system was





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## Knox Trail Sno-Riders

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Don't sit inside this winter. Get out and join the fun!



Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc. is a snowmobile club located in Otis, MA. Its purpose is to promote the sport of snowmobiling and maintain a network of groomed trails. Formed in 1971, the club begins its 39th. season and 40th. year of providing a great riding experience in the Southern Berkshires. The club is an affiliate member of The Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, an association of 36 clubs, helping to make Massachusetts a destination of choice for snowmobiling individuals and families.

PRESIDENT: Jeff Gamelli VICE PRESIDENT: Greg Stevens TREASURER: James Richard 413-269-7318 SECRETARY: Corey Tribula

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