

Letter from the President

November 4, 2022

Hi Folks,

Here it is the first of November already! Hopefully everyone had a great summer and now that the snow has come, you are ready for another season of fun winter activities.

I figured now might be a good time to fill everyone in on what the board has been doing over the summer months. We held two board meetings on August 3rd and October 20th. The main topics of discussion during both meetings were fund raising for a new snow cat and grooming this season.

Grant Funding

Shout out of appreciation to Pete Probasco for spending a lot of volunteer hours researching and writing several grants on our behalf. Because of Pete's efforts, the club has been awarded several grants to assist with the purchase of a snow cat, as well as a trail grooming grant for \$11,000 from the Borough. SnoTRAC grants for grooming have not yet been awarded, but we hope to hear soon how much the club will receive this year.

New Groomer

To date we have raised \$61,398 for the new groomer and \$17,000 of that has come directly from your donations. Thank you for all of your generous support! We have also received grant funding from the Mat-Su trails and Parks Foundation, Ski-Doo Snow PASS program, and the Rasmussen Foundation. Also, we are waiting on a decision from the Mat-Su Health Foundation board for grant funding later this month. In the meantime we are continuing fund raising efforts and searching for a Piston Bully that will fit our needs.

Raffle & Silent Auction

As you probably have heard, the club is holding a raffle again this year to raise money for the new groomer. Last year's raffle was a big success and raised \$15,000! We expect the same this year if all the tickets are sold. This is where we need YOUR continued help! We still have a limited amount of tickets left to sell before the drawing on November 19. If you haven't purchased your raffle ticket yet, NOW is the time! Or, if you know you can sell some tickets, we could sure use the help.

Tickets are \$100 each, with only 325 tickets being sold and there are 19 different cash prizes ranging from \$150-\$10,000. The odds of winning are pretty great, but you can't win if you don't buy a ticket or two! As an added bonus, your ticket stub gets you access to the live drawing at the Palmer Moose Lodge #793 on November 19 where we will serve snacks and beverages.

We are also going to have a silent auction that evening and need donated auction items to make it a success. Bake goods would be great, along with any other items you may think of (baskets, gift certificates, etc.). Contact me if you would like to drop anything off early and I'll make it happen.

Don't miss out on a night of fun or the chance to win big while helping contribute towards our new groomer! Give club volunteer and raffle coordinator extraordinaire Eileen Probasco a call at (907) 354-3149 or club president Harry Holt at (907) 232-9080 to get your tickets today before we sell out!

Work Party

On **Saturday, December 10**, we are planning the first work party of the season to mark the Lake Trail around Lake Louise and Lake Susitna. As long as the temperatures don't drop to -20 F degrees, we will **meet at the Lake Louise Lodge at 9:00 am** to coordinate our efforts. All you need to bring is yourself (dressed appropriately for a day on the trail), your ride, and whatever munchies you like. Last year we had enough folks show up to get the entire trail done in one day, and our goal is to do the same this year. The plan is to get it all marked on Saturday and finish up on Sunday if need be. The club has all the tools and markers needed to do the job and will fill your gas tank as well. Please RSVP to me so I have an idea of how many to expect. You can call or text me at (907) 232-9080, or send an email to hholt@mtaonline.net.

Grooming

If you are wondering when grooming will begin, the plan is to start with the Crosswind and Tolsona trails the first week of January. The Copper Basin 300 dog sled race starts January 14, 2023, and will be coming to Lake Louise that weekend using these trails. We'll then continue grooming the other trails as quickly as we can. With only one groomer and a few volunteer operators, it will be a bit of a challenge once again to keep up this season. Be assured we will do the best we can to get the trails in shape as quickly and safely as possible.

During the coming months, please bring to our attention any concerns you have with trail conditions or hazards. We are always looking for help and constructive suggestions to make our trails safer and more enjoyable.

Safety First!

I have one last reminder. When was the last time you really "unloaded" or "dumped out" your emergency gear bag? Have you checked it for outdated items, refreshed your hand warmers, batteries, fire starter, signaling items, etc.? Now would be the time to do just that and possibly save you a lot of discomfort when such items are needed.

Looking forward to a great new season!

Thank you,

Harry Holt, President