

# Letter from the President

## December 2, 2021

First off, congratulations to Keith Anderson, the big \$10,000 winner of our “Operation Wolf Tracks” raffle and all the other prize winners! The raffle was a great success thanks to everyone who purchased and helped sell tickets. We also must recognize that it never would have happened without the Herculean efforts of Eileen Probasco and the extreme generosity of the Palmer Moose Lodge. The raffle got us \$16,000 closer to our goal, and I can't say enough THANK YOU'S to everyone involved.

The raffle was just the beginning of raising the funds we need to purchase another snocat. We are working on submitting a couple different grant applications to purchase a new groomer, but there is no guarantee we will be awarded a grant. There is a lot of competition for grant funds, and nearly all that we can apply for require some level of matching funds. This is why I am encouraging all members to continue soliciting private and corporate donations for “Operation Wolf Tracks”, and to participate in scheduled club activities where we can record volunteer hours to be used to meet grant matching fund requirements.

One other way you can help is to consider using **Amazon Smile** when shopping Amazon and select Lake Louise Snowmachine Club, Inc. as your charity of choice. It costs nothing to sign up and with every purchase you make, Amazon will donate a percentage to the Club. Check it out on Amazon and consider signing up today!

On **Saturday, December 11**, 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) and whatever munchies you like. Last year we had enough folks show up to get the entire trail done in one day. The goal 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. As an added bonus, a generous customer of the Lake Louise Lodge has offered to buy lunch and two drinks for all volunteers. Let me know if you can help out, or have any questions. I can be reached at (907) 232-9080.

If you are wondering when grooming will begin, our plan is to start with the Crosswind and Tolsona trails, the first week of January. The Copper Basin 300 dog sled race starts January 8, 2022, and will be coming to Lake Louise that weekend. We will then continue to the other trails quickly as we can. We have received grooming operations grants from both Alaska Department of Natural Resources, State Parks and the Mat-Su Borough, but with only one groomer, it will be a bit of a challenge to keep up this season. Be assured we will do the best we can to get the trails in shape. During the coming months, please be sure to bring to our attention any concerns you have with conditions or hazards.

Looking forward to a great new season and wish everyone Happy Holidays!

Thank you,

Harry Holt, President