



Berkshire Snow Seekers Online



March 2024 Edition

Address: P.O. Box 1102, Pittsfield, MA 01202

Website: <http://www.berkshiresnowseekers.com>

Where Did Winter Go?

Club News

By Bob DiOrio
BSS News Editor

BSS in the Rear View Mirror

What it means to be a snow seeker.

As I reflect on the end of another snowmobile season the true meaning of being a snow seeker comes to mind. Having snow seeker as part of the club name is the essence of what our winter duties have become. The past winter can be summed up as the winter that never was. However a true snow seeker does not let that stop them from snowmobiling. Gary Bushey had two successful trips to Canada. President Chris Rogers found snow in Pittsburg New Hampshire. I wintered in Van Buren Maine and I know others traveled to Vermont and New York. The name Berkshire Snow Seekers is synonymous with traveling to the snow and I personally think it is the most fitting club name out there.

Takeaways

- Very little groomer maintenance will be needed for next season
- If you did any snowmobiling this year, your truck miles you put on are no doubt close to the sled miles
- For most of you your sled maintenance costs are down
- All the fall trail maintenance will hold up until next season – wrong
- For two stroke sled owners you will not have to replenish your very expensive oil
- You get to spend another season looking at your sleds in the trailer hopping next winter will be better
- Those that did ride this year there was not enough snow to make moguls
- I have been snowmobiling for 53 years and this is the first time I did not ride anywhere in Massachusetts – insert sad emoji here



THE SNOW NEWS REPORT

(SNOW NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!)

A UNITED SNOWMOBILE ALLIANCE PUBLICATION

US Fish and Wildlife May List Wolverine as Threatened Species

ACTION ALERT: US Fish and Wildlife Service concludes motorized recreation is primary threat to species despite conclusions which contradict research.

Research Unable to Establish Relationship Between Wolverine and Motorized Recreation

The decades long saga around management of wolverines has reached another critical point with the proposed listing of the wolverine as a threatened species. Motorized recreation has again been identified as a primary threat to the species, despite previous listings recognizing the minimal risk to the species from recreation.

Decades of targeted research has failed to establish any relationship between dispersed recreation and wolverine populations.

Please Send Comments

Your help is needed to ensure this threat to our sport does not become reality. Please go to <https://unitedsnowmobilealliance.com/us-fish-and-wildlife-may-list-wolverine-as-threatened-species/> for information and ideas for writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Please make your voice heard, in your own words. Your active support can make the difference in this decision mak-

Volunteerism

.....is such a simple concept. Doing something to help others at no cost. People should be lining up to help with the things they love to do to perpetuate their passion. Right? WRONG!

I sit here looking out my window staring at the lack of snow, I think how many times we have been out on the trails clearing them from blowdowns, floods and trail reroutes. The hours we spend getting them ready for "The Dump" of snow and it really hasn't come. Many people just go north and chase the snow. Chasing snow is great but it also stinks at the same time. Once we get into the cycle of traveling, we become accustomed to just going to an area, riding, and going home. Since most are not from the area traveled to ride in, they simply pack up and leave. They forget that someone still must maintain the trails snow or no snow. So who takes care of the trails, mostly the locals. I have talked to clubs that have thousands of members and I ask, "how many members do all the work?" The answer is always the same, "10-15 people" do all the work for everyone else to enjoy our great sport. We all say that we need more volunteers, but if we all travel to ride, our local clubs will dwindle and die. Doing work for the local club now suffers as many of its members have gone riding in other areas. Now, I can't blame them, but soon the local trail systems will become a thing of the past. And as snow totals slowly dwindle, even way up north, the club volunteers will dwindle as well.

So, what do we do? The answer is not simple, but we all do this for one reason, to ride. But riding comes at a cost, if your state has trails, we need volunteers to maintain the infrastructure. We can't just travel to a location, ride, and go home. We need to help those that make our sport possible. We need to support the local riders who, wherever they are, maintain these for us all to enjoy. We all need to understand that the group of volunteers is getting smaller, because of age, expense, or a shortened season. It is just a fact that we need to address. So, I urge you to talk to your membership and tell them the importance of the locals. For while we all are traveling, they continue to make sure the trails everywhere are ready for when you get there.

Jeff Miller, Chairman, USA

What are Your Views on the Future of Organized Snowmobiling?

As a representative organization, we would like your opinions on where we should exert our efforts in the future. Snowmobiling is changing and we understand that this brings new challenges to every level of the sport. Please share your thoughts with us by taking our national priorities survey located here: <https://unitedsnowmobilealliance.com/national-snowmobile-priority-survey/>

2023-2024 CLUB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Mar. 5 & 19** **Club Meeting:**
Polish Falcons Club 32 Bel Air Ave, in Pittsfield, MA. @ 7:00 PM.

- March 5** **NOMINATIONS MEETING FOR OFFICERS & BOD & Club Meeting:** Polish Falcons Club 32 Bel Air Ave, In Pittsfield, MA. @ 7:00 PM

- March 19** **ELECTIONS FOR OFFICERS & BOD at Club Annual Meeting:** Polish Falcons Club 32 Bel Air Ave, In Pittsfield, MA. @ 7:00 PM

- Apr. 7** **Polenta Dinner II :** To benefit the Berkshire Snow Seekers, Social Hour 5:00 PM, Dinner served @ 6 PM at the Polish Falcons Club 32 Bel Air Ave, in Pittsfield, MA. The contact for this event is **Gary Bushey** 413-446-0864.

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Meetings

All members please note regular club meeting is 7:00 PM on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from September thru mid-April at the Polish Falcons Club located at 32 Bel Air Ave, in Pittsfield, MA.

Facebook

The Berkshire Snow Seekers have been on Facebook for more than five years now! Just "like" us and you can post on our page. We will make every attempt to keep you up to date on the latest rides, events and snow conditions. Check out the latest pictures and videos and join in the fun.

Trail Coordinators

Cheshire Area – Andy Perenick @ 413-822-6374

Windsor Area – Don Allard @ 413-684-3773

West Pittsfield Area - Christian Halley @ 413- 822-1735

South - Dick DiOrio @ 413-449-6471



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