



Trail Notes

Publication of the Mexico Trail Riders, Inc.

November 2005

General... Next Meeting is Nov. 9th at Drive Way Inn St .Rt. 3 in Palermo, 7:30pm, See You There!

Presidents Corner... The Mexico Trail Riders has reached a crossroads in its history; the core group that has carried it for the last 6 years is becoming tried and is beginning to dwindle, in simple terms they and we need help. By this we mean we need people to step up and take over sections of trails, they don't need to be large sections, maybe just a mile or so. By this we mean doing the entire section of trail, from asking for permission yearly, to building trail, tearing it down, trimming, brush clearing, marking, improvements and so on. Yes it might seem like a lot but imagine doing it for over 30 miles, really after you start becoming involved and do it for a while it will become second nature and frankly to most of us very rewarding. Many of the people you meet and become involved with are some of the nicest people you will ever meet, from fellow club members to landowners. Many new members might see some of the tight friendships that exist and become intimidated, they need to understand that many of the friendships that exist do so ONLY because of the snowmobile club, most of the friends I have within the club are those developed after becoming a member, from working on trails together to riding together. You also need to remember you will be networking with people that already share your interest, snowmobiling. We have been dependent on a too few for too long to get this done year after year and those that did want help. It isn't that all of the old guard wants out of the club, they just want to be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor, not spend every minute working on trails, and after all as the old adage goes "Many hands make light work". Please if you ever had any interest in getting involved now is the time. If we do not get help soon parts of the trail will close next season, or worse the club will dissolve. This is not an idle threat, it is simply reality.

The facts on the SRRA (Snowmobile Rights and Responsibility Act) Bill, now the law of the land. There are as many questions as answers around many of these issues, for instance the speed limit; the NYSSA states it is not in effect on frozen bodies of water yet those of us who are safety instructors received instructions stating it is. More to follow as it becomes clearer. I have included the law as it is currently written. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact me at president@mexicotrailriders.com.

Operator's responsibilities – Effective 180 Days after signing, I believe March 1st, 2006

Duties of snowmobile owners and operators: It is recognized that snowmobiling is a voluntary activity that may be hazardous. It shall be the duty of snowmobile owners and operators:

- (a) To keep their snowmobiles in proper working order.
- (b) To follow any and all other rules of conduct as are prescribed pursuant to section 25.03 of this article.
- (c) Not to operate a snowmobile in any area not designated for snowmobiling.
- (d) Not to operate a snowmobile in a manner beyond their limits or ability and speed to overcome variations in trail conditions and configuration and surface or subsurface conditions which may be caused or altered by weather, slope or trail maintenance work or snowmobile use.
- (e) To familiarize themselves with signage and trail markers before operating.
- (f) Not to snowmobile on a trail or portion thereof that has been designated as "closed".
- (g) Not leave the scene of any accident resulting in personal injury to another party until such time as assistance arrives, except for the purpose of summoning aid.
- (h) Not to willfully stop on any trail where such stopping is likely to impede the use of that trail by others.

- (i) Not to willfully remove, deface, alter or otherwise damage signage, warning devices or implements, or other safety devices.

Club's responsibilities/recommendations – Effective 180 Days after signing, I believe March 1st, 2006

Snowmobile trail maintenance entities. Snowmobile trail maintenance entities play an important role in the trail system. As general guidelines, to further promote the proper and safe operation of snowmobiles and the other purposes as set forth in section 21.01 of this article, snowmobile trail maintenance entities should strive to:

1. Clearly mark and delineate state designated snowmobile trails for which they are responsible;
2. Encourage riders to participate in available snowmobile educational programs to make riders aware of the inherent risks associated with the sport;
3. Equip trail maintenance vehicles that they operate with such warning implements or devices as specified by law;
4. Hold training sessions each season, for operators of trail maintenance equipment concerning the proper operation of such vehicles;
5. Provide education for all other personnel charged with trail maintenance, inspection or patrol duties as to methods to be used for summoning aid in emergencies; and
6. Maintain for public use trail area information showing the following:
 - (a) The location of state designated trails; and
 - (b) The status of each trail as open or closed. Nothing in this section shall create a legal duty or obligation beyond that which may already exist.

Operator Age

Operation by youthful operators – Effective 180 Days after signing, I believe March 1st, 2006

1. Age of operation. No person under eighteen years of age shall operate a snowmobile except as provided for in this subdivision.
 - (a) No person under the age of fourteen years shall operate a snowmobile except upon land owned or leased by his or her parent or guardian. Leased lands as used in this section shall not include lands leased by an organization of which said operator or his or her parent or guardian is a member.
 - (b) A person ten years of age or older but less than fourteen years of age who holds a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the commissioner may operate a snowmobile on any lands upon which snowmobiling is allowed if accompanied by a person over eighteen years of age. For the purpose of this section, "accompanied" shall mean within five hundred feet of the person over eighteen years of age.
 - (c) A person fourteen years of age or older but less than eighteen years of age, who either holds a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the commissioner or is accompanied by a person over eighteen years of age, may operate a snowmobile in the same manner as a person over eighteen years of age.
2. Exhibition of certificate. The failure of a person specified in subdivision one of this section to hold a snowmobile safety certificate issued by the commissioner to exhibit such upon demand to any magistrate, peace officer, acting pursuant to his or her special duties, police officer, or other person having authority to enforce the provisions of this article, shall not be an offense, but shall be presumptive evidence that such person is not the holder of such certificate.
3. Authorization. No owner of a snowmobile shall authorize or permit the operation of his or her snowmobile within the state by any person in violation of the provisions of this section.

Club Fee's - shall take effect April 30, 2006

Fee for snowmobile trail development and maintenance

1. A fee of ninety dollars is hereby imposed upon the resident, and ninety dollars upon the nonresident, owner of a snowmobile for the snowmobile trail development and maintenance fund to be paid to the

commissioner of motor vehicles upon the registration thereof in addition to the registration fee required by the vehicle and traffic law, the payment of which fee hereby imposed shall be a condition precedent to such individual resident, individual nonresident or dealer registration.

2. Notwithstanding the fee as established in subdivision one of this section, an individual resident or nonresident registering a snowmobile who provides proof at the time of registration, that such individual is a member of an organized New York state snowmobile club that is a member of the New York state snowmobile association or is a member of an organized New York state snowmobile club that is a trail maintenance entity and a member of the New York state snowmobile association, shall pay thirty-five dollars for each snowmobile for the snowmobile trail development and maintenance fund in addition to the registration required by the vehicle and traffic law. In the event that an individual seeking snowmobile club membership is unable, for any reason, to secure such club membership, he or she may contact the New York state snowmobile association, who shall secure such membership for such person.

Speed Limit – Effective 180 Days after signing, I believe March 1st, 2006

Imprudent speed. At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under the surrounding circumstances provided, however, that in no case shall a snowmobile be operated at a speed in excess of fifty-five miles per hour upon public trails or lands, unless

(a) Participating in a special event authorized by the commissioner pursuant to section 25.11 of this article or

(b) Engaged in operation as an emergency vehicle as defined in subdivision twenty-one of section 21.05 of this title.

Public Relations... As always we are looking for ways to increase our presence in the local community. Please bring some non-perishable food items to the next meeting and they will be donated to the local food pantry.

Groomer... Much work is and will continue to be under way to get the “groomers” ready for the upcoming season. There is mechanical as well as electrical work that needs to be completed. If you have the skills and the time to lend a helping hand, please come to the next meeting and let us know.

Safety... Safety course will be Nov. 19th at Maple View Family Restaurant, class has filled up fast, there maybe a couple of spots open, be sure to call or come to the next meeting if your interested in more information.

Club Clothing... Paula will have lots of new and exciting club clothing to look at and order at our next meeting! We now have women shirts, couple of different styles, hats, turtleneck shirts, Henley’s, and denim shirts. Be sure to stop in and see what she has and give ideas as to what you would like to see. She is open to all suggestions and comments. Do not forget we still have tees and sweatshirts available! Show your pride for the Mexico Trail Riders and wear some new clothing with our logo and name on them!

Trails... It’s a new season! Much work is needed in the way of trimming and signing of trails. There will also be lots of brush hogging needing to be done. If you wish to help please let us know what section you would like to help with and we’ll get your name to that sections’ trail leader.

Raffle... Season party and fundraiser tickets are available now! Grand prize is \$4,500, 1st is \$250, 2nd is \$150 & 3rd is \$100. Be sure to get your ticket and sell one or two to a friend! (Tickets will be drawn at the party in reverse order - which is last ticket drawn will be the winner of the grand prize. I.e. in order of tickets drawn 3rd prize, 2nd prize, 1st prize and grand prize.) Tickets are \$50.00 each and are limited to 300, each ticket also includes one dinner at the party, and one guest dinner can be purchased for \$10.00 payable in advance or at the door on day of the party for \$15.00. (So get yours in advance). Door prizes and 50/50 raffles will be held at the party. The party will be held at Arena’s Eis House-Corner of Watson Avenue & Academy Street Mexico, New York on Friday January 13th, 2006.

Refreshments and appetizers will be served starting at 6:00 PM with Dinner to follow at 7:00 PM. Menu - Half Italian Baked Chicken, Baked Ziti, Tossed Salad, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Roll, Coffee / Tea / Soda / Draft Beer - (Cash bar available) As you can see there is no sled this year, as in all the years we have done this only one person ever took the sled.

Also for those that attended the Season Kick Off Party at the Drive Way Inn in Palermo, Thank You! The party raised over \$1100 for the club. A BIG Thank You needs to go out to Tracy Carvel for organizing the event, the Drive Way Inn for hosting the event, and John Altman of Backyard BBQ for supplying outstanding food. Thank you to all the people who helped with this event, there simply is not enough room here to list them all.

MTR 2005 – 2006 Meeting Schedule

Start time is 7:30PM – Please be prompt!

Nov. 9th – Driveway Inn – St. Rt. 3 Palermo
Dec. 14th – Stick's Sports Bar & Grill – St. Rt. 104B New Haven
Jan. 11th – Arena's Eis House – Academy St. Mexico
Feb. 8th - Hazy's Tavern – St. Rt. 104 New Haven
March 8th - Driveway Inn – St. Rt. 3 Palermo
April 12th - Arena's Eis House – Academy St. Mexico
May 10th - Stick's Sports Bar & Grill – St. Rt. 104B New Haven

Renewals Are DUE! This is the last newsletter if you have not renewed. We would also appreciate that everyone update their email address, we can use this for better communications if all are up to date.

Contacting the 2005– 2006 Officers and Board Members of the Mexico Trail Riders, Inc.

President – Mark Dryden (President@mexicotrailriders.com)
Vice President-James Myers (Vpresident@mexicotrailriders.com)
Treasurer – Lynne Harper (Treasurer@mexicotrailriders.com)
Secretary – Audrey Myers (Secretary@mexicotrailriders.com)

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"Proud Member of the New York State Snowmobile Association"
"Proud Member of the Oswego County Snowmobile Association"