

Snowmobiling, Hidden Valley Sno Riders, and how it works.

The Hidden Valley Snowmobile Club is a New Hampshire nonprofit corporation, in good standing, and a 501c4, not for profit, corporation with the Internal Revenue Service. We have a web page and a face book page.

Snowmobiling, except on your own land, is a privilege. Others grant us permission to use their land to snowmobile on. There are five major components, New Hampshire Trails Bureau, New Hampshire Snowmobile Association, VOLUNTEERS, Fish and Game and money from snowmobile registrations that make it all happen. Interconnection with neighboring clubs and trails is necessary to continue our statewide trail network for all to enjoy!

Permission - Hidden Valley Sno Riders maintains a list of land owners, private and public (roads, state forests etc) that have given us permission to have a public trail, some for one year, some 5 years or indefinite. That permission can be withdrawn at any time. If you go off the public trail, written permission on your person is required. Clubs that have been approved as a "Grant-in-Aid Club" must keep that list up to date and provide it to the Trails Bureau along with a trail map. The Trails Bureau provides a Land Owner Liability insurance policy for those land owners. Please stay on the trail!

The Trails Bureau also oversees the "Snowmobile Grant-in-Aid Program," funds that we can apply for. The grants are meant to be an Aid, not an entitlement. They have to be matched in various percentages depending on what type grant you get. Funds are limited and have to serve the whole state. The grants are available for Trail Construction, Grooming equipment and Trail Grooming. The funds come from Snowmobile registrations. Very competitive funds are also available from the DOT Recreational Trails Program that also has to be matched.

The Hidden Valley Sno Riders Club is part of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association. Our members are members of the association. The association represents our club and the rest of the members in the state legislature. In addition, the association provides a group Liability Insurance policy for our club and comprehensive insurance on our grooming equipment at a lower cost than we could obtain on our own. The association also provides for gatherings of folks to share problems and ideas like the annual Trail Masters meeting. In order to maintain our "not for profit" status with the IRS, we are required to do something charitable. For years the NH Association has held the Easter Seal Ride In for Camp Sno Mo that we have participated and made donations to. We have also helped out families in need, both in Lempster & Marlow.

Volunteers – Snowmobiling is a sport and is not possible without volunteers. No one in this club is paid for their time. We have paid folks for use of their equipment but not for their time operating the equipment. We need volunteers to run the club, to represent the club at state, county and town meetings. The club needs to be run very much like a business. We have to balance needs with resources available. We need help with fund raising. One easy fundraiser is to volunteer to work at the grass drags in October. The club earns \$10 for each hour worked. Some folks have donated time, machinery and funds to help.

Fish and Game is responsible for enforcing the laws pertaining to snowmobiling along with their other tasks.

What you can do. – If you own and ride a snowmobile, your first step would be to join our club and register your machine. You get a discount for every sled you register on that one membership. You can help clear debris and fallen trees from the trails near your home or at least ask for help. You could assist with signing our trails. You can break trail after each storm and clear any downed trees to make it easier to groom. Our insurance requires that you pass the groomer safety awareness test along with being a member so you can learn how to operate a groomer. You can also be courteous to and thank any landowner who is letting us have trails. Do not litter, carry out what you carry in!

Regards,

Jim Strickland, President