

Dave DiTullio
President
Nor'Easters Snowmobile Club

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
August 2018

Hi Folks,

Before we all completely forget about this past snowmobile season, I wanted to take a few moments to highlight a few notable items, and also let you know of upcoming opportunities to get involved with the club. I'll admit, it is a little strange writing a snowmobiling newsletter when the temperature is 96*F as I'm typing…

Season Retrospective

It was another frustrating snow year in our southern location. While our snowfall of 86" was well above our average of 66", we were once again foiled by untimely snow droughts and warm-ups. We got off to a great start, with 16" of snow through Christmas Day, allowing us to open the trails early, and they stayed open until January 10th with some great local riding.

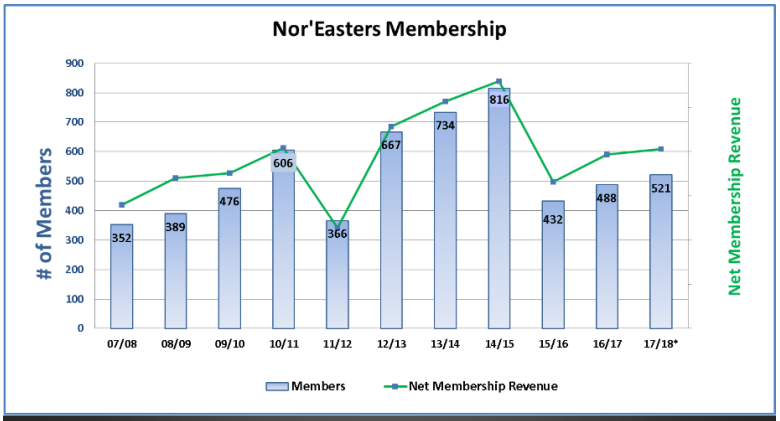
But, over the next month we got only 5" of snow, and it looked like we would not have enough snow for the annual Pink Ride. But Sue Keough, Founder and Chairwoman of the Pink Ride, made a special plea and we got 4" the day before the ride, allowing us to hold the event with barely just enough snow.

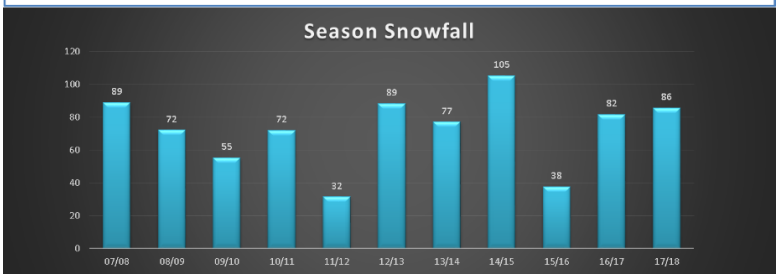
The 3rd week of February was a snowmobiling disaster, when temperatures soared to a summer-like 78*F, dashing hopes of a decent season. But then March showed up like a Lion with one storm that provided 16" and 5 days another that dropped 21". While we were able to reopen the trails for a few days after each of those storms, the previous extreme warm-up and generally milder temps had done their work removing the frost from the ground, causing rapid melt-down, and no "base" to ride on.

In a more positive light, our club has continued to thrive in a number of areas. We finished the season with 521 members (up 7% from prior season), but still well below the highs achieved a few years ago.

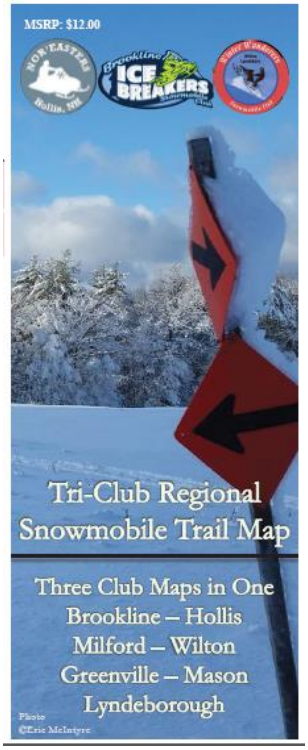
For those who may not be aware, paid memberships are our primary source of funding for the club. And, as you can see in these charts, we are at the mercy of Mother Nature.

Over the last 8 years, when we've had big snow years, memberships went up, and in dud years, well, you can see for yourself.





One of the highlights of this past season was the release of the new Tri-Club Regional Snowmobile Trail Map - a major project that took a year to complete.



The concept had been in discussion off and on for a couple of years and finally came to fruition due to the hard work of the map committee comprised of members from the Nor'Easters, IceBreakers, and Winter Wanderers.

I'd like to recognize and thank the committee members and club treasurers who made this happen: Al Williams, Amos White, Chris Kroll, Doug Cleveland, Doug Sattler, Ed Cook, Jeff Kanavos, Joe Vallier, Jon Lavoie, Kevin Guay, Kevin Majeski, Laurie Migneault, Ryan Courtenay, and Steve Medlyn.

This project proved to be a four-way winning proposition for trail users, the clubs, business that sell maps, and businesses that support the clubs through paid advertising.

Specific benefits of the Tri-Club Regional Snowmobile Map:

- Trailer users only need to buy one map
- Clubs are sharing map production expenses and revenues
- Simpler for business that previously sold two or three club's maps
- Lower expense for businesses that advertised on multiple maps

In May, the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA) held their annual meeting of member clubs at the Margate Resort in Laconia, and we were well represented with six delegates attending. I am pleased and proud to report that in recognition of the strong, cooperative working relationship between the Hollis Nor'Easters, Brookline IceBreakers, and the Wilton-Lyndeborough Winter Wanderers, these three clubs were each awarded a first-ever, a three-way "**Snowmobile Club of the Year**" award.



Pictured above: Dave DiTullio, President Nor'Easters; Chris Kroll, President Winter Wanderers; Jon Lavoie, President, IceBreakers

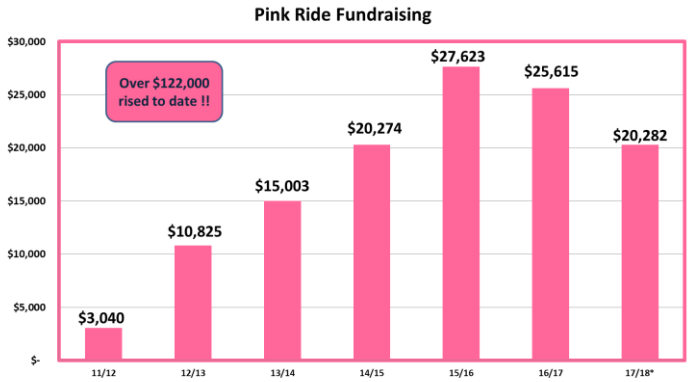
Hillsborough County Director Scot Heath presented the award to the three club presidents, and noted that we demonstrated a positive can-do attitude, and strong cooperation between clubs and land-owners.

Scott specifically called out the new Tri-Club map as an example of cooperation between the clubs, and I would add that we have worked very hard over the last several years to coordinate and help each other out on grooming and trail maintenance, and it has paid off.

But we weren't done yet with awards. Our very own club secretary **Sue Keough** was awarded the coveted NHSA "**Snowmobiler of the Year**" and Fish & Game "**Instructor of the Year"** awards! Sue earned this in recognition of her many contributions to our club operations, which include her role as club secretary, managing the club's annual operating budget., safety instructor, to name a few. Sue is wonderful ambassador for the club, and for snowmobiling in general, participating in all of our community outreach events such as the Hollis Old Home Days, the club Pre-season Cookout, NHSA Grass Drags, and the Hollis Woman's Club Luminary Stroll.

However, Sue's biggest contribution goes way beyond the sport of snowmobiling. Sue probably needs no introduction as the founder and chairwoman of the Pink Ride. She has been the driving force making this event a huge success in raising funds for the Breast Care Center at St Joseph Hospital.

Under Sue's leadership, this event has grown in number of attendees and funds raised. To date, The Pink Ride has provided over $122,000 directly to the Breast Care Center.

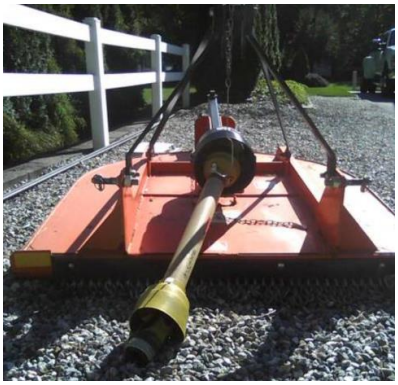


I can't overstate how proud we are of Sue's contributions to our communities.

Looking Forward

Now that we are past the halfway point of summer, some of the club officers have started planning for next season's activities and we have two opportunities for you to get involved to help the club.

Trail Maintenance / Mowing - Some of you may not know that trail maintenance is a year-round activity. During the summer months, there are several trails that we mow a few times to make them enjoyable (and safe) for hikers, equestrians, dog walkers and mountain bikers.



If you would like to help out, the club has access to a walk-behind brush hog (think lawn mower on steroids) that is great for some of the smaller trails.

We also have access to a 4' brush hog. If you have a tractor with a Cat 1 three-point hitch, and would like to use our brush hog to mow our larger trails, please contact our Trail Master at *Trails@noreasters.org* to schedule a work day.

Fund Raising – the NHSA Grass Drags and Watercross event held annually on Columbus Day weekend is a great way for NHSA member clubs to earn funding for their clubs, and is entirely driven by volunteers. Did you know that volunteers earn $10 per hour FOR THEIR CLUB for each hour volunteered?

Volunteer opportunities include Admissions (Ticket booths), Auditing, Swap Meet, Security, Sanitation, Parking lot attendants. There is also a need for volunteers in the weeks before the event to set up fencing, mow fields, mark spots for campers, etc.

- To volunteer **at the event, Columbus Day Weekend, register here.**
- **To volunteer before** or after the event for prep and breakdown, register here.

Be sure to list ***"Nor'Easters Snowmobile Club"*** as the sponsoring club so that the club gets credit for your hours.

Finally, our first club meeting of the '18/'19 season will be held on Tuesday, Sept 11th, at 7pm at the Lawrence Barn in Hollis. We'd love to see you there, but until then, stay cool!

Dave DiTullio
President, Nor'Easters