



January 2012

Happy New Year.....everyone! It's been a while since our last newsletter, so it's about time I fill everyone in on what the board has been up to lately. The board met October 1st for our first board meeting of the season. The main emphasis of the meeting was to catch up where we had left off last spring and begin to plan our activities for this season.

A few of the highlights discussed were, our pending trail easements with DNR, trail grooming grants, new trail signs, surveying Nipple Mountain and Maclaren trails, Big Foot maintenance, and the new event schedule. Be sure to read the minutes of Oct 1st for the complete details.

Club Events... This year we are going to have our annual membership meeting March 12th during Wolf Pack Weekend. Due to a lack of attendance, we felt maybe by holding it during Wolf Pack Weekend, more members would attend. This meeting is important for the fact it is when members elect new board members and express their ideas of how the club should function. Also the more active our membership is the more we can achieve developing our trails.

All the details of the Weekend haven't been worked out yet, but one thing for sure is the Basket Auction. It's never too early to start putting together a unique basket. Every year brings new and exciting baskets and goodies to be auctioned. We will also be needing items for door prizes. Be sure to encourage all your friends and enemies to bring a basket or donate some goodies to the auction so we can make this the best fund raiser ever!

A couple other ideas that are being kicked around are another organized pizza run to Mendeltna Lodge and an organized ride to Nipple Mountain. If you are interested in these activities or have any suggestions, let any one of the board members know so we can further plan.

Big News.....



During our discussions of maintenance costs for Big Foot, several ideas were kicked around. One of those ideas was to possibly purchase another groomer that would perhaps be a little smaller and more cost effective. Everyone agreed that it may be a path to explore. Well as fate would have it, a Tucker Sno-cat with a groomer showed up on Craigslist in November. The machine was located in Chistochina and by the description and price was something we should take a look at.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, Harry, Barry, and Corky took a road trip to inspect the groomer. After spending the afternoon inspecting and driving the machine, they came to the conclusion that the Tucker was a sound machine and the price of \$12,000 was a good deal.

Through a series of emails the board all agreed that we should purchase the groomer with the idea of using it and Big Foot this season. With a little maintenance and preparation, the Tucker should be ready to start grooming very soon.

Trails

We had great hopes of having all our trail easements completed and recorded by this time this year, but no such luck. It seems there was another “personal change” within DNR which has once again put our applications somewhere in their bureaucratic “Black Hole”. Corky and Harry met with the DNR folks one day last November. They implied they would try to get our applications moving forward again but Corky and I weren’t too

optimistic. We will continue to follow up with them with the hopes they do get finished this year.

If you've been following Corky's trail report every Tuesday, you will have read that the lake trail has been marked with carsonite reflectors. Marking this trail each year is a big task! Corky began setting the markers between Cameron Cove and Lake Louise Lodge when the ice had just gotten thick enough.

Right after Thanksgiving, Corky, Barry Simpson, John Hicks, and Harry Holt, formed a work party and staked the Lake Trail on Lake Louise and Lake Susitna. It took them two days to cut the slots and set all the stakes. FYI each stake is 1/10 mile apart.

The snow has been slow coming but it looks like there is enough to begin grooming. Barry and Corky had Big Foot out last Thursday grooming the Lake Trail. The trail had some big drifts on it from the last wind storm, so they did their best to smooth those out and they also packed a few patches of overflow as well.

When the weather warms up, closer to zero, they will begin to groom the Tolsona, Big Rock, and Crosswinds Trails. The plan will be to continue grooming all the trails when safe to do so.

We're still looking for anyone interested in grooming; just contact Corky or any board member if you would like to get involved.

Safety First ...

Now that the New Year is here and we all start to look forward to hitting the trails, take moment to check over all your safety and survival gear.

Go through the backpack, making sure all your gear is in working order. Ask yourself...Has your first aid kit been restocked, does your flash light work, got a shovel and probe, extra clothes? These are just a few things. The point is before you go out next time, check all your personal safety gear and make sure it's ready to use, should a situation arise.

Have fun this year.....Ride smart!!!!!!!!!!!!!!