



### FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Our February meeting will be Tuesday, February 9th at Minocqua Pizza. Menu is all you can eat pizza including soda for \$7. Beer and wine only, no cocktails (not included in price). Minocqua Pizza is located at 8023 Hwy 51 South. There is parking in front of the restaurant, with plenty of extra parking in the back of the building. Seating is limited to 52. Please call Betty 356-4492 or email her at hazelnuts@nnex.net. She will reply to your email when she receives it. This is club nomination night, so bring your nominations for President, VP, and board members.

### 2011 CRUSERFEST COMMITTEE

The club is looking for interested people to come forward to be a part of the Cruiserfest committee for next year. We would like to have a group of people who would take over what Al and Judy have been doing for the Silent Auction and Raffle items.

Contact Val at: [donval2@charter.net](mailto:donval2@charter.net). or 358-7427

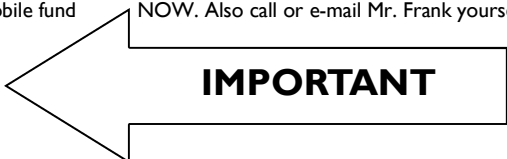
Message from Rocky Caffarella trail boss Cross Country Cruisers/Vice President Vilas County snowmobile Alliance

To all club members and everyone that snowmobiles: When the state increased the sticker fee for snowmobiles the money was supposed to be put into the snowmobile fund. Instead they put it in the general fund and the AWSC has worked hard to get that money transferred. All the steps to have this 13.10 transfer of almost \$500,000 to the snowmobile fund is complete. There are just 2 more steps. 1) the DNR's Matt Frank has to sign off on it and 2) Gov. Doyle needs to sign it. This 13.10 transfer has been sitting on Mr. Frank's desk for over 2 weeks. We need your help please call or e-mail your state senators and assembly men. Ask them to call Mr. Frank and tell him to transfer the money to the snowmobile fund NOW. Also call or e-mail Mr. Frank yourself and tell him we want our money. Thank you

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/contact/EmailDirectory.aspx?house=assembly>

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senhome.htm>

DNR.Secretary.Frank@wisconsin.gov



### THIS ARTICLE RECENTLY RAN IN THE LAKELAND TIMES

This year, the Cross Country Cruisers Snowmobile Club of Arbor Vitae-Woodruff-Minocqua is celebrating their 40th Anniversary. The club was established in the fall of 1969 as the Arbor Vitae/Woodruff Snowmobile Club when some local outdoor enthusiasts saw the potential in our lovely Northwoods for a snowmobile trail system. How fortunate we are to have had them! They held their first meeting in September of that year. An ad had been placed in the newspaper asking interested snowmobilers to form a club. There were 67 original members; and by the end of the year, they had about 90 members. They became incorporated in 1970; with their new name: The Cross Country Cruisers. The club's first president was Marvin Neff, who had the Northern Motel. Our Vice President was Eugene Spears, Secretary Vera Neff, and Treasurer Phyllis Harding. Continued.....

There were no trails; which had to be made; along with signage. The first signs for the trails were made using aluminum fascia. A group of volunteers cut the fascia, pounded the edges flat, and then painted colored arrows on them for directions on the trails. The first trail maps were printed as "Lakeland Trail Maps"; and were color coded to match the signage. Different sections of the trail were different colors. Leon Butler started making up the maps; and, later Frank and Marilyn Vojta took over the Map Ad sales. Today, our maps are quite detailed and sponsored by many local businesses. The club's first groomer was a 1971 Polaris twin track snowmobile that pulled a handmade drag. This drag consisted of an iron pipe frame with 6 blades. These blades had to be manually raised and lowered, as needed, such as when crossing a road. They soon discovered that by adding a few bricks, it would weigh down the blades for better cutting and shaping of the trails. It would take all day just to groom the Vandercook trail! The second machine was an Oliver Crawler. One of the members made a drag for it. After that, they obtained a 1972 Thiokol Super Imp, which was their first large groomer. This had a 7' drag. Following that, they obtained a Thiokol Spryte. In 1983 the club purchased its first Tucker; and in 1988 their first diesel machine. The groomer drivers had two-way phones, should they need assistance. They were stored in Arnold Thrall's boat shop, which is now the Arbor Vitae Marina building. Arnold, his son Bob Thrall, Bill Mondell and Al Vehrs maintained the machines, as needed. Arnold's grandson, JR, is our mechanic and groomer operator these days.

Today, our club has 3 groomers with drags, a 2006 and a 2009 Tucker Snowcat, and a 2009 New Holland T6070 Elite. Our volunteer club members have a schedule of grooming daily all season long. We pride ourselves in having, not only great trails, but also so many people who volunteer their time to make them great. By 1973, the club had 42 miles of trails they were maintaining and grooming. It took 2 years of driving through the woods with four-wheel drive vehicles and motorcycles, and many meetings with the DNR at Woodruff, Rhinelander, Trout Lake, and Vilas County Forester of Eagle River. They finally completed the trail system for state funding. The largest project at that time was the construction of five miles of new trail adjacent to Hwy. M. This trail connected Hwy. 51 to the Vandercook Trail to the Northern Highland Trail. This construction took many voluntary man-hours of brushing, bridge construction, leveling and signing. The rough construction took seven weeks to complete, and was contracted out to local contractors, who were reimbursed by the State fund for trail construction. Today we enjoy nearly 100 miles of groomed and marked trails within our club system alone. The club then had a fund-raising campaign to raise enough money to buy a new drag machine to keep these 42 miles of trails in good condition. Without smooth trails for the local people to ride on, and to bring in out-of-town snowmobilers, this local area would have suffered economically. In 1983, the club constructed a bridge across the Trout River West of Hwy. 51, north of Woodruff. The materials were purchased by the club; and work done by volunteers. This bridge would tie together many snowmobile trails in the Lakeland area, connecting the communities of Arbor Vitae-Woodruff-Minocqua to Boulder Junction and beyond. It would be the first time in eight snowmobile seasons that these communities would be linked together by a bridge across the Trout River. In October of 1985, construction began on their first garage to house and maintain their groomers. The site, which is near the community building on Hwy. 70 E, was donated by the Town of Arbor Vitae. Materials were donated by Arbor Vitae-Woodruff businesses or paid for with funds raised by the club. The LUHS Capstone Class worked on the garage for school credits; and first-hand learning experience. They laid out the project, surveyed the site, built forms and poured the footings. During the winter months, the class worked at the school shop putting together wall panels. The garage was completed in the spring of 1986. Later, in 1989, a small addition of an office space was added to the garage.

Just this past year, our club built a brand new groomer barn near the original one. It will fit all of our current machines and equipment.. We also have some office and meeting space. This, like the original barn, was built strictly by volunteers within our club.

The Cross Country Cruisers also has a Youth Group that was established 13 years ago. This is a program that was started through LUHS. It generally consists of about 15 students a year, which we help educate on the sport of snowmobiling; and all the hard work that goes into maintaining our trail system. They hold their own monthly meetings, just as the adults do. We encourage them to become involved in their club and community. Their memberships are paid for by the Cross Country Cruisers, so that everyone has the opportunity to join. All students who hold a drivers license are given the opportunity to go along on the groomer so they are educated on how grooming actually works; and to make them realize that there is a lot more to snowmobiling than just the riding. They also participate in the brushing of the trails in the fall; and the clean up in the spring. Over the years, we have been successful in encouraging other clubs to develop their own Youth Groups. We welcome all youth to come join us! We also participate in providing Safety Courses for young, new and upcoming snowmobilers. These classes are held, as needed, throughout the season. We work, along with the DNR, local law enforcement agencies, and other clubs to educate the new drivers on operating a snowmobile, both in the classroom and actually driving a sled. Although it is not a state requirement to drive the sled, we try to have them do so, whenever possible, teaching them hand signals, and the operating of the snowmobile.

Of course, we have always been so appreciative of our landowners, whose land we cross over in order to maintain our connected trail system. We have held Appreciation Banquets for them over the years; and, more recently, give them gift certificates to dine at one of our Club's supporting dining establishments. We are very grateful for their continued cooperation.

We try to give back to our Community as much as possible. We support the Lakeland Food Pantry and the Community Blood Bank. We also have a section of Hwy. 70W designated to us for Highway cleanup, which we take care of a number of times each year. We actually have fun with this job, by gathering afterwards for a BBQ. Our club currently has in excess of 300 family and commercial memberships, with nationwide membership. We are 100% Volunteer. All time spent, whether for running our club's books, heading up a committee for a special project, attending County meetings or State Conventions, or grooming trails...it is all Volunteer.

We are very concerned about "safety first" within our club; and actually have a sled we use to monitor our trails to make them safer for everyone. Three years ago we developed a 3-Digit Intersection System for our trails. This aids EMTs to find people in distress; and also helps when people become lost. They can check the intersection number on the maps and know exactly where they are in the woods.

This year our club also celebrates another Anniversary...our 10<sup>th</sup> year hosting "Cruiserfest". This year this fun-filled event will be held February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Hall and out on the ice. It begins Friday night with a Snowmobile Torchlight Parade followed by a bonfire and fireworks at Torpy Park; along with a Spaghetti feed and the opening of our silent auction. It continues Saturday morning at 8 am with a Pancake breakfast at the Legion Hall. Brats and chili will be served beginning at 11 am. Snowmobile radar runs start at 10:30 on the ice on Lake Minocqua. There will also be refreshments and hot food served out on the ice. The silent auction and raffles continue throughout the day until 9 pm. There will also be music and dancing from 7-11 pm. For more information, call 715-277-4082, or email: [aljudy@frontiernet.net](mailto:aljudy@frontiernet.net), or visit our website at: [www.snowmobilewi.com](http://www.snowmobilewi.com).



February 2010

Cross Country Cruisers  
Snowmobile Club  
P O Box 733  
Woodruff WI 54568

## ELECTIONS

Elections are coming up. This spring we will have two board positions open along with the president and vice president positions. All nominations must be to the nomination committee (Dick Strucel) by our February general meeting. Please call Dick with your nominations at 356-3433. Elections will be held at our March general meeting. Please get your nominations in. No write ins will be accepted on election day. We need some new people to step up and help out. If you know of anyone (or yourself) that would be able to help the club in any capacity, PLEASE step up or nominate that person.

We will see you at our next meeting!

WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET RENEWED FOR THIS CURRENT YEAR. PLEASE CONSIDER PAYING UP YOUR DUES ASAP. IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT STATUS, PLEASE EMAIL ME AT [cccsecretary@charter.net](mailto:cccsecretary@charter.net). THANKS!!

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