

Happy Halloween Nightriders!!!

MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO NOV. 14

MORE ON THIS BELOW

So, this is the final newsletter of my tenure as an Officer of the Club. I must say, I have been honored to serve as Secretary, Treasurer or a combination thereof for 20 years under four different presidents (That's no joke!). I am sure Mark, who has served in various capacities for at least 15, and Shirley close to the same, share my sentiments when I say "Thank you for having trusted us to carry the torch all these years." I thought I would regale you all with some fun interesting facts from over the years:

1. First meeting was in 1971 at Savenac Nursery. Otis Parsons was the first President with Vicki Moeller as his Secretary/Treasurer.
2. Charter was incorporated in 1973 and the club has been going all those years. Not just actively but with a strong membership with conviction to achieve our original objective of "promotion of snowmobiling and other winter sports activities in the State of Montana." Something we should all be proud of.
3. Charter members who are still active include Gene & Marcia Warren, Tom Anderson, Rex & Sharyn Lincoln, Dolly Moeller, and Doug Moeller. There are some of us that could be considered original members because we were part of the family memberships of those founding members!! I actually found the original incorporation and Tom's signature is on the thing!!
4. The name Montana Nightriders came from the fact that the original members were mostly young people with families who worked during the day. So, they rode at night. The kids rode along because either a babysitter was too expensive or this was one of the few times their family could recreate together. Yes, I remember being strapped up like a bandalero with the spare belts, my pockets being loaded up with spark plugs, sleeping on the snowmobile next to the fire and "sampling" the Blackberry Brandy that every snowmobile was well equipped with just in case its driver got cold!!! :}
5. Current annual dues have not risen with inflation. (\$20.00/family, \$10.00/single) Original annual dues were \$15.00/family and \$5/single. Still a pretty good bargain in any stretch of the imagination. Business memberships were added in the early 1980's to support the printing and distribution of a newsletter.
6. The club logo was designed by Gene Warren and original cost for patches paid by Lincoln's Silver \$.
7. 1985 saw the first large groomer on the trails-contracted with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation with a budget of \$1500 for 4-5 trips a season. However, we had already been grooming with a small alpine groomer for 4 years. In 1990, Triad Snow Grooming (Gene Warren, Bryan Teeters & Brooke Lincoln and Rex & Sharyn Lincoln) purchased the first groomer to be run solely at the club's discretion. I think we got the club-owned groomer in 1998 and the groomer shed was built in 2001. Being part of "Triad," I must say that was a HAPPY day!!!!
8. We have been cleaning the cemetery for 32 years!!
9. From the \$1000 Super Poker Ride alone, we have contributed over \$15,000.00 to local charities. Obviously, this is just the tip of the iceberg. I can't even imagine how many man-hours, tools, machinery, parts, gas, food, etc. that have been contributed over the years.

10. Fundraisers over the years have included Chili feeds, Buffalo BBQs, Hard Luck Dances, Poker Rides, Cross-Country Races, Raffles, Oval Races, SnoCross Races, and some I'm sure I missed.

11. Membership has steadily grown over the years from the original 31 at that first meeting to 266 today.

I will be bringing some scrapbooks to the meeting for you all to peruse. Marcia Warren has put them together over the years. Her diligence in recording our history is to be commended and we are truly thankful for it. Thank you, Marcia!! Anyone interested in taking this over?

Okay, enough of the reminiscing. Now for the news:

We didn't have a quorum at the last meeting so we couldn't vote on anything so here are some topics to be discussed at the November meeting: Saltese trestle status, Groomer update, MSA issues, MSA Director reimbursement (Mark), Railroad Grade status, Adding railroad grade from DeBorgia to Little Joe Road to our trail system, Club membership in MSA, Grant requested for \$14,000, Fixing the Alpine, and Donating the Ambulski to the West End QRU, just to name a few.

I hope you all have had ample time to discuss who your new officers might be. Elections will be held. Committee sheets will be passed (Trail, Poker Ride, Membership, Entertainment). Don't be shy! Accept the nominations! Sign up for committee! Let's get some new, fresh ideas on the plate. Let's have some fun instead of just worrying about the grooming!! (Sorry, couldn't help putting that plug in there!) The "old heads" aren't going anywhere so you don't need to be worried about being thrown to the wolves or put out in the cold. We'll be here to get you started and walk you through the paces.

Speaking of next meeting: Kurt's Polaris has generously offered to cook us dinner again before our meeting. They will also be bringing out some of their new products for us to check out, answering any questions you may have and giving a short presentation. Hence the following changes:

NEW DATE: NOVEMBER 14

TIME: DINNER 5:00

MEETING 7:00

PLACE: DeBORGIA SCHOOLHOUSE

So, everyone, please be at the meeting. We need a great turnout to ensure a great start of a new era.

I am truly yours, Brooke