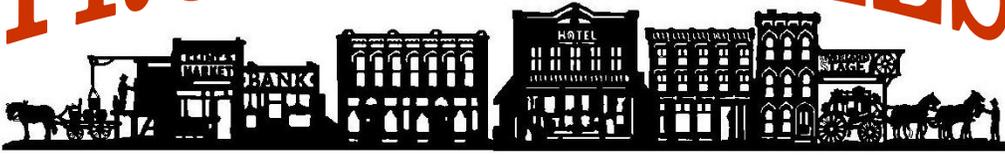


FRONTIER TIMES



Volume 19 Issue 4 December 2022

Shutting down the Holiday Hunt would please local snowmobilers, but obstacles make it unlikely

Thursday, December 8, 2022 - 19:48 Albany (reprint from the Altamont Enterprise)

A state law allowing counties to opt out of the Holiday Hunt — an extra week over the winter holidays during which the New York State Department of Conservation allows certain kinds of hunting — is a welcome development for local snowmobilers, who are adversely affected by the new hunting window, but it's unclear whether it will take effect locally.

Gerry Lenseth, president of the Frontier Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club, which operates a trail network across four counties, including Albany, and has over 400 members year-to-year, told The Enterprise this week that snowmobiling season can't start until hunting season ends, so an extended hunting period means snowmobilers lose time from their own recreational season, which already varies due to weather conditions.



Riders cross a bridge on Frontier trail C7E.

The holiday hunt takes “well over a week out of our season,” Lenseth said, even if no snow falls between Dec. 26 and Jan. 1, which is when the holiday hunt takes place.

Lenseth said that, when winter rolls around but there's no snow on the ground, those in charge of snowmobile trails are “still doing preparation for the season — setting up the trails, trail-signing, trail clearing, any kind of maintenance that has to be done.”

The Sno-Riders have agreements with more than 220 private landowners to create a trail system, and each one of those landowners have to grant individual permission before any maintenance or riding can take place,

Continued on page 3

Stay On The Trail

You may find side trails off the snowmobile trails. Do not ride them!



While the trail may look inviting, it is not for your use. It is for the landowner's use. Follow the trail signs and you will avoid trespassing. Our landowners thank you. Stay on the trail.



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Trail Log



Club Membership stands at 240 as of 12-10-2022

NYSSA Report, Steven Carr, Schoharie Rep: Parks has updated the trail mileage rates for grooming. Forum to be held at Lake Placid. Billboards to be placed at stateline entry points. The push to increase the snowmobile registration to \$65 may happen next year. All new funds would go to the clubs. Non-club members fee to go from \$100 to \$135.

Back Barn Brewery will be hosting club meetings in the near future. Back Barn will have truck and trailer-parking available.

Landowner insurance to go out in December.

500 hundred Super Raffle tickets have been ordered.

Club Ride is scheduled for January 15th 2023, weather permitting. Finish at the Rulison's.

Take A Friend Snowmobiling, possible to hold at Albany Winterfest. More info to follow.

Secretary Position Open

Frontier Sno Riders are asking the membership for a volunteer to take on the Secretary office. The club Secretary is an important officer and is needed to record the business of the club at meetings. If you or someone you know can attend most meetings, please volunteer. Contact President Gerry Lenseth at 518-330-7373.



Karl Pritchard loads a skid bridge on to a trailer, Tom Rulison and Laudy Hoyenga look on.

Northern Area

Burtonsville/Charleston C7E - Yancey Zimmer - filling mud holes along trail with blow down trees. Signs are up.

Mariaville C7B - Mark VanWoeart - Shellstone Rd section maybe closed due to 5 new building lots have bee sold..

Sloansville C7F - Laudy Hoyenga - Trails are ready.

Central Area

Esperance/Delanson C7E - Tom Rulison - Romer bridge(Esperance LP) railing repaired. Reroute off Gage Rd around new house. Back Barn trail partially complete. Joins C7E behind Citgo on Rt 20.

Duanesburg C7B/S70 - Casey LeClair - Culvert installed on Barr property. Bridge there needs re-decking. May use one of the skids there.

Wright C7B - Joel Church - Culvert installed on Kelts property. Only a few signs up. No word from new landowner of Blue Heron Airport yet.

Southern Area

Township S70 - Skip Murrell - Signs are all up. New landowner signed up. Township Tavern may reopen.

Knox C7B - Zach Simeon - Most signs are up. Hard Knox Club having trouble with ATVs in fields.

Maple Inn S73 - Don Bauer -

East Berne C7B/S72 - Brian Buchardt - Thacher Park may give snowmobile trail maintenance to Frontier.

Club Meeting
December 14 6 pm
The Landing On 20
Duanesburg



Lenseth said.

“For landowners that hunting [is a] priority for them, or they have people who hunt on their



President Lenseth dumps dirt for bridge approach.

land,” he said, “we have very limited access to go in and get the trail prep work done.”

Prior to 2021, when the holiday hunt was introduced, there was a window in which hunting wasn’t taking place and there was no snow on the ground, and that’s when maintenance work would occur, Lenseth said.

Some of it can be done as early as September, but some has to wait until farmers have harvested their crops, and so must take place later in the year, he said; once snow falls, any work that hasn’t been completed becomes more diffi-

cult.

In addition to complicating field work, Holiday Hunt also prevents younger riders who get a week or so off from school during the holidays to spend that time on the trails in years that see early snowfall, he said.

“The hunting season extension definitely impacts us,” Lensing said, adding that he was surprised by how quickly it was implemented, and that he didn’t think it would go into effect at all. “It really put us in a difficult situation.”

The new state bill, which has yet to be signed by the governor, provides a glimmer of hope for Albany County riders, but Lensing said the organization would need all four counties it has trails in to decide to opt out, and it’s not something the group will push for since it’s a tough sell and they don’t have the manpower for that kind of lobbying.

Albany County Legislator Chris Smith, who represents most of the Hilltowns, could not immediately be reached for comment. Albany County spokeswoman Mary Rozak said she had never heard about the issue.

Hunters that The Enterprise spoke with did not seem particularly attached to the Holiday Hunt, but also — like the DEC itself — weren’t necessarily aware of what impacts it had on snowmobilers, since most anyone would associate club activity with snow on the ground.

Continued on page 4

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**Groomer Locations
2022**

Charleston/Burtonsville
Skandics (2)

Mariaville
Gator 825i

Sloansville
Jeep

Duanesburg/Wright
Gator 825i + Skandic

Esperance/Delanson
Pisten Bully 70

Knox/Township
Pisten Bully 100

East Berne/Thacher
Park
Skandics (2)

Note: many locations will
overlap coverage.

Frontier may host a grooming course for members who would like to learn about grooming.

A trail sign order has been placed as supply with the trail bosses are running low.

A new fuel pump is needed for the supply tank at Karl's.

One of the skid bridges may be used in Mariaville.

In Duanesburg a skid bridge was put in on a trail re-route. However the property owner has changed his mind about giving permission, so the skid may have to come out.

Big club trailer has 3 of 4 pivot points broken. Laudy to repair. May need to look for a replacement in near future.

Skandics to under go preseason check. PB70 ready, 2012 Gator needs tracks installed, 2011 Gator ready.

Replacement actuators are being sought for use on the grooming drag fleet.

Continued from page 3 Berne hunter Kevin Crosier, who lives near snowmobile trails, told The Enterprise that local riders are "great partners," and acknowledged a time last year, when snow fell in November, that the riders "sat by the way-side" while hunters carried on.

"That was really nice of them," he said, but he guessed that the Holiday Hunt wouldn't have much of an impact on their season.

At the same time, though, if Albany County were to opt out, Crosier said he wouldn't mind, noting that he and his family probably won't hunt during the holidays anyway.

"I mean, it just gives people a little extra time if they didn't get out [during the regular season]," he said.

Hunting is an important part of life in the Hill-towns.



Crosier, who was formerly the Berne supervisor, said *Frontier groomer out on the trail.* he often jokes that deer season in the Hilltowns is "bigger than Christmas."

"A lot of families hunt together," he said. "It's a tradition. My son and I take the whole first week [of deer season] off and hunt." His father, John Crosier, is still hunting at 86 years old.

"I can remember when I was in high school, if the first day of deer season fell on a Monday, you weren't in school," he said.

Berne resident Peggy Warner, who is in her 90s, told The Enterprise last month that she learned to hunt growing up because her father "wanted a boy."

Continued on page 5



Continued from page 4 “I learned to track every animal that we have up in the hills before I ever had a gun,” she said.

Though some find hunting distasteful, it’s an important part of conservation, keeping certain animal populations in check — though the Holiday Hunt, which is only open to those with what the DEC calls “primitive weapons” like bows and muzzle-loaders, was not introduced as a way to meaningfully affect deer populations, with the department saying that no impact is expected through the policy.

Hunting also tends to impart a respect for land and wildlife in general, as Crosier describes, and, as it has since the earliest days of human civilization, that circulation of meat benefits whole communities when it’s donated.

“A lot of your hunters are very responsible people,” Crosier said. “They’re good stewards of the land.”

Reprinted with permission courtesy the The Altamont Enterprise and author Noah Zweifel.



Signs are put up near Chadwick Rd in Duanesburg.

Trail Marshal says...

Remember, even if there is enough snow, trails do not open until after January 1st. Respect the new extended hunting season.



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Club Folks



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Vice Pres	Mary Ann Nickloy	895-2595
Treasurer	Tammy Saddlemire	872-2125
Secretary	Your Name Here	555-2368

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Trail Boss Contacts

Brian Buchardt	East Berne	872-1878
Don Bauer	Warner Lake	337-1985
Zach Simeon	Knox	860-2325
Skip Murrell	Township	867-1235
Joel Church	Wright	895-5451
Casey LeClair	Duanesburg	
Tom Rulison	Esperance	875-9229
Laudy Hoyenga	Sloansville	868-2092
Mark VanWoeart	Mariaville	376-0063
Scott Claus	Burtonsville	848-0524
Yancey Zimmer	Charleston	657-9588

Support Staff

Equipment Boss	Tom Rulison
Membership Administrator	Gerry Lenseth
Grant Administrator	Christine Rulison
Trail GPS/GIS	Matt Lord
Safety & Education	MaryAnn Nickloy
Website	Randy Stein
FaceBook	Chris Bukowski
Remind	Mary Ann Nickloy
Newsletter Editor	Joel Church



Trail Boss Pics - Duanesburg



Resetting a culvert on C7B near Weaver Rd. Photos by Eric Dubb.



Rainy and cool conditions added to the project. Teamwork really made short work of the bridge setting.

Reroute of C7B up to Mariaville from Rt 20 to bypass Ash Lane closure. Got skid bridge in place. Volunteers were Eric Dubb, Adrian Gonzalez, David Fidler, and Jay Sullivan. Further trail work on hold as landowner changed his mind on permission. Photos by Tom

Rulison. Page 6



Trail Boss Pics - Esperance



Trail Boss Yancey Zimmer reports he signed C7E down to Esperance and took care of some other targets of opportunity!
Photos by Yancey Zimmer



Trail Boss Pics - East Berne



Work along S72, near Cole Hill Rd, Elm Drive and behind the Dollar General in East Berne.



Trail Boss Brian Buchardt put up signs and roped off sections to guide snowmobiles. Pat Stempel and Joel Church helped out.

Photos by Pat Stempel and Joel Church.



Trail Boss Pics - Wright



Tom Goodman hauled in a culvert and cut open the C7B trail reroute Karl Pritchard installed the culvert.

Photos by Trail Boss Joel Church.

Trail Boss Pics - Knox



Trail Boss Zack Simeon got signs up in Knox Park. A C7B reroute allows trail to exit Turner Rd sooner. Skip Murrell, Brian Buchardt, and Karl Pritchard helped.





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