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Gear Up for Winter

Why Volunteering with the Frontier Sno-Riders is Your Ticket to Thrilling Trails and Lasting Connections

By Grok, xAI Contributor | November 9, 2025

As the first whispers of winter chill sweep across the rolling hills of New York's Capital Region, snowmobilers from Albany to Schoharie are dusting off their sleds and dreaming of powder-packed adventures. But behind every perfectly groomed trail lies a dedicated army of volunteers who make it all possible. Enter the Frontier Sno-Riders, Inc., a nonprofit powerhouse serving Albany, Schenectady, Montgomery, and Schoharie counties. Founded in 1999, this club isn't just about riding—it's about building, maintaining, and preserving over 80 miles of interconnected trails that weave through farmlands, forests,



A party of club members clearing the trail.

and forgotten rail beds. If you're passionate about snowmobiling, community, and getting your hands (and maybe a chainsaw) dirty, volunteering with the Frontier Sno-Riders could be the spark that turns your winter hobby into a fulfilling mission. Here's why you should lace up your boots and join the crew this season.

The Heartbeat of the Trails: What Frontier Sno-Riders Do

Nestled in the Duanesburg area, the Frontier Sno-Riders are stewards of a vital snowmobile network that connects riders to some of the region's most stunning winter landscapes—from the escarpment views near East Berne to the quiet valleys of Esperance. As a member of the New York State Snow-

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What's Cooking?

Trail Log



In an effort to show a more cooperative environment, see that Trail Boss has been changed to Trail Captain.

Trail Captains should have a current OnX subscription to confirm landowner boundaries.

Frontier is in need of new members to volunteer for some key positions including Trail Captains, Secretary and Board representation.

White Imprints has an online store with Frontier logo apparel available for individual purchase and shipped direct.

A large shout out to the club volunteers assisting with the Rt 146 bridge removal on very short notice and many thanks to the Collins & Son contractors for graciously providing the heavy lifting with their trackhoe.

Board to prepare equipment loan documents in advance of delivery of two 2026 Skandic Ace 900 sleds from Seymours.

Vintage sled registration legislation is currently on the Governor's desk... clubs and individuals are encouraged to send support for the discounted sled registration for 30+ year old sleds. Gerry L has mailed club support for this legislation to be signed into law.

Advertise Your Business Here

For **\$25**, you get 8 issues in the Frontier Sno Riders newsletter and a whole season on the club website.

Contact the Newsletter Editor,
Joel Church at 315-384-4985
for more information.

Northern Area

Burtonsville/Charleston C7E - Yancey Zimmer - Need photos and time/equipment logged of culvert installation at Paro property. Millpoint bridge needs inspection of support structure and railings repair.

Mariaville C7B - Seeking trail boss - VanWoeart property bridge- steel beams require gusseting? Major reroute requires membership involvement.

Sloansville C7F - Seeking trail boss -

Central Area

Esperance/Delanson C7E - Tyler Walters - Minor reroute at Rulison property due to construction. No follow up regarding Romer property bridge improvement. Tom Rulison brush hogged Herbert property to Hannaford property.

Delanson #463 - Lance Martineau - Need for pallet bridging for wet area near Rick's F&F.

Duanesburg C7B/S70 - Rob Kreitzer - Bridge on Barr property may require update/replacement with pallet bridge in stock at Karl Pritchards. New houses will require minor reroute off Chadwick Rd.

Wright C7B - Seeking trail boss - Culvert re-install required at Kruzinski property near airstrip. Major reroute requires membership involvement.

Southern Area

Township S70 - Skip Murrell -

Knox C7B - Barak Strock - Two 24"x20' culverts need reset with additional large culvert added on Lefkaditis property on West Rd. Barak is seeking assistance with brush hogging sections of the Knox trail along with stump removal (near the old race track section between Keppler and Gaige farms).

Warner Lake S73 - Don Bauer -

East Berne C7B/S72 - Seeking trail boss - Minor reroute to be completed on Willsey property including culvert install and trail widening.

Thacher Park S72 - Matt Lord - Trail requires improved pallet bridge parallel to Thacher Park Rd. Smith property will require two 48" culvert extensions to extend current culverts out a minimum of 8'.



Continued from page 1

mobile Association (NYSSA), the club coordinates with over 200 statewide affiliates to uphold the 10,500-mile statewide trail system. But the real magic happens at the local level: volunteers clear brush, install signage, and operate groomers to ensure safe, enjoyable paths for everyone from families on casual jaunts to hard-core enthusiasts chasing adrenaline. The club's mission is clear: promote snowmobile safety, educate new riders, and foster environmental stewardship. This isn't a faceless bureaucracy—it's a tight-knit group of about 200 members (as of early 2025) who meet monthly on the second Wednesday from September through April, alternating between a number of local restaurants and breweries. All meetings are open to the public, making it an easy entry point for newcomers eager to contribute.



Frontier members at NYSSA Forum *Continued on page 6*

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Frontier Sno Riders



Help Wanted

Secretary Position Open



Frontier Sno Riders are asking the membership for a volunteer to take on the Secretary office. Contact President Gerry Lenseth at 518-330-7373.

Seeking club volunteer to assume Wright Trail Captain responsibilities. North/South traffic corridor currently blocked. Contact Gerry Lenseth at 518-330-7373.

Wanted: Trail Captains for East Berne, Sloansville, and Mariaville. Interested parties please contact President Gerry Lenseth at 518-330-7373.

Looking for a club volunteer to take on advertisement revenue from business sponsors. Sponsors provide needed funds to the club through ads. Contact Joel Church at 315-384-4985 if interested.

Club seeking a volunteer to design and maintain online store for Frontier merchandise and promotional material. Interested parties contact President Gerry Lenseth at 518-330-7373.

Club Meeting
November 12th 7pm
Back Barn Brewery
Delanson



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Equipment Barn



Groomer Locations 2025

Charleston/Burtonsville
Skandic + CanAm 800

Mariaville
Gator 825i

Sloansville
Skandic

Duanesburg/Wright
Gator 825i

Esperance/Delanson
Jeep+ Skandic

Knox/Township
PB070 + Skandic

East Berne/Thacher Park
PB100 + Skandic

Note: many locations will overlap coverage.



2013 Skandic needs replacement snow flap installed - currently on backorder at Seymours.

2008 Skandic has questionable seized motor issue.

2006 Skandic is repaired but requires carbides.

2003 Skandic has multiple issues to be evaluated.

2009 CanAm ATV requires a heat shield modified for reinstallation.

2011 Gator has a drive line clunk - Rob K or Eric D to evaluate and address. Gerry L has the original front plow for the unit

2012 Gator requires new Camso tracks to be installed in place of Matracks or possibly a newer UTV groomer.

All six 4x8 Skandic drags will need to be collected for goose neck modification this fall.

Jeep, PB070 and 2 UTV drags require retrofit to serrated cutting blades. Need to source blade material.

2014 14k PJ tilt trailer requires new brake package installed and frame corrosion addressed. Chad S indicated BOCES estimates a two month project if scheduled.



1998 Jeep coming home after repairs, reports Trail Captain Tyler Walters.

Club awaiting arrival of two new 2026 Skandic 900 Ace snowmobiles from Seymours. Both machines will require custom hitch fabrication to be completed.

PB100 - coolant leak needs to be corrected. Front blade needs to be painted.

PB070 - Diesel power plant needs attention to optimize power band. Front blade needs to be painted. Chad S mentioned possible BOCES mechanic side job to tune Mercedes motor.

Both 2018 Skandics require oil change service - Gerry L has two oil kits with filters in stock. Matt L and Yancey Z offered to complete oil and filter service.

Trail Marshal says...

Thank you to our landowners, without you, we have no trails to ride. As riders, we must always respect the property that the trail passes over. We have seen what lost permission results in. Those disrespectful, hurt us all.





Club Folks



Officers

President	Gerry Lenseth	330-7373
Vice Pres	Mary Ann Nickloy	895-2595
Treasurer	Tammy Saddlemire	872-2125
Secretary	Vacant	555-2368

Board of Trustees

Bryan Schaefer
Vacant
 Chris Bukowski
 Rob Howard
 Chad Saddlemire
 Kimmy Riek

Board of Directors

Don Bauer
Vacant
 Matt Lord
 Karl Pritchard
 Michael Riek
 Zach Simeon

Trail Captain & Trail Assistant Contacts

Matt Lord	Thacher Park	334-8214
Vacant	East Berne	
Don Bauer	Warner Lake	337-1985
Barak Strock	Knox	
Justin Bates		698-3994
Skip Murrell	Township	867-1235
Vacant	Wright	
Rob Howard		859-0091
Danny Przysiecki		526-6967
Rob Kreitzer	Duanesburg	322-2542
Byran Schaeffer		852-3473
Eric Dubb		545-6666
Tyler Walter	Esperance	657-6807
Lance Martineau		369-5308
Vacant	Sloansville	
Scott Claus		848-0524
Vacant	Mariaville	
John Cislo		203-886-8079
Yancey Zimmer	Charleston	657-9588



Getting Skandic drags loaded up for some repairs/modifications reports Trail Captain Matt Lord.



Support Staff

Equipment Boss	Vacant
Membership Administrator	Gerry Lenseth
Grants Administrator	Terry McCarthy
Trail GPS/GIS	Matt Lord
Safety Instructor	MaryAnn Nickloy
Safety Instructor	Michael Riek
Safety Instructor	Kimmy Riek
Elections	Gerry Lenseth
Website	Randy Stein
FaceBook	Chris Bukowski
Remind	Mary Ann Nickloy
Instagram	Kimmy Riek
Newsletter Editor	Joel Church



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Hands-On Opportunities: Where Your Time Makes Tracks

Volunteering with the Frontier Sno-Riders is as varied as the trails themselves, offering roles for every skill set and schedule. No experience? No problem—many tasks are beginner-friendly, and the club thrives on enthusiasm.



Club members setting posts in East Berne.

- **Trail Maintenance and Grooming:** The backbone of the operation. Join work parties in fall (think September weekends) to clear dead-falls, widen paths, and build bridges over creeks. During winter, hop on a groomer for overnight shifts that smooth out ruts and drifts. It's physical work, but seeing your efforts transform a rough path into a buttery ribbon of snow is



Snowmobile Safety Course taught by club members.

pure satisfaction.

- **Safety and Education:** Help organize youth rider clinics or safety courses, drawing from NYSSA's certified programs. Volunteers often lead sessions on everything from trail hazards to proper helmet use, ensuring the next genera-



Raffle tickets being sold by club members.

tion rides responsibly.

- **Events and Fundraising:** Lend a hand at the club's legendary club rides, bonfire gatherings, or annual fundraisers. These aren't just parties—they're lifelines that fund equipment and landowner appreciation gifts.

Administrative Support: If you're more behind-the-scenes, assist with social media updates via the club's active Facebook page, track volunteer hours, or handle membership drives. Remote options make it accessible for those outside the immediate area.

The club even offers training, like the recent Groomer Safety Course, to equip volunteers with pro-level skills. Whether you're a weekend warrior or a full-time trail captain, there's a spot for you.

The Payoff: More Than Just a Pat on the Back

Why volunteer when you could just ride? For starters, it's a direct investment in your playground. Every hour you give helps sustain the trails you love, countering

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Club members Tyler Vadney, Stephanie and Matt Lord, Gerry Lenseith, Joel and Mel Vadney (photo credit), Gracie Skultety and David Busch at Adopt A Hwy Nov 2 2025!!

challenges like landowner negotiations and unpredictable weather. Plus, as a club member (often a prerequisite for deeper involvement), you'll snag a \$70 discount per sled on New York State registrations—that's real savings that stack up for families. But the rewards run deeper. Volunteering builds unbreakable bonds in a community where "winter

friends are friends forever," as one rider poetically put it. Imagine sharing stories around a bonfire after a long grooming shift, or mentoring a kid who nails their first hill climb. It's camaraderie forged in snow and sweat, plus perks like bonus cards for local business discounts and insider access to prime riding spots. On a broader scale, your efforts bolster NYSSA's advocacy, protecting snowmobiling from regulations and ensuring trails remain open for generations. Studies show community service like this boosts mental health, sharpens skills, and even enhances career prospects through leadership roles. For students, it counts toward service hours; for retirees, it's a purposeful way to stay active.

Lace Up and Join the Ride: How to Get Involved

Ready to throttle up? Start simple: Visit frontier-sno.com or the Frontier Sno-Riders Facebook page to sign up for the next meeting on November 12, 2025, at the Back Barn Brewery. Email the club or drop by—they're welcoming to all, from novice riders to seasoned mechanics. Membership dues are modest (around \$30–\$50 annually, family rates available), and volunteers often get priority for events. This winter, as La Niña promises deeper snows, the Frontier Sno-Riders need you more than ever. By volunteering, you're not just maintaining trails—you're carving a legacy of adventure, safety, and community spirit across four counties. Gear up, give back, and let's make this season unforgettable. Who's riding with me? For more info, contact Frontier Sno-Riders.



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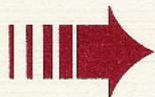


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RAY

Frontier Sno Riders



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Think Snow!
The snow is Coming!!!!

Want To Help?

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Snowmobilers Care About Our Environment



Club Meeting
November 12th
7 pm
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CONTACT@BACKBARNBREWING.COM
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