



# St. Helen Snowpackers

## October Newsletter

### 2018



#### Calendar of Events:

Wednesdays – Weekly Club Workdays (and/or Brushing) – 9:00 am – ??

Saturdays – Weekly Brushing – 9:00 am - ??

10/13 – Social Night – Rose City Cafe – 6:00 pm

10/20 – Regular Meeting – 10:00 am (trail brushing afterward)

10/27 – Trunk or Treat and the Snowpackers' Spooky Hay Ride

**Welcome New Members:** The 2018-2019 membership year is off to a good start, with 85 paid memberships so far. Welcome to Chris Hannahs of Saint Helen, Northbound 222 of Union Lake and Dan White of Milford. We're glad to have you in our group!

**Trail Conditions:** We had a rough start to our trail brushing season with some wicked weather coming in August and September. Our area was hit pretty hard with wide spread damage to many neighboring communities. Our trail system was not spared, and many trees have come down. Much of our system had damage throughout with portions of the trail completely blocked by large trees. We had crews out over several weekends, including getting some much appreciated help from folks who were riding the trails stopping to assist, and we had a great crew the first weekend following the major storm – so many people came out to help. **It was GREAT!** However, trees weakened by the storm are still coming down, so please be careful out there.

**Trail Brushing Season:** While trail brushing has taken a back seat to emergency trail clean-up, we've still be able to get out and make some progress. There's plenty of work yet to do, and the more people we have out there, the quicker we can get the work done. Any and all help is appreciated, by members and non-members alike. Due to insurance reasons, only members can handle power equipment (saws, tractors), but anyone can throw brush. It's a great way to get out there and learn the system while doing a bit of good, and all are welcome. You can send a private message through our Facebook page or contact one of the Board members if you'd like to help. **Because of the storms we are indeed behind schedule and we will most likely need people to go out every Saturday and hopefully a few weekdays from now on [and probably] into November.** That's makes it rough, but that is the hand that Mother Nature dealt to us and we need to make the best of it. Join in the game and help out if you can.

**Social Events:** The group hit the trails on September 22<sup>nd</sup> with the intent to make it to the Trails End Pub in Leota. We didn't have a large group – in fact everyone who was there has also been out on the trails doing clean-up and brushing – Ray and Barb Wlosinski, Steve and Shirley Karch, Kevin and Cathy Simpson, and Rob Preston. The weather was beautiful and the trails had been dragged a couple of days before so they were in great shape (thanks Rob!). Luckily Steve brought his chainsaw because we ran into trees across the trail which had come down overnight. After clearing four or five sections, we were on our way! Then Kevin & Cathy's sxs starting having issues and we made the decision to head into Houghton Lake instead. We came up on the Houghton Lake Snow Groomers' trail crew clearing some of their storm damage - their system was hit pretty hard too. We ended up at Buccilli's in Houghton Lake, and headed back, not making it very far before



the Simpson's had a breakdown. Having your Polaris towed by an Artic-Cat is not a fun way to end the trip, but with all the joking around it was a lot better than it could have been. Kevin & Cathy were glad to be a part of the group that went out of their way to make it a great day. Thanks for the rescue to Ray & Barb for towing them to the trail head where Scott Nestle came in for the save. What a great bunch of friends! **Our next outing will be on October 13<sup>th</sup> when we head to the Rose City Cafe (across from McDonald's) at 6:00 p.m.** If you'd like to join us, please contact one of the Board members so we can save you a seat.



**U.P. Get-Away Raffle #3:** Our new raffle will be drawn at our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Run on February 9, 2019. The prize package includes 3-nights stay at **White Pine Lodge** in Christmas, \$50 gift certificate to **Foggy's Steak House** in Christmas, \$50 gift certificate to **Brownstone Inn** in AuTrain and \$500 travelin' cash. Tickets are \$10 each, and only 500 will be sold. **Tickets are available now.** Please contact a board member if you'd like to sell a block, or to buy some for yourself.

**Online Trail Reports:** We're now posting our trail reports online at several different sites, including the Club's website and Facebook pages, the MSA website at [http://trails.msasnow.org/trail\\_conditions/traildetail.asp@Key=2661](http://trails.msasnow.org/trail_conditions/traildetail.asp@Key=2661), and also on the Fishweb site at <http://www.fishweb.com/recreation/snowmobile/reports/snow-sainthelen.html>.

Remember to visit our website and Facebook pages to keep up to date on our activities.

[www.sainthelensnowpackers.com](http://www.sainthelensnowpackers.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Helen-Snowpackers-Club/169025559777692>



**Happy Birthday!!!**  
 14-Beverly Fistler;  
 23-Steve Brockway; 27-Margaret Timmons;  
 29-Connie Barton; 29-Marge Williams;  
 and 31-Mark Fifield



**Happy Anniversary!!!**  
 10-Lee & Pat Kelly;  
 12-Brian & Karen Beltz; 12-Ricky & Cindy Eskelson  
 19-John & Shirley Southway; and 30-Chris & Marjorie Lorenzon

We wish you many, many more.

**St. Helen Snowpackers**

President: Scott Nestle – 989 621-3124  
 Vice President: Chuck Parris – 248 766-9454      2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Sheila Parris – 248 766-9454  
 Secretary: Cathy Simpson – 989 389-7235      Treasurer: Carolyn Nestle – 989 621-3124  
 Trustees: Rob Preston, Kevin Simpson, Ray Wlosinski & Steve Karch

Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 10am

[www.sainthelensnowpackers.com](http://www.sainthelensnowpackers.com)

**Business Members 2018-2019**

**Please frequent our members**

<b>St. Helen Area:</b>		<b>St. Helen Area:</b>		<b>Other Areas:</b>	
BS Liquor Store	989 359-2757	St. Helen Power Sports	989 389-4961	Bay Area Sledgers	No phone
C & C Powersports	248 520-6281	The Peach Pit Restaurant	989 389-1600	Cadillac Winter Warriors	231 768-4969
Chuck's Tires	989 389-3960			Charlevoix Dairy Grille, LLC	734 308-6122
D & D Snowplowing	989 389-4058			Houghton Lake Trailblazers	989 387-5437
Firehouse Bar & Grill	989 389-1000	<b>Roscommon/West Branch:</b>		Marty's Dairy Grille (E Jordan)	734 308-6122
Great Lakes Fireworks	586 779-8062	Northern Lakes Realty – Connie Barton	989 281-1700	Missaukee Trail Blazers	231 328-4351
Hen House Restaurant	989 389-3731	Ogemaw Hills Snow Club	989 473-3062	Northbound 222 Inc., Union Lake	No phone
Second Generation Barber Shop	989 387-3902	Ogemaw County Voice	989 745-8355	Sanilac Career Center, Sanilac ISD, Engineering & Design Program	
St. Helen Chamber of Commerce	989 389-3725	Rosco-Higgins Trail Cruisers	989 273-1052		
St. Helen Lake Association	No phone	Roscommon County Voice	866 364-8099		

St. Helen Snowpackers  
 P.O. Box 514  
 St. Helen, MI 48656