SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The January Poker Run is just around the corner. Some changes are in store for this year so stay tuned.
- Thanks to Brent Allen for spearheading the trail brushing this fall with the mechanical brusher and a rented tractor.
- We will announce groomer day plans when one of our groomers makes it back from the shop.
- Have you seen our website—visit www.missinglinksc.ca for club news and events.
- ‘Like’ us on Facebook to get the latest event and trail information.
- Got a fun picture from club events? Please forward it to dowser@morningmistresort.ca

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

What a super 2015 snowmobile winter we had, with early beginnings and late endings…not much snow but cold weather to keep the well groomed trails hard and able to withstand the many sleds that showed up to enjoy the Missing Link Trails!

We had our trials and tribulations when we lost a number of seasoned groomer operators last year, but then we had an influx of new volunteers who quickly became “seasoned” with on-the-job training at its finest! My personal THANKS to all of you for stepping into the void to help pull us through last season.

And now soon to be 2016 WOW! Tis the weeks before sled season and whilst thoughts of snow and wide groomed trails danced through your head, volunteers were busy again preparing trails & brushing, replacing decking on bridges, smoooothhing the “A” trail along the Bissett Rd., looking for alternate trail routes, meetings—meetings—meetings, special fund raising events, and putting up signs. Soon everyone will be on these trails and almost unaware what has gone on all summer long… and there are stories to be told for sure… but all is good again in the Great White of the Missing Link.

If you meet one of our trail patrol people stop for a chat and listen to a story or two.

Stay off the freshly groomed trail behind the drag, and give the groomer operator a big smile and a thumbs up as you pass them by. For sure we’ll see you at the snowmobile events coming to the trails of the Missing Link this winter.

PS… If you would consider getting off that sled and giving us a volunteer hour or two, it would be much appreciated, and we do do this for the fun!

Wishing You Great Sledding, Health & Happiness in the coming new season!

Doug Antler

MLSC Permit Sales Down Again Last Season

A total of 160 riders supported the Missing Link Snowmobile Club when purchasing their trail permits last season (133 Season permits and 27 Classic permits). This represents a drop of 12 season trail permit sales over the 2014 season.

Thank you to our permit vendors for supporting the club once again, and to all the snowmobilers who checked off ‘Missing Link’ as their club of choice!
OPEN SESAME 2015

The -30C weather did not deter the 98 riders who showed up at Yates’ store on January 17th ready to tackle the Open Sesame poker run. In spite of the cold most riders were ready to go at 10:30 although a few decided to wait a little to see if it would warm up.

It was good to see a lot of the same riders and a few new folks enjoying the MLSC trails and following what appears to be a time honored tradition: Terry Teasdale and company were the last to register. At that point the frozen attendants headed to the warmth of the township hall where there was some hot coffee and some good ‘sweetener’ to add to it.

Around 2pm the earlier riders started to return to the hall to draw their cards and most riders were back a little earlier than normal due to the colder weather. Two additional folks decided to buy a hand and also enjoy a plate of delicious roast beef so in total 100 folks did their best to draw the top poker hand. The results were as follows:

3rd: Don Lemaire—J,J,J,K,8
1st: Carole Curran—K,Q,10,7,3
(a flush in diamonds)

Most Humble Hand: Craig Moore

All the riders were winners however in that they got to enjoy yet another delicious roast beef dinner and those who were still hungry after the first helping were encouraged to come back for a second round which was very much appreciated by those who did so.

MLSC Club President Doug Antler thanked all who participated in the day, either as a rider or as a volunteer, and he pointed out that Richard and Leanne Yates completed the ride for the first time ever which was a celebration of their recent retirement.

Doug also reminded all of how the MLSC returns the profits of events such as the Open Sesame into trail improvements by highlighting the two areas of the A trail which were upgraded this summer: one being along highway 17 at Menet Lake, and the other being ‘Sesame Street’ itself.

Prior to the diehard party people sitting down to discuss the day’s events there was the draw for the 50-50 prize of $384 which was won by Aggie Lemaire.

A good day was had by all and the MLSC looks forward to having you all come back this coming season.

David

MY FIRST WINTER IN STONECLIFFE

Having moved from southern Ontario June of 2014, I had been warned about the amount of snow to expect during winter, in the “Near North”, as some people call it. In southern Ontario for the last 25 years, we had been getting snow, only to have it melt and then return, on a regular cycle. In actual fact this year I was looking forward to getting a lasting snow.

As a retiree I do not have many commitments. So one day when Brent Allen called to ask permission to use the front of my property for the snowmobile trail, I asked who groomed the trails and if I could get involved. He informed me that all members of the Missing Link Snowmobile Club were volunteers and with some training, I could be put onto the grooming roster. After a long time and a lot of patience from my instructors Jim and Brent, as well as some words of wisdom from Chris (its only snow), I finally took my first solo drive into the hills.

On the Head Clara and Maria’s logo, someone put the words, “Nature’s Playground”. Boy did they ever get that right!

Grooming at night with lights blazing, winding through the countryside up and down the hills and alongside the lakes in our area and the snow on the trees, there is something special about the time you spend doing this work that makes your time so worthwhile.

And when you get home tired and aching from trying to look forward and backwards at the same time, you also have that feeling of accomplishment.

Being part of the volunteers of the Missing Link Snowmobile Club has been one of the best things that I could have done as a new member of this community. It has introduced me to so many great people in the short time that I have been here.

Thank you all for welcoming Jackie and me to the community.

Finney
BOW-TIE & SILENT AUCTION

The talk of the area a year ago was that two well known faces of the Missing Link Snowmobile club had decided to trade in their keys to the general store for piggy backs with the grandchildren and dinners out at five star restaurants.

This massive change within the club’s ranks opened up room for advancement for the rookie members to step up to the plate. This challenge was quickly taken on by the likes of two individuals who thought they were up for the task of what is now a major fundraiser for the club.

The Silent Auction and the Bow-Tie Classic Snowmobile Poker Run has been a staple in the community for over a decade. Snowmobilers from all over come and participate in the poker run and after they are finished hitting the trails they arrive at the Township Hall to view hundreds of items that have been donated from hundreds of businesses in the local area. The items range from airplane rides to loads of gravel.

In order for these items to be available for the silent auction, Richard and Leanne Yates put hundreds of kilometres on their vehicle in order to talk with and inform the many businesses of what exactly snowmobiling means to the members of the community. Their response has been unbelievable and has made the Silent Auction the club’s biggest fundraiser.

Organization and sheer determination is what the Yates family had put into this event in years past. It is usually 2 a.m. the night before the auction when everything is good to go and the lights get turned off in the township hall.

As we see the Yates family relax and enjoy their retirement, it was great to see them on the run this year instead of them always working the event.

As my wife Nicole and I stepped up to keep the tradition of success and excitement alive at this year’s Silent Auction, we were humbled that the ground work had already been laid and that the auction gets better year after year.

Thanks again Richard and Leanne Yates for your many years of hard work.

It was great to see everyone attending with pencils in hand.

Brent

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THIS SEASON’S EVENTS CALENDAR

“OPEN SESAME” POKER RUN
Saturday January 16th
Snowmobile Poker Run - Cash Prizes and more! Dinner to follow at Stonecliffe Township Hall.

FAMILY DAY FISH AND FUN
Sunday February 14th
Come out for fun and games, ice fishing, and campfire lunch.

19TH ANNUAL BOW TIE CLASSIC POKER RUN & SILENT AUCTION
Saturday March 5th
Snowmobile Rally and Silent Auction at the Stonecliffe Township Hall with $1000 Grand Prize!!
IN APPRECIATION…

Seventy-two landowners and volunteers came out to share their stories, enjoy a fabulous meal, and let themselves be entertained by the various presentations and live music as the Missing Link Club wrapped up the 2015 season at the Stonecliffe Township Hall in April.

Many thanks to the local CWL for catering the delicious roast beef and chicken dinner with all the fixin’s including a wonderful mixed greens salad to start things off and fancy profiteroles to satisfy everyone’s sweet tooth in the end.

This year also marked the inaugural presentation for a new Lifetime Achievement Award to commemorate the many volunteer hours of Richard & Leanne Yates. This award will be presented to a new deserving volunteer each year from now on.

*Back in Tyme* provided the dancing entertainment until the wee hours in the morning, with a brief interlude featuring ‘Jimmy & The Doo-Wa Ditties’, fresh off their European Tour.

Again, a big Thank You to our landowners for giving us trail permission during the winter and to all of our volunteers who step up to the challenge just because it is there!
OUR 6TH SPRING ATV RALLY

A record 191 participants registered for the 6th annual spring ATV rally. Thanks to everyone for coming out for an absolutely perfect day on the trails!

This year’s route took us east from Morning Mist Resort, winding into some beautiful lakes and picturesque look-outs. Riders were greeted at one of the look-outs with tasty hot dogs and chips on order.

Back at the camp, the volunteer cooks prepped for dinner while the riders traded in their Geocache chips in an attempt to draw the big poker hand.

Many contributed to the potluck-style dinner but burgers and fries made up the bulk of the dietary supplement. A total of 230 burgers, 175 hot dogs, and 40lbs of fries tackled the hungriest of appetites.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to the day’s success, as well as our local vendors who generously donated the many door prizes to give away.

Also a nod goes out to both the Nation Valley and Renfrew County ATV clubs for your support and posting some great pics and a video on the Missing Link Facebook page. Check them out if you haven’t already.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on the first Saturday in May for the 7th Spring ride.

Todd
SUMMER FISHING DERBY… 2015

The 28th Annual Deux Rivieres Fishing Derby opened with 117 hopefuls showing their angling skills and the ability to successfully consume all the deep fried fillets whilst balancing their plates with home-baked beans, fresh rolls, salads and unbelievable desserts as the sun slowly set on another perfect fishing derby weekend! Thanks to the sun Gods and the mystery of the washing of the “big fry pan” for next year’s event!

Closely contested all weekend and only settled in the final weigh-in on Sunday were the top honors of largest Pickerel going to John Fitzgerald of Delhi, ON, the Northern Pike to Tom Clouthier of Pembroke, biggest Perch to Nicholas Plouffe of Hawkesbury and Shannon Clouthier of Bissett Creek with the largest Bass. The prize tables could not have held any more prizes and it was stretching the last of the sunset to distribute them to all the other successful winners. Girls you’ll have to do a little better next year!

What was missing? The quiet calm smile of Peter Dmytrenko as he would help out and exchange stories during the fish fry (I missed you Pete). Peter left us to fish On Golden Pond where we’re sure the fish are the biggest and best. The entry list was not the same without Peter as he had attended every fishing derby (winter and summer) for all the 28 seasons! He passed on doing what he liked best, getting ready the boat and gear for the derby.

Looking forward to visiting with everyone at next year’s event!

Doug

YOUR CLUB EXECUTIVE & VOLUNTEERS

As with many volunteer clubs in the region, our active volunteers continue to get older over time and it seems harder and harder to get new people interested and involved. We have a wide range of volunteer functions from selling tickets to bartending to serving food and, of course, preparing and maintaining our trail system. Yes everyone is busy in today’s world, but if you can manage a spare hour or two, please feel free to contact anyone on the list below and find out how you can help. It is not all about snowmobiling, and it is all about community and having fun while we are at it!

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VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION (OR INACTION?)....
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thanks to our Contributing Writers:

- Doug Antler
- David Balla-Boudreau
- Brent Allen
- Finney Lee

If you have any stories or ideas for future editions of The Link, please forward them to dowser@morningmistresort.ca