

25th Anniversary



1970 - 1995

CLUB HISTORY

April 26, 1996

CELEBRATING OUR 25TH. ANNIVERSARY

THIS BOOKLET GIVES US A PERFECT

TIME TO LOOK BACK AT OUR

COLORFUL AND INSPIRING PAST,

TO TAKE STOCK OF THE PRESENT

AND TO

THINK ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO

THE NEXT GENERATION.

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This re-issue of the Sussex Sled Bugs Club History contains the same information as the original release. Some minor changes were made do to typographical errors found in the original, or formatting changes. The pictures used are the same from the original book. Some pictures may have been enhanced to make the contents more visible.

SUSSEX SLED BUGS SNOWMOBILE CLUB - HISTORY 1970-1995

In the Fall of 1970 a meeting was held at the Doug & Carol Hext residence to discuss the possibility of forming a snowmobile club. Attending that meeting were Doug & Carol Hext, Frank Westerdale, Reid Bierman, Dick & Ann Wegner, Tom Schepp, Vince Wierl and Jim Booth.

On December 16, 1970, another meeting was held at the Jolly Bar to further discuss forming a club. Thus to establish better relations with landowners by correcting violations, to prevent property damage, and make snowmobiling safer and more enjoyable for snowmobile owners and non-owners, alike. Also to have a voice in snowmobile legislation as a group in the community, county and state. In the future, to have a cooperative relationship between the community and the club. A motion was made by Frank Westerdale, seconded by Gordon Pfeil to organize a snowmobile club. Motion carried.

Several suggestions for a club name were: The Snofunners, Trail Blazers, Trail Hawks, Trail Bums and the Sled Bugs. Members present at the January 6, 1971 meeting voted, the name preferred was the "Sled Bugs" and the Club was officially formed and named.

Reid Bierman worked with a local artist and had numerous suggestions for a Club emblem with a "Sled Bug" as the basic idea. At the January 6, 1971 meeting, the membership voted on several suggestions, and the famous cricket was chosen as the emblem. The decal was 4" in diameter; the side vent and the word TNT was omitted from the Ski-Doo snowmobile used on the decal.

Also at the January 6, 1971 meeting a motion was made and seconded to incorporate the Sussex Sled Bugs Snowmobile Club as a non-profit organization. Motion carried. The proper paper work was done and the Sled Bugs rented Post Office Box Number 222 for a year for \$8.40. In 1996 the annual cost of Post Office Box Number 222 has risen to \$64.00.

Trail work started in January of 1971 and the first officers of the newly formed club were: President - Doug Hext; Vice President - Reid Bierman; Treasurer - Tom Schepp and Secretary - Carol Hext.

A motion was passed stating, "That for any reason the Sussex Sled Bugs Snowmobile Club disbanded, the balance of the Club Treasury is to be donated to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for snowmobile trails".

The First Board of Directors consisted of Lyle Luczak, Dick Wegner, Frank Westerdale, Harold Krueger, Russell & Kathy Albert, Randy Strelow, Ken Roberts, Carol Wegner, Carol Darrow and Maxine Bierman.

Club Polices:

- 1) Person must be 18 years of age or older to join the Club.
- 2) The Club would only accept 100 memberships.
- 3) The Club was to meet on the first Wednesday of the Month with the Board meeting on the third Wednesday of the Month.
- 4) Club dues were \$15.00.

Charter members that joined the Club in 1970 are: Jerry & Bernie Berdoll, Vince & Katie Wierl, Frank & Evelyn Westerdale, and Judy Kaisler.

Several others that joined the Club in the "History" making years and still belong to the Sled Bugs today:

1971 John & Sharon Mueller
Joel & Sue Ohman
1972 Delores Scharmer
Dennis & Sharon Schneeberg

The Sled Bugs started offering the Snowmobile Safety Course in 1971. Tom Schepp, Joel Ohman and John Mueller graduated from the DNR Snowmobile Safety Course as Instructors.

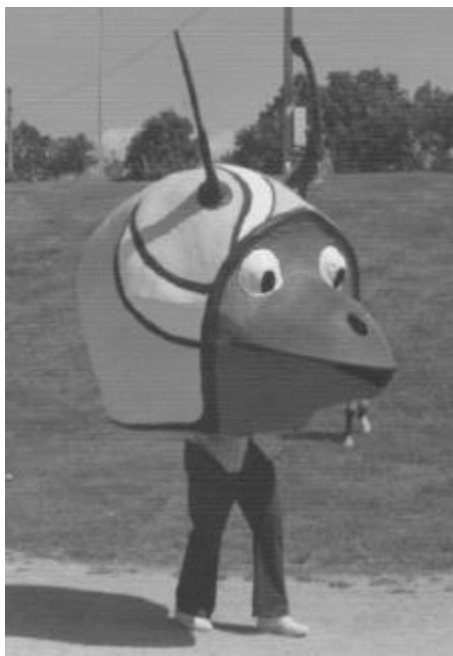
The Sussex Sled Bugs, Lisbon Sno-Knights, Pewaukee Club, Lake Five Club and the Lannon Club formed a 5 club Alliance for the purpose of having mutual exchange of trails, with uniform markers and to have uniform insurance coverage. Reid Bierman and Frank Westerdale were the representatives and by 1973 the Town & County Alliance had grown to 15 Clubs.

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In January of 1972 the Junior Club was formed for children 10 to 18 years of age. Parents of the Junior Club members needed to be Sled Bug members. The Junior Club meetings would coincide with the regular club meetings. The first officers of the Junior Club were: President - Rick Schepp, Vice President - Lauren Schepp, Secretary - Colleen Albert and Treasurer - Jeanne Kjos.

With the growing popularity in the community, regular membership was raised to 175 members, subject to Board Approval.

In March of 1972 Reid Bierman was officially appointed "Trail Master" and Dick Wegner took over the position of Vice President. Frank Westerdale was assistant trail master.



1973 Sussex Lions Daze

In September of 1973, a motion was made by Carol Hext, seconded by Ed Lemke to join the AWSC. Motion carried. By March of 1975 100% of the Club members belonged to AWSC.

Interest in the Club continued to grow and by the 1974 - 75 season, the Club had 257 members.

With the continued growth and development in and around the village, a Trail Committee was organized in 1975. Trail Section heads were set up, to be overseen by the trail master.

In the 1975 - 76 season the Club membership dropped to 183 families.

In August 1975 John Mueller sent a letter to the Sussex VFW asking that a sign be positioned outside to show that the Post was the Sled Bugs headquarters. Permission was granted for the sign and a trophy case.

In December 1975 the Club received permission to use an old milk shed [14' x 18'] on the Carl Trapp farm off of Pewaukee Road, free of charge for at least two years. We used the shed until January 1993 to store trail supplies, etc. The annual chili dump and bon fire were also held on the Trapp Farm.

Also in 1975 John Mueller starting working with the Village on the use of the Bug Line as part of our private trail system.

In October of 1976 a motion was passed to allow non-residents to join the Club for the first time. But 75% of the membership had to be Village residents.

In April 1977 John Mueller made a motion, seconded by Jim Scharmer to have a door raffle at 25 cents per ticket, with one winner receiving the money. Motion carried.

In the 1977 - 1978 season the first Fun Days were organized. The club had over 100 members and there were events for everyone. John Mueller was chairman of Fun Days and held team relay events for the men, women, and children.

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Winter Fun Days

Winners of the first men's relay team were: Matt Nettesheim, Paul Schmitz, Fred Schildt and Gene Schmid. Winners on the women's team were R. Wardesky, Katie Wierl, Sharon Mueller and Karen Beckman.

In 1978 Jean Steinhilb represented the Sled Bugs at the Alliance Queen contest in Wausau.

In June 1979 Club dues were increased to \$20.00 and a \$5.00 late charge would be charged where appropriate. The club membership in AWSC was 100%.



AWCS 100% Participation Certificate of 1979

In September 1979 the Sussex Sled Bugs Junior Club was disbanded because a lack of interest and more family related events were to be planned.

In the Fall of 1981 Chris Cloutier represented the Sled Bugs at the Alliance Queen Contest in Fond du Lac.



Chris Cloutier

With many new subdivisions and the continued development in and around Sussex, the job of the Trail Master and his committee was getting to be a very big and time consuming job. At the May 19th, 1982 Board meeting it was decided to split up the job and have a trail master, an assistant trail master, a trail coordinator, and continue with section heads.

After many discussions, in January 1983, a new motion was passed that the door raffle winner receive \$25 and the remaining money, if any, go in the Club treasury.

Harold Butschke, representing the Waukesha County Snowmobile Association, attended the March 1983 Board Meeting and gave the Counties proposal of a new funded trail for public use, which would include sections of the Bug Line. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was passed stating that the Sled Bugs would participate in the proposed County Funded Trail. Larry Kaisler, John Dietrich, Vince Wierl, Jerry Fink, and John Mueller volunteered to contact all landowners involved.

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1983 Sussex Lions Daze Float

In September 1983 the Club started looking into having a booth at Lions Daze, selling either chicken wings, baked potatoes or wine coolers. We were denied a booth for no apparent reason. But in April of 1984 the Lions' reconsidered and called to give the Sled Bugs permission to have a booth in 1984 Lions Daze, but we could not sell food or booze. Many suggestions were offered, the decision was made to sell T-shirts. A small booth was built and ready by July.



1984 Sussex Lions Daze T-Shirt Booth

That first year we sold 245 shirts with receipts of \$1,159.50. This was a very good profit on the items sold, BUT over 500 shirts were left in inventory and the total cost to the Club was \$2,332.50. Global Mfg. was paid in installments and we sold shirts again in 1985.

In April of 1984 John Dietrich and Harry Findler volunteered to come up with a Club Certificate Award to be presented to an outstanding member, family or Landowner that has contributed outstanding services to the Club. It was decided that a Club plaque listing all winners and an individual plaque be given for this Award.



John Mueller receiving his award

The first annual "Big Bug" award was presented to John Mueller at the December general meeting. John has been with the Club since 1971 and has been on the Board of Directors, a Club Officer, has conducted the Snowmobile Safety Course, has been Chairman of Fun Days, Chairman of Lions Daze booth, and worked on the Club insurance and membership. John also has donated many hours of time toward the County trail system.

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Use of the Bug Line was granted in March for use in the 1983-84 snow season, but use in the Village Limits was denied. In October the plan was dropped as it was a dead end battle trying to get permission through the Village. The Village did grant use of two segments of the Bug Line on a temporary 1 years basis. Highway J east to the creek, west of Grogan Drive and from the Chicago Northwestern overpass south to a dead end at Our Villa (Buzdum's) and the Clark Station. These parts are still used today.

At the August 15, 1984, Board meeting Harry Findler and John Mueller agreed to take responsibility and pursue the County Trail system.



Building the Bark River Bridge in 1984

In the fall of 1984 specifications to build the Bark River bridge were received from the County. Work needed to be completed and the bridge ready by December 1st. Members worked many hours, built the bridge and had it ready for inspection in December. On January 24, 1985, the County certified our new county trail and bridge. Re-construction was done to the ramps, etc., in February 1986, and the bridge is still a permanent structure today.

In 1985 stuffed animals, hats, beaded dresses, fringed T-shirts and logo transfers were added to the Lion Dazes Booth items to be sold. Total receipts for 1985 was \$714.25 and after the bills were paid, the total profit was only \$220.00. After that experience, the Club decided not to sell T-shirts again, as the profit was too small.

Even with 300 T-shirts remaining in inventory, in March of 1986 a letter was again written to the Lions Club asking permission for a food booth at Lions Daze. Permission was granted. President, Harry Findler called an "Emergency" Club Meeting on June 4, 1986 and after a lengthy discussion members accepted the Board of Directors recommendations to venture ahead and spend over \$500.00 and participate in Lion Daze 1986. A new and bigger booth was built, John Mueller volunteered to be chairman and the Club entered into the "Munchies" booth adventure. That makes a total of ten years of FUN!!!



Our Famous "Munchie Booth"

That first year the Club did accomplish the two goals that were set. One was to make money and the other was to let the Community know that the Sussex Sled Bugs Snowmobile Club was alive and well!!! Membership participation in the event was extremely good and a decision was made at the September meeting to do it again in 1987!!!

Paul Schmitz designed rain protection gear which was added when the booth was assembled for the 1987 Lions Daze.

In December 1985 the annual Outstanding Service Award was presented to Karen Jeras. Karen likes to be involved in the club. She has done the Newsletter, was the Pizza sale chairman, worked on Fun Days, Lions Daze float and booth, dance committee, Landowners Dinner, Christmas party, and helps with trail work. Karen is currently the Club Secretary, on the Board of Directors, on the Recruiting Committee and a member of the Search & Rescue team.