
SUSSEX SLED BUGS SNOWMOBILE CLUB - HISTORY 1970-1995



Karen Jeras

In 1986 the County extended the Bug Line east to Village Bowl in Menomonee Falls.

Kim Weinzatl represented the Sled Bugs in the 1986 Lions Daze parade and was a representative in the Alliance Queen Contest held at Boomers Pub in the Fall.



Kim Weinzatl

In December of 1986 the remaining 150 T-shirts were donated to needy organizations in Waukesha County.



Joel & Sue Ohman

In December 1986 the Outstanding Service Award was presented to a couple that contributed numerous hours of support to the club and have been "Outstanding Members" since 1971, Joel & Sue Ohman.

Sue & Joel both have been on the Board of Directors, both were officers of the Club, worked on Fun Days and the Summer Picnics. Joel worked on the County Alliance projects and was a Safety School Instructor and certified over 500 students by 1986 and received the "traditional" belt buckle from the DNR. Sue also did the Newsletter for the Club for several years and was very active in the Legislative aspects of snowmobiling.

In February of 1987 a motion was passed to purchase a fiberglass toboggan with a backboard, for \$441.45 (plus \$50 for shipping), for donation to the Sussex Fire Department, as a community project. The Lisbon Fire Department would also have full use of the board if needed. Donation of the backboard was done at the November Open House.

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In 1987 Club meetings were held in the basement Fox Hole of the Sussex VFW on Wednesday evening. Bingo started interfering with parking; so in May of 1987 the Board recommended to the membership to change its meeting night to Tuesday in order to meet upstairs. A motion was passed to have the September, October and November meeting on Tuesday, upstairs and then make a final decision on the future night.

In June of 1987 the question of a "inactive membership" was brought before the Board of Directors. Several members were relocating to the Northern part of the State and would like to remain on the mailing list. A club policy was set stating that: An inactive membership would be available to any member who had previously been a member in good standing, and had moved to an area not within reasonable traveling distance to meetings and events. Cost would be \$5.00 per year, plus AWSC membership fee if they do not belong to another club having membership in the AWSC. All applications must be approved by the Board of Directors. Those approved memberships would receive a copy of the Newsletter, and if they wish to attend any of the club activities, they would be assessed a guest fee. This would require a By-Law change and would be voted on.



Shelly Ohman

In September of 1987, Shelly Ohman represented the Sled Bugs in the Alliance Queen Contest and placed second. Shelly also represented the Club at Olympia in October.

At the October meeting a motion was passed to continue to hold monthly meetings on Tuesday for the balance of the 1987 - 1988 season and meet upstairs.



Alice and Harry Findler

In November 1987 the Outstanding Service Award was presented to Harry and Alice Findler. They both have served as officers of the Club, on the Board of Directors, been chairman of Fun Days, been on the dance committee, elections committee and did the audit of the books. They together have donated many, many, hours of time and materials to the Club and have always been there to help John Mueller with Lions Daze. Alice has done the Newsletter, made work schedule arrangements for Lions Daze and is always doing work for Harry. Harry has been the Club "Jester" for years!!!

Each year the Snowmobile Safety Course has been offered to the community and by 1987 John Mueller had certified 500 students and received his belt buckle from the DNR.

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In March of 1988 a 10 day snowmobile trip to Canada was organized by Jerry Fink. Phil Hohlweck, Michael Kolupar, Jerry Fink, Brianne & Karen Jeras, Bob & Jean Walther, Bud & Dorothy Weber, Terry & Ellen Prekop and Wally & Charlotte Feutz rode the "Snow Train" from Sault Saint Marie, through the Agawa Canyon on its 9 hour trip to Hearst Ontario.



Delores Scharmer

In December 1988 the Outstanding Service Award was presented to Delores Scharmer, whom has been a Sled Bug since 1972. Delores has been the clubs' social director, handles the insurance, has been chairman of the Landowners dinner, Christmas Party, and Brewer's outings. Delores is a member of the Board of directors and is currently President of the Club.

The 1988 - 89 season brought new ideas and suggestions for the County Trail. It was to have all intersections marked with corridor signs corresponding to the State Maps.

In 1988 there was 12,700 miles of State trails in Wisconsin, but the Southern part of the State does not have their share. Some funding may be spent in a different County than it was allotted, to help offset the Northern counties high bills.

In February of 1989 Bob & Jane Farkas arranged a club trip to Park Falls. The Snow Gypsies helped with the arrangements for a full weekend of activities. In the Spring of 1989 the Park Falls Snow Gypsies became the "Sister Club" of the Sled Bugs and do exchange Newsletters.



Sam Pritzel, President of the Park Falls Snow Gypsies on his new "horse" built by Harry and John.

As of March 1, 1989, driving while intoxicated would be strongly enforced. Road blocks would probably be set up on the trails and breath test given. The first offense is \$318.00 and doubles every time you are arrested. This is a Civil offense and would not be recorded on your driving record.

1989 was a fantastic year at Lions Daze, but the Club needs to get more members involved. Another freezer was purchased and by the end of 1989 we had over \$1600 in inventory.

On numerous occasions Bob Walther stated that he would like to be the Clubs' "Snow Priest" for the 1989 - 90 season. After Board approval it was recommended to the membership and they agreed to let Bob represent the Club for one season. But, if it didn't snow that season, he was to be tarred and feathered.

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Snow Priest Bob Walther

The 1989 Outstanding Service Award was presented to former trail masters: Vince Wierl, Karl Swanson, Jerry Fink and Larry Klein. Vince is a Charter member of the Sled Bugs and has seen many changes in and around Sussex. Karl, Jerry and Larry also have worked numerous hours and have managed to keep the Sled Bugs on the map. They have served on numerous committees and have been members of the Board of Directors. Jerry is also the Club's travel agent and is presently the Trail Coordinator.



Vince Wierl, Karl Swanson



Larry Klein, Jerry Fink

As of January insurance coverage for Landowners was increased to 1 million dollars of coverage.

Ross Schmidt won \$26.00 in the trail open contest. Suggestion was made to start meetings at 7:30 to allow more time to visit when the business is done.

On February 21, 1990, 22 people left for Yellowstone National Park. Jerry Fink made all the arrangements and was the "tour guide" out west. Members attending were: Jan & Jerry Fink; Karen & Brianne Jeras; Gene Schmid; Dan Mueller; Michael Kolupar; Larry Klein; Bob & Jane Farkas; Phil & Kelly Hohlweck; Scott Clark; Paul Schmitz and Delores Scharmer. Sam & Mary Pritzel of the Park Falls Snow Gypsies also went along on the trip. Before returning home, Brianne Jeras did manage to break her right arm in two places on the last day of the trip.



1990 Yellowstone Trip

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We received very little snow in the area during the 1989-90 season, so at the May general meeting, Bob Walther our "Snow Priest" was tarred and feathered, for not living up to his promise.

On May 10, 1990, Bob took revenge and we were blessed with a 8" snow storm.

The Sled Bugs donated the first Lions Daze booth, used for selling T-shirts, to Boy Scouts Troop #95 for their use at Lions Dazes.

On June 10, Manny & Kathy Swiekert had a boat trip to Port Washington and back for the club.

1990 was another good year at Lions Dazes in spite of the rain and mosquitoes. The Club realized another profitable year and did manage to get new members involved. Neon jewelry was available at the booth, but sales were very poor.

The Sled Bugs won the first place trophy in the Civic Division of the Lions Daze parade.



1990 Lions Daze Float

A portable storage shed [flag football wagon] was purchased from the Lions for \$175 and added to inventory for Lions Daze equipment storage.

In October 1990 Harry Findler and his "side kick" John Mueller were given a costume made by Sandy Hohlweck and were officially recognized as the Sled Bugs Club "Jesters".



John Mueller and crew appearing at the WCSA Dinner Dance as the "Snow Balls". Their version of the California Raisins.

At the November Open House (20 year celebration) a "Certificate of Appreciation and "Lifetime Membership" was presented to charter members: Frank & Evelyn Westerdale; Vince & Katie Wierl; Jerry & Bernie Berdoll; Larry & Judy Kaisler.



Charter Members Front: Larry Kaisler, Katie Wierl, Evelyn Westerdale, Bernie Berdoll. Back: Vince Wierl, Greg Wierl, Frank Westerdale, Jerry Berdoll.

Reid & Maxine Bierman were present at the meeting. Reid gave a short speech on how the **Sled Bugs** were started.

The outstanding service award was presented to Katie Wierl for all her years of service to the club. Katie never held a club officer position but served on almost every committee there has been.

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Katie Wierl

Trails opened on December 3rd. - 6:00 PM - Gary Tennyson won \$17.80 on the "Trail Open Contest".

FOR BILL SCHEPP: Total loss to the club for the "Refreshment Can" from 1-1-1980 to 12-31-1990 was \$575.80. (That includes Open House costs).

On January 19, 1991, Jerry Fink, Michael Kolar, Scott Clark and Karen Jeras participated in the Grand Maries 500 mile endurance ride. Jerry and Karen accepted pledges and raised \$894 which was donated to the American Cancer Society on behalf of the Sled Bugs.

By March 1st. there were 17 reported snowmobile related deaths, of those 14 were intoxicated.

Club member Tom Wegner was selected as "Fireman of the Year" in Sussex.



Eddie Murphy, escorted by Karen Jeras, attended the 1991 WCSA Dinner Dance with the Sled Bugs

At the April general meeting Bill Schepp made a motion, seconded by Dave Reihle, that from here forth, the "Refreshment" can be passed only once at a meeting. Motion carried. Members were asked to contribute \$2.00 so the cost of the refreshments could be covered.

In May the membership decided to not become involved in the Wisconsin Adopt-A-Highway program.

Lions Daze—New soda machine worked great. Could have used more help on some shifts. But we had another successful year. Bob Farkas and Harry Findler volunteered to paint the supply wagon.

AWSC, WCSA, etc. is working with DOT on the railroad crossing issue. Up dates will probably have to be made and each club will be required to do and pay for the work at crossings.

Valerie Teague represented the Sled Bugs in the WCSA Queen Contest.