

# CATO TRAILBLAZERS

PO Box 192, Cato NY 13033

catotrailblazers.com

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2017

Meetings at clubhouse, Stockwell Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Sept thru April

Snowmobile season is almost here. By now you should be **preparing your snowmobile** for the season. Don't wait until it's too late. New to snowmobiling and don't know what you should do? You can come to a meeting or sign up for our free safety course and we can inform you. Some basics including: checking track for wear, checking track tension, checking belts, ski wear bars (carbides), seeing if your sled starts and runs, brakes, and of course your gear.

**Safety Course** is being offered January 6, 8-4, at clubhouse. You **MUST PRE-REGISTER** for this. We have always filled up in the past. Anyone can take it as long as you are at least 10 years of age the day of the safety course. The safety course is mandatory for anyone under age 18 to operate a snowmobile on the NYS trail system. Although not mandatory for 18 and older, if you've never taken it we highly recommend it. Topics include (but not limited to) basic rider safety, knowing the trail signs, hand signals, basic info on ice, first aid, windchill, operation of snowmobile, maintenance, the laws, DUI, trailers, snowmobile parts, resources, the role of clubs, and what you can do to help make snowmobiling safe and fun.

**To register contact** Tim Hodson, 315-246-2144, text or call, you will get a return (he usually can't access phone during day M-F).

**Trails open December 20<sup>th</sup>**, snow permitting. Do NOT ride before that. Most trails go through private land, including woods, fields, farms, etc. Many of our land owners hunt, or let people hunt their lands, and riding during hunting season is not only unwise, but it is illegal. You can ride on your own property or private property with permission of the land owner, but you cannot ride on the trails until they are open. We try to have everything signed, but due to hunting season and crops on the field we can't always have the trails fully signed until the season opens. This is a serious issue and trails have been lost due to the impatience of some riders. Don't ruin it for everyone, and please spread the word.

**Respect the land owners too.** How do you do this? When you ride on trails that are near houses, ride slow. This is actually the law at night too, and 24 hours a day in some jurisdictions. When you stop to rest or chat, don't stop by a residence at night and do this.

You are probably louder than you think. When you stop and have a snack or drink, don't litter. I'm sure you don't want candy bar wrappers and water bottles on your property. When you stop on the trail, stop on a straight section, and pull over to the right. When you ride on the trail, **RIDE ON THE TRAIL**. Don't ride anywhere through fields. You may see rogue tracks. Some people have permission for their own access, that doesn't mean you do. Trails are signed a certain way for a reason. Some avoid small ponds, wet spots, or a variety of hazards. **Trails change** slightly from year to year, and sometimes there are major changes. Many of these changes won't show up on some maps. Ride at a safe speed, obey the signs, stay on the trail, and have fun.

**Money Raffle** tickets are in. Eight chances to win \$100. No more than 100 tickets will be sold. \$20 donation. Contact any board member to get one. First drawing is at the **Christmas Party on December 15**. Maybe you can get some extra cash while supporting our club. Christmas Party is 6pm at the club house. Bring a dish to pass. Adult beverages are ok, but please drink responsibly.

## Board Members:

President TJ Snow 420-7377

Vice President Doug Dennison 440-1738

Secretary / Web Master Tim Hodson 246-2144

Treasurer Randy Coleman 252-8358

Membership Secretary Lori Sponable 380-1109

Groomer Master Terry Snow - 560-8779

Trustees Dave Sponable 224-9507 Jason Chehovich 689-9838 John Maitta 729-2635

The club is always looking for new members and for new ideas. Anyone can become an active member. There are many ways to contribute. Come to a meeting and share your ideas!