

# CATO TRAILBLAZERS

PO Box 192, Cato NY 13033

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

As this season approaches and most of us are hopefully getting our sleds ready it's time for the pesky reminder to **stay on trail and ride when there is enough snow**. Area clubs have lost trails due to land owners sick of riders riding wherever they want or riding when there isn't enough snow, ruining winter crops or damaging property. It only takes one rider to ruin it for thousands of people.

**How much snow do you need to ride trails?** If your not sure if there's enough snow, then there probably isn't. Come to the safety course January 5<sup>th</sup> and learn how much snow there needs to be if you aren't sure. The thought that you only need 3" is not accurate. 3" of packed snow on a smooth surface may be ok on your property, but not for the fields we ride across. Many rocks in fields are more than 3" thick. Ruts are sometimes feet deep, so why on earth would you think 3" is ok? Riding when there isn't enough snow not only damages land, it also can damage your sled? Why would you purposely put yourself in a position to damage your sled? The easy solution is to ride when there is enough snow.

**Trails open December 19**, do not ride our trails before that!

**Want a FREE Membership? Get Active!!!** New this year, if you complete 10 verified hours of physical trail work or work on our property, that's approved and verified by a board member, then you



can get your membership free! This does not count for grooming. It was good to see some new people out this year marking trails, hopefully we'll have new people this April help take down trail signs. We appreciate the many monetary donations we receive throughout the year, we are blessed with great support of the local community. We also need physical labor, like people to put signs in the ground!

**Trail Maps.** We have a local map on our website that will be updated just prior to the start of the season that includes local stops. Fold our maps are available for free if you attend our safety course. You can also purchase them for \$5 at area business. You can also attend a club meeting to get one. There is a statewide online map being worked on at this time. Hopefully it'll be ready at the start of the season. We'll post a link to it on our website once it's up and running.

**Snow Cam** is back up on our website thanx to our sponsor – **Goodyear Commercial Tire & Service Center** 5830 Bridge St • East Syracuse, NY • 13057 • 315-446-0043

If you need tires or service, consider them and thank them for sponsoring the snow cam.

Visit our website for our local trail sponsors & support them if you can. Thank them for supporting us!

NEWSLETTER – November 2018

## Upcoming Events:

Visit our website for updated news and events. Our Facebook page posts to our website and is updated regularly with things that are happening.

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

### **Groomer Operator Course**

**12/12 6:30pm.** Dinner Provided  
This is mandatory if you plan to operate the groomer.

### **Christmas Party 12/14 6pm**

Bring a dish to pass and a gift if you have kids. Santa will give your gift to your child.

### **Safety Course 1/5/19 8-4**

You must pre-register with Tim 246-2144. Free. Lunch provided

### **Meetings this season:**

1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11

### **Cash Drawings:**

12/14, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14

## The stuff below...I've said it once or twice and I'll say it again....

**Safety Course** is being offered January 5, 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 19<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 14**. 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!



\$20 Donation to Cato Trail Blazers gets you in the drawings!

### 8 - \$100 Drawings

- (2 each in Club meetings in Dec, Jan, Feb & March)
- No more than 100 tickets will be sold, making the odds better than many drawings.
- Each winner goes back for more chances to win
- You have 8 chances to win \$100
- You could potentially win up to \$800
- Previous years have had multiple winners of drawings
- You don't have to be present to win.

You can Donate to receive your ticket at any meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month at clubhouse, 7:30pm), or by contacting a board member, or at Open House 11-1. [www.catotrailblazers.com](http://www.catotrailblazers.com) for contact info.

Thank You for your support!