



Greetings,

Here we are starting another season and the snow is piling up on the trails. Thank you all for your past support!

After a very busy season last year, things were pretty quiet this summer. We had one work day at Sibley mostly moving logs to the low side of the trail to flatten it between junctions C and D.

The Bomber Mountain Cycling Club spent a day with the Forest Service hauling gravel onto the trail from the parking lot at the lake to the second bridge. They installed timbers on the low side so the gravel will stay put and make a flat trail. They dug out some roots and hauled many tons of gravel with ATV's and trailers. All the loading and unloading was done by hand. This is a big improvement for summer users, but will benefit us in the winter as we use that trail until the ice on the lake is safe to groom across.

Dick and Cathi Kindt have taken on the job of re-marking the trails with blue diamonds. They purchased several hundred and are replacing some of the old ones with the new style with the reflective border. They are still working on the marking as of this writing.

I did a walk around with some of the Forest Service folks this summer to assess the feasibility to get some equipment onto the trails to flatten some of the off camber areas. They thought if time allowed they would bring in a unit and see what could be done, but it didn't happen this year. I think it is something we should think about for trail improvement in the future. Some areas are not accessible due to creeks and bogs to cross but if we can improve the trails where we can, it will make for a better, safer, easier to groom ski trail.

Last ski season we groomed the trails 26 times, using 55 volunteer days. We had our first injury grooming as one of our volunteer groomers suffered a dislocated knee. We do everything we can to make it safe to groom the trails but when we get a large snow event it can be very hard work and sometimes things happen.

We have applied for a grant for a tracked ATV with a front blade. Susan Savage has spent a lot of time preparing the application for us. There are a lot of applicants so I don't know how good of a chance we have, but we should know around the end of January. A lot of ski trails are going to ATV grooming and most prefer them over snowmobiles. It would be a good addition for our club if we could acquire one.

We had a table at the last third Thursday and the gear swap this fall the College. We handed out some maps and membership forms. It is important to get the word out about the club and what we do. If you are on the trails please spread the word to other users if you talk to them. If they like what we do, let us know with a check of their approval. We need all the support we can get. Last season we spent over \$5,000 on equipment and repairs. Other than the Forest Service paying for our fuel and providing a vehicle for transportation, all expenses are bore by the club. For the last 4 seasons all our funding has been dues and donations from our generous members.

Happy trails,

Curt Schwamb, President