



 **CARIBOU**
Parks & Rec. Dept.



THE OFFICIAL SNOWMOBILE TRAIL REPORT

From the Desk of: Gary Marquis | Caribou Parks & Recreation Dept. | 55 Bennett Drive

3-16-23

Another weekend is upon us and the trails are still holding up in decent shape, the temps at night are not getting super cold and this has been the main reason why clubs are not able to do a lot more than what they would like to get done. Trails that are exposed to the March sun are the ones that are taking the beating right now. Trails that are sheltered are holding up well. Unfortunately, most of the County was spared from the latest Nor'easter which dumped up to 3 feet of snow in portions of New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. The weather predictions for Friday night into Saturday are calling for maybe a few inches, if this does happen that would certainly help out.

The sections that had logging operations are the ones that are starting to get really thin so please plan accordingly.

TRAIL INFORMATION:

Allagash Headwaters Snowmobile Club (Gateway to the ghost trains): This is a new club, and they can certainly use any help to keep grooming. Check out their Facebook page. They will also have a downloadable map.

Libby Pinnacle Sno Riders: Check out their Facebook page.

Sly Brook Snow Riders: Reporting that they will be out Friday and Saturday, like everyone else the sides are starting to get thin, some places the groomer is punching through so please use caution.

Washburn Snowmobile club: Reporting trails in good condition, but they will change rapidly.

Nordic Lakers (New Sweden, Westmanland, Stockholm): Reporting 105 and 81 in good conditions warm temps not helping and problematic spots will be showing up soon.

Portage Lakers: Reporting good shape for the conditions. Remember this year they are using the alternate ITS 90 trails from Portage to 105, it is well marked. This trail is 28 miles from 105 to Portage. Please do not use the

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old 90 as there is 7 miles of plowed road. The lake has been marked to the boat landing trail and the Buffalo loop, they are reporting slush and drifts so please use caution. Please stop at all road crossings and proceed slowly across business driveways.

Caribou: Reporting good conditions. Reporting that trails are in ok shape. Trail 83A heading towards the Caribou Inn and Convention Center is showing quite a bit of dirt. The reroute of 90W, which is the section where we are using the edge of Route 228 is really thin and it is suggested that if you are planning on going west to Portage use 105 going through Washburn. Signs will be up soon closing this section down. The bridge off trail 90A in town is completely bare so this might want to be avoided.

Fort Kent SnoRiders Snowmobile Club: Reporting trails are still getting groomed nightly, they are no longer grooming a section of 85 due to the fact they cannot climb this section in these conditions, please use 73B to get to Frenchville, of St. Agatha. The club worked with the public works yesterday to blow snow up onto the dike which is the trail in town, so they do now have this area fixed up so people can get to those businesses.

Eagle Lake Snowmobile Club: Reporting good conditions and doing what they can. One section of ITS 85 North has a logging operation and is marked well. please use caution in this area. They are asking riders to slow down in the logging areas, the snowbanks are getting high and trucks are having difficulty seeing the sleds, please ride right.

Fort Fairfield: Reporting they are still grooming but bad spots are showing up. The bridge in town is completely bare so please keep in mind.

St. Francis Sno-Angels: Reporting trails are in good shape and grooming regular but are worried about the temperatures and ability to get out.

Central Aroostook Snowmobile Club: Reporting trails are beginning to show some thin spots. The plowed section of 83 in Bridgewater is mostly down to dirt, this is a 2.5-mile section. Please slow down on the plowed section of 83/ Plowed section in Bridgewater for 2.3 miles due to logging operation. #9 Lake Trail from ITS 83 in Monticello is closed due to a logging operation. As an FYI the restaurants on Main St. in Mars Hill are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays so sledders should plan accordingly. Freshies' deli is the only one open those days. Also, it is illegal to park a snowmobile on the sidewalk unless the town has passed this ordinance. In Mars Hill please do not park or ride on the sidewalks except to cross them, there is ample parking out back. They are asking people to slow down.

Ashland Snowmobile Club: Reporting trails are ok. Use caution around town, please stay on marked trails. Some icy spots and some dirt showing up in low areas. There is a logging operation on the Castle Hill and of our section of ITS 88. Deer is in town so please use caution. Please stay on marked trails it is signed and groomed for a reason. Deer are everywhere in Ashland so please use caution. Ride right and be courteous of oncoming traffic, too many close calls. They will be hosting their annual hot dog roast at Raffords camp this Saturday.

Moosetown Riders (Allagash): Reporting Please be on the lookout The groomer is out this evening (3/15/23) laying the magic carpet from ITS 92 Allagash to Chamberlain market. Shift change and ITS 92 Allagash to Escourt will be done early morning (3/16/23). Ride right and please ride safe.

Frenchville Snowmobile Club: Reporting trails in good shape.

Red Arrow Snowmobile Club: Reporting all their trails were groomed overnight on Wednesday into Thursday morning.

Chapman Ridge Runners: Reporting all trails are in good condition.

Aroostook River Snowmobile Club: Reporting trails are in great shape and will be out every night weather dependent. They have been grooming with 2 machines and their trails are in great shape.

Easton Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club: Reporting that trails are groomed and in ok conditions.

Madawaska Snowmobile Club: Groomer operators are reporting that the trails are quickly getting down to ice and dirt. The hills are very icy and making it difficult to groom in either direction. And if the hills are icy for us, that means that you the sledders should take extra caution too, slow down earlier when cresting a hill so you can make that stop sign at the bottom. As like many other clubs around the county, we are continuing to assess the grooming situation on a daily basis, but things are slowly winding down. The snow is going away as fast as it came in, so if you're looking for that last ride before the season ends, I would suggest you point North before we call it quits.

Monday March 13 will be our regular monthly meeting at the Clubhouse on Fournier Road. The membership meeting will be at 6:30 pm in the meeting room. Directors will meet at 6:00. Saturday March 18 we will be hosting the Northern Region MSA Showcase Ride & Meeting. Participants pay \$30 to come along on a guided ride. 2 meals are included in this price. Ride starts at the Madawaska clubhouse at 8 am for assembly. 9 am the ride will begin to St. Frances Snow Angels Clubhouse for lunch. They will then ride back to the Madawaska Clubhouse for a 5:00pm Social followed by a Spaghetti Dinner and 7:00pm meeting. If you would like to participate in this event, you can register and pay online at <https://www.madawaskasnowmobileclub.com/events> You can also pay at the door (cash only). For questions call Denise at 207-316-9118.

On Tuesday March 21st we will be hosting our St. John Associates Fun Day. It will begin at 10 am. 2 up sleds are needed to give rides. So, if you would like to volunteer some time to this event, it would be greatly appreciated. This is a fun event that everyone enjoys. Lunch will be served for participants in the event.

With the season coming to an end, so is the term for some of our directors. With that being said, you are invited to join us at our April 10th meeting to vote in 4 directors to fill the open spots. Please see our Facebook page for more information.

Cold Mountain Snowmobile Club (Grand Isle): Reporting trail system in good condition

Presque Isle Snowmobile Club: Reporting groomers continue to work daily. The warm weather will start to open hazardous areas.

Gateway Snowmobile Club (Van Buren): Reporting conditions are good but are changing during the afternoon time.

Limestone Snow Hawks: reporting that they are still grooming but getting thin in places.

Caswell (Pleasant Ridge Riders): Reporting that all trails groomed and in good shape. Conditions are changing rapidly.

Walker Siding Snowmobile Club: No Update.

Southern Aroostook:

Eastern Maine Snow Riders – Has had a fair amount of snow over the past two days. There is still a lot of great sledding in the area!

Molunkus Valley Sno Drifters - Logan trail is in good condition. ITS 83 east of Rt.2 is groomed and in good condition and there are no more trucks on the road! With the mid-week snowstorm, we will be able to get the groomers back on ITS 83 west. Trails 3 & 3A are both in excellent shape as is Puds Trail. Ride Right & Ride Safe

Rockabema Snow Rangers – still actively grooming and with the snow that we got this week it should make for great sledding in the area.

Big Valley Snow Club – All town trails have been groomed. The boys are out getting the other trails ready for weekend sledding.

Smoki Haulers – Great riding on freshly groomed trails!

Meduxnekeag Ramblers - The weekend is upon us. Get out if you can and enjoy those trails SAFELY! We want everyone to make it back home at the end of the day.

Linneus SnoSports - Out checking trails this afternoon. They seem to be holding up but there are some bare spots, some water holes. Typical spring riding so use caution. If you see flagging tape there is a reason slow-down so be cautious and stay within your driving abilities. We will groom when temps drop after the storm. Get out there and ride as it will soon be over.

Extra News...

The Meduxnekeag Ramblers only has two more Saturday morning breakfasts left for this season. Starting at 6am. The club serves a hearty meal to sledders as well as many in the community. Give it a try!

Also, The Meduxnekeag Ramblers are hosting a fun afternoon of sliding before old man winter leaves. 1102 US-1, Littleton at the big sliding hill. Groomers will be on site. Bring a slide and have a blast. (Sleds on site to pull people back up the hill.) Hot Dog Roast, Hot Cocoa, Water plus a Bon Fire! Free of charge and all are welcome!

Linneus SnoSports are still hosting lunch at the clubhouse starting at 11am. Stop by for a visit!

For the most accurate and up-to date weather information, please visit NOAA at <https://bit.ly/39ToofL>

ON THE SOCIAL SIDE:

Ashland will be hosting their annual fundraiser auction, please check their Facebook page for more information.

Portage will be hosting a hot dog roast on Big Machias Lake at big Machias camps off the Carr Pond trail, check their Facebook page for times.

Caribou High School Class of 2025 will be having a hot dog fundraiser at Axle siding starting at 11am.

Allagash Headwaters snowmobile club will be hosting a winter cookout this Saturday from 11-3, at Indian pond heading towards the trains.

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Washburn Trail Runners clubhouse will be open Friday 8am to 2pm, Saturday 7am to 2pm and Sunday 7am to 12.

Meduxnekeag Ramblers snowsled clubhouse will be having Breakfast every Saturday during the season from 6-9.