



The Drifter

Ray and Donna Gibson, Editors

January 2007 Issue

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am still keeping my fingers and toes crossed for a big snowstorm! The season started early with ample snowfall, but the recent rains almost depleted our snowpack.

On December 17, we had a club ride to Diamond Lake from Mt. Scott/Silver Lake Junction. Don and Rod Ambers led the ride which went well, but was very cold. It was minus 3 degrees when we unloaded our snowmobiles. We only had one mishap during the ride. Fortunately, nobody was hurt other than their pride and their pocketbook. The sled suffered major damage in the front suspension, but with a lot of work and patience, we were able to ride it out. Mt. Bailey was extremely dangerous because of sheer ice. We ended up riding over 130 miles. What a day!

January is going to be a very busy month. Our Crab Feed is on January 6 and the next Club meeting is on January 9 at Dexters. I hope to see you there. The OSSA Convention and rides in John Day are January 18-21. Our Playday is scheduled for January 27 at the Lake of the Woods Great Meadow Snowpark.

I hope to see all of you at these events and out on the trail. Think Snow!!! Have a Happy New Year!

Best Wishes,

Keith Blackman
President/Klamath Basin Snowdrifters

NEW SNOW SINCE CHRISTMAS - 8+ INCHES

Some trails will be groomed before New Years, as well as some trees removed. I did the one out of the Cold Springs Trail. I just received a report the Sunset Trail has a bunch of trees. We'll try to get them out before the weekend.

Hey Sledgers, it's finally snowing here at the Lake again. We'll be running the cat starting this week.

Trail Work Info - We had a great turnout for our last trail work day and the Forest Service (FS) included a chainsaw certification class for all who showed up. The goal of the day was to relocate one of our trails through the Great Meadow to a safer route with less water. The old trail that crossed the Meadow from the dump station to the crossing of the resort access road won't be groomed anymore due to deep water in the Meadow. The old trail near the higher ground of the air strip will be used from now on. We had to cut trees, install signs at the crossing and diamonds on the trees to remark the trail. It will be groomed when the Meadow gets a bit more snow. There will be signs from the parking lot according to the FS and it will be pretty obvious where the trail runs if you're on it. The Great Meadow continues to have issues with water. Due to the rain we received, there are areas that have enough water to swallow your sled. If you do ride the Meadow, please be aware of where these areas are. Most snowmobiles will have no problem getting across small areas where there is water on there trail or large puddles. However, it would be unwise to stop in areas that your are unsure of, only to discover the water is deeper than it looks. Just ask the two snowmobilers who broke through the snow covered ice on the creek bed near Big Meadow Shelter. They were fortunate that they were prepared to help rescue themselves. They



*A snowflake a day
keeps the
snowmobilers
at play!*

knew where they were, they had cell phones, they had material to start a fire. They knew when to call for help. I spoke with one of our snowmobile patrol deputies, Sean Richards, of Klamath County. He was the responder and was happy that the pair came through it okay. Sean is trying to come up with money for the Sheriff's Dept. to purchase a snow cat. They will use it for patrol and rescues. I'm getting him in touch with OSSA for the assistance. As your Grooming Chairman, I have requested that the Klamath County Sheriff's Department supply the Club with an emergency use radio for our snow cat. We would use it only to report emergency situations and help in rescues when needed.

Attention all Groomer Operators and interested persons. We have some new procedures with the snow cat. Saturday, January 6, we will have a Groomers meeting at the Lake. If you want to run, you need to be here. We will train in the cat and cover some safety procedures. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. at the Resort, January 6, 2007.

George Gregory
Groomer Chairman

ANNUAL CRAB FEED



Don't forget our Annual Crab Feed on January 6 at the Fairgrounds in the blue building at 6:00 p.m. Members please bring a sidedish and if interested, please bring a canned food item to be donated to the Klamath County Food Bank. Prices for the Crab Feed are: \$10 for children ages 6-14 (free for children under 6), \$18 per person for Club Members, and \$20 per person for non-members.

CLUB RIDES

Sunday, December 17 - A ride from Lake of the Woods' Big Meadow parking lot to 4-Mile Lake, Cold Springs (for lunch) and to Pelican Butte. Ride was led by Bill Glodowski and we had a great time. The weather was great and there was plenty of snow in the higher elevations. We did not make it all the way to the top of Pelican Butte due to large snowdrifts; but, we could see the lookout from where we stopped—what a beautiful view! Ted Naccarati came with his new Polaris RMK 600 HO sled.



Tuesday, December 19 - A small group led by Warren Stephens went from 4 Corners (Spencer Creek Hookup Road) to the Surveyor Mountain area. It was a beautiful sunny day and a great ride—thanks Warren!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The ***Klamath Basin Snowdrifters*** welcome new members Dan & Dale Cole, Brad Zimmer, Ray & Sherri Brock, Todd & Judy Greer and J. P. Cowan and Judy Reinerstein to our group.



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