



Rock the Trails

Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation Newsletter

January/February 2020

Lots on the go in the snow

We definitely know how to do winter in Newfoundland. In addition to our amazing trails and the snowshoeing, the ice-fishing, the skiing and sliding, there are some excellent snowmobiling events taking place this season.

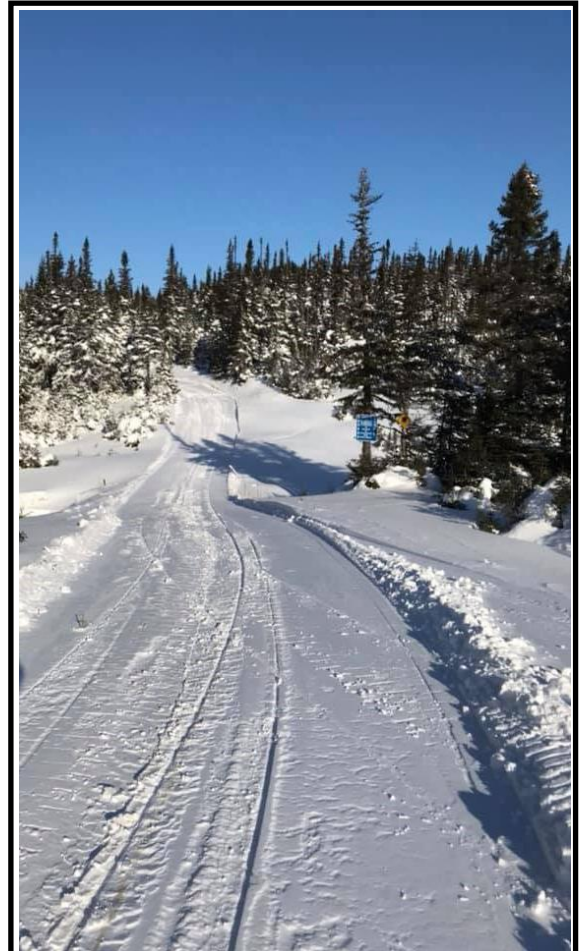
The [Mid-Winter Bivver](#) will take place Feb. 14 & 15, again offering its amazing five-course "Forager's Feast", a gourmet lunch and the *Givver Bivver* dance. See their ad on the next page. Tickets are on sale now.

Plans for this year's [Snofari](#), Feb. 21-23 in Gander, are well under way. The all-inclusive ticket price includes two nights accommodation (with breakfasts), trail lunches, the Saturday night banquet, a dance, and more! See their ad on page 4.

The [3rd Annual Veterans' Snow Muster](#), being held March 7 and co-hosted by Western Sno-Riders, promises a full day of food, fun and friends. It will include a daytime ride, a trail lunch and an evening banquet with prizes and a live auction followed by a dance with music by the Wiseman Brothers. New this year, there will also be a Friday evening "meet and greet" social hosted by Deer Lake Holiday Inn Express, open to all registrants.

Race on the Humber, hosted each year by [Junction Trail Blazers](#), will be taking place the weekend of March 7 & 8. New this year, it will include the first annual **Vintage Snowmobile Show & Shine** event! Check the club's Facebook page for updates as they develop.

Western Sno-Riders are hosting their 25th anniversary of [Race on the Rock](#), with uphill drags on April 18th and sno-cross on April 19th. Pre-registration is happening February 7th and 10th, so head to their website for further details and the updated rules and regulations for 2020!



A SERENE DREAM. Travis Scott Colbourne of the Northern Drifters Snowmobile Club shared this beautiful shot of what heaven may look like on a perfect winter morning in his world.



SnowTrax TV to feature NL west coast

NLSF was busy in January hosting a television crew from SnowTrax television (shown, at left) the amazing winter wonderland we have to offer here in Newfoundland.

There will be two television shows airing on OLN in the near future, along with lots of social media coverage of their visit.

The crew arrived Jan. 27 and visited the NLSF office in Deer Lake, rode to the Lewis Hills on Tuesday, to Bonne Bay and Woody Point on Wednesday, and Bonne Bay to Corner Brook on Thursday.

Continued on page 3

Newfoundland's Premier Snowmobile & Culinary Festival



Feb. 14- 15, 2020 Grand Falls - Windsor, NL

- * Trail Mix with Gourmet Lunch
- * Foragers Feast (5 course dinner)
- * Bivver Givver Dance with entertainment

For the full schedule & to buy tickets visit
WWW.MIDWINTERBIVVER.COM
for more information call 709-489-0450

Just a few grooming start-up pains

It was a late start to the grooming season for us here on the west coast, as well as on the northern peninsula and in central. However, the clubs in the east are happy to be enjoying one of the snowiest winters in recent memory. But with all clubs having been out at least once by late January, the trails are starting to shape up.

There were some start up pains, with four groomers going down in the first week of grooming. But with replacement groomers sent out and the necessary repairs made we are now hoping for a relatively issue-free remainder of the winter.

The federation's new brush cutting equipment is up and running and will be starting to clear brush from our trails in the east this week.

After a few test runs on various trails, this equipment has proven to be an effective and useful tool. There are plans in the works to have a second unit up and running in the near future.



Submitted by Matthew Swain
Trail & Groomer Co-ordinator



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NLSF also received very positive feedback on its snowmobiling product and, of course, about islanders and our amazing province.

"You just can't find nicer people, complemented with spectacular views and amazing terrain", they noted recently on [Facebook](#).

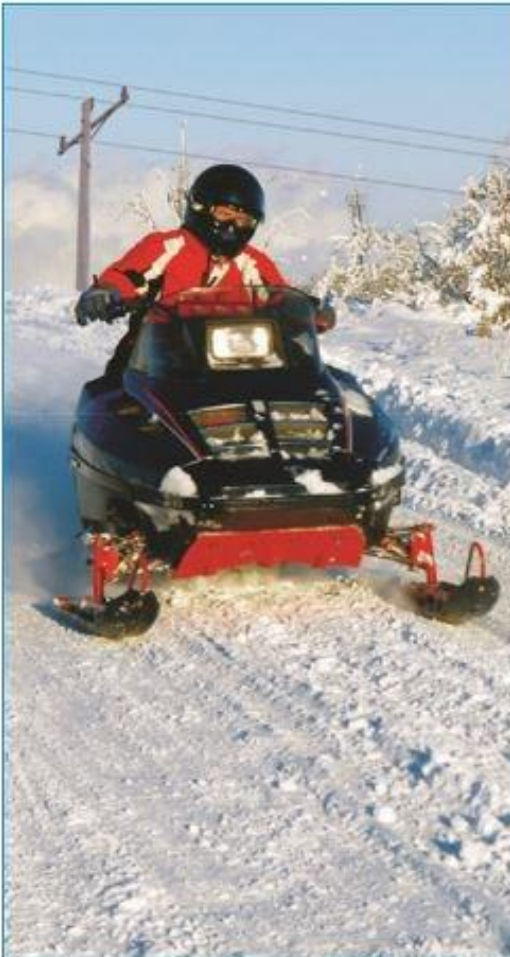
The enthusiastic crew said that NL has some of the best variety of riding conditions of anywhere they have visited. #snowmobileNL



Family rebate program moving ahead

As expected, a large number of applications have been received for the family rebate program. Processing them is going to take time so the public is being asked to be patient.

Unfortunately, many of the applications that have come in are missing the required information. Incomplete forms are slowing down the process. Please, be sure to include photocopies of your machine registrations, where the passes were bought and their sticker numbers. Buyers have until the end of March to send in their rebate applications.



Make every ride a safe ride this season

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro reminds snowmobilers:

- Before hitting the trails, check to make sure your snowmobile is working properly.
- Avoid riding along power lines. If you do find yourself near utility poles or on a power line right-of-way, drive slowly and cautiously. Guy wires and other objects can be difficult to spot.
- Steer clear of high snow banks around overhead power lines and substations.
- If you encounter a downed pole or power line, stay well away. The line and any nearby objects could be energized and dangerous. Report it by calling 911 or your power company.
- For your safety and the safety of others, be aware and keep speed down if you're riding near utility workers, vehicles or equipment.
- Stay off the ice, including reservoirs and rivers near hydroelectric dams and generating plants where changing water levels and currents create unstable ice cover.



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Avalanche safety tips for Newfoundland snowmobilers

Avalanche safety is a growing concern in NL as an increasing number of snowmobilers venture off the trails and into the mountains. While most people regard avalanches as big mountain phenomenon, the island has a long history with deadly slides, including Canada's first recorded fatal avalanche.

Newfoundland's biggest avalanche terrain is found along the west coast, in the Long Range Mountains. Avalanche Canada has mapped some of the more popular riding regions of this area—including Gros Morne National Park, North Arm Hills, Blomidons, and Lewis Hills—using the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES). ATES is a three-step scale used to define how much a zone is affected by the potential for avalanches.

Simple terrain (green) is either low-angle or forested terrain with no or very little exposure to avalanches. There are many options to reduce or limit exposure. This is where you want to play just after a big snowfall, when you want to avoid steeper terrain because conditions are prime for natural and human-triggered avalanches.

Challenging terrain (dark blue) involves exposure to well-defined avalanche paths, start zones, or terrain traps. There are options to reduce or eliminate exposure with careful route-finding. If you choose to step out into challenging terrain



when conditions are touchy, take extra caution—only expose one person at a time to a slope, avoid terrain traps, and re-group in safe spots, away from avalanche hazard.

Complex terrain (black) involves exposure to multiple, overlapping avalanche paths or large expanses of steep, open terrain with minimal options to reduce exposure. Complex terrain is found on the approach routes to the high plateaus on the west coast. You should be very confident in the stability of the snowpack and skilled at travelling through avalanche terrain before heading into complex terrain.

You can see the ATES-rated maps on Avalanche Canada's Trip Planner page. Where there are no ATES ratings, snowmobilers should be cautious around any large, open slopes. The vast majority of avalanches take place on slopes between 30-45 degrees in steepness, but even a 25-degree slope can produce an avalanche under the right conditions. Watch for terrain traps, like a gully or ravine, where a small avalanche can result in a deep burial, or cliffs and trees, which increase the risk of injury.

If you're venturing into the hills and mountains, you and everyone in your party needs essential safety gear—transceiver, probe, and shovel—and the know-how to use it. They are by far the most efficient way to rescue someone buried in avalanche.

When you get home, post your observations to the Mountain Information Network to let your fellow riders know about snow conditions and recent avalanche activity so they can make better decisions when they head out.

For some information on recognizing avalanche terrain and identifying when snow conditions are worsening, check out Avalanche Canada's Fresh to the Backcountry page. Our online avalanche tutorial is a terrific resource for building your knowledge. We also have a page dedicated to avalanche safety for snowmobilers that includes our fast-paced educational series Throttle Decisions. If you're looking to expand your avalanche education, two-day Avalanche Skills Training courses are offered in Newfoundland.

By Avalanche Canada for NLSF

<https://www.avalanche.ca/>



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Permits required to sled in Gros Morne National Park

Please be aware that when travelling inside Gros Morne National Park, snowmobilers require a Parks Canada public/commercial snowmobile operator's permit as well as a park pass and must remain within designated snowmobile corridors.

Public/commercial permits are valid from January 15, 2020 to April 30, 2020. Dates for snowmobiling are subject to change at the discretion of Parks Canada. Conditions in the park are monitored and a change may occur due to unfavourable snow conditions, dangerous conditions, or potential ecosystem damage, among other reasons.

While snow conditions, especially at higher elevations, sometimes remain favourable for riding late into spring, these dates ensure the protection of wildlife and vegetation as seasons change.

Revisions have been made to the snowmobile map (at right) for 2020 in the area adjacent to The Tablelands, including a new public corridor between Winter House Brook and Trout River, and changes to exclusion zones around the Tablelands, Pic a Tene-rife, and the area south and east of the Southwest Gulch Cabin.

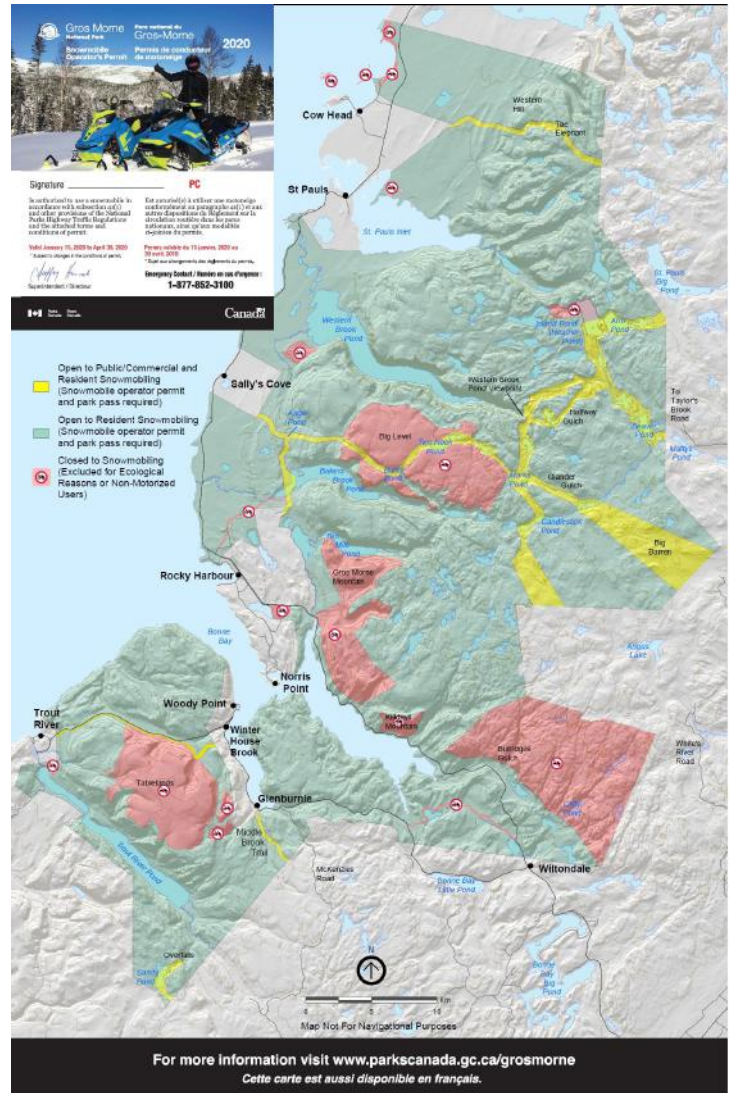
We thank snowmobilers in advance for staying safe, respecting the designated corridors, and working with Parks Canada to protect wildlife and preserve our environment. By following the conditions of the snowmobile operator's permit, riders will ensure that the wonders of the national park are protected in the future.

For more information on permits, snowmobile and avalanche safety, and to access digital versions of the Gros Morne National Park snowmobile corridor maps, please visit pc.gc.ca/grosmorne.

Snowmobile permits and park passes, both of which are required to legally snowmobile in Gros Morne National Park, can be purchased and are available at the following business locations and Parks Canada facilities:

Arctic West/Pike's Service, Glenburnie-Birchy Head-Shoal Brook
Arthur James, Corner Brook
Coyley's Convenience & Gas Bar, Wiltondale
Davis Gas Bar, Pollard's Point
Deer Lake Esso, Deer Lake
Driftwood Inn, Deer Lake
Fisherman's Landing Inn, Rocky Harbour
Foodland, Pasadena
Funland Resort, Cormack
Gros Morne Cabins, Rocky Harbour
Jackladder, White Hills
Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation, Deer Lake
North Atlantic Petroleum, Deer Lake
Rocky Brook Cabins, Cormack
Taylor's Brook Convenience, Taylor's Brook Road
White Bay Convenience, TCH, Hampden Junction
White Hills Tourist Lodge, White Hills
Parks Canada Discovery Centre, Woody Point, Route 431 (Wednesdays: 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm)
Parks Canada Administration Building, Rocky Harbour (Mon.–Fri., 8 am–12 pm & 1pm–4:30 pm)
Parks Canada Warden Office, Cow Head, Route 430 (Thursdays, 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm)

By Gros Morne National Park for NLSF



FB photo

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO, "HMMM...." This elegant fellow took a spin with his humans on the groomed trails in the Deer Lake area earlier this month. We couldn't help but notice that he made sure to don his safety vest before leaving home. Clever puppy.

Great info at International Snowmobile Safety Week event

Safety was the subject of an event held on January 25th in Deer Lake for International Snowmobile Safety Week.

Representatives from several enforcement agencies set up at the Legion Branch #3 to share good guidance, tips on snowmobiling law, and common sense demonstrations to the public.

In addition to the hands-on demos hosted by DL Search & Rescue, RNC, RCMP, Forestry, Fish & Wildlife, and NLSF, there were children's events including a colouring contest with prizes, puzzles and games. The Legion hall was open for warm-ups, hot drinks and lots of take-away info. Youngsters were also invited to sit inside a groomer, provided for the day by Junction Trail Blazers.

The purpose of the week was to expose people to safe sledding practices and to show how operating safely can prevent mishaps. Although many consider themselves to know the ins and outs of snowmobile safety, accident statistics each winter prove that not everyone follows them, with sometimes tragic consequences.



Photos
by
Roxanne
Ryland



DID WE SEE YOU IN CENTRAL? Discovery Trail Snowmobile Association hosted the NLSF board, club executive and other guests for a combined ride and meeting on the weekend of January 11. A group of 74 sleds enjoyed an excellent tour from Clarendville's White Hills to Glovertown. The next club ride/NLSF meeting will be held Feb. 29th in Baie Verte.

Photo by Paul Tilley