

Happy New Year from Maple Summit,

We hope you all had a Merry Christmas. As we sit here anxiously awaiting the New Year we would like to take a moment and reflect on some of this past year's events. We got a record amount of snow this past winter and let's hope we have the same for this winter. All good things must come to an end and spring came a little early. With spring came the PSSA spring meeting at state college in which some awards were handed out. Snowmobiler of the year went to Barry Harcum, family of the year went to the Nofz family and DCNR Forbes Forest office also received an award from the PSSA. Three out of the four awards were handed out to the hard working folks in our region. Congratulations once again. With all the great weather we had this summer we were able to start our trail work in May. This was a good thing because we had plenty of time to get some much-needed trail work done on the southern portion of our trails. This section of trail had some neglect due to all the work we put into the trails within Seven Springs the previous year. We would like to thank Diane Monaco for all her help this year. Although she is not a member of Maple Summit Snowmobile club, she came out on several trail work days to give a hand to improve the trails. She not only worked on the trails, she made calls to rally additional hard working hands to help on a portion of the trail that was badly overgrown. We also were able to do the normal maintenance at Seven Springs. This included maintenance on the bridges, re-grading of portions of the trails that were damaged from erosion and ATVs, replacing pipe, cleaning up downed trees and new signs. The club would like to thank all of those who helped out with the trails over this past year. With all that trail work we still managed to have our summer picnic/pig roast, our fall dinner and Christmas party. We also managed to apply for a few grants and we are continuing the quest for a new bridge over the turnpike. Unfortunately, this is the bad news for the year. We still do not have a bridge, and we received no money from any of the grants. We also have entered the Pepsi refresh challenge. We had the opportunity to receive \$25,000 if we received enough votes. This was no easy task, and I would like to Thank Allyson Harcum and all of you that voted. Allyson has spent a few hours of her day, every day for the past six months working on this grant. There has been over 60 out-of-state snowmobile clubs contacted, e-mails were sent to all the clubs listed with the PSSA. Help came from the Laurel Highlands snowmobile club, Rolling Ridge snowmobile club, and the PSSA. We even got votes from people at the Novi show, and had 200 people voting on Facebook. I am sad to report with all the efforts, we fell well short of the mark we needed to be in the top 10. November was our last month we started the month at number 58. We ended the month at 123, by the way. Approximately 50% of the people voting have never ridden a snowmobile! As someone who cares about the sport, this is upsetting to me. One final issue, we had to overcome this year was trail liability insurance. For the past 18 years or so, the Laurel Highlands snowmobile club has generously contributed to a portion of the trail liability insurance. This is required by Seven Springs and other private landowners for us to have a connecting trail system. Sadly, Laurel Highlands snowmobile club had to purchase their own trail liability insurance and was not able to help with the portion that they have been paying for years. However, the Laurel Highlands snowmobile club has encouraged members of their club to join the Maple Summit club, they also invited us to sell the 50-50 ticket at their second drag race. Allyson Harcum, and Karen George worked very hard to sell the 50-50 tickets (I think these girls may have been showing some leg) with the help of Steve on the microphone announcing during the race. They were able to raise \$222 towards the trail liability insurance. Maple Summit would like to say Thank You, to the members of the Laurel Highlands snowmobile club, and to all of you that purchased a ticket or made a donation to help pay for the trail liability insurance. So, now that we have a recap of the year, onto a bigger and brighter future. The three local snowmobile clubs Rolling Ridge, Laurel Highlands and Maple Summit have joined up with the PA Parks and Forests foundation. With the PPF help, we have started the Laurel Mountain snowmobile trail fund. This fund has been set up so that we can raise money to help improve our trail system. The donations that go into this fund are tax-deductible. The monies in this fund will stay in the Laurel Highlands snowmobile trail system. This idea came to light at one of the DCNR meetings involving the bridge over the turnpike. One representative from each of the snowmobile clubs will be working with Mike Mumua to see where improvements need to be made and where money from this fund should be spent. This is a great opportunity for the snowmobile trails in our area. If you are interested in helping raise money for this fund Please contact anyone of the three snowmobile clubs for more information.

As always, Maple Summit is looking for help. Whether it is, working on the trails, volunteering for the trail side cookout, attending meetings, operating the groomer, organizing events, or maybe just being active in the club. As most you know by now we do not have the expense of a building or equipment for snow removal for a parking lot. However, year in and year out the Maple Summit snowmobile club does more

for snowmobile trails than anyone else in southwestern PA and there is a cost to this. Maple Summit not only has the expense of paying trail liability insurance, we also must have insurance on our mule, backhoe, and groomer, so we can maintain the trails. Not to mention the expense of keeping all this equipment maintained and running. We do this by receiving membership dues, donations at our trail side cookout, we received some donations from local snowmobile dealers (the ones that are willing to help) and we apply to the DCNR for some fuel reimbursement for our groomer. We apply for grants and ask for donations for our trail projects. We have been very fortunate in receiving grants and donations for building materials on the trail system. All the work that is done is by volunteer, including the backhoe operator, and the groomer operator. No one receives compensation or any pay. The reward the Maple Summit club gets is to see you enjoy the trails we work so hard to keep open. We will be out with the Chuck wagon the on the following date's snow permitting, Jan. 8th Jan. 15th Jan.29th Feb 19th 2011 we may try to have a Sunday cookout if we get the help, Please look at our web page or on Facebook for updates or changes due to weather. A few things that we would like to ask you to please keep in mind this year are: most of our trails are on private property, so **Please stay on the trail.** **Please slow down**, especially at Seven Springs. They have snowmobile tours with inexperienced riders. **Please keep to the right, and watch out for our groomer.** If you would like more information about our club or you would like to become a member. Please look us up at www.maplesummitsnowmobileclub.com. May you have a safe and happy New Year, Todd Harcum