

Here's How To Go Snowmobiling In Vermont

Going snowmobiling in Vermont is easy. Just register your machine - like you do a car - and then join the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers through a local club, which allows you to use Vermont's trails. The average cost for a visitor for snowmobiling for the entire season is around \$60.

For the convenience of out-of-state visitors, VAST and the state have arranged for a network of locations where you can obtain a registration and sign up with a club at the same time - like one-stop shopping. Locations are often motels, snowmobile shops or general stores. Information on where to sign up can be obtained by writing or calling the VAST offices at 802-229-0005, P.O. Box 839, Montpelier, Vt., 05601, or by contacting a club in the list below.

The registration costs \$22 and will enable you to go snowmobiling immediately upon your arrival in Ver-

mont. Your registration is valid for the entire season.

Besides registering your snowmobile, state law requires you to sign up with a club and VAST. A VAST membership is like a driver's license. Around 85% of the VAST trail system is located on privately owned land, and by law VAST must get permission from the thousands of property owners whose land is used for snowmobile trails. By joining VAST, out-of-state visitors enjoy this permission and the privilege of using the extensive VAST trail system.

Getting a VAST and club membership is simple. Usually, at the same time you get your registration, you will be signing up to join a club in the area you plan to do most of your trail riding. This dual arrangement provides local clubs with the support that they need to maintain trail grooming and activities.

Club membership fees range up-

ward to \$10 and VAST membership for an adult 16 years of age and older is \$25. Much of this goes for trail grooming (Example: If you are quoted a membership fee of \$33 from the club of your choice, \$25 of that is VAST and the remainder is the club's membership fee.)

Anyone under the age of 16 who will be operating a machine must purchase a VAST Junior Membership for \$3. The junior operator must be accompanied by an adult operator and have passed a "Snowmobile Safety Course".

When you join VAST, you receive membership cards and decals from the club you select. Decals can be procured only through membership.

The above rules and regulations are shared by *all* Vermont snowmobilers. As club and VAST members, we heartily welcome you to share the the forest trails, fields, and wonderful mountain scenery of Vermont.

1995-96 VAST CLUB LIST

Listed below are all of Vermont's snowmobile clubs, arranged by county. (See the county map on page A3 for general location).

Every rider who snowmobiles in Vermont, except for those using rental machines, must by law belong to a local club. Local clubs are the backbone of VAST. They do the grooming, hold events and provide the best source for trail and riding information.

The list below includes telephone numbers to get in touch with clubs. Most out-of-state visitors will automatically be joined up with a club when they get a registration at a local agent.

For further information on snowmobiling in Vermont, call VAST between 8-4:30, Monday-Friday, 802-229-0005. There's also a Snowline with recorded riding information and trail conditions at 802-229-4202.

ADDISON

Bridport Sno Birds
Shirley Lilly
(802) 758-2412
Bridport, VT 05734
Foote of Mtn.
Sno-Travelers
Margaret Cameron
(802) 388-2821
Middlebury, VT 05753
Green Mtn. Sno-Owls
Shirley Ryan
(802) 388-1841
Shoreham, VT 05770
Little Otter Scramblers
Mary Benoit
(802) 877-2941
Ferrisburg, VT 05456
Mt. Abe Snow Sports
John Brown
(802) 453-4264
Bristol, VT 05443
Shellhouse Nostalgic Mountain Jumpers
Lynn Jerger
(802) 877-2273
Ferrisburg, VT 05456
Tri Town Snow Travelers
Sandy Pierce
(802) 767-3350
Rochester, VT 05767
Vergennes Otter Creek Sliders
Nancy LaBrake
(802) 877-2726
Vergennes, VT 05491
Weybridge Trail Blzers
Louise Bowdish
(802) 545-2280
Middlebury, VT 05753

BENNINGTON

Arlington Snmbl. Club
Donna Squires
(802) 375-6680
Arlington, VT 05250
Green Mountain Trail Blazers
Jane Zecher
(802) 362-1635
Manchester Ctr., VT 05255
Rupert Ridge Runners
Jeffrey Lourie
(802) 394-2956
W. Rupert, VT 05776
Shaftsbury Sno-Pilots
Anita Martinka
(802) 447-7153
Shaftsbury, VT 05262
Woodford Sno-Busters
Betty Roark
(802) 447-0858
Woodford, VT 05201

CALEDONIA
Bayley Hazen Road
Marcia A. Page
(802) 592-3382

Peacham, VT 05862

Buckaroos of 302
Deane Page
(802) 584-3584
Groton, VT 05046
Caledonia Snowmobile Trail Club
Kathy Smith
(802) 684-2584
Danville, VT 05828
Cole's Pond Sledders
Annette B. Foster
(802) 563-9985
Hardwick, VT 05843
Danville S-Ski-Mo's
Alan Towle
(802) 684-3372
Danville, VT 05828
Drift Skippers
Nancy White
(802) 626-5274
Lyndonville, VT 05851
Jay-Ville Balsam Riders
Leon W. Bryer
(802) 748-3423
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Lakeview Snow Goers
Nancy Edney
(802) 633-4460
Barnet, VT 05821
Lyndon Sno Cruisers
Marion Bell
(802) 626-3084
Lyndonville, VT 05851

Newark E-Z Riders

Beth Ming
(802) 723-6615
Island Pond, VT 05846
St. Johnsbury Country Riders
Elaine O'Hara
(802) 633-3766
Barnet, VT 05821
St. Johnsbury Sno-Blazers
Dexter Willson
(802) 748-3833
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Sno-Flake Ridgerunners
Joyce Lanphear
(802) 472-6850
E. Hardwick, VT 05836
Waterford Ridge Runners
James Kennedy
(802) 748-4367
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Winter Wanderers
Tim Baker
(802) 626-9817
Lyndonville, VT 05851

CHITTENDEN

Arrowhead Mountain Snowmobile Club
David Merchant
(802) 893-1807
Milton, VT 05468
Cobblehill Snowmobile Club
Bill Duffy

(802) 893-1397

Milton, VT 05468
Crouching Lion
Snow Sledders
Norma Atherton
(802) 899-3310
Jericho, VT 05465
Green Mountain Sno Cats
Mitzi Oakes
(802) 863-2160
Iroquois Sno-Beavers
Allen Mashia
(802) 482-2826
Hinesburg, VT 05461
Jericho Sno-Drifters
Howard Erickson
(802) 899-1928
Underhill, VT 05489
Jericho Snow Streakers
Ivan Hendee
(802) 899-3578
Jericho, VT 05465
So. Burlington, VT 05403
Mallets Bay Lakers
Mark E. Barrett
(802) 862-3739
Colchester, VT 05446-1220
Richmond Rough Riders
David Irish
(802) 434-4997
Richmond, VT 05477
Saxons Hill Riders
Steve Starr
(802) 879-4203

Essex Jct., VT 05461

S.C.A.T.
Norm Thibault
(802) 425-2838
Hinesburg, VT 05461
Williston Hill Hawks
Kevin Boutin
(802) 878-2088
Williston, VT 05495

ESSEX

Border Riders of Canaan
Lisa Vincent
(802) 266-8864
Beecher Falls, VT 05902
Brighton Snowmobile Club
William St. John
(802) 723-6347
Island Pond, VT 05846
Connecticut Valley Snow Riders
Rebecca Bacon
(802) 328-4106
Guildhall, VT 05905
Lunenburg Polar Bears
Helen Boulay
(802) 892-5916
Lunenburg, VT 05906
Moose River Rock Dodgers
Janet Copp
(802) 695-8816
N. Concord, VT 05858

FRANKLIN

Bakersfield Valley Drifters

Pauline Lawyer
(802) 827-3740
Bakersfield, VT 05441
Cold Hollow Barons
Shari Joyal
(802) 933-4532
Enosburg Falls, VT 05450
Covered Bridge Snowmobile Club
Roberta Cota
(802) 326-4050
Montgomery Ctr., VT 05471
Fletcher Roughriders
Michael Sheldon
(802) 849-6383
Cambridge, VT 05444
Franklin County Snow Raiders
Kenneth Stockwell
(802) 849-6619
Fairfax, VT 05454
Missisquoi Bearcats
Serge Marcoux
(802) 848-3778
Richford, VT 05476
Missisquoi Stump Jumpers
John Klinefelter
(802) 827-3125
Bakersfield, VT 05441
Sheldon Jack-O-lopes
Andre Bourbeau
(802) 524-6565

St. Albans, VT 05478

GRAND ISLE
Alburg Snow Springers
Rachel H. White
(802) 796-3346
Alburg, VT 05440
Island Sno-Runners
Melissa Boutin
(802) 372-56309
Grand Isle, VT 05458

LAMOILLE

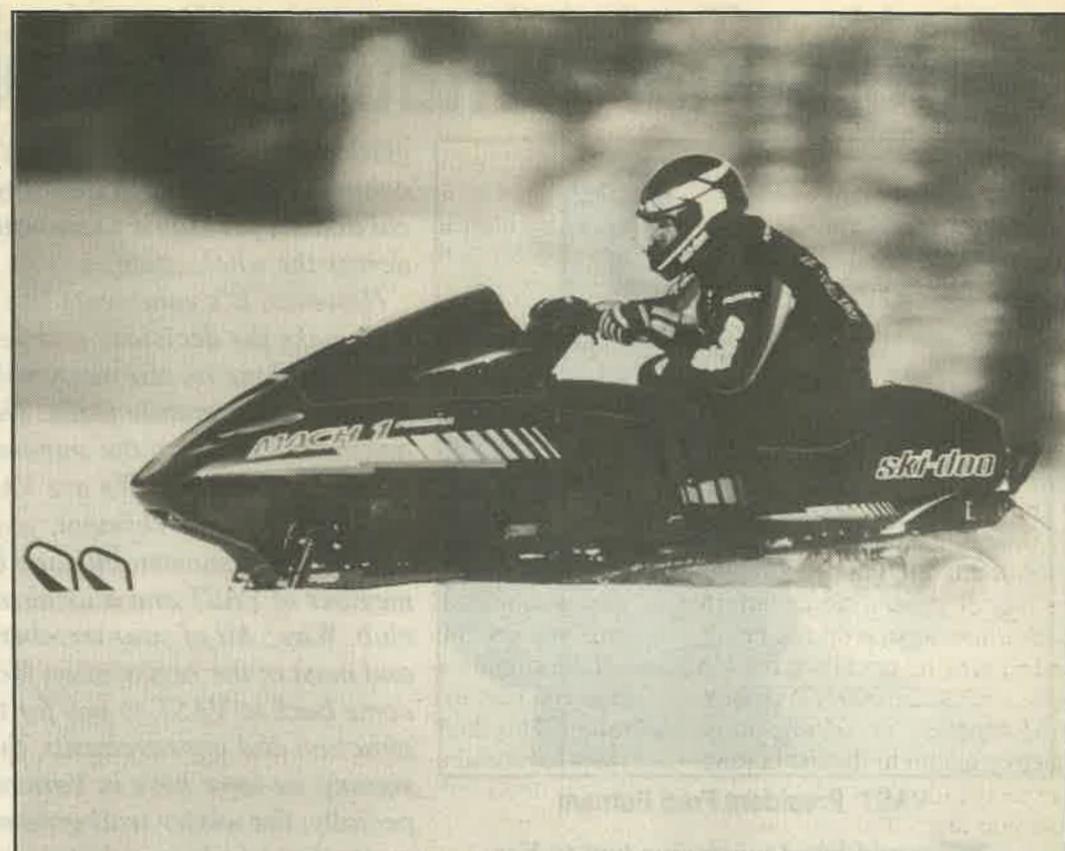
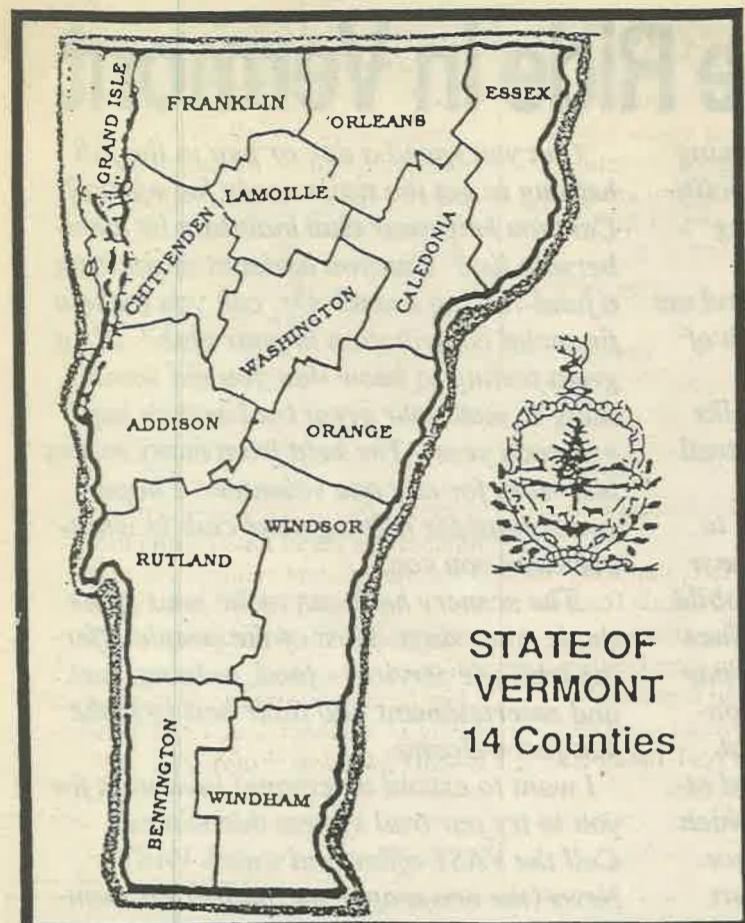
Gihon Trac Packers
Bill Mace
(802) 635-2372
Hyde Park, VT 05655
Lamoille County Sno-Packers
Arthur Hamel
(802) 888-5912
Morrisville, VT 05661
Smugglers Notch Snowmobile Club
Peg Machia
(802) 644-5069
Jeffersonville, VT 05464
Sterling Snow Riders
Beverly Osgood
(802) 635-2652
Johnson, VT 05656
Stowe Snowmobile Club
Wendall Mansfield
(802) 253-8033

Stowe, VT 05672

Wolcott Snow Travelers
Barb Reed
(802) 888-2875
Wolcott, VT 05680
ORANGE
Billtown Moonshiners
Dennis Hebert
(802) 433-6796
Williamstown, VT 05679
Brookfield Trail Blazers
Dennis LaRocque
(802) 276-2233
Brookfield, VT 05036
Corinth Sno-Scramblers
Maxine Slack
(802) 439-5968
Bradford, VT 05033
Fairlee Baldtoppers
Tom Perry
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Fairlee, VT 05045
Frigid Frost Fighters
Beverly Lyon
(802) 685-7790
Chelsea, VT 05038
Justin Morrill Drift Skippers
Kim Cook
(802) 765-4089
S. Strafford, VT 05070
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Cynthia Weyant

(802) 728-5750
E. Randolph, VT 05041
Newbury Border Riders
Bill Schilke
(802) 429-2481
Wells River, VT 05081
Orange Peelers
Victoria Chaffee
(802) 439-5227
Corinth, VT 05039
Sharon Snowmobile Club
Laura McClay
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So. Royalton, VT 05068
Thetford Snow Coasters
Edwin Paige
(802) 785-2687
Thetford Ctr., VT 05075
Topsham Ridge Runners
Kitty Peixotto
(802) 439-6290
W. Topsham, VT 05086
Tri-Town Trail Travelers
Lucille Churchill
(802) 763-7297
So. Royalton, VT 05068
Upper Valley Snow Packer
Carol Johnson
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Vernshire, VT 05079
Washington Snow Flyers
Melanie S. Tucker
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Vermont's "White Highways" are waiting for you this winter!

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Randolph, VT 05060

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Albany Snow Rollers
Debra Geoffroy
(802) 755-6718
Albany, VT 05820
Barton Sno-Hawks
Francis Taylor
(802) 525-3456
Barton, VT 05822
Clyde River Riders
Janice Brown
(802) 895-4422
W. Charlestown, VT 05872
Country Riders
Snowmobile Club
Beth Brault
(802) 334-5142
Newport Ctr., VT 05857
Creek Runners
Marielle Shepard
(802) 754-2218
Irasburg, VT 05845
Drift Dusters

Joyce Jeness
(802) 766-5583
Derby, VT 05829
Friendly Snow Flyers
Randy Choquette
(802) 988-4083
N. Troy, VT 05859
Glover Trail Winders
Bud Buchanon
(802) 525-6985
W. Glover, VT 05875
Hazen's Notch Snowmobile Club
Charlene Pion
(802) 744-6893
Lowell, VT 05847
North Country Mountaineers
Jackuleen Maxfield
(802) 755-6218
Irasburg, VT 05845
Orleans Snow Stormers
Peter Gage
(802) 754-2085
Orleans, VT 05860
Westfield Trail Cats
Mark LeMay
(802) 744-8270
Westfield, VT 05868

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Bird's Eye Snow Travelers
Merritt Budd

(802) 438-5180

West Rutland, VT 05777

Chittenden Dammers

Lisa Todd
(802) 773-6635
Mendon, VT 05701

Green Mountain Climbers

Cathy Jesmonth
(802) 293-5515
Danby, VT 05739

Green Mountain Snow Flyers

Donna Gilman
(802) 438-5132
W. Rutland, VT 05777

Highledge Snow Stormers

Joan Hathaway
(802) 483-6546
Pittsford, VT 05763

Mt. Holly Sno-Drifters

Diana L. Garrow
(802) 259-2314
Mt. Holly, VT 05758

Neshobe Sportsman's Club

Harriet Wyman
(802) 247-5721
Brandon, VT 05733

Pawlet Bushwackers

Rick Browe
(802) unlisted
Pawlet, VT 05761

Poultney Valley Snowmobile Devils

Una Jean Capman
(802) 287-9007
Poultney, VT 05764

S.A.F.E.

Louise Vaughan
(802) 468-5487
Castleton, VT 05735

Shrewsbury Sno-Birds

Bette Coolidge
(802) 775-6302
N. Clarendon, VT 05759

Spruce Knob Ramblers

Kathy Rouse
(802) 235-2317
Middletown Spgs. VT 05757

Sugar Hollow Snomads

Deborah Markowski
(802) 483-6621
Florence, VT 05744

Tweed Valley Travelers

Lettie Fifield
(802) 746-8147
Pittsfield, VT 05762

White Rock Riders

Dale Wetherby
(802) 446-2529
Wallingford, VT 05773

WASHINGTON

Barre Town Thunder Chickens
Karen Blow
(802) 479-2448

Graniteville, VT 05654

Cabot Skylighters

Terry Persons
(802) 563-2058
Cabot, VT 05647

East Montpelier

Gully Jumpers
Henry Murray
(802) 223-7416
E. Montpelier, VT 05651

Green Mountain Roamers

Leo Beane
(802) 244-6925
Waterbury, VT 05676

Marshfield Demons

John Krajewski
(802) 426-3383
Plainfield, VT 05667

Mad River Ridge Runners

Donna Kenyon
(802) 496-3459
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Montpelier Trackmakers

Donald E. Gove
(802) 223-3336
Montpelier, VT 05602

Mountain Tamers

Marion Gray
(802) 456-8862
Plainfield, VT 05667

Northfield Sno-Bees of Barre

Ann & Ron Murdock
(802) 476-7689
Barre, VT 05641

Spruce Mountain Ridge Runners

Karen A. Robbins
(802) 476-7680
Montpelier, VT 05602

Worcester Rangers

Chris Temple
(802) 223-7626
Worcester, VT 05682

WINDHAM

Abenaki Snowmobile Club

Patricia Rogers
(802) 463-3392
Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Black Mountain

Snowmobile Club
Roberta Garland
(802) 254-2507
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Brookline Snowmobile Club

Edward Dillistin
(802) 365-4511
Brookline, VT 05345

Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers

Paul Wheeler
(802) 464-5225
Wilmington, VT 05363

Grafton Outing Club

Roone L. Gibbs, Pres.
(802) 843-2486
Grafton, VT 05146

Guilford Pitstoppers

Pat Lyman
(802) 254-9268
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Jacksonville E-Z Riders

Michelle Hillman
(413) - 624-3310
Colrain, MA 01340

Putney Snow Cruisers

Dale Temple
(802) 387-4492
Putney, VT 05346

Roy-L-Family Sno-Travelers

Patricia Rogers
(802) 463-3392
Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Upper West River Valley Snow Cruisers

Steven Brown
(802) 297-2257
So. Londonderry, VT 05155

Vernon Trail Breakers

Gary Scherlin
(802) 254-8017
Vernon, VT 05354

Wardsboro Pathfinders

Nancy Burke
(802) 896-6505
Wardsboro, VT 05355

West River Sno-Goers

Isabelle M. Westcott
(802) 365-7921
Townshend, VT 05353

WINDSOR

Andover Mountaineers

Jacquelyn W. Griswold
(802) 824-6762
Londonderry, VT 05148

Barnard

Mountain Viewers
Diane L. Atwood
(802) 457-1109
Woodstock, VT 05091

Bridgewater Sno-Zippers

Cheryl Bagley
(802) 672-5127
Bridgewater, VT 05035

Cavendish Green

Gail Woods
(802) 226-7476
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Proctorsville, VT 05153

Chester Snowmobile Club
Stan Choiniere
(800) 633-3800
Southwick, MA 01077

Hartland Hill Hoppers

Laurie Young
(802) 436-2460
Hartland, VT 05048

Hawks Mountain Ridge Riders

Martha Tarbell
(802) 886-8502
No. Springfield, VT 05150

Hurricane Riders

Diana Follett
(802) 295-5309
White River Jct., VT 05001

Little Aescutney Snowmobile Club

Jennie Tenney
(802) 484-7222
Reading, VT 05062

Long Hill Snowmobile Club

Jody Schulz
POB 154
S. Woodstock, VT 05071

Plymouth Snow Sneakers

Mike Lynds
(802) 672-3547
Bridgewater Cnrs., VT 05056

Pomfret Pop-A-Tops

Donald L. Brown
(603) 675-9312
Plainfield, NH 03781

Ridge Climbers

Snowmobile Club
Charlene Hull
(802) 763-8813
S. Royalton, VT 05068

Shiretown Snowmobile Club

Carmen Chamberlin
(802) 457-4844
So. Pomfret, VT 05067

Sidehill Snow Cronchers

Kendra Stocker
(802) 229-3016
Ludlow, VT 05149

Skitchewaug Trail Riders

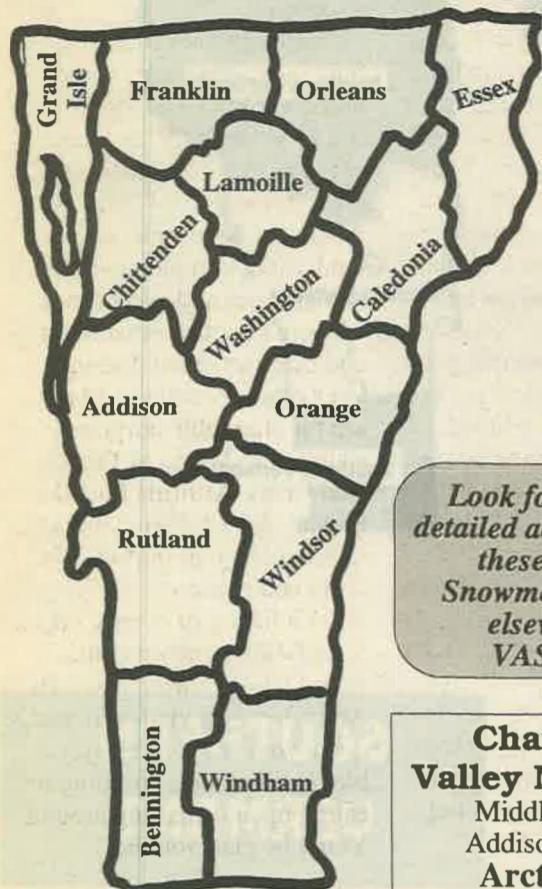
Evelyn Dana
(802) 885-4758
Springfield, VT 05156

Upper Valley Ridge Riders

Karen Palmer
(802) 457-4264
So. Woodstock, VT 05071</p

Snowmobile Vermont

14 Counties



Look for full-sized, detailed ads for many of these Vermont Snowmobile dealers elsewhere in VAST News.

Southeastern

Windsor
Windham

Southwestern

Bennington
Rutland

Central

Addison
Washington
Orange
North Central
Lamoille

Northeastern

Caledonia
Essex
Orleans
Northwestern
Chittenden
Grand Isle
Franklin



"The Big Four"

Arctic Cat ~ Polaris ~ Ski-Doo ~ Yamaha

For fast, friendly service, visit these Vermont dealers.
Beginning in the southeast, working northward - left to right.

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Speed & Cycle
Hartland, Vt.
Windsor - Southeastern
Arctic Cat
Tel.: 802-674-5572

T. & T. Tractor
Equipment
Proctor, Vt.
Rutland - Southwestern
Ski-Doo
Tel.: 802-459-2773

Dan Turco & Sons Yamaha
North Clarendon, Vt.
Rutland - Southwestern
Yamaha ~
Tel.: 802-773-8650

Champlain Valley Mtr Sports
Middlebury, Vt.
Addison - Central
Arctic Cat ~
Tel.: 802-462-2468

Devine Sales & Service
Ferrisburg, Vt.
Addison - Central
Polaris ~
Tel.: 802-877-3302

Newton Enterprises, Inc.
Fairlee, Vt.
Orange - Central
Ski-Doo ~
Tel.: 802-333-9530

Frank's Motorcycle Sales
Essex Center, Vt.
Chittenden - Central
Ski-Doo ~ Yamaha
Tel.: 802-878-3930

Desmarais Equipment, Inc.
Orleans, Vt.
Orleans - Northeastern
Arctic Cat ~ Polaris
Tel.: 802-7754-6629

Lanphear Sales & Service
Hardwick, Vt.
Caledonia - Northeastern
Arctic Cat ~ Polaris
Tel.: 802-472-6850

Ming's Sales & Service
Island Pond, Vt.
Essex - Northeastern
Polaris ~
Tel.: 802-723-6615

McCulloch Sales & Service
St. Albans, Vt.
Franklin - Northwestern
Arctic Cat ~
Tel.: 802-524-3782

Bourbeau Cycle, Inc.
St. Albans, Vt.
Franklin - Northwestern
Polaris ~ Ski-Doo
Tel.: 802-524-6565

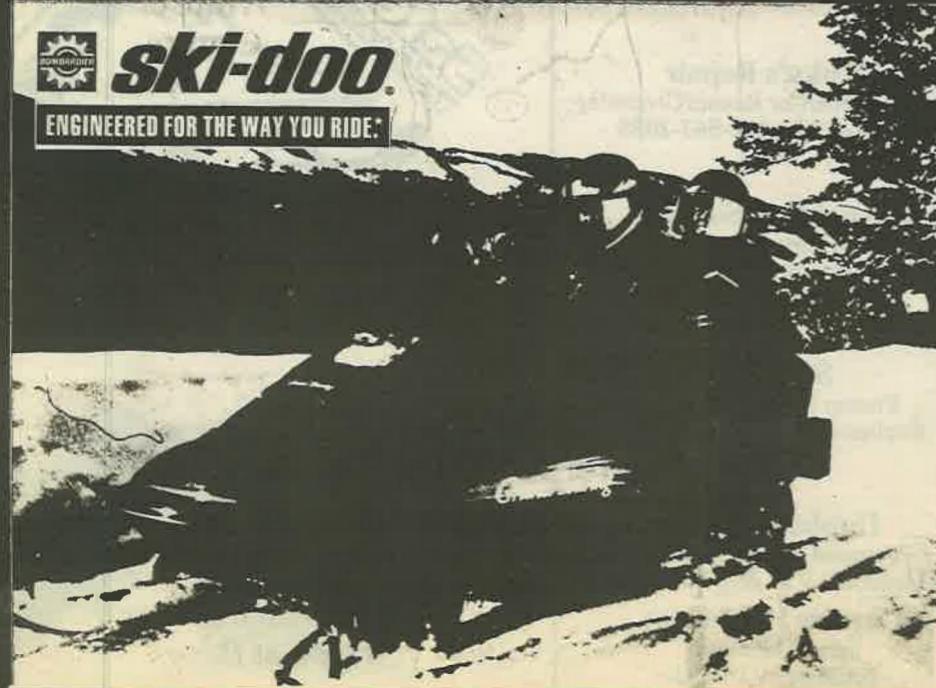
POLARIS
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YAMAHA

Snow Rage: Taking on the Snowmobile Culture

"Imagine a magical highway that suddenly appears every winter. One that goes through back country and snow-covered mountains, secluded valleys and friendly villages...In Vermont, you don't have to imagine it: It's our winter world of snowmobiling."

— Vermont Association of Snow Travelers

The "magical highways" that the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) have carved out of nearly 6,000 miles of Vermont's backcountry for the loud, smelly, and intrusive sport of snowmobiling are anything but "friendly" for a growing number of Vermonters. In fact, just as the number of deaths resulting from snowmobiling are on the rise, so too is the phenomenon known as snowmachine rage — the feverish pitch of anger one reaches after hours, weeks, and months of hearing, seeing, and smelling thousands of slickly painted snowmobiles and the space suit-like clad people who so happily thrust their wrists and blow out a potent blend of pollutants for pleasure.

The mere fact that snowmobilers are now honestly referring to their former trails as "highways" demonstrates the new nature of the "sport." What once was a relatively benign zip through the woods by testosterone-filled local kids has now been transformed into a multi-billion dollar industry that, in some remote northern locales, has literally stolen the peace, trampled on the wild, and belched a blue haze of noxious exhaust.

Increasingly, however, residents in snowmobile areas are speaking out against the many intrusions of the sport. Tired of the noise, smell, and arrogance of the sometimes belligerent snowmobilers, many residents are fighting back by revoking permission to use their land, speaking out about the sport's ecological impacts, and even calling for restrictions on the use of snowmobiles.

The reluctant poster-woman for snowmobile rage, Theresa Remick of Wheelock, Vermont, is an unlikely menace to the hurly-burly world of well-fed snowmobilers. But the petite, 68-year-old resident of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom was taken to her limit last winter when, after numerous civil attempts to keep snowmobiles off her property failed, she decided to take matters into her own hands and speak a language the snowmobilers might understand.

On Sunday, February 21, according to police reports, Remick armed herself with a broom and an unloaded .22 caliber Colt automatic pistol to await the next noisy intruder. After only a few moments of standing in the middle of the Wheelock's own snowmobile highway an unsuspecting rider by the name of

Dave Murray came zipping along and was forced to stop and meet Remick's rage.

According to police reports, Remick went right to work expressing her frustration by clubbing Murray's "brand new snowmachine" with her broom. Murray reacted by jumping off his pleasure craft to assess the damage and confront her. But Remick was prepared for the unequal distribution of brawn and brandished her Colt pistol.

"Murray said he backed off and got back on his snowmachine," wrote Vermont State Police Trooper, Gerard Delisle, in his affidavit filed with the Caledonia District Court, "but that the woman would not get out of the way and she was still swinging the broom at him."

One hour on a snowmobile's two-stroke engines produces more smog-forming pollution than a modern car creates in a year.

The sequence then repeated itself, with Murray getting back off his machine, Remick pulling her pistol, and Murray sitting back down. Murray then remembered that he carried a cell phone on his excursions into the big bad woods, and he whipped it out and called the police, who told him to meet them at the Wheelock General Store.

According to Officer Delisle's statement, Remick didn't deny her confrontation with Murray and she handed over her Colt pistol when police approached her for questioning. Remick told Delisle that she confronted the snowmobiler after numerous polite attempts to stop rogue and illegal snowmobiling across her property. Remick also told Delisle that the only reason she pulled the gun was because "she felt that [Murray] was going to run her over with this snowmachine."

Remick was charged with "simple assault by physical menace," a charge that seems to be more appropriate for the snowmobilers. It is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and/or up to a \$2,000 fine.

Remick hired the area's top criminal defense attorneys, Sleigh and Williams of St. Johnsbury, to defend her. Their first legal maneuver was to request a jury trial that is scheduled to begin on July 6 at the Caledonia District Court in St. Johnsbury. Given Sleigh and Williams' reputation for successful, no-holds-barred defenses, the trial should be quite a shoot-out that will, hopefully, put a bright spotlight on the intrusive nature of snowmobiling and Remick's right to rage.

While Remick's action represents the fact-to-face approach to taking on the snowmobile culture, there's also a burgeoning national movement organizing politically to kick snowmobilers out of national parks such as Yellowstone — a snowmobilers favorite — that is abused by an estimated 120,000 riders every year. Earlier this year the Bluewater Network, a project of David Brower's San Francisco-based Earth Island Network, launched an aggressive campaign with 60 other environmental organizations demanding that the National Park Service (NPS) immediately ban snowmobiling from all national parks.

The Bluewater Network contends that the operation of "grossly polluting machines" such as snowmobiles in national parks violates the Park Service's mission to "conserve the scenery and wildlife...and leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

"The snowmobile industry is making a killing in our most treasured parks, literally," said Sean Smith, Conservation Director of Bluewater Network. "They're killing our wildlife, ruining our air and water quality, poisoning the health of rangers exposed to snowmobile's staggering carbon monoxide exhaust, and destroying the solitude and peace cherished by other winter visitors."

No one argues that the operation of the very inefficient and highly polluting two-stroke engines in snowmobiles are environmentally benign. In fact, even the conservative Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awoke from its snowmobile slumber after learning that these machines emit 25% as many hydrocarbons as all the nation's cars and trucks put together. According to EPA research, the nation's 1.3 million snowmobilers emit an estimated 1.1 million tons of hydrocarbons, while 85 million cars and trucks release 4.5 million tons of the same pollutants. And that's just hydrocarbons, only one of the noxious components of the snowmobile's toxic soup of emissions that also includes carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, MTBE, and particulate matter.

The staggering levels of pollution from the snowmobile's two-stroke engine is caused by the fact that only two-thirds of the fuel is burned, spewing the rest directly into the air.

"According to the California Air Resource Board," reports Bluewater's Smith, "one hour on a snowmobile's two-stroke engines produces more smog-forming pollution than a modern car creates in a year."

The Bluewater Network and its broad coalition point to a 1996 report that found "the highest carbon monoxide (CO) levels in the nation were recorded at Yellowstone's west entrance during the snowmobile season. The CO levels were so high, in fact, that a lingering blue haze of emissions is common in the winter months at Yellowstone and Park Rangers in the area have routinely complained of the dizziness, headaches, throat irritation, nausea caused by snowmobile emissions."

The EPA is expected to address this pollution problem by releasing its first ever emission standards for the two-stroke engines that power snowmobiles, personal watercraft (e.g., Jet Skis), and all-terrain-vehicles (ATV's), a move that is expected to force manufacturers to switch to four-stroke engines — the type of engine used in cars.

Regardless of the outcomes of Remick's trial and the political lobbying against snowmobiles, proponents of the sport are getting nervous about the level of opposition building up. So much so that many snowmobile enthusiasts are now advocating the abandonment of the two-stroke engine, a position that would have been considered heretical a few years ago when they steadfastly defended it as cheaper, easier to start, and a faster accelerator than the dramatically less polluting four-stroke engines.

It's clear that snowmobilers and their lobbying interests are counting on a switch to four-stroke engines to dampen down some of the sport's growing opposition. But while significant pollution concerns will be addressed by the soon-to-be-mandated change, issues such as wildlife impacts, disturbing the peace, and four-stroke engine pollution will remain. And these issues are just as capable of creating snowmachine rage in the likes of Remick, backwoods enthusiasts, and proponents of *real* national parks that are free from snowmachine highways.

Stay tuned, because this battle is only just beginning...

— M.C.

VAST: Manufacturing Tradition

The primary promotional arm of snowmobiling in Vermont is the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), a \$2.5 million outfit that receives about 25% of its funding from the state via snowmobile registration fees paid to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

VAST's political clout became abundantly clear last winter when the 133,000 acres of slashed land owned by the paper giant, Champion International, went up for sale in the Northeast Kingdom. VAST panicked when it learned that the federal government was to be a part of a consortium of buyers that had conservation in mind for the land, including potential restrictions on ecologically threatening uses such as snowmobiling.

But VAST flexed its political muscles in Montpelier and gained one assurance after another, from Governor Dean on down, that the land would remain open to snowmobile abuse. Dean even went so far as to make the Dan Quayle-like statement that the state would not tolerate restrictions on land that had enjoyed "hundreds of years of being open for traditional uses like hunting, hiking, logging, and snowmobiling."

Hundreds of years of traditional snowmobiling? So that's how the Abenakis got around.