

Law Enforcement Committee of the  
Snowmobile Recreation Council Meeting  
Sunday, August 21, 2016

Dale's Weston Lanes  
Mountain Bay Conference Center  
5902 Schofield Avenue  
Weston, WI 54476

Attendance: Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Bev Dittmar, Dave Newman,  
Gary Eddy (DNR)

Minutes

1. Call to order – 6:18 p.m.
2. Public comments – Dave Peterson of Langlade County had comments on signs. Yellow/black arrow should be larger. What is the proper use of chevrons?
3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting. Motion: Bev Dittmar 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sam Landes
4. Snowmobile trespass – Mike Holden: same issue from International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) meeting. Mike stated that sometimes local court systems dismiss these tickets. Sam: Local law enforcement (LE) says it's difficult to enforce. Dave Newman stated the American Council of Snowmobile Associations is also looking at this issue. Sam: Communication with LE is key. Invite to club meetings to discuss issues. Gary Eddy reported that the fine is \$263.50 and that 51 citations were issued by sheriff's dept. and DNR LE for trespass to private/public property last season. Gary recommended that land owners and club members report trespass immediately to LE so they can address them before they get out of hand.
5. Snowmobile hand signals – Mike – issue from ISC. Gary summarized the issue from ISC. The unofficial count down hand signals are unnecessary and a safety concern due to all operators riding with one hand while giving this signal. The internationally accepted hand signals do not include/ recommend use of the "count down". The International Assoc. of Snowmobile Administrators are looking at use of all hand signals and have asked for input from the U.S. and Canadian associations as well as from the manufacturers.
6. Trail signs/signing handbook – Gary relayed DOT concerns on use of the 12" x 8" yellow and black turn arrow. DOT doesn't want it used along roads because it mimics DOT signage for motor vehicles. Gary recommended looking at a 12" x 8" orange and black sign instead. Dave Newman – Michigan went with less signs altogether. Sam – the signing handbook provides merely guidelines/recommendations. Chevrons should be used when there is a significant change of direction and should always be proceed with a "caution curve" sign. Chevrons should be posted with a minimum of two-three used together, never with a single chevron. Chevrons should not be used as a basic arrow sign.

7. DNR report –

- Law Enforcement and Safety

Wisconsin experienced a poor snowmobile season. Marginal snowmobiling opportunities existed in the far northern areas of the state.

There were 835 active volunteer snowmobile safety instructors that certified 3737 students, 3114 students were certified via online courses. Despite the poor snow conditions Wisconsin had 9 fatal snowmobile crashes, down from the 12 the previous season. Speed, alcohol and nighttime continue to be the biggest contributing factors.

The new trail pass requirement was implemented for all Wisconsin registered snowmobiles. Previously only non-resident snowmobiles were required to purchase trail passes. The new trail pass costs \$10.00 for current members of a Wisconsin snowmobile club/AWSC and \$30.00 for non-members. Mixed comments were received regarding the new trail pass. Complaints included having to pay more if they weren't a member of a club, clubs weren't unavailable to take new memberships and club members upset that they couldn't ride immediately after purchasing a trail pass. Complaints from law enforcement were operators being able to operate without a trail sticker if they possessed a temporary trail pass receipt and new club members attempting to operate with a copy of their membership application but no trail sticker.

For the third year, legislation was introduced that would tie in all recreational vehicle OWI violations (ATV, boat, snow) with a person's motor vehicle driver's license. Penalties would also result in a loss of all recreational vehicle privileges for OWI and result in revocation of the driver's license for second offense OWI on any recreational vehicle with a five year period. This legislation wasn't enacted

- Dave Newman requested sheriff's patrol audit info. when it becomes available.

8. Member items – D. Newman. Issue with crossing State Trunk Highways. DOT is stating that permits are required for every crossing. AWSC attorney stated it's a right to cross a STH without a permit. Cathy Burrow recommends lightly broaching the subject. Sam – club members know best where to post/place crossings. Sometimes placed in a difficult place when they have no choice.

9. Adjournment. Motion: Bev 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sam. 6:50 p.m.