



Northwoods Riders Snowmobile Club

Supporting the best snowmobile trails in and around Tomahawk, WI!

April 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 9/28/2026

Billy Bob's

Food served at 6:15pm

General Meeting at 7:00pm

Board Members

Officers:

President – Greg Johnson

Vice President – Dale Elliott

Treasurer – Kay Collom

Secretary – Lisa Elliott

Membership Coordinator – Chetek Wenker

Directors:

John Collom

Thor Gilbertson

Mark McDonald

Aimee Merkel

Gary Waters

Newsletter - Mallory Gilbertson

Membership

What an amazing season it was this year! Many thanks to each of you for your membership and support of our club and the other area clubs. At the end of the '25/26 season we are 480 memberships strong with 48 new memberships this season. There were 28 members at the March meeting, which was the last general meeting of this season. Landowners attending were Dan Johnson, Nancy Swan, and Dale & Lisa Elliott. Thank you for attending our monthly club meetings. It's a great time to socialize with other members and get up to date on the club happenings.

As a reminder, club memberships renew starting July 1st for next season. Renew your membership early online so you can order your discounted trail passes when you want to. This avoids many delays when the snow flies again!



Club News

The Winter Celebration benefitting the Northwoods Passage Snowmobile Club went well and was another great area club event this winter. A huge “thank you” to the many Northwoods Riders members who helped with setup and working at various booths and activities at the banquet. It couldn’t happen without your time and effort.



President Greg Johnson presented the Knight Owls, Northern Trails Unlimited and the Northwoods Passage representatives with *\$75 Tomahawk Chamber Bucks* for each of their groomer drivers and maintenance crew members as an appreciation gift from us.



In other news, Northern Trails Unlimited made a donation request to us toward the new mower they have purchased. We have not made any large donations for equipment or maintenance to the area clubs yet this season. The Club Board recommended that we make the following donations to the grooming clubs -

\$5000 Knight Owls, \$5000 Northern Trails Unlimited, and \$8000 Northwoods Passage. Members voted and agreed to the amounts the board recommended.

Pontoon Palooza is Saturday July 18th – get ready!

Volunteers are needed for all of these areas and it's a fun way to see your club buddies in the off season at B's Landing.

- Team leads and workers
- Site Set-up on July 17th afternoon
- Clean-up/Take-down on the 18th and 19th
- Food Service – 3 hour shifts throughout the day
- Beverage Service – 3 hour shifts throughout the day
- Boat Judging

This is a great way for our out of town members to meet fellow club members. If interested and able to help, please send an email to info@northwoodsriders.org, or contact any board member. **Many hands make light work!**

Watch for the \$100 raffle tickets coming out in late May.

More details will be [on our website](#) as we get closer to the event date.

End of the Season reports from the area grooming clubs

Northwoods Passage – Dan Hoover

Barrels were removed from local lakes and rivers while the ice was still safe.

Many volunteers helped: Gary Waters, Mike Wick, Ken Wallace, Ken Gouty, Dan Hanstader and others. Trail sections that were not accessible in fall were brushed last week by Thor Gilbertson, Bobbi Hoover, Gary & MaryBeth Waters, Gene Hodge, and Scott Platta from the Harshaw Wanderers. Volunteers are still needed for removing some trail signs. Contact Dan if you are available.

Some statistics from this season: Brushing – 1200 hrs, Grooming – 1325 hrs.

Thank you to diesel mechanic Dan Hanstader for doing groomer maintenance this season!

Northern Trails Unlimited – Amiee Merkel

NTU thanked us for the fundraiser prizes we donated and for help setting up by members who volunteered. As an FYI, The Loop Hole donated all of the food and drink tickets for this fundraiser. Work is still being done on the NTU club shed but it is functional and being used. A new trail mower is being purchased.

Knight Owls – Nancy Swan

The Spring Hoot banquet is on 4/25 at Inshalla Country Club. Tickets are \$55/person and must be purchased in advance at Tomahawk Sports

Center, Castaways, Bottoms Up, Winding Trails, or by emailing Nancy Swan at mnscswan@yahoo.com. See you at another fun banquet with loads of great prizes!

Logo Redesign

We're looking to update and modernize our logo and we need your help. If you have a creative logo design idea, please email it to info@northwoodsriders.org.

Club Board Nominations

- Nominations were made for 2026-2028 terms for: Vice President - Dale Elliott, Treasurer - Kay Collom, and two Director positions - Andy Schaper and Alan VanStrydonk. All four nominees accepted their nominations.
- Nominations will be open again at the September meeting. "New blood and new ideas are needed to continue to make the Northwoods Riders Snowmobile Club prosper." - Greg Johnson
- Consider serving the club by nominating yourself or accepting a nomination and running for a Club Board position in next season's elections this October.

Upcoming Club Events

- Pontoon Palooza at B's Landing on 7/18 – see organization notes above.

All Northwoods Riders club events and meetings are listed on our website under Events & News> [Northwoods Riders Calendar](#) and on our Facebook page. Stay tuned in the fall for updates on our events for next season.

Other Club Events

- Knight Owls Spring Hoot at Inshalla Country Club on 4/25.

A comprehensive list of events for all area clubs can be found on our website under Events & News> [Area Clubs Event List](#) and in the chart below. This will be updated with events for next season later this year.

Charitable Giving

The Northwoods Riders are very fortunate to be giving and receiving donations this season!

- Holly's Bar donated \$104 to us last month from their "round-up your bill" donations. Many thanks to Nate and Holly Carr for their continued support.
- The Kracker Barrel donated a total of \$1061 from September thru February from their pump #4 sales. Thank you again to Jim and Audrey Charles for supporting our club and the Nokomis ATV/UTV club.



- The Northwoods Riders will be donating \$5000 to the Knight Owls, \$5000 to Northern Trails Unlimited, and \$8000 to Northwoods Passage per the recommendation and motion passed at this meeting.

Meeting Winners!

\$25 Gift Certificate to Holly's Bar was won by Gary Hilgendorf.

50-50 Drawing of \$95.00 was won by the overly lucky Andy and Connie Schaper. 😊

Thank you to Holly and Nate Carr from Holly's Bar for hosting our meeting tonight.

See you next season! Email info@northwoodsriders.org or send a message via Facebook Messenger with any questions during the off-season. Watch for the President's Letter coming mid-summer!

*To all the landowners, groomers,
snowmobile clubs, stop-offs, lodging,
volunteers, and dealerships, we Thank You
for making this snowmobile season an amazing one*

NORTHWOODS SNOWMOBILING FACEBOOK