

# Maine Snowmobiler

MSA, PO Box 80  
Augusta ME 04332



An Official Publication of the Maine Snowmobile Association

## Directors Endorse Michaud

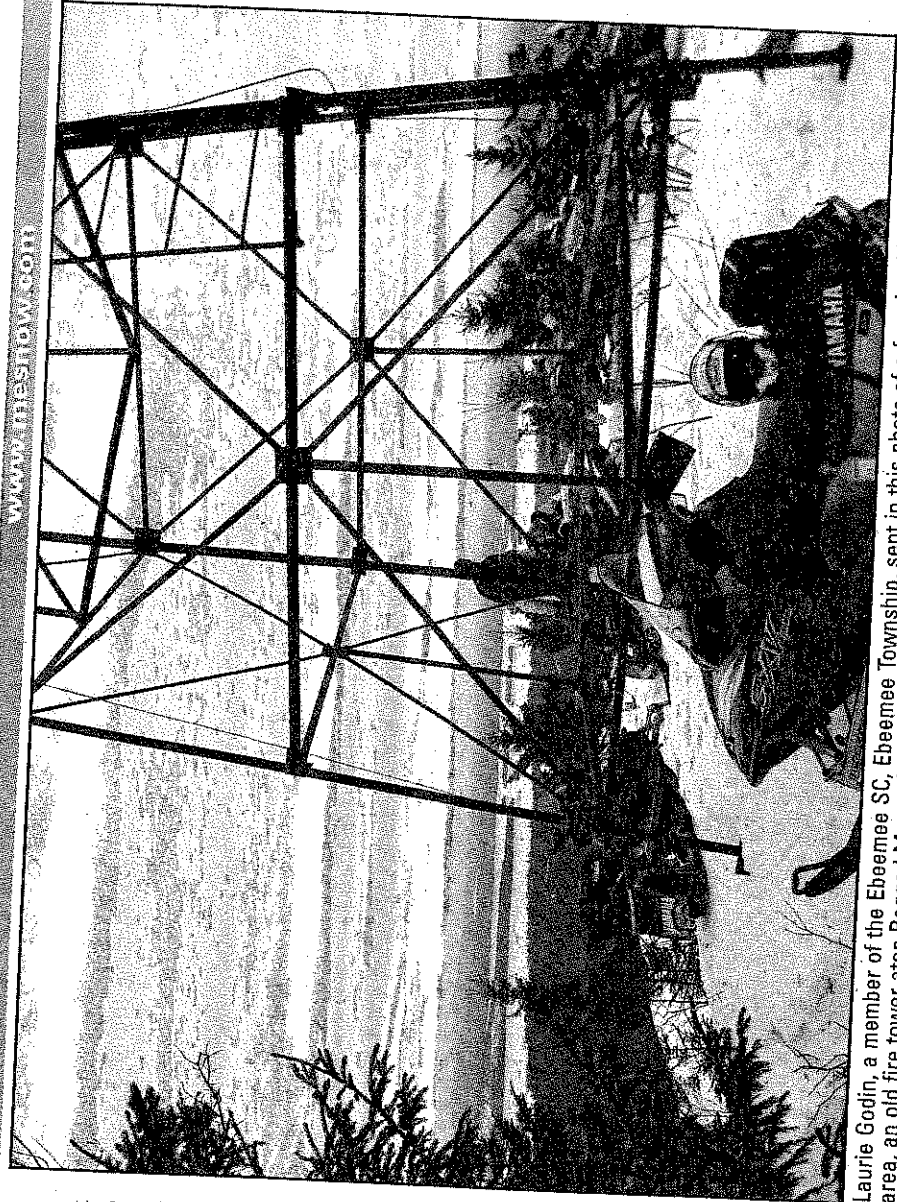
MSA Directors voted overwhelmingly at their August meeting to endorse Rep. Mike Michaud for a fourth term in the US House of Representatives. Michaud, a member of the East Millinocket Snowmobile Club, has been a strong supporter of snowmobiling interests throughout his career in the Maine House and in Congress.

Michaud currently sits on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which oversees the Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Bureau of Parks & Recreation. The RTP, which is funded by a portion of federal gas tax, has been a significant source for major trail projects throughout the state. The authorization of the RTP has passed in Congress, but

Michaud is leading efforts to not only expand the program, but also is requesting that the Department of Transportation allocate \$2.5 million for a study to ensure that the current funding formula adequately reflects actual fuel usage by off-road enthusiasts.

Michaud has also been a strong and effective advocate for snowmobile access on lands where federal funds have been used to purchase easements, most notably providing access on Connector Trail 110 when the Appalachian Mountain Club received Forest Legacy funding for an easement on their resort property in the Katahdin Iron Works area.

The MSA Directors also voted at the August meeting not to endorse any candidate in the 2010 gubernatorial race. They instead urged members to carefully look at all the candidates in this year's race.



Laurie Godin, a member of the Ebeemee SC, Ebeemee Township, sent in this photo of a favorite riding destination in her area, an old fire tower atop Ragged Mountain. Laurie writes that there is just enough room at the top to "circle the wagons and head back down. On a clear day you have the most incredible view of the Katahdin area."

## Snowmobiling By the Numbers

Where's the Money?

Are there enough ITS Trails? Too many? Not enough? Registration fees...

## And the Survey Says...

impact studies of snowmobiling in Maine in the 1990s.



## From the Executive Director



Bob Meyers, Executive Director  
207-622-6983  
MSA, PO Box 80, Augusta, Me 04332  
snowjob@mesnow.com

Who's interested in going to school with me?

It's my kind of school - short, sweet, and no final exams. The classroom for a good part of it is outdoors. We won't end up with a B.S. or a PhD, but we will earn a BMP - Best Management Practices.

*"It only stands to reason that we have a responsibility to adopt the same Best Management Practices..."*

Last month I took the trial course for Best Management Practices for stream crossings which has been developed for the MSA by the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative. This course is a truncated version of what the Initiative uses to trail loggers, foresters and other woods workers. It was developed by John Starrett, a former trailmaster and forester who is on the SFI Education Committee, and he did a terrific job.

Many of you will recall this past year when we were closely following the new regulations proposed by DEP to deal with stream crossings and culverts. Those rules are still in the works pending final legislative approval, but what was notable about them was that the forest products industry was exempt from them.

That is because over the past several years, the SFI has begun training woods workers in the best management practices that are required for stream crossings. This is an important part of the forest land certification process that has now been adopted by landowners representing over a million acres of land in the state.

These landowners, who are already generous in allowing us to access their property for recreation, are ultimately responsible to certification auditors and regula-

## From the President

Hi Folks, Pre season is in full swing, it sure didn't feel like it with the 90 degree days we had. The first issue of the Maine Snowmobiler went out to all registered snowmobile owners who we hope were moved to join a club. Now it is up to us as club members to convince them that it is the right thing to do.

Have you registered your snowmobile yet? Remember trails don't just happen and it is through that registration that the Department of Conservation gets the monies that are give out to clubs through club and municipal grants that help pay for those trails we all ride on.

The office has been buzzing with activity since mid-August and with memberships coming in, things are

## From the Executive Vice President

The show was one of the best I have attended. The folks in attendance were all looking forward to a great snowmobile season and reflected that in their comments to us.

We explained to the folks that came to the MSA booth the value of a membership in MSA. Like having a full time person representing them and their dollars with the legislature. Bob is there every day making sure our sport is not

chance to enjoy the snowmobile show and get your juices flowing!

*"The candidate you vote for may influence our snowmobile system in the future. So please vote and vote wisely!"*

With elections right around the corner remember to exercise your right to vote. The candidate you vote for may influence our snowmobile system in the future. So please vote and vote wisely!

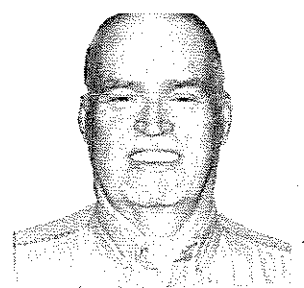
Now is the time to check your sled or sleds over and get those needed repairs so you won't miss a day of riding. Volunteer some time to the club of your choice and help them do trail work or work at one of their fund raisers or better yet sell some Super Raffle tickets for them!

*"Keep an eye out for your regional meeting dates..."*

trounced on. This in itself is worth a membership in MSA but there is much more.

The discounts afforded by our affiliation with Liberty Mutual Insurance for instance. This has saved me lots of dollars and you can be an out of state member and still take advantage of this offer.

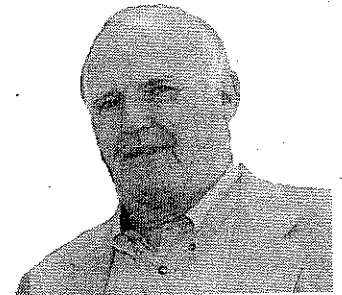
Keep an eye out for your regional meeting dates and try and attend. Our regional VP's have great things to present to you.



Ken Ingalls, Executive VP  
207-635-2895  
PO Box 67, North Anson ME 04958  
gullsinntd@tdstlme.net

Let's hope for a snow filled riding season and smooth trails! Remember those trails don't just happen. Thank the landowner for the use of his or her land. Last but not least thank the many volunteers that make it happen each and every year!

Get out and VOTE! - Ken



Robert 'Cap' Campbell, 207-246-2062  
PO Box 6, Eustis ME 04936  
alfrob@aol.com

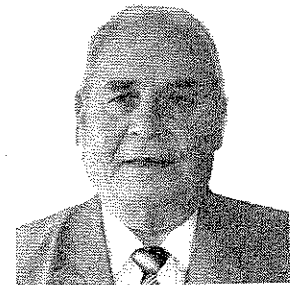
See you on the trails,  
Cap Campbell

## Treasurer's Monthly Report

Monthly Income	\$17,485.88
Monthly Expense	\$15,309.51
Net Revenue	2,176.37
Checking (8/31/10)	\$11,425.41
Credit Line (8/31/10)	\$28,500.00
Building Fund (8/31/10)	\$48,719.34
Brian Wass Safety Fund(8/31/10)	\$739.62

Dated September 21, 2010

Respectfully Submitted  
Roy Tassinari, Treasurer



Roy Tassinari, Treasurer  
207-784-5691  
36 Summit St, Auburn ME 04210  
rmtass@juno.com

## The Maine Snowmobiler

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Bob Meyers, Executive Director  
Peg Sawyer Meyers, Editor  
Alan Swett, Contributing Photographer  
tel. 207-622-6983 • fax. 207-622-7669  
msa@mesnow.com • www.mesnow.com

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Address to: Editor, Maine Snowmobiler, PO Box 80, Augusta, Me. 04332, msa@mesnow.com  
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*The mission of the Maine Snowmobile Association is to promote the safe and lawful operation of snowmobiles within the State of Maine, and the Association shall represent the interests of all its members regardless of gender, age, or geographic location. The Association will actively build, maintain and unify membership by promoting snowmobiling as a family oriented sport and providing service, education, assistance and guidance to snowmobile clubs, the general membership, and the public. To the greatest extent possible, the Association shall encourage and assist cooperation and communication with landowners, other sports enthusiasts, law enforcement officials, and the Department of Environmental Protection, Leg-*

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## *Executive Director*

continued from page 5

It only stands to reason that we have a responsibility to adopt the same Best Management Practices that they are already following.

Our plan is to set up a neighbor to neighbor system where we initially train a number of trainers who will in turn train clubs in their areas while addressing stream crossings on their trails. This is a win for the landowners and a win for us plus it sounds easy - sometimes it really can be.

So, I'm looking for volunteers on two levels - one is folks willing to take the course and become trainers, and the other is for stream crossings that may have issues that need to be addressed. We'd like to start linking these up in the coming months, and before long we should be well on their way. Give me a call and we'll get things rolling - be a part of the class of 2010.

See you out there.