

## **Bowdoinham Snowbirds Snowmobile Club**

By Valerie Chiang, Club President

Winter brings a smile to many faces in Bowdoinham, for a variety of reasons. Some like it for the sheer calm beauty of the landscape, and others for the recreation aspects, be it snow-shoeing, cross country skiing, smelt fishing, dog sledding, ice skating, ice hockey, snow tubing, snowmobiling, or all of the above!

Snowmobilers in Bowdoinham are often sporting a great big smile hidden under their protective helmets. Why? Bowdoinham has so much to offer with a great trail system that is well maintained by club volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of our landowners, we have over 40 miles of trails in our system, and can find a vacation without ever having to leave town! One of my personal favorites is being able to ride out to Merrymeeting Bay for a weekend cookout with the club.

The snowmobile club is for more than just snowmobilers. Anyone is welcome to join – you do not need to own a snowmobile. Any outdoor enthusiast might want to consider joining – we're like your local Appalachian Mountain Club. Your membership supports the club in our activities, and your participation is entirely voluntary. A family membership is just \$22.00, and a business membership is \$40.00. Meetings take place on the third Wednesday of every month from September thru April at the Bowdoinham Fire Station. This season, we started having potluck suppers at 6pm before every meeting, which start at 7pm. One of the greatest benefits of becoming a club member is the camaraderie that is shared at our group activities. Our membership ranges from young toddlers up thru octogenarians! Being able to share the experience of a ride to common destinations is an added bonus.

To find out more about the Bowdoinham Snowbirds, visit our new website at [www.mesnowbirds.com](http://www.mesnowbirds.com). I would also like to extend an invitation for all to attend our Annual Spaghetti Feed on February 20 at the Bowdoinham Fire Station. This event is open to everyone, and proceeds will be going to the Pine Tree Camp. In the past, we've had visitors from near and far, some by snowmobile, others by car. After filling up on dinner and desserts, the fun typically continues outdoors where kids of all ages have a good time sledding, trying out snowmobiles and groomers, partaking in snowball fights, and warming up by the bonfire. Good food, good family fun – a great way to enjoy winter!