

Hey, all!

I'm returning to my writing duties with some new-found knowledge: there's something else in this world that is almost as unpredictable and aggravating as the weather, and that's my internet service. Five straight weeks of being unable to connect not only left me frustrated as the dickens, but high and dry as far as January and February's newsletter articles were concerned. Had I had my wits about me, I would have copied them to a disk and sent them to the MSA office via someone else's computer – but, no, I never gave that a thought at the time. As most of you who know me well have come to realize, good old common sense is not one of my strong suits. Hey, what can I say – I used to be blonde!!

So, does anyone have a clue as to what gives with the weather we've been experiencing?? First, we're tantalized with a beautiful snowfall in mid-January, only to have it washed away with downpours a week later. Then, the mid-Atlantic states get pummeled with massive amounts of the white stuff (with more predicted) while most of the Pine Tree State saw nary a flake. I think it's high time Mother Nature and Ol' Man Winter transferred their allegiances back to us Maineiacs who appreciate good storms.

We Snowbirds consider ourselves fortunate, however, to have gotten in an awesome club ride down to Merrymeeting Bay for a weenie roast the day before the rains came. I'm sure it was a sight to behold as forty-some machines meandered their way along the trails on an absolutely glorious day.

Now, what is an avid snowmobiler to do when there's no riding to be done in his or her own backyard? Why, you head north, of course - far north; like five hours north, in this case. And that's exactly what 19 of us Snowbirds did for our annual club trip February 4-7. We seriously considered postponing our venture because of a lack of snow pretty much statewide, but Phil, the proprietor of Overlook Motel in Eagle Lake, promised us some good riding up there, and he was true to his word. Having received only $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of rain, followed by some bitterly cold temperatures and 6?-7? of fresh snow the last week of January, the trails in the area proved to be in amazing condition. With the riding at a premium, meals to die for, and an abundance of ever-present laughter, to say we all had a blast would be putting it mildly!

Sadly, we returned home to the realization that the bare ground in Bowdoinham would not be conducive to our annual "Sled In...Sled Out Spaghetti Dinner" slated for February 20th and, thus, have postponed the event indefinitely. Keep your fingers crossed that we haven't seen the end of the snow for the season so we can, ultimately, reschedule this get-together that benefits the Pine Tree Camp for Crippled Children.

Hey, have you had an opportunity yet to check out the club's website? If not, be sure to log on to your computer and go to www.mesnowbirds.com and give it a look; you're bound to be impressed. David (Gouger) and Valerie (Chiang) have certainly done us proud with their combined ingenuity and creativity in developing and maintaining this site. Many, many thanks to these two for the time and effort they've invested in this project!

And speaking of being proud: we're delighted to report that not only were the Bowdoinham Snowbirds the top ticket-sellers in the Coastal region in this year's MSA Super Raffle - a total of **902** rather than the 755 reported in Bob Lafontaine's article last month (the 755 was the money gleaned from the sales), but two of those we sold turned out to be winners. Martha Emmons of Richmond came away with a stay at the Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center, while our very own club vice-president Bryan Benson was the recipient of a gift certificate to Ken's Yamaha in Norway.

I'm going to conclude this month's ramblings on somewhat of a personal note – by wishing my oldest granddaughter and fellow Snowbird, Destiny Anair, a very Happy Birthday. Turning 10 on the 10th of March in 2010 is a definite "10" in her eyes.

Yours in snowmobiling,

Bev Wallace