

Trail Bits NLNSC

Spring 2018

Pete Friedlieb

Spring is finally springing and for Boomer this means he goes into a reverse semi-hibernation mode. When snow season is on he is frenetically checking trails, overseeing equipment repair, grooming at Sugar Hills and as a fill in on other trails. Plus he's going to meetings-Trails Task Force, State Nordic Ski meeting along with the Club monthlies. At the end of snow time he makes sure the equipment is properly prepped and stored. All of this activity is like a psychological nuts and berries for the Boomer. But then it's done and as the bears leave their den Boomer on the other hand starts his semi-hibernative state. His breathing slows down, he naps more, and subsists on bits of food and fluids predominantly those fermented with barley and heavy doses of hops. He needs to ready himself for Fall when the bears go into their caves and out comes Boomer as he starts to increase his metabolism and begins his active winter cycle. Which interestingly, is fueled by the same fluids....

Your Board had an exceptionally active year also:

Equipment-The new snowmobile for grooming at Suomi was placed in service after a successful fundraising campaign led by Tom Nelson.

Building at Sugar Hills-Unless you've been hibernating you're aware of the big initiative to construct a building at Sugar for public warming and gatherings and also for storing equipment used at Sugar and other trails. Many steps have been taken:

-Bidding process: After review of the bids the contract was awarded to Edwards/LaPlant Construction.

-Lease-A lease agreement between NLNSC and the landowner Boundary Co., CEO John Rajala for a nominal amount was signed. The DNR also signed the agreement as part of their oversight of the Sugar Hills Easement.

-Donation of Building Materials. Mr. Rajala made a generous commitment to supply wood for the building exterior as well as for interior paneling of the warming space.

-Fundraiser. A capital campaign resulted in enough funds (\$125,000) to carry out the construction of the building. Phase two will include signage, trail improvements, an outdoor toilet facility and other additions to the site. Fundraising is ongoing. ***Over 50% of the funds raised so far have been from individual members of the Club. Business donations and grants from foundations account for the other half. Supporting foundations include: IRRRB, Blandin Foundation, North Star Ski and Touring Club, Trails Task Force and Lake Country Electric.***

-The late spring has delayed construction but we hope the building will be completed in the next two months.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped and supported this project!

And so the best to all of you whether hibernating, super active or somewhere in-between....

