



**Board Members**

*Pete Friedlieb, Pres. Tom Sobolik, Treas. Catherine McLynn Membership, MYSL Boomer Moritko Trails and Equipment  
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Jim Christmas Joyce Estate Paul Olson County trails Rick McDonald Legion Craig Stertz At Large  
Tim Moratzka At Large Tom Nelson County Rec. Mike Lentz At Large/Sugar Hills*

**Trail Bits Winter 2024**

Some of your board were sitting around bemoaning the state of affairs as in not good. And Boomer sez “the snow affairs reminds me of a basketball game I watched decades ago”. And we’re like c’mon Boomer that seems a bit farfetched. No, he goes on I was watching a game between the Celtics and Lakers and it was a really close game coming down to the wire. And one of the Boston players tries to win in the last seconds. And the announcer goes “Havilecek throws up a prayer.....not answered”. So it’s kinda like our snow prayers.....

Then more folks joined us early birds and we got down to bidness. To wit:

Trails-check our website, [northernlightsnordic.org](http://northernlightsnordic.org), for the most recent reports. Barely skiable if at all except for Mt. Itasca where they’ve been hard at work making snow and multiple hardworking volunteers have pushed it around so that the trail is skiable to the point where national races as well as regional high school ones have been held. Major work this off season was done by techs at the Chippewa Forest Service to improve and widen portions of the North Suomi trail.

Help Wanted-Rick McDonald our main guy at Legion Trail near the High School is retiring after decades of grooming and trail maintenance. If you'd like to help, talk to Rick etc. please let me know. Also we would like to having additional folks on our Board to get fresh ideas and perspectives. We're talking about 6 meetings per year of about an hour or so in a very relaxed atmosphere. Please call if you'd like more info.

Equipment-Last year when we did have a ton of snow, our oldest snowmobile broke down after 16 years of service. Our other machines our aging so we've ordered 2 new ones. One will be a replacement at North Suomi and the other for back up. We also ordered a tracked 4 wheeler ATV which can be used for trail maintenance off season as well as pull a groomer with a tracksetter if needed. Funds came from the Club through your membership, the Trails Task Force and a major grant from IRRRB. Some funding also came indirectly from the State through Ski Pass purchases. So please keep up your member donations to the Club and of course purchase the ski pass. This pass is required at almost all trails in our area and supports Nordic skiing.

Minnesota Youth Ski League-Participation is down but we still have 50 kids registered at Mt. Itasca and 15 at Blueberry Hills Deer River.

That's it! Hope to see you on the snow-

Pete