



#### **Board Members**

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## **Trail Bits 2024**

Whilst many of you were cursing the darkness or actually the lack of whiteness on the ground last winter, your board was pretty busy. We had meetings and went to meetings. A major grant was written and approved and other stuff. Juicy details below:

MNSA-Boomer attended the Minnesota Nordic Ski Association meetings over the past year. MNSA members represent the various ski clubs around the State and act as a liaison to the DNR to give feedback and receive information. State Ski Pass sales were at record lows as expected in a low snow year. Revenue from Ski Pass Sales are directed to the Grant-In-Aid program and then to trail organizations, such as NLNSC, to help fund operations. These funds are critical for us. All the trails we are involved with are in in GIA. Please purchase a pass this year to support this vital program.

RAC Grant-we applied for this grant in partnership with the leadership of the Chippewa National Forest. The grant was part of a competitive process across a multi-state region and we were one of those selected. The proposal outlined work needed to improve trails that we groom

within the Chippewa. This generous grant will allow us to do significant work. The process began around 10 years ago when areas in need of work were identified by Randy, Craig and others. These specific locations were then mapped. The improvements should make the trails more skiable for the public and more groom-able for our volunteers. The trail work was started this year by a local contractor with guidance and direction by Randy who was on site. I've attached 2 sides of the map documenting the trouble spots . The areas marked by a check were completed. There is more to be done and we will see how the sections which were completed meet the needs of skiers and groomers. Please provide any feedback you may have after skiing the Suomi Trails.

The Annual Ski Swap is being planned. Further details to follow.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing and much appreciated support!

Pete