



**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS:
NOVEMBER 1972 – NOVEMBER 2022**

First meeting: November 13, 1972

Meeting was called to order by Ty Hilgendorf at Green Pines.

Officers elected for a two year term:

Jack Evans, President

Art Theiler, Vice-President

Barb Theiler, Secretary-Treasurer (Pam Grise co-signer for all checks)

Meetings to be held the second Monday of the month at a tavern on a rotating basis.

Dues: \$10 individual or husband and wife; \$15 per family – due on October 1st.

Businesses paid an additional \$10 to help get club going.

Board of Directors:

Clarence Krueger

Don Schulz

Maynard Grise

Gil Evans

Ed Troutwine

Hoovie Koth

Wally Beilke

Jan Barrett

Jack Evans

Present at first meeting:

Jan Barrett

David Thielman

David Mitchell

Roy Behling

Don Schulz

Norm Kahle

Greg Zoellner

Herbert "Hoovie" Koth

Ed & Grace Troutwine

Gil Evans

Clarence Krueger

Jack Evans

Maynard Grise

Art & Barb Theiler

Ty & Bobbie Hilgendorf

Sherry Kahle

Walter Beilke

Al & Nan syring

Club Highlights through the years!

1972 – 1973 Season:

- Meeting time was 9:00 p.m.
- Original By-laws adopted along with club name – Knight Owls.
- Membership would be unrestricted.

- Trails to be dragged Mondays and Fridays by the following: Jim Crass, Gil Evans, Don Schulz, Wally Beilke, Maynard Grise, Ty Hilgendorf, and Pete Schoone.
- Owens-Illinois donated one drag – club will furnish material and have them make a few more.
- Town of Skanawan opened their roads to snowmobiling.
- Six more drags to be built in Ty's garage.
- Owls cut and painted to be used a trail markers.
- Committee formed to study expanding and maintaining trails: Spike Meyers, Clarence Krueger, Ty Hilgendorf, Jack Evans, Art Theiler, and Chair Ken Crass.
- \$100 profit on card run.
- Gil Evans reported trail markers are being destroyed.
- Clarence Hoegger was thanked for making and donating a drag.
- Norm Kahle will store all drags in his barn for the summer.
- Ted Lichtenberg donated \$100 to the club.
- Card run profit was \$180.85.
- Family picnic scheduled for July 29th.
- Fund raising dance to be held on Saturday, October 27 at Beilke's.

1973 – 1974 Season:

- Dance plans continue – club will furnish bartenders for the beer bar in the dance hall; Berta Meyer in charge of decorations.
- September 22 and 23 – work on bridges, meet at Ty's house.
- October 13 – finish work on bridges
- Vote was taken – no honorary memberships
- Vote taken on a trail map
- Ole Hanson, Lincoln County Forestry Administrator, discussed the funding and maintenance of our trails.
- Dance profit - \$669.32
- Anyone dragging trails will be reimbursed for gas at either Ty's or Gil's.
- Cook out picnic planned for February 20 on Road Lake.
- A snowmobile Council will be organized consisting of 1 or 2 members from each surrounding club.
- Club funds as of 12/31/73: \$1,302.21
- Town of Skanawan agreed to open ¼ mile of Bear Trail Road from Grundy Road to county land – club must properly mark and maintain trail.
- Taverns will put up a donation net for trail dragging.
- Ty Hilgendorf will be paid \$5 an hour to drag trails.
- New officers: Jim Crass, President; Gene Swan, Vice-president; Pam Grise, Secretary-Treasurer.
- Dance planned for October 26 at Club Capri and a family picnic on July 21 on Lake Nokomis.
- First maps sold: \$10 members, \$15 non-members; 10,000 maps printed.

1974 – 1975 Season:

- Entered a float in 4th of July parade – won \$5.
- Membership drive: for every new member existing members recruited, their dues would be reduced \$3.
- Club received \$620.51 form a club that dissolved and Knight Owls will mark trails through the City of Tomahawk. Clubs funded at \$10 an hour.

- February 11, 1975 – first Lincoln County Snowmobile Council Meeting held at the Boys School – Ty Hilgendorf, first President.

1975 – 1976 Season:

- Club involved in USSA race with Lions Club. Nominated for Sno-Queen were JoAnn Van Strydonk, Susie Schoone, and Darla Kahle.
- 19 club members joined the AWSC at \$2 each.
- Club offered \$100 for the apprehension and conviction of anyone removing trail signs. Meeting time was moved from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

1977: Club used Pabst signs as trail markers.

1978: Snowmobile registration changed from \$9 for three years to \$12 for two years.

1979:

- Rate to drag trails with snowmobile set at \$9; gas tax money used to fund trails. CB units were placed in groomers.
- Held a contest to name the “dragging machine” that Dick Van Strydonk built. #1 The Knight Owlmobile – Albert Van Strydonk; #2 Whatchamacallit – Georgeanne Crass; #3 Dragon Sleigher – Gene Swan.

1981: Club included AWSC dues with membership; dues raised to \$20.

1982:

- Club voted not to join Northwoods Passage
- Ty begins grooming again
- Voted to allow 3-wheelers to run snowmobile trails.

1984: Club raised \$1,400 for charity ride

1985:

- First Tomahawk High School Scholarships
- Ty Hilgendorf first Trail Boss

1986: Dues raised to \$25

1987 June: Lost our Treasurer, Bobbie Hilgendorf, to cancer

1988: Club receives funding to ATV trail from Road Lake to Town.

1989:

- March - Won first place for Torch Ride for Badger State Games.
- Joined Lake States Resource Alliance.

1990 September: Candi Hilgendorf runs for AWSC Miss Snowflake

1991:

- March - Dick Calhoun, Tomahawk Sports Center, selected as AWSC Dealer of the Year
- September - Candi Hilgendorf runs for AWSC Miss Snowflake

1993 February: Club carried torch for Badger State Games from Tomahawk Elementary School to Marathon County Line.

1994 October: Shannon Schiltz crowned AWSC Miss Snowflake.

1996:

- February – lost our treasurer, Michelle Voermans, in a car accident.
- March – donated \$1,000 to Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department towards purchase of ATV & trailer for medical emergencies on Knight Owls, Northwoods Passage, and Northern Trails snowmobile trails.
- April 1996 – begin two year terms for officers (even years) and Board of Directors (odd years).
- October – Club received Spirit Award at Tomahawk Chamber Dinner.

2000 October: Ty Hilgendorf passed away. Trail named after Ty, becomes the Ty Trail and becomes funded on November 4.

2002 December: Elsie Thielman, owner of Elsie's bar in Harrison, passed away.

2003 October: Stu Lemke's daughter, Whitney, runner-up and voted Miss Sparkle for the AWSC Miss Snowflake contest.

2004 December: Meeting time moved to 7:00 p.m.

2007 December: Officers and two regular board members and one business board member will be elected in even years. Three regular board members and one business board member will be elected in odd years.

2010:

- October: Gary Hilgendorf named AWSC Groomer of the Year.
- November: Dick Calhoun passed away; a trail is dedicated in Dick's memory in 2011.

2011:

- January – Nancy Swan and Kurt Bernarde polar plunge in Dick's memory raising \$4,510 with half going to the Knight Owls and half to Northwoods Passage.
- September – Gary Hilgendorf named one of three International Groomers of the Year.
- Club gains 44 miles of trails from Lincoln County – to intersection south of Gleason.
- November - Planning beings for our 40th Anniversary party to be held 11/10/12.
- December – Michaela Galganski beings establishing a youth club.

2012 November: 40th Anniversary Party – Road Lake Pub and Grill

2017:

- Motion was made to purchase land on Hoovie Road for the Groomer Shed.

2018:

- Knight Owls taking over grooming at the expiration of contract with Gary Hilgendorf.
- Kelli Burbach created a new Knight Owls logo.

2019

- The Tomahawk area designated as a Snowmobile Friendly Community by AWSC.
- Land for groomer shed has been deeded to the club.
- Land use permit for shed approved.
- Lot has been cleared.
- Board of Directors securing bids for building.

2020:

- Wicks has been chosen to build groomer shed.

2021

- Club participated in the Badger State Games Torch Ride.
- Tim DeBels, Tim Blackwell, and Gary Buchanan, Sr. trained to groom trails.
- Daigle Bros. donated floor drain grating and Schoone's donated site work for the groomer shed.
- August – shed almost complete except for bathrooms. First meeting of the new season was held at the shed with a cookout prior to the meeting.
- Except for January, February, and March – all meetings will be held at the groomer shed.
- December – long time President Dave Duranceau announces his resignation.
- The club utilized a lighted billboard for the first time to promote "STAY ON TRAILS" campaign (on Hwy 51 – shared cost with the Northwood Passage Snowmobile Club).

2022

- Vice-President Stu Lemke takes over as President.
- Jason Davis voted in as Vice-President
- Winter campaign state wide regarding respecting landowner: Stay between the Blazers.
- August – groomer shed completed; cookout held prior to the meeting.
- Knight Owls 50th Anniversary celebration will take place on October 29.

Trail Bosses through the Years

Al Bouton

Bruce Czaja

Lee Theiler

Greg (Tank) Jonas (current)

Tim DeBels (current)

Will Duckett (current)

Newsletters Creators through the Years

Dana Theiler
Jackie Leonhard
Jim Crass
Joan Hilgendorf
Ken Guy

Melody Chambers (current)

Michele Kahle
Michelle Voermans
Norma Osthoff
Sue Byrns
Sylvia Betka

Board of Directors through the Years

Al Bouton	Jim Crass
Alan Van Strydonk	Jim Dremler
Artitha Irwin	Joe Procknow
Bill Martinson	Josh Burbach
Bill Van Strydonk	Ken Crass
Bob Byrns	Kurt Bernarde
Bob Leonhard (Current)	Lee Theiler
Brian Viegut	Maynard Grise
Carl VanderSanden	Michele Kahle
Chuck Theiler	Mike Crass
Clarence Krueger	Mike Galganski
Dave Duranceau	Nick Rosenmeier (Current)
Dave Thielman	Norma Osthoff
Deb Smith	Norman Jacobson
Dick Van Strydonk	Orville Lampe
Don Schiltz	Pete Renn
Don Koth	Pete Schoone
Ed Rankin	Steve Lampe
Frank Drake	Steve Schoone
Fred Schultz	Stu Lemke
Gary Hilgendorf (Current)	Terry Naiperala
Gene Swan	Terry Wiese
Gil Evans	Tim Blackwell (Current)
Grace Troutwine	Tim DeBels (Current)
Greg (Tank) Jonas	Tim Oldenburg (Current)
Greg Schoone	Tom Daigle
Helene Hoglund	Tom Strassman
Hoovie Koth	Tom Wulf (Current)
Jack Evans	Ty Hilgendorf
Jan Barrett	Wally Beilke
Jason Davis	Whizzy Martinson
Jerry Bartz	Will Duckett

Year	President	Vice-President	Secretary/Treasurer	Treasurer
Nov. 1972	Jack Evans	Art Theiler	Bart Theiler	
1973	Jack Evans	Art Theiler	Barb Theiler	
1974	Jim Crass	Gene Swan	Pam Grise	
1975	Jim Crass	Ty Hilgendorf	Pam Grise	
1976	Jim Crass	Harold Irmischer	Mardell Ingman	
1977	Jim Crass	Harold Irmischer	Mardell Ingman	
1978	Dick Van Strydonk	Kathy Verberg	Roberta Meyer	
1979	Dick Van Strydonk	Kathy Verberg	Roberta Meyer	
1980	Dean Orcutt	Ron Larson	Marlene Ferris	Roberta Meyer
Nov. 1980			Joanne Kas	
1981	Dean Orcutt	Ron Larson	Joanne Kas	Georgeanne Crass
1982	Ron Larson	Dean Orcutt	Joanne Kas	Georgeanne Crass
1983	Gene Swan	Helene Hogle	Rita Hilgendorf	Georgeanne Crass
1984	Gene Swan	Helene Hogle	Rita Hilgendorf	Georgeanne Crass
1985	Whizzy Martinson	Al Van Strydonk	Judy Van Strydonk	Bobbie Hilgendorf
1986	Whizzy Martinson	Al Van Strydonk	Judy Van Strydonk	Bobbie Hilgendorf
1987	Gary Hilgendorf	Tom Daigle	Judy Van Strydonk	Bobbie Hilgendorf
July 1987				Joan Hilgendorf
1988	Gary Hilgendorf	Tom Daigle	Judy Van Strydonk	Joan Hilgendorf
1989	Gary Hilgendorf	Tom Daigle	Judy Van Strydonk	Joan Hilgendorf
1990	Gary Hilgendorf	Lee Theiler	Judy Van Strydonk	Joan Hilgendorf
1991	Gary Hilgendorf	Lee Theiler	Judy Van Strydonk	Joan Hilgendorf
1992	Gary Hilgendorf	Lee Theiler	Dana Theiler	Joan Hilgendorf
1993	Gary Hilgendorf	Lee Theiler	Dana Theiler	Joan Hilgendorf
1994	Gary Hilgendorf	Lee Theiler	Dana Theiler	Joan Hilgendorf
1995	Joe Feind	Jil Strassman	Dana Theiler	Michelle Voermans
1996	Al Bouton	Jil Strassman	Dana Theiler	Nancy Swan
1997	Al Bouton	Jil Strassman	Dana Theiler	Nancy Swan
1998	Al Bouton	Jeff Renn	Linda Daigle	Nancy Swan
1999	Al Bouton	Jeff Renn	Linda Daigle	Nancy Swan
2000	Dave Duranceau	Jeff Renn	Linda Daigle	Nancy Swan
2001	Dave Duranceau	Jeff Renn	Linda Daigle	Nancy Swan
2002	Dave Duranceau	Terry Wiese	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2003	Dave Duranceau	Terry Wiese	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2004	Terry Wiese	Paul Werner	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2005	Terry Wiese	Paul Werner	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2006	Terry Wiese	Paul Werner	Lydia Darr	Tami Rosenmeier
2007	Terry Wiese	Paul Werner	Dana Theiler	Tami Rosenmeier
2008	Terry Wiese	Paul Werner	Dana Theiler	Tami Rosenmeier
2009	Terry Wiese	Paul Werner	Joan Hilgendorf	Tami Rosenmeier
2010	Paul Werner	Dave Duranceau	Joan Hilgendorf	Tami Rosenmeier
2011	Paul Werner	Dave Duranceau	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2012	Bob Byrns	Deb Smith	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2013	Bob Byrns	Deb Smith	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2013		Aritha Irwin		
2014	Dave Duranceau	Aritha Irwin	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2015	Dave Duranceau	Aritha Irwin	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan

2015		Stu Lemke		
2016	Dave Duranceau	Stu Lemke	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2017	Dave Duranceau	Stu Lemke	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2018	Dave Duranceau	Stu Lemke	Joan Hilgendorf	Nancy Swan
2018			Michaela Galganski	
2019	Dave Duranceau	Stu Lemke	Michaela Galganski	Nancy Swan
2020	Dave Duranceau	Stu Lemke	Michaela Galganski	Nancy Swan
2020			Carl Gray	
2021	Dave Duranceau	Stu Lemke	Carl Gray	Nancy Swan
2021	Stu Lemke	Jason Davis		
2022	Stu Lemke	Jason Davis	Carl Gray	Nancy Swan