

The Snowmobile Clubs of Chautauqua County  
(aka The Chautauqua County Federation of Snowmobile Clubs)

Background: There are five snowmobile clubs based here in Chautauqua County and they are:

Chautauqua Lake Snowmobile Club  
Cherry Creek Sno-Goers  
Ellery Sno-Cruisers  
Lake Effect Trailbreakers  
Sunset Drifters

How many miles of trails?

400-plus miles of well groomed and well signed trails.

How much snow?

The official 50-year average snowfall is 208 inches.

The last 10 years average is 212 inches.

During the 2008-2009 season, the Village of Mayville (the County Seat) received 295 inches (almost ties the old record for Mayville). The Village of Sherman received 301 inches.

The two major draws for “Extended Stay” tourism in Chautauqua County are both seasonal.

They are: 1) beautiful blue lakes in the summer

2) tons of wonderful white snow in the winter.

Snowmobiling in our County is made possible by a 100% all-volunteer “staff” who provide several thousand hours of hard work every year.

Between the five snowmobile clubs, we represent almost 3,400 family memberships. Data from our renewal applications indicate that these families own/operate just over 5,300 snowmobiles.

Approximately 52% of our club’s Family Memberships come from outside of Chautauqua County.

Many of these families come from Ohio and Pennsylvania. They travel to Chautauqua County every winter weekend to ride. In addition, they typically take a long weekend winter “vacation” to come to Chautauqua County and ride our trails.

**Facts and figures about the total combined membership in the five (5) Chautauqua County based snowmobile clubs.**

- These are only for those who maintain a membership with the five Chautauqua County clubs.
- Notice the variety of states that people return from, maintain their membership, and ride in Chautauqua County. We should conclude that most of them are originally from this area.
- Please recognize that many people come here to ride from other parts of New York State and would not be included in any of these numbers if they do not also maintain a membership here.
- Please note that for the last two winters there was excellent snow coverage everywhere in our state and we still received a large number of out of state and out of county memberships. A few years ago, when New York had the only good, rideable snow in the country, we received riders and memberships from as far away as Idaho.

The following numbers are from the New York Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) database: Merged data for all five clubs. Eliminated duplicates. Many listed more than one snowmobile, but did not list a spouse or kids. Many left number of snowmobiles blank, so we used “1”.

<b>2008-2009 Season</b>	<b>2007-2008 Season</b>
<b>3,388 Family Memberships</b>	<b>3,202 Family Memberships</b>
+ 1,968 spouses	+ 1,958 spouses
+ 381 kids	+ 391 kids
<b>= 5,737 people</b>	<b>= 5,551 people</b>
<b>5,305 snowmobiles</b>	<b>5,587 snowmobiles</b>
2,209 e-mail addresses	2,158 e-mail addresses
Where are these Family Memberships from?	Where are these Family Memberships from?
0 California	1 California
3 Florida	2 Florida
0 Georgia	2 Georgia
1 Illinois	2 Illinois
0 Indiana	1 Indiana
1 Kentucky	1 Kentucky
1 Massachusetts	1 Massachusetts
3 Maryland	1 Maryland
2 Michigan	1 Michigan
2 North Carolina	3 North Carolina
0 New Jersey	1 New Jersey
<b>1,932 New York</b>	<b>1,780 New York</b>
1,624 inside Chautauqua County	1,471 inside Chautauqua County
308 outside Chautauqua County	309 outside Chautauqua County
<b>545 Ohio</b>	<b>557 Ohio</b>
2 Ontario	4 Ontario
<b>889 Pennsylvania</b>	<b>839 Pennsylvania</b>
1 Texas	1 Texas
1 Virginia	0 Virginia
4 West Virginia	5 West Virginia

<b>Membership Percentages:</b>	<b>Membership Percentages:</b>
48% Chautauqua County residents	46% Chautauqua County residents
26% Pennsylvania residents	26% Pennsylvania residents
16% Ohio residents	17% Ohio residents
9% New York (outside Chautauqua County)	10% New York (outside Chautauqua County)

Ask any of the following businesses which provide services to snowmobilers during the winter season.  
(All 93 businesses advertise with us on the Chautauqua County Trail Map.)  
How important is snowmobiling to your winter business and how does it compare to other seasons?

**Spas/Lodging:**

Blue Heron Inn, Findley Lake  
Cabin at the Gorge, Westfield  
Chautauqua Suites, Mayville  
Cherry Creek Inn Bed & Breakfast, Cherry Creek  
Comfort Inn, Jamestown  
French Creek R&R Campgrounds, French Creek  
St. Elmo Spa, Chautauqua  
Gilbert's Cabins, Cassadaga

Holiday Inn Express, Findley Lake  
Irwin Bay Cottages, Mayville  
Lakeview Hotel & Restaurant, Mayville  
Maple Springs Lakeside Inn, Maple Springs  
Peek'n Peak, Findley Lake  
Plum Door Bed & Breakfast, Sherman  
Snowridge Motel, Mayville  
Vacation Properties, Chautauqua  
Webb's, Mayville

**Food & Spirits:**

American Legion #434, Brocton  
Aunt Millies, Irving  
Backyard Bar & Grill, Gerry  
Blue Heron Inn, Findley Lake  
Bonar's, Mayville  
Bemus Point Golf Club, Bemus Point  
Cassadaga Country Club, Cassadaga  
Cherry Creek Sub Shop, Cherry Creek  
Coppola's Pizzeria, Bemus Point  
Dick's Harbor House, Mayville  
Ellington Rod & Gun, Ellington  
French Creek Tavern, French Creek  
Fountain Bowl, Jamestown  
Grandma's Kitchen, Cassadaga  
Guppy's, Bemus Point  
May's Place, Cassadaga  
Morse Hotel, Sherman  
The Office, Kennedy  
Olives/Bellini Lounge, Mayville

Peek'n Peak, Findley Lake  
Pine Junction, Findley Lake  
Primo's Restaurant & Kelly's Pub, Irving  
See-Zurh House, Bemus Point  
Sheridan VFW, Sheridan  
Stockton Hotel, Stockton  
Tavern on the Mall, Forestville  
The Auction House & Grill, Sherman  
The House That Jack Built, Greenhurst  
The Lakeview Hotel & Restaurant, Mayville  
The Springs, Maple Springs  
Tom's Tavern, Maple Springs  
Trillium Lodge, Cherry Creek  
Vikings Lake Park, Maple Springs  
Vinnie's Restaurant, Findley Lake  
Webb's, Mayville  
White Horse Inn, Cassadaga  
Witch Kitch Inn, Sinclairville  
Z's Bar & Grille, Findley Lake

**Gasoline & Diesel**

Bridgeview, Bemus Point  
Cassadaga Qwik Fill, Cassadaga  
Cassadaga Shurfine, Cassadaga  
Cave's, Brocton  
Findley Lake Hardware, Findley Lake  
French Creek Store, French Creek

Kwik Fill, Mayville  
Lictus Keystone, Clymer  
Noco, Cherry Creek  
Peek'n Peak, Findley Lake  
Sherman Country General, Sherman  
South Dayton Supermarket, South Dayton

**Snowmobile Dealers & Accessories:**

3 Seas Recreation, Mayville  
Colley's Pools, Fredonia  
Fisk Triton Trailers, Lyndonville  
Gowanda Starcraft, Gowanda  
Leisure Time, Corry

Off Road Express, Erie  
Rodgers & Sons, Cherry Creek  
Schutt's, Jamestown  
Valley Motorsports, Sinclairville  
Zahm & Matson, Clymer

**Other:**

Creative Marine, Mayville  
DFT Direct TV, Netsync, Fredonia  
Findley Lake Insurance, Findley Lake  
Fredonia Glass, Fredonia  
J & S Signs, Fredonia  
Just Pets, Irving  
Nationwide Insurance, Jamestown

Ode's Discount Service, Stockton  
Owl Homes, Fredonia  
RS Motors, Falconer  
Randy Rhinehart, Attorney, Jamestown  
Stagecoach West, Irving  
Stanton Garage, Jamestown  
Snowmobile & Trailer Storage, Findley Lake

**Some of the investment we have in equipment used here in Chautauqua County to maintain 400-plus miles of trails during the winter season.**

A groomer is a large tracked machine that is built to groom trails. Much larger versions are used at ski resorts. Groomers used here in Chautauqua County typically have a 170 hp turbo-charged diesel engine with hydro-static drive. Pumps supply the hydraulic pressure to turn the drive units and propel the machine. They have a two-person cab. Brand new groomers of the size we use cost between \$110,000 and \$170,000. We cannot afford such equipment. Our newest groomer is five years old and the oldest is over twenty-five years old. When we purchase well used groomers, the cost is still between \$40,000 and \$70,000. The groomer we purchased in December was a 1997 Tucker Sno-Cat. It was in great shape and cost \$70,000 (for a 12-year old machine!). We had shopped around quite a bit and that was a great deal! Price depends a lot on what kind of groomer it is, how old the groomer is, and what condition it is in.

Maintenance costs can be expensive. \$4,000 to replace a diesel fuel-injector pump. \$3,000 for a new drive unit (each groomer has two - one for each track). \$2,200 for a pair of rubber belts for the track cleats. Over \$1,000 for parts to re-build a turbo-charger. Over \$200 to replace a pair of batteries.

A drag is the long apparatus ( 8' wide and 20' long) that the groomer pulls along the trail to cut off the moguls (bumps), break-up and re-mix the snow through a series of blades, and then pack the snow into a smooth layer. New drags are about \$12,000 each. Used drags are worth about \$6,000 each.

Currently the Chautauqua County snowmobile clubs have a total of 20 large tracked groomers and each has a drag to pull.

Let's say that our average used groomer cost us \$50,000 used. For 20 large tracked groomers we have spent \$1,000,000

Let's say that our average used drag cost us \$6,000 used.

That calculates to \$1,120,000 (1.12 million dollars) that the five clubs have invested in equipment to maintain the 400-plus miles of snowmobile trails here in Chautauqua County.



We have ten (10) Tucker Sno-Cat groomers.

We have six (6) Bombardier groomers.

Plus four (4) other brands of groomers such as LMC, Snow-Plane, and Thiokol

Add to the equipment list a couple club-owned tractors with brush-hogs, front-end buckets, back-hoe attachments, and ditch bank mowers.

We definitely have invested a lot of money in the equipment necessary to make our trails some of the best anywhere.