

**Chittenango Polar Bears Snowmobile Club News Release**  
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**For immediate distribution.**

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**Club Sponsors Two Local Scholarships**

The Polar Bears provide support to the local community. The Club has announced funding of two scholarships for up to \$500 each for Chittenango High School graduating seniors. The scholarships will be awarded to students seeking higher education in the environmental sciences, agri-business, or other related areas of study.

**Sled Swap Meet Saturday December 9, 2006**

The Club will be holding a Sled Swap meet on Saturday December 9, 2006 at the Chittenango Fire Department parking lot at 417 Genesee Street in the Village. The event will allow individual sellers of snowmobiles a place to gather and showcase their items. The event will be advertised to potential buyers and should provide the sellers with a crowd of eager shoppers. Only items that will fit on a snowmobile trailer will be allowed as sellers will be required to showcase their items from their trailers. Individuals will be charged a fee of \$20 per trailer. Any interested sellers should contact the Club Secretary, Mike Fischer 315-420-8208 or [info@chittenangopolarbears.com](mailto:info@chittenangopolarbears.com) to reserve a spot. More information will be available on the club website. ([www.chittenangopolarbears.com](http://www.chittenangopolarbears.com))

**Club To Contact Landowners**

Landowners are a key element of snowmobiling in New York State. Of the more than 11,000 miles of funded snowmobile trails in New York, over 80% are on private lands. Without the cooperation and generosity of landowners, there would be no way to enjoy this winter sport, and no way for the state business owners to realize the approximately \$800 million in economic impact from snowmobiling.

Many snowmobilers currently ride across private lands, sometimes with the permission of the property owners, but often without. The Club hopes to identify landowners that will allow access so we can provide routes that will control snowmobile traffic in and around the Chittenango area, providing safe trails and respecting the landowners.

The Club will be contacting landowners that might be able to provide access for snowmobile routes and help to complete the link to the Chittenango Falls State Park trail from Chittenango and Fenner. The Club is sending out information about the Polar Bears activities and about the role landowners play as well as a frequently-asked-questions list that should provide the landowners with many answers they might need to make a decision about allowing access to snowmobiling.

The Club hopes that the landowners will consider helping them to provide safe snowmobile riding and help them in their mission to improve the quality of life in the local community. The Club will ask for landowner support and hopes that they will generously allow use of their property for snowmobiling. By participating in the club trail system, landowners will be able to take advantage of the liability insurance policy funded by the club. The club will also install temporary signs to direct snowmobiles away from buildings and sensitive areas and help control snowmobile traffic.

**Snowmobile Season Start**

The Club reminds all snowmobilers that the official start to the 2006-2007 snowmobile season begins at sunset on the final day of big game hunting season. Although the dates vary based upon the region of the state, the season generally begins in late December. In Madison County this year, the start is scheduled for sunset on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The Club encourages all snowmobilers to respect the landowners who allow access to their property by staying off the trails before the season opens. Trail work will not be completed until the start of the season and riding before the signs and other trail work has been completed could be dangerous.

**Club Membership Meeting**

The next Club meeting is Monday December 11, 2006 at 7:00pm at Delphia's Restaurant in Chittenango. There will also be another trail work day on November 18, 2006- more information is available on the Club website ([www.chittenangopolarbears.com](http://www.chittenangopolarbears.com))