



A Grand Snowmobile Experience

It was at the end of a clear blue winter's day when we had reached the top of Diamond Ridge in Pittsburg and our guide signaled us to switch off our snowmobiles.

The world went silent over the crisp landscape, no other sound to be heard. Our senses took in the fading daylight that was painting the moonrise in soft pastels, the gentle wind and a view that took in the three Connecticut Lakes, three states and Canada.

Every winter, thousands of people come to New Hampshire Grand for just this kind of moment. They come to snowmobile along the more than 1,500 miles of trails that wind through Coos County - from the deep woods at the Canadian border; over the stark and lovely Dixville Notch and onto the shore of Lake Umbagog; to the top of Jericho Mountain in Berlin; under the shadow of Mount Washington in Bretton Woods and along the wide open meadows of Jefferson and Lancaster.

For every skill and every expectation, there is a snowmobile trail for you. Fancy a night ride that follows the trail to the dining rooms of the grand Balsams Resort, Mountain View Grand or the Mount

Washington Hotel? You can! There are snowmobile trails that lead you right there.

How about enjoying that unique camaraderie you can only find on the trails? Then put on your poker face and join a Poker Run popular during the snowmobile season, hosted by local clubs. (A poker run consists of a beautiful ride, gorgeous scenery, making five stops to collect cards to put together a hand of poker and prizes!)

Snowmobiling is serious business in New Hampshire Grand. Each year, our local snowmobile clubs devote hours each day and night to groom trails for smooth riding.

Several trailside clubhouses, manned by cheerful volunteers, are places to warm up, have lunch and share some tales of the trails.

It has become a tradition each winter to pay homage to our snowmobiling roots, which reach back well over 40 years, with three vintage races that feature ... well ... your father's or grandfather's snowmobile.

Rider's Recommendations

We highly recommend the Camp Idlewild carrot chowder at the Deer Mountain warming hut in Pittsburg and the chili cheeseburger served up by the Swift Diamond Riders in Stewartstown.

The Great North Woods Snowmobile Race series (www.thegreatnorthwoodssnowmobilerace.com) begins Jan. 9 in Pittsburg; Feb. 6 in Colebrook and Feb. 20 in Errol.

The Balsams Grand Resort becomes the destination for hundreds of snowmobilers on Feb. 5 to Feb. 7, for a ride-in for a cause that is near and dear to the heart's snowmobilers.

For decades, they have taken part in the Easter Seals Ride-in, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for children to attend Camp Sno-Mo in Gilmanton, NH. The weekend-long ride-in features tours, dinners and other social events,

all fun for a terrific cause.

By the time March comes around each year, snowmobile enthusiasts are already look forward to the next season, which is why they make tracks to the annual Sno-Deo, hosted for the past 18 years by the Swift Diamond Riders, set for March 5-6 at Coleman State Park.

This has become New England's largest snowmobile

show, a chance to try out next year's model sleds developed by the leading snowmobile manufacturers.

(Those with the need for speed come up for the radar runs to see how fast they can ride over Little Diamond Pond.)

Winter is in the air here in New Hampshire Grand ... and it's beginning to snow ...

Before You Go...

Every mile of every snowmobile trail in Coos County is now mapped and marked for emergency services.

There are signs at one-mile intervals on the trail, so in the event help is needed, find the nearest marker, which has the information you need to tell emergency personnel where to respond. Some of those markers have cards you can take with you when you go to find a telephone.

All snowmobilers must register their sleds in New Hampshire. The fee is \$48 for residents and \$63 for non-residents, if they join as members of a local snowmobile club.

For resident, non-club members, the fee is \$78 and for non-resident, non-club members, the fee is \$93. Registration information is available from the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (www.NHSA.com).

Snowmobilers are encouraged to join clubs in the area which they ride. The registration fees help those local clubs not only to provide the terrific grooming snowmobilers enjoy, but also to maintain those trails throughout the summer, including forging partnerships with landowners who allow riders to pass over their property. All they ask in return is for respect of their lands.

Snowmobile Clubs

Colebrook Ski Bees

PO Box 125, Colebrook, NH 03576

www.colebrookski-bees.com

Trail milage: 147

Groveton Trailblazers

12 Molly Brook Drive, Stark, NH 03598

www.grovetontrailblazers.com

Trail milage: 129

Pittsburg Ridge Runners

17 Dickson Lane, Pittsburg, NH 03592

www.pittsburgridgerunners.org

Trail milage: 200

Presidential Range Riders

PO Box 141, Gorham, NH 03581

www.presidentialrangeriders.org

Trail milage: 146

Swift Diamond Riders

1411 Diamond Pond,
Stewartstown, NH 03576

www.swiftdiamondriders.com

Trail milage: 116

Umbagog Snowmobile Association

PO Box 133, Errol, NH 03579

www.umbagogsnowmobile.com

Trail milage: 147

For a list of all snowmobile clubs, please vist www.nhtrails.org.