**Trail Bits October 2014**

**Pete Friedlieb**

Your Board met the last day of September in the friendly confines of the KAXE boardroom. A potential threat (it’s always something) was heavy on our minds. V. Putzin (or Putz for short) was threatening our upcoming season by amassing forces on our Northern border. It seems Putz had been making mischief again, this time in Siberia where he had found a way to harness the elements into another form newly called the Putz Vortex. Last year he had managed to hurl this amalgamation our way with heavy snows, horrible winds and cold temps that even the hardiest of our groomers and skiers were seriously considering migrating South, maybe to Mankato or even beyond. Putz was no one to trifle with, although he was short and in the habit of strutting around in his leotards to show off his abs or something. Various members came up with possible options to counter the Putz Vortex. Boomer thought of organizing an army of groomers riding snowmobiles and pulling groomers to flatten the sucker. Treasurer Tom thought about paying him off but got such a headache at the thought of spending money that he quickly changed his mind. Catherine figured a barrage of informative emails would delay the P. Vortex thus halting further progress hoping that by the time it digested all the information she sent, Spring would arrive before the PV got here. Me, I thought more layers might get us through it though the Michelin Man look might make it harder to navigate the skis. At the end we decide to leave Putz alone and hope his strategy would take a wrong turn. Then we decided to turn to business:

***Blueberry Hills-***Dale Juntunen and Ryan Gunderson have been doing a lot of work getting the trail ready for this year. Dale did a bunch of grooming last year and Ryan will be able to groom at times this year but we definitely need a few folks to help out. Also a remodel of the existing Tucker building to enclose and allow heat is planned. Folks with carpentry skills will definitely be needed on this project. Just drop me an email if you can pitch in, a little help from time to time is all we need. Al Vann will be building a new sign for the trail newly named ‘The Robin Baker Blueberry Hills Trail’ and Randy Z is constructing a bench with an embedded plaque memorializing Robin to be placed at the top of the long hill leading to Tower end resting point.

***Swap-***December 2nd at Itasca Trail Sport.

***Sugar Hills-***The outhouse we built there was destroyed by vandals last year. We will likely rent a port-a-potty to be placed there this year. The DNR is overseeing this trail as part of the Legacy agreement and at some point the parking may need to be changed to a new location. Boomer has led several contingents of volunteers to clear the trail of blow downs and hopes to get mowing done next week.

***Joyce/Doan Lake-***Jim has done a lot of clearing and Bill Rutherford put in time there as well. The potential for re-routing a small portion of the trail that is difficult to groom and ski was discussed.

***Legion Trails-***Rick reports the lighting system appears to be in good shape and the trail is getting good use from the local mountain bike group. John Fedje-Johnston has offered to help in grooming there next year and was at our meeting as a guest.

***Forest History Center-***Dave Rourk has groomed there for many years and has enlisted Sam Evans and Dave Nemeth to take this on with him.

***Mount Itasca-***Is in good shape with lots of volunteer work in mowing.

***Membership-Please renew today, we need every trail user’s support as we try to accomplish our mission to ‘Promote Cross-Country skiing as a healthy family activity.’***

*Your board then wandered and wondered into the night pondering the age old question: What’s happenin’??*