



2008-2009 New York State OPRHP's Snowmobile Unit Season Report



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2009
REPORT OF THE
NEW YORK STATE SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM

The New York State Snowmobile Program exists by mandate from the Legislature. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has been given the responsibility to plan for the development, maintenance and oversight of a statewide snowmobile program. The program responsibilities are found within OPRHP Law, Title D, articles 21 thru 25. Additional program guidance comes from the New York State Code of Rules and Regulations.

Program funding is obtained through snowmobile registrations. With the exception of the first ten dollars collected, the registration fees are exclusively used to support snowmobiling in New York State. These fees are deposited into a State Special Revenue Snowmobile Account that provides financial support to accomplish what was mandated. OPRHP has established programs for snowmobile trail grants, a law enforcement grant, a law enforcement snowmobile school, safety education, special event permits, accident reporting, snowmobile publications, grooming education, and trail signage guidelines, as well as a trail inspection oversight. This past year, 2008-2009, \$5,335,328 was budgeted to provide financial support for the maintenance and development of the statewide trail system of approximately 10,372 miles. This revenue is returned to local areas as grants-in-aid for snowmobile trail development and maintenance.

The Statewide Trail System traverses 47 counties and is maintained by approximately 200 clubs funded through 55 municipal sponsors. This vast trail network is comprised of lands under the jurisdiction of OPRHP, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), NYS Canal Corporation, local governments and many private landowners who have increasingly opened their property to snowmobiling with insurance coverage provided by the state snowmobile program.

Snowmobile registrations for the 2008-2009 season totaled 136,471. This is an increase from the 2007-2008 season of 128,283 registrations. A chart depicting registrations since 1991 is provided later in the report.

Several years ago, in an effort to clarify the overall statewide trail system, OPRHP began a computer based trail inventory of the trail types and miles. As a result of that direction, this year the Snowmobile Unit produced a much more accurate depiction of the actual miles of trails. To continue improving the trail system location accuracy, OPRHP will be requiring that all state funded trails be mapped/located either by GIS or GPS methods. It has been decided that for the 2009-2010 season, trail miles will only be added that meet criteria as established in the Statewide Snowmobile Trail Plan and that trail reroutes and connections will only be approved if the miles are verified through GPS or GIS methods. The Phase I application for mileage approval will outline in detail the requirements for attaining funding for any trail miles approved. The Phase I application became available during April 2009.

The control and supervision of the Statewide Snowmobile Program is the responsibility of the Snowmobile Unit of OPRHP. Some of the major responsibilities of OPRHP's Snowmobile Unit are outlined below.

Major Areas of Responsibilities:

Snowmobile Trail Grants

Local governments contact OPRHP's Snowmobile Unit for information and applications to participate in the snowmobile trail grants program. The local governments can do the trail work or sub-contract with snowmobile clubs or organizations for the maintenance of the trails. There are over fifty local governments and more than two hundred snowmobile clubs that participate in this program. Trail mileage gets added to the statewide snowmobile trail system after review and approval from the Snowmobile Unit. Once the grant amounts are finalized and funds are available, 70% of the amount is sent out and the remaining 30% is sent out at the end of the season.

TRAIL GRANT/MILEAGE 2008 – 2009

Trail Type	Mileage	Rate	Funding
Corridor A	5,676 miles	\$450	\$2,554,200
Corridor B	985 miles	\$425	\$418,625
Secondary A	2,967 miles	\$375	\$1,112,625
Secondary B	744 miles	\$350	\$260,400
Totals	10,372 miles		
High Snow	2,818 miles	\$350	\$986,300
<u>Grand Total</u>	10,372 miles		<u>\$5,332,150</u>

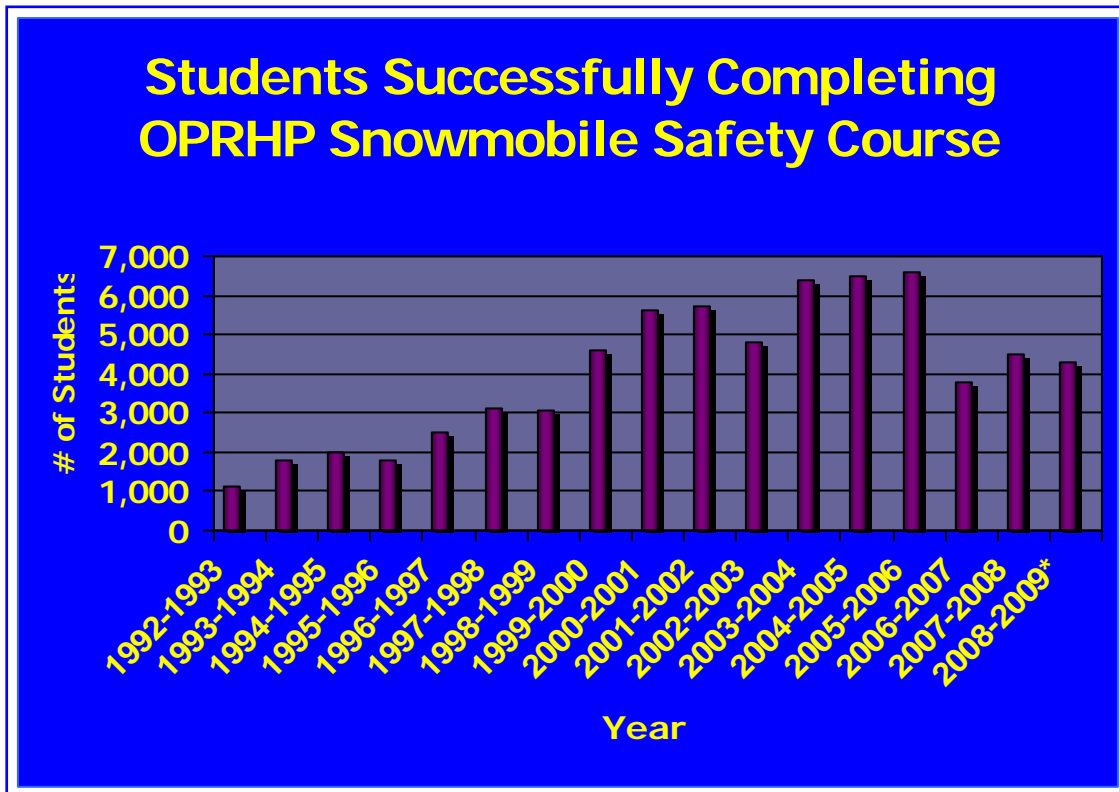
Local Sponsor	2008-09 Total Funded Miles	Total Award (including High Snow)
Albany		
<i>T/O Berne</i>	23	\$10,350.00
<i>T/O Knox</i>	10	\$4,500.00
Allegany	340	\$140,400.00
Broome	122	\$51,725.00
Cattaraugus	395	\$237,475.00
Cayuga	262	\$113,525.00
Chautauqua	406	\$291,025.00
Chemung		
<i>T/O Van Etten</i>	13	\$5,075.00
Chenango	266	\$115,925.00
Clinton	302	\$135,775.00
Cortland	280	\$122,175.00
Delaware	347	\$143,750.00
Erie	368	\$219,575.00
Essex	181	\$80,525.00
Franklin	312	\$192,950.00
Fulton	168	\$94,175.00
Genesee	224	\$95,550.00
Greene		
<i>T/O Halcott</i>	4	\$1,400.00
<i>T/O Lexington</i>	1	\$350.00
Hamilton		
<i>T/O Arietta</i>	64	\$50,100.00
<i>T/O Indian Lake</i>	27	\$14,800.00
<i>T/O Inlet</i>	30	\$23,175.00
<i>T/O Lake Pleasant</i>	57	\$43,250.00
<i>T/O Long Lake</i>	70	\$55,550.00
<i>T/O Morehouse</i>	21	\$16,800.00
<i>T/O Wells</i>	47	\$21,850.00
Herkimer	439	\$254,225.00
Jefferson	173	\$98,925.00
Lewis	474	\$371,650.00
Livingston	51	\$21,450.00
Madison	341	\$139,200.00
Monroe	105	\$43,000.00
Montgomery	181	\$76,950.00
Niagara	71	\$29,850.00
Oneida	471	\$276,325.00
Onondaga	216	\$96,075.00
Ontario	102	\$41,650.00
Orleans	110	\$47,700.00
Oswego	361	\$265,550.00
Otsego	300	\$124,800.00
Rensselaer	150	\$61,925.00
St. Lawrence	505	\$284,100.00
Saratoga	160	\$68,900.00
Schenectady	28	\$11,475.00
Schoharie	218	\$89,475.00
Schuyler	92	\$36,575.00
Seneca	12	\$5,400.00
Steuben	144	\$61,175.00
Sullivan	30	\$12,600.00
Tioga	175	\$69,350.00
Tompkins	98	\$37,600.00
Warren	260	\$108,050.00
Washington	347	\$143,925.00
Wayne	150	\$61,275.00
Wyoming	268	\$111,225.00
Totals	10372	\$5,332,150.00

Snowmobile Safety Education Courses

Anyone who is at least 18 years old may operate a snowmobile in New York State without any other qualification except as defined by state and local laws regulating that operation. However, it is recommended that all operators complete a recognized snowmobile safety course.

Beginning at age 10, courses are available for any individual interested in taking a snowmobile safety education course. Youth ages 14 through 17 years old may operate a snowmobile, on lands upon which snowmobiling is allowed, without adult or other supervision if they have completed a snowmobile safety training course recognized by the State of New York and have their snowmobile safety certificate in their possession. If youth ages 14 through 17 years have not completed the training course, they may operate a snowmobile if accompanied by (within 500 feet of) a person who is at least 18 years of age. Youth ages 10 through 13 may operate a snowmobile, on lands which snowmobiling is allowed, if they have completed a snowmobile safety training course recognized by the State of New York and are accompanied by (within 500 feet of) a person who is at least 18 years of age. The law requires that youth ages 10 through 13 have their snowmobile safety certificate in their possession while operating a snowmobile. Children less than 10 years old or less than age 14 without a safety certificate may operate a snowmobile only on lands owned or leased by their parent or guardian.

Throughout New York State, hundreds of active volunteer instructors, certified by OPRHP, offer snowmobile safety courses. Individuals interested in taking a course should visit www.nysparks.com during the fall and winter in order to see a listing of courses being offered throughout New York State. As of April 8, 2009, it is estimated that over 200 courses were taught and over 4,300 students will be certified for the 2008-2009 season.



Law Enforcement Program

OPRHP is the lead agency that conducts an annual snowmobile law enforcement training program for all Snowmobile Law Enforcement officers from state, county, and local agencies. The Snowmobile Law Enforcement Development School (SLEDS) started in 1994 and was redeveloped in 2008 to provide actual field situation instruction covering snowmobile law, patrol procedure, accident investigation, field operations, and ice rescue training. There are two levels of instruction: a basic course for first time attendees and an advanced course for those who have already passed the basic course. This program is open to officers from all enforcement agencies throughout the state of New York and has included officers from other states and Canadian Provinces, as well. Training consists of both classroom instruction and field exercise situations. This training course is held each year in January.

The training received is relevant to addressing the particular needs of each enforcement agency with the goal of achieving an effective and uniform snowmobile law enforcement policy across NYS.

Law Enforcement Funding

During the 2007-2008 season, there were 20 participating agencies with over 6,200 patrol hours and resulted in over 500 arrests.

With our Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grant program, OPRHP offers up to 50% reimbursement for costs incurred by municipal police agencies in the enforcement of snowmobile rules and regulations with a statewide total maximum payout of \$150,000. Funding is provided from state snowmobile registration fees.

Snowmobile Trail Mapping

The Snowmobile Unit approves all funded trails included in the statewide snowmobile trail system. Using quadrangle maps, provided by OPRHP, or GPS gathered data, Local Sponsors delineate changes and/or updates to their trail system. Local Sponsors are being encouraged to use GIS software to send trail data to us. Decisions are made, by the Snowmobile Unit, regarding mileage approval and allocation of funds based on the maps and information provided. Those miles that would enhance the existing statewide trail system receive funding approval. Funding is based on four classes of trails, with a range of \$450 per mile to \$350 per mile. There is also a provision for paying an additional sum for trails in the high snowfall areas.

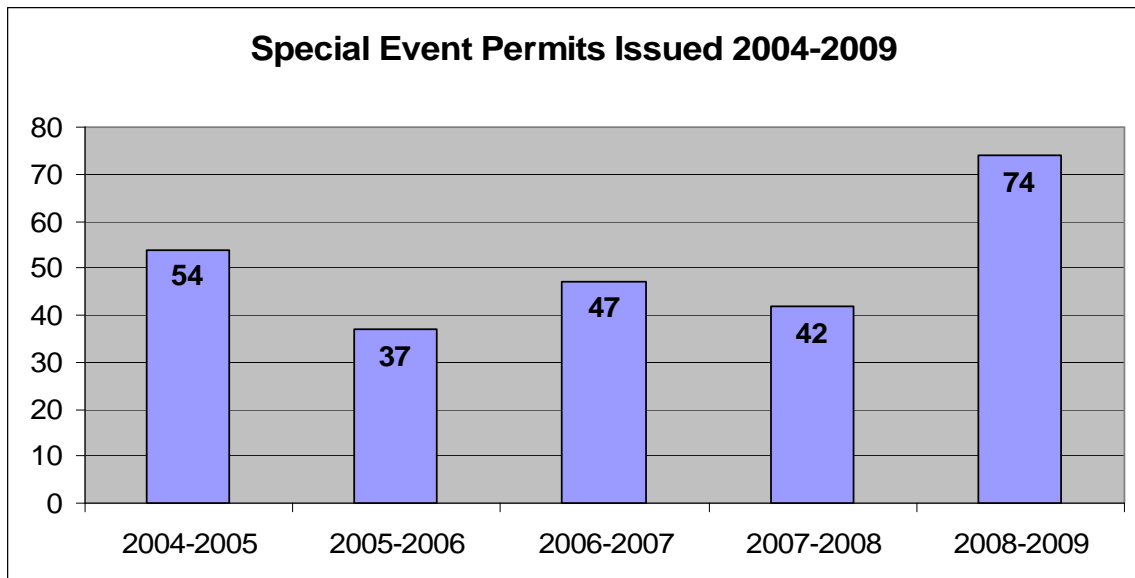
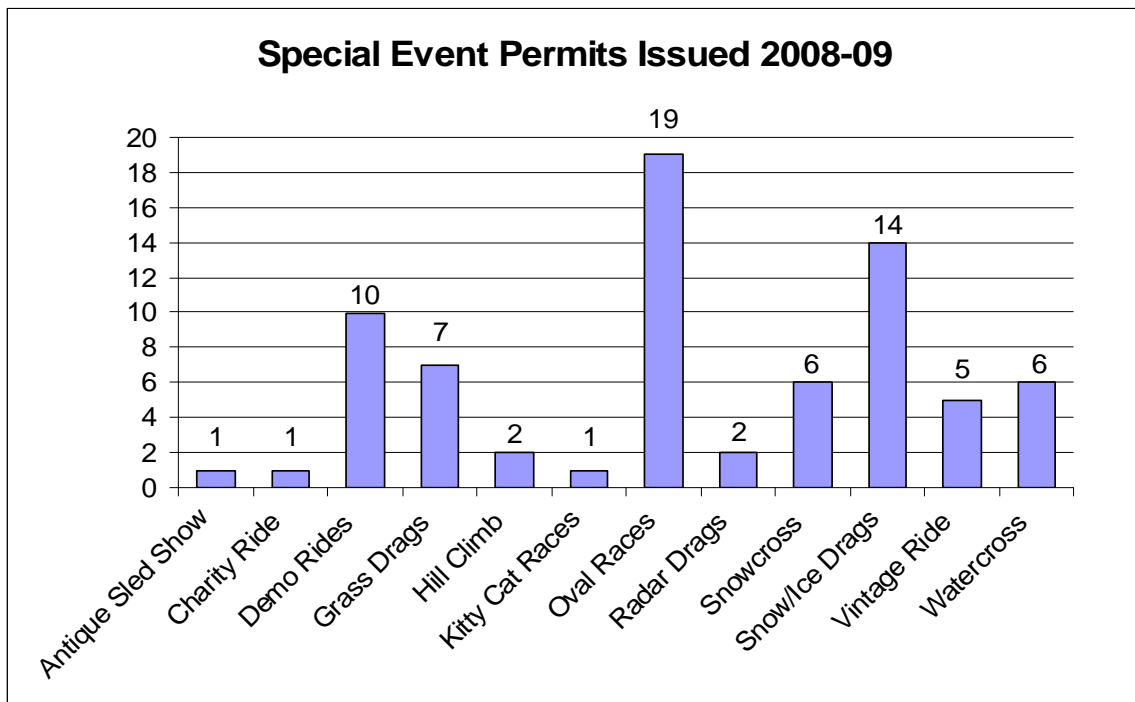
Snowmobile Special Events

A "special event" is an organized rally, race, exhibition, or demonstration of limited duration, which is conducted according to a prearranged schedule and in which general public interest is manifested. This permit allows participants to operate snowmobiles at approved special events which are exempt from the provisions concerning speed, if it is a

sanctioned race, mufflers and lights while operating the snowmobile during the time of such event, including all pre-race practice at the location of said meet and the provisions of article forty-seven of the vehicle and traffic law concerning registration.

The sponsor of a snowmobile special event must secure a permit from OPRHP's Snowmobile Unit. This permit must be secured **at least 15 days** prior to the snowmobile special event. Appropriate law enforcement agencies must be notified of the event and written permission from the landowner must also be secured. It is the responsibility of the person in charge and the sponsor of the event to give the utmost care to safety for the participants and spectators. When the application is approved, the permit will be issued.

During the 2008-2009 season, 74 snowmobile special event permits were issued, which is a significant increase from previous seasons.



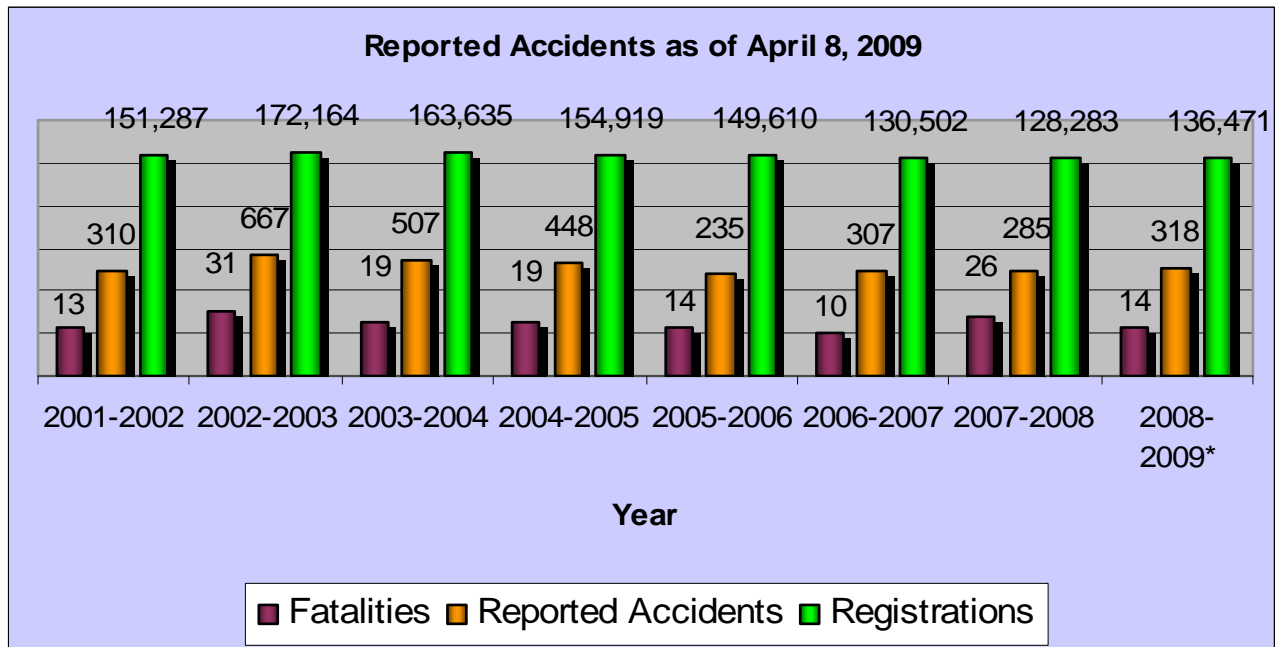
Snowmobile Accident Reports

The operator of any snowmobile involved in any accident resulting in injuries to or death of any person, or in which property damage in the estimated amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more is sustained, must report such accident to both an appropriate law enforcement agency and OPRHP. That law enforcement agency will in turn submit to OPRHP their original snowmobile accident report. OPRHP compiles the accident reports into a yearly statistical report containing such information as: total accidents, total injuries, fatalities, location, collision with, primary cause, age of operator, engine displacement, and if the helmet is worn.

Unsafe speed is the primary cause of snowmobile accidents. Most accidents continue to be collisions with fixed objects, such as trees. While we believe that all of the fatal accidents and most of the injury accidents are reported, it is possible that some accidents go unreported.

Accident Reports Received as of 4/8/09 for 2008-2009 Snowmobile Season

Month	Total	Fatalities
April	2	0
June	1	0
October	1	0
November	5	0
December	31	2
January	166	5
February	99	6
March	13	1
TOTAL TO DATE	318	14



Snowmobile Publications

Statewide snowmobile corridor trail maps are published on a two-year cycle. The maps are provided free of charge and do not have advertisements but rather information that may be useful to the snowmobiler. The map shows all of the state funded trails (corridor and secondary). The back side also contains lots of useful information for the snowmobiling public.

Safety education publications are created for use by instructors and/or students participating in the New York State Snowmobile Safety Course.

Publications available to the public via the OPRHP Snowmobile Unit include the Corridor Map and Snowmobiler's Guide, Snowmobile Signing Manual, and the Snowmobile Trail Grooming Manual.

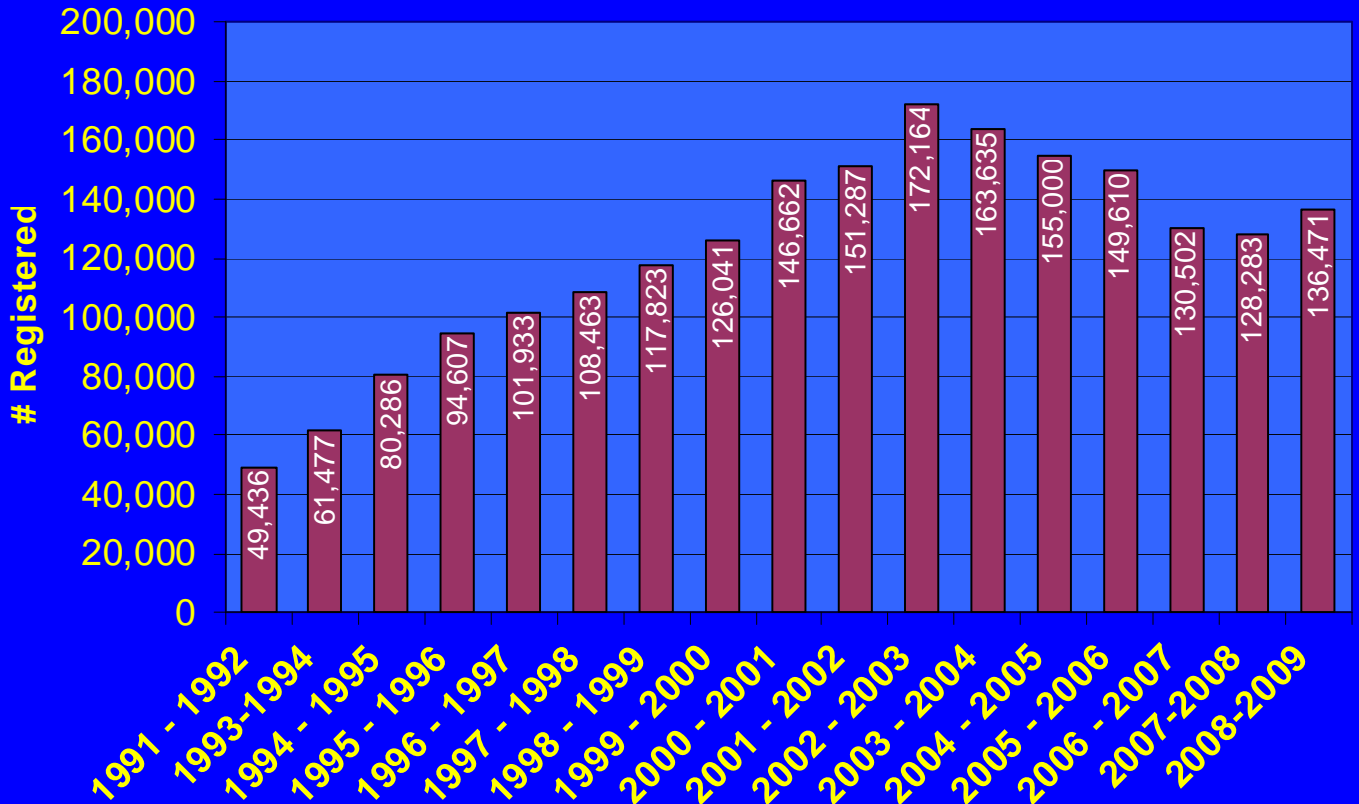
Snowmobile Trail Groomer Training

The Snowmobile Unit has developed a Groomer Operator Training Program. Using the guidelines from the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA) Grooming Manual, input from experienced groomers, and past OPRHP publications, the training includes technical information and advice in the art of grooming snowmobile trails. OPRHP is constantly working on more detailed and updated training, which is why the Snowmobile Unit developed a NYS Snowmobile Trail Groomer Operator Training DVD to be used by clubs.

Through the cooperation of OPRHP, NYSSA, and local snowmobile clubs, many groomer operators have attended grooming workshops held in various locations throughout the state. During the 2008-2009 season, OPRHP trained approximately 150 students.

NYS Snowmobile Registrations since 1991

Snowmobile Registrations for NYS



Registrations by County

County	Originals		Renewals		Regs Processed
	Club	Non-Club	Club	Non-Club	
Albany	399	136	1,333	561	2,429
Allegany	230	54	651	81	1,016
Bronx	4	1	16	8	29
Broome	306	61	1,027	125	1,519
Cattaraugus	375	123	1,331	241	2,070
Cayuga	387	94	1,510	177	2,168
Chautauqua	655	32	2,280	121	3,088
Chemung	71	35	204	55	365
Chenango	307	54	1,107	85	1,553
Clinton	469	61	1,301	106	1,937
Columbia	126	36	552	119	833
Cortland	250	64	884	131	1,329
Delaware	307	44	1,289	148	1,788
Dutchess	184	130	1,041	346	1,701
Erie	1,346	381	5,438	1,119	8,284
Essex	249	50	805	136	1,240
Franklin	307	95	1,047	167	1,616
Fulton	640	123	1,790	232	2,785
Genesee	377	55	1,280	101	1,813
Greene	97	41	400	117	655
Hamilton	147	15	690	75	927
Herkimer	830	69	2,950	129	3,978
Jefferson	611	136	1,575	216	2,538
Kings	5	4	28	8	45
Lewis	445	21	1,563	94	2,123
Livingston	220	39	616	119	994
Madison	495	126	1,897	228	2,746
Monroe	1,062	283	3,383	524	5,252
Montgomery	401	82	1,298	142	1,923
Nassau	83	46	445	230	804
New York	6	3	19	30	58
Niagara	485	154	1,433	317	2,389
Oneida	1,611	197	5,330	372	7,510
Onondaga	1,139	237	4,262	619	6,257
Ontario	291	67	988	124	1,470
Orange	269	122	1,442	382	2,215
Orleans	262	49	692	59	1,062
Oswego	971	145	2,863	280	4,259
Otsego	291	48	1,242	129	1,710
Putnam	52	33	289	101	475
Queens	10	8	63	43	124
Rensselaer	339	99	1,106	236	1,780
Richmond	11	14	105	30	160
Rockland	48	25	289	102	464
St Lawrence	664	187	2,376	202	3,429
Saratoga	894	181	3,080	435	4,590
Schenectady	306	76	1,030	178	1,590
Schoharie	210	41	858	156	1,265
Schuyler	72	25	213	38	348
Seneca	90	41	255	61	447
Steuben	235	70	622	113	1,040
Suffolk	279	116	1,274	507	2,176
Sullivan	167	97	873	230	1,367
Tioga	119	33	385	48	585
Tompkins	131	44	547	69	791
Ulster	220	139	992	339	1,690
Warren	464	103	1,728	226	2,521
Washington	421	79	1,439	142	2,081
Wayne	540	137	1,980	272	2,929
Westchester	66	47	438	213	764
Wyoming	355	88	1,491	206	2,140
Yates	73	10	191	21	295
Total	22,476	5,206	79,626	12,221	119,529

Out of State Registrations

State	Originals		Renewals		Regs Processed
	Club	Non-Club	Club	Non-Club	
Arizona	2	0	3	0	5
California	0	0	5	2	7
Colorado	1	0	0	1	2
Connecticut	300	77	911	249	1,537
Delaware	35	13	87	9	144
Florida	13	2	80	24	119
Georgia	0	0	10	1	11
Idaho	0	0	1	0	1
Illinois	1	1	4	0	6
Indiana	10	6	3	0	19
Kansas	0	0	1	0	1
Kentucky	0	0	2	0	2
Maine	7	0	2	1	10
Maryland	70	8	176	29	283
Massachusetts	93	14	199	45	351
Michigan	13	7	9	2	31
Minnesota	2	0	0	0	2
Missouri	0	0	1	1	2
Montana	0	0	2	0	2
Nevada	0	0	1	0	1
New Hampshire	22	3	25	4	54
New Jersey	714	154	3,185	632	4,685
New Mexico	0	0	1	0	1
New York	16	1	134	24	175
North Carolina	13	2	46	6	67
North Dakota	0	0	1	0	1
Ohio	296	17	764	78	1,155
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	0	0	1	0	1
Pennsylvania	2,014	274	4,932	678	7,898
Rhode Island	8	0	16	5	29
South Carolina	2	1	7	8	18
Tennessee	0	1	1	1	3
Texas	7	0	7	2	16
Utah	0	0	1	0	1
Vermont	40	3	73	6	122
Virginia	6	0	54	6	66
West Virginia	8	0	19	8	35
Out of the USA	35	11	27	6	79
Total	3,728	595	10,791	1,828	16,942

Totals

Club: 116,621

Non-Club: 19,850

Processed: 136,471

