

## Snowmobiling

When the cold winds blow and the snow begins to fly, many people head to the mountains to pursue their favorite seasonal pastimes. For those who are addicted to the excitement of speeding through the snow, snowmobiling is perfect for you. For people who have taken to the trails, snowmobiling can be fun, exciting and challenging. The picture-perfect trails, the sun glinting off the snow-covered landscape and the camaraderie of friends and family out for a day of winter sport makes snowmobiling a primary means of recreation for many in New York State. Snowmobiling is a particularly popular activity in what is known as "Utsayantha Country," that region of the Catskill Mountains surrounding



Routes 30, 10 and 23. The town of Stamford is often referred to as the hub of the region, which extends beyond the boundaries of the greater Stamford area to include the towns of Grand Gorge, Harpersfield, Kortright, Davenport, Meredith, Plattekill and Bovina. It even sneaks into Schoharie County to include the towns of Jefferson, Summit and Gilboa. Some residents extend the borders even further, to include any towns where one can see the spectacular summit of Mount Utsayantha. Utsayantha Country's magnificent snowmobile trails are among the best trail systems in the Catskill Mountains and, along with Tug Hill in the Adirondack Mountains, among one of the best trail systems in New York State. There are over 100 miles of groomed trails, including 25 miles of trails on Mount Utsayantha, maintained by four professional groomers and a host of volunteers. The trails are an integral part of the New York State trail corridor that connects all of the trails right up to the Canadian border. The Central Catskill Trail Association Snowmobile Club, while a relatively new organization, has grown tremendously over the past few years in membership and popularity; about half the membership is now from the downstate area, and the New York State Snowmobile Association named it "Club of the Year" for 2002. At this time, only experienced riders with their own snowmobiles can ride the trails, as there are no rental or teaching facilities available. The club hopes, however, to offer such services in the future. Snowmobiling is permitted in the Catskill Forest Preserve on dedicated snowmobile trails, which are marked with round, orange snowmobile trail markers. South central Delaware County has 23 miles of dedicated trail in the preserve. For maps and regulations, please contact the Department of Environmental Conservation at 607 652 7365 or visit their Web site at [www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us). For general information on snowmobiling in New York State, contact the New York State Snowmobile Association at their Web site: [www.nyssnowassoc.org](http://www.nyssnowassoc.org). In addition to the dedicated trails in the Catskill Forest Preserve, there are hundreds of miles of privately maintained snowmobile trails in the Catskill Region and a number of facilities that offer snowmobile access. For current trail maps and condition reports on trails outside the Forest Preserve, please contact the local snowmobile clubs and facilities listed below.

**Bear Creek Landing Sports Complex**, at the intersection of Routes 23A and 214 in Hunter, offers guided tours on private land through trails. You can also try the "need for speed track." A driver's license and major credit card is needed. For more information, call them at 518 263-5409

**Rip Van Winkle Snowmobiling**, located on Route 23A in Haines Falls provides snowmobile rentals and will provide you with a mountain trail route. For more information, contact them at 518 589-5999.

**Silver Springs Ranch**, in Haines Falls, NY provides snowmobiles rentals, and will work with you to plan a route. For more information, call them at 518 589-5559 or toll-free at 800 258-2624