

Snowmobile Club Ready For Snow

By Allan Houle
Andover Snowmobile Club

December is the month when we look forward to the trails opening and getting in some riding. I know that I am looking forward to a winter with plenty of snow.

The Andover Snowmobile Club has been busy getting our trails in shape and getting the groomer fleet ready. We maintain more than 80 miles of trails, and this takes a lot of volunteers. There is always something to do with trail signing, bridge work, and trail clean up. Then the snow comes, and you need to keep the trails nice and flat.

Last year I had the good fortune to accompany one of our groomer operators on his evening rounds and got quite an education. It takes a lot of skill and patience to operate these big machines. We are truly blessed to have people who volunteer their time to these efforts.

I would like to thank this year's groomer crew: Mike Donnelly, George

Burdick, Steve Rosen, and John Elliot. These guys really do a great job keeping the trails groomed.

Get Ready For Spaghetti

Next month we will host our annual Italian Buffet. This event is very popular, and we usually fill up the gymnasium at the Andover Elementary/Middle School with hungry patrons. We also have a penny sale, with all the proceeds going to Easter Seals.

Mark your calendar! It will be held on Saturday, January 29 from 5 PM to 6:30 PM. We will also be awarding the 2005 Ski-Doo MXZ 550 REV to some lucky winner at this event. Tickets are still available and can be purchased from club members or at any of the locations where the sled is on display, or you can contact Lance Demers at 735-6496.

The Andover Snowmobile Club would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season and prosperous New Year.

Deer Season 10% Ahead Of 2003

As of Sunday, November 14, five days into the firearms season, New Hampshire's hunters have registered 7,101 deer statewide, 10% more than last year at this point in the season.

According to Kent Gustafson, deer project leader for New Hampshire Fish and Game, a bit of snow in some portions of southern New Hampshire likely contributed to hunter success in those areas.

The firearms season continues through December 5 statewide. Check the 2004-05 New Hampshire Hunting Digest for additional dates and details.

Deer kill by county, first five days

Belknap - 433	Hillsborough - 1186
Carroll - 394	Merrimack - 694
Cheshire - 763	Rockingham - 1261
Coos - 611	Strafford - 504
Grafton - 851	Sullivan - 404

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The challenge, however, is in seeing that the new uses are all appropriate uses. Enforcing what goes on in the woods is notoriously difficult, so the attractive new access to the Newman easement presents a challenge for the community.

Another issue we discussed is the fact that these roads weren't built to last. The borrow pit on the property didn't have good road material, so the roads can get very muddy. Nor were they built with a good base – there are lots of rocks and logs and treetops under the road. "Es-

pecially if they're not used, these roads will just go away," George said.

Fortin and Redmond has done an excellent job in preparing to leave the site. It is very clean – no litter whatsoever. There's no sign of spilled fuel, bar oil, hydraulic fluid, etc. They pulled out the bridge (the one pictured on the front page of the October *Beacon*) and restored both banks of the brook and the trail. They seeded and water-barred everything.

They also reshaped the borrow pit to an angle of repose that shouldn't erode

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Andover Fish & Game Keeps Busy

By Rich Gross
Andover Fish and Game Club

The Andover Fish and Game Club was started in 1933 and is one of the oldest fish and game clubs in New Hampshire. Anyone can join, and memberships are currently \$10 a year.

Each year we have various fund raisers, events for kids and members alike, and community-minded projects. We have a Beef Barbeque and Chinese auction, a Turkey Raffle, and other raffles that help us make money to have the events for the kids and the members. Money is also needed for general expenses, upkeep, and improvements to the clubhouse in East Andover.

We also have an ice fishing derby in the winter and a fishing derby for the kids in the spring. We also have a member-guest ice fishing derby. We send three

kids to the Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin in the summer for a week.

We have a rabies clinic, a deer pool with prizes for the largest bucks taken during deer season, and an Adopt-A-Highway stretch of road that we clean up on Route 11 from Horseshoe Pond to Highland Lake. We have informational speakers and seminars about a wide range of topics. We have also assisted the local game wardens in a variety of ways. We have use of the Elkins Fish and Game Club's shooting and archery ranges if you belong to our club.

Our meetings are the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Andover Fish and Game Clubhouse in East Andover by the Highland Lake channel. If you have any questions, or if you would like to join our club, call Steve Smith at 735-5717.

Hunters Help New Hampshire's Hungry

New Hampshire's hunters can help the less fortunate this season by sharing their fall harvest with the Hunt for the Hungry Program. Donations of whole or processed game animals are being collected by the New Hampshire Food Bank of Manchester, which distributes food to more than 270 food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and group homes statewide.

Last year, Hunt for the Hungry took in more than 1,000 pounds of donated deer, bear, moose, duck and other game meat. The program offers packaging instructions and can pick up your meat donation.

"Wild game has historically provided a source of food to hunters, their families and their communities," said Lee E. Perry, executive director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. "This program is a great way

for hunters to give back to their communities by providing needy families with food to help them get through the winter."

"We thank New Hampshire's hunters!" says Michele Garron, the food bank's operations manager. A hunter herself, Garron hopes to be successful in the field this season so she can contribute some venison to the program. She noted that deer meat is both delicious and healthful -- high in protein and low in fat. "These donations from hunters make a real difference for the needy in our state."

The approaching holiday season is an important time to contribute to the Food Bank, but donations are in demand throughout the year, according to Garron.

To donate game meat to Hunt for the Hungry, call the New Hampshire Food Bank at 669-9725.

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