

Rail Trail Group Hard At Work On First Section Of New Trail



On August 15, FNRT-MC held its second workday on the railbed. **Left:** Bob Ward used a chainsaw to take down small trees along the edges. **Center:** Other crew members, including (l-r) Sarah MacDonald, Dani Hinkley, Alex Bernhard, Eric Viandier, and Myra Mayman, clip limbs and shrubs and remove them from the trail. **Right:** Marie-Astrid Kerdranvat (l), a visitor from a small town in France, joined her friends Sophie and Stacey Viandier picking up railroad spikes and trash from Potter Place to Bridge Street.

Photos: Charlie Darling

Breaking News

On August 25 the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County (FNRT-MC) presented its grant proposal for \$206,000 in Transportation Enhancement funds to the Lakes Region Planning Commission, the first hurdle in a long decision process.

Ten proposals were scored and ranked, and the FNRT-MC proposal came in first, despite the fact that a number of the other proposals were from larger towns, such as Laconia and Moultonborough, and had significant (and expensive) engineering studies attached.

Everyone on the FNRT-MC board contributed to the proposal – it was a real team effort!

Myra Mayman
FNRT-MC

Andover's Matt Anderson Races At Canaan

By Heidi Terwilliger
Beacon staff

The Canaan Fair Speedway, located just north of Canaan Village off of Route 118, is a great third-of-a-mile oval with plenty of action on Friday and Saturday nights.

The speedway was built by Charlie Elliot in the mid-'80s. The track is now co-owned by April Preston and Butch Elms. Butch also owns Bear Ridge Speedway in Bradford, Vermont, and April Preston was the first and only lady to take the green flag at the Canaan Fair Speedway. April no longer races due to the time constraints involved with running the track.

I attended a Saturday night event at the end of July. It was a fun evening with plenty of exciting racing.

Ernie Griffin, the Speedway's VIP Host, took my guests and me on a grand tour of the track. We met drivers from each of the different series, as well as some of the track personnel and one of the track owners.

We checked out the Dwarf cars, which are small, compact, and pretty cool. I met the points leader at that time, Norman Forest (#14); the driver running in second place, Tim Sherman (#68); and Zach Sherman (#89), who was running his first race in a car owned by his uncle, Tim Sherman.

The Shermans' #89 car is powered by a 1000 cc crotch rocket engine from a 200-horsepower street bike that is capable of going 90 to 100 miles per hour. While there are a few factory built Dwarf cars, most of the cars have

a hand-built chassis and engine.

I was introduced to a young Pro Stock driver, Nick Gasperini (#27), who is just 15 years of age. He started racing Quarter Midgets at the age of five, and at age 13 raced a Pro Four Modified car before moving on to the Pro Stock series. I also met with Zig Geno (#57), who was third in the points standings at that time.

I was given the opportunity to throw the green flag at the start of the race for the Pro Stock Feature race. I was a bit nervous, but I took them up on the offer.

A new division at the Canaan Fair Speedway this year is the Flying Tigers Sportsman Division. I talked to Chris Curtis (#26), who was the points leader at that time. He races approximately eighteen races in a car powered with a 350-horsepower engine that runs approximately 70 to 80 miles per hour around the track.

After the Mini Stocks ran their heat, a meet-and-greet for the Youth and Mini Stock drivers took place on the track. The public was invited down on the racing surface to look at the cars and talk to the drivers.

Here I met Matt Anderson of Andover, a second year driver and owner of the #49 Mini Stock car sponsored by Marceau & Sons Trucking of Andover and many other area businesses. Matt built his 1.8-liter, 4-cylinder 1984 Volkswagen Scirocco that rounds the track at approximately 85 mph with a fuel injected engine from Robins in Franklin.

Matt started driving go-carts at age 12. With three go-cart championships under his belt, he moved on to driving late model stock cars for a couple of years at White Mountain Motor Sports Park in North Woodstock. In the 2004 season of racing Mini Stocks, Matt was named both Sportsman of the Year and Rookie of the Year.

An interesting series at the Canaan Fair Speedway is the Cool Dude



Matt Anderson of Andover races #49 at Canaan Fair Speedway, sponsored by Marceau & Sons Trucking of Andover. Photo: Leighton Terwilliger

Youths, which is a group of young drivers ranging from 10 to 14 years of age. They run a total of 50 laps, a few laps at a time. This particular night they ran 15 laps after the Pro Stock feature, 15 more laps after the Flying Tiger Sportsman feature, and 20 laps after the Mini Stocks feature. These kids get sponsors for each one of the 50 laps. The drivers are paid \$10 for every lap they lead and \$5 for every lap they run that they are not in the lead. It is exciting to watch kids this young racing these cars.

The youngest of all performers of the evening were not the drivers of the cars, but rather the riders of bicycles. The kids sign up right at the track during the course of the evening.

I threw both the green flag to start and the checkered flag at the end of each of the three races held for the kids. The kids have a great time peddling as hard as they can around the track, and the adults have a good time cheering them on.

The Canaan Fair Speedway runs dirt track races on Friday nights at 7 PM and asphalt track races on Saturday nights at 6 PM. The gates open at 5 PM both nights. The cost of regular admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for teens, and \$2 for children. For more information visit their Web site at CanaanFairSpeedway.com or call 523-4502.

Andover Service Club Thrift Shop

Fall and winter clothing for the whole family

We are located behind the Andover Town Hall and welcome your donations, your consignments, and you!

Our Hours

Tuesday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday 3 - 7 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Joyce E. Egge
Realtor - NH, ME & VT

EquineHomes.com
JEgge@tds.net

Toll-Free: 800.859.2745
Fax: 603.768.3881

PO Box 170
Danbury NH 03230

Country Pine Furniture

HEY, COME SEE THE SHOWROOM UPSTAIRS!

We have stuff you've never seen the likes of before!

Route 11 & Pancake Rd
Andover • Open 7 Days

townlineoutdoorfurniture.com
U-Haul Rentals

(603) 735-5778
(800) 580-6824