

Snowmobile Club Kicks Off Raffle Of 2006 Arctic Cat

By Allan Houle
Andover Snowmobile Club

It won't be long before we see the snow start to fall, so the month of November is a very busy month for the Andover Snowmobile Club.

Our club meeting will be held on Monday, November 14 at 7 PM in the science room at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. We are anticipating the arrival of our new trail groomer and are working on getting our trails in order for the upcoming season.

By the end of November we should be in pretty good shape, with the completion of a major bridge project on the rail bed; mowing, trimming, and clearing downed trees; and getting all the signs back up. Trails open on December 15.

We are also getting ready for our upcoming fundraisers. Our raffle sled this year is a 2006 Arctic Cat Z570LX with electric start and reverse and the

hot new orange color scheme. It is making the rounds to area businesses where raffle tickets can be purchased and will be awarded to the lucky winner at our annual Italian Buffet on Saturday, January 28. Raffle tickets are available at local businesses, from club members, through our club Web site at AndoverSnowmobileClub.com, or by contacting Lance Demers at 735-6496 or Craig Mayo at 934-3327. Thank you to our generous land owners, volunteers, and local businesses for their support.

Trail users: Remember to do your part to keep this sport safe and enjoyable. Please obey speed limits, respect land owners, and follow signs as they are posted. Don't mix alcohol and riding, ride with others, and wear your safety equipment.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy the beginning of the holiday season and *think snow!*



German exchange student Mirco Boning got the photo of a lifetime (above) on Ragged Mountain while visiting Andover. And the moose met his first German.

A Very Special Moose Photo From Ragged

By Kym Arena
For the Beacon

Andover is my second home. I have grown up visiting this town and enjoyed many happy weekends and vacations at what was once my grandfather's house and is now my family's second home. My great-grandfather, Henry Powers Sr., my grandmother, Irene (Powers) Rivers, my grandfather, Harry Rivers, as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins grew up in and around Andover. Even my mom, Sharon, and her brother Dave called Andover home for some years before the family made their primary home in Massachusetts.

My husband Bob and I bought the Rivers house in 1996 and have continued the traditions of relaxing on the front porch and hiking in the woods of Ragged Mountain. Our two children, Jason and Kaisey, have grown up enjoying Andover as their second home, too.

This year we introduced someone new to Andover. Our family is hosting a 16-year-old student from Germany, Mirco Boning. He is here as part of an exchange program for students that want to live abroad and learn and experience other cultures.

We first brought Mirco to Andover on Labor Day weekend. He enjoyed its rustic charm and the S'mores we taught

him to make. We returned Columbus Day weekend and, despite the rain, once again had an enjoyable time.

On Sunday afternoon, since the rain had subsided, my 16-year-old son Jason and Mirco decided to hike up Ragged Mountain. They were gone for quite some time and I was getting concerned when they had not returned by 6 o'clock.

To my relief, a few minutes later they came bounding out of the forest, grinning ear to ear! They excitedly explained that as they were coming off a side trail and back onto the logging road they came within feet of a bull moose! We had seen plenty of tracks so knew that there are moose out there, but we had never actually seen any of them, let alone coming almost face to face with one.

Jason said that when he realized what was in front of him, he froze and told Mirco to do the same. The moose showed no sign of aggression and actually seemed rather curious of them. So each boy slowly pulled out his camera and took pictures of the moose.

Mirco is an excellent photographer and has already collected many beautiful pictures of America to help him remember his experiences here. But happening upon such a photogenic and cooperative moose is something few Americans will experience!



Raffle Prize: The Andover Snowmobile Club is raffling off a 2006 Arctic Cat Z570LX with electric start and reverse and a hot new orange color scheme. You can purchase tickets wherever you see the sled displayed, from club members, at AndoverSnowmobileClub.com, or by calling Lance Demers at 735-6496 or Craig Mayo at 934-3327.

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