



The Andover Snowmobile Club is raffling a beautiful handmade quilt with a snowmobile theme made by Deanne Steiman of Belmont. The lucky winner will be announced at the Club's annual Italian Buffet at AE/MS on Saturday, January 31. Tickets are available by calling 735-5763.

## Andover Snowmobile Club

By Allan Houle

### Andover Snowmobile Club

We would like to make the public aware of a raffle that we are planning to have to benefit the Andover Snowmobile Club.

This beautiful quilt is the handmade creation of Deanne Steiman from Belmont. She wanted to help the club and came up with the idea of creating the quilt with a snowmobile theme.

Deanne has been an avid supporter of the Andover Snowmobile Club and frequently participates in our Annual Italian Buffet at AE/MS. She has also enjoyed snowmobiling for many years.

We would like to offer this to the public as a club fundraiser to help support our operational costs and trail work. As a non-profit, volunteer-run organization catering to the sport of snowmobiling in the Andover area, with over 85 miles of trails, this is very much appreciated.

The quilt will be awarded to the luck winner on Saturday, January 31, at our Annual Italian Buffet held at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. Tickets are available prior to the evening of the Buffet by contacting Janet Truchon at 21 Flaghole Road in East Andover at 735-5763.

We appreciate everyone's support and invite you to attend our Italian Buffet. Serving time will be 5 PM to 6:30 PM. The food is great and you won't go away hungry. We also have a raffle table with *all* the donations from these raffle items going to Easter Seals. There are many items donated by area business and individuals. Usually the raffle table stretches from one end of the AE/



The back of the Snowmobile Club's raffle quilt.

MS gym to the other.

Many snowmobile enthusiasts have ridden in by snowmobile in the past to this event. If we have a winter like last year, there should be plenty of snow. With all the great work that the club has done this year with trail upgrades, everyone should enjoy some great riding.

Club volunteers have been very busy cutting brush, putting in new bridges, and actually re-routing some trails, all to provide riders with a more enjoyable riding experience in the Andover area. Hopefully you will have a chance to get out and enjoy all this hard work.

Use caution, as the groomers could be out at any time the temperatures are low enough to groom. Enjoy!

## Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

### November 19

**Present:** Alex Bernhard; Pecco Beaufays; Steve Darling; Craig Heim; Lindy Heim; Peter Crowell and guest; Myra Mayman; Don Gould; George Burdick and Craig Mayo from the Andover Snowmobile Club (ASC); Peter Southworth; Tom Frantz.

### Old Business

**Grants Update:** Craig has received a grant of \$4,000 from Samuel P. Hunt Foundation.

**Technology Report:** Steve has added a link for the Caring Community Network. Our network manager Heather is moving but will continue to serve our Web needs. Alex suggested we get GPS trail coordinates and information on the Rails to Trails Web site.

**Potter Place to Danbury:** The engineering work should be done this winter, and if that happens and we get our grant money sooner than projected in 2010, we may advertise for the work to be done in 2009. Some bridges will have railings built. Peter Crowell didn't foresee any problems in that possible schedule.

**Maintenance Plan:** Myra shared a maintenance plan, and Lindy has volunteered to coordinate volunteers. In the winter, the Andover Snowmobile Club looks after the trail and Craig noted the need to coordinate brush cutting, etc. between FNRT and the ASC.

**Signage:** Plans for the trail sign and kiosk in Potter Place will wait until the spring. Charles will contact the state about installation, and Lindy will contact the Andover building inspector. RP Johnson and Son will be installing the sign, and the location will be staked out for the ASC and others to check.

**Potter Place Old Time Fair:** A final \$170 was raised on the bike raffle.

**September 20 Work Day:** The work day was a great success, with a picture that was printed in the *Concord Monitor* of boy scouts and other volunteers opening views of Horse-shoe Pond.

**Lawrence Street Culvert** and Re-decking Bridge Near Ballfield: ASC plans to apply for a grant to re-deck the bridge east of Blackwater Park. It won't

be ready in time for the FNRT July 4th running race. We discussed the material for the inside of the culvert under Lawrence Street.

**Water Problems:** On the new stretch, east of Valley Road bridge, water is draining onto a 19th-century retaining wall, pushing out the stone. The plan is to put a culvert in and ditch the area to improve drainage. Ed Hiller is talking to John Champagne and John Thompson for estimates for the work. The first estimate was \$2,800. It was suggested that we ask the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) for assistance. Alex is looking for input on this matter.

In the gorge down from the field before Dyers Crossing, Chris Norris has done a temporary fix.

East of Potter Place, there is erosion at the rock cut near the first bridge.

There is a blocked culvert below Carr Field.

The last three items will be dealt with in the spring by Peter Crowell and his son Benjamin.

**Health Initiatives:** This was postponed, but Myra reported we were denied by the National Park Services for technical support.

### New Business

**Horses on Rail Trail:** A local rider wondered if there were guidelines for riding on the trail. We don't have specific policies for equestrian use. We will put general trail use suggestions on our trail signs that highlight awareness and respect for others and the surface of the trail.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:** The New London Inn Thursday's Child fundraising dinner will happen April 16, 2009. The ASC spaghetti supper is on the last Saturday in January. Everyone should attend. Alex will organize an FNRT table.

**DOT Bridge Project at Potter Place:** Don Gould suggested the FNRT, the Andover Snowmobile Club, and the Andover Historical Society write letters to the Andover Selectmen in support of the town of Andover maintaining the proposed parking lot and ramp to Route 11.

**Poison Ivy:** Using herbicide requires a certified specialist. Discussion postponed.

**Tilton:** Pecco communicates that the Tilton Rotary Club will shift their priorities from the rail trail to helping with Tilton teenagers.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at the Andover Fire House. There will be no December meeting.

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