

Andover Snowmobile Club Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

By Allan Houle
Andover Snowmobile Club

The Andover Snowmobile Club has worked very diligently to keep up with our trail systems. The ice storm in December created a few problems with downed trees. Efforts were made to clear all of the damage and get the trails back in order. Currently all trails are open and grooming is being done when conditions allow.

Don't miss our annual Italian Buffet on January 31 at AE/MS from 5 PM to 6:30 PM. This event is one of our major fundraisers, and we have a good time with it. Hope you'll join us and have a good time, too.

We will also be hosting our 6th Annual Highland Lake SnoFest on Saturday, February 14, from 9 AM to 2 PM. This is an Antique and Vintage Snowmobile Show. It is held at the

Andover Fish and Game Clubhouse in East Andover. There will be some very interesting snowmobiles on display for everyone to enjoy.

We also have hot food and beverages on hand for everyone to enjoy. You can get there by snowmobile on Corridor 2 or by automobile on Route 11.

It is always interesting to see the beginnings of the snowmobile. At one time there were over 150 manufacturers in the sport of snowmobiling. We typically have a parade with the old sleds. We also display vintage videos inside the clubhouse. People's choice trophies are awarded for the Best Antique and Best Vintage snowmobile. We will also have dash plaques for all that display.

If you are interested in displaying a sled or need more information regarding this event, you can contact Allan Houle at 768-3951. Hope to see you there.

Willis Nowell Memorial Ice Fishing Derby On February 21

By Rich Gross
Andover Fish and Game Club

The Andover Fish and Game Club is sponsoring its 26th annual Willis Nowell Memorial Ice Fishing Derby at Eagle Pond in Wilmot, off Route 4.

The Derby is for kids 15 and under. Registration starts at 9 AM, and the Derby runs from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

The Derby will be held on Saturday, February 21, with a bad-weather date of Sunday, February 22. Tackle will be provided.

There will be plenty of free food and drink, and lucky prizes, ribbons, and trophies will be awarded. Please join us for a great time. If you have any questions, call 735-5311.

SUNAPEE-RAGGED-KEARSARGE GREENWAY

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition once again is leading a series of exciting winter hikes throughout the Lake Sunapee region. A special feature this year will be a moonlight walk.

Hikes range from easy to difficult. Hike leaders will offer full details for each event, including starting place and time and equipment needs. There is absolutely no cost to participants, except for their personal food, equipment, and transportation to the hike site.

Since winter hikes require special attention to physical conditioning, weather, and snow conditions, hikers are encouraged to evaluate their capabilities carefully before joining any group.

The remaining hikes for this winter are:
Saturday, February 7: The Fells in Snow – Snowshoe the Fells in Newbury with its beautiful views of Lake Sunapee. Lisa and Dick Correa, 518-281-1494. 2 miles. Easy.

February 8, 9, or 10: Moonlight Over the Greenway – A 9 PM snowshoe trek near Pleasant Lake in New London, if conditions are perfect. Bailout date: March 10, 11, or 12. Dave Cook, 526-4570. 3 miles. Moderate.

Saturday, February 14: The King and You – Snowshoe old trails – with a few diversions off trail – at the King Hill Reservation in Sutton. Art Robbins, 927-4377. 4.5 miles. Moderate.

Saturday, February 21: Put On the Boards – A cross-country ski trip from Twin Lake Villa in New London to Morgan Pond. Andy Hager, 526-2846. 6 miles, round trip. Moderate.

Sunday, February 22: From Brook to Bridge – Start at New Hampshire Route 114 in Springfield to Kidder Brook Bridge, then downhill to Twin Lake Villa. Wayne Nicoll, 735-5721. 6 miles. Moderate.

Saturday, February 28: Flex Time – An adjustable hike from Granite Hill Road in Wilmot to Pleasant Lake in New London. Brent Scudder, 763-0187. 2 to 3.5 miles, as the group wishes. Easy to moderate.

Saturday, March 7: Tour de Trail – SRK Greenway Trails Director Gerry Gold's favorite long-distance challenge. Six miles along the Sunapee Ridge to Lake Solitude and Lucia's Lookout, and return. Call 526-2857. 12 miles. Difficult.

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition is a non-profit volunteer organization that promotes hiking and land conservation amid the rugged beauty of three major mountains. Its 75 miles of trails, incorporating 14 separate hikes through Andover, Danbury, Goshen, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner, and Wilmot, are open to all.

For information, visit SRKG.com.

January 21

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Alex Bernhard, Pecco Beaufays, Steve Darling, Mike Loomis, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Analeyah North, Peter Southworth.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, at Andover Fire House

Correspondence: Vicky Mishcon wrote a letter of appreciation from the Andover Selectboard and Andover-Proctor Liaison Committee.

Old Business

Health Initiatives: Mike introduced the new Walking Guide from the Caring Community Network of the Twin Rivers (CCNTR). The map includes an expanded Northern Rail Trail section. Mike is looking into new grants (HEAL) for wellness activities to address adult and child obesity. Discussion followed on signage and markers and use of the rail trail as a health/exercise resource. Mike requested a letter of support by February 16 and input on our ideas for how to proceed. Myra and Ed Hiller will draft a letter to CCNTR. Mike suggested we hold a Choose Franklin meeting in Franklin in May.

Grants Update: From e-mail, Craig reported he will prepare more applications this spring and he's waiting to hear about the Bikes Belong and The Hiking Society grants.

Technology Report: Steve noted that Heather continues to support our Web site from California. The Web map needs updating and GPS coordinates will also be added to the site to improve access to the trail. Steve will investigate getting a waiver on the Google Check Out fees. We should update our testimonials section as well.

RTP 2009 Application: Charles shared a topographical map showing the proposed Franklin section (1.9 miles)

and passed around the RTP grant application (our fifth) with extra emphasis on Franklin organizations.

TE Update, Potter Place to Danbury: Engineering progresses with help with permitting from Dan Allen. This project now looks to happen in '09 or '10.

Action Items: Save April 16 for the New London Inn dinner.

Water Problems: East of Valley Road bridge, water is draining onto 19th-century retaining wall, pushing out stone. Postponed.

Statewide Rail Trail Association Meetings: The first meeting was held November 2007 at Highland Lake Inn. A second meeting was held in November 2008 in Manchester and had 42 attendees. The outcome of the meeting was the desire to establish a permanent New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance. A steering committee was formed to develop initial projects. This group should be helpful to FNRT-MC and the other trail groups to share information and have more clout with the state.

Andover Snowmobile Club Spaghetti Dinner: Alex is looking for volunteers to help staff the table at the dinner at AE/MS on January 31.

New Business

Meeting with Franklin City Council: The Council was very pleased that we were making progress and like the idea that we would be continuing into Franklin.

Bob and Charles requested that they send a letter of support for the RTP 2009 proposal. The Council voted unanimously to do so. The letter was received shortly thereafter and was included in the proposal.

Biking Programs: Pecco has developed inn-to-inn biking tours with three other inns. They make use of the Rail Trail.



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