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three bands, Barn Yard Bingo, Closest to the Pin, an Ice Cream Social, and fireworks. Follow those delicious odors to the food concessions, and relax and visit at the *Beacon's* Old Home Day tent.

Music on the Village Green will be provided by the Kearsage Community Band, the Long Tail Monkeys, and the Muchachos. The Muchachos are also

doing a flag demonstration.

Parking in the parade staging area is limited to the parade participants. It gets pretty crowded there with all the floats, cars, trucks, etc.

Keep your children safe by not letting them run into the street for candy. Those tossing sweets, please be sure they get to the edge of the road.

Come on the Fourth, bring your family and friends, have fun, and celebrate Independence Day!

Andover's Firecracker 5K

The Andover Fourth of July Firecracker 5K footrace, sponsored by the Andover Fourth of July Committee and the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County, starts at 9 AM on July 4 at Blackwater Park off Lawrence Street. Race day registration starts at 8 AM.

The course is a flat, fast out-and-back on the scenic Northern Rail Trail. The

entry fee is \$15 prior to race day and \$20 on the day of the race. Entry fee includes t-shirts for the first 100 registrants.

There will be cash awards for the first male and female overall finishers. For more information, contact Tom Frantz at TCFrantz@comcast.net or call 735-6490. Information on the race and registration forms are available at FNRT.org.

HLPAs Celebrates The Fourth

By Nancy Welch

Highland Lake Protective Association

Highland Lake Protective Association's fifth annual Ice Cream Social is going to be held on Friday, July 3, at the East Andover Fire Department on Channel Road. One of the highlights is Denise Parker's delicious homemade hot fudge sauce, and that is served on Richardson's hard-packed ice cream. You may add your choice of the many different toppings, including gummy bears that the children especially enjoy.

That same night, flares will be lighted all around our beautiful Highland Lake at 9 PM.

Once again the Boat Parade will be on Saturday, July 4, at 4 PM. We hope this year we will have even more participants with any kind of boat. We will be meeting in front of the Davis and Mamos homes again this year.

The judges will be the winners of last year's float and will present a prize for first place and also a banner that is passed from winner to winner. We are also encouraging people to decorate their front yards or docks for all to enjoy.

Our Annual Meeting is Saturday, July 18, at 9:30 AM at the East Andover Fire Department. We will have a special speaker, Jody Connor of the Department of Environmental Services, with us. We will also have a number of raffle items and also the quilt raffle at the meeting.

Our membership campaign is in full swing, and we would like to have anyone who is interested in preserving the beauty and health of Highland Lake join us. Memberships are \$15 per year, and the money goes to quite a few different things, including the water testing done monthly from spring to fall and maintenance of the porta-potty by the boat ramp which is used by both fishermen and people using the wonderful Rail Trail.

If you are interested in joining us, please give me a call at 735-5631. If you already belong, thank you for supporting this wonderful Association.

Fireworks Professionals Put On A Show In Andover

By Jeff Miller

East Andover Fire Department

The State of New Hampshire regulates fireworks displays to ensure that minimum safety standards are met. This includes training of pyrotechnicians and having a large enough area around the site where the fireworks are to be fired to ensure that debris does not come down on bystanders or the audience.

Here in Andover we are very fortunate that Atlas Advanced Pyrotechnics has an excellent safety record for our annual Fourth of July fireworks display. However, for everyone's safety it is important to remember that the fire marshal's office requires that we have a secure perimeter of 500 feet around the site before any loading of fireworks can occur. *This includes the Rail Trail at Blackwater Park, from 1 PM on July 4 to 7 AM the next morning.* This allows us plenty of time to set up the display safely and to confirm there are no dud shells in the fallout area.

Preparing Andover's Fireworks

We typically start out by checking the mortar racks to ensure they are clean of debris and sturdy enough to be safely used. We then set up the mortar racks for any preloaded shells such as the flights (multiple shells tied together with a wick so that they may be fired in a sequence quickly and safely) and the finale.

At the same time we also are filling 55-gallon drums with sand to hold steel mortars that we can fire out of multiple times. We typically fire half of the Andover show out of steel mortars to save set-up time, even though this is a labor-intensive way to shoot during the show. We then begin to load the mortars with shells.

The shells themselves range in size from 2" (about the size of a tennis ball with a Dixie cup taped to it) to a 6" pea-

nut shell that is about the size and shape of a small butternut squash. A shell typically goes up 100' per inch of size. This means a 2" shell, such as those typically used in the finale, would only go up about 180' to 200' in the air, while a 6" shell goes up 600' in the air.

After the shells are loaded, we carefully cover the loaded mortars and any exposed fuse with aluminum foil to prevent sparks from accidentally setting them off during the show.

When everything is safely covered, we try to have a quick bite to eat before the show. We pull any vehicles we have clear of the firing area and put on our personal protective equipment. This includes Nomex pants and shirts or jump suits, hard hats, goggles, gloves, and hearing protection. We make sure that we have a clear plan as to what each person's job during the display will be, where fire extinguishers are located, and where we will evacuate to in case of an emergency.

Showtime!

Typically the most experienced pyrotechnician will act as a safety person. One person will fire the preloaded shells, one person will light the reloadable mortars. Two people will load these mortars, and two people will tend the boxes in which the remaining shells are stored.

Each person's job is critical to the safety of all the others. The box tenders must keep the shells covered and prevent any sparks from lighting the shells accidentally. Loaders must quickly and safely load multiple mortars without getting in each other's way or in the way of the person firing the mortars, as well as ensuring they are loading the correct mortar. The person firing the mortars must do so in a quick and safe way to ensure that the correct mortars are fired and reloaded. As well as doing all this,

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BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Don't Miss the BOOK SALE

in the Stone Chapel on the Fourth of July.

This is an important fundraiser for your Andover Libraries.

There will also be **WATERMELON** for sale, so be sure to stop by.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

10th Annual Mason's Chicken Barbecue



MUSIC AT THE ELKINS BANDSTAND
The Tammy Jackson Band
4-8pm



Great Food, Great Music!
One-half delicious barbecued chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, corn-on-the cob, rolls and strawberry shortcake!

Sunday, July 5th, 2009 - 4pm to 7pm
King Solomon's Lodge - Masonic Hall • Elkins, NH