

Easy Snowshoe Hike to Identify Animal Signs

Do you wonder, "What's been here?"

Press release

Are you wondering what kind of animal has been walking around your yard? Come to a snowshoe hike on Sunday, February 9, at 1 PM led by Proctor Academy Woodlands Manager and science teacher Dave Pilla. This is an easy hike with no experience necessary, though experienced snowshoers are welcome, too. Dave has extra snow-

shoes for those who need them.

Meet at the Proctor Woodlands Office, a red building behind the school on North Road. Bring waterproof boots, sunglasses, layered clothing, water, and snowshoes if you have them. New Hampshire Fish and Game animal track cards will be provided.

The bad weather date is the following Sunday, February 16. This event is sponsored by the Andover Conservation Commission and Proctor Academy.



Andover Snowmobile Club's Italian Buffet

Saturday, January 25, at AE/MS

Press release

The Andover Snowmobile Club will hold its annual Italian Buffet fundraiser on Saturday, January 25, from 5 to 6:30 PM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. Adults are \$10, kids six to 12 are \$5, and children five and under are free.

Come enjoy spaghetti, meatballs, hot Italian sausage, meatless sauce, la-

sagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, and a wide variety of homemade desserts as well as drinks.

The 50/50 drawing will be held at 6:30 PM, and immediately following will be the 100+ multi-item raffle, with all proceeds benefiting Camp Easter Seal (Camp Sno Mo) in Gilmanton, New Hampshire.

Club memberships will be available, and club clothing orders will be taken.



FNRT Minutes: December 18, 2013

Annual meeting re-elects officers and directors

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, Craig Heim, Lindy Heim, Myra Mayman, Ellsworth Morton, Joyce Morton, and Bob Ward; Guests Tim Blagden, Elaine Clow, Bruce Crawford, and Representative Tom Schamberger.

Treasurer Steve Darling reported that we received \$10,000 in foundation grants this month, thanks to the efforts of Craig Heim. These grants are for next summer's trail building.

Special guest Charley Freiberg of Wilmot, photographer and avid bicyclist, reported on the documentation he has been doing with historic preservationist Lisa Mausolf. She was hired by New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) to catalog the historic aspects of the Trail, including culverts and bridges.

Using the Valuation Maps drawn and updated between the mid-nineteenth century and the 1920s, Lisa and Charley have ridden and walked the Trail from Concord to White River Junction. The "Val Maps" (short for Valuation Maps required of all railroads in 1914) show all aspects of the trail down to 1/100th of a mile.

Charley enthused about the impressive stone culverts and bridges and other artifacts of the history of the railroad along the Northern Line. Elaine Clow of Boscawen's Historical Society offered to share the information she has about the Poor Farm cemetery next to the Trail in Boscawen.

Under Technology Report, Lindy Heim said that more than 1,800 people have seen our new map from the *Concord Monitor* on the Trail's Facebook page. Tim Blagden of Warner and Director of the Bike-Walk Alliance said that STRAVA collects GPS info. He believes they can give us counts of people on the trail.

Old Business

Alex Bernhard reported that the work of the 2013 trail construction project extending the Trail to Depot Street in Boscawen had been successfully completed and on budget. Regarding the application for Recreational Trails

funding for 2014, he recommended that we increase the amount of our application from \$20,000 to \$30,000 in order to finish laying stone dust to the Grafton town line. His motion was approved.

There was a discussion about the derelict Gerrish Depot in Boscawen. There is interest in restoring the building because of its historic value and because it sits at a natural trailhead on Route 3. Bruce Crawford of Boscawen opined that the Boscawen Historic Society would be interested, and he thinks the town would also, but they have no funds. Bob Ward offered that the FNRT board would be interested in a joint effort.

Craig Heim reported on foundation grants. Over the past year he submitted 17 applications to foundations. Twelve of these were funded, totaling \$42,500. Appreciation was expressed to Craig for his excellent and effective work.

Alex reported that Lenny Caron is attempting to challenge the DOT decision that he not use the Rail Trail for his gravel trucks.

Regarding a celebration of the Rail Trail's completion, it was agreed that a Boscawen location would be appropriate. Elaine Clow and Bruce Crawford suggested that Boscawen's Old Home Day, the last Saturday in August (August 30, 2014), might be a good date. It takes place at Jamie Welch Park, right on the Rail Trail. This will be discussed further at the January 15 meeting in Boscawen.

New Business

Bob will staff a table at the Andover Snowmobile Club's spaghetti dinner on Saturday, January 25. He will ask Steve Rayno to join him. Bob has custody of the big presentation map.

The formal Annual Meeting took place: the current Directors and Officers were re-elected.

Lindy showed material about the possibility of creating saleable souvenir items (t-shirts, hats, bags, etc.) for our public events. Bruce Crawford offered to advise her based on his experience with another organization. This will be discussed at the April meeting, along with Larry Chase's discovery of a Vermont blacksmith who turns railroad spikes into hooks.



SRKG Offers Winter Hikes through March

January 25 in E Andover, on Tucker Mountain

Press release

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition (SRKG) winter hikes are free to the public. Please call the volunteer hike leader to learn starting location and time. Be prepared for winter conditions: extra layers, hot drink, prepared for ice and snow.

January Hikes

Saturday, January 18, in Springfield: Andy Hager (526-2846). Cross-country ski on forest road from Twin Lake Villa to Morgan Pond in Gile State Forest. Five miles round trip, moderate difficulty.

Saturday, January 25, in East Andover: Lee Carvalho (735-5719). Frank Baker will lead us on a snowshoe exploration of the Tucker Mountain area. The goal is to reach secluded Weeks Pond. Five miles round trip, moderate difficulty.

February Hikes

Saturday, February 1, in Wilmot: Nick Baer (526-8233). A family snowshoe hike up and over Bog Mountain on SRKG Trail #7. Children with adventurous spirit welcome. 4.6 miles, moderate difficulty.

Saturday, February 8, in Bradford: Brooks McCandlish (938-5354). Snowshoe to Ayers Pond from the old Washington (Mountain) Rd. Four miles with

about 900-foot elevation gain, mostly on old trails with some open bushwacking. Moon Mountain summit may be included. Moderate to difficult.

Saturday, February 15, in New London: Dave Cook (526-6404). The famous "Moonlight Madness" snowshoe hike on the Cook easement trails. Generally starts at 9 PM if the full moon is up. Check with Dave a few days ahead. Moderate difficulty.

Saturday, February 22, in North Sutton: Nathan Richer (344-0287). If Mother Nature cooperates, this will be a cross-country ski tour of the old King Ridge ski area, off SRKG trail #13. Moderate difficulty.

March Hikes

Saturday, March 1, Mount Sunapee and Pillsbury State Parks: Gerry Gold (526-2857). Snowshoe to Lucia's Lookout on Sunapee-Pillsbury Ridge from Andrew Brook Trail and Lake Solitude in Newbury. Difficult.

Sunday, March 9, in Newbury: Lisa Correa (518-281-1494). Snowshoe in Fishersfield Town Park on the hilly Perimeter Trail. Two miles, moderately difficult.

For SRKG information, visit SRKG.com. SRKG Trail Guides are available at local book stores. The SRKG Coalition is an all-volunteer non-profit organization with members throughout the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge region and beyond.



WILMOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2 P.M., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

BLAST FROM THE PAST

PHOTOS OF OLD WILMOT

CRACKER BARREL DISCUSSION

COME AT 12:30 P.M. AND BRING YOUR OLD PHOTOS TO SCAN

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

FOR MORE INFO CALL MARC AT 927-4596

WILMOT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION RED BARN

64 VILLAGE RD., WILMOT FLAT

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

