



WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

As I sit by the window watching the days slowly grow longer, perhaps to see the first robin of the year, I notice the length of trail that passes my door is covered with snowshoe and ski tracks and even the hoof prints of a few brave riders. While many of us prefer being indoors watching the winter fire, there are many who like to use the trail system for winter activities. How many of these users, club members or not, think of the work that goes on year-round to keep the trail system open and available to all?

As your thoughts turn to oiling your tack, or the chain on your bike, the club would like to give you an update on what has been happening on your behalf as a club member.

The club had our yearly membership meeting February 13th at the home of Kathy and Mike Pavesi. And while attendance was not as good as the board would have hoped, the meeting was productive and fun. Friendships were renewed, great food was consumed, board members were elected or re-elected, and finances were reviewed. There was also a special presentation of wildlife photographs taken with automatic cameras by Mike and Carol Silver. This presentation illustrated the wide variety of wildlife in our area, often in our backyards. My eyes were opened to the wonder and problems these wild (and domestic) creatures present all around us. The deep snow this year allowed us to create a 1.5 mile snowshoeing loop from the Pavesi's through the Brooks Conservation Land and back. Many of the members enjoyed the quiet and beauty of this trail. Many thanks to Mike and Kathy for their hospitality.

More recently P.A.T. Trailmaster, Bob Beausoleil, and Kim DiPietro, our president, got together to go over proposed additions to the Candlewood Hill/Pleasant Pond trail system in Frankestown. Bob has received landowner permission to clear the "Valley Trail" between Candlewood Hill Road and Poor Farm Road. We are also going to explore extending the trail system through the southern part of Deering into the newly conserved area of Shattuck Pond. If we are successful we will plan a members' ride in that area. If Kingsbury Hill Farm is available for a staging area for another open public ride this year, we can extend the mileage for the ride to at least 15 miles.

Another area of interest is in the Frankestown/Greenfield area where one of the snowmobile bridges used by horses is in need of repair and there is interest in building a second bridge. We are not sure how much repair is needed right now, but will contact the Greenfield Trails Association as well as the Greenfield snowmobile club to find out more details.

The Marvell Property off Highland Road in New Boston is also on our radar for trail cleanup, as well as trails linking that property with the Tingley property off Rt. 13.

Connections are the key! Unconnected snippets of trails are not nearly as attractive or useful as long connected networks of trails that extend over long distances and provide a wide variety of loops.

We are exploring several possible areas for holding organized trail rides in the future in New Boston,

Francestown and Mont Vernon. In order to do this we have to contact landowners personally and explain all about our organization and the landowner liability protection that NH laws offer. We have asked members of these towns to provide us with landowner information, and when necessary, to provide us with personal introductions. Landowners like to meet face-to-face and get a sense of who they are dealing with. Good landowner relationships are absolutely necessary for a workable and lasting trail system!

Speaking of trail connections, we are planning a “High Bridge Restoration” day with our friends from Lyndeborough, Francestown and New Boston for those that have never seen High Bridge and for those that are committed to restoring this beautiful bridge that links our towns! In addition, we are pursuing permission from adjacent landowners to extend a trail from High Bridge (in Lyndeborough) to Butterfield Mill Road (in New Boston) along the south branch of the Piscataquog River. This trail would link up to all the trails in the Deland Forest, Janet Nixon’s trails and South Hill, New Boston’s most beautiful trails. On the Lyndeborough side of the bridge, the Lyndeborough Trails Association is planning a cross-Lyndeborough trail system from High Bridge all the way to North Pack in Temple.

The work of your club officers and your personal contributions of time, labor, donations and dues are what make all this possible. We have the great fortune to live in one of the most beautiful areas in Southern New Hampshire. We are able to enjoy this beauty and our various recreational pursuits due in large part to the efforts of your club.

Excited? Let’s get started! **And, please, remember your dues.**

On behalf of your board,

Chris Lippincott
Treasurer