



WINTER NEWS LETTER

What did you do last summer?

Well if you're like us you did a lot of outdoor activities. Your club started out the season early, at the end of April with our annual trail clean-up day. This brings together many of our club members and teams from other clubs to clear trails of winter storm damage and to develop new trails. About 30 people showed up to help and enjoyed a great lunch at the home of long time club supporter Janet Nixon.



In June we had our hosted membership ride in Frankestown.



In July we hosted an open fund raising ride in New Boston with 24 riders. We raised \$855 to help the club do its work.



Then in October we held the traditional Columbus Day ride in New Boston and treated 24 riding members with complimentary lunch despite less than favorable weather. A drawing was held at this ride to award the raffle saddle that was given away this year.

You should be aware that all these fun events and your use of the trails are made possible by the volunteer time that your Board of Directors and many members put in.

The continued use of the trail system is, in great part, made possible by these volunteer efforts. Fallen trees are cleared, land owners' concerns are addressed, culverts are replaced, bridges are built and maintained; all work that goes unseen by many of the trail users. It's not magic; it takes work and your support to the club. So we thank you, for both your dues and your time. We are blessed to live in this area and can enjoy the beauty around us and the trails we use for that enjoyment are what you are supporting.

IT IS TIME FOR YOUR 2015 DUES

Yes, it is time to pay your dues for 2015. Our annual membership meeting and elections are coming up on February 8th. In order to be able to vote at the meeting you must be a paid member. This year, at long last, we are a 501(c)3 non-profit and so any donations are tax deductible. In addition you may now pay your dues through [PayPal](#) on our website. The annual dues are \$15.00 individual or family. It should be noted that many companies offer matching donations now that we are 501(c)3. Check with your office to see if it would consider doing so. You will also benefit the club when you shop with Amazon by using "[Amazon Smile](#)." Simply designate Piscataquog Area Trailways when you shop and Amazon will donate to the club.

501(c)3 AND WHAT IT MEANS

It took a long time and lots of effort but we are now officially a non-profit in the eyes of the IRS and your contributions are tax deductible and as mentioned above this opens many doors. Companies match employee donations and are much more willing to donate "in kind" to the club. We also become eligible for programs like Amazon Smile where a donation is made to the club based on the amount of your purchases. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities. Ask your HR department about matching donations.

SAVE THE DATE

The annual club meeting will be at the home of Joyce Smith and Chris Lippincott, 438 Clark Hill Rd, New Boston the afternoon of February 8th. There will be outdoor activities if conditions permit, and a presentation indoors. There will be lots of food and fun. In addition elections for Board of Directors' members are held and club business is conducted. This is your opportunity to participate and give your input and to help plan 2015. Please plan to attend. It will be fun and a chance to say, "Hi" to your neighbors and fellow club members. More details will be forthcoming.

WILL YOU HELP?

It only takes a relatively few hours of your time to be a member of the Board of Directors. We are in great need of two or three willing folks to fill open positions on Board. You will be helping the one hundred twenty paid members of the club as well as the many people in the Piscataquog River watershed that use and enjoy the trails we support. You will not be asked to do more than you can, and every helping hand lightens the load for all. Please contact a Board member for information. With the progress made in the last couple years by our now-retired club President, Kim DiPietro, we are poised to do great work, but not without the support of our members who would be willing to lead. Please consider helping.