



## Winter News Letter 2014

### **“CAN’T WAIT!”.....DON’T WAIT.**

I received a new membership enrollment form the other day from a Bedford rider. She mentioned in a jaunty note on the form that she was friends with some of our current members and she said, “Can’t wait!” This sentiment really brought to mind the warm days and the fun rides and events we had over the summer and an anticipation of the events to come. Perhaps she had heard about the fun on a snowy day over a glass of wine with her friends and, like many of us, can’t wait for summer to come again.

The fact is that your club works year round to make it possible to hold these events. Our annual winter meeting is coming up February 9<sup>th</sup> and will be extra special this year. Held at Forest Glen Farm in Hancock from 1-6pm it will feature a Versatility Challenge, snowshoeing and cross country skiing PLUS a potluck dinner after the annual meeting and elections. For details see our website: <http://www.piscataquogareatrailways.com/>

SO...**DON’T WAIT!** RSVP now, dues may be paid at the event.

If you are NOT able to attend, **DON’T WAIT** send your annual dues now: \$15.00 for individual or family to: PAT Treasurer, Chris Lippincott, 438 Clark Hill Rd, New Boston, NH 03070-4600

Paying now will allow you to anticipate the **“CAN’T WAIT”** all winter with the warm knowledge that you are supporting your club.

## **2013 SUCESSSES**

### **501c3**

Our biggest project (and expense) in 2013 was our move to becoming a 501c3 non-profit. It was a big job to get all the forms and paperwork done and filed. This job was headed up by Kim DiPietro who worked with our lawyer for several months of hard work to get the job done. The work has been submitted to the IRS and we are anticipating their positive response soon. This

status will allow your donations and the matching donations from your employers to be tax deductible. Also merchants and businesses in our area will be more willing to donate services and goods in kind. We will be sure to let you know when the approval arrives. We will all let out a sigh of relief and pop a cork.

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE, PARKS AND RECREATION PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

Earlier this year New Hampshire Parks and Recreation proposed new trail use rules that would have severely restricted horse riding in all of the state parks. Piscataquog Area Trailways provided support to the New Hampshire Horse Council with testimony before the Parks and Recreation public hearings regarding our experience with multi-user trail systems, trail design and erosion issues. New Hampshire Horse Council's lobbying efforts along with strong and vocal support from individual horse owners succeeded keeping the rules reasonable. Another benefit of this dialog was an increased interaction between the equine community and the Parks Department that will improve equine access throughout the state park system.

### **TRAIL CLEAN-UP DAY**

A good size crew arrived at Janet Nixon's home in New Boston this last April for our annual trail clean-up day. Teams were dispatched out to clear winter dead falls and to cut back branches. A crew was sent out to Saunders Pasture to cut and clear a new trail in this conservation area. This is always a good event for families and this year was no exception. Prizes were given for the strangest object found on the trails and for the "gross-est". All work and no play...nope. Everyone gathered back at Mrs. Nixon's for a catered lunch. This year's clean-up day will be April 26<sup>th</sup>. By the way, please let us know if you encounter any trail issues.

### **RIDES**

The club hosted a number of open rides this last season starting with the Mother's Day ride with 20 riders, the Highbridge ride with 32 riders, and our main fund raising ride, the Ride to Save the Trails with 36 riders and a gourmet catered lunch by Helle Goodrich. All the open rides are fund raisers for the club. We also had complimentary member rides April 28<sup>th</sup> in New Boston, June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Frankestown and again in New Boston with lunch on Columbus Day weekend which attracted 15 new members.

## **2014**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Our 2014 calendar of events has been posted on our website.

[www.piscataquogareatrailways.com](http://www.piscataquogareatrailways.com)

## **CLUB OFFICERS**

The club has a real need for volunteers willing to give a few hours a month to the club. “More hands make light work” is so appropriate here. If you would be willing to donate a little of your time to the club please let one of the board members know. It is both appreciated and vital to the future of the club.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Friends, please feel free to pass this newsletter along to your friends.

“Friends”...hmmm...where have I heard this before? Oh yeah, **Facebook**. Please, all of you; **LIKE** us on Facebook. If you didn't know, the more likes we have the more exposure we get. We are not hard to find, one click and not only will you be kept up to date on our activities, but you can add photos, as well as your two cents.

**PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2014. THANK YOU.**

**Piscataquog Area Trailways** is a non-profit, community based club fostering trail activities such as horse riding, hiking, biking, skiing and snowshoeing through trail maintenance, land owner relationships, land conservation and environmental awareness.