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LEGENDARY



VINTAGE SLEDS IN ACTION

Riders work to get the most out of their 1974-and-older machines during Great North Woods Vintage Snowmobile Series racing in Errol. The Umbagog Snowmobile Association, the Pittsburg Ridge Runners and the Northwood Crank Pullers are hosting this year's series, now underway and on-line at www.thegreatnorthwoods-snowmobilerace.com.



TAKING A DEMO RIDE

Riders head out to try the newest Arctic Cat sleds during the annual New Hampshire Snodeo at Coleman State Park, taking place this year on Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7. The Swift Diamond Riders host thousands of riders during the annual event, now in its 23rd year, and more information can be found at www.nhsnodeo.com.

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SNOWMOBILING IN THE NORTH COUNTRY
Your guide to winter fun in:

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Easter Seals Ride-In Celebrates Support for Camp Sno-Mo

The 2015 Easter Seals Ride-In is set for February 6-8 at the Town & Country Inn and Resort in Shelburne, hosted by the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (www.nhsa.com).

This annual event raises thousands of dollars for Camp Sno-Mo, a joint project of the Easter Seals New Hampshire and the Daniel Webster Council, Boy Scouts of America. The residential camp in Gilmanton Iron Works provides a life-changing experience for young people with developmental disabilities. More information about Easter Seals programs may be found on-line at nh.easterseals.com.

The weekend includes a snowmobile costume parade, silent and live auctions, buffet dinner and breakfast gatherings, local club activities, a comedy show, and a meet-and-greet with Easter Seals families. The N.H. Fish & Game Department, Bureau of Trails, Easter Seals and the NHSA will have exhibits on display, and local clubs will be recognized for their fund-raising efforts.

Room reservations for Easter Seals Ride-In weekend may be made by calling 603-466-3315 or by e-mail to info@townandcountryinn.com.

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SCOPING OUT THE NEW SLEDS
Locals and visitors alike make their way to Coleman State Park in Stewartstown for the annual New Hampshire Snodeo, which offers a chance to check out new machines from all major manufacturers.

Swift Diamond Riders Hosting 23rd Annual Snodeo, March 6-7

Over 800 members belong to the Swift Diamond Riders snowmobile club, which maintains over 100 miles of trails in the Diamond Pond area of Stewartstown that link to neighboring trail systems in Pittsburg, Colebrook and Errol.

The club's warming hut at Coleman State Park, built in 2004, is accessible



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Umbagog Club to Host Poker Run, Vintage Race & Steak Feed in Errol

The Umbagog Snowmobile Association maintains trails in the Errol area, and last fall the club rebuilt four bridges on the Corser Brook alternate trail and one bridge on the Dupuis Trail.

The club has now resurfaced every bridge in its system with pressure-treated wood according to state directives. The resurfacing should give the

club a longer time span between bridge projects in the future, and the club is already noticing that the new bridges last up to twice as long as the previous rough-cut lumber bridges that were built for years.

club is hoping to get the brush cutter set up on the drags to keep tree limbs from encroaching upon the trails.

The annual poker run is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 14, and a Great North Woods Vintage Snowmobile Series race on February 21; the club is always looking for volunteers to help out during the vintage race. The annual steak feed takes place at the clubhouse on Saturday, March 7.

Trail updates and membership information can be found at www.umbagogsnowmobile.com, and on Facebook.



IN FROM THE COLD
Hungry riders sat down to a hot meal at the Umbagog Snowmobile Association's annual midday steak feed, this year scheduled for Saturday, March 7.



USA POKER RUN
Bob Verville waits to see what the cards hold for him at the Umbagog Snowmobile Association Poker Run, which closes with a buffet meal at The Log Haven. This year's poker run is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 14, and updates will be posted on-line at www.umbagogsnowmobileassociation.com.



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USA STEAK FEED
Umbagog Snowmobile Association president Peter Lagerstrom (left) and Bernie Ross were on the job, grilling steaks to perfection at the annual steak feed. This year marks the USA's 30th event, scheduled for midday on Saturday, March 7 at the clubhouse.



NEK BRIDGE CREW
Volunteers worked on a bridge project this past fall for the Northeast Kingdom Snow Blasters, based in Norton: Dennis Albro, Brad Shepard, Jeff Lavelle, Dale Gilman, Paul Christensen, David Diminico, Jr., John Berrelli, Ed Cunningham, Stewart Ahearn, Jeremy Forkey, Chester C. Wright; behind the camera, and thus not pictured, was David Diminico Sr.

Northeast Kingdom Snow Blasters on the Trails in Far Northern Vt.

The Northeast Kingdom Snow Blasters, formed in 2012, and based in Norton, Vt., and maintains approximately 60 miles of trails in northeastern Essex County.

Club members have been busy making improvements to the trail system, including significant repairs to one of the bridges in the Silvio O. Conte refuge. The trailmaster has been hard at work to ensure that the groomer is in working condition so the trails will be second to none, and members and volunteers have worked hard to clear the trails.

The club has already hosted events this season, including its annual Snowmobile Safety Course and hunters' supper. The club invites all to a winter dinner on February 21 and the landowners' dinner on March 14, both at Chez Pidgeon in Norton.

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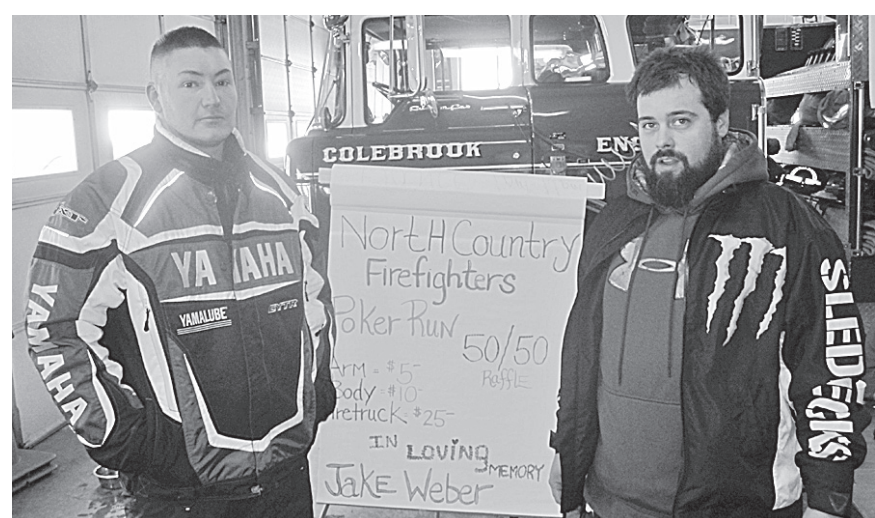
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NORTH COUNTRY FIREFIGHTERS' POKER RUN
Saph Lessard of New Durham and Curtis Wallace of Colebrook were among riders who participated in the North Country Firefighters' Poker Run last year. The Pittsburg, Colebrook and Beecher Falls fire departments coordinate the annual event to benefit their association scholarship fund, and this year's poker run is on Saturday, February 14, with registration starting at 8 a.m. at the Colebrook fire station. Food and refreshments are available at every stop and the ride ends by 3:30 p.m. with a meal at the Beecher Falls station.

Canaan Border Riders Provide Trail System in the NEK

The Canaan Border Riders groom 110 miles of trails in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, with one shared trail in the system on Forest Lake Road in Averill. The club is on-

line at www.canaanborderriders.org and updates may also be found on Facebook.

Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Time Out Tavern in Canaan. Officers for this year are president Mike Daley, vice president Paul Lyons, treasurer Francine Latendresse, secretary Lisa Brockney, trailmaster Dan Johnson, membership leader Lise Vincent and directors Richard Thibeault, Claude Roy and Roger Vincent.

Trail conditions may be obtained by calling the Snow Phone at 802-266-7811. Trail maps are available for purchase at Solomon's Store in West Stewartstown; the Lake View Store in Averill; Maurice's Motel and Thibeault Real Estate in Canaan; and Lemieux Garage in Colebrook.

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White Mt. Ridge Runners Completed Several Trail Projects in Berlin Area

The White Mountain Ridge Runners (www.whitemtridgerunners.com) are based in Berlin, and those who wish to join can find membership forms at Gord's Corner Store in West Milan, Jericho Motorsports in Berlin, or Absolute Powersports in Gorham.

Club volunteers were hard at work on 20 scheduled trail work days to prepare for the riding season, including major bridge projects on PT109, widening a one-mile section of the Cates Hill Trail, building a bridge behind the Milan Luncheonette, installing a relocated bridge at Jericho Mountain State Park, and adding railings to the historic truss bridge behind Notre Dame Arena.

In mid-December, N.H. Bureau of Trails employees completed several days of work on Corridor 12, along the fenceline in front of the biomass plant. The old fence was removed and a new fence installed farther away from the road to provide more room for the trail. Using a bulldozer and backhoe, the workers prepared a dirt ramp leading up from the railroad bed onto the new trail surface, removing rocks and stumps, filling in holes and smoothing up the trail. This new route takes the snowmobile traffic off of the sidewalk.

The Ridge Runners will host their

Steak & Hamburger Feed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 7 at the clubhouse, on Route 110 across from Jericho Motorsports in Berlin.

Berlin Area Events

The Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce is the place to go for information about the Berlin and Gorham area, and updates can be found on-line at www.androscogginvalleychamber.com.

St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts (www.stkieranarts.org) presents musical events and exhibits all year long, and the Notre Dame Arena (www.notredamearena.org) offers public skating from 6 to 8 p.m. Fridays in addition to a full schedule of local hockey league action.

The Nansen Ski Club will host the fifth annual Nansen Milan Winter Festival on January 31 and February 1, a full weekend of broomball, dogsled tours, vendors, kids' activities, exhibits, a live animal show by Wildlife Encounters, ice skating, live music, and ski races at Milan Hill State Park. Details about this and other Nansen Ski Club events can be found on-line at www.skinansen.com, and information is also available by e-mail to PhoebeBackler@skinansen.com.

Pond Hockey, Winter Fly-In, Snodeo among Rangeley Lakes Region Events

The Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club in Rangeley, Maine, operates on the Ronald W. Sargent Trail System, named in honor of the pioneer and creator of many of the trails that riders enjoy today. On-line at www.rangeleysnowmobile.com, the club hosts a lineup of events to complement a full winter of varied recreation in the Rangeley area.

RLSC Events

- Snodeo kicks things off from Thursday, January 22 through Saturday the 24th, starting with Casino Night Thursday at the Ginger Bread House in Oquossoc. Friday the 23rd brings the Welcome Party and Auction Night at the Rangeley Inn (Snodeo Headquarters). On Saturday, the 24th riders are invited to the Radar Run, Poker Run and other events to be announced at the Rangeley Inn and Haley Pond. Awards, snowmobile parade and fireworks (weather permitting) are all to follow that day.

The club will also host three dinner gatherings in the undercroft of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, all starting

at 6 p.m.: Kelley's Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, February 21; a Steak & Lobster Feed on Saturday, March 28; and a summertime cookout on June 27.

Other Local Events

In addition to the highlights listed below, the Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce posts a full schedule of winter events in the Rangeley area at www.rangeleymaine.com, including movies, festivals and racing events at Saddleback Mountain ski resort.

- 9th annual New England Pond Hockey Festival, January 30-February 1. Includes at least five divisions of men's and women's teams. Information & registration: www.newenglandpondhockey.com or 207-491-6566.

- Winter Fly-in, January 31 at Bald Mountain Camps, Mooslookmuguntic Lake. Information: 207-864-3671.

- Rangeley World Record Snowmobile Ride, February 7, at Bald Mountain Camps. Proceeds benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

(Continued on Page 30)

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Feb. 21st: Great North Woods Vintage Race at gravel pit across from All Seasons Sports
Mar. 7th: Annual Steak Feed Noon-4 p.m.

Visit www.umbagogsnowmobile.com for more information.



QUICK LUNCH BREAK
On the White Mountain Ridge Runners' 20th trail work day to prepare for the riding season, 12 volunteers completed a widening project on the East Cates Hill Trail on November 22. Dave Lemeire and Cameron Brown (in the background) worked as a team to bring the cut wood back to the parking lot, using two ATVs hooked together to provide eight-wheel drive to haul the heavy ATV trailer out of the woods. Andy Gomes and Steve Brown are in the foreground, taking a short lunch break. Reports and photos from this and other pre-season trail work can be found at www.whitemtridgerunners.com under "News."

Enjoy Canada's Trails during Québec Open House Weekend, February 7-8

An initiative of the Fédération des Clubs de Motoneigistes du Québec (FCMQ) and its member clubs, the second annual Québec Open House weekend offers free access to a vast snowmobile trail network north of the border on February 7 and 8, 2015.

New in 2014, a temporary trail permit is required to participate in the open house weekend, but it will be provided free of charge. Details are still being worked out and will be posted on-line at www.fcmq.qc.ca (English version available) under "Events."

More than 32,000 kilometers of trails await those partaking in this two-day event, all accessible at no charge. As many will take advantage of this opportunity to become initiated with the joys of snowmobiling, the FCMQ wishes to remind everyone of the following rules:

- The owner of the snowmobile must hold a public liability insurance

policy with a minimum coverage of \$500,000 and have proof of said insurance in his possession;

- All snowmobiles must be registered and licensed;
- The minimum age to operate a snowmobile is 16. In addition, drivers ages 16 and 17 must have a valid snowmobile operator's permit;
- It is forbidden to carry more passengers on a snowmobile than the capacity specified by the manufacturer;

Those wishing to take full advantage of Québec's trails beyond the open house weekend may purchase an annual or temporary trail permit. The purchase of a trail permit contributes to the maintenance, development and safety of the trail network, lending support to the volunteers of the FCMQ's member clubs.

Upon returning to the U.S., riders must present a passport or passport card at the port of entry. Those under age 16 may present only proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or Naturalization Certificate. Complete information about travel requirements is available from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at www.cbp.gov.

Ride in N.H., Vt. & Maine on Tri-State Reciprocal Weekend

Riders can hit the trails in New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine during the annual Tri-State Reciprocal Snowmobile Weekend, this year taking place from Friday, January 30 to Sunday, February 1.

All snowmobiles legally registered in each state may operate on all three states' trails during the three-day open weekend. All other state laws and rules regarding the operation of snowmobiles must be adhered to, such as speed limits and youth operation standards, including Vermont's mandatory liability insurance, and safety card requirement for those born after July 1, 1983.

Complete information about snowmobiling laws in each state may be found on-line, from the N.H. Fish & Game at www.wildlife.state.nh.us under "OHRV"; from the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers at www.vtast.org; and from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, at www.maine.gov/ifw under "vehicles."

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AUSTIN'S RIDE FOR CF
 Young Austin Wanner and his family are in Colebrook each year to lead Austin's Ride for Cystic Fibrosis, hosted by the Colebrook Ski-Bees. This year's ride starts at the Colebrook Country Club on Saturday, February 21, followed by a barbecue lunch. More information can be found at www.cff.org under the New England Chapter events.

Colebrook Ski-Bees Plan Wild Game Dinner, 11th Austin's Ride for CF

The Colebrook Ski-Bees maintain 147 miles of trails in the Colebrook area, between North Stratford and Pittsburg and from Errol to the Vermont border.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Colebrook Country Club. Officer nominations will be held on March 4, with elections on April 1. Membership forms are available at www.colebrookski-bees.com. Trail conditions are also posted on the Web site and on Facebook.

This past fall, Chris Chase and Arthur Beauchemin worked on the Cree Notch bridge and, along with Jason Riendeau and Jeremy Young, repaired the Diamond Peaks bridge. The club's wild game dinner is tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 30 at the Colebrook Country Club.

tively scheduled for Friday, January 30 at the Colebrook Country Club.

The 11th annual Austin's Ride for Cystic Fibrosis will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 21, also at the Colebrook Country Club. The event is coordinated with the Wanner family each year to raise money for cystic fibrosis research, with all proceeds going to the CF Foundation.

Out-of-state registered sleds may join the 35-mile ride with a waived New Hampshire registration fee. Participants will be treated to a fantastic ride, a great barbeque lunch provided by the Ski-Bees, a goody bag and a silent auction. More information about the CF Foundation may be found on-line at www.cff.org.

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January 17-19: Milan, Colebrook & Pittsburg to Host Stages of Three-Day Dogsled Race

The second annual Great North Woods Sled Dog Challenge will run through Milan, Pittsburg and Colebrook from January 17-19, with each town hosting a different stage of the race.

The three-day event will kick off with a Meet the Musher's Banquet at the Mahoosic Inn in Milan, at 6 p.m. on Friday, January 16. The official race start is at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 17, also at the Mahoosic Inn. On Sunday the mushers will compete in Pittsburg, and on Monday, January 19 the race will finish with a 45-mile loop that begins and ends at the Colebrook Country Club in Colebrook.

The winner will be determined by adding together the times required to complete each of the three stages. There will also be a separate, 20-mile race in Colebrook on Monday the 19th for six- and eight-dog teams. Awards will be presented at the Colebrook Country Club at 3 p.m. on January 19.

The positive feedback from last year's race has sparked considerable

interest in the mushing community, according to organizers. "This was even harder than the Can-Am 30!" said Peter Franke of New Durham, winner of the 2014 six-dog Great North Woods Sled Dog Challenge. Dog mushers from Québec to Pennsylvania are already registered to compete for this year's purse of over \$3,000.

A "Meet the Musher" dinner will be held on the night before each stage of the race in the towns involved, and these events are open to the public. Spectators are also encouraged to watch the competitors at the designated start and finish locations.

The Great North Woods Sled Dog Challenge is sponsored by Diamond Pet Foods, The News and Sentinel, Northern Exposure Outfitters and WPKQ-FM. The North Country Mushers coordinate this event with additional help from the Colebrook Ski-Bees, Pittsburg Ridge Runners and White Mountain Ridge Runners. A complete schedule of challenge events may be found on-line at www.NHStageRace.com.

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GRAND PRIX PARADE

A parade of vintage sleds made their way through downtown Lancaster following last year's Grand Prix reunion race, and this year's post-race parade will take place on Saturday, January 31.



EVERYBODY INTO THE POOL

These youngsters from the Otters Swim Team participated in a swimathon fund-raiser last winter at the North Country Community Recreation Center in Colebrook. The facility offers an Olympic sized indoor swimming pool, toddler pool and a room for parties and meetings, and hosts a variety of programs for all ages. Details can be found on-line at www.northrec.org. (File photo by Rob Maxwell)

Local Information, Indoor & Outdoor Pursuits around the North Country

The North Country Chamber of Commerce serves the business community in northern New Hampshire and the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. An on-line calendar of area events and guide to the region's accommodations, dining, goods and services can be found at www.northcountrychamber.org, and the office may be reached at 603-237-8939.

The North Country Community Recreation Center, accessible from Corridor 3-A and off Lynch Road in downtown Colebrook, offers an indoor pool, outdoor skating rink, outdoor recreation equipment, and regular wellness programs for all ages. Visit www.northrec.org or call 603-237-4019 for more information.

The Great North Woods Committee for the Arts hosts Winter Warmers concerts and other musical events in Colebrook and Lancaster. The group is on-line at www.gnwca.org, and may be reached at 603-246-8998.

The Connecticut River Artisan Group produces regular art exhibits in its gallery at Fiddleheads, 110 Main Street in Colebrook, each kicked off

with a wine-and-cheese reception, and exhibits local artists' work at area events. More information is available at www.connecticutriverartisans.org.

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Hi North Country Snowmobilers!

Looking for local information on lodging, dining, shopping, services, attractions, events and more?

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- 1) Visit www.northcountrychamber.org, your Go-To Resource for all things North Country.
- 2) Stop in at our office located at 4 Titus Hill Road in Colebrook to grab brochures on area information and speak with our friendly staff.
- 3) Contact us at 603-237-8939 or nccoc@myfairpoint.net for help finding the information you are seeking.

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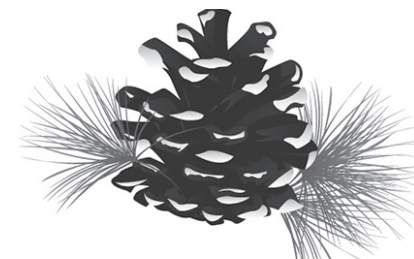
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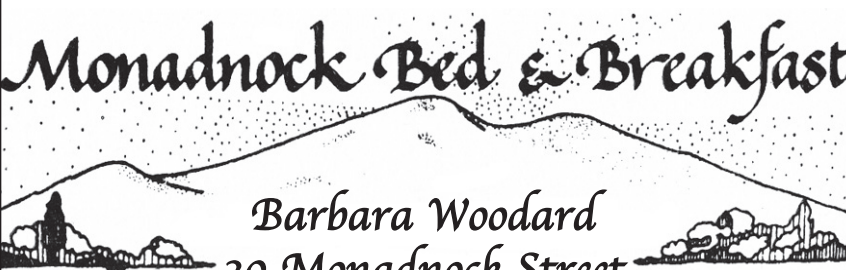
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N.H. Fish & Game Offers Guidelines for Staying Safe while Snowmobiling

The New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, on-line at www.wildlife.state.nh.us, offers some common-sense guidelines to help riders stay safe while out on the trails.

Alcohol & Riding Do Not Mix
New Hampshire has strict laws against operating an OHRV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Alcohol increases fatigue, affects your fine and gross motor skills, affects your judgment and ability to make rational decisions, thus making it dangerous to operate a wheeled vehicle or snowmobile. Remember: if you must drink and ride, drink a soda.

Myth-buster: Many people believe in the myth that consuming alcohol can warm up a chilled person. This is not true. Alcohol opens the blood vessels and hides the sensation of being chilled by getting the warm blood close to the skin surface. It does nothing to increase body heat. Instead, alcohol can cool your body down dangerously, increasing the risk of hypothermia.

ing to increase body heat. Instead, alcohol can cool your body down dangerously, increasing the risk of hypothermia.

Manage the Risk
Riding a recreational vehicle has inherent risks. The best way to avoid getting hurt or encountering problems while riding an OHRV is to manage these risks:

- Wear Protective Clothing. The most important piece of protective clothing you can wear is an approved helmet. Make sure the helmet has been approved by either Snell or DOT. If you have any questions about the condition of a used helmet, contact a competent dealer and ask their opinion.
- Know your abilities to ride and do not exceed those levels.
- Identify the capabilities of the machine you are riding and do not exceed those levels.
- Always ride at a speed that is reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions. If you cannot control your machine, you are riding too fast, no matter what the posted speed limit is.
- Know the area you are riding in. Be aware of potential hazards such as washouts and other changing trail characteristics. Get a map of the trails and talk to local riders.
- Always keep an open mind to learning. You're never too old to learn. Take a class, join a club and ride with a friend.
- Use common sense when riding. Be prepared; carry a first aid and survival kit. Take along some spare plugs and tools that may not be in the machine's tool kit.
- Let someone know where you will be riding and when you plan on returning. If you run into problems, these extra precautions can be time- and life-savers.



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A BREAK IN THE GRAND PRIX ACTION
Midge Rosebrook runs out onto the track at the 2014 Grand Prix 50th reunion race, as competitors wait for action to resume after repairs. The Lancaster Snow Drifters revived the event at the fairgrounds as part of last year's Lancaster 250th birthday celebration, drawing thousands to see whose names would be added to the prized Kilkenny Cup after a 50-year hiatus. This year the event is back, taking place from January 30 to February 1, with all the details available on-line at www.lancastergrandprix.com.

Lancaster Grand Prix
(Continued From Page 24)

purse, which should help provide some great action for the fans with competitive racing in every class.

The sound of expansion chamber exhaust pipes will once again echo off the Kilkenny Range. The sweet smell of two-cycle racing fuel will permeate the air, as these one-of-a-kind vintage racing machines are piloted by New England's finest racers, mere inches off the ice. Their left knee pads actually rub the surface on the corners, as they fight

to keep both skis on the ice—it's the most exciting vintage racing to be seen anywhere.

All are welcome to enter and be part of the action, or come watch and cheer on the racers. Those who join the Snow Drifters contribute to the development of Lancaster's sled trails, and the first 250 to join during Grand Prix weekend will enter a drawing to win a restored 1974 Ski-Doo TNT 340 FC.

—Midge Rosebrook

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Oldest Snowmobile Race in America Returns: Lancaster Grand Prix 2015

Lancaster, N.H., the town that wrote the first chapter in the book of motorized toboggan racing, will look to repeat the enormous success of last year's 50th reunion race with a return of the Lancaster Grand Prix, taking place from January 30 to February 1 at the fairgrounds.

Last February, for the first time in 37 years since the last historic race in 1977, the prized Kilkenny Cup had a new list of names added to its already star-studded base. Some of the competitors who took their first look Saturday morning before they began "hot laps" on the quarter-mile oval, laden with a two-foot-thick ribbon of blue ice, asked race chairman Shane Beattie if a zamboni had been used.

After the snow dust settled on the final race Sunday, this new batch of winter warriors promised to return with even more sleds, and Mr. Beattie vowed that the 2015 track will be bigger and better. He has taken the sharpness out of the corners, so these high-speed ice machines could very well break the 100-m.p.h. barrier for the first time—last year the 800s were clocked at 96 m.p.h. coming off the back stretch. The Lancaster Snow Drifters—the oldest

snowmobile club in the world—and the Town of Lancaster, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, will be hard at work right up until race time, getting this event ready for the fans.

It all begins with a huge vintage snowmobile show at Crane's Snowmobile Museum on Friday morning, January 30. Admission is free and the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday evening brings the Grand Prix Ball starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Mountain View Grand Hotel in Whitefield, with dinner, a cash bar, music and dancing until 11 p.m.

Then it's two days of racing at the Lancaster Fairgrounds, with gates open at 7 a.m. and action on the track starting at 9 a.m. both days. Daily general admission costs \$10 per adult, free for kids ages 12 and under, and there will be food concessions, displays and vendors on site.

Post-race fun on Saturday includes a Sled Parade down Lancaster's Main Street, followed by a bonfire. The final event on Sunday is the prestigious Kilkenny Cup race, which will provide the highest payout of the weekend. This year's Grand Prix is boasting a \$10,000


(Continued on Page 25)




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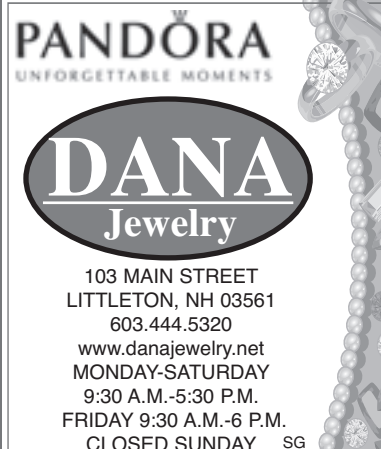
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All are welcome to come and worship at local churches during their visit to the North Country.

Roman Catholic

North American Martyrs' Parish, 603-237-4342—St. Albert's, W. Stewartstown: Masses at 8 a.m. Friday, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. Sundays.

St. Brendan's, Colebrook: Masses at 8 a.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. Sunday.

St. Pius X, Errol (seasonal): Sunday Mass at 8 a.m. from the weekend after Memorial Day until Columbus Day.

St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish—Sacred Heart Church, Stratford: Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.; 603-922-3360.

Congregational

Monadnock UCC, Colebrook: Sunday adult Bible study & music rehearsal at 9 a.m.; worship service at 10 a.m., followed by fellowship time; monadnockchurch-colebrook.weebly.com.

Errol UCC: Sunday service at 8 a.m.; kwiltinnana@aol.com.

United Methodist

Trinity UMC, Colebrook: Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.; 603-237-4031 or www.trinitycolebrook.com.

Farnham Memorial UMC, Pittsburg: Sunday service at 8:30 a.m.; crafts night at 5 p.m. Wednesdays; www.farnhamumc.org, 237-4031.

Episcopal-Anglican

St. Stephen's, Colebrook: Sunday service at 10 a.m.; 603-237-5526 & on Facebook.



St. Paul's, Canaan (May-Nov.): Sunday service at 9 a.m.; 802-266-8269.

All Saints, Hereford: Sunday service at 10 a.m.; 819-844-2350.

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First Baptist, North Stratford: Sunday service at 10:45 a.m.; 603-922-3851.

Independent Baptist, West Stewartstown: Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.; worship services at 11 a.m. (nursery provided) & 1:30 p.m.; 603-246-8623.

Community Baptist, Colebrook: Sunday school at 10 a.m.; Sunday services at 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m.; www.colebrookcbc.org.

Assembly of God

Faith Chapel, Columbia: Sunday school at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m. from Sept.-May; worship at 10 a.m. from June-Aug.; 603-237-8722.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Meets at Trinity UMC, Bridge St., Colebrook: sacrament worship service, 1 p.m.

River of Life Worship Center

Stewartstown Hollow: Sunday worship & Kingdom Kidz, 10:30 a.m.; prayer group 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays; midweek worship 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays; www.riveroflifewc.net.

Grace Community Church

Gale Street, Canaan: 3 p.m. on Sundays; www.thegracecommunity-church.org.

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STICK SKILLS

Outdoor facilities at the North Country Community Recreation Center include a 200-by-85-foot ice rink with a warming shed. Plans for this winter include hockey nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m., and Black Ice Skatenite on Fridays from 7 to 10 p.m., with skating, music, bonfire and snacks for ages 13 and up. The admission price of \$4 includes skate rental and snacks. (File photo by Alan Farnsworth)



LOCAL PLAYERS ON STAGE

The Kaufmann Theatre at the Tillotson Center for the Arts in Colebrook is the place to go for local concerts and community gatherings, and this past year marked the debut of the Carriage Lane Players with "Barefoot in the Park." Events and venue details may be found on-line at www.tillotsoncenter.org. The Great North Woods Committee for the Arts hosts musical events at the Tillotson Center and other local venues. A schedule of shows can be found on-line at www.gnwca.org.

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Crane Museum
 (Continued From Page 22)

about one of his Ski-Doos. He said he had something for trade, and Mr. Crane went up there to see the Boggana, which he had never heard of.

They made a deal and Mr. Crane brought the sled back to New Hampshire, at which point he did more research into it. Eventually he discovered that the creator of the Boggana was still alive and living in Canada. He reached out to him and received a letter from the maker, who said Mr. Crane's Boggana was one of the first two that were ever made because it had a hand-made suspension.

Along with the snowmobiles, there are also numerous vintage signs and other snowmobiling artifacts. Mr. Crane said the only other museum like his is the New Hampshire Snowmobile Museum in Allenstown, but observed, "Everyone who has been in here says there is no comparison," adding that each machine in his museum is unique.

Crane's Snowmobile Museum is in Lancaster, just off of Main Street next to Bond Auto, and is accessible by sled via Trail 5. The museum is usually open during the day from Friday

through Sunday, but hours vary; visitors can stop by P & R Excavating next door and Mr. Crane is happy to open it up. He can also be reached at 788-3770 or 443-7272, or by e-mail to info@cranesnowmobilemuseum.com, to arrange a visit.

—By Jake Mardin



HOME OF THE BLUE GOOSE
 Crane's Snowmobile Museum and its founder, Paul Crane, welcome visitors on most weekends, and visits may be arranged by calling 603-788-3770 or at info@cranesnowmobilemuseum.com.

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Crane's Snowmobile Museum Offers a Look Back at Lancaster's First Sleds

Crane's Snowmobile Museum in Lancaster (www.cranesnowmobile-museum.com) offers a look at the evolution of riding through the years, from the Ski-Doo machines first introduced in the 1960s, to the newer sleds of today.

Inside the museum are about 85 different snowmobiles with no duplications, and curator Paul Crane says he has another 40 unique machines in storage. Throughout the museum are machines from companies still in operation, such as Ski-Doo and Arctic Cat, and those from manufacturers of yesteryear, including Moto-Ski—later bought by Bombardier—and Rupp.

Mr. Crane has enjoyed a long relationship with snowmobiling, starting in 1959 when he worked for Timberland Machines in Lancaster, an independent distributor of Ski-Doo snowmobiles. He and president Bob Bottoms visited the Ski-Doo factory in Valcourt, Québec, and met with founder Joseph-Armand Bombardier. "Bob and Mr. Bombardier were standing right there and I rode the prototype, whose cab was made out

of wood—it was later made of tin," Paul said. "They put trailer tires on the skids and I rode it right down Valcourt Street." That year Timberland sold the 1960 model machines, with a price tag of \$1,050.

Three 1961 model Ski-Doos are part of the collection at Crane's Snowmobile Museum, and one with a tin cab sits next to Mr. Crane's desk at the front. He later started his own sporting goods store in Lancaster, selling Ski-Doo and Polaris gear.

Mr. Crane started the museum about five years ago and said he wanted to showcase the major changes that the snowmobiles have gone through. He has bought the majority of sleds in the museum, including some from locations like Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"I've only had two sleds donated to me for display in the museum," he said, noting that others were given for parts. "I bought all the rest except the ones I had when I sold them." The majority of the machines are in original condition; 11 were reconditioned, and the rest required nothing more than a little polishing.

There are far too many machines to mention them all, but the display includes a 1972 Ski-Doo Elite, the first side-by-side model produced, one of only twenty 1971 Northway racing sleds produced, a 1963 Trail Bike combination bike and sled with a serial number of "4," a 1962 Fox-Trac prototype, and a First-Aid Sno-Cruiser Emergency Unit, a trailer that can be attached to any sled to transport injured people. He also has a 1967 Scat Mobile, and the founder donated the first Scat Mobile sign he ever made, which now hangs in the museum.

He has the first "Blue Goose," one of fewer than 50 made by the Kettle Aircraft Company. Mr. Crane said it came from Michigan, and took him nine years to find. He also has a 1926 Model T that he bought from the Kopp family of North Country Ford, which they had originally purchased in Maine.

The machines haven't always been easy to get. Mr. Crane had his eye on a 1969 Sno Coupe that he saw at a vintage snowmobile show in Flint, Michigan. It took three tries before he was able to buy it.

During a tour of his museum he pointed out what he calls his "pride and joy," a custom-built Boggana snowmobile built in the late 1950s in

(Continued on Page 23)



LOOK OUT BELOW

The canoe race is always a crowd favorite at the Colebrook Winter Carnival, taking place this year on Friday night and Saturday, January 30 and January 31. Details are still being worked out, and the Kiwanis Club of Colebrook will post updates on-line at www.colebrook-kiwanis.org.

Weekend of Indoor & Outdoor Fun for All at Colebrook Winter Carnival

The Kiwanis Club works with other local organizations to host the Colebrook Winter Carnival, scheduled this year for January 30 and January 31. Friday evening events include a concert by The Don Roy Band and the Fireside Fiddlers at the Tillotson Center, and the Colebrook Ski-Bees' annual wild game dinner at the Colebrook Country Club.

Saturday events at the Colebrook

Country Club include a pancake breakfast, the kids' Cardboard Box Derby, the annual Peter Goudreau Memorial Snow Bocce Tournament, a cribbage tournament (contact Butch Ladd to register, 603-237-5501) and a canoe race. Events are also being planned at the North Country Community Recreation Center.

Updates will be posted on-line at www.colebrook-kiwanis.org.

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Frequently Asked Questions about Snowmobiling in New Hampshire

The N.H. Fish and Game Department enforces laws on the state's snowmobile trails, and provides the following answers to frequently asked questions about OHRV laws.

Who has to register their OHRV?
All OHRVs that are used off of the owner's property must be registered.

Where can I register?
Registrations can be made in person at more than 200 OHRV registration agencies located throughout the state. Visit www.wildlife.state.nh.us for a complete listing of N.H. OHRV agents. Businesses that sell OHRV Registrations include OHRV sales and repair shops, sporting goods stores, country and general stores and some marinas. Registrations are also available by mail; call 603-271-3422.

Do I need a driver's license to operate an OHRV?
You cannot operate any OHRV if your driver's license is under suspension or revocation in any state or Canadian Province. An OHRV Safety Education Certificate does not override a vehicle license suspension. A

valid motor vehicle driver's license or OHRV Safety Education Certificate is also required to cross a public way.

Can a child legally operate an OHRV?

Any operator 12 years of age and over must show proof of an approved safety education class or possess a valid motor vehicle driver's license. Any operator under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a licensed adult over the age of 18. Any operator under the age of 12 cannot cross roads. Any operator under the age of 18 must wear a helmet and eye protection, and any passenger under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.

Where can I ride?

More than 6,900 miles of snowmobile trails may be open in the winter to most types of snowmobiles and OHRVs. Landowner permission is required to operate on property of another, and you may ride only on trails designated and signed for your type of vehicle. Snowmobile trails are open only during the winter months unless written landowner permission is obtained. The N.H. Bureau of Trails and the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association print statewide Snowmobile Trail maps; local trail maps are printed and distributed by local clubs.

Can I ride beneath power lines and other utility company rights of way?
A majority of land on which the utility companies operate are private property. The companies obtain easements for their purposes only. Written landowner permission from each individual landowner must be obtained if the trail is not specifically designated for OHRV use before you can operate your OHRV.

(Continued on Page 13)

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Vermont Snowmobiling Laws

(Continued From Page 20)

SWI on the VAST system, intoxicated snowmobilers operating on a public highway will be charged with DWI. As a result of this violation, they will be assessed points and their driver's license will be suspended.

- A frozen lake is considered a public highway and the maximum speed limit is 50 m.p.h.

- Accident Reporting: If you are involved in an accident, resulting in personal injury, death or property damage in excess of \$500, it is your duty to stop and report it to local authorities. You must give your name, address, registration number and the name of the owner of the snowmobile to the party whose person or property is injured. You must also file an accident report with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles within 72 hours.

- Equipment Requirements: Snowmobiles must be equipped with a headlight; red rear light; windshield free from jagged or sharp edges; a fully functional brake in good condition; efficient muffler and such other equipment and devices as may be required to meet the noise level specifications of not more than 73 decibels on the "A" scale at 50 feet in a

normal operating environment. Colored lens covers on headlights are illegal. Windshields are mandatory, or the operator must wear eye glasses, goggles or a protective face shield. Helmets are mandatory for all riders on the VAST trail system.

- It is against Vermont law to sell a replacement exhaust system that exceeds the manufacturer's original equipment specifications. Violation of this law will result in a fine of \$300 for the snowmobile operator and a \$300 fine for the person selling the illegal exhaust system. No by-pass of a muffler system is allowed.



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Laws & Rules for Snowmobiling in VT

The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers provides information about riding in the Green Mountain State on-line at www.vtvast.org, including these statutes and regulations:

- All individuals operating a snowmobile in Vermont on the statewide snowmobile trails system, must have a liability insurance policy or bond in the amounts of at least \$25,000 for one person and \$50,000 for two or more people killed or injured, and \$10,000 for damages to property in any one accident. In lieu thereof, evidence of self-insurance in the amount of \$115,000 must be filed with the commissioner. Riders must carry proof of insurance and show it upon demand.

• Under Vermont Title 23, Chapter

29, riders must operate their snowmobiles at a speed that is reasonable and prudent, taking into consideration current conditions, trail traffic and other hazards present on the trail.

- The maximum speed limit on state lands is 35 miles per hour. The use of radar on snowmobile trails is becoming a standard practice. With the use of hand-held radar guns, the enforcement of speed limits that are imposed on all state lands has increased dramatically. Snowmobiles are subject to posted speed limits on public roads open to snowmobile traffic.

- Vermont has a tough "Snowmobiling While Intoxicated" law that covers both drugs and alcohol. While riders will be charged with

(Continued on Page 21)

Brighton Club Notes Trail Rerouted for Logging; Dinner Dance on Jan. 17

The Brighton Snowmobile Club maintains trails in and around Island Pond, Vt. Riders can purchase Vt. Association of Snow Travelers TMA's (trail passes) at the Island Pond Welcome Center, which is open Sunday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-

4 p.m., depending on trail conditions. TMA's can also be purchased by mail at Brighton Snowmobile Club, PO Box 400, Island Pond, VT 05846. Forms can be printed and downloaded from the club's website at www.brightonsnowmobile.org. Trail information can also be found at the Web site and the club's Facebook page, or by calling 802-723-4316.

The club no longer has any trails across any bodies of water due to liability issues. For the 2014-15 riding season, Trail 142 is now open and Trail 3 remains closed due to a very large logging operation. Club officers note that if everyone abides by the rules and stays on Trail 142, next season Trail 3 will be open.

The club's annual fund-raising dinner and dance will be held on Saturday, January 17 at the Brighton American Legion Post in Island Pond. The cost is \$150 per ticket, and more information is available at 802-723-9889 or 802-723-6211.




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FAQ on Riding in N.H.

(Continued From Page 12)

How far can I ride down the road?

OHRV operation is prohibited on public roads unless specifically permitted and posted for OHRV use. Examples of permitted uses are road crossings and trail connectors. In such areas the speed limit is 10 miles per hour and OHRVs must stay to the extreme right side of the public way. They cannot operate from trailhead to trailhead.

Is it illegal to operate while under the influence of alcohol or drugs?

Operating an OHRV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal and extremely dangerous. Nationwide, approximately 65 percent of OHRV fatal crashes involve an intoxicated operator. The same laws and penalties for operating motor vehicles while under the influence apply to OHRVs including implied consent, hefty fines, jail time and loss of your driving privileges. The legal blood alcohol concentration limit for operating an OHRV is similar to motor vehicle, .08 percent, or attempting to operate while impaired.

Is my New Hampshire registration valid in other states?

Your New Hampshire snowmobile registration is valid in Vermont, but you must purchase a Non-Resident Trails Maintenance Assessment Pass and join the state association and local club. Some states and provinces

require proof of insurance and payment of a trail use fee or club membership. When planning to ride in other states or provinces, call ahead for particulars and restrictions such as dates and available trails. See page 5 for information on the Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine reciprocal riding weekend.

How much of my snowmobile or ATV registration fee stays at Fish and Game?

Only part of the state's OHRV registration revenue goes to Fish and Game. The N.H. Bureau of Trails receives a majority of the funds: 82 percent of the snowmobile registration monies and 57 percent of the wheeled-vehicle registration monies. The remainder stays at Fish and Game as dedicated funds used for the OHRV Registry Program, Snowmobile and OHRV Safety Education Program, providing law enforcement for snowmobile and ATV trails.

How can I learn more about OHRV laws and registration fees?

Visit www.wildlife.state.nh.us and download the current New Hampshire OHRV Laws Digest brochure.



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RIDGE RUNNERS STEAK FEED
Anthony Young mans the grill at the Pittsburg Ridge Runners' annual steak feed, planned this year for Saturday, February 28, starting at 4:30 p.m. More information on the steak feed can be found at www.pittsburgridgerunners.org.

Pittsburg Ridge Runners Announce Re-Routes & New Trails for 2015

The Pittsburg Ridge Runners are the northernmost and largest snowmobile club in New Hampshire, with over 200 miles of trails connecting to Canada, Maine and Vermont and over 3,400 members.

There are numerous changes to trails for the 2014-15 season. Logging operations on Indian Stream have forced the closing of Indian Stream Road and all of the northern areas that it reaches. The club has built a new trail to reach the lower trails west of Indian Stream Road.

This area is referred to as the Melvina Loop, and is accessible via Dellies Road from Corridor 20, two miles south of the intersection of Trail 146 and Corridor 20 on Shatney Mountain. No snowmobile activity is permitted in the logging zone west and north of Indian Stream Road, other than the Melvina Loop.

Trail 146 to Trail 112, the Pisgah Loop, is available again this year, and riders from the Pittsburg area once again have access to Errol on 112. Trail 139 at South Bay of First Connecticut Lake is open this season, and a new loop has been opened around Cowan Hill.

Trail updates, membership information
(Continued on Page 19)

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Pittsburg Ridge Runners
(Continued From Page 14)

tion and a calendar of events are all available on-line at www.pittsburgridgerunners.org, and information may also be obtained by calling the office at 603-538-1142. The clubhouse and office are situated at 17 Dickson Lane, just off Back Lake Road in Pittsburg via Trail 141. The building has a spacious interior, a fully equipped kitchen and a barbecue area, and may be rented by phone or by e-mail to prscoffice@myfairpoint.net. Monthly meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the clubhouse.

The Warming Hut at Deer Mountain Campground (via Corridor 5) is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., serving hot dogs, soups, homemade baked goods and hot and cold beverages. There have been improvements to the

hut, including two new benches along the wall to offer more seating and table space.

The annual Ridge Runners Steak Feed and raffle drawing will be held on Saturday, February 28 at the clubhouse. The club raffles a sled off each year to raise funds, and this year's prize is a 2015 Ski-Doo MXZ Sport 600, with 1,000 tickets sold at \$20 each. The winner will be drawn during the steak feed at 7 p.m. The Pittsburg High School Class of 2017 will also hold its Poker Run that day, starting at 8 a.m.

The Ridge Runners will host the fourth and final race in the 2015 Great North Woods Vintage Series on Saturday, March 14 (see related article). More information is available on-line at www.thegreatnorthwoodssnowmobilerace.com.

Vintage Race Series
(Continued From Page 15)

great way to continue the four-race series for our racers, without having to worry about having enough volunteers to make it happen."

Points from the Northwood event will be calculated with the northern scores and it will be promoted as a Great North Woods Vintage Series race. "Northwood has been holding their own races for years now and since the beginning have adopted our rules and class structure," Mr. Landry said.

The series offers 17 classes based upon the engine size for sleds manufactured in 1974 (except for the Mod class, which goes to 1978) and older that are fan-cooled or free-air, single or twin cylinder. New classes this year are the 340 MOD Free Air and Pure Stock

Bogie Wheel; complete race rules and registration are available on-line.

All the tracks are accessible by automobile or snowmobile and utilize the natural terrain of the land. For all classes, there are qualifying heats, last-chance qualifiers as necessary, and feature races. Champions in each class are crowned at the season finale on March 14.

Races start at 10 a.m. and continue throughout the day. Hot food and drinks are available at all the sites, and each race has a \$5 per-person entrance fee. Snow and other weather conditions may require changes in location, so those who plan to travel should check for updates at www.thegreatnorthwoodssnowmobilerace.com.



KEEPING THE CHILL OFF
The Pittsburg Class of 2014 was offering hot food and drinks for competitors and spectators during last year's Great North Woods Vintage Snowmobile Series races. This year's series is already underway, with the first race held on January 10 in Pittsburg; events continue with races on February 7 in Northwood, February 21 in Errol, and March 14 in Pittsburg. More information can be found at www.thegreatnorthwoodssnowmobilerace.com.

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FAMILIAR FACES IN PITTSBURG
A helmeted Helga Ziegler and husband Mark, numbered among many active volunteers of the Pittsburg Ridge Runners, visit the warming hut at the Deer Mountain Campground on a snowy February day. The hut is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday during the riding season, providing hot soup, stews, chilis and baked goods.

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8th Annual Vintage Series Races Set for Pittsburg, Errol & Northwood

The Northwood Crank Pullers have joined the Pittsburg Ridge Runners and Umbagog Snowmobile Association for the Great North Woods Vintage Snowmobile Series, now in its eighth year. The series kicked off on January 10 in Pittsburg, continues with races in Northwood on February 7, Errol on February 21, and in Pittsburg on March 14.

"The Northwood Crank Pullers have been asking for years if we would hold a vintage series race at their location," explained organizer Keith Landry of Pittsburg. "When the Colebrook Ski-bees dropped out of the series we decided it would be a

(Continued on Page 19)



TRACKING THE RESULTS
A hardy crew of volunteers keeps track of the results from the Great North Woods Vintage Snowmobile Series, taking place this year in Northwood (Feb. 7), Errol (Feb. 21) and Pittsburg (Jan. 10 and March 14). Races start at 10 a.m. each day, and details can be found on-line at www.thegreatnorthwoodsnowmobilerace.com.

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PITTSBURG RIDGE RUNNERS
2015 Calendar of Events

February 7	Great North Woods Vintage Race #2 -Northwood
February 12	Monthly Meeting
February 21	Great North Woods Vintage Race #3-Errol
February 28	PHS Class of 2017 Poker Run
February 28	Annual Steak Feed & Snowmobile Raffle Drawing
March 12	Monthly Meeting
March 14	Great North Woods Vintage Race Season Finale -Pittsburg
April 9	Monthly Meeting

The Warming Hut at Deer Mountain will be open every Saturday throughout the season.
 All Club meetings are held at the Clubhouse on Dickson Lane at 7:30 p.m.
 (603) 538-1142 www.pittsburgridgerunners.org



HOT SOUP AT THE READY
 Sue Gaudette minds the stove at the Deer Mountain Warming Hut far north of Pittsburg, where the Ridge Runners greet riders every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The club's talented cooks make soup from the leftovers of their annual New Year's Turkey Dinner in early January, to go along by stews, chilis and baked goods from local restaurants and amateurs to feed hungry riders all winter.

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Winter Poker Run, Scavenger Hunt Hosted by ATV Club in No. Stratford

The Stratford Nighthawks have been busy preparing the trail system, which consist of 125 miles, including the scenic Nash Stream Forest area. Bridges were repaired or replaced on Corridors 7 and 3, and culverts were installed in places deemed necessary for water diversion.

The Stratford Nighthawks clubhouse is situated on the west side of Route 3, a quarter-mile south of Burns Truck Stop. Trail conditions, events, activities and current updates are posted on-line at www.stratfordnighthawks.com, and trailmaster Ted Burns may be reached at 603-922-3350. The Stratford

Nighthawks are also on Facebook.

Riders are invited to the fourth annual Winter Poker Run and Scavenger Hunt on January 24, hosted by the North Country ATV Club and the N.H. ATV Club. Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Stratford Nighthawks' clubhouse.

Stratford Nighthawks hold monthly meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Blueberry Inn Restaurant and Campground on Route 3. Those planning to attend may contact Candy Livingstone at clivin8148@aol.com, and new members are always welcome.

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