



Sunrise Trail Coalition
PO Box 113
Franklin, ME 04634
www.sunrisetrail.org

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Ready for the Night-Time Relay Race



Sally's Memorial Plaque
at Machias

DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to All Sunrise Trail Coalition Members

I am pleased to be sending you this mini-newsletter with several updates about this year's events on the **Down East Sunrise Trail** and about activities of your **Coalition**. Whether walking, bicycling, or riding on the **Trail**, members enjoyed a wonderful Summer and colorful Fall foliage. We are hoping for plentiful snowfall this Winter for the enjoyment of snowshoeing, snowmobiling, skiing, and dog-sledding on the trail.

Second Annual Down East Sunrise Trail Relay Race

Thanks to Gary Allen and Mary Ropp of **Crow Athletics** (who in 2014 sponsored the **Coalition's first** overnight Relay Race on the **Trail**), the **Second Annual** event was held in July. There were 24 teams of runners comprising 4-8 people each. They ran 102 miles with headlamps glowing through the night from Washington Junction in Ellsworth to Eastport's Seaview Campground, arriving around noon on July 25th, where they were served a well-deserved seaside lobster bake. The winning team was G.A.S.P. Project who maintained a 6.15 minute per mile pace (incredible) and received the Sally Jacobs Downeast Sunrise Trail Trophy. The event raised around \$3,220.00, half of which was donated to an Eastport charity and half of which was donated to the **Coalition**. Check our Website (www.sunrisetrail.org) and our Facebook next Spring/Summer for the date and details of the 2016 Annual Relay Race event.

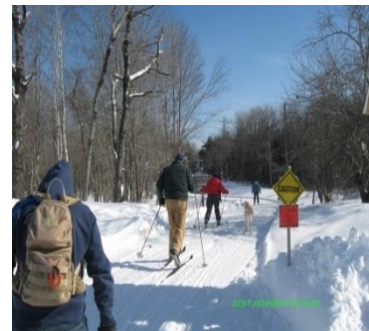


Friend & Friend BBQ

Again this Fall on Sept 27th the **Coalition** co-hosted the annual BBQ event sponsored by **Friend & Friend**. The weather and food were great, and many people won nice raffle prizes. Proceeds were donated to the **Coalition**.

First Annual Down East Sunrise Trail Cross-Country Ski Event

In recognition of our Trail being part of the **East Coast Greenway** through Down East Maine and in partnership with the **East Coast Greenway Alliance**, the **Coalition** held the **First Annual Winter Cross Country Ski Event** last February on a beautiful, but very cold and windy day. The brave skiers were warmed up with hot chocolate and refreshments from the equally brave owners of Flexit in Ellsworth (Paul & Lorena Markosian). After skiing on the proposed extension of the rail-trail from Washington Junction to Ellsworth and back, everyone retreated to Pat's Pizza for a warm lunch. Check our Website and Facebook for the upcoming **Second Annual DEST Winter Cross Country Ski Event**.



Down East Sunrise Trail Extension Into Ellsworth

Earlier this Fall at Ellsworth City Hall, staff of the Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry met with **Coalition Board Members** and staff from the City of Ellsworth to discuss the final design for the **Trail Extension** from Washington Junction into Ellsworth. The proposed extension will run alongside the southerly existing rail line and be a varying-width multiuse trail. Project completion is projected to be in Summer of 2016. Check our Website for future information and status updates.

Coalition Annual Meeting

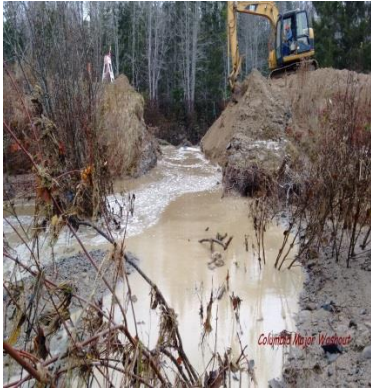
The Annual Meeting of the Members was held in October in Cherryfield. Congratulations to newly elected Directors, Sharon Kiley Mack, Executive Director, Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; and John Marchese, owner of the Calais Motor Inn; and to re-elected directors, Ray Archer, Charlie Harrington, and Bill Ceckler.

Annual Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again for you to renew your membership. We thank our **Business** and **Individual Members** for their continuing support and hope they will suggest to other businesses and friends to become members also.

Report of Trail Manager, Charlie Corliss

Hard to believe that it is December! Where did the summer go? I am getting calls frequently asking if the trail is still open for 4-wheeling. My answer is that it remains open for all uses until it is white (snow-covered), then we switch to winter usage such as snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and dog sledding. Pedestrian use is allowed all year. Clubs are getting ready for winter grooming, grant applications have been submitted, and equipment readied. This snowmobile season there will be three clubs involved in grooming operations – the Narraguagus SC will groom 45 miles from Washington Junction to Mile 47 in Jonesboro, the Down East Trail Riders will groom 23 miles from Mile 47 to Mile 70, and the Dennysville SC will groom the remaining 17 miles from Mile 70 to Mile 87 at Ayers Junction. So, if you see groomer operators out there this winter, give them a big thank you for all the work they do to make riding the Sunrise Trail enjoyable.



Washout at Columbia



Charlie's Niagara Falls

Again this year the entire trail was mowed along the sides, with grading and rolling occurring between Mile 29 and Mile 71. There were some areas that have been problematic washouts this fall with all the heavy rains we had. Beaver activity was slow until about mid to late October, then after that it was difficult to keep up with them as they were moving to new locations, building dams, new huts, plugging culverts, and generally preparing for winter. At one particular site, I lost the battle with them and as a result had a major washout (see photo) that took three days and around \$8,000 to repair.

As mentioned above, the 2-mile trail extension into Ellsworth is coming closer to reality. The layout and design have been completed and we hope it will be ready for use in July. Until next time Happy Trails!! Charlie

In closing, enjoy your Trail while walking, running, skiing, riding responsibly for your safety and that of other users. **Please join/renew now.** Thank you!

Stephen Rees
President, Sunrise Trail Coalition



Sunrise Trail Coalition Membership Application / Renewal

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ Date: _____
 Club or Organizational Affiliation (if applicable) _____



The Sunrise Trail is a non-profit charitable 501(c)3 organization, and your dues are tax deductible.

Membership levels (Circle all that apply)

\$15	Individual	\$250	Gold Business
\$25	Individual Advocate	\$150	Silver Business
\$500	Individual Life	\$ 50	Standard Business
\$20	Family	\$	Other Donation
\$25	Non/Profit or Club		
	Other Amount \$ _____		

(Please note that you can also join or renew online by going to our website at www.sunrisetrail.org)

Please print and mail this form with your check made out to "Sunrise Trail Coalition." to:

Ian Staub, Treasurer
 Sunrise Trail Coalition,
 P.O. Box 113, Franklin, ME 04634



Sunrise Trail

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