

Sunrise Trail Coalition Membership Application

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone: _____

Affiliation/Club _____
 (if applicable)

\$10	Individual/family membership	\$ 25	Sustaining member
\$25	Non/Profit and Club membership	\$ 50	Business membership
\$5	Club associate (Specify Club)	\$500	Lifetime membership

Please mail this form with your check made out to Sunrise Trail Coalition to:
 Dave Wood, Treasurer
 Sunrise Trail Coalition
 PO Box 67
 Hallowell, ME 04347
 Learn more at www.sunrisetrail.org

Sponsored with generous support from:



Sunrise Trail Coalition Directors

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 Kathleen Shannon Sally Jacobs, Activity Liaison

The Sunrise Trail Coalition is a publicly supported non-profit charitable 501(c)3 organization. Dues are tax deductible.

Mission

The purpose of the STC shall be to promote outdoor recreation, health and fitness, and economic development in Hancock and Washington Counties in the State of Maine through education and the development of an integrated on- and off-road four-season, shared-use trail system.



Down East Sunrise Trail News

The newsletter of the Sunrise Trail Coalition
 March, 2011 ~ www.sunrisetrail.org



A Time of Renewal!

Sunrise Trail Coalition membership operates on a calendar year. We hope that you will renew your membership using the half-page membership application form included in this newsletter.

Letter from the President – Bill Ceckler

On September 21st MDOT Commissioner David Cole declared the 85-mile Down East Sunrise Trail officially open!! The “Grand Opening” was held at the Washington Junction trailhead with some 200 people in attendance. Besides Commissioner Cole, DOC Commissioner Elizabeth Townsend, Senator Dennis Damon, and Paul Savignano of the Office of Tourism also spoke. They were all pleased with the trail and expected that it will be an important economic and recreation asset for Washington and Hancock Counties. Sally Jacobs acted as Mistress of Ceremonies and gave a bit of history of the trail effort. She was then given a Citation by Comm. Cole for her untiring work in promoting the Down East Sunrise Trail, as well as for her work on behalf of other trails in the State. He paid her the high compliment “that if we had not had Sally we would have had to invent her.” Sheriff Bill Clark and the Ellsworth Snowmobile Club helped organize the event. The Maine Grind served light refreshments. The Union Trust/Camden National Bank, Bangor Hydro Electric, and Friend and Friend helped sponsor the event. After the meeting Comm. Cole, Comm. Townsend, Chief Engineer John Picher and many others rode the trail. The weather cooperated and it was indeed a “BANNER DAY.”

After the meeting several people asked, “Where do you go from here?” A few days after the meeting several of us took 5 days and biked the Trail from WJ to Ayres Junction, on to Eastport and then by ferry to Lubec. It was immediately obvious that there is a need for strategically located picnic sites and privy facilities. These will be priorities next year.

In the mean time, there are several trail extensions that we will pursue. There is very high interest in a



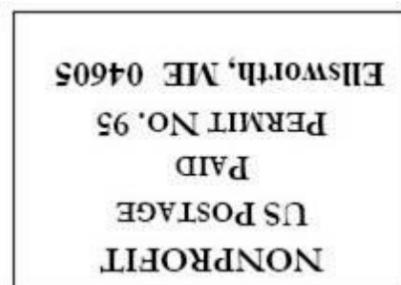
Ribbon Cutting: Sen. Dennis Damon, Sally Jacobs, Comm. Elizabeth Townsend and Comm. David Cole

connecting trail from Washington Junction to High Street in Ellsworth. Ayres Junction, the east end of the trail, is in the “Boonies” but Eastport is only 10 miles away and might be connected via an old rail bed. Local clubs and MDOT have graveled a short section of the old ROW to connect with an easy road connection to Perry. From there a combination of the trail through the Passamaquoddy Reservation and Rt.190 is a good connection for bicycles, but there is no obvious path for ATVs from Perry to Eastport. The connection between Ayres Junction and Calais also merits serious consideration.

Finally, there is network of woods roads between the Sunrise Trail and Route 1 that would make an excellent start for a Schoodic Mountain to Schoodic Point addition to the Trail. This could eventually be part of a trail extension to Winter Harbor, Schoodic Point and the ferry to Bar Harbor.

All of these efforts require people and money. If you are a member, thank you for your support and help. If you are a trail user but not a member, join us. We have lots of things to do if we want the Down East Sunrise Trail to develop into the great trail we all can be proud of.

Discover great trails at
www.MaineTrailfinder.com



Sunrise Trail Coalition
 C/O Hancock County Planning Commission
 395 State Street
 Ellsworth, ME 04605

Trail Notes

Charlie Corliss, Trail Manager

Storm Damage

With the grand opening of the entire trail now behind us, the task of managing the DEST is fully under way. Storm damage in November and December caused more than \$8000 in repairs with some areas still needing repair that will have to wait until spring. The lateness of the damage in the season also hampered repairs due to snow and ice. Most damage was from Machias to Pembroke.

Grooming

With the snow cover, clubs have started grooming the DEST for snowmobiling and other winter activities. The clubs and mileage responsibilities are as follows:

- Frenchman's Bay Riders - Mile Post 2 at Washington Junction to Mile Post 18 at the Tunk Lake Rd.
- Narraguagus SC - Mile Post 18 to Mile Post 47 at the Jonesboro Station Rd
- Machias Ridge Riders Mile Post 47 to Mile 58 in Machias
- Downeast Trail Riders – Mile Post 58 to Mile Post 70 near Route 191 in E. Machias
- Dennysville SC Mile Post 70 to Mile Post 87

Generally the grooming occurs in the evenings but may occur at any time day or night.



Charlie Corliss Receiving Annual Trail Award

Bangor Hydro Reliability Project

On January 13th 2011, clearing work for a new transmission line will begin along the DEST. This work is expected to take approximately 6 weeks. This clearing project will utilize sections of the trail to transport equipment in and out of the sites as well as to provide ingress and egress for logging trucks. The work area has been divided into two segments, with the first segment being from Card Crossing Rd in Franklin (MP 11 ½) to Tunk Lake Rd (MP18). It is estimated to take two weeks for this segment; the remaining segment will be from the Tunk Lake Rd to the Unionville Rd (MP 25 ½). Work time will be 7-7 Monday thru Saturday, the trail will not be closed, but for the safety of users, delays can be expected. Construction information has been posted at locations along the trail and will be updated as necessary.

We rely on users to make this trail a success. Please take a minute to pick up and carry out litter and contact me (Charlie.Corliss@maine.gov) if you encounter any problems using the trail. You can visit our website www.sunrisetrail.org for regular updates and special trail events. Until next time, see you on the trail.

Trail Provides Relief for Long Distance Traveler

Tony Barrett

I was traveling on US 1 near Whiting, a terrible section of highway -- no paved shoulder, broken edges and poor sightlines -- and I came up behind a bicyclist. I pulled over at a safe turnout and met Chris. From his rig, I deduced he was a long-distance touring bicyclist and soon learned that Chris was riding the circumference route of the Continental US and was on the last leg along the East Coast back to his home in Atlanta, Georgia. I asked Chris why he was riding on such a challenging section of highway? Chris pulled out a dog-eared mini-Rand McNally atlas of the US and pointed to the Maine map. "This is the only road shown on the map going along the coast" he replied.

I asked if he had heard of the East Coast Greenway (ECG), a non-traffic alternative route to US 1 that follows low-traffic roads where not completed. Not surprisingly, Chris had never hear of the East Coast Greenway. Fortunately, I had the route notes for the ECG route in Maine and gave to him my copy. I also had the ECG Guide for New Jersey. Chris was amazed. He said, "I have been worried about how I would get through New Jersey ever since I started on this trip.

Chris was not aware that he was very close to a completed section of the ECG, the Downeast Sunrise Trail (DEST) and he welcomed my offer to drive him to the trailhead. Luckily I was driving my pick-up truck as it took two of us to lift his 100+ lb. trailer. Needless to say Chris was prepared for any emergency except for finding a nice and scenic route for his trip.



By Road



By Trail

As we drove to Machias, I told him the story of the Downeast Sunrise trail, one of the many such sections of trail that are being built connecting the major cities along the East Coast to form the ECG. "Do you mean I can ride on this trail with no trucks or cars?" asked Chris who had several close encounters with logging trucks already in Maine.

As Chris reattached his trailer in Machias, I explained that the DEST follows a railbed with less than 2% grades. "Do you mean it's flat?" asked Chris unbelievably. After experiencing several days of the hills in Maine, Chris headed off southwest on the DEST with a big smile on his face.

New Options for Business Signs

The Sunrise Trail now permits business signs that will help guide riders to local restaurants, lodging, retail and other valuable trail services. Please visit www.sunrisetrail.org for details.

Friend and Friend Charity Ride a Success

On November 14, 2010, Friend and Friend of Ellsworth, "the boys with the toys," sponsored a trail ride and barbecue to benefit the Down East Sunrise Trail. What a benefit it was! Kyle Hildebrand organized the event and he had everything perfectly arranged: good food, good publicity, a 50/50 raffle, and great weather! Imagine good picnic weather in November!

Over 300 people attended. Hundreds of ATVs and many bicyclists enjoyed the newly opened trail, the food, and the camaraderie.



Raffle tickets were sold by the arm-length and brought in \$230. Ride registrations brought in \$2335. Sunrise Trail Coalition members were cooking and helping to serve the great food provided by Friend and Friend. The STC also sold T-shirts, hats and sweatshirts which brought in \$270.

Friend and Friend donated all proceeds to the Sunrise Trail Coalition for maintaining the trail and providing trailhead facilities. Another benefit ride is planned for June, so keep an eye out for publicity about that event.

Thanks to Friend and Friend and the many people who helped to make the first DEST benefit ride a big success.

Sunrise Trail Map Brochure Makes 2nd Edition

A second edition map brochure is now available for download at www.sunrisetrail.org. The brochure includes new locations for parking and an updated map for the 85 mile trail.

Parting Shots

