**Fall 2022 CHNSA NEWSLETTER**

October, 2022

Hello XC Skiers,

It’s time to catch up on what has transpired over the summer and look ahead to fall and winter.

You may remember the survey we conducted last spring to gauge skier support for an upgrade to the “primitive”, ungroomed Town Forest trail. We had a high response rate…of about 900 who received the survey, 199 responded, including 73 skiers from the Town of Huntington, and we shared the somewhat ambiguous results with the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) and the Huntington Selectboard (SB). While a slight plurality of Huntington respondents (32 ungroomed/25 groomed/16 uncertain) indicated a preference for skiing a primitive, ungroomed Town Forest trail, a majority of those same Huntington residents (41 of 68 = 60.3%) voiced support for an upgrade to the trail, including cutting a few additional trees and doing some grading to level the trail for grooming. The support for the trail upgrade was even more pronounced for all skiers (128 of 178 = 71.9%). The HCC unfortunately found these numbers unpersuasive and rejected the CHNSA trail upgrade proposal, as did the SB. The SB sent CHNSA a document with terms for Town Forest trail use, and CHNSA is hoping to negotiate a more genuine partnership agreement with the Town.

Next…There has been some logging anticipated for some time in the Woodchuck Ramble area, and we expect that it will take place this winter if the weather permits (cold and snowy). This may close down some trails temporarily, so please be aware of this possibility. In this same neck of the woods, access to the Bear Claw trail from the Catamount Trail in the Town Forest is being discontinued due to a second ruling by the Huntington Selectboard. CHNSA overreached with unauthorized tree cutting of 4 or 5 small trees in creating this connection when the Bear Claw trail was created several years ago, so we are paying a fine in the form of community service (trailwork in the new Community Forest) and, per the SB, closing this access. We are working to repair our relationship with Town officials, and our plan is to re-route the south end of the Bear Claw trail to Stagecoach Road above the yurt(s) when logging is completed and reclaim use of the Bear Claw trail on private land.

If you skied with us last year, you know that the parking lot was pretty busy on weekends. How do we balance the quality trail experience we wish for skiers at CHNSA with the growing numbers of skiers we’re seeing. We have surveyed trail fees around the State and noted that our trail fee of $10 has been well under all other trail fees (average of over $20/day for comparable trail offerings). We will keep our season pass rates the same as last year (see website), but we will be raising the day rate to $15/day (Seniors 70+ and youths 10 & under FREE)…still significantly lower than other comparable Vermont xc ski areas . This decision was reluctantly arrived at, but it will help us tackle the ambitious trail projects still in the pipeline, and maybe moderate just a bit the crowd size on weekends.

We had a very successful, late August, 2nd Annual Under the Hump outdoor concert attended by some 300+ people on a sunny, warm day that stretched into the summer evening. CHNSA netted about $2500 to go toward paying down debt on the recently purchased Pisten Bully grooming machine and trail projects. Hope we’ll see you at the 3rd annual next year!! Preparation for the concert provided us with the opportunity to re-set the hut on its foundation after an intense spring windstorm literally blew it one foot sideways and off the stone foundation.

The Pisten Bully allows us to complete grooming tasks much more efficiently and with more consistent quality. One of the hidden demands of the PB is that some trails need to be widened a bit to accommodate the larger groomer’s size…removing a stump here, a tree there, and replacing a bridge on Skunk Brook trail! That is one of our fall agenda items. Another item on our to-do list has been cutting back on the annual growth that tends to encroach on the trail from the sides. That will include a few more workdays with loppers, weed whackers, and brushsaws, but the road up to Gateway Loop and Crow’s Foot are completed and looking pristine. Please stay tuned!! The good news is that the trail mowing is complete and blowdowns have been cleared.

Regarding the trail projects still in the permitting stage (Act 250), we are working with an Act 250 consultant to obtain a permit this fall for a new race course that would allow us to host occasional mid-week area high school ski races. The other project, for which we’re actively seeking an Act 250 permit, will likely be deferred until next summer. This will involve a direct route from the lower part of Dead River Run to Upper Crow’s Foot. There is much more afoot, but we’ll try not to get too far ahead of ourselves!!

NOTE: the link for electronic purchase of our trail passes is <https://www.camelshumpskiers.org/member-info/passes/> . Or, fill out the member form below, and send a check for CHNSA to PO Box 43, Huntington, VT 05462.

We will again be participating in the Vermont reciprocal pass program, by which the season pass holder at CHNSA is entitled to a free day of skiing at any other participating xc ski area in Vermont (and that’s most of them!!).

See you on the trails (or in the parking lot parking cars).

Dave Brautigam, President

2022-23 Individual Season Pass \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ $100

2022-23 Individual & Canine Pass \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ $130

2022-23 Family Season Pass \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ $175

2022-23 Family & Canine Pass \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$205

**[CHNSA operates on an honor system. You will receive a receipt for your season pass, but no official member card. Simply park, sign in, and enjoy. If you purchase a “Canine Pass”, we will mail you a colorful Velcro band for your dog’s collar ID’ing him/her as a proud CHNSA passholder.]**

I'd like to make an additional tax-deductible donation: \_\_\_\_\_\_$25 \_\_\_\_\_\_$50 \_\_\_\_\_\_$100 \_\_\_\_\_\_other

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHNSA one day, $15 gift certificates as holiday gifts. Enclosed is my check for $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Please mail the gift certificate(s) to me at:

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to:* ***Camel's Hump Nordic Ski Area*** andmail to ***Camel’s Hump Nordic Ski Area, PO Box 43, Huntington, VT 05462***

Here’s my email address. Please add my name to your ***Friends of CHNSA*** email list serve so I can be kept informed of ***CHNSA*** news, trail conditions and activities.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER RELEASE of LIABILITY: As a member of CHNSA, I recognize that cross country skiing is an inherently dangerous sport. I hereby release CHNSA, its officers, and cooperating landowners from any liability for any accident or injury that I may incur while skiing at Camel’s Hump Nordic Ski Area.**

**Member Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Member Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Visit us at our website** [**www.camelshumpskiers.org**](http://www.camelshumpskiers.org)