**CHNSA Fall Newsletter…November, 2014**

It’s getting cold out there, which means that snow will be fast approaching. Here’s the news from CHNSA. We just finished totally **renovating** **the Crow’s Foot** **trail** (new last year), with major donations (including excavator time) from three supporters of CHNSA totaling almost $9000. We’ve widened the trail in places and improved the drainage patterns for a drier trail and more reliable grooming. The entire trail is now seeded and mulched, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers over four workdays. It will be groomed this winter to a **high point of land at 2000’ for traditional classical skiing and for skaters!** The news from Dead River Run is that we’ve **replaced four overwhelmed culverts (remember the giant iceflows?) with very sturdy bridges for the long term**, thanks to a generous grant of $1500 from Outdoor Gear Exchange and additional donations of materials from Rice Lumber in Shelburne and PJ Carrara Concrete in Middlebury.

The response to our addition of a **dog loop** last year was very positive, so we have decided to implement one again for this winter. If you are a dog owner who used the dog loop last year, please note that we are **changing the dog loop** at a landowner’s request. The loop will no longer be located on Sugarbush and Marijke’s Mainline. It will start from Toothacher Swamp at the Bert White Road parking lot as it did last year, but this year we will post Skunk Brook, Dead River Run, and the Big Baldy link to Bear Scat Draw back to the parking lot as the designated dog loop (look for the artsy new dog paw signs).

News from the north end trails on the Handy land is that a bridge on **Owl’s Glen** gave out and the trail will be **discontinued**. At the owners’ request, other trails accessed from the Handy Road parking area will remain ungroomed as a backcountry experience.

The donated, used heater we tried last winter didn’t work well, but it’s now been repaired and we’re crossing our fingers for **cozy heat in the hut**. And….by popular request, we’re planning to have a rented

**Port-o-Let available** at the parking area! WOW!!! We’ll try not to go overboard on the amenities : - )

Our **next trail project** for this fall is the cutting and clearing this fall of a **link from Crow’s Foot to Dead River Run** that will give skiers some fun new options. This is another ambitious plan that will require additional member involvement so we will have the resources to then construct the trail next summer. See if you can encourage a friend to become a first-time member. At the same time, we need enthusiastic skiers to step up and consider a tax-deductible donation to CHNSA to keep the positive energy and improvements to CHNSA sustainable.

**Late November and December workdays TBA** for clearing the Dead River Run to Crow’s Foot link, depending on weather. Please join us for our **Annual Meeting, scheduled December 6th**. We’ll do a 2pm trail walk, followed by a 3:30 meeting and bonfire at the Bert White Road hut.

We are beginning to see 2014-15 memberships arrive. Now is the time! We are still looking at $1000 for liability insurance, $1500 to bring the snowmobile back to full health, and $500 to get grooming implements ready for snow…not to mention anticipated costs of up to $3500 this season for grooming. Please see the enclosed/attached season pass and donation form, and then break out the checkbook to join our CHNSA community and make it your own!! Thanks so much for your support! Help us save a tree and some postage costs by going to our website and **joining our email listserv** **as** **an alternative to this annual mailing** and to keep track of news, activities, and snow conditions on the trails.

Dave Brautigam, President

For the CHNSA Board

(Membership and Donation Form on back)