**First Annual Fat Bike Event**

Have you always wanted to try a fat bike, aka snow bike? Well, Sunday, February 12 is your chance. We are holding a fat bike event to help raise money for the Keystone Composite Co-ed Mountain Bike Team. This is a group of local teens who train and compete across the state and can use our donations and support. Ride registration (for those with fat bikes) begins at 9 AM and the riders will go out by 10 AM on the D&H and O&W Rail-Trails. Meet at Frank’s Place in Simpson, where there will be a few bike shops with demos from 10 AM to 1 PM. We’ll also have a raffle for various gift certificates from bike shops and restaurants. Thanks to Frank Cerminaro for use of his parking area and for the ramp he built leading down to the trails. Please stop in after your ride for excellent food and drink specials. And thanks to sponsors: AJ’s Club Soda, Around Town Bikes, Frank’s Place, Sawmill Cycle, Sickler’s Bike Shop, and Strive Multisport. Now hope for SNOW—but it’s a go snow or not.

**“We Love Winter” Trail Events**

**FEBRUARY 12**
RTC’s 1st Annual Fat Bike Ride: 9 AM Frank’s Place, Simpson

**FEBRUARY 18**
Discovery Walk with Jim Kessler & Winter Bingo: 1 PM, Union Dale

**FEBRUARY 25**
Yoga and Snowshoe: 10 AM, Union Dale

**MARCH 11**
Discover the Secrets of the D&H Forest City Trail Head: 10 AM

**APRIL 22**
Earth Day Event TBD

The RTC office has snowshoes to loan our members, so please call ahead if you’d like to borrow a pair. Chet’s in Union Dale, just a few miles away has cross-country ski rentals! With ever-changing weather & trail conditions, please check for the latest updates on our Facebook page.

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**NEW MEMBERS**

Bruce E Adams, Lancaster, PA
Joceyln Cramer, Lake Ariel, PA
John Davis, Johnstown, PA
Ray Gillen, Montrose, PA
Sharon & Todd Glover, Susquehanna, PA
Mark Spiller
Lance J Stange, Jr, Scranton PA
Mary Toney, Montrose, PA

**RENEWING MEMBERS**

Robert Angler & Bobbie Rabinowitz, Plymouth Meeting, PA
Tom Bamard, Harding, PA
Fremont Barrett, Chester Springs, PA
David & Linda Bernarsky, Vandling, PA
Frank & Peggy Brager, Forest City, PA
Maureen Brennen & Gary Piorkowski, Mayfield, PA
Rich & Ann Brunori, Union Dale, PA
Keith & Theresa Buhi, Rahway, NJ
Tom & Carol Chesnica, Clarks Summit, PA
Paul Covert, Madison Twp, PA
Billy Culanne, Thompson, PA
Charles Cullinan, Wilmington, DE
James Day, Nicholson, PA
John & Lisa Demark, Vandling, PA
Karen & Robert Dinning, Clarks Summit, PA
Joseph & Dolce, Thompson, PA
Richard L & Linda Eckerley, Scranton, PA
Christine & Harald Erteig, Union Dale, PA
Dennis Favello, Union Dale, PA
Mary Felley, Jenkintown, PA
David & Mary Fitzpatrick, Dalton, PA
Paul Fogal, Jim Thorpe, PA
Jerry & Kathy Franceski, Union Dale, PA
Marian Franceski, Forest City, PA
Esther Friedmann, Clarks Green, PA
Robert & Lynn Frink, Woodstock, CT
Gene Gallagher, Scranton, PA
Grace & Joseph Gilhooley, Union Dale, PA
Dr Ralph Grambo, Jr, Poyntelle, PA
Marie Graylock, Simpson, PA
Patricia Green, Dunmore, PA
Louise & Stephen Guszick, Hurleyville, PA
Stuart & Sharon Hadley, Lakewood, PA
Bill & Barbara Heller, Union Dale, PA
Otto Hetrick, Treese, PA
Ursula & Pat Hebor, Philadelphia, PA
Dave & Jo-Ann Horner, Alemer, PA
Joe & Kay Jerin, Mayfield, PA
Jimenez Family, Hampton, NJ
Tom & Denise Kavanagh, King of Prussia, PA
William & Helen Kastuba, Factoryville, PA
William Keller, South Abington, PA
Don & Karyn Kintzer, Olyphant, PA
Ken Kirschner, Wilmington, DE
Cindy Klett, Greenfield Twp, PA
Allen & Nancy Koberlein, Honesdale, PA
Donald & Elizabeth Korda, Midland, MI
Heather Linde, Olyphant, PA
Gay Lipps, Carbondale, PA
James & Kathleen Mackenzie, Oxford, PA
Keith Miller, Tresca, PA
John Morris, Simpson, PA
Carol & John Neary, Olyphant, PA
Dorothy Notchick, Simpson, PA
Dolores O Neill, Honesdale, PA
Catherine Parsons, Simpson, PA
Abby Peck, Waverly, PA
Vincent Pepe, Exeter, PA
Tom & Sue-Fetch Proctor, Union Dale, PA
Bert Prohaska, Binghamton, NY

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**CALENDAR**

**FEBRUARY 23**
RTC Dinner/Meeting, 6/7 PM, RTC Office, Cables Deli

**March 23**
RTC Dinner/Meeting, 6/7 PM, RTC Office, Cables Deli
In the days of the railroad, 1870 through 1950, the lakes and streams played a much different role than they do today. Back in the heyday of the railroads, the New York, Ontario and Western (O&W) and the Jefferson branch of the Delaware and Hudson (D&H) not only shipped locally harvested ice, but provided large storage buildings along the tracks. Today it’s quite easy to forget what a large business the harvesting and shipping of ice was. Not only was ice necessary at the creameries to ice the milk, and keep the milk cool during shipping, but ice was a necessary commodity in every town and city, year-round.

“Putting up the ice” began as early as December, when the ice was at least 12-14 inches thick. Harvest lasted from December to April on the larger lakes, though the height of activity was in January and February. When the call of “ice is ready” went out, crews of men, women, boys, horses and equipment converged on the frozen waters. To reduce a large field of ice to manageable blocks required some specialized tools and equipment as augers, spuds, pole or ice pikers, markets, ice plows, scrapers, circular and grasshopper saws, hand ice saws and tongs. Workers were designated as field bosses, drivers, tamperers, switchers, packers, spudders, spacers and of course, engineers and repairmen, who kept the operation going smoothly.

Along the O&W, railroad sidings led to the icehouses of Bone Pond (originally called Summit Lake), Lake Lorain (Five Mile Lake), and Orson Pond. Local farmers supplemented their seasonal incomes by cutting ice and shoveling snow (before the more sophisticated snow plows and flangers, 1910).

Orson Pond had six icehouses! Being the shallowest of the lakes near the O&W, it was the first to freeze, yielding the most ice. Four icehouses were owned by the Scranton Ice Company; two icehouses along with a creamery were owned by the O&W railroad. Lake Lorain had one icehouse, while Bone Pond had two at the end of a spur. Most of this ice was shipped to the Simpson Ice Company in Carbondale and Consumer’s Ice in Scranton, although a fair volume of the production also went to the creameries for icing milk cars.

Ice-harvesting was also conducted along the D&H Jefferson Branch, as early as 1890. At this time the ‘industries’ of Susquehanna and Wayne Counties were timber harvest with sawmills and wood-acid factories very common. The clear-cut lands were then used for dairying, with creameries along the railroad and ice-harvesting providing good seasonal incomes.

Thousands of tons of ice were cut from Hathaway and Stalkers Ponds, usually by the forces of the Erie Railroad, and directly loaded onto rail cars. A good part of the harvest from Lewis Lake was stored in a large icehouse at Union Dale and shipped out as needed through the summer. It is reported that Lewis Lake yielded 2,000 tons of ice during the winter of 1896-97 and the following season about 500 carloads were shipped from Union Dale.

Kennedy Park Pond in Forest City was formerly called Ice Pond. It was used for ice-harvesting for about 75 years, with the straw-insulated icehouse located near the present baseball diamond. Clear and clean water drained from the West Mountain to produce high quality ice.

Though there are reports of quality ice-harvesting (16’ thick) from Hathaways in 1922, most ice-harvesting operations ceased by the early 1930’s, when mechanical refrigeration made the old icehouses obsolete. High rail rates and the growing road network also helped to shut down ice-harvesting and shipping. Records indicate that the last shipment of ice was from Starlight in 1940. The ice was stored in the old creamery and cakes were removed to the Simpson Ice Company in old milk cars.

This article ran in our 2001 newsletter, with information supplied by renowned railroad historian, Bill Young.
Meet Trail Tender Bob Sadauckas

Trail Tenders are dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to maintain and enhance sections of the D&H and Endless Mountain Trails. RTC believes these individuals are our “eyes, ears and advocates” on the trail. Trail Tenders may have different reasons for volunteering, but they all share a common respect for the trail. Each Rail Trail News will feature a Trail Tender so trail users can get to know the people behind the scenes and what they do. Rail-Trail is always looking for new Trail Tenders, so if you are interested please join us at our next meeting this spring (date TBD).

Bob Sadauckas will be celebrating three years of service as a Trail Tender this summer. When meeting Bob there is no doubt that you will learn he’s an outdoor advocate and staying active, especially in the winter is his ultimate priority. “Getting outside and feeling good about it,” is one of Bob’s many mantas. He loves discussing his latest adventure with enthusiasm and humor and usually ends his tale recruiting you for the next outing. When asked how often he gets outside a week he laughed, “every day…you have to make a deposit in your health bank!” It’s this philosophy and spirit that Rail-Trail shares and others to engage with the outdoors in such a way. When asked what he wished trail users and the public knew about Rail-Trail, Bob explained, “not only the history of the trail, but the process and development that has been taking place on the trail up to this point.” He went on to express his excitement for the possibilities that the future holds for the trail and its users.

Thank you, Bob.

Upcoming Rail-Trail Improvement Projects

This spring and summer will be a busy one:

- D&H Rail-Tail from Herrick to Ararat is to be let for bid early April
- Buck’s Falls ravine switchbacks will be ready to let for bid by March
- The O&W Browndale Bridge will get a new deck and railings early spring
- Planning continues on the Northern D&H and a public meeting will be held
- Survey and legal work is continuing on the Endless Mountains Trail, Montrose

New Trail Program Manager

I am very excited to join the Rail-Trail family. My relationship with the outdoors started early in my life and grew with me to become something I cherish dearly. As many of you know, Deb McNamara recently retired and left big shoes to fill. Her commitment, passion and overall dedication have left a positive imprint on the future for the trail. I hope to take what she has started and continue the momentum. Engaging younger generations with the trail and conservation are the areas I’d like to focus on. I wish to foster an avenue between kids and nature with the hopes that the outdoors will stay present in their lives as they grow. Please feel free to contact me with suggestions, concerns or event ideas. I’ll see you out on the trail!

—Carissa Dewey

Membership Renewal Form

Please renew! The date on the mailing label on the reverse indicates when your membership expires.

- Lifetime/Founding $500
- Patron/Sponsor $250
- Club/Organization $100
- Family $35
- Individual $20
- Senior/Student $15
- I am available for trail cleanups.
- Call me to discuss a corporate donation.
- I am interested in finding out more about the “Trail Tender” program.
- Send my newsletter electronically (instead of by mail):
- Send me a brochure.
- I am willing to volunteer for the D&H Caboose restoration project.
- I am enclosing a donation to be used towards the D&H Caboose restoration project.

Please update your address here if necessary. Make checks payable to Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA
P.O. Box 32, Union Dale PA 18470 / Phone: 570-679-9300 / E-mail: trails@nep.net
Plant Exchange & Art on the Trail

Rail-Trail and Mountain View Garden Club are excited to announce that they will be joining forces this June 24 combining Art on the Tail with the Plant Exchange & Marketplace. The details for the day are still being worked out, but you can count on delicious food from Cable’s Deli, artists displaying their artwork, interesting vendors, live music and of course plants! Events will also be hosted by Rail-Trail throughout the day. So, mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

UGI Pipeline Project to Close Trail

UGI has plans to begin installation of a natural gas pipeline from Union Dale to Simpson starting in April and hopefully be completed by October 2017. Unfortunately, this project will close the D&H Rail-Trail and parts of the O&W. We are working with the utility to ensure that the trail is restored and the drainage is repaired. We will keep you updated on the progress of this project on our website and Facebook.

Caboose #35708 Restoration

An impromptu meeting of railroad enthusiasts met at the caboose and plans were outlined for relocation, stabilization of the Union Dale siding and extensive restoration. Volunteers cleaned out the interior and later boarded up doors and windows. The cupola was tarped and now all is secure for a winter’s nap. RTC greatly appreciates all the suggestions and now are hoping for a few donations to help get the restoration underway.

D&H Distance Run Venue Change

The 10th annual D&H Distance Run half-marathon & 5K will still be held, but on a different section of trail. Due to the UGI project, we are planning to begin the run from the Union Dale Fire Company Picnic grounds on SR 2023. Runners will start north on the state route for about ½ mile before entering the trail. This route will add a 1/3 mile downhill at the start, but will be an uphill near the finish. The details will be available soon and on our website dhdistancerun.com. You will be able to register at GetMeRegistered.com in the near future. SAVE THE DATE: September 10, 2017.