



Great Northwoods Journal

Complimentary

Saturday, February 6, 2010

VOL. V, No. 21

For advertising information call: 603-788-2660 or check our website: www.greatnorthwoodsjournal.net

Groveton students come up with ways to raise funds for Haiti relief

Groveton High School students are actively working this week to raise money for Haiti relief. Recognizing that we can make a difference, class and club officers have devoted much time and effort in designing a wide variety of fundraising activities that will ensure stu-

dent participation. Each day will feature a different fundraising activity. Innovative fundraising activities include a roaming bake sale that will travel from classroom to classroom with donated baked goods, hat day, and a weeklong collection of loose change. Many of the teachers are providing homework passes for a fee, to be added to the Haiti relief efforts in many of their courses. In addition to these activities, most class treasuries and clubs have generously donated \$100 each.

Relief -----
(Continued on Page 10)



The boys in this photo with trophies from left to right are: Nick Kenison, Justin Mellett, Jared Cape, William Rutherford, Hunter McLeod, Parker Valdez, Spencer Valdez and David Southworth. (Photo by Robyn Willey)

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Lancaster Pinewood Derby drew 18 contestants

By Lyndall Demers

On Saturday, Jan. 30, the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby was held at the All Saints Church hall in Lancaster. Eighteen cars were entered and ready to race on the specially-made track. The track was built at Cubmaster Bill Rutherford's local wood-

working business last year, and worked really nicely again this year.

Of the 18 cars entered there was one "Milk Bone" car, a couple shaped and painted to look

Pinewood Derby -----
(Continued on Page 10)

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Obituaries

Norma Isabelle Beattie

NASHUA — Norma Isabelle (Wheelock) Beattie, 81, of the Huntington Community in Nashua, died January 29, 2010.

Born March 5, 1928 in Groveton, a daughter of Carroll and Veora (Hunter) Wheelock, she resided in Groveton until 1979 when she moved to Maidstone, Vt.

Norma was a graduate of Groveton High School, class of 1945. She was a founding member of "The Knitting Club" in Groveton; Weeks Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and volunteered at the Sunshine Lane Hospital Shop. She was an affiliate of The Groveton United Methodist Church.

She married her first husband Raynold "Slugger" McMann March 5, 1946 and was predeceased by him in 1966.



Norma Isabelle Beattie

She married Roland Vaillancourt February 10, 1968 and was predeceased by him in 1975. Norma married Leonard "Bud" Beattie March 16, 1979 and resided in Maidstone, Vt., until 2006 when she moved to a retirement home in Nashua. "Bud" predeceased her in 1995.

Norma is survived by one son Dennis McMann of Hollis; an adopted son Roger Vaillancourt of Lyndon, Vt.; three stepsons Clement Vaillancourt of Pembroke; Mark Vaillancourt of Berlin, NH and Michael Vaillancourt of Boulder, Colo.; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; along with her brother Lloyd Wheelock of Lancaster; nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, three husbands, daughter Cheryl A. McMann Oakes in 1999 and a sister Melba Wheelock in 1999.

Calling hours were on

Sunday, Jan. 31 at the Armstrong-Charron Funeral Home in Groveton. Funeral services were held on Monday, Feb 1, 2010 at the funeral home with Pastor Aaron Cox of the

Groveton United Methodist Church officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, PO Box 96280, Washington, DC 20077 or by phone 1-

800-283-7800 or by going to www.arthritis.org

To send the family your condolences via the online register book one may go to www.armstrongcharronfuneralhome.com

Irene Helen J. (Binasiewicz) Perlzak

GROVETON — Irene Helen J. (Binasiewicz) Perlzak, 81, of Odell Park in Groveton, died suddenly Thursday, January 28, 2010 at Weeks Medical Center after a fall at home.

Born March 10, 1928 in Wilmington, Delaware a daughter of Frank and Helen (Smulski) Binasiewicz, she moved to Groveton in 1987.

Before retiring she helped her first husband Anthony Eksterowicz own and operate the Eagle Hotel in Groveton.

She was a member of the St. Hedwigs Catholic Church in Wilmington, Delaware and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Groveton.

After her second husband Frank Perlzak died, she moved back to Wilmington for a little over a year and then came back to Groveton.

Irene is survived by her two sons Anthony J. Eksterowicz of Harrisburg, Virginia and Ronald Eksterowicz of New Hampshire and one daughter

Linda C. Barry of Wilmington, Delaware.

There will be no services at this time. Graveside services will be held in the spring in the N.H. Veteran's Cemetery in Boscawen, N.H., where she will be buried with her husband Frank. Arrangements are under the care of Armstrong-Charron Funeral Home in Groveton.

To send the family your condolences via the online register book, one may go to www.armstrongcharronfuneralhome.com

Rosemary P. Roberts

JEFFERSON — Rosemary P. Roberts, 65, died Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington, Vt.

Mrs. Roberts was born in Lockport, N.Y., on December 31, 1944, a daughter of Earl and Rosemary (Montepare) Kiser.

Rosemary resided in Lockport for several years until moving to New Hampshire in 1998. She worked for many years as a certified nursing assistant and as a purchasing agent at Morrison Nursing Home in Whitefield for approximately 10 years. She went on to

attend New Hampshire Community Technical College in Berlin, graduating in May 2009. Her hobbies included knitting and crocheting and she enjoyed taking care of her pets.

She was the past president of the AFSCME Union in Lockport, N.Y.

Family members include her daughter Rosemary Critelli and her significant other Craig Thibeault of Littleton, her sister Charlotte Iles of

Wheatfield, N.Y., two nieces Kelli Hernandez and Nanci Iles, two nephews, Thomas Iles and

Scott Iles, one great-niece Cierra and four great-nephews, Thomas, Jacob, Warren and Marshall.

Memorial visiting hours were held on Thursday, Feb. 4, at the Bailey Funeral Home, Lancaster.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to the Riverside Rescue, 236 Riverside Ave., Lunenburg, VT 05906.

Please go to www.baileyfh.net for more information or to send an online condolence.

Troy "Big Daddy" G. Schooner

STRATFORD — Troy "Big Daddy" G. Schooner, 30, of Hog Back Road, Stratford, died Sunday, January 31, 2010 in Boscawen, after a sudden illness.

Born in Lancaster, on March 17, 1979 a son of Michael Sr. and Diane (O'Neil) Schooner he was a lifelong resident of Stratford.

He was employed by Ethan Allan, Beecher Falls Division until their most recent lay-offs.

Big Daddy enjoyed hunting, ATVing, fishing, canoeing, and just hanging-out with his friends and family. He loved people and will be deeply missed

by all who knew him.

He is survived by his parents Michael and Diane Schooner of Stratford; one sister Christie Schooner and her significant other Gordon Nite of Stewartstown; three nephews; his maternal great-grandfather Oliver Arsenaault, maternal grandparents Linwood, Jr., and Lorraine Potter all of Stratford, paternal grandparents Lila and Fred Stevens of Westmore, Vt., many aunts and uncle and cousins and his dog Sadie.

He was predeceased by his brother Michael W. Schooner, Jr., in December of 2007 and his paternal grandfather Mike

Schooner.

Calling hours were held on Wednesday, February 3, at Armstrong-Charron Funeral Home in Groveton. Funeral services were Thursday, February 4, at the funeral home. Burial of cremains will be in the spring.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in "Big Daddy's" name to the Columbia Humane Society, c/o Shelly LaPointe-Jones, PO Box 12, Canaan, VT 05903.

To send the family your condolences via the online register book one may go to www.armstrongcharronfuneralhome.com

Joseph Erwin Wagner

CONCORD — Joseph Erwin Wagner, 90, died Sunday January 31, 2010, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon.

Mr. Wagner was born in New York, N.Y., on March 21, 1919, the son of John and Anna (Lengle) Wagner.

John resided in Queens, N.Y., for several years. He was employed by the New York State Banking Dept., working as a credit manager and bank examiner.

After retiring, he and his wife moved to Lancaster in 1989, they were residents for 13 years before moving to Concord.

He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Family members include his wife of 60 years Edythe M. (Blake) Wagner of Concord, a

niece and a nephew.

Services will be held in the spring.

Please go to www.baileyfh.net for more information or to send an online condolence.

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TOWN OF LANCASTER
 The Town of Lancaster is looking for volunteers to serve on the Planning Board, and Zoning Board. If interested in any of these positions, please respond in writing to Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson at the Town Office, 25 Main Street Lancaster, NH 03584 by March 1, 2010.

TOWN OF STARK, NH
BUDGET HEARING
 Wednesday, February 10, 2010
 7:00 p.m.
Stark Town Hall
 Following the hearing there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING**
 Ref.: RSA 466:30-a
State Leash Law

NOTICE
TOWN OF LANCASTER
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
 The Public Hearing to discuss the proposed 2010 Town Budget will be held **Thursday, February 11th beginning at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Auditorium. This is the only scheduled public hearing on the budget and the public is urged to attend. Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the Town Office on Friday, January 29, 2010.
Lancaster Budget Committee

Lancaster Weather Summary
 By Dave Haas

Week of January 24 to 30
TEMPERATURE:

High Week	53	1/25
Low Week	-9	1/30
High 1 Year Ago	29	
Low 1 Year Ago	-21	
Normal High	27	
Normal Low	2	
Record High	55	1978
Record Low	-34	1994
Degree Days This YTD	4752	
Degree Days Last YTD	5057	
Avg. Degree Days YTD	4709	

Note: Degree Day Year begins July 1 and ends June 30.

PRECIPITATION:

Total Week	0.52
Total This Month	1.47
Normal This Month	2.37
Total This Year	1.47
Normal For Year To Date	2.37
Total Snow This Month	23.1
Normal Snow This Month	17.5
Total Snow This Winter	45.3
Normal Snow This Winter	42.7

Note: Melted Precipitation Year begins Jan. 1 and ends Dec. 31.

Next issue is due out on February 13
Deadline is February 9 at 4 p.m.
In this Journal:

Midge's column	Page 4
Off Your Rocker	Page 4
Princess Sunrise	Page 5
Crossword & games, Horoscopes	Page 6
Rumors	Page 7
Dining Out and Having Fun	Page 11
Business Directory	Pages 12 and 13
Upcoming Events	Pages 12, 13, 15
Classifieds	Page 14
Real Estate	Page 15

Letters to the Editor

Reader sees Great Northwoods Journal in Germany

Dear Editor,

I am so glad I found your Journal and the free pdf downloads online.

I am an American citizen living in Germany for 50 years now. I grew up in Whitefield and East Lancaster, with my grandparents.

I come and visit relatives about once a year, who live in Lancaster, Colebrook and Jefferson.

So I wanted to let you know that it will be my weekly routine to see what's in the news.

I wish you all lots of success.

Jerry A. Brainard

Germany

(Editor's note: In communicating with Jerry, I found out that he is the son of Max and Eva Brainard's eldest son,

Alfred. Jerry is the nephew of Mary Wright who lives out on Elm Street in Lancaster, and also the late Walter Brainard.

His Dad joined the Army in 1942 and served in the European Theatre, until 1948 when he married Jerry's mom in Germany. The family returned to the U.S. (Whitefield) in January 1949.

After his father's death in 1952 his mom sold the house in Whitefield and the family moved back and forth between the States and Germany where his maternal grandmother lived. After losing his mother to cancer in 1959, Jerry and his sister stayed in Germany with their grandmother.)

Volunteers working on Sno-X for fourth year

To The Editor,

Groveton Regional Economic Action Team (GREAT) would like to thank the volunteers and sponsors who are helping prepare for GREAT's Fourth Annual Sno-X Snowmobile event that will be held at the Riverside Speedway in Groveton on Saturday, Feb. 20.

This event requires organization, time, and money, as well as many individuals willing to work to make it happen. Therefore, we are grateful to all those people who devote themselves to this cause every year. The following sponsors have already contributed or committed and GREAT is thankful for their support: Riverside Speedway, PSNH, Northway

Bank, Passumpsic Savings Bank, Dalton Motor Sports, as well as Coca Cola of Northern New England. The volunteer committee consists of people who are dedicated to both the Groveton region, as well as to snowmobile enthusiasts who work toward bringing exciting winter events to the North Country. The board of GREAT gives a sincere thank-you to event sponsors and volunteers who are giving their time to get the event off the ground this year.

Respectfully,

The Board of Groveton Regional Economic Action Team
Groveton

Health & Wellness Corner

By Melissa Loper (Mother Knows Best)

Food for thought

Try to find time to relax. Schedule time to unwind just as you schedule your professional appointments.



Great Northwoods Journal

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Say, did you hear about the time...

By Ed "Midge" Rosebrook, Jr.

...a savvy race director took a gamble?

The time was 1971. It was the weekend of the International Grand Prix snowmobile race. Monahan's Gulf station served as temporary home to the Polaris East Race Team—a team sponsored by Polaris distributor, Nelson and Small out of Portland, Me.

Local native Bob Clark had acquired the position as race director of this newly formed team. It was for Bob a lifelong dream. For years he worked as a diesel mechanic at White Mountain Mack. His mechanical skills were honed early on due to being brought up around heavy equipment. His dad Ken, was a logger/construction contractor here in town before he retired. When Bob landed the race director's job, no one was more proud than his dad. It's all he talked about whenever he came in to Dick's Gulf Station.

To hear Ken talk, you'd think Bob owned Nelson and Small.

Being the local Polaris dealer, Dick had always allowed full access to his shop for the race team. In the early days, Polaris' factory team used the facilities. At first they were a rag tag bunch of daredevils, who drove east all the way from Roseau, Minnesota, arriving in pickups, with their race sleds tied down on a special platform bolted on top of the eight-foot beds.

Now, they pull into the fairgrounds with a huge tractor-trailer, complete with a well equipped, onboard race shop.

Polaris East, although a full-fledged race team, hadn't reached as lofty a perch, financially.

Some of the riders for this

team were Conrad Rollins from Kittery, Me. He was a Polaris dealer there. Another driver (that no one ever accused of being totally sane) was Louis Lund. He hailed from somewhere down in Massachusetts.

The only thing that man forgot to bring with him was his straight jacket. Louis was a mechanical genius when it came to engine building, but a crazed lunatic on the racetrack. Louis won his share of races though. (No one dared to get near 'im).

Another driver for the East Team was Todd Pillsbury from Littleton. He was the youngest member at only 19 or 20 years old.

Todd drove a 295TX factory race sled. This was the smallest class, engine wise, and a class that had been totally dominated all year by veteran rider Bob Fortin.

Weekend after weekend, the rest of the field ended up racing for second place. Bob was virtually untouchable; not even close.

When the Bombardier factory race and development department used to call Bob for race tips during the season, well, that tells you something. The man was definitely in what is referred to today as "The Zone."

During the qualifying heats on Saturday, Todd Pillsbury's sled showed good promise for second in the 295-class. He was even able to keep Fortin's Skidoo in his gun sites—something he couldn't do in races previous.

Saturday night Dick's shop was abuzz with last minute changes in preparation for Sunday's feature events.

Todd was replacing some

worn-out studs on his track, while another driver removed his clutches for cleaning and inspection.

They were pretty sure Todd's little sled would at least have a good chance at second place.

Louis and Conrad needed yours truly to provide lighting, so they could break in the new rings and pistons on their 440, 650 and 800 engines. We rode down on the old golf course behind Whitney Motors. They'd let me drive ahead of them at full speed, then using my headlight, scream past me as if I was hitched to a fence post. My sled was good for 60 mph. Theirs, who knows? All they had were tachometers!

As the drivers were winding down for the night and getting ready to leave, in races Bob Clark, all out of breath, carrying a track under his arm.

Unbeknownst to the team members, Bob had secretly ordered an experimental, all rubber track to be drop-shipped in Portland. He had someone drive to Maine and pick it up. It was to be installed on Todd's sled.

Polaris, up until that time, had always raced steel cleated tracks. Studs were installed to aid in traction and cornering.

"Mr. Fortin is goin' to have a big surprise tomorrow!" Bob declared.

"What!" Dick shouted. "Have you got a screw loose?! How numb can you be to change tracks, when you don't even know how it's goin' to go? He's

New track for sled -----
(Continued on Page 10)

The Off Your Rocker Club

By Corinne Comeau



Meeting number 20

Happy Groundhog's Day, Off Your Rockers. Here we are at meeting #20 (wow), and I am feeling sort of "rambly" today. In other words, maybe this will be an informal meeting with thoughts just spewing out. I am reminded of a little rhyme I read and remember from years ago, that goes:

"With what confusion thinking is fraught;

I sometimes think I'll think no more;

For when I find myself lost in thought, I unthink things I 'thunk' before."

Actually, I do have something on my mind, so perhaps there will be no rambling. I had the pleasure of listening to two actual "undercover angels" at church (after mass) last Sunday. Two very Off Your Rocker people who belong to an organization called "Caleb" and they spoke about the wonderful acts and kindness practiced by volunteers.

I am more and more amazed at the number of Off Your Rocker people I hear about and

hear from every week. Hey you all, I really didn't know you were all out there, just plain being wonderful, genuinely caring, productive UA's (Undercover Angels).

The Caleb organization is composed of kind, generous and very empathetic UA's who accomplish amazing deeds of compassion, while keeping in mind that folks over 60 years of age, really don't want to lose a feeling of independence and just plain old WORTH. Caleb UA's bolster that worth and independence while helping folks get over "rough spots" (Did you ever break bones?? Kinda hard to get around, eh?).

These angels realize that physically someone may be ON a rocker, either permanently or temporarily, but want and need help to get themselves (physically or in their thoughts and hopes) OFF that rocker. Caleb angels are not allowed to do "med" tasks, of course (no lifting, no doses of medicine, etc.) but they are fabulous at helping with chores, guiding folks down

grocery aisles and filling carts and putting groceries away, reading aloud to someone with vision problems, just alleviating loneliness (a very large and blessed boon), taking people to appointments, etc., etc.

Caleb is affiliated with all of the places of worship, no matter what denomination, in the area. Faith in action is Caleb's mantra. Isn't that beautiful? Volunteers cover a pretty large area: Bethlehem, Groveton, Lancaster, Twin Mountain, Dalton, Jefferson, Littleton and Whitefield are all in Caleb's care.

The angels want you to call them if you know of someone needing their help, and they always need volunteers UA's. The number to call is 837-9179, any weekday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (and you'll hear a truly lovely voice with the echo of angels behind it, ready to hear your plea). Volunteers (if you have that in

Caleb -----
(Continued on Page 10)