

# FRONTIER SNO RIDERS

# FRONTIER TIMES



Volume 12, Issue 2

October 2015

## The Fabled Richfield Springs

Taking a ride to Richfield Springs from the Frontier trails is a yearly quest of mine. Unfortunately not every season cooperates. A lack of snow has a way of keeping one close to home.



Greater Argusville.

The last two seasons have offered plenty of opportunity with ample snow and cold weather. Looking back to March 2014 I set out with Sloansville trail boss Laudy Hoyenga from his house a little after 9am in the morning. It was cold and clear, the Sun was brilliant, an excellent day for a ride.

We left Sloansville on a Frontier club trail that sees very little traffic. Laudy broke trail for the first couple of miles as I had only been on the trail once before so I was still learning the route. This trail runs through some remote countryside, not many houses out here.

After riding along a section of pipeline we came to a junction with a secondary trail leading to Argusville maintained by the Cave Country club. Once in Argusville we turned south on another secondary heading to Sharon. After crossing over Rt20 we turned west on C7F, the main east/west connector. We were not disappointed, the trail was in fine shape all the way into Sharon Springs. Continuing west on the old rail bed, taking the loop around the closed section, we rejoined the rail bed for the ride into Cherry Valley.

We rode west around the village of Cherry Valley then stopped at my in-laws house for lunch. Bill and Bev Pope live right on the trail south of town. It is nice to have family located on the trail.

From Cherry Valley west the trails are



Lunch stop at the Pope home in Cherry Valley.

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### Connections

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# October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Adopt A Hwy Duanesburg
4 Adopt A Hwy East Berne	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14 Maple Inn Club Meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

# November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day Club Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

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## Club News

Gerry Lenseth and Laudy Hoyenga both attended a Pisten Bully training seminar in September. This will help the Club keep the big groomer operational.

The Pisten Bully groomer has been under going repair work to the axles. New axles are in place.

The Bombi groomer body work is done, including the windshield, now begins work on the wiring. The exhaust manifold is to be replaced as well.

Rear warning lights will be removed from the drags and placed on the back of the Skandic groomers, this may help them last longer than one run.

The Club Face Book account should be updated soon. Look for more activity this season.

**Work Party:** Saturday, **October 3rd**, 8:30 am. The club will need as many volunteers as possible to help widen the trail from Knox Cave Road to the Township Tavern. Meet at Cell Tower on Street Road. What is needed: Manpower and Saws.

Used Pisten Bully 70 groomer joins Frontier fleet!

## Trail Log

**East Berne** - Brian Buchardt - Lots of work on going on S72, trail to Thacher Park. Sawmill Rd area widened, new route to avoid steep hill, possible new route on north side of Rt443 being considered.

**Sloansville** - Laudy Hoyenga - Culvert to replace bridge on C7F, will require back fill. Bridge to be moved up to swamp area, 2 other bridges to be upgraded.

**Mariaville** - Jerry Schoening -

**Duanesburg/Delanson** - Rich Valletta - new route and bridge at Cole Rd crossing, work ongoing. Re-decking of Scott's Printing bridge underway.

**Burtonsville** - John Scrima - reroute needed to avoid a new pond built this summer. Trail widening ongoing. Looking for permission from DEC to cut back trees in Charleston.

**Knox/Wright** - Ron Shultes - Clearing and widening of C7B in Wright near Rt146. C7B in Knox to have hedgerow crossings widened to remove turns.

**Esperance** - Tom Rulison - New bridge to be placed near Hannaford, C7E to reroute due to new store being built at Rt20/30 junction. Gage Rd bridge needs replacing.

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(continued from page 1 - Richfield Springs)

maintained by the Canadarago Hill Toppers. This club has some very large Pisten Bully's which produce some of the finest riding you'll find. We were able to cruise right along and arrive in Richfield Springs. A quick fill up at the Mobil and we were off again as it was mid afternoon and plenty of miles to go.

Shortly outside of town we came to a junction, we could return the way we came or try an unknown trail heading north. As we sat there looking at a map two sleds came passed us and rode north. I had never been that direction and figured if people were riding the trail so could we. These two sleds were the first we had seen all day! Granted this was a mid week ride, so low traffic was expected. The two riders however were not waiting for us and quickly sped off out of sight. No worries, I felt we would eventually find a trail heading back east.



*Fuel stop in Richfield Springs.*

As we rode along I noticed that it had been some time since I saw any trail markings. We only had the

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fresh tracks to follow at this point. No where did we find a trail turning east, just north.

Then as suddenly as the signage had quit it started again. This reassured me, we were back on maintained trails. We rounded a bend and came into a big field which gave a splendid view across the Mohawk Valley. In the distance you could see wind mills! I then realized about where we were, Little Falls was down below us.



*The Thruway down below us.*

We started down the hill and came to nice overlook and spied the Thruway running east. Ahead on the hillside was an old ski hill. At the bottom we passed by the ski lodge. The trail ran east, and that was good yet it also ran slightly back up the hill. There was a junction and we decided to head down into the valley and try for the canal bike path trail, C7P.

Sure enough we found the bike path, flat but with minimal snow coverage. After a quick blast down the bike path we came

*See page 5 - Richfield Springs.*

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Continued from page 4—Richfield Springs

to Fort Plain. Signs quickly told us that the trail east was closed due to the bridge being out. This was not good news. The daylight was starting to fade and we were still quite a ways out. We had to back track up the hill and take the trail at the top back east.

## New Trailer + Pisten Bully 70



*Long shadows at the Canal Bike Path trail C7P west of Fort Plain. Too bad the bridge was out up ahead. We had to reverse course soon.*

*The Club was able to secure a deal on a groomer and trailer. It is 7' wide and should be a nice addition to the grooming fleet this season.*



The snow level in this area was significantly lower than the higher elevations. My engine was overheating so we had to take breaks to let it cool down. Darkness now enveloped us and at each trail junction we would stop to try and figure out which way to turn. Signage was good and we were helped along with my GPS.

Each snow drift I spotted, I rode into it to throw snow on the heat exchanger and cool the motor. This proved to help keep us moving. Up ahead was a small village, it turned out to be Argusville! The snow level had improved and we now knew where we were.

After leaving the village we found the Cave Country groomer had recently made a smoothing pass. Following this sweet trail for a couple of miles we came to our turn off. Now we headed back down the Frontier club trail to Laudy's house. It was now after 9pm, a good 12 hour ride! Editor.

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## Trail Boss Pics



The C7E bridge in Delanson at left is due to be replaced. The location of the new bridge will be moved upstream where the span will be shorter and the bridge can be wider.



The next two photos are of the future trail leading to the location of the new bridge, about 150' further up the creek.



Tom Rulison walks the route for the trail near the creek. Light work will have this section opened up soon.



3 new beams make the base for the new bridge leading off of Cole Rd in Delanson.

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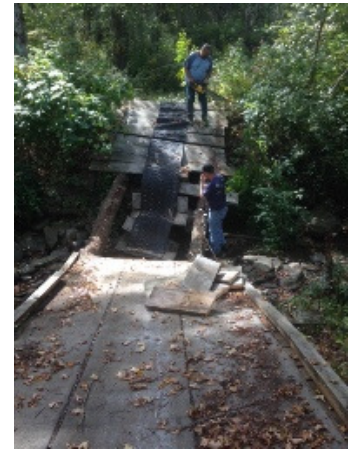
ski-doo

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# Trail Boss Pics continued



A major bridge over the Normanskill on C7B in Dunesburg was re-decked September 26.



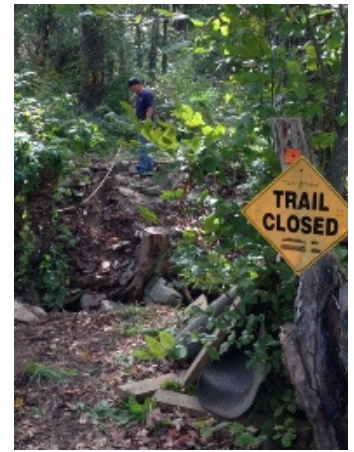
The bridge on S72 near Joslyn School House Rd gave way and will need replacement.



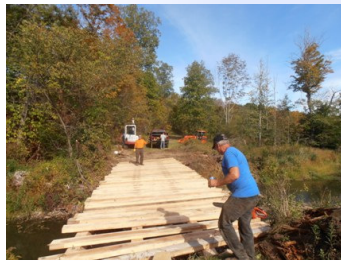
Scott Riley, Tom Rulison and Ray Plant drill set holes in the wood beams..



Karl Pritchard positions the beam on the steel girder, then grabs some decking boards with his excavator.



Here a section of the bridge is pulled out of the creek bed. Heed the trail closed sign!



Scott and Tom work on a beam and position the deck.



.Scott (the landowner), Ray, and Tom check their work. Photos by Editor Joel Church.



S72 was rerouted to avoid a steep hill near Elm Drive. Seth Simpson, Pat Stempel, Kim Stempel, Trevor Salisbury, Frank Salisbury, Karl Pritchard ( bulldozer), Joel Vadney, Gerry Lenseth, and Brian Buchardt all worked. Photos by Trail boss Brian Buchardt.

## Trail Boss Contacts

Brian Buchardt	East Berne	872-1878
Ron Shultes	Knox	872-2526
Laudy Hoyenga	Sloansville	868-2092
Rich Valletta	Duanesburg	895-2425
Jerry Schoening	Mariaville	864-5576
John Scrima	Burtonsville	875-6078

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*Instructor Mike Riek, center, has students gather around snowmobiles to learn about safe operation during the 2014 class in Duanesburg..*

## Snowmobile Safety Course

Frontier Sno Riders will be holding a Snowmobile Safety Class on December 5th, 2015 at the Knox Firehouse (2198 Berne-Altamont Rd, Altamont, NY 12009)

The class will begin at 8 am and lunch is provided.

Attendees must be at least 10 years old to take the class. Adults are encouraged to attend as well. This course is for all skill levels, from novice to expert. You are never too old to learn something new. Classes fill up fast, please call now to reserve your spot. Another class may be scheduled, if demand warrants. To sign up, Please contact Mike Riek 518-861-5115.

*Continued from page 7- Trail Boss Pics*



*Culvert work on S72 near the Old Maple Inn. Photos by Trail boss Brian Buchardt.*

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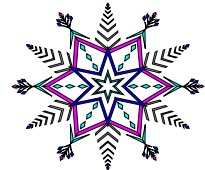
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**Club Meeting**  
**Wed Oct 14, 7pm**  
**Maple Inn, East Berne**

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