



Whitefield News

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February Notices

Select Board update:

Road Work

by Dennis Merrill

The Select Board has received and endorsed the report of the initial citizen Road Committee's year-long analysis of local roads in Whitefield. The report sets an initial plan for restoring all Town roads to "good" condition over time.

One critical element of the report is a recommendation for a new Standing Roads Committee. That committee will continue to evaluate town roads and the effectiveness of work done. It will also recommend priorities, needed work, and budgets. This information, along with input from the Road Commissioner and Select Board, will form the basis for future road improvement and maintenance.

The Select Board is very interested to hear from citizens who may want to participate on the Roads Committee either as a member or as a contributor to the committee's work as needed. This includes both those who have some background with road management and those who simply have an interest in town affairs or roads. Also, it includes people who may want to contribute over time and those who may have something to add on a limited or intermittent basis.

If you want to know more about the Standing Roads Committee, you can contact the Town Office at 549-5175.

Storm shelter

Whenever there is a large storm or any other large scale disaster that impacts our town, the fire station will be open. The station's phone number is 549-6125. Alternately, people can contact the Lincoln County Communications Center at 549-7072.

Maine ice boating

By Bill Bunting

Red Herring, my iceboat, is #86 of the Nite class. Nites first appeared about 1970, built by the same shop in Wisconsin that builds them today. The class now numbers over 600 boats, overwhelmingly located in the Midwest – very few have ever come to Maine.

In 1992 I found #86 lying under a bush in Calais.

Some structural damage was evidently the result of a very sudden stop. Blue paint had been slopped over the original red gel-coat of the fuselage, and a plate on the cockpit coaming read, "Property of the U.S. Navy." This former (recreational) naval vessel, once stationed at the Winter Harbor radar base, had been auctioned off for \$140; I met the current



Photo by Dickie Saltonstall taken on Damariscotta Lake at sunset

owner's asking price of \$200 with but little dickering, so we were both pleased. Today, a new Nite costs about \$8,000.

Nites remain popular because they sail well, are ruggedly built, seat two people in a squeeze, and, if not quite "Barco-loungers on ice," are much more comfortable than smaller, open iceboats like the DN, the world's most numerous iceboat. Unlike the DN, Nites are a strictly one-design class, frozen in time, keeping Nite #1 competitive with Nite #600, but foregoing recent go-faster innova-

tions.

The allure of an iceboat lies in its acceleration, its magical speed, and the deep rumble of the runners. Iceboats sail faster than the wind – in fact, they cannot sail at all unless they are going faster than the wind. At high speed, the iceboater is transported to a private state divorced from other worldly realities. **Continued on Pg. 2**

Crooked Door Farm

By Jim Torbert

Suzanne Balbo and Clint Towle covered a lot of territory before settling on their farm on the Gardiner Road a little over two years ago. They were first introduced while Clint was teaching in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Suzanne was teaching at Belgrade Elementary, in Maine.

Suzanne Balbo is a native Mainer. She grew up in Oakland, graduated from Messalonskee High School, then earned a Bachelor's degree in Education at U.M.O. She went on to earn a master's degree from Ohio University and then landed her first teaching job in a Montessori school in Santa Fe. A year later, she came back to Maine to teach in the Belgrade elementary school.

With a dad in the Air Force, Clint Towle grew up "all over the country," but he ended up earning a B.A. at Colorado College. After traveling for a year to satisfy his wanderlust, he settled down (or so he first thought) to be an elementary school teacher in Santa Fe.

After being match made by the parent of one of



Candace, Clint & Suzanne Balbo-Towle

Photo by Kristen Dillon, Blue Horse Photography

his students, Clint convinced Suzanne to move to New Mexico. At that point, farming and Maine were far from their minds. A few years later, they were married, but quickly realized that their mortgage was bigger than their incomes. They took on teaching jobs at an international school in Surabaya, Indonesia, where they were able to live frugally for three years and grow their bank account, even with the birth of their daughter, **Continued on Pg. 2**

Iceboat Continued from Pg. 1 Additionally, iceboating is a relatively safe and economical way to occasionally be scared to death, a mind-cleansing experience not easily attained in our tame, modern world.

Sailing an iceboat is not like sailing a boat on ice; rather, it is a matter of piloting a vertical wing on ice, which explains its seemingly impossible speed. An iceboat always sails close-hauled to the apparent wind, even when sailing downwind, and must tack when going downwind, as well as upwind, or else it will stall, just as an airplane can be stalled. The ideal wind speed for most iceboats is 10 to 15 mph. While most boats can attain speeds into the 50s without excessive drama, it is very difficult for them to achieve 60 mph or better, due to the greatly increased effect of parasitic drag at that frontier. An iceboat is a high voltage, low amperage vehicle, if you will.

Iceboating is very much a social sport. Sailing by oneself is not only dangerous but also really not very much fun. However, by adding just one more boat to the lake, it can become about as much fun as one can have. Despite their off-putting Darth Vader helmets, iceboaters are a very friendly tribe, sometimes even compared with drug pushers in their zeal to rope in new addicts.

The dedicated iceboater must have great patience with fickle weather gods, and must learn to seize the often fleeting opportunities when good ice appears. As a result, many are self-employed or retired – iceboating can be enjoyed long after other sports are given up. One of the more active members of Maine's iceboating community is in his nineties – indeed, just last year he bought a third ice boat. Female iceboaters are warmly welcomed but few in number.

The Chickawaukie Ice Boat Club is Maine's principal iceboating organization. Originally, CIBC members exclusively raced their DNs on Chickawaukie Pond (next to Rt. 17 in Rockport and Rockland). Nowadays, the emphasis is on cruising wherever good ice may be found within the state or beyond, and the fleet includes about every sort of ice craft from antique stern-steerers to cutting edge, winged-masted, carbon-fiberized, flyers.

Maine's earliest ice is almost always on Plymouth Pond, in Plymouth, usually about December 7. Clary Lake often comes next. The larger lakes – Damariscotta is the CIBC favorite – ice over in January. Early ice is "black ice," hard and fast; later season ice most often is "snow ice," formed from "wetted out" or saturated snow, lying atop a black ice base.

Home-built boats have always been an important component of iceboating. Beginning in the 1930s, the DN became the favorite home-built entry-level boat, and thousands upon thousands have been built worldwide since. Today, while used DNs, of widely varying quality, remain the most common entry-level boat, the high cost of materials and fittings required to build a new DN scares many would-be home-builders away.

Recognizing a need, the CIBC features on its website (iceboat.me) detailed plans and instructions for building the recently developed and thoroughly tested entry-level Cheapskate, utilizing common lumberyard and hardware store materials, along with the rig of the popular Sunfish sailboat. On the CIBC website one can also order *Think Ice!*, the best iceboating book ever, written by Lloyd Roberts, of Rockport, and the CIBC.

See you on the ice?

Farm continued from Pg. 1 Cadence.

Both of them hankered for an outdoor life in the country; raising their daughter to live closer to nature. After teaching for a few more years and settling up in New Mexico, the Balbo Towles took the decisive first step by quitting teaching and moving to Maine. Once here, Clint signed up for a year as a MOFGA apprentice at Broadturn Farm in Scarborough.

After the apprenticeship and an undiminished love of farming, the couple discovered, through Maine Farmland Trust, that an interesting property was available in Whitefield. Suzanne admits that, although she grew up only forty miles from here, she had to be shown it on a map, "but the more we asked around, the more good things we heard."



Web photo of produce from Crooked Door Farm

Long-time "Whitefielder", Mike Sodano, wanted to sell his property and retire. He also wanted to assure that it would remain both rural and productive, so he had placed it under a conservation easement administered by Maine Farmland Trust, which also seeks out and vets aspiring young farmers and helps them find affordable financing. Clint and Suzanne were ideal candidates. They closed on the property in October 2012, and moved in two months later, naming their place and enterprise "Crooked Door Farm" after one of the openings into the old barn.

Now about to embark on their third season of organic market gardening (MOFGA certification in process), Clint and Suzanne have a little over an acre under intensive, raised-bed cultivation, much of it under season-extending hoop houses, along with a large flock of laying hens. They also share their cultivatable acreage with Andrea Bachynsky (another Broadturn Farm "graduate"), d.b.a. *Honeysuckle Way Flowers* and with *Fuzzy Udder Creamery* on Townhouse Road, whose owner, Jessie Dowling, pastures her sheep and goats on their land on a rotational basis. This partnership allows them to offer a wide range of farm-fresh and value added products to their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shareholders, including seasonal fresh produce, pasture raised eggs, a variety of cheeses, and cut flowers. Between early June and late October, their customers can make regular, weekly pickups at the farm in Whitefield, the Juniper Hill School in Alna, the Gardiner Farmers Market, and the Oakland Public Library. They also make weekly deliveries to Portland and So. Portland. More details and an order form can be found on their website, <http://crookeddoorfarm.com/>, by sending them an email (crookeddoorfarm@gmail.com), or by phone (1-207-299-3972 or 1-207-385-7451).

Clint and Suzanne also firmly believe in "Agriculture Supporting Community" (ASC), as Clint puts it. To that end, they donate unsold produce to local food banks, and this coming season, they plan on donating 5 vegetable shares, at a value of \$400 each, to needy families here in Whitefield. "Cost," insists Clint, "should not be a barrier to healthy food." If you would like to nominate a family for an ASC share, please contact them directly.



Whitefield Trash Service
Dana Rogers
549-3491

Household Garbage Pickup - \$2.00 per bag

Tire Disposal \$3 per tire - Large Tires \$5

**FREE Metal removal, appliances (no Freon) wood Stoves,
Auto & lawnmower batteries - ANY METAL WASTE**

**Estimates available for cleanout of basement, garage, house,
yard or sheds.**

Whitefield Trails Committee announces special planning meeting February 11

Have you been out yet to enjoy one of the two new trails in Whitefield--the Marr's Ridge Trail on the Hunt's Meadow Road or the Happy Farm River Trail which starts at the Recycling Center?

Do you have ideas about where the next new trail should go?

The Whitefield Trails Committee needs your ideas! Please join us on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30 PM at Sheepscot General Store for a special planning meeting open to anyone interested in the trails. If you can't attend, send your ideas to Kit Pfeiffer, kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com, or call 446-9768, before the February 11 meeting.

The Walter Kennedy Homestead



This photo was taken by Walter's son, Horace "Hoddy" Kennedy by moonlight in the winter of 1936. What cannot be seen in the photo is a carriage and blacksmith shop which was located across the road from the house.

Walter Kennedy was born in Whitefield in 1866, and his sons, Roland and Horace, lived in the homestead until their deaths; Roland in 1972 and Horace in 1976.

Horace was an amateur photographer and took many pictures of Whitefield; including the destruction of the Ford Mill during a flood. His camera was a Kodak box camera with its own celluloid roll film. With much appreciation to him, we have many images of places and people in Whitefield.

The Kennedy homestead was owned by Jim and Theta Torbert at the time that it burned in 1996. It is now the location of the farm of Alice and Rufus Percy on the East River Road.

Jane Chase, Whitefield Historical Society

Tax tips

By Ed Karass

The 2015 filing season has arrived. It is important for you to contact your tax professional early to ensure you schedule a convenient time to meet with your tax accountant to prepare your 2014 income taxes. If you take the time to gather and organize your financial records, your tax return(s) will be done more accurately and in a shorter period of time. Filing your returns, for the most part, ensures that any refund(s) due will be processed in a timely manner; putting the cash in your hands sooner.

Start preparing now for your tax appointment by compiling a list of the documents you expect to receive based on last year's tax returns and this year's personal and/or business activity. If you are uncertain of what documents you may need, call your tax accountant for his or her advice, ask for a tax organizer worksheet to help you prepare for the appointment. As you start receiving your tax documents in the mail (usually around the last two week in January), mark them off your list and put them in a "tax folder".

If employed, include your W-2. Bring any 1099 that you may have received for interest income, dividends, pensions, self-employment, government payments (such as unemployment, tax refunds or Social Security), and the sale of property. It is helpful to bring the actual statements as well as the 1099s to your appointment. Remember that not all forms will look alike. Be sure to check the bottom of year-end statements that may be substitute 1099s. Don't forget to include any Schedule K-1s you receive from a partnership, an S corporation, or estate. If you

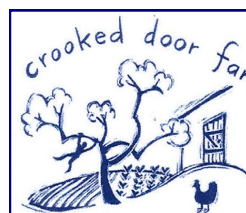
had any income not reported on the forms listed above, make a note for your tax accountant to include it.

When you sell stocks and other securities, you will receive a 1099-B as described above that includes the gross proceeds. However, it is not unusual for the price you paid for the stock (the cost basis which is your investment) not to be listed on the 1099-B. If the stock was received as a gift or inheritance, other means of determining the cost will be necessary. For every stock you sold, you should provide documentation of the basis for your tax accountant to determine the net gain/loss.

If you are a homeowner, you may be able to itemize deductions. Bring the property tax bill and the mortgage interest statement to your tax appointment. Medical expenses are deductible if they exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Prescription drugs, doctor, dental, eye doctors and glasses, hospital bills, medical insurance premiums and the mileage to and from the doctor's office enter into this category. Charitable contributions are deductible; however, records of the donations are required. Contributions may be cash, property, or out-of-pocket expenses you paid to do volunteer work. While commuting to an organization's office is not deductible, any mileage incurred delivering services, goods, transporting clients, etc. is deductible. You may deduct the actual cost of gas and oil or use the standard rate of 14 cents a mile. Remember, receipts and documentation of miles traveled are critical to support the donation or expenses incurred from your volunteer efforts.

Two final reminders. As you may remember, the Affordable Care Act requires everyone to have health insurance. Your tax accountant will have several questions for you regarding your status, as well as your family's status, regarding your health insurance situation. Remember to bring documentation of your health coverage. Finally, it is most important that you inform your tax accountant if you have been victimized by identity theft or have been provided an identity protection PIN from the IRS. Please provide the letter to the tax accountant.

This article provides general tax information focused on the most common items encountered by taxpayers. Please note that it is not all-inclusive as each tax situation is unique in some way, so please do not rely upon this information as your only basis to prepare for your tax appointment. Please contact me, Ed Karass, EA, and MBA, at Karass Financial & Accounting at 207-549-7182 for professional advice for your tax situation. As an Enrolled Agent, I am required to keep current on tax law changes that impact all taxpayers. I am a member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents, a member of the National Association of Tax Professionals, and graduate of the National Tax Practice Institute where I am a Fellow. I will save you time and offer insight on how to take advantage of tax breaks available to you to minimize your tax liability.



Organic veggies and eggs

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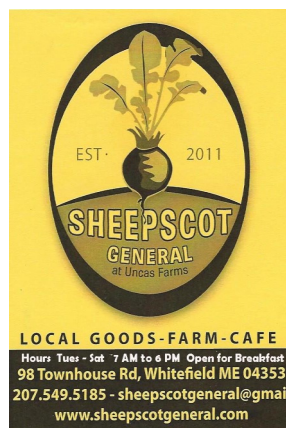


FEBRUARY 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Artist in Residence George Mason.** 6 pm at HVNC suggested \$5 donation
- 2nd **Full Moon Owl Prowl**, HVNC, 6 pm suggested \$5 donation
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Anyone interested in supporting or learning more about CMVFD is welcome. We won't rope you into anything right off. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 3rd **Select Board Fire Station**, 6pm
- 4th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
- 5th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 6th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
Author Reading from Hard Chance: Tree Farming in Troubled Times with Peter Pfeiffer, Sheepscot General, 6:30 PM
- 8th **4th Annual Liberal Cup Biathlon**, HVNC, 9 am—lasts all day
Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA) Whitefield School 6 pm
- 9th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Department Mgt.**, Fire Station 7 pm
- 10th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 11th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
Arlington Grange 30: pm Meeting All are welcome. At Dana & Debbie Rogers
Whitefield Trails Committee special planning meeting. Come and help decide where the next trails should be! Sheepscot General, 6:30 PM
- 12th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
Meeting to Discuss Road Committee Report, Fire Station, 7 pm (Storm Date Fe19)
- 14th **Natural History Rove at SVCA Stetser Preserve** Saturday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. Egypt Road in Jefferson
- 17th **Nature Journal Workshop** sponsored by SVCA Tuesday, February 17, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Snowday February 18) at the Sheepscot General Store Fun for all ages!
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
- 18th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
Planning Board Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 19th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 20th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st **DRUMMING CIRCLE**: Open to the public, all ages welcome.
 Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 24th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
- 25th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
- 26th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am



*Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
 We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.*



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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

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