



Three Rivers News

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SPONSORED AND PUBLISHED BY THREE RIVERS KIWANIS CLUB AND THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
TO PROMOTE AND SERVE THE TOWNS OF BROWNVILLE, MILO, LAGRANGE, MEDFORD, AND
ORNEVILLE

Monday, July 13, 2007 Volume 6 Number 37

*Milo Garden Club's annual Summer Fair,
August 2 at Milo Elementary School 11-
1:30. Perennials, plants, crafts, food,
"nearly new" table, raffle, silent auction
and a "by donation" luncheon.*

Come join us!

Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting scheduled for August 1st beginning at 6PM.

A crowd of over 30 concerned citizens of the Town of Milo attended last Wednesday's selectman's meeting. The larger than normal crowd was due, in part, to erroneous reporting on my part. I had been sent the date of a public hearing and it said the 18th, instead of the 25th. As it turns out, the day was moved from the 25th of July to August 1st so that people on vacation or out of town would have a chance to attend. Three very important articles are being addressed and every resident of Milo who is concerned needs to attend.

ARTICLE 1 To Elect a moderator

ARTICLE 2 To see if the Town of Milo will adopt the Ordinance titled "The Curfew Ordinance of the Town of Milo" as prepared and presented?

ARTICLE 3 To see if the voters of the Town of Milo will vote to make the first installment of the 2007 taxes due and payable thirty (30) days from date of mailing with interest to begin to accrue on the first installment after said 30 days?

ARTICLE 4 To see if the voters of the Town of Milo will vote that funds generated by or donated to a particular Department be designated for use by that department to include:

ADMINISTRATION....Grants and Donations

FIRE DEPT.....Contract payments, grants, fire calls, revenues, fuel tax reimbursements, grants and donations.

POLICE DEPT----Reimbursements from the State of Maine, and other agencies, court fees, fuel tax reimbursement, payments for services and reports, grants and donations.

PAWS----Donations and grants, reimbursements from other agencies.

PUBLIC LIBRARY--Fines, grants, donations, and Trust Fund Income

PUBLIC WORKS----Reimbursements from other agencies, income from contracts, grants and donations.

RECREATION:----Snack Shack Proceeds, proceeds from Fund Raisers, donations and grant funds.

ARTICLE 5 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$11,960 for the hiring of a fourth full-time officer for the Milo Police Dept.

EDITORIAL

By Valerie Robertson

It is no secret I have been opposed to what I consider excessive spending of our police department. For 2 years I worked as Animal Control officer for Milo, and, at the time, I did the job while trying to use as little of the town's money as possible. I

believe the key to a healthy town is a healthy, caring core of folks being at the center of her government. I had a wonderful relationship with Todd, Jane and all of the ladies in the town office.

When I chose not to renew my position as the Animal Control officer I did not, at that time, realize that I was choosing to relinquish all rights to rescue animals or try to remedy what I considered wrongs in our community. But I was met with resistance from the town's police department and the town office, so I stopped responding to any complaints, which along with other personality conflicts made it impossible for me to feel comfortable at PAWS, so I quit the shelter also.

I have closely watched the spending in town for the police and animal control budgets, and while I have no figures for animal control at this time, I think all is well there. Between Joe Guyotte and Julie Gallagher I think issues are being taken care of. I do, however, think we need to keep the spending for the police department down, and this meeting is a chance for all to have their say and voice their opinions.

It is hard for me to maintain a neutral stance, but as I have this forum, I will present both sides as I perceive them. I welcome ALL Letters to the editor and will print them, as long as they are reasonable and approved by our esteemed editors, Nancy Grant and Edwin Treworgy. But I cannot speak for those who are in favor of giving the Police Department the money they are seeking, as I am opposed.

I believe Article 1 will pass without a hitch.

Article 2 will probably meet with some discussion, and I urge all of you who plan to attend the meeting to go to the Town Office and obtain a copy so you can have time to digest the material. It seems to me a curfew will eventually make less work for the police, so less work means less money needed. I realize that it may generate a few extra calls at the beginning, but once folks realize the curfew is in effect, things should get pretty quiet on the street. The arguments I foresee will probably pertain to the fines, and parents being responsible to pay them.

Article 3 seems fair, and I believe the reason the tax bills are not as easy get out this year is because the state declaring we increase the valuation of our property values. I believe this was explained in the Bangor Daily, but if you are interested, go to the town office to find out. The article just makes the due date for the taxes dependant on the day the tax bills go out, rather than the previously scheduled day.

Article 4 is the one I think is most debatable. Discussion on this one will be very lively. I admit I need more education as to what it means to each department, but I do know how it relates to the police department.

As many of you recall, last fall at a special town meeting, it was voted to give the police department money to cover, among other things, sending officer Brian Bean to the Police Academy. Some of us voiced concerns that it seemed as if every time Milo paid the \$20,000 plus dollars to train a guy, he took the education, then moved on to a bigger and better job. We were assured that if this happened, the agency that hired him would be required to reimburse us for his tuition. We voted the money with that caveat.

Mr. Bean has since taken a job with the State Police and we have the almost \$30,000 used for his tuition being returned to the town. A couple of the selectman and some citizens believe the money should go into the police budget. At least 2 of the selectmen, and some of us regular people believe the Police Department should be required to operate with-in the budget we

approved at the town meeting, and that the money should be returned to the General Fund, or kept in an account for the next time we need to send someone to the Academy, which from what I hear is in January.

Article 5 pertains to hiring a 4th full-time officer. The argument for this maintains that in order to have 24 hour coverage we need four full-time officers as well as the 5 reserve officers. For those of you who believe we need coverage 24 hours a day, you need to help approve this expenditure. I believe we would be better served to schedule officers so that the payroll comes in under budget, and perhaps have the Sheriff's Department cover the town in the early morning hours during the week. The \$11,000 is to cover the new officers' salary for the last 4+ months of this calendar year.

All of the above opinions are mine and mine alone. I encourage you to seek out the facts and figures on your own, and if anyone has opinions they want to share, send them to me at PO Box 81 Milo, or email me at val04463@verizon.net. This is much too important to sit back and keep opinions to yourself.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Three River News is published weekly by Three Rivers Kiwanis. It is available Mondays at the General Store and More, Milo Farmer's Union, The Station Market, Graves' Service Station, Robinson's Fuel Mart, Reuben's Farmer's Market, The Restaurant, Milo Exxon, Rite Aid, Valerie Jean's, Milo True Value, and online at WWW.NEWS.TRCMAINE.ORG. Donations can be mailed to Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463.

All items for the paper are sent to us; we are not reporters, and we rely on the public for our articles.

Letters to the editor, social news, school news, items of interest, or coming social events may be submitted NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOON to the following addresses:

Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463 or e-mailed to, val04463@verizon.net or call 943-2324.

Nancy Grant, 10 Belmont St. Milo, Maine 04463, e-mailed to nancy2310@roadrunner.com or call 943-5809.

Please drop suggestions and comments into a donation box or contact one of us. We welcome your ideas. Opinions are not necessarily those of the editors unless otherwise stated. The paper is written, printed, and distributed by unpaid volunteers. Donations are used to cover the expense of printing, paper and materials.

Valerie Robertson Nancy Grant Virgil Valente Kirby Robertson

HOW TO RECEIVE THE THREE RIVERS NEWS BY MAIL

We have received many inquiries from readers as to how they can get the Three Rivers News delivered to their mailbox each week. The news is available by subscription in 30-week increments. For each 30-week subscription we ask for a donation of \$25.00 to cover the cost of printing and mailing. If you would like to sign up to get the news delivered, send your name, address and a check for \$25.00 to:

Valerie Robertson
P.O. Box 81
Milo, Maine 04463

Nancy Grant
10 Belmont Street
Milo, Maine 04463

**BINGO...BINGO...
BINGO!!!**

THE MILO AMERICAN LEGION POST 41 HAS
BINGO EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT A MEAL IS
SERVED FROM 5:00PM UNTIL 6:15 PM



BINGO STARTS AT 6:15 AND ENDS AT 9:30.

SEE YOU THERE!

**Parsons' Soccer Academy at
Harris Field**

Chris Parsons, the assistant head coach for UMaine Men's Soccer, hosted a soccer clinic at Harris Field. It was a great success and provided a lot of individual instruction to all of the participants. It was the first all-day soccer clinic hosted by the Milo Recreation Dept in many years and proved to be extremely educating to all despite much criticism from area coaches and enthusiasts alike.

Coach Parsons' assistant, Kieran McCormack, is a senior at UMO who transferred from UVM. At UMO Kieran plays as a central defender. He is from Dundalk, Ireland, and played with Ireland national youth teams and the Manchester United Youth Academy. His international experience and knowledge of the game was surely a motivator and eye-opening experience to our area youth.

Whether or not a clinic will be held in Milo in the future, the MRD would like to thank everyone involved for taking advantage of the opportunity. Parsons' Soccer Academy will be hosting clinics this winter at Foxcroft Academy to provide local youths an opportunity to participate year round. For more information please feel free to contact Chris at his UMaine office at 581-4766.

**COMPETE TO COMPLETE TRIATHLON '07
SWIM~BIKE~WALK/RUN**

**Saturday, September 22, 2007, @
9:00 a.m.**



SWIM: The first leg of the journey, swim four lengths (equals 100 yards) in the PRYMCA pool. There are no restrictions on type of strokes; but fins are not allowed.

BIKE: The second leg pedal 2.8 miles on a mapped route around the town of Dover-Foxcroft. Any bike can be entered; but helmets are required.

WALK/RUN: The final leg is a one mile walk/run ending at the PRYMCA.

PRIZES:

- First Place** - 6 month Adult Membership
- Second Place** - 3 Month Adult Membership
- Third Place** - 1 Month Adult Membership.

All participants will receive a Compete to Complete t-shirt.

Registration Fee: \$20.00 members; \$25.00 non-members. Must be 16 and older to register.

Registration starts July 16th - August 30th.
All equipment supplied by the participant(s).
Triathlon teams are acceptable.

Triathlon training begins July 16, 2007.

Registered non-member participants pay \$5.00 daily fee for use of PRYMCA facility while training for event.

**PISCATAQUIS REGIONAL YMCA
48 Park Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
(phone) 207-564-7111**

e-mail: prymca@verizon.net or www.prymca.org

**Our Lady of the Snows parish is
formed.**

The Catholic parishes of St. Thomas Aquinas in Dover, St. Anne in Dexter, Holy Family in Sangerville and Sts Francis Xavier and Paul the Apostle in Milo have unified, as of July 1, as one parish known as Our Lady of the Snows. In celebration of this event the parish will be hosting an Old-Fashioned Family Picnic. The festivities

begin on Saturday, August 4 with a float in the Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming Parade. The picnic will be held at the Dover-Foxcroft Fairgrounds on Sunday, August 5th, the feast day of Our Lady of the Snows. The celebration begins with an outdoor Mass at 11:00 AM. It will be followed by a barbeque and picnic as well as games and activities for all ages. All parish members and families are invited to attend. For more information, call Jane at 564-2842.

Park Street UMC of Milo and the Brownville Jct. UMC will be holding combined worships services at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings as follows:

Sunday, July 22nd at Park St UMC with Rev. David Broadbent as guest Pastor.

Sunday, July 29th at Brownville Jct. with Liz Gerrish as Guest Speaker

Sunday, August 5th at Park St UMC with Carolyn Sinclair as Guest Speaker

Sunday, August 12th, Pastor Michele St. Cyr returns and we will resume our regular worship schedule.

Milo Free Public Library News

By Judith Macdougall

The fifth week of our *Get-A-Clue* Summer Reading Program is over, and our young members are looking more and more like detectives. This week they received a wrist band with a secret compartment (great for secret messages, or as one very practical detective said, "Good for money). Now with their badges, moustaches, spy glasses and secret message wrist bands they are anxious to solve mysteries. What will they find at the library for their costume next week?

Elaine Tardiff, another Milo Elementary School teacher and also a library trustee, was the Story Time Reader for this past week. She read to 10 children, 7 adults and one baby. Among the books she read, she felt the children enjoyed Patricia Polacco's *Oh Look* the best. After reading this story with its repetitive verses, she then led the children on a Bear Hunt. Everyone had a great time. We at the library really are thankful to have such enthusiastic and willing community readers.

A box of juvenile preview books came this past week, and after a few very busy days Pam and I had a chance to open it. We found lots of lovely children's books but on a limited budget and with limited space, we finally chose an even dozen that we thought our younger patrons would enjoy most. These are as listed:-

AMELIA BEDELIA-ROCKET SCIENTIST Amazing Amelia Bedelia always gets into trouble, but she is so goodhearted, things usually work out.

BISCUIT VISITS THE BIG CITY An I-Can-Read book

BUTTERFLIES These three books are interesting as they **DINOSAURS** have transparent pages which paired with pages **LADYBUGS** on either side of them form unique illustrations. **GRANDMA ELEPHANT IS IN CHARGE** Interesting facts about elephants in story form

SKATEBOARDING These two books are Dorling Kindersley **SNOWBOARDING** with great colored photographs and detailed diagrams.

OLIVER HAS SOMETHING TO SAY A humorous story about a little fellow who has to learn to speak up for himself.

DO LIKE A DUCK DOES! Ducklings and a sly fox

And then, of course, we added some new joke books. These feature SpongeBob SquarePants and his friends in the Briny Deep.

JOKES FROM THE KRUSTY KRAB

NAUTICAL NONSENSE

Well folks, it is July 20 as I write this. The Midnight Hour is fast approaching and the hoopla will soon be over as **HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS** is released at 12:01 a.m. on July 21. We received our copies today (Friday) but a sticker on the box forbid us to even open the box until the 21st. As that is Saturday, our copies will not circulate until Monday. We will be well within the legal aspects of the situation. This is the most secretive book release in which we have ever participated. Kind of exciting! As I have read in various magazines, this has been the decade of Harry Potter.

Library Summer Hours

Mon.-Weds.-Fri.---2:00-8:00

Telephone 943-2612

MILO ELEMENTARY PTO NEWS

Although summer is here, the children of Milo Elementary and our community continue to be the focus of the school's Parent/Teacher Organization.

Volunteers from the PTO have been busy accompanying students to swim lessons in Dover. Among other activities taking place this summer are the beginning plans for the October Made-in-MSAD #41 auction and games night. Under discussion is the possibility of a rummage sale. These events will be significant fundraisers for a new playground to be located at Milo Elementary School.

The auction receives excellent support from families of Milo Elementary students as well as the community that donated crafts, food, gift certificates and more and who come to bid on these items as well.

This year the PTO is asking you to remember us after your yard sale (or before). We will pick up your donated items for the October auction or rummage sale.

The Milo Elementary PTO continues to thank you for your support. For more information or to donate items please call Victoria Eastman at 943-2400.

CURIOSITY NOTES

Submitted by Victoria Eastman

I am writing this from the customer's point of view and want to spread the word. Have you seen the new Curiosity Shop? It is located at 259 Dover Road in Sebec.

How spacious it is! It is bright and cheery and continues to get a little something new every week.

There are shelves of books, knick-knacks, beautiful crafts and more as well as several racks of clothes.

Monica and Matt have done a great job moving everything to their new place. Monica still takes consignments and can be reached at 943-3041. The Curiosity Shop hours are Tuesday - Saturday - 10 am to 3 pm.

Please visit to satisfy your curiosity while you shop around.

JULY 1992 - FROM GRAMMIE McCLEARY'S WEATHER DIARY

- 23-Mostly cloudy-79° at noon.
- 24-Sunny breezy until late pm-86° at noon.
- 25-Sunny-88° at noon.
- 26-Mostly cloudy-85° at noon.
- 27-Fog cloudy rain-68° at noon.
- 28-Fog P sunny am windy pm-78° at noon.
- 29-Cloudy then sunny windy-82° at noon

ELEANOR R. (FOLLETTE) BADGER

FRANKLIN - Eleanor R. (Follette) Badger passed from this earth Saturday, July 14, 2007, at her apartment at Pinebrook, Franklin. She was the daughter of the late Alvin and Hattie (Rolfe) Roberts. Eleanor attended high school in Brownville Junction. She worked as a cook on Grindstone Neck, Winter Harbor, for 20 years and also at private homes for many years. She loved cooking and enjoyed her flowers. Eleanor lived independently, even being blind for the last two years. She cherished her time spent with her grandchildren while they were growing up. Eleanor is survived by her son, Stephen N. Follette Sr.; grandchildren, Stephen N. Follette Jr. and wife, Robin, of Talmadge, Erica E. Follette and husband, Greg, of Franklin, Jason J. Follette and wife, Becky, of Prospect Harbor and Justin J. Follette and wife, Crystal; great-grandchildren, Kristen, Ben, Taylor, Gina and Tim, all of Sullivan; sister, Marlene Farrar of Millinocket; several other sisters. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles Badger in 1997. A graveside service will be announced at a later date. Contributions in Eleanor's memory may be made to The Ark Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 276, Cherryfield, ME 04622. Arrangements by Jordan-Fernald, 113 Franklin St., Ellsworth. Condolences may be expressed at www.jordanferald.com

WILLIAM A. 'BILLY' JAMESON

MILO - William A. "Billy" Jameson, 66, died July 15, 2007, at a Dover- Foxcroft hospital. He was born March 7, 1941, in Unity, the son of Leonard C. and Myrtle (Allen) Jameson. A U.S. Army veteran, Billy had been employed as a machine operator in an aircraft manufacturing plant. He is survived by his mother, Myrtle Jameson of Milo; two brothers, Maurice Jameson of Chester, Conn., David Jameson of Middletown, Conn.; two sisters, Adrienne Kerwick of Chester, Conn., Christine Hunt and husband, Roger, of Rogers, Conn.; several nieces, nephews and an aunt. He was predeceased by three brothers, Leonard, Norman and James "Jim" Jameson.

LOIS F. MARSHALL

ORNEVILLE and PORT SALERNO, Fla. - A memorial celebration of life for Lois F. Marshall, who died Dec. 13, 2006, after a courageous battle with cancer, will be held 2:30 p.m. July 28, at the Marion C. Cook School, 22 Howland Road, LaGrange. Family and friends are encouraged to bring their recollections of Lois, a song or poem to share. If you are not comfortable speaking yourself, one of her children would feel privileged to read it for you. Lois will be laid to rest beside her parents at LaGrange Cemetery. After which, her family would like you to return to the school and share refreshments and conversation. Please come join us in celebrating Lois' life.

Milo Fire Department and Auxiliary will be having a Car Wash

Saturday, August 11th from 9:00 am

to 2:00 pm. This is to benefit Milo

Fire Dept and Auxiliary to participate in the

Annual Maine Federation of

Fire Fighters Convention in September.

Rain date Sunday, August 12th

WHAT THE....?

No, that isn't the newest culinary creation of Mike Clark...but he found this surprise on his grill when he removed



the cover to get things ready for a bar-b-que last Thursday afternoon. Karen and Mike still aren't quite sure but strongly suspect this is a nest the red squirrels built. The noisy chattering they (the squirrels, not Karen and Mike) made while the chicken finished cooking, and the grill was cleaned and cooled and the protective cover put back, seemed to tell who the culprits were. The Clarks chose to leave the nest as it was. Anyone have any idea how many litters a year red squirrels have?

UP ON THE FARM

BY VALERIE ROBERTSON

First off, once again for all of you who are so kind and sweet to ask about Kierra, she is doing amazingly well. Her cancer is in remission and she has absolutely no side-effects from the chemo. I am so glad we have this extra time with her!

But, as is life, not each piece of news is good news, and I have been putting off telling of the passing of one of our beloved pets. Sufficient time has gone by, and I can now write of Radar and think of him and the unique way he came into our lives.

When I went to look up the following story, I was amazed to see that it happened almost 5 years ago. I am so glad we were able to give him a secure, happy life for that time, and what he gave us in return was priceless. Radar, despite his nervousness and anxiety about food was a happy, fun boy whom we miss deeply. This story first appeared in November of 2002 and for all of you who have forgotten how Radar came to own us, here it is again.

UP ON THE FARM

Reprinted from the December 3rd, 2002 Three Rivers News

BY VALERIE ROBERTSON

My goodness, so much has happened since the last time I wrote I barely know where to start. But I guess the most exciting news from the farm is that the Barred Rocks are laying eggs! I had figured from the day I got them they would start laying on Thanksgiving and they surprised me with three eggs the Monday before Thanksgiving. They have been laying from three to five eggs each day and Kirby and I still marvel at the feat. Each egg has been perfect and delicious. Every morning, as I head for the coop, I feel like a kid waking up on Christmas morning (or perhaps Easter morning!) eager to see what gifts were left in the night. I hope when I'm gathering a couple dozen eggs a day I still have this enthusiasm.

Our little farm has increased in population since I last reported on it. All of the original goats and chickens are happy and healthy, but we have added a few members.

On Nov. 6, I became aware of a dog that had been locked in a truck for three days. He belonged to a couple of the folks I deliver Meals for Me to, and I was aware that the wife had been admitted to a nursing home, but the husband had been admitted also, and I was unaware of that. Consequently, the dog had been in the truck with no food or water for 3 days.

I showed up at the house where the dog lives to deliver the husband his meal and was told by the neighbors that he had been away for three days and that they were concerned about the dog, but didn't dare to feed or water him, as he was vicious. I learned that a couple of folks, including the police, had tried to do something to help the dog, but his threatening behavior had stopped them. Being an animal lover, and kind of numb, I decided to do something to help the poor starving dog. I grabbed the food intended for the owner and started across the street to the truck. The neighbors were very concerned for my safety, and watched me from their door.

I walked up to the truck and noticed the dog was hooked, with a leash to the handle of the passenger's side front door so I moved around to the driver's door. I put my hand out to open it and that's when the medium sized Black Lab reacted and I jumped back five feet. The primal, guttural growls and wild, teeth bared lurching was a bit unsettling and a normal person probably would have turned heels and ran: I opened the driver's side door.

That seemed to further infuriate him and I knew from dealings with him before that the truck was his favorite spot and he was very protective of it, but I also knew he needed food and water. I realized the leash limited him and that he couldn't get all the way to the driver's door. Praying the leash held, I set the tray of food (I'm thankful it was pot roast, not something less palatable to dogs) in the driver's seat and stepped back. He was still trying to protect himself but he was doing it between large gulps of food. A time or two I even saw his tail wag. I had gotten a bowl of water from the neighbor and I set that in the seat, closed the door and left. I had to get my day's work done, and figure out what to do next: the dog needed to be released from the truck, then he needed to be tended, and I needed to formulate a plan.

I finished up at the Meals for Me site and headed to the Town Office. Jane was so relieved to hear that I had taken action with the dog, and that he had food and water, at least for the time being. She said that if I could figure a way to get

him to the veterinarian the town would cover the cost. She knew of the dog and had arranged with Julie Gallagher to tend to the six cats that were also left at the residence. I was very thrilled to learn what a kind compassionate Town Manager we have, and assured her I would get the dog over to the vet. I went to formulate a plan.

I knew I would be doing the actual rescue myself, as all of my friends were working. I thought of the dangers I might face and what the actual threats to my body might be and decided my throat and hands were going to be the most vulnerable. I bought a pair of leather welder's gloves, borrowed a snowmobile helmet (complete with a full-face shield), grabbed a dog carrier and some ground beef, and headed for the dog's home.

I parked by the truck and went across the street to tell the neighbors what I was doing and to ask them to watch my back. To my horror they weren't there. I was about to attempt a very dangerous job completely alone and I was isolated on a back road. Now things were getting scary.

My plan was to unhook the leash, hook him to my own leash, then entice him into the dog kennel with the hamburger. I tried to open the passenger door and discovered it was locked. It had one of those old-fashioned push down locks and the dog had pushed it, locking the door. I had a wire clothes-hanger in my car, straightened it, made a loop at the end and headed to the truck window, which had been left cracked a bit so the dog could get fresh air.

Now, in order for you to visualize the procedure, I need to fill you in on what my "dog-rescue attire" consisted of. To protect my throat I had put on my denim jacket and buttoned it all the way up, then put my calf-length black rubber stall-mucking coat over it, also buttoned to my chin. I put on the royal-blue elbow length welder's gloves and grabbed the hanger. I had concluded the snowmobile helmet would scare the heck out of the dog so I decided to only use it only if I needed it. I approached the passenger's side of the truck, tried to ignore the dog's face smashing into the window as he lunged to kill me, and inserted the wire hanger into the crack at the top of the window.

Now, I'm not very coordinated under the best of circumstances, and when faced with an angry snarling dog, while wearing oversized welding gloves, I become extremely clumsy! I fumbled and bumbled with the lock for a few minutes then decided I couldn't maneuver the hanger with the gloves on, so I took them off. The dog's large mouth couldn't fit out the crack, so my hands weren't in actual danger unless I put them in the window. I made an extra bend in the hanger so I could work it from beside the window, keeping my hands safe and groped for a few more minutes and suddenly the lock popped up! Yay! I had made it possible to release the animal, who seemed to think I was directly responsible for every bad thing that ever happened to him. I went to my car, grabbed my leash and a pair of scissors to cut his leash, put on the helmet and the gloves and headed back to the truck. I took a deep breath and started talking to the dog in my own special animal/baby voice and opened the truck door. The dog started whining, jumped from the truck, lifted his leg and relieved himself. As he was doing this I got between him and the truck, hooked my leash on his collar, cut his leash, jumped back as far as my leash would allow and continued telling him what a good boy he was.

The next thing I knew, he was sniffing the hamburger and wagging his tail. I had set the kennel down close to my car so I

wouldn't have far to carry it after I got him inside. I took more hamburger, placed it as far to the back of the kennel as possible, and walked behind it, hoping he would enter the kennel to eat the meat and then I would shut him in. My plan worked! He entered the kennel, started gulping the meat and I went to the front to shut him in. One problem, his butt was sticking out. I had no choice except to bend down behind him and push on him. I pushed and shoved and even put my shoulder into it, but there was no denying that he was too big for the kennel. By this time he had finished the meat and exited the kennel, looking for more food. I removed the helmet and gloves, as he seemed more interested in eating than killing, and said out loud "Well, now what are we going to do?" He promptly turned, jumped in my car and wagged his tail.

I said, "Well, I guess that will work." I gathered up the kennel and my gear, put them in my passenger seat, told him to stay calm and got in my car.

Now, I know that was kind of an irresponsible move on my part, but I was determined to get him to the vet and we were in a car, so I turned the key, started the engine and headed for town. My new best friend was a perfect rider except for the fact he wanted to sit in the front and I had filled the seat with the kennel. He settled on riding on the gearshift, with one paw on my right arm. I realized that he wasn't the killer he tried to portray, and decided the folks at the Town Hall needed to meet him. I walked him into the office to the amazement of everyone there, and even introduced him to Todd Lyford, who gave him a few dishes of water, which the dog lapped up in no time. Janet Richards mentioned that the people who owned him had licensed him, so she looked up the paperwork and we determined his name was Radar. He knew his name and wiggled with glee whenever one of us said it.

After drinking all that water, Radar was in need of a bathroom break, so he headed outdoors. The only problem was he wasn't used to large, clean glass doors and promptly smacked his head into the glass. Todd and I couldn't help but laugh, as Radar wasn't hurt, just confused. I took him outside, he did his business, and then I loaded him in the car to head for the Corinth Veterinary Clinic. I didn't dare take him to my house, not knowing if he was vaccinated for dog diseases, or if he had any contagious illnesses, so a check-up was in order. Jane had arranged with the clinic to keep him for a week, give him the necessary vaccines, a check-up, and a bath. After a week we would know the fate of his owners and would do what needed to be done. I wouldn't consider the idea of having the dog put to sleep unless I found out there were no other options. There still was the chance his owners would come home, and Radar would be returned to them. I knew his aggressive behavior would make it hard to find him a new home, but didn't completely reject the hope of placing him with a good family.

The trip to East Corinth went very well. Radar even whined when he had to go to the bathroom. I would stop the car and take him out on the leash. It seems pot roast and hamburger are pretty good laxatives for a dog! Three stops later we were at the Clinic. He apprehensively entered the building, was checked in, then I reluctantly left. I knew it was the responsible thing to do, but my heart was breaking at the thought of him being locked up again.

As days went by, it seemed apparent that the owners were going to stay in the nursing home indefinitely. Radar had been at the clinic for four days, and I had called daily to see how he was doing. The receptionist assured me he was content, eating

well, and seemed quite healthy. Guilt overcame me that Saturday, and Kirby and I decided to go get Radar. Jane had offered me the town's chain-link kennel, so I could keep him isolated from my animals in case he showed aggressive behavior. We figured if worse came to worse, we could keep him in the kennel during the day, and put him in Heikki's large plastic kennel, inside, at night.

When we picked Radar up, he was understandably wound up, and pulled and tugged at the leash. Once in the car, he wanted to sit on my lap, which was physically impossible, so it was an energy-charged hectic trip home. Kirby and I both silently wondered what kind of havoc would break out when we got home; when Radar saw the other animals would there be chasing and fighting?

Our fears quickly vanished when we let Radar out of the car. He and Heikki loved each other from the first moment, and the other animals, although wary, took the new family member in stride.

It was only a matter of hours before we realized what a sweet loving dog Radar is. He fits into our animal family quite well, and is getting over the aggressiveness to strangers. We have learned it will be a long time, if ever, before his owners are released, and we are prepared to keep him forever if necessary. Radar has become a member of our crazy family, and I'm sure he is very happy. **End of reprint.**



Radar and Kirby, Jan. 2003

As it turned out, Radar's folks never left the nursing home, and Radar thrived at our place. He particularly enjoyed going to camp, and to watch him in the water was a lesson in pure joy. His owner had once remarked to me that at every opportunity Radar made a mad dash for the river, and that was why he was kept either tethered or confined in the truck. It turned out Radar lived to swim, and on hot summer days paddled around in the Sebec River for hours on end. It was the cutest thing to watch him slap the water with his front paw and grab at the resulting splash with his mouth...all while doing the smoothest Dog Paddle you've ever seen. He is missed but we knew it was time to let him go when he lost his ability as well as his desire to swim. He passed gently as we held him and told him what a good boy he was. Sometimes the only option is to let go and allow your pet one last moment of love and dignity.