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### More News...

**Congratulations to Jordan, Traide, Adam, Craig, Nate and Austin for successfully completing Driver's Education and getting their driver's permits.**

### Upcoming Events:

- April Vacation  
Apr 20-23
- Memorial Day  
May 31
- Last Day of School  
June 16 (early release)

Don't forget - newsletters are available on our website

## Mechanics by the Group

This quarter we have been working on a lot of different projects. For starters we have been working on a 94 Ford Ranger that we are making into a dune buggy. We tore it all down to engine and frame and started welding a roll cage for it. It is almost done, but we need a little bit more work on welding the roll cage and a few more bars here and there. It needs floor boards and the wiring needs to be set up and the steering column needs to be fixed. Other than the little work that it needs it should be finished any day.

The mechanics group gets a lot of projects to do things for other groups or staff. For instance, we built a trailer for Nils. Carl's group cut all the boards for it to the length of the trailer. We had to cut out old rusted cross members and weld our own new ones on it. We painted the frame and drilled holes through it so we could bolt the boards on it. When we got the boards back we put some old engine oil on them and wiped them all down on both sides to keep from rotting and basically waterproof. Then we bolted on the boards and the trailer was finished - it took maybe two days if that.

We had to do some work to the Green truck - we replaced the front driver's side fender, painted it, fixed some rust spots, changed the wheel and studs and then we welded new shackles on it.

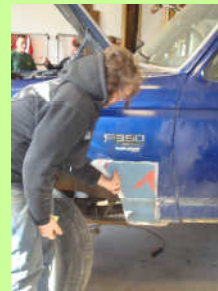
We also had to fix the Blue truck. We put new brake lines, changed the master cylinder, slave cylinder, made patch panels for it, fixed rust spots on it so it would pass for a sticker, fixed the front bumper because it was hanging off, and did an oil change to it.

Carl brought down the winch for us to fix because he snapped the cable. We had to cut the old one out with the welder and we put a brand new cable in it.

We had a couple of students working on some mini bikes that they wanted to rebuild and put bigger motors in and make them faster, so they had to cut the frames and lengthened them to fit 5hp engines. We did get to test drive one of them and it did definitely was a lot more fun. Then it was dismantled again for final touches and paint.

An instructor's Jeep Wrangler needed a heater switch fixed, so a couple of students worked on that.

(Mechanics continued on page 2)



**Mechanics** (cont'd from page 1)

We did spring clean up. Everyone pitched in and did something to help out, some guys were inside cleaning up the shop and some guys were outside cleaning everything up out there because stuff was thrown everywhere. The inside of the shop was rearranged so that we could use all the garage bays at once so we can work on more things.

Deb brought in a weed-whacker for us to see if we could fix. A couple of guys tore it all down and tried fixing it but I guess Pete said the engine was junk and wasn't fixable.

Pete bought a Chevy S10 for another project for the group. We are going to get that running and fully restore it. It has a small block Chevy 350 in it that will definitely be fun when it's finished. The Chevy S10, along with the dune buggy, is going to be sold to some of the students who helped build them.

We bought brand new spray guns for the group so we can all start learning how to paint vehicles and get some practice.

Whenever the group has extra money we try to get out and do stuff like lunches. We go to Chinese restaurants, Pizza Hut, and Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell and sometimes like a breakfast/dinner. Or if a student has any suggestions we would consider it. Sometimes we would go shopping and get a bunch of food for the group and keep it locked up in our group cabinet so that way whenever we get hungry or for those students who don't bring in a lunch could go grab something. We have a mini fridge, a microwave and a toaster oven in our group, so we can easily keep drinks cold or heat something up if needed.

**Carpentry**

This quarter I built an Adirondack chair from scratch. It took four hours to cut out and two hours to assemble it. We also hiked Bauneg Beg Mountain. There was a great view of Mount Washington. ~ **Jason**

I have built an Adirondack chair for myself and have brought it home. I also made a hat rack for my dad. Some things I have done with my group include helping with the siding outside, hardwood floor in the new classroom section of our shop and tiling the walk in section of the classroom with Rocky. We also did the grout work on the tiles. I have been working with another student Rocky. So far we have made up two of our own designs for footrests for our chairs. We are now making a design to build two Adirondack chairs built together with a table in the middle. ~ **John**

We built an Adirondack chair for a fundraiser for a non-profit group named Grahamtastic Connection. This group provides laptop computers to chronically sick children all over the USA. After building that one I got to build one for myself and take it home. We also put in the new wood and tile floors in our classroom. I installed the ceramic tiles with another student and did the grout work. ~ **Rocky**

Our group started on building little projects like Adirondack chairs and building the classroom floor. The floor is made of red oak and the forestry students cut down the trees and planed the wood themselves. We started by putting down floor paper and then started laying down the boards. We went to Taylor Rental and rented a floor gun. The floor gun is cool because you hit it with a mallet. After the floor was done, we went to Home Depot to rent a floor sander and we went over the floor lightly a couple times. We put poly on the floor to make it look good and sanded it one last time. After the floor we started on a tile walkway. The walkway was fun because it's a challenge working with grout and floor cement because you have to lightly coat before you install. ~ **Ben**

This quarter we worked a lot on siding. We put baton strips over our pine board siding. We had a sunny day so we climbed Devil's Den and it was a lot of fun. I am really excited I got my driving permit. I helped Mark tack the deck of his trailer. ~ **Traide**



## Forestry

This quarter in the forestry group we spent time in Carl's shop. We hand carved wooden spoons and forks out of bass and cherry. We also carved wooden bowls out of bass. The most recent project we have is to repair our shave horse, so we can take on our next project-a rustic style table. For lunch we made pizza in Carl's clay wood fire oven. ~ **Chris**

We have started a project at the Sid Emery District Forest in Lyman. We are pruning white pine trees by cutting lower branches. We are pruning the trees so they won't have knots and will be straight for good lumber in the future. This spring we are going to clean trails and do more pruning. ~ **Eddie**

During the month of March, the Forestry Group hiked Moose Mountain and it was my first time hiking Moose Mountain and I live five minutes from it. The Forestry group students are Mike, Tom, Nate, Chris, Will, Nikolai, Eddie and our instructors Carl and Glenn. We drove the Suburban there and parked it by a trail. Then we walked up the hill to a huge field with a graveyard. The gravestones in the graveyard are very old and the dates on them were in the 1880's. After that we walked all the way to the very top of the mountain that is called the Ledges. Once we got to the very top we sat down and ate lunch. Then we walked all the way down to the Suburban and drove back to the school. We all had a wonderful day. ~ **Michael**

We hiked Green Mountain. It was fun, but long. A tornado went threw it last year and knocked down almost all the trees. It took us an hour and forty five minutes for every one to get up to the top. When we reached the top there was a huge fire tower and we all climbed up it and we could see every thing from roads, ponds, lakes, houses, and trees. If you looked north you would have been able to see the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The floorboards of the fire tower were sketchy, because it was making a cracking noise and it was so windy at the top than down below on the ground and it made it very cold. It was so much faster coming down then going up. Four of us reached the bottom in like 10 minutes. When every one was down, looking at the views around us, we sat down and made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. ~ **Nate**

This quarter our group worked on the woodlot in Springvale for five weeks. We cut trees and split it into firewood. So far we have cut 19 ½ cords of wood. Most of the trees we cut are beech, which is the hardest tree we have split so far this year. The roads we use to twitch the trees are thawed which makes it muddy so we are taking a break from the wood lot and working in Carl's shop carving spoons, bowls and anything that can be made from wood.~ **Nikolai**

The month of March we made maple syrup. The first process of doing maple sugaring is tapping the sugar maple tress and putting up sap buckets and covers. The sap is like water but has a little bit of sugar in it. The sap will run when it is cold during the night and warm during the days. When the sap was running-that's when we collected. You have to have 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. We boiled twice to make maple syrup and everyone in the group got their own pint of syrup. On March 12, we had the school's Annual Pancake Day. Pancake Day is when the forestry group cooks the pancakes and all the groups come and eat pancakes. When we got to Carl's the stuff was there to make the pancakes and waffles. We had refreshments such as orange juice and milk. I enjoyed drinking sap and making the pancakes and waffles. The sapping season started early and ended early. The reason why the sapping season ended early was because we didn't have frost, cold weather, and snow. We tapped a red maple at the school too and it stopped running really early. ~ **Tom**

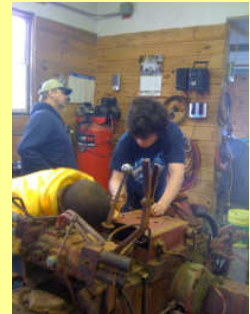


**Animal Science by the Group**

We have been working on restoring a 1958 460 International tractor. We have already torn it down with the help of Nils and Tucker. The tractor wasn't running when we got it, so we'll have to rebuild the engine. We are cleaning and painting the parts. We will have Pete and his group show us how to take the dents out. We looked up the history of the tractor on line and read about what was happening in the US during the 1950's. We will be doing power point presentations soon.

We have been working with the horses everyday. They are in the arena now instead of the barn and we clean it everyday. We use the Gator (our utility 4 wheeler) and move everything to the manure pile by the cow shed. Sometimes we load some for Carl to use at his Greenhouse.

We raked the yard on the warm and sunny days. We also did maintenance on the tractor and excavator. We started to fix the rock wall out front with some help from Kelly and her husband.



**Ropes Course/Machine Shop By Brett**

This quarter our group finished the wood processor for the Forestry group. We had to redesign some of the operating parts for the machine so it would work at full capacity and operate safely. That project took us a solid five months to complete.

Another thing our group worked on this quarter is we made the flying squirrel a little easier to get down from. Instead of getting down with someone's help plus the ladder, you can now self belay yourself to the ground.

We made a multi-tasking basket to use when working on anything tall that a ladder can not reach. Every part to the cage was cut to size and then assembled together to make what is now a working basket for high places.

Some of the students in the group are making an all-custom bike to use to ride back and forth from the machine shop to the ropes course.

The Group has started to do the yearly maintenance on the ropes course elements and surrounding area. We go around racking up all the leaves, moving logs, cutting trees that need cutting, replacing parts on elements that have to be replaced and more.

