

## Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



**Date:** March 4, 2024

**To:** Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee (CVTC)

**From:** Ed Gervais

**Subject:** Agenda for March 8, 2024 Meeting

The next CVTC meeting is set for Friday March 8, 2024, from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Carrabassett Valley Town Office. The proposed agenda is as follows:

1. Decisions and Actions from our January 20, 2024 Meeting (Ed)

I have attached our "Decisions and Actions" document from the last meeting for reference. A recap of the of the open actions:

<u>Action:</u> Ed will reach out to several who volunteered to be part of the plan update (Tim G., Deb, Val, Tom, and Adam) to begin a subcommittee effort.	Subcommittee to meet after CVTC on March 8
<u>Action:</u> Adam agreed to follow up with Sugarloaf Maintenance to see if they could help upgrade one hitch and fix another for the snow dogs.	Sugarloaf was unable but Adam helped with alternate arrangements
<u>Action:</u> CVTC members to review the current open and closing policy and procedures described on the Trail Conditions Page and be prepared to discuss modifications at our next meeting.	To be addressed during the March 8 meeting.
<u>Action:</u> Josh and Seth to provide a summary plan for CVTC consideration at the next meeting in March.	Provided with this agenda
<u>Action:</u> CRNEMBA BOD to review social media strategy.	Pending
<u>Action:</u> The Pump Track Subcommittee to reconvene and try to advance the project plan for CVTC consideration at the next meeting.	Material provided below to support discussion

2. Newtons Capital Repair Plan (Josh/Seth)

Josh and Seth have reviewed the areas of Newton's that need capital maintenance and Josh pulled together the plan in Attachment A. Let's discuss, adjust as needed and get something approved for execution.

3. Trail Open/Close Protocol (Ed & all)

See Attachment B for current written policy (Trail Conditions Page and 2018 Mountain Bike Development Plan respectively) regarding the opening and closing of trails in the CVTrails network. In my view this has been largely successful. However, we may need to clarify certain aspects given what seem to be more frequent snow/dirt riding transitions recently. I believe the primary issue at hand is who is making the decision for which trails when.

4. Pump Track (Pump track subcommittee)

Selection of the location for a new pump track remains the crucial decision for progress. In my view, consensus has coalesced around the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center as generally the best location for a vibrant hub to the CVTrails network, supporting Town recreational programming, and safety. Sugarloaf's plans for Nordic race homologation factor into the selection process and Tom has provided some detail in Attachment C regarding current plans.

5. CVTC Partner Updates

CRNEMBA (Val)

- Open Board Meeting on March 30. A report out to the community on progress and plans, recognition, and community input.
- NEMBA TrailFest is returning!

Town of Carrabassett Valley

Sugarloaf

Maine Huts & Trails

## Trail Design, Maintenance Report

Prepared by Joshua Tauses

The following is a brief outline of proposed needed upgrades and maintenance log tasks for the Lower Newtons Revenge section of the Maine Hut Trail, for the most part located south of Crommetts Connector intersection. Over the past few seasons significant degradation has occurred both as a result of user caused and nature related events. This document is provided for the Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee and Maine Huts and Trails.

Goals: Make upgrades to existing trail to better the experience of winter and summer users  
Complete general maintenance tasks related to corridor, drainages, and tread shaping  
Re-build selected portions identified as troubled spots

Notes: Recent identified need of re-working of Newtons Revenge Trail has been noted by CVTC member organizations. Following an assessment to identify actual projected tasks, it is generally suggested: 3-4 sections of trail will require significant re-building, ditching and culverts replaced in majority of the section, tread shaping on flatter and steeper grades to manage flow, and corridor widening is needed. Following completion of these tasks, at best attempt the tread for summer users should be identified and corralled to promote a quantity user experience and prevent future degradation. .

### Challenges:

- It is anticipated some amount of user impact will occur during constructing period
- Potentially significant amount of gravel/dirt material will be mined or imported
- Maintaining integrity of the trail sections not required adjustments will be challenging due to machinery
- Funding and execution plans are undetermined at this time

### Suggestions:

- Develop messaging for trail users and Hut visitors prior to and during construction
- CVTC members work in collaboration to cover costs and tasks related to the project
- Strive for 10year longevity providing for the good of the corridor.
- Possible June project, or Sept

Stats:

- Approx 8500ft total trail section
- Approx 2000 ft rebuild section (1-4)
- Approx 24 (10ft min) 15inch culverts
- Approx 200-300 yrd new material
- Goal for 2 week project, possible 3 week TBD

Estimated Budget:

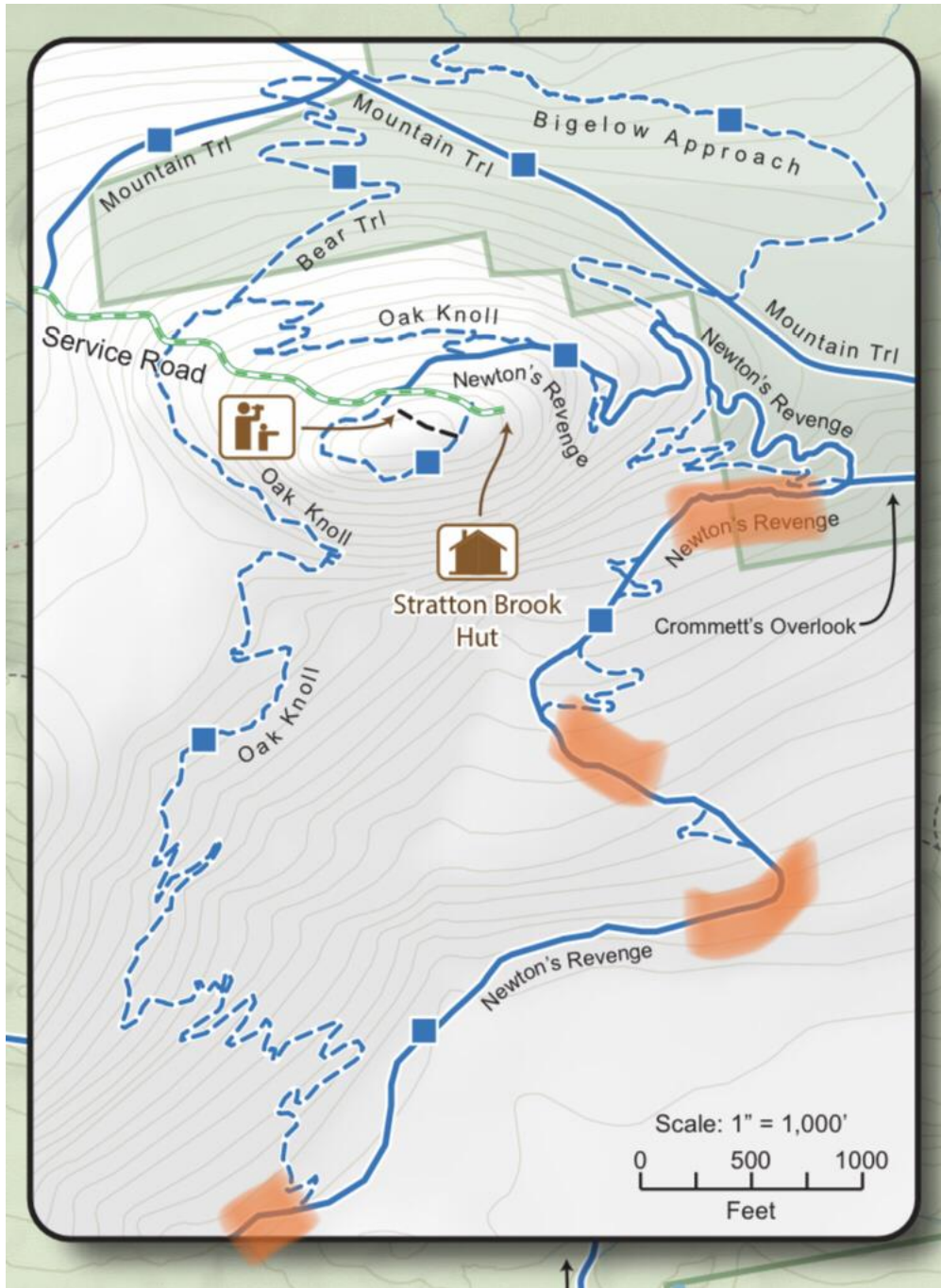
80hrs Large Excavator	\$8,000
80hrs Small Excavator	\$4,800
80hrs Morooka	\$8,000
20hrs Mower	\$2,000
Small Machines	\$2,000
Compactor	
Muck Truck	
Gravel Screen	
Materials	\$15,000
24 Culverts	
200-300yds	
Mulch/Seed	
Labor	\$8,000
Total	\$47,800

Secured Funding:

Northern Forest Center	\$10,000
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Requested Funding:

CRNEMBA	\$10,000
CRNEMBA/Town of CV	\$10,000
MHT	\$12,800 (in kind, machinery)
Sugarloaf	\$5,000 (in kind, materials)
Total	\$47,800



Thank You

Joshua Tauses

## Attachment B: Trail Open and Close Policy

### About our Trail Conditions

This trail condition page is hosted by CRNEMBA on behalf of the Carrabassett Valley trails Committee (CVTC). The CVTC is a partnership between the [Town of Carrabassett Valley](#), [CRNEMBA](#), [Maine Huts & Trails](#) and [Sugarloaf](#) created to coordinate and fuel the growth and maintenance of the unique, world class trail system here in the Carrabassett Region. A subcommittee was recently appointed to manage the maintenance and opening and closing of the trails. The following will guide those decisions:

- Trail closure avoids costly damage when a significant length of trail surface is soft enough to rut with a tire. Efforts to repair damaged trails use resources better spent on new trails, and lead to longer term closures.
- The CVTC and its subcommittee understand and share the desire to ride and intend to keep the trails open as often as possible! During spring and fall months, following some weather events, and depending on ground saturation, system wide closure may be necessary.
- Closure decisions will be made by the subcommittee and will be based on input from a network of local riders.
- Trail closures and openings will be made public via the CRNEMBA website Trail Conditions page and at Trailhead kiosks.
- This is not yet an exact science. The subcommittee will do its best to adjust the criteria for determining closure as it continues to gain experience.
- Landowners (e.g. Sugarloaf, Town of Carrabassett Valley) or leaseholders (e.g. MH&T) may exercise their right to a final say on closing or opening of certain trails.

Please direct questions or comments to either [Josh Tauses](#) or [Sam Punderson](#).

## APPENDIX A: MAINTENANCE PLANNING GUIDELINES

Reprint of CVTrails Maintenance Subcommittee

April 14, 2017

Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee

Maintenance Sub Committee: Savannah Steele, Sam Punderson, Peter Cole, Andy Gillespie, Spencer Lee, Ed Gervais, Dave Cota, Joshua Tausen (Chair)

### Seasonal Opening/Closing Recommendations

Trails will be 'Open', 'Closed', or 'Caution'

#### Spring Season:

- Trails open when snowpack and seasonal runoff are melted, drainages are active
- Frost is out of ground, 'trouble' spots relatively dry
- Surface of tread is able to handle its anticipated level of user traffic
- Generally lower elevation trails open sooner than higher elevation
- Generally some trails open by May 15.

#### Mid Season:

- Rain amounts in excess of 3 inches over 24 hour period puts trails in 'caution' status
- Capacity of the tread and drainages assessed for managing water flow
- Potential for higher traffic trails to be damaged results in 'caution' or 'closed' status
- Unsafe conditions identified may result in 'caution' or 'closed' status

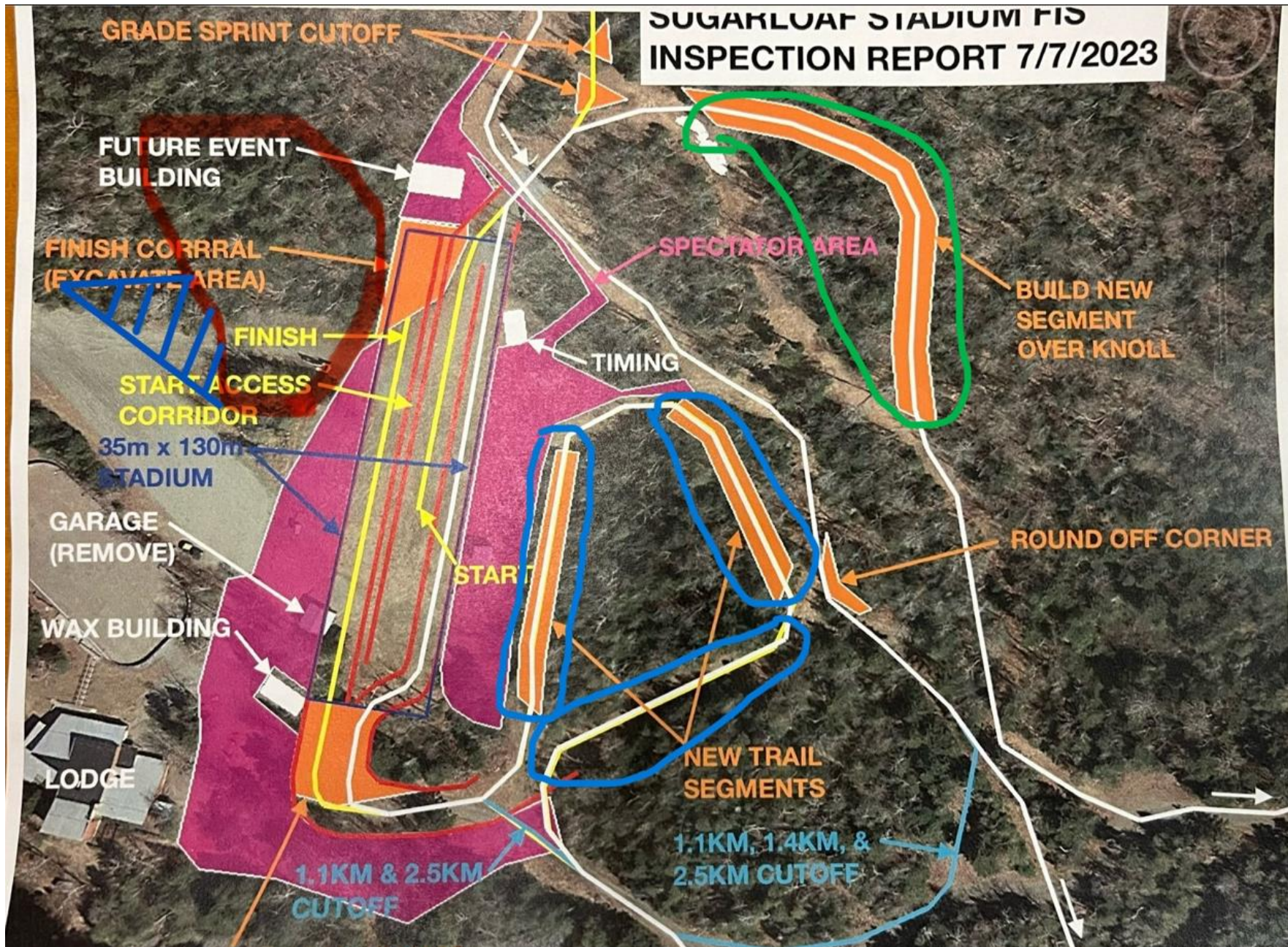
#### Fall Season:

- November 1 hunting season close riding at Outdoor Center
- Start of freeze and thaw cycles can result in 'caution' or 'closed' status
  - Generally accounting for tread surface damage, anticipated level of user traffic
  - As well as trail location and elevation
- Early snow/Late fall heavy rains can result in 'closed' status at higher elevations
  - Relative to snow/rain fall totals 3 inches may be tipping point
- Cold, Frozen ground trails 'open' following freeze thaw period, without snowpack
  - Possible for trails to be frozen, non-snow covered and 'open' later in the season

Group of local 'Monitor' riders, Town Trails crews, and sub-committee members update Savannah, Sam, and Josh as conditions change, as well as communicating needs for capital improvements. Sam is lead contact from this group to CVTC full committee, as well as lead communicator to media outlets.



Attachment C: Pump Track /Nordic Upgrade Information (Area in red is one proposed site)





Attachment C (continued): Nordic Trail Crossing of Par 3



## Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee



**Date:** 20-Jan-2024

**To:** CVTC Committee

**From:** Ed Gervais

**Subject:** Decisions and Actions from January 12, 2024 Meeting

The following highlights, decisions and actions were taken from the subject CVTC meeting.

1. CVTC Effectiveness and Chair Position

Decision: CVTC representatives in attendance confirmed that Ed Gervais would continue as chair.

2. Trail Damage Summary

Josh, Dave, and Deb provided a brief overview of the flood damage and plans for repair. Dave relayed that the Town would be seeking assistance from FEMA but that funds were not assured, might be some time in coming, and that they could only be used for repairs, not upgrades (e.g. rerouting trail segments). Dave also reported that the Town was working to set aside money to manage the repairs regardless.

3. Additional winter trail at Sugarloaf Outdoor Center

Tom Butler reviewed the reasoning behind the change in direction regarding additional winter trail mileage between the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center and Route 27. While Sugarloaf remains supportive of additional winter trail mileage in the network, concerns surfaced within Sugarloaf regarding Fat Bike and Nordic user perceptions that Sugarloaf was responsible for the riding experience, safety, and proper etiquette between the two groups. Valerie made the case that the riding community had significant economic impact and was keen for additional mileage. Tom made clear that this was not a “forever no” from Sugarloaf. Rather, the conversation should continue to explore ways to mitigate the concerns raised.

Decision: It was agreed that it was time to update the Mountain Bike Development Plan, which was last updated in 2018, to include consideration of additional winter trial mileage.

Action: Ed will reach out to several who volunteered to be part of the plan update (Tim G., Deb, Val, Tom, and Adam) to begin a subcommittee effort.

4. Review of any winter grooming needs/coordination

Tim Gerencer described the challenges of operating the new snow dog stemming from the standard equipment sled hitch.

Action: Adam agreed to follow up with Sugarloaf Maintenance to see if they could help with a hitch similar to the one they had fabricated for the current snow dog, affectionately known as Sprocket. Postscript: the Sugarloaf Maintenance Department is extremely busy and cannot help

this time around, at least not in the time frame needed. Adam is exploring whether JR Fabrication can help (thanks Adam).

Tim suggested naming the new snow dog "The Beast". No objection was registered so the grooming crew has the prerogative to name the new machine as they see fit.

Tim also suggested that the portable Quonset hut, purchased to help protect the two dogs, be left in the box at this point. With the snowpack and frozen ground, it would be hard to set the hut properly.

Decision: Wait for summer/fall to set up the Quonset hut.

Decision: Members agreed that temporarily closing single track trails for grooming and subsequent setup time was acceptable. The grooming crew has the authority to do so and will use volunteers (e.g., Tom Cromwell) to open the trails the morning after.

5. Trail Open/Close Policy and Procedure

The challenges of opening and closing trails during the seemingly more frequent winter warm weather cycles and changing conditions were discussed. Josh briefly reviewed the process and described the nuance that local riders often had first-hand knowledge of which trails were in condition to ride before the Trail Condition page could be updated. Josh suggested, and the group agreed, that the CVTC members review the current language and be prepared to discuss changes as appropriate at the next meeting

Action: CVTC members to review the current open and closing policy and procedures described on the Trail Conditions Page and be prepared to discuss modifications at our next meeting.

Tim Flight relayed that a shift in the CRNEMBA social media strategy regarding trail conditions may be inadvertently tempting people away from visiting the Trail Conditions Page by providing just enough information so riders think they have what they need to make riding decisions. Tim reported that traffic to the Trail Conditions page has fallen off since CRNEMBA began providing general description rather than simply providing a link.

Action: CRNEMBA BOD to review social media strategy.

6. Newton's (and Crommett's) Capital Maintenance Project(s)

Josh and Seth have evaluated the very wet and washed-out sections of Newton's and reviewed options for repair/improvement. Seth reported that in the end, he could not give priority to the limited improvements he had wanted to make on Crommett's. to deal with surface water. Josh indicated that he was working a grant for \$10k toward repair/upgrade of

Action: Josh and Seth to provide a summary plan for CVTC consideration at the next meeting in March.

7. Pump Track

Pump track planning status was reviewed. Progress was acknowledged along with the need to keep up the efforts. The potential locations were briefly discussed. Tom relayed Sugarloaf's

preference that the pump track be located at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center. Deb also commented that the Town's preference would also be the Outdoor Center to support recreation programming. Ed reiterated his concerns about safety with locating the track on the opposite side of Route 27.

Action: The Pump Track Subcommittee to reconvene and try to advance the project plan for CVTC consideration at the next meeting.

8. Meeting Schedule

The remaining 2024 meeting schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 8

Friday, May 10

Friday, June 14

Friday, September 13

Friday, November 8