

## 'All that could be done, has'

By GRETA CUYLER  
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**ALLENSTOWN** – Unshaven and clearly emotional, Michael Bussiere last night spoke about his father, the Hooksett hunter who never returned home on Sunday.

"It was just a regular hunting day," he said. "I spoke to him and he was headed for his truck."

He paused, choking back tears.

"That was the last time I spoke to him."

Michael Bussiere was the last person to speak with Russell Bussiere, 70, on Sunday, while both men were hunting at Bear Brook State Park. It was about 10:30 a.m. and the two made plans via two-way radio to meet around noon.

The elder Bussiere never showed up.

Yesterday was the fourth day of searching a 10-square-mile area around Russell's last known location.

The massive search has uncovered no clues.

"We greatly appreciate all the support and the tremendous efforts that not only all these agencies and our friends have put in, but also to all the people that volunteered their time to search for a great man they have never met.

"We are convinced, with the conditions mother nature gave us, that all that could be done, has," the Bussiere family said in a prepared statement.

Searchers have been braving the cold and wet weather in a desperate attempt to find Russell Bussiere.

Using detailed grids, they've conducted line searches, looked in caves and under boulders and crossed streams and swamps to find any and all places where the missing hunter could have crawled to find cover from Sunday's snowstorm.

Officials said the search won't end until they find Russell, but no search teams are going out today and the command center was expected to leave last night.

"We're at the point where we have reached the limits of our search and rescue resources," Fish and Game Col. Jeff Gray said in a written statement. "Unfortunately the length of time and extreme weather conditions over the past four days lead us to believe that it is unlikely Mr. Bussiere has survived."

Russell Bussiere's family described him as a huge Red Sox fan.

"He's a funny bird," Michael Bussiere said of his father's personality.

His family members chuckled.

"You had to know him," Michael explained.

The family said he's an avid outdoorsman who has hunted in Bear Brook State Park for 50 years. He knows the terrain like the back of his hand, Michael said.

A canine search unit will return to the park this weekend, Fish and Game Lt. Kevin Jordan said. Beyond that, searchers will return to the scene if additional leads surface or during any significant weather changes that may clear the ground for better visibility.

"We loved him dearly and we're going to miss him dearly," said Ann Emond, Russell Bussiere's sister.



### YOUR COMMENTS

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My prayers go to the family of Russell Bussiere. I had the great honor of being able to search for two days, unfortunately, with no result. I just wish there were more that could be done...

- **Austin Group, Worcester, MA**

Stop complaining people there were many dedicated men and women out there searching where you. The agencies did everything that they could. That area encompasses over 10,000 acres and there are many wild animals in that area besides deer and the dogs would go for those scents first

- **DM, Penacook**

My heartfelt sadness goes out to the family. My father is 69, and I hunt with him every chance I get. May Mr. Bussiere hunt the "BIG ONES" no matter where he is. This could happen to any family that hunts together, and I only know my father said if he happened to pass away he could "think of no better place to take his last breath", and I feel the same way. God Bless You, and know that your father obviously passed doing something he truly loved!

- **Brett Aither, Exeter, NH**

My heart goes out to the Bussiere Family. I was a part of this family at one time and knew them all very well. My prayers are with everyone and I will continue to pray until your father comes home.

- **Stacy Hebert (formally Pichette), Manchester, NH**

WHY WERE NO BLOOD HOUNDS CALLED TO SEARCH!!!! BEST TRACKING DOGS FOR THE JOB. Fish & Game I believe has not done everything possible to find Russell until they call in the SP Blood Hound!

- **Sally, Manchester**

There are still several unanswered questions! Was Rus hunt from a tree strand, were there any shots heard between 10:30 and 12 and if he knew the area how far does he normally go in?

- **Paul DeBrosky, Raymond NH**

RE: LOST BEAR BROOK HUNTER STORY Did they ever find his truck? Just curious because story says the last time his son talked to Russell, Russell was headed for his truck. thanks

- **mary, hooksett**

My heartfelt prayers and thoughts go out to this family during this difficult time.

- **Leslie, Derry**

Why did those who were in charge of conducting this search not bring dogs in on the first day. There are many search-and-rescue trained & certified dog handlers in this state, many of whom do not charge fees for their search services. Had this been done before the scent trail became stale and buried in snow, this man would very likely have been found already. Dogs should not be considered a "last resort" search method. They should be the first front lines on the job!

- **carolyn black, whitefield, NH**

I am so glad I went to see you all for my birthday your all in my heart. Uncle Russell dad's is about ready to take you hunting & fishing if that is what he needs to do. I am on the way to China will check on you when I get back home. Love, Lindy

- **Linda (Bishop) Bailey, San Gabriel, California**

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