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FORECAST

The Only Constant Is Change For Winter Weather In NEK



Snow blankets the area around United Community Church and St. John the Evangelist Church in St. Johnsbury on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. (Contributed Photo by Paul F. Tidyman)

BY ANDREW MCGREGOR
Staff Writer

It's early November, and many parts of the Northeast Kingdom and North Country are awaiting the first frost, much less the first snowflakes.

For many residents of the region, snow would be a welcome change in precipitation from this summer's historic floods and the continuing soggiess of the fall.

Weather in northern New England, though, can be a finicky thing and hard to predict. Just ask Mark Breen, a meteorologist at Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury and one of the well-known voices of the "Eye On The Sky" weather forecasts featured on Vermont Public radio.

"I've tried to figure out what the winter is going to be like for 40 years, and let's call it limited success," said Breen.

Breen uses the 130 years of weather data collected by Fairbanks Museum to



A woman walks past snow and wreath-covered lions in front of the Fairbanks Museum during a morning snowfall on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. (File photo)

help with his forecasts and to look for what he calls that "magic sauce," the patterns that help with predictions.

"After 40 years of looking for it, I haven't found it yet," he quipped.

A wet August usually means a snowy winter ... at least 6 out of 10 times.

September and October weather is not a great predictor of the winter. The patterns can be elusive, save for one curious thing. The weather in the region rarely stays the same for too long. If you have

See **Weather**, Page 22

Your home base for northern New England's many attractions.



CHERRY HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST

Tucked in the center of historic St. Johnsbury, Vermont, this Victorian Colonial Revival home is a short walk to churches, museums, and downtown shopping.



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Table seating for up to 20 and chair seating for 30 with full catering kitchen and spacious patio and dining areas. Ideal for baby showers, small weddings and family reunions.

Martin and Susan both came to the area as music teachers and church musicians. They love sharing what the area has to offer and look forward to helping you plan your day.



ALPINE ADVENTURE

Northeast Kingdom & North Country Offer Peak Of Skiing

Burke Adds Snowmaking

BY TODD WELLINGTON
Staff Writer

The Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and the North Country of New Hampshire offers skiing bliss for everyone.

Whether you are new to skiing or a veteran on the trails, there are plenty of places to take yourself and your family to enjoy the winter.

Big mountains, small mountains and community-owned ski areas are nearby.

Burke Mountain

Burke Mountain is located in East Burke, Vermont, and they have made a big change in their operation this year by enhancing their snowmaking

system, making it possible to open the lower part of the mountain sooner.

"This summer we've made upgrades to our snowmaking for the lower mountain by not only adding new snow-making guns, but also by enhancing efficiency from the river," said Burke Mountain Marketing & Events Manager Sara P. Kozlu. "This new level of efficiency will allow us to open our lower mountain trails faster."

On the mountain is the Burke Mountain Hotel with an excellent view of the Willoughby Gap. Burke Mountain also offers storage after you check out of the hotel including luggage and ski stor-



Skiers on Burke Mountain.

age areas. The hotel has 116 suites ranging from studios to 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. Suites range from kitchenettes to full kitchens.

There's also complimentary wifi and Cable TV with premium channels. Suites also have a balcony option. The Governors Room

& Conference Center with 5,000 square feet of space is a dedicated meeting space.

There's also a hot tub, family arcade and a fitness center.

The hotel also has eating areas including stepped-up pub food, excellent cocktails and craft beers from around the country.

Burke Mountain is a place for every skier and rider to learn or gain confidence and ability. While advanced guests improve on the upper mountain, beginners own the lower mountain. This natural division avoids criss-crossing of skill levels, making for a more comfortable learning experience.

Jay Peak

Jay Peak is located in Jay, Vermont, and has the most snow in eastern North America, coating 81 trails, slopes and glades.

The mountain includes 385 acres, including 50 miles of trails and rises to 3,968 feet with a vertical drop of 2,153 feet. There are nine lifts including a tram, four quads, one triple, one double and two surface lifts. Snowmak-

ing covers 80 percent of the trails; the season starts in mid-November and lasts until mid-May.

Twenty percent of the trails are for beginners, 40 percent are for intermediate skiers and 40 percent are for advanced skiers.

At Jay Peak, nearly all of the lodging is ski-in/ski-out located within walking distance of other facilities. There are hotel suites, condominiums and townhouses. Most of the lodging is within walking distance of a lift.

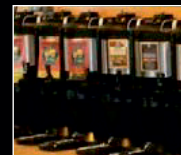
Jay Peak also has the Pump House Indoor Waterpark, the only indoor waterpark in Vermont.

The waterpark features multiple attractions including the Double Barrel Flowrider

See **Ski**, Page 23

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SNOWMOBILES

Join The Club - VAST Trail Network Awaits Snowmobilers

BY DANA GRAY
Staff Writer

The northeast corner of Vermont is home to a large section of the state's snowmobile trail network known as the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers. Hundreds of miles of trails are maintained by local snowmobile clubs.

The VAST website (vtvast.org) has all the information a person interesting in riding the trails needs. Among the requirements is that the rider join a club. The region is home to many clubs. Learn more about the region's clubs below.

Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club

Club address: Peacham; Club contact: Eric Page - 802-592-3155; Club email: synlubesvt@fairpoint.net; Club website: http://bhrrsnowclub.org/

The club, which maintains 41 miles

of trails, was started in 1968. We are one of the oldest if not the oldest club in Caledonia County and we are only one of two clubs that maintains a clubhouse in Caledonia County.

Brighton Snowmobile Club

Club address: Island Pond; Club contact: 631-312-2847; club website: www.brightonsnowmobile.org
The Brighton Snowmobile Club was founded in 1966 and has 127 miles of trails that we groom and maintain in the beautiful Northeast Kingdom. The towns our trails exist on include Brighton, Lewis, Ferdinand, E. Charleston and we also groom for Newark E-Z Riders Snowmobile Club.

Brighton (Island Pond) has earned the title "Snowmobile Capital of Vermont" because of our convenient location and our good elevation which brings us a lot of snow to enjoy each season!

Buckaroos of 302

Club address: Groton; Club contact



A snowmobile travels a newly-groomed trail. (AP Photo)

Gary Lamberton - glamberton12@gmail.com; Club website: www.buckaroosof302.com

The Buckaroos of 302 held our first club meeting some time in 1968. Our membership is in the 400 to 650 range. We are responsible for the maintenance and grooming of 58 miles of VAST trails. These trails

are in the Groton State Forest, Groton, Peacham, Ryegate & Topsham. Our trails are traditionally known to be at the beginning of the snow belt that connects via VAST corridor trails through Danville, East Burke, Island Pond and Canaan.

Burke Drift Skippers

Club address: West Burke; Club contact: Kristen Flower DeLisle - 860-796-5039; Club email: burkedriftskippers@gmail.com

The Drift Skippers were formed in the early 70's which has a great history of trailblazers and volunteers putting together a hub between Island Pond and points south and west. We have a great variety of trails, from the fun single tracks of East Haven, to the fast open pipeline, and everything in between. A definite don't miss is a pet project of one of our legendary members, Kermit Weed, the beautiful ride thru Willoughby State Forest. We hope you enjoy our trails!

Caledonia County Snowmobile

Trails Club

Email: snowmobilecaledoniavt@yahoo.com

Founded in 1976, The Caledonia County Trail Club grooms the Route 2 & 5 trails from the tube under US Route 2 through St. Johnsbury Center, Kirby and east to Carr Brook. The club also grooms the Route 18 trail through Waterford to Moore Dam and along the reservoir on Route 102.

Canaan Border Riders Inc.

Club address: Canaan; Club contact: Dan Johnson - 603-331-1991; Club email: Canaanborderridersvt@gmail.com; Club website: http://www.canaanborderridersvt.wixsite.com/website

The Canaan Border Riders Inc. was founded in 1966 by a group of local citizens looking to give back to the community and organize a system of trails for winter recreation.

We provide approximately 95 miles high quality snowmobile trails

See Snowmobiles, Page 26

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SLEIGH RIDES

Lovely Weather For A Sleigh Ride Together

Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides Carry Charm From Yesteryear For Winter Fun

BY AMY ASH NIXON
Staff Writer

A winter's sleigh ride through snow-covered trails in either New Hampshire's North Country or Vermont's Northeast Kingdom promises a sparkling winter wonderland where family memories that will last a lifetime can be made.

There are several options for horse-drawn sleigh rides in both northern New Hampshire and Vermont.

Rainbows Edge Farm In Sutton

A dairy farmer by trade, Hayden Tanner Jr. knows his way around fields and horses, so it's not surprising that the Sutton farmer turned his atten-

tion some years back to offering sleigh rides as a sideline.

Rainbows Edge Farm, owned and operated by Tanner, offers horse-drawn sleigh rides when there's enough snow on the ground "through the scenic woods and snowy fields of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom," the website notes.

"You'll get to meet our Belgian draft horses, they are huge and strong yet very gentle. They work together to pull the sleigh as it glides along our private trails," the site notes.

Sleigh rides are offered at Rainbows Edge Farm seven days a week for both daytime and moonlit rides, which last about 45 minutes and can accommodate up to 15 adults comfortably, more if the party includes children.



Mount Washington, New Hampshire. (Courtesy Photo)

Tanner has been offering sleigh rides for more than 35 years. He began at Burke Mountain then offered the rides in Kirby and the rides are now offered at his farm in Sutton.

His website notes, "Journey

back in time to the sound of sleigh bells and the clomp of hooves in the snow. Enjoy a snowy daytime or moonlit ride through Hayden's certified organic family dairy farm and surrounding acres of wooded trails. Meet our herd of certi-

fied organic cows, pat a calf and maybe even milk a cow. Pick up some certified organic milk too if you'd like."

Tanner's website is <https://rainbowsedgefarm.com/>

Contact Hayden Tanner Jr. at 802-535-7987 to arrange a private winter horse-drawn Vermont sleigh ride; rides are available depending on weather and trail conditions.

The Kingdom's Horse Drawn Wagon & Sleigh Rides

Another local sleigh option is with The Kingdom's Horse Drawn Wagon and Sleigh Rides, located in Brownington, Vermont.

At The Kingdom's Horse Drawn Wagon and Sleigh rides, open rides can have more than one group, accord-

ing to the business's social media page, and can accommodate up to 20 people. All rides require appointments and rides last about 40 minutes.

On the business's social media page, owner/operator of Kingdom's Horse Drawn and Sleigh Rides Jeff Simpson writes, "I truly appreciate all of the support you all have given me over the years - and what truly sparks me in what I do, is when families come back year after year after year. If you have kids, you know how fast they change and grow older, and having these memories with them will be fun to look back on for years to come. This time of year is for gatherings — gatherings to laugh, to share, to reminisce

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KINGDOMHORSERIDES.COM

Bretton Woods Stables,
Bretton Woods, N.H.

Sleigh

Continued from Page 10

on the years behind us, those still with us and those who have passed. We truly love to hear these stories while providing your family/friends/co-workers an experience like no other.”

Simpson has more than 50 years of experience and promises “I will work as hard as I can, and then some, to make sure you’ll be coming back for years to come.”

Complimentary hot cocoa and snacks are offered before or after the ride, and friendly pets are welcome.

To reserve a ride, or get more information, call 802-673-8802, or visit <https://kingdomhorserides.com> the business also has a social media page.

Staying Safe & Toasty

ST. JOHNSBURY, Vt. — First and foremost, dressing in layers is the key to retaining body heat. It's not just about wearing a big parka, it's about trapping warm air close to the body and regulating it. Start with moisture-wicking base layers to keep sweat at bay, followed by insulating materials like wool or fleece, and finish with a waterproof and wind-proof outer layer.

But it's not just about the clothes. A significant amount of body heat is lost through the head, hands, and feet. Wearing a snug-fitting hat, waterproof gloves, and insulated boots can make a huge difference in overall warmth.

While dressing warmly is vital, recognizing the signs of hypothermia and frostbite is equally crucial. Hypothermia symptoms include shivering, fatigue, confusion, and slurred speech. Frostbite, which usually affects extremities like fingers, toes, and the nose, may start with numbness followed by

a hard or waxy-looking skin. If you suspect you have either condition, seek medical attention immediately.

For those hitting the roads, winter driving presents its own set of challenges. Clearing your car entirely of snow and ice is a must. Snow flying off your car can pose a hazard to other drivers. He also emphasizes the importance of maintaining a safe following distance in slippery conditions and always having a winter emergency kit in the vehicle. The kit should include items like blankets, flashlights, non-perishable food, and water.

Activities like skiing, snowboarding, and ice skating are winter favorites in the region. However, they require proper precautions. Always wear protective gear like helmets when participating in winter sports, and be aware of the conditions. Ice skaters, in particular, should ensure the ice is thick enough to support their weight before venturing onto frozen ponds or lakes.

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NORDIC SKIING

Enduring Cross Country Options In NEK, North Country

BY STEPHEN GARFIELD
Staff Writer

There is practically unlimited nordic (cross country) skiing in the Northeast Kingdom and North Country. Besides venues dedicated to cross country skiing, rail trails, old paths and open fields make for a vast variety of choices.

Dashney Nordic Center, Dashney Road, East Burke

Fourteen trails make up this network of trails. They are good for snowshoeing as well as cross country skiing. However, one trail that was added in this year, Stubborn, is available only for snowshoeing, not

for skiing.

Snowshoers will find one kilometer of terrain on Stubborn. Snowshoeing and skiing are a go on the rest of the terrain. Here is a rundown of the other 13 trails:

Buck Hill, 0.82 km, wonderful northerly view; Candy Bar Hill, 0.83; Connector, 0.93; Frost Hill 1.62 km; Magill Fields, 1.92 km; Northview, 0.27 km; Out To Pasture, 0.55 km; Sapsucker, 0.56 km; Short Cut, 0.31 km; Spur, 0.27 km; Sugarwoods, 3.87 km; Trillium, 2.68 km; and Winter Wren, 0.50 km. All the trails are rated from green circle to blue square.

Skis and snowshoes can



This is the view that greets Memphremagog nordic skiers from the area known as The Top of the World in Newport. (Courtesy photo)

be rented at the nordic center. Adult ski rentals are \$30 for a full day, \$20 per half day. Snowshoes are \$15 full day,

\$10 half day. There are junior rates as well. For more information call the center Friday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at (802) 626-1466.

Craftsbury Nordic Center, 535 Lost Nation Road

Part of Craftsbury Outdoor Center, the Craftsbury Nordic Center has 105 km of groomed trails. The trail system also supports snowshoeing and fatbikes. Lessons and rentals are offered, and here are some of the “rules of the road” that help Craftsbury skiers derive max enjoyment:

Unless signed as one-way, all trails are two-way trails. Always be aware of oncoming skiers.

Stay to the right when meeting oncoming skiers.

Downhill skiers have the right of way. If you stop, please step to the side of the trail.

Please do not damage the classic track by skating or herringboning on top of it.

Skiing on closed trails is prohibited and potentially dangerous.

Dogs are welcome on select trails.

Some trails intersect and join snowmobile trails.

The Outdoor Center asks that visitors, whether racers or day skiers, refrain from bringing fluorinated material to the venue. “This means do not bring it in your wax box, and do not put it on your skis ahead

of time - just don’t use it,” they emphasize.

Fatbikes share selected ski trails, under certain conditions, and there is a biathlon range onsite too. For more information on Craftsbury Nordic Center call 802-586-7767.

Ski Hearth Farm, 392 Streeter Pond Road, Sugar Hill, N.H.

Website: skihearthfarm.com. Phone 877-772-4666. During the winter Ski Hearth Farm is open for skiing and winter activities. They have over a dozen well-designed ski trails, and three snowshoe trails, including two dog-friendly trails.

For any special group reservations, email ski@northwoodscenter.org for pricing and availability.

Jay Peak Nordic Skiing, Tramside Rental and Repair

At the base of alpine ski area. Phone 802-327-2199. Twelve miles of groomed trails, classic and skate skiing for all abilities. Trails rated blue square to black diamond. Winter cycling is permitted on some trails except where noted below. The trails:

Ursa Minor Loop, green circle, 0.17 mi.; Game Trail, blue square, 0.40 mi.; Jay Brook Trail, blue square, 0.29 mi.; Moose Path, blue square; 0.33 mi.; Over The Top, blue square; Satellite, blue square, 0.48 mi., no bicycling; The Bench, blue square, 0.43 mi.; The Bridges, blue square, 0.40 mi.; Triple Lindy, blue square, 0.47 mi.; Ullr’s Woods, blue square, 0.42 mi.; Heath’s Orchard, black diamond, no bicycling; Hinterlands, black diamond, 0.59 mi.; Outer Limits black diamond, 1.32 mi.; Sidewinder, black diamond, 0.38 mi.; Three Sisters Trail, black diamond, 0.52 mi.; Wyllis Trail, black diamond, 0.26 mi.

Jay Peak Snowshoe Trails:

Maliseet, 1 km; Wampanoag, 1 km; Mohawk, 0.2 km; Mi’kmaq, 0.6 km; Penobscot,

1 km; Huron, 0.6 km; Abenaki, 2.7 km.

Bretton Woods, N.H.

At 100 km, Bretton Woods has one of the largest trail networks on the East Coast. Among its 45 trails, nearly half (45 percent) are rated intermediate, while 34 percent is rated novice, and 21 percent, expert. Total terrain includes 1,770 acres Classical and skate skiing are offered, and as they start out, skiers often make way to the cabin on the Porcupine trail. There is also a cabin on nearby Mt. Stickney. From 1,600 feet, the terrain rises to the 2,800-foot peak. Finally, a ride up the Bethlehem Express Quad chairlift brings nordic skiers to Mountain Road, a five-mile trail located at the alpine ski area) for unlimited T-bar rides and trail access from the Mt. Stickney cabin.

Other activities include races, such as the annual Geschmossel, the Mt. Washington Cup, and the Bretton Woods Nordic Marathon. For more information about Bretton Woods nordic skiing, call 603-278-3322.

Memphremagog Trails

With over 30km of groomed trails, skiers of all levels and disciplines have a blast at this venue located above the Beebe Spur Rail Trail in Newport. The lower loops offer fast skate skiing, or cut-in tracks for classic. Across the road, a climb greets skiers for a multi-hour tour up to Top Of The World and a stunning look down at Lake Memphremagog.

Ski rentals, as well as kid and adult ski programs on Tuesdays, are part of the action. Kids age six and under learn the sport through the Bill Koch program, whose mission is about kids having fun on skis. Bill Koch was the only American to have medaled in Nordic. Now a resident of southern Vermont, his lone medal for the USA lasted 42 years, until 2018.

See **XC**, Page 13



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BY ERIN NAREY
Catamount Arts

Catamount Arts and First Night North 2024 celebrate the 31st year of Vermont's favorite and longest running New Year's Eve performance festival. Featuring hundreds of performers in dozens of shows in venues throughout St. Johnsbury, First Night North guarantees eight full hours of fun for everyone in the family. The eagerly anticipated festivities, presented by Catamount Arts in partnership with the First Night North committee and countless community supporters, will take place Sunday, Dec. 31, from 4 p.m. to midnight.

The fun begins at 4, with early bird entertainment geared for everyone, but especially little ones whose bedtimes fall well before midnight. First Night North's night owl celebrants eager to enjoy the full eight hours will have over 50 shows to choose from, including storytellers, dance, magic, vaudeville, comedy, puppetry, fire shows, and music, culminating in a community countdown, the raising of the First Night North Ball of Light, and a midnight dance party to welcome in the New Year.

Musical acts include a wide range of soloists, duets, choirs, and bands offering nearly every imaginable genre: bluegrass, folk, jazz, Celtic, blues, R&B, contemporary and classic rock, polyphonic, country, Quebecois, Latin, and swing, not to mention riveting performances on piano, harp, organ, didgeridoo, strings, handbells and more.

This year's First Night North schedule is still in the works, but past artist favorites have included Bob and Sarah Amos, Tritium Well, Marko the Magician and Hypnotist, the Family Fun Fair, Kingdom All Stars, Modern Times Theater, and Phoenix Bazaar.

There will be plenty to eat throughout the festival, both indoors and out, as food trucks, community centers, and venues up and down Main Street prepare a variety of tasty vittles ranging from full dinners to desserts and snacks.

Patrons are encouraged as always to sample a variety of entertainment, and shuttle service will include RCT buses running continuous 15-minute loops among performance venues. Buses can be flagged down anywhere along the route.

Since 1993, First Night



This past First Night North event features a performance by the St. Johnsbury Ballet Studio. (Courtesy Photo)

North (formerly First Night St. Johnsbury) has been a family-friendly, substance-free festival aiming to redefine New Year's Eve as a community-wide holiday, gathering friends, families, neighbors, visitors, long-time First Night revelers and first-timers alike to celebrate the New Year in a season typically characterized by short days, cold temps, and long, dark nights. First Night North unites community through shared cultural celebration, deepens appreciation and access to visual and performing arts, and encourages people of all ages to come out, despite the dark and cold, and share a magical evening of joy and spectacle with loved ones and new friends.

For many, both in and outside the Northeast Kingdom, First Night North is a beloved family tradition, drawing generations together year after year. Indeed, for many local families, an entire generation has been raised coming to First Night, and are now bringing

their own children to the event.

"My kids think [First Night] is how everyone celebrates New Year's," says Jody Fried of Catamount Arts, who attends every year with his children and his parents. "When I was a kid, New Year's Eve was celebrated by adults inside their houses. For my kids, it's a community holiday when the whole family comes out."

"They start poring over the program a week or so in advance," Fried continues, "planning which shows they want to see, how they're going to squeeze everything in. They get to meet up with their friends, run into their teachers and neighbors, and see their classmates performing onstage. It's really special, celebrating with the entire community, starting

every New Year together as a community."

First Night North is very much a community function, relying not only on local performers, businesses, organizations, and vendors, but on a large and dedicated team of volunteers. Volunteers get free First Night admission in exchange for one two-hour shift.

For more information about First Night North 2024, including the complete schedule of performers and how to purchase admission or become a volunteer, watch for the annual First Night North guide in newspapers or online at www.firstnightnorth.org, or visit Catamount Arts at their pop-up box office in the Caplan's Building on Railroad Street or online at www.catamountarts.org.

XC

Continued from Page 12

For more info go to mstf.net/skiing.

Franconia Village XC Ski Center

Located at Franconia Inn, 1172 Easton Road, Franconia Village XC trails offer 30km of terrain amid a variety of beginner-to-expert trails on groomed and ungroomed terrain. Take a loop around the airfield, or weave through trees and over rivers on the trails behind the inn. XC skiing is not permitted on the groomed fat bike trails.

Rental equipment and passes are available at the ski shop. Call 603-823-5542 for more information.

Rail Trails

The choice of rail trail skiing is almost as unlimited as open-field skiing. The Lamoille

Valley Rail Trail, which begins off South Main Street in St. Johnsbury, is open for use by skiers, snowshoers, dog sleds and snowmobilers. Other local access points are in Danville, West Danville, Cabot, Walden and Hardwick.

In Newport, the four-mile Beebe Spur Rail Trail has expansive views of Lake Memphremagog, and is open to skiers and riders alike. In New Hampshire, the 19.2-mile Ammonoosuc Rail Trail runs from Littleton to Woodsville. Snowmobile clubs groom the trail throughout the winter. It is part of the larger 83-mile Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail between Woodsville and Bethel, Maine. The Franconia Notch Rec Path is also popular with skiers, and runs 8.7 miles south toward Lincoln.

The Profile Recreational Trail, in Bethlehem, represents 1.5 miles of skiing. At 7.2 miles, the Franconia Brook Trail is another choice for New Hampshire skiers.

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ICE FISHING

Fishing Enthusiasts Reel in Winter's Bounty



The Northeast Kingdom boasts an array of popular ice fishing destinations that draw seasoned anglers and newcomers alike. The region offers stunning winter landscape scenery and an abundance of frozen waters to fish.

Among the popular destinations is Lake Memphremagog, a pristine, international waterbody that straddles the US-Canada border. As the mercury drops and the ice thickens, locals and visitors head to this sprawling lake to set up their ice shanties and drill holes through the ice. Anglers target a variety of species, including lake trout,

Family and friends alike can enjoy ice fishing, a popular sport in Vermont. (Courtesy photo)

salmon, brown trout, rainbow trout, northern pike as well as yellow perch, white perch, and rainbow smelt.

In Westmore, Lake Wiloughby, nestled between towering cliffs, offers anglers a chance to drop their lines into the depths and pursue lake trout, yellow perch, and even cusk, a challenge to which many anglers eagerly rise. The state record for a lake trout was caught here in 2003. It weighed 35 lbs., 3.2 oz.

Lake Seymour, near Morgan, is another local favorite that's hailed for its fishing opportunities. Anglers there can hook lake trout, salmon, and brown trout.

In the town of Glover, anglers find Shadow Lake. It offers catches of bass, perch, pumpkinseeds, and pickerel.

Amidst the rolling hills in Newark, Newark Pond offers a serene backdrop for ice fishing enthusiasts. Anglers try for rainbow trout, brown trout, and perch.

Brighton's Island Pond is a bustling hub for ice fishing, attracting anglers and visitors from across the region. This frozen lake is a good spot to fish for walleye, perch, and brown trout.

In Norton, Norton Pond is an idyllic destination for those seeking a more secluded ice fishing experience. This lake offers northern pike and yellow perch. The remote location imparts a sense of solitude, appealing to those who enjoy wintry peace and serenity.

In the North Country of New Hampshire

Moore Reservoir: This large impoundment of the Connecticut River provides ice fishing opportunities for a variety of fish species.

Profile Lake: This smaller lake located in Franconia Notch State Park is a great

spot for ice fishing and offers the chance to catch brook trout and rainbow trout.

Echo Lake: Located near Franconia Notch, Echo Lake is another option for ice fishing and provides opportunities to catch trout.

Further north in the upper part of Coos County, fish the Connecticut lakes.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department provides these ice fishing safety tips:

- As a general guideline, 3½ to 4 inches of clear ice is required to walk on and 8 inches for a snowmobile or ATV. Double the thickness if the ice is white or opaque and not consistently clear throughout.

- Ice never freezes uniformly, so frequently test ice thickness and solidness with a spud bar or auger as you walk out on the ice.

- Ice that has formed over flowing water, springs, pressure cracks, old ice holes or around the mouths of rivers and streams can be weaker than surrounding ice. It's a good idea to stay away from these areas.

- Carrying a set of ice picks and a compass for snowy or whiteout conditions is recommended.

- Let someone know where you will be fishing, your access point and when you plan on returning home. Take your cell phone, placing it in a freezer bag to keep it dry.

The fish and wildlife dept. also provides some ice fishing gear basics:

Ice Auger - A good ice auger is essential for ice fishing. A four to six-inch hand auger with sharp blades is an inexpensive way to cut through hard ice with ease. Gas and electric augers are more effective at cutting larger holes, but are more expensive and not necessary for beginning ice anglers.

Tackle - Much of the same tackle you use for open water fishing can be used ice fishing including basic hooks, line, sinkers and lures. For example, tube jigs you use for bass will also work for lake trout. You can jig trolling spoons for northern pike, and small jigs tipped with a piece of nightcrawler, waxworm, minnow or small microplastic will catch perch and other panfish any time of the year.

Ice Fishing Rods - Short fishing rods with small open-face spinning reels are fairly inexpensive, and can be purchased at bait and tackle shop or in the sporting goods section of major department stores.

For most applications, filling the reel with four to eight pound test fishing line will work fine. Tying on a small swivel with a snap to attach snelled hooks or small lures and jigs, just like in open water, is very simple and straight-forward.

Tip-ups - Tip-ups are a very popular and effective way to ice fish. They are inexpensive and easy to set up and fish.

A tip-up is a stationary fishing reel attached to a shaft on a bracket that spans the hole drilled in the ice. The reel goes under the water, and a live minnow is suspended at a fixed depth under the ice. A special braided or coated line is used to which a short leader of regular line is attached.

A flag on a spring is set under a "T" on the shaft. When a fish takes the bait, the shaft spins, causing the flag to "spring up," indicating you have a bite.

Bait - Live bait is your best bet if you're using tip-ups. Small fathead minnows or medium to large size golden shiners are available at bait shops.



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SLED DOGS

Sled Dog Kennel Provides Unique And Hands-On Winter Family Fun

Try Musher For A Minute Crash Course To Get Started

BY KEVIN DOYON
Staff Writer

JEFFERSON — Since its inception in 2006, Muddy Paw Sled Dog Kennel has grown year after year while continuing to provide an unforgettable winter activity experience to both tourists and locals.

Located in Jefferson, N.H., Muddy Paw is currently home to nearly 80 sled dogs, a combination of both rescued dogs and dogs that are part of their selective breeding process.

The family-friendly dog sledding adventures range from 5-12 miles and are designed to be educational and hands-on with no prior experience needed.

During the winter, the musher's use traditional sleds and in the summer, rolling dog sleds. Trail conditions permitting, winter tours typically run mid-December through mid-March and are available most Wednesdays-Sundays.

The four types of winter adventures offered by Muddy Paw are a 1.5-hour tour, a 3-hour tour, the "Mini Mush" and the "Musher For A Minute."

The 1.5-hour tour is their most popular, and is an introductory dog sledding adventure. For the first half hour, people will be able to meet and greet the sled dogs, see where they live, pat them and can help their musher(s) prepare for the trail. Once prepared, guests will then embark on a typically 5-mile, 45-minute ride.

The 3-hour tour, while suitable for beginners, is geared toward guests who want additional ride and trail time and is open to ages 12 and up. This ride is 15 miles and usually last two-and-a-

half hours.

The last 10-15 minutes of either tour can be spent saying thank you to the sled dogs by giving out belly rubs for a job well done.

The "Mini Mush" is a cost and time cutting option for families and small groups. A modified version of the previous options, this tour essentially splits up the time that participants partake.

The "Musher For A Minute" is a 1.5-hour crash course in the art of mushing and is geared toward those who desire to learn the ins and outs of modern dog sledding. Guests will spend 30 minutes covering all the details of what it takes to prepare the sled dogs and sled for the trail. Guests will then hit the trail using a double driver sled for approximately 5 miles/50 minutes.

Advanced reservations are required. A sled can accommodate a maximum of three riders or 400 pounds — whichever limit is reached first.

Proceeds generated from the tours help cover the expenses involved in caring for the canines that call Muddy Paw their home.

The sled dogs are friendly and guests are encouraged to pat them and interact. Guests often seem to be pleasantly surprised by how affectionate the dogs are and enjoy experiencing their passion for running.

Muddy Paw says it is one thing for them to say that the dogs enjoy what they do, but it is an entirely different thing when a guest can witness and experience their excitement to explore a trail first hand.

Participants are also encouraged to ask questions, take photos and help the musher(s) prepare the dogs for the trail.

Muddy Paw takes pride in providing a haven for sled dogs in need by providing a traditional working kennel environment which the dogs are familiar with and can continue to grow in. When a sled dog joins Muddy Paw, they have a home and job for life. If the dog loses interest in running or for health/age reasons has to retire, Muddy Paw will seek out a forever home for them instead — something they have done for more than 100 dogs so far over the years.

A warm, water-resistant winter jacket, snow pants, wool socks and insulated boots are recommended as well as goggles or sunglasses, a scarf or face mask, warm hat, extra layers, air-activated hand/foot warmers and "Yak Traks" or grips for the bottom of boots.

Since the dogs love to be petted, participants should also consider wearing/bringing items that they don't mind getting hairy and dirty so that they can be interactive and hands-on.

Also, a headlamp and/or flashlight is a must to help navigate the kennel for those taking part in an evening run.

Ages 2+ are welcome and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Women who are pregnant are not permitted to participate and anyone who has recently sustained an injury or undergone surgery may not participate.

Muddy Paw also reminds participants that the facility is completely outdoors and does not provide a changing room.

For more information, Muddy Paw Sled Dog Kennel can be contacted via phone at 603-545-4533, through email at info@dogslednh.com or by visiting their website "DogSledNH.com."



Muddy Paw Sled Dog Kennel in Jefferson, N.H. offers several different tours for all ages with no prior experience required. (Contributed Photo)

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FESTIVALS

Littleton's Winter Carnival - A Celebration Of Winter Delight

BY RICHARD ALBERINI
Littleton Historical Museum

As winter descended upon the town of Littleton, New Hampshire, there was a palpable sense of excitement in the air.

Locals and visitors alike eagerly anticipated the first fall of snow as the harbinger of fun and festivities. Thanks to the visionary efforts of the Littleton Outing Club, the dark, cold months of winter had been transformed into a season of merriment and camaraderie. Let's delve into the fascinating history of Littleton's Winter Carnival, an event that had been a ray of sunshine in the town's winter landscape.

The brainchild behind this brilliant initiative was none other than Judge Harry

Heald, a passionate advocate for making friends with winter. He believed that the oppressive winter weather needed to be lightened with fun and sport. In 1924, the Littleton Outing Club took its first steps in what would become a remarkable project stimulating the local economy during the winter season.

The heart of the Winter Carnival was Remick Park, which was transformed into a hub of winter activity. The Outing Club oversaw the construction of a ski jump and a toboggan chute, setting the stage for the fun that would follow in the years to come.

In 1933, the Outing Club joined forces with the Chamber of Commerce to plan the first overnight snow train from Boston to Littleton. Special programs were orga-



A coach from the Thayer's Inn takes part in the Littleton Winter Carnival in 1928. (Contributed Photo)

nized, including snowshoe hikes to Copper Mine Camp and Bob Peckett's, sheltering on Parker Mountain in Littleton, and the Lewis Inn

in Bethlehem. The Winter Carnival was fast becoming a significant regional event.

The first official Winter Carnival was planned for 1925, although it was rained out. Nonetheless, the event was not without its highlights, as Octa Garceau was elected as the first Winter Carnival queen. The beautiful purple fabric for her robe was donated by the former Alexander Casket Company, a piece of Littleton's history now on display at the Littleton Historical Museum.

As time went on, the Winter Carnival became even grander in scale and scope. The Littleton High School Outing Club joined forces with the Outing Club, creating a two-day extravaganza. The opening day featured a vibrant parade with decorated floats marching down Union Street onto Main Street. Spectators were treated to an array of activities, including sled-dog races, sulky races, and ski joring races, where a person on skis was pulled by a horse. A stunt race called "Komedie Classics" took place at the foot of Pleasant Street. All these races occurred right on Main Street,

giving the town a vibrant and animated atmosphere.

Additional activities included snow sculptures, wood-chopping contests, snowshoe obstacle races, and interscholastic winter sports held at Remick Park and various locations throughout the town. The first night's entertainment unfolded at the Premier Theater (Jax Jr.), which, in those days, offered more than just movie screenings.

Day two brought more physical activities, with an extraordinary event in 1934 where the Manchester Brownies "swam" in the Chiswick Inn pool, despite the frigid temperatures that often characterize Littleton's winters. The Carnival culminated in the grand Carnival Ball and the crowning of the Queen at the Opera House. In a remarkable twist of fate, two Winter Carnival Queens, Lorraine Ledoux in 1938 and Margaret Doyon in 1957, went on to become Miss New Hampshire in the Miss America Beauty Pageant.

Littleton's Winter Carnival Spirit, with its captivating activities and vibrant atmosphere, attracted thousands of spectators. During the chal-

lenging years of the Great Depression, the event played a pivotal role in boosting the local economy and generating considerable publicity for the town.

However, 1943 marked a somber year, as Judge Harry Heald passed away and World War II gripped the nation. The Winter Carnival was temporarily put on hold until 1950 when Charles Leader revived the tradition. Carnival festivities continued in various forms until 1956 when the Chamber of Commerce assumed sponsorship, and the Outing Club became less active.

In 1972, the Mardi Gras North idea was born and carried on through 1975 with various programs. But as new opportunities, such as the opening of roads for winter travel and the development of ski areas, emerged, local winter group activities, including the Winter Carnival, gradually ceased to exist.

The Littleton Winter Carnival, which once brought warmth and excitement to the town during the cold months, will forever remain a cherished part of the town's history. While the original Winter Carnival may have passed into the annals of time, the memories of the joy and camaraderie it brought to Littleton continue to live on in the hearts of its residents, reminding them of the power of community and the ability to turn even the coldest winters into a season of delight.

Richard Alberini is the curator at the Littleton Area Historical Museum located in the Opera House at the corner of Main and Union streets. The museum is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additional hours/day by appointment are available; call 603-444-6435 or 603-444-6052.

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HISTORY & HERITAGE

Enjoying A St. Johnsbury Winter 100 Years Ago

BY PEGGY PEARL

St. Johnsbury History & Heritage

Thanks to Doctor Dale Atwood of St. Johnsbury, writing for The Vermonter, the State Magazine in 1922, we get a great picture of winter activities in the area. The push for the winter fun came from the Commercial Club, providing a chairman for each activity of the Winter Sports Club. Activities included rinks for skating, chutes for toboggans, skiing, and snow shoeing. There were committees for publicity, membership, lighting, finance and social. Prior to this, only two organizations had existed – one being the first Toboggan Chute Club located at the base of Boynton Hill and emptying onto Clinton Avenue and Summer Street. The Toboggan Club lasted two seasons; one reason for its short life was the need for building lots in the area. (One can read of this first chute on the History & Heritage website) The other organization was the Snow Shoe Club, which was a success for several years, but membership was depleted by World War I.

The Rink Committee of the Winter Sports Club was the first success story. It was established on the Summer Street Common one week in January. The town provided a work team clearing a large rectangular area; the following week with a minus 20 below temperature, water was applied by an individual that later became known as St. Johnsbury's ice expert. Some 15 hours later with uninterrupted spraying, the job was done. A quote from the article reads, "St. Johnsbury had made a discovery, namely, that a skating rink can be made on sod, or even sand, without banking, IF the water is slowly sprayed instead of being poured on in a flood." A hundred years later, this rink is still being enjoyed by new generations.

Next up for the club was a new toboggan chute; the site chosen was a hillside along an unused road to Observatory Knob. If their ride was successful, they would end up at the golf links, a half mile away! Trouble with that chute was that it faced south and resulted in sticky snow so take two was established behind the clubhouse at the golf links (Overcliff area).



A toboggan run in St. Johnsbury entertains townspeople in winter.

Snowshoe folks met in front of the Athenaeum in the evening and followed the leader into the darkness. An oil torch was carried by the leader and the person at the end. The destination was only known by the leader!

Main Street was the scene for winter horse races. Road machines made the paths for the horses. Many spectators lined Main Street on Saturdays for the races that began at Arnold Park and ended opposite the Fairbanks Museum. An electric bell signal from the starters allowed perfect timing of the heats.

Doctor Atwood mentions the scooter or jack jumper which had one runner that curled at the front. These could be made entirely out of wood or a combination of metal and wood. A couple of braces supported a seat with grooved handgrips underneath. Feet lifted and a good sense of balance determined the length of the ride! Several can be seen at the History & Heritage Center.

The Old Pine trail and Observatory Knob provided runs for skiers. Weekend ski runs in small groups under the direction of the ski chairman were made throughout the season. Overnight stops at farmhouses were made with return trips the next day.

One other sight to behold was the closing of some of the steep streets like Pleasant, Concord Avenue and Hastings for the enjoyment and safety of the traverse riders. Some of these double-runner sleds could hold 10 to 12 people – the more weight, the faster the ride! Some had a steering wheel while others used ropes for steering. If you have ever had a ride on one, it is not quickly forgotten as mine was from the Latin Gate toward St. Johnsbury! We have four at the Center and wish they could talk! The longest one came from the Conly family. It was made for Herbert W. Conly sometime between the years 1928 – 1933 by a MacLean. On the front are the words "A Couple of Kids" which might have been painted by Tony Russo. This traverse is known to have left Concord Avenue near the present day radio station and continued all the way to where Fred Mold Park is today.

The St. Johnsbury Winter Sports Club started with memberships or tickets required for some of the activities, but before the season was half way done winter sports were made public. Snow provided a great deal of activity right in St. Johnsbury and many a tale can be told I am sure.

Peggy Pearl is the executive director at the St. Johnsbury History & Heritage Center, which is located at 421 Summer St. Learn about the center, including hours to visit, by going online: www.stjhistory.org



St. Johnsbury History & Heritage Center Director Peggy Pearl talks about old traverse sleds that are on display in the Center's Carriage Barn on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. (Photo by Dana Gray)

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ICE SKATING

Gliding Through Winter On Indoor & Outdoor Rinks

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

Want to skate?
The Northeast Kingdom and North Country offer plenty of options.
Fenton Chester Arena in Lyndon offers public skate sessions every Sunday at 1:15 p.m. (most weeks) and Wednesday at 2:45 p.m., with additional sessions during vacation weeks.
There are also stick and puck sessions on Sundays at 3:15 p.m.
People can rent skates or bring their own (skate sharpening available at the pro shop).

Avid skaters can purchase family or individual season passes.
For more information on schedules and rate, visit www.chesterarena.org.
The region's other indoor skating option is the Jay Peak Ice Haus.
It also offers public skate times, stick and puck sessions, skate sharpening, and skate and helmet rentals.
For full details visit jaypeakresort.com.
The region also features many weather dependent, outdoor skating options.
Those seasonal rinks include two in St. Johnsbury (Portland Street, Main Street) and others in Littleton (Remich Park), Franconia (next to town hall), and Lancaster (behind the court house).
There are also outdoor rinks at the Mountain View Grand Resort and Spa in Whitefield.
For more info visit www.mountainviewgrand.com.
VERMONT OUTDOOR SKATING
• Chet & Pat Buck Memorial Park, Concord Avenue/Portland Street, St. Johnsbury;
• Four Seasons Park, Main/Winter streets, St. Johnsbury;
• Lake Morey Resort, 82 Clubhouse Rd., Fairlee
NH OUTDOOR SKATING
• Bethlehem Ice Rink, corner of Main St and Agassiz St., Bethlehem;
• Franconia Town Rink, 421 Main St., Franconia (behind Abbie Greenleaf Library);
• Lancaster Ice Rink, behind Main Street Courthouse, School Street, Lancaster;
• Mountain View Grand Resort, 101 Mountain View Rd., Whitefield;
• Remich Park, 90 Pine Hill Rd., Littleton
• Whitefield Town Rink, King's Square, Whitefield
INDOOR SKATING
• Fenton Chester Arena, 145 College Rd, Lyndon;
• Jay Peak Ice Haus, Trailside Road, Jay;
• BOR, 25 Auditorium Hill, Barre;
• Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center, 268 Gallison Hill Rd., Montpelier



Skaters at the Chet and Pat Buck Memorial Park at the corner of Concord Avenue and Portland Street in St. Johnsbury. (File photo)

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WINTER HIKING

Celebrate The New Year With A First Day Hike, Big Or Small

BY KATHERINE FIEGENBAUM
Staff Writer

Avid outdoorsman and writer Gary Moore is quick to admit that wintertime hikes are quite different than during the year's other three seasons.
"I'm not going to say I enjoy winter hiking that much," he said. "I enjoy the challenge of winter hiking. But it's cold and it's hard slogging — generally on snowshoes or using crampons."
Moore, 75, normally frequents Vermont and New Hampshire's lower peaks during the region's long snow season, with three near his home in Bradford capturing most of his attention: Tucker Mountain in Newbury, Wrights Mountain in Bradford and Gile Mountain in Norwich.
However, once a year — usually on New Year's Eve — Moore gets together his wool layers, wind pants, microspikes, hats, goggles, jackets, multiple pairs of mittens, insulated wa-

ter bottles, shock-absorbing trekking poles and heads to bed early. The next day, Jan. 1, he, along with various friends and acquaintances, attempts to summit the 4,802-foot Mount Moosilauke in the Western White Mountains: a peak Moore grew up looking at every morning.
"I call that my mountain," he said. "It's the only 4000-footer that I hike now."
What started in January 1995 as a winter day hike with his brother Randy has now become a tradition observed by many across the region. Moore's New Year's hike up the Glencliff trail was featured on New Hampshire PBS' Windows to the Wild in 2012 and re-run at least once a year since, encouraging others to attempt the journey themselves.
"It's grown and grown and grown," he said. "There are times when it's hard to count [the hikers on Moosilauke]. Generally, there are about 75 or 80 people ... that's a lot [for January]."
"It's winter, so you've got your face covered and everything else," Moore said. "But the standard is 'happy new year' and most of those peo-

INDOOR FUN

Plenty Of Family Fun When Weather Turns Frightful

BY ANDREW MCGREGOR
Staff Writer

The Northeast Kingdom and North Country have much to offer in the great outdoors throughout the winter, but the region can be just as fun indoors with offerings for the curious, creative and adventurous.

Cultural Institutions

At the top of almost every list for sites to see in the NEK is **Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium** in St. Johnsbury. The 130-year-old natural history museum features an impressive collection of animals, artifacts, tools and much more housed within a stone Victorian building on the National Historic Register. The museum also features visiting and temporary exhibits as well as Vermont's only public planetarium. You will have to time your visit, though, as the museum typically shuts down for the better part of January, its traditional slow time,

for maintenance, renovations and improvement projects. (www.fairbanksmuseum.org)

Just a stone's throw to the south on St. Johnsbury's Main Street from the Fairbanks Museum is **St. Johnsbury Athenaeum**. While the Athenaeum (150 years old in November) serves as the town's public library, it features a large art gallery filled with a collection of Hudson River artists, genre paintings, and reproductions of Renaissance and Baroque masterworks. The most prominent of the paintings is the Domes of Yosemite, a nearly 10-foot by 15-foot oil painting by Albert Bierstadt depicting the famed California landscape. (www.stjathenaeum.org)

If historic libraries with unique features interest you, then consider heading north to Derby Line to visit the **Haskell Free Library & Opera House**. The Haskell is the cornerstone of two communities in two countries, as it was delib-

erately built between 1901 and 1904 on top of the US-Canada border with part of the building in Derby Line, Vermont, and the other in Standstead, Quebec. The facility typically hosts both library events downstairs and theater and performance events upstairs in the opera house. (haskellopera.com)

Arts & Entertainment

If performances pique your interest, then be sure to check in at **Catamount Arts** in St. Johnsbury. Catamount is a multi-faceted arts organization featuring movie theaters, art galleries and as promoter and local ticketing venue for local performances. Catamount partners with local performance series and venues to offer world-class shows across the region. (www.catamountarts.org)

One of the newest performing arts centers in the area is the **Highland Center for the Arts** in Greensboro, Vt. HCA offers a year-round schedule of events, performances and

exhibits from a state-of-the-art facility that features a throwback to a theater in the round. (highlandartsvt.org)

Across the Connecticut River, you will find the **Tillotson Center** in Colebrook, N.H. The Tilly, as it's known, is a cultural heritage center, art gallery, and performance center. From the humble beginnings of a horse barn, the multi-purpose facility was renovated and expanded just over a decade ago and hosts installations from the Colebrook Area Historical Society and Connecticut River Artisans Group. (www.tillotsoncenter.org)

South in New Hampshire is the **Colonial Theatre** in Bethlehem, which similarly serves as a home for arts, film, music and culture in the North Country. A visit to the Colonial may have to be a shoulder-season visit, though, as it typically

shuts down in the dead of winter. (bethlehemcolonial.org)

For the art lovers there is no shortage of places to visit, including **MAC Center for the Arts**, Newport, Vt. (maccenforthearts.com); Grass Roots Art and Community Effort, Hardwick, Vt. (graceart.org); NEK Artisans Guild, St. Johnsbury (www.nekartisansguild.com); League of NH Craftsmen, Littleton, N.H. (nhcrafts.org); Gallery at Wren, Bethlehem, N.H. (www.wrenworks.org)

If a movie is your style, check out these theaters that operate throughout the winter:

St. Johnsbury - **Star Theatre**, www.stjaytheatre.com

St. Johnsbury - **Catamount Arts**, www.catamountarts.org

Newport - **City Cinema**, www.citycinemanewport.com

Lancaster - **Rialto Theatre**, www.lancasterrialto.com

Bethlehem - **The Colonial Theatre**, www.bethlehemcolonial.org

Finally, for the thrill-seekers who still want to be inside and warm during the winter, look no further than **Jay Peak's indoor Pump House Waterpark**. The Pump House is a year-round, indoor water park with myriad water slides, a lazy river, flowrider surfing station, kids play area, deep water pool and more. Day passes are available to folks looking for a day trip. Jay Peak also features a movie theater and indoor climbing wall and recreation center open to the public. (jaypeakresort.com)

This is just a sampling of the many indoor attractions the area offers through the winter. Even more attractions are open in the spring, summer and fall for people looking for a repeat trip to the area.

Hiking

Continued from Page 18

ple we only see once a year. There are regulars we look for ... we've all become friends."

At best, the exposed summit of Moosilauke is blustery and cold — hardly a spot to pause and celebrate the new year that's begun. At worst, it can be impossible to navigate; Moore himself has almost lost his way in blinding winter weather conditions.

Because of this, the tradition is to stop in the "saddle" between the South and North Peak to layer up, drink a small bottle of champagne and eat some lunch.

"It's just really fun," Moore said.

When the Windows to the Wild episode about Moore's tradition was filmed, unseasonably warm weather graced Moosilauke's summit.

"It was ridiculously warm ... so that really got a lot of people interested," he said. "But a lot of years it's bitter up there and you can't even see the next cairn, so it can be a shock to some people."

"I spend a lot of time emphasizing: don't be stupid," Moore said, having served for twenty

years as a member of the Vermont State Police Search and Rescue team. "Be willing to turn back from any hike, not just in winter. That's how people get in trouble."

While Moore's longtime New Years' tradition has inspired many to attempt Moosilauke, the state of Vermont more recently began a push for everyone to celebrate the New Year with any sort of First Day Hike. While the state generally offers guided hikes in state parks on Jan. 1, this was put on hiatus last year due to COVID-19.

For a First Day hike in the Northeast Kingdom or North Country, Moore has a slew of recommendations ranging from the ever-popular short-and-sweet Artist's Bluff or Bald Mountain trails in Franconia Notch to the Owls Head Trail in Groton State Forest to the 1.8-mile out-and-back at Kilburn Crags in Littleton.

For those who seek solitude or shy away from the crowds, Moore encourages folks to check out the trails in Darling State Forest, the lesser-known sections of Willoughby State Forest or the Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area.

This year, Moore again plans to attempt Moosilauke.

"Well, probably," he said. "It depends on the weather."



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WINTER EVENTS

ONGOING

St. Johnsbury Farmers Market, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Pearl Street parking lot.

Neighbors Reading!, Wednesdays at the Hub, 438 Railroad Street Suite 2, St. Johnsbury

NAMI Family Support Group, third Wednesday each month, 5:30 p.m., Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital

Trivia Night, every other Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., St. J Distillery, Eastern Ave., St. Johnsbury.

Kingdom Taproom Trivia, every other Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Railroad St., St. Johnsbury.

Karaoke Night, third Friday of the month, Kingdom Taproom, Railroad St., St. Johnsbury.

Poetry Potluck, second Wednesday each month, 7-9 p.m., Whirligig Brewery, Railroad St., St. Johnsbury.

Inquisitive Readers Book Club, third Thursday each month, 6-7 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum.

Dance Party Mondays, 10-10:30 a.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. Unstructured dance party for ages birth-5 with caregiver.

Pickleball, Mondays 5-7, Saturdays 2:30-4:30, RecFit, Mill St., St. Johnsbury.

Pickleball, Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m., Saturday 9-10:30 a.m., Clifford Memorial Bldg., Woodsville.

Night Owl Club, monthly virtual conversation about NASA, international space

programs. Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury.

Abiding Ties Pet Loss Support Group, third Tuesday each month, 6-7:30 p.m., Northeastern Regional Vermont Hospital, rooms 126 & 127. chaplain@abidingties.org.

Kinship Care, every first Monday, 5:30-7 p.m., NEK Council on Aging, 481 Summer Street, St. Johnsbury. Call (802) 748-5182, email info@nekcouncil.org.

Danville Community Dinner, every third Monday, congregational church, 87 Hill Street.

Open Mic Night, Thursdays 5-8 p.m., The DiSpencery, 1746 Memorial Drive, St. Johnsbury.

Open Mic Night, Wednesdays, Red Barn Brewing, Rt. 2, Danville.

Open Mic Night, Thursdays 6-9 p.m., Parker Pie, 161 County Road, West Glover

Open Mic Night, Wednesdays, 7-8:45 p.m., Franconia Inn, 1172 Easton Road, Franconia. Call 603-823-5542.

Open Mic Night, every other Thursday, The Dwelling Place, 36 Kings Square, Whitefield.

Movie Night, every third Thursday, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville.

Roll of the Die, tabletop role playing club, every other Tuesday, 4-6 p.m., Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. Call 802-626-5475, email info@cobleighlibrary.org.

Knitting Night, Thursdays 6-8:30 p.m., 101 Main Street, Lyndonville

Men's Breakfast, by East Peacham Baptist Church, 9 a.m., second Saturday each month, Peacham Library.

French Club, Saturdays 11 a.m.-noon, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. Call 626-5475

Death Cafe, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library, second Wednesday each month. 802-755-6107. Informational conversation about death.

Board Game Club, 1-5 p.m., Albany Public Library. Second Saturday each month. Email aplvtassistant@gmail.com.

Albany Library Writing Group, 2-4 p.m., first and third Saturdays. Call 802-755-6107.

Brewing And Other Fermentation, first and third Saturday, Big Papa's, Littleton. Call 603-444-2311.

Wednesday, November 1

Forest Accelerator 2023 Final Event, 3 p.m., Burke Mountain Hotel, East Burke. Organized by Do North Coworking.

Kickoff Event for National Novel Writing Month, 6:30-8 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Call 802-472-5948, email jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.gov.

Tabulator Training, 2-4 p.m., Town clerk's office, 36 Route 2, West Danville. Training to demonstrate ImageCast Precinct tabulators.

Thursday, November 2

Courage In Action Child Care Tour, 4-6 p.m. ABC & LOL Child Care Center, 1448 Memorial Drive, St. Johnsbury. Update on

Vermont's Child Care Campaign,

Dinner & A Movie: Argentinian Feast, 5-8 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick Street, Greensboro. Movie, The Prestige, 7 p.m. Visit highlandartsvt.org.

Bob & Sarah Amos, 7 p.m., Willey Building auditorium, 3084 Main Street, Cabot. Evening of bluegrass/folk music with father-daughter duo Bob & Sarah Amos.

Friday, November 3

Do Tell! Live Stories From The North Country, 7:30 p.m., Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem, N.H. Call 802-424-0132, email sbrent@bethlehemcolonial.org.

No Strings Marionette Company, 12:30 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Program "Nick of Time."

Roald Dahl's Matilda, The Musical, 7 p.m., North Country Union High School, Newport. Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. Call 802-334-7921, ext. 3058.

Friday-Saturday, November 3-4

Peacham Church Thanksgiving Craft & Bake Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. November 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. November 4.

Saturday, November 4

13th Annual Chili Cookoff, Lyndon Outing Club. Setup time 12:30 p.m., cookoff 2-5 p.m. Kingdom Brewfest, and the FallBack Freeride/Run race.

Catamount Arts Charge Up The Arts raffle, 8 p.m., ArtPort, Green Mountain Mall, Route 5, St. Johnsbury.



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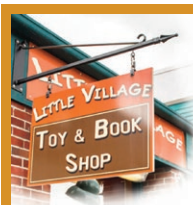
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WINTER EVENTS

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Catamount Bluegrass Night, Atwater-Donnelly, 7-8:30 p.m. Catamount Art-Port, Green Mtn. Mall, Memorial Drive, St. Johnsbury. Also with the Low Down Pesky Buzzards.

Regional Lector Training, 10 a.m.-noon, St. John the Evangelist Church, 49 Winter Street, St. Johnsbury. Call 802-658-6110 x 1460, email jperry@vermontcatholic.org.

Puzzle Challenge, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Main Street. Call 802-748-8291.

Holistic Wellness & Psychic Expo, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Hazen Union High School, Hardwick. Contact monicalmorrisey@gmail.com or vhillpt@gmail.com.

15th Annual Child Haven Extravaganza, 6-8 p.m., Hazen Union HS cafeteria, Hardwick. Sit-down Indian meal with Sikander Rashid and Madhu Venkatarisiah. Also a bazaar, silent auction and Bollywood dance performance. Call 802-533-2296.

Local Folk Orchestra, 7 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick Street, Greensboro. Call 802-533-2000.

Roald Dahl's Matilda, The Musical, 7 p.m., North Country Union High School, Newport. Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. Call 802-334-7921, ext. 3058.

Community Meal, Fundraiser and Pottery Sale, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Fellowship Hall,

First Universalist Parish, Main Street, Derby Line. Hosted by Hopewell Studios.

Ski & Snowboard Swap, 8-11 a.m., Peabody Lodge, Cannon Mtn. Hosted by Franconia Ski Club. Gear dropoff November 3, 4-8 p.m.

Carlos, 7:30 p.m., Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem, N.H. Documentary on rock guitarist Carlos Santana, through November 8.

Sunday, November 5

Craftsbury Freedom & Unity, 1-4 p.m., Craftsbury Library. Discussion hosted by Craftsbury Selectboard, & Craftsbury Freedom & Unity Task Force. Info, townofcraftsbury.com, or task force coordinator at wrturnbull@gmail.com.

Roald Dahl's Matilda, The Musical, 1 p.m. matinee, North Country Union High School, Newport. Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. Call 802-334-7921, ext. 3058.

Wednesday, November 8

Vermont Towing Association Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m., East Side Restaurant & Pub, Newport.

Thursday, November 9

Abbie Book Group discussion of *Demon Copperhead*, by Barbara Kingsolver, 7 p.m., Abbie Greenleaf Library, Franconia NH. Call 823-8424, visit abbielibrary.org.

Friday, November 10

Pilobolus, 7 p.m., Lyndon Institute. Eclectic dance pieces, "a fleeting glimpse of the inner workings of the universe," NY Times. Put

on by KCP Presents.

Boston Comedy Club, 8-9:30 p.m., Dirt Church Brewing Company, 1171 Route 114, East Haven.

Who's Holiday, 5 p.m., Weathervane Theatre, Whitefield, NH. New comedy with a twist of rhyme.

Saturday, November 11

Justice For Dogs 17th Crafts Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Hazen Union High School, Hardwick. Food truck, pet food drive.

Wizard Homecoming, 1 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Hardwick Street, Greensboro.

Who's Holiday, 7 p.m., Weathervane Theatre, Whitefield, NH. New comedy with a twist of rhyme.

Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony, 10-11:30 a.m., municipal building 222 Main Street, Newport.

Wednesday, November 15

NH Health Education Lecture Series, Breast Cancer Screening, 6-7 p.m., Weeks Medical Center, Lancaster NH or via zoom. With Akshat Paliwal, MD, Radiologist, North Country Radiology. Call 603-788-5685, email nancy.blankenship@northcountryhealth.org.

Saturday, November 18

Turkey Fest, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Gardner Park bandstand area, Newport. Turkey Trot costume contest, pie eating contest. Info, newportrecreation.org

North Country Chamber Players, 3 p.m., Mt. Washington Resort, Bretton Woods. Pro-

gram, "European Treasures."

Sunday, November 19

North Country Chamber Players, 2 p.m. Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa, Whitefield. Program, "European Treasures."

Little Richard: I Am Everything, 2 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Film on 1950s rock pioneer. Part of Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival.

Monday, November 20

31st Annual Economic Development Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Littleton Opera House. Keynote speaker Taylor Caswell. Hosted by Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Littleton Farmers Market, Opera House, Main Street. Call 603-444-0248.

Thursday, November 23

12th Annual Wobble n' Gobble 5K, 9-10 a.m., Iron Furnace, 115 Main Street, Franconia. With mascot Sir Cumference. Benefits Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country and Lafayette Recreation.

Friday, November 24

Christmas Parade, Littleton NH
Severance Wilderness 3 Mile Trail Run, noon, Whitefield NH

Bretton Woods 50th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend. Through Sunday, November 26.

Saturday, December 2

Naturally 7, 7 p.m., Fuller Hall, Main Street, St. Johnsbury. "A cappella gospel and its latter-day lineage, from doo-wop and bar-

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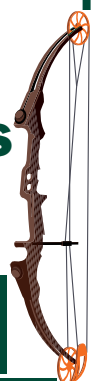
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WINTER EVENTS

Continued from Page 21

bershop to Boyz II Men and Jodeci." Put on by KCP Presents.

Wintermarket, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Holiday artisan market.

Tree Lighting At Pomerleau Park, 4 p.m. 70 Main Street, Newport.

The Snow Dance, 5:30-10:30 p.m., Cannonball Pub, Cannon Mountain, Franconia, N.H. Live music, silent auction, proceeds benefit Mt. Eustis Ski Hill & The Secret

Sock Society.

Friday, December 8

Kongero concert, 7 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. "Pushes the boundaries in trad/folk/world music as well as in a cappella and chamber music."

Saturday, December 9

Sing With Kongero, 10-11:30 a.m., Highland Center for the Arts. Workshop for singers of all ability in harmony singing.

Ski For Hunger Food Drive, all day at Cannon Mountain, Franconia NH.

Sunday, December 10

Time For Three, 7 p.m.

Fuller Hall, Main Street, St. Johnsbury. "Time for Three stand at the busy intersection of Americana, modern pop, and classical music."

Monday, December 11

Who's Holiday!, 7-8:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, Whitefield NH.

Wednesday, December 13

Poetry Potluck, 7-9 p.m., Whirligig Brewery, 397 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury.

Carols & Songs Of The Holiday Season, 7-8 p.m., Goodrich Memorial Library, Newport

Thursday, December 14

Winter Wonderettes, 2-4 p.m., Weathervane Theatre, Whitefield NH.

Friday, December 15

Kingdom Trails Community Chat Series, 4-5 p.m., Kingdom Trails Welcome Center, 478 Route 114, East Burke.

Saturday, December 16

Birch Bark Ornament Workshop, 1-5 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. With instructor Penny Hewitt.

Being Petty: The Tom Petty Experience, 7-9:30, Littleton Opera House, Main Street. Tribute band.

Sunday, December 31
First Night North, St. Johnsbury.

Saturday, January 28

Janice Carissa, pianist, 3 p.m., South Church Hall, 1052 Main Street, St. Johnsbury.

Friday, February 2

Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra, 7 p.m., Lyndon Institute auditorium, 168 Institute Circle. The national orchestra of Bulgaria, 80 musicians onstage.

Saturday, February 3

Curds & Curling, A Cheesy Winter Competition, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Highland

Center for the Arts. Sponsored by HCA and Jasper Hill Farm

Saturday, February 10

Jake Blount, 7 p.m., Art-Port at Green Mountain Mall, Route 5, St. Johnsbury. "Jake Blount's music is rooted in care and confrontation."

Friday-Sunday-February 16-18

14th Annual Eli Goss Ice Fishing Tournament, Northeast Kingdom (Seymour Lake, Echo Lake, Lake Memphremagog).

Weather

Continued from Page 7

a few warm winters, you are due for a change.

Change is the only constant.

And winter weather in the Northeast Kingdom has seen a lot of variability. All of it, at least from St. Johnsbury's perspective, has been meticulously documented at the museum since the late 1800s.

Take for instance, the winter of 2015-16. That was the least snowy winter on record in St. Johnsbury, recording only 33.7 inches according to Fairbanks' records. The following winter, 2016-17, there were 114.4 inches, the sixth snowiest on record. The snowiest winter was 2007-08, when a whopping 139.7 inches of snow fell in St. Johnsbury.

Breen said as the winters

have tended to warm, more snow has fallen in total but that doesn't necessarily mean more snow is around all winter to enjoy. A later start to snowfall and more melting of snow means snowpack, the measurement of snow on the ground, can differ from total snow that fell over the season.

And the winters are warmer than they used to be. Yearly average high temperature, yearly average minimum temperature and yearly overall average temperature have

all trended up.

Despite the trend, though, the winter of 2014-15 had the coldest 3-month stretch in the museum's records - January, February and March. The next winter, 2015-16, was the second warmest on record.

Even more curiously, both winters were during El Nino years, the weather phenomenon in which the Pacific Ocean is warmer than average, said Breen. El Nino is also occurring now and is known to have an impact on global weather patterns. But

what does that mean for the Northeast Kingdom?

Breen says meteorologists and climate scientists have come to understand there are different types of El Ninos. It turns out when the mass of warmer than average water is closer to South America, the northeast U.S. tends to get milder winters and when the mass of warm water is more in the middle of the Pacific we get colder, snowier winters.

This year's El Nino is starting near South America but it

is starting to shift toward the middle, said Breen.

So his prediction, if he dare be so bold? A mild start to winter followed by a cold finish.

Plus, noted Breen, the last few years have been mild so it's bound to swing back to cold at some point.

"It's bound to change and it always has, said Breen. "That's one of the reliable things. The change is the reliable thing."

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Ski

Continued from Page 8

and the Big River - which winds lazily around the border of the entire park. There is also the Mill Pond Kids' Play Area, a Deepwater Activity Pool, Orange, Blue, & Green Slides and the "La Chute" - in which riders enter the tube, cross their arms and legs and then wait for the countdown.

Bretton Woods

Bretton Woods Mountain Resort is a ski area located in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

It's across from the Mount Washington Hotel, which owns it. It is New Hampshire's largest ski area with 464 acres of skiing and snowboarding on 63 trails and 35 glades.

Bretton Woods was rated the #2 Top Overall Ski Resort in the East by Ski Magazine. It was also rated as the #1 ski area for grooming and lifts in the East.

There are 10 lifts, including the Bretton Woods "Skyway 8-Passenger Gondola" and four high-speed quads that will take you up the mountain. Snow making is available on 92 percent of the trails.

The average annual snowfall is 200+ inches from ear-

ly-November to mid-April.

Bretton Woods encourages all guests to purchase their lift tickets ahead of time through the Bretton Woods eStore.

Children ages 4 and under and senior citizens ages 80 and older ski or ride free at Bretton Woods.

Cannon Mountain

Cannon Mountain is located in Franconia Notch State Park in New Hampshire.

It has everything you need to start skiing.

The summit of the mountain is 4,080 feet - the highest ski area in New Hampshire. The vertical drop is 2,180 feet, which is the longest vertical drop in New Hampshire. Snowmaking covers 192 acres and the annual snowfall is about 160 inches.

Cannon Mountain has 97 trails and glades accessed from 10 lifts. There's a 70-passenger aerial tramway, a detachable quad chair, two fixed-grip quad chairs, three triple chairs, one fixed-grip double chair and one t-bar.

Ski and snowboard rentals and the service shop are located slope-side at the Peabody Lodge. All rental skis are "shaped" skis and all rental snowboards feature "step in" bindings.

There is a snowsports school that includes ski and snowboard lessons in the



Skiers enjoy the powder at Jay Peak Resort. (File Photo)

Brookside Learning Center. They offer ski and snowboard lessons for anyone over 3 years of age.

Kids group lessons provides the attention and skills needed for children. Taught by enthusiastic, well-qualified instructors, the main intent is to introduce further skiing skills in an environment in which children can have fun. These classes are designed for any level of skier from the first time to advanced skiers. Walk-ins will

be accommodated according to availability.

The Cannon Mountain ski and snowboard season starts in late November and continues to mid-April. Cannon is closed on Thanksgiving & Christmas Day.

Lyndon Outing Club

The Lyndon Outing Club is located in Lyndon, Vermont.

It is run by a community board of directors.

The board is raising money to install a snowmaking system. They also have a base

lodge, which can be rented.

They currently have two lifts including a 300-foot rope tow being run by a 1960s Wisconsin 4-cycle engine. They also have a 1,200 foot t-bar that came from Stowe Mountain and was installed in 1982. The T-Bar runs off a Chalmers 4-cycle diesel engine.

All of the terrain is natural with limited grooming by a 1987 LMC 3700C Snowcat groomer acquired in 2006 from Burke Mountain; it still has the original Burke Mountain Bear Logo on it.

Skiing at the Outing Club is available at a low cost.

The Lyndon Outing Club is a year-round recreational space including bike trails, a skateboard park and a ski area.

"The skateboard park is gonna have a new section added to it this coming spring," said Board President Dave Williams.

Williams said the Lyndon Outing Club has also developed a new bike trail in honor of the late Moriah 'Mo' Wilson who had lived in East Burke.

"She was a national ranked bike rider," said Williams. "We put in a bike trail last year and named it after her. It's called 'Mo's Drop.'"

Mt. Eustis

The Mt. Eustis Ski Hill is located in Littleton, New Hampshire.

Littleton is nestled in the shadow of the New Hampshire's majestic White Mountains.

Mt. Eustis opened in 1939 but shut down in the early 1980s. But then a group of dedicated locals came together to bring back the days of skiing at Mt. Eustis. After two years plus of hard work, they opened for the 2016-2017 season in December.

It's run by a community Board of Directors, volunteers and the outpouring of support from the community.

Mt. Eustis is committed to providing affordable skiing and snowboarding to local residents. Mt Eustis will be available for in-school, after school and local youth racing programs. It will also be open for adults and families on some weekday evenings and weekends allowing for a local skiing experience at a reasonable price.

The vision of Mt. Eustis is to "improve the lives, health, and wellness of North Country families and citizens by ensuring that all, regardless of socioeconomic status, are able to engage in snowsports."

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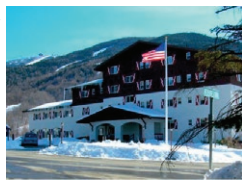
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Snowmobile

Continued from Page 9

that are groomed several days a week. Our trails are in the towns of Canaan, Beecher Falls, Lemington, Lewis, Averill and Bloomfield. We have two Kassbohrer Pisten Bully groomers with Mogul Master drags. Our trail system winds through the wilderness of the Northeast Kingdom and serves as a gateway to New Hampshire and Quebec.

Coles Pond Sledders

Club address: Hardwick; Club email: colespondsledders@yahoo.com; Club phone: 802-563-2076

The Coles Pond Sledders snowmobile club was chartered on October 29th, 1972 to encourage the safe, courteous and lawful use of snowmobiles and the respectful use of landowners' properties.

The club serves up the annual Sourdough Pancake Breakfast at the Walden Methodist Church each February. This annual thank you to our generous landowners is an important aspect of the club's give-back. The event coincides with a statewide snowmobile club effort, through VAST and other clubs, to raise funds to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

In Walden alone there are almost ninety landowners who allow the Coles Pond Sledders' 55+ miles of trails to cross their properties.

Connecticut Valley Sno-Riders

Club address: Guildhall; Club email: cvs802@yahoo.com (Melissa Wooldridge Breton); Club phone: 860-614-7588

The Connecticut Valley Sno-Riders, Essex County, Guildhall, Vermont, Northeast Kingdom, USA will celebrate our 50th Anniversary this 2023 Season!

Club volunteers estimate 82 miles of groomed trails.

Country Riders

Club address: Troy; Club contact email: countryridersnek@gmail.com; phone: 203-948-4573 (Jim Sugden)

The club is responsible for 108 miles of trail, serviced by three Tuckers Sno Cat grooming units: a 2016 crew cab, a 2018 metal lagged unit for the mountain, and a 2011 rubber track unit for the valley trails.

Danville S-Ski-Mo Club

Club address: Danville; Club email: info@danville-s-skimos.com; Club website: www.danville-s-skimos.com

The "Danville S-Ski-Mo Club, Inc." was organized Jan. 28, 1970 by a group of about 20 members.

We are ideally located directly on the VAST Corridor Trail System allowing access to miles of well-groomed scenic trails. Our trained groomer operators insure that you receive some of the best possible riding in the state. Our club has received the award for the "Most Improved Trails" in the State of Vermont in the past, and we are constantly striving to improve them even more. We have two Tucker Sno-Cats that we use to maintain 70 miles of trails.

Drift Dusters Snowmobile Club

Club address: Derby; Club email: sslby306@yahoo.com (Sean Selby); Club phone: 802-399-9225; Club website: www.driftdusters.com

Drift Dusters Snowmobile Club is a family friendly snowmobile club based out of Derby, Vermont and maintains trails all throughout the Northeast Kingdom. The towns include: Derby, Charleston, Morgan, Norton, and Holland. As winners of the 2006 VAST Best Groomed Trails Award, the 2008 Best Signed Trails Award, and 2013 VAST Club of the Year, Drift Dusters strives to maintain smooth and safe trails for snowmobilers of all types.

Glover Trailwinders Snowmobile Club

Club address: West Glover; Club contact: Merle Young - 802-



Snowmobile riders travel onto the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail after crossing a bridge over Joes Brook in West Danville on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021. (Photo by Dana Gray)

525-6214; Club email: info@glovertrailwinders.com; Club website: www.glovertrailwinders.com

The Glover Trailwinders is one of the oldest snowmobile clubs in Orleans County having its roots with the Albany Creek Runners in the late 1960s. The club is responsible for maintaining 52 miles of trails.

Hardwick Sno-Flake Ridge Runners

Club address: Hardwick; Club contact: Ross Gouin - 802-279-3765; Club email: snowflakeridgerunners@gmail.com

Hazen's Notch Snowmobile Club

Club address: North Troy; Club email: hazennotchsnowmobileclub@gmail.com; Club phone: 802-988-1075

We are a small club at the south western part of Orleans county. We maintain 46 miles of class 1 corridor trails. Our club has trails in Lowell, Westfield, Irasburg, Albany. We are about 150 members strong, (always looking for more).

Lunenburg Polar Bears

Club address: Lunenburg; Club contact: Mike Mutascio - 973-897-4680; Club email: lunenburgpolarbears@gmail.com; Club website: http://vtvast.org/lunenburg-polar-bears.html

The first meeting of the newly-formed snowmachine club was held on October 16, 1966 at the Lunenburg Town Hall in Essex County.

Ride our exceptional trails in Southern Essex County, Vermont. Experience 75 miles of sweeping views, wooded canopies, thrilling hills and open fields. We offer access to unique riding destinations, terrain and scenery.

Lyndon Sno-Cruisers

Club address: Lyndonville; Club contact: Larry Dwyer - 802-754-9385; Club email: lyndonsnocruisers@gmail.com; Club website: http://www.lyndonsnocruisers.com/

The Lyndon Sno-Cruisers groom and maintain 60 miles of scenic trail in the towns of Lyndon, Sutton, Wheelock, Sheffield, and Burke. We gain permission from about 100 different landowners to develop this trail system. We work to maintain well signed and groomed trails. It takes the cooperation of every snowmobiler to keep litter off of the trails. Club meetings are held on the first Fri. of each month from Sept. to May. Any TMA holder or property owner is welcome to attend meetings.

Moose River Rock Dodgers

Club address: Granby; Club phone: 802-328-2191; Club email: bunnelldeb@ne.rr.com; Club website: http://mooseriver-rockdodgers.homestead.com/index.html

Moose River Rock Dodgers was incorporated over 40 years ago in 1972 by a group of determined and hard working people. The club has come a long way from its beginnings. Roland Copp and his ear muffs grooming the trails with bed springs behind his snowmobile to the Tucker and drag that we have today. The club

is still made up of a group of hard working volunteers.

If you're looking for high quality trails, you've come to the right place. At Moose River Rock Dodgers we strive to give you the trail experience you'll come to expect and enjoy. Our trail are maintained continuously by local people to ensure the best possible conditions. Let us put our experience to work for you.

Newark E-Z Riders

Club address: Newark; Club contact: Rena Ellingwood - 802-467-3436; Club email: ellingwoodrena@gmail.com; Club website: http://www.newarkezriders.com/

The Newark E-Z Riders have 9 miles of trails in Newark and Westmore nestled between Burke and Brighton on Corridor VT RT 114. We have been in existence since 1972 and the club is a Non-Profit Corporation made up of volunteers. The Officers and Directors as well as many members put in countless hours keeping the club running smoothly and our trails opened. The Brighton Snowmobile Club (a.k.a. Island Pond) grooms our trails an average of three times a week.

Newbury Border Riders

Club address: Bath, N.H.; Club contact: Kurt Wakefield; Club phone: 603-747-1017; Club email: tabithaterranova@yahoo.com

North Country Mountaineers

Club address: Newport Center; Club contact: George St. Onge - 802-673-9305; Club email: northcountrymountaineers@gmail.com; Club website: http://northcountrymountaineers.com

The North Country Mountaineers is reputed to be one of the first snowmobile clubs established in the state. Initial meetings were held at the Top Deck, a former restaurant and campground about five miles down on the west side of Lake Memphremagog.

The North Country Mountaineers cover 65 miles of the VAST trail system in Coventry, Irasburg and Newport. Each trail is groomed twice a week We update our Trails Report as often as possible especially when there is big news to report such as a pending snow storm etc.

Northeast Kingdom Snow Blasters

Club address: Norton; Club contact: John Hull - 802-371-7301; Club email: averill193@gmail.com; Club website: http://www.neksb.com

At the Northeast Kingdom Snow Blasters Snowmobile Club in Norton, we give our trails and you the attention and personal service you've come to expect and enjoy here in the NEK! The Northeast Kingdom Snow Blasters has been located in Norton, Vermont since 2012.

Orleans Snow Stormers

Club address: Newport; Club contact: Raymond Rodrigue - 802-334-6179; Club email: gramg7@live.com; Club website: http://www.orleanssnowstormers.com/

St. Johnsbury Sno-Blazers

Club address: St. Johnsbury; Club contact: Edward J. Hebebrand - 802-684-9996; Club email: edjhebebrand@live.com

Trails are located in Danville and Barnet.

Waterford Ridgerunners

Club address: Waterford; Club contact: Ryan Lowell - 802-535-5848; Club email: waterfordridgerunnersvt@yahoo.com

Winter Wanderers

Club address: Wheelock; Club phone: 802-626-8133; Club email: aruffner64@gmail.com

Winter Wanderers Snowmobile Club was started in the quaint town of Wheelock, Vermont in 1986 by Tim Baker, and Dennis Caldwell. Since then the club has slightly grown, but still remains a close knit group of snowmobile-lovin' people that are always looking to have others become apart of the Winter Wanders family. Throughout the years Winter Wanders have maintained over 15 miles of trails, constructed several bridges, and donated to numerous local charities.

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