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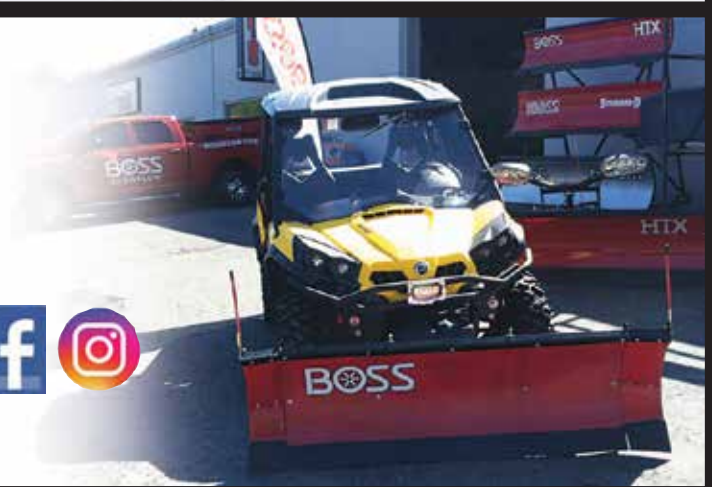
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WELCOME MESSAGE

Where Adventure And Warmth Meet - Winter In The NEK

BY LORALEE TESTER
NEK Chamber Director

The allure of the Northeast Kingdom does not fade when the leaves drop, it transforms. As the first snow blankets our hills and valleys, the Kingdom becomes a place of quiet beauty and exhilarating adventure. Winter here is not simply endured; it is embraced, celebrated, and lived with the same joy and soul that defines our region in every season.

Last year, Jay Peak saw record snowfall, drawing skiers and snowboarders from across New England to its powder-filled slopes. Just down the road, Burke Mountain, now under new ownership, is buzzing with energy and fresh investment. Whether you're tackling glades, cruising groomers, or taking your kids to the learning area, the mountains here remind us why the Kingdom is one of the most cherished winter destinations in the Northeast.

But the magic of winter in the NEK goes well beyond the chairlift. Island Pond, known as Vermont's "Snowmobile Capital," offers 110 miles of groomed trails connecting to the VAST network, where snowmobilers ride through forests, fields, and frozen lakes. The NorthWoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston maintains trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and even offers winter ecology tours that reveal the hidden life beneath the snow. For those who prefer slower rhythms, try ice fishing on Island Pond, or lace up skates on Craftsbury Outdoor Center's pond, where hockey games and free skates unfold under crisp blue skies.

Craftsbury itself hums with winter activity. The Craftsbury Outdoor Center maintains over 100 kilometers of groomed trails for skate and classic skiing, and also offers fat biking, snowshoeing, and even dog sledding with Eden Dogsledding nearby. If your day calls for warmth



(PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES)

instead, stop in at Hill Farmstead Brewery for world-renowned beer or head to the Highland Center for the Arts for live performances that remind us the arts are just as alive in January as they are in July. Stop in for a cuppa at Front Seat Coffee in Hardwick, and you won't want to leave! In fact, you'll feel like you've come home.

In Canaan, Fletcher Park's outdoor rink fills with skaters, while sleigh rides through farms and forest roads connect visitors to the timeless rhythm of winter in the North Country. Wildlife watching, snowshoe hikes, and the hush of

snow falling through the Averill Mountains reveal a Kingdom at its most serene, and then you pop into April's Maple and feel transported to another time.

And then there's Newport, where winter is embraced with its own blend of energy and creativity. From fat biking along frozen Lake Memphremagog to cozy meals at local restaurants, the town pairs natural beauty with community warmth. Catamount Arts, based in St. Johnsbury, continues to enliven our winters with concerts, films, and performances, as well as appearances from the Vermont Symphony Orchestra or incredible guests through the Northeast Kingdom Classical Series, that fill our calendars with light during the darkest months.

Each of these corners of the Kingdom also offers the most amazing and lovely little restaurants, cafés, and eateries, perfect for a pre-adventure breakfast or a fireside bite after a day on the trails. Whether

you're craving a steaming bowl of soup, a locally brewed pint, or a cozy spot with a view of the falling snow, you'll find it here.

The best way to discover what's happening in your corner of the Kingdom—whether it's a winter concert, festival, or a new spot to warm up after a ski, is to call the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce at 802-626-5594 or visit nekchamber.com (or northeastkingdom.com) for updates, itineraries, and insider tips.

This is the Kingdom in winter: vibrant trails, snow-laden woods, and towns that shine with culture, warmth, and resilience. The NEK reminds us that winter is not an obstacle but an invitation to slow down, to adventure, to connect.

Here, when the snow falls, the soul of the Kingdom shines all the brighter and welcomes you in.

Loralee Tester is the executive director of Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce.

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CELEBRATIONS

First Night North Celebrates New Year In Community

BY ERIN NAREY
Catamount Arts

Catamount Arts and First Night North 2026 celebrate the 32nd year of Vermont's favorite and longest running New Year's Eve performance festival. Featuring over 150 performers in over 75 shows in a dozen St. Johnsbury venues, First Night North guarantees a full eight hours of fun for the entire community.

The eagerly anticipated festivities, presented by Catamount Arts in partnership with the First Night North committee and countless community supporters, will take place Wednesday, Dec. 31. The fun begins at 4 p.m. with early bird entertainment for all ages, including dance, live music, comedy, juggling, magic, planetarium shows,

and longtime favorites the Family Fun Fair and pancake supper.

Celebrants with enough stamina for the full eight hours of live entertainment will have dozens of all-ages family-friendly shows to choose from, including storytellers, puppetry, vaudeville, hypnosis, and even more dance, magic, and music, culminating in a community countdown to the New Year, the raising of the First Night North Ball of Light, and a midnight dance party to welcome 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, Tibetan, contemporary, classic rock, and more. Although



The ball raised to mark the start of a new year reaches full height at midnight Jan. 1, 2025. (Photo by Jay Haywood)

the schedule is still evolving, over a dozen brand new acts are anticipated in addition to longtime First Night favorites like Tritium Well, Marko the

Magician and Hypnotist, and newer favorites like Silk and Spice Belly Dance, You've Got to be Kidding, and karaoke.

This year's festivities will also include Reiki, Highland dance, marionettes, tarot readings, juggling, and a gallery show at Catamount Arts.

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 as well as First Night's traditional and beloved pancake-and-sausage supper.

Patrons are encouraged as always to sample a variety of shows, and RCT's electric buses will help by running free shuttle service among performance venues. Buses can be flagged down anywhere along the route.

New this year, First Night

North committee is thrilled to announce free student admission thanks to generous community sponsors.

First Night North is very much a community function, relying not only on regional 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 2026, including the complete schedule of performers and how to purchase admission, sponsor free student admission, or become a volunteer, watch the web site at www.firstnight-north.org, call 802-748-2600, or visit the Catamount Arts box office on Eastern Avenue.

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ALPINE

Burke Making Major Improvements Under New Owners

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

want to use our resources to enhance and celebrate it, not only for our downcountry guests, but for our neighbors all around Burke.”

Snowmaking and Lift Improvements

In addition to new snowmaking infrastructure, Burke’s on-mountain operations team has reassigned snowmaking pipes and guns across all terrain levels and added 150 new HKD and SMI snow guns. A new Prinoth snowcat will join the grooming fleet this winter, and the J-bar lift on the learning hill has been rebuilt with new line equipment and a gearbox.

The resort’s two high-speed quads, the Mid Burke Express and Sherburne Express, have undergone extensive overhauls, including new comlines, control touch-



Interim General Manager Tom Day at Burke Mountain on Oct. 9, 2025. Day said off-season improvements under new owners Bear Den Partners will allow the ski area to make more snow, faster, and at warmer temperatures (Photo by Paul Hayes)

screens, wiring, and safety inspections by staff and manufacturer Leitner-Poma.

Tom Day, interim general manager, said the improvements will help Burke adapt to changing weather and extend its season.

“You have 13 weeks to make money in this business, and Mother Nature gets in the way a lot during that period,” he said. “You have to continue to build your efficiency because ... you have to be able to take advantage of the cold

weather when it’s there.”

The mountain has also adopted the Snow Right system, which uses GPS-equipped groomers to map snow depth and guide snowmaking in real time.

“It’s very efficient because it’s a lot of money to make snow,” Day said. “I put it in at Gunstock, and it’s a great system. It really helps you be more efficient.”

Expanding Resort Amenities

Beyond the slopes, Burke Mountain Hotel is getting a refreshed look, with interior designs by local artisans and furniture makers. The hotel arcade is being updated with new games, and more value-added lodging packages are being offered this winter.

Retail operations will also change with the arrival of

Sport Thoma, an award-winning ski and snowboard outfitter with locations across northern New England. The store will provide equipment sales, tuning, and demos of the latest ski and snowboard technology.

Burke’s food and beverage program is being reimagined under culinary leads Logan Owens and Howard Wein of Wein Hospitality, who are introducing new menus and expanded staffing.

Events and Branding

The resort is launching a new lineup of weekly events and après-ski music, along with a signature concert series featuring national touring artists such as Adam Gardner of Guster, Chad Hollister, and Stephen Kellogg. Proceeds from the concerts will benefit

See **Burke**, Page 9

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Endless Downhill Skiing Options

STAFF REPORT

The Northeast Kingdom and North Country of New Hampshire offer some of the finest alpine skiing and snowboarding destinations in all of New England.

There's the most natural snow at Jay Peak, new ownership and management with an emphasis on improved snowmaking at Burke, exhilarating vertical drop at Cannon Mountain, a ton of terrain at Bretton Woods and inexpensive, low pressure, snow-dependent, rope-tow propelled ski hills in Lyndon and Littleton.

BURKE MOUNTAIN
Address: 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd., East Burke, Vt.
Phone: (802) 626-7300
Web: <https://skiburke.com/>
Lifts: 4, plus one magic carpet

Trails: 55 ski trails, 15 glades
Vertical Drop: 2,011 feet
CANNON MOUNTAIN
Address: 2650 Profile Rd., Franconia, N.H.
Phone: (603) 823-7722
Web: <https://www.cannonmt.com/>

Lifts: 9
Trails: 102 across six moun-



Snowboarding at Bretton Woods (Photo by Jennifer Stickney, Bretton Woods)

tain areas: Upper Mountain, Tuckerbrook Family Area, Mid-Mountain, Front5, Mittersill and Glades

Vertical Drop: 2,180 feet
JAY PEAK
Address: 830 Jay Peak Rd., Jay, Vt.

Phone: (802) 988-2611
Web: <https://jaypeakresort.com/>

Lifts: 9 (1 Tram, 4 Quads, 1 triple, 1 double, and 2 surface lifts)

Trails: 81 (Gladed terrain: 100-plus acres)

Vertical Drop: 2,122 feet
Season: Mid-November to Mid-May

LYNDON OUTING CLUB
Address: 1580 Lily Pond Rd., Lyndon, Vt.

Phone: (802) 626-8465
Web: <https://www.skilyndon.com/>

Lifts: 2 (1 T-Bar, 1 rope tow)

Trails: 10 (dependent on natural snowfall; limited grooming)

Vertical Drop: 433 feet
Night skiing under the lights remains a big draw for the non-profit ski hill.

The Outing Club remains an affordable option for local residents and families.

For updates and trail conditions visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/LyndonOutingClub>

MT. EUSTIS SKI HILL
Address: 188 Mt. Eustis Rd., Littleton, N.H.

Email: mteustisskihill@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.mteustis.org/>

Lifts: 1 rope tow
Trails: 3 (dependent on natural snowfall)

Vertical Drop: 240 feet

For updates and trail conditions visit: <https://www.facebook.com/MtEustisSkiHill/>

BRETTON WOODS
Address: 99 Ski Area Rd., Bretton Woods, N.H.

Phone: (603) 278-3320
Web: <https://www.brettonwoods.com/>

Lifts: 10
Trails: 99
Vertical Drop: 1,500 feet

Burke

Continued from Page 8 local and regional causes.

Burke is also rolling out refreshed branding that reintroduces its classic bear icon and red-and-blue color scheme. Guests will see the new look across signage, the resort's websites, and hotel materials.

New Technology and Pass Partnerships

On the mountain, lift tickets are being replaced with contactless RFID cards that track lift use and help managers understand visitor flow.

"You can tell who's riding the Mid Burke Express lift, who's riding the Sherburne Express lift," Day said. "After this year, we'll have a database that tells us if we need to change something here

or there. Every little tweak means so much when you're trying to be efficient in those 13 weeks."

This winter will also be Burke's first as a member of the Indy Pass, giving pass-holders two free days at the resort and access to other independent ski areas across North America.

A New Chapter for Burke

Day, who began his career as a lift mechanic in the 1970s and has managed ski areas including Gunstock and Waterville Valley, said Burke's infrastructure was in surprisingly good shape despite years in receivership.

"Everything was very well maintained," he said. "The lifts are in great shape, the snowmaking system just needed to be expanded. Staff were raring to go. They all

wanted to get things done and make it better."

He said the new ownership has energized the resort.

"Everybody likes to be on a winning team," Day said. "Bear Den Partners brought the opportunity to be on a winning team by putting some money into the place. It's been great. It keeps me feeling a little younger than 71."

Thanks to a dry summer, construction is on schedule, Day said — though he added, smiling, "You're always ahead of schedule till you're supposed to be done."

"I think we'll be ready to roll," he said. "We might be tightening the last bolt down when we've got to push the button to start snowmaking the next day, but I think we're ready to do it."

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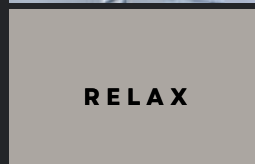
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BIATHLON

Find Your 'Sisu' Through Cross Country Skiing

BY LUKE BROWN
Team USA

My high school ski coach always talked about a Finnish word, *sisu*, which means something like inner strength, determination, grit, and courage all wrapped up into one. Supposedly, we English speakers do not have a word that encompasses its full original meaning. But my coach often reminded me that we do have an action that directly translates to *sisu* - cross-country skiing.

Cross-country skiing of course can be an absolute blast. You're outside in the winter, creating your own heat while moving yourself over hill and

dale, on skinny skis that on the best of days seem to create a momentum of their own. You can travel distances on snow you never thought would be possible. You can experience the amazing quiet in which a forest blanketed in snow envelops you. And on a sunny day, glistening snow on a farm field with a red barn is guaranteed to make you smile.

However, cross-country skiing can also be uniquely challenging. Skiing on flats and uphill requires balance and coordination and effort. Snow is needed to ski but the changing conditions also make skiing challenging. Skiing taxes your cardiovascular system and

your musculature. You will find yourself breathing hard in the moment and sometimes sore the next day.

Why do I mention these tough parts of xc skiing? Because this is where *sisu* comes into play. If you can learn to lean into the elements, if you can persevere through your first few skis when the necessary balance seems impossible, if you can cherish the inner-challenge of summiting the next daunting hill, you will develop *sisu*. If you understand that the inherently challenging parts of xc skiing are also the parts that you may eventually find the most rewarding, that you will one day take pride in the *sisu* you developed through

this form of skiing, then, my friend, you will simply love it.

You'll love that cross-country skiing is one of the most efficient and effective forms of full-body exercise. It requires you to use all of your major muscle groups and even a lot of your little ones to balance on each ski while pushing with both your legs and your arms.

You'll love that two different types of skis and techniques offer two unique ways to enjoy xc skiing (or be challenged by it!): classic and skate. Classic, the traditional style of skiing in which a skier moves with their skis in tracks set into the snow, moving their opposite arms and legs together in a "stride," is often where beginners start. Skate skiing, developed in the early 1980's, requires the skier to push side to side with their legs while also propelling themselves forward with their arms. Once mastered, it is usually the

faster option. Give both a try and see which one you enjoy more.

You'll love developing traditions like my favorite: choosing one of the coldest days of the winter to go outside for a ski and treating myself to hot chocolate afterward. I drink it with a deep sense of accomplishment.

You'll love the sense of exploration you get exploring new trails and the winter landscape all over Vermont and New Hampshire.

I think back to a day last winter when I went to ski at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. I walked across the porch outside of the touring center and before clicking into my trusty skate skis, I took a moment to take in the scene: a group of elementary school kids having a blast playing dodgeball while on skis, a family with rental gear headed in to the chalet - I hope for hot chocolate, and a group of



Luke Brown finds his "sisu" competing in the trials for the U.S. National biathlon team in December 2024. (Photo by Phil Belena)

friends setting off in the classic tracks to ski around Duck Pond.

It struck me as I took off across the upper field with the intention of finding the longest loop possible, that all these different types and ages of people were here finding *sisu*, in their own way, on skis.

Luke Brown is a biathlete at Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

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NORDIC

On Rail Trails Or Woods Trails, Skiers Find Nordic Paradise

BY STEPHEN GARFIELD
Staff Writer

LOCAL CROSS COUNTRY RAIL TRAILS

The options to choose from in terms of nordic skiing on rail trails is as vast as skiing in one's favorite backyard trail. The **Lamoille Valley Rail Trail**, which begins (or ends) in St. Johnsbury and (begins or) ends 93 miles later in Swanton, is used year-round. The trail is used for cycling, walking, running, horseback riding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, dog-sledding and skiing. In addition to the St. Johnsbury terminus on South Main Street, local LVRT access points include Danville, West Danville, Walden,

Greensboro Bend, and Hardwick.

In Newport, the four-mile **Beebe Spur Rail Trail** has expansive views of Lake Memphremagog. The non-profit Memphremagog Trails grooms the Beebe Spur trail.

In Littleton, N.H., the 19.2 **Ammonoosuc Rail Trail** runs from Littleton to Woodsville by way of Lisbon and Bath. Snowmobile clubs groom the trail throughout the winter.

The Ammonoosuc River provides a scenic backdrop to this trail. When it courses through Bath, skiers see the 345-foot covered bridge that was built in 1832. The Lisbon Depot is another must-see along the trail.

Between Littleton and



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

Libson, the trail alternates between shady deciduous forests, wetlands, fields, and farmland. The trail starts at Industrial Park Road in Littleton and ends at Central St. in Woodsville.

It is also part of the 83-mile **Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail** between Woodsville and Bethel, Maine. This trail travels along river valleys and through the northern White Mountains

Region.

The **Franconia Notch Recreation Trail** (8.7 miles) is also popular with cross country skiers, with its dazzling views of Cannon Ski Area and surrounding peaks. In Bethlehem, N.H., the **Profile Recreational Trail** offers 1.5 miles of skiing, while the **Franconia Brook Trail** (7.2 miles) is another great choice for skiers.

NORDIC SKI VENUES

Dashney Nordic Center, 830 Dashney Rd. (off Mountain Rd.), East Burke. Trails of forgotten Vermont country roads, rolling farmland and smaller forest lanes. Nordic, snowshoe rentals. Rates, more info, skiburke.com.

Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd.,

Craftsbury Common, Vt. 105 km of groomed trails. Info, craftsbury.com/ski.

Bretton Woods, 210 Mt. Washington Hotel Rd, Bretton Woods N.H. 100 km network of groomed trails for snowshoeing as well as nordic skiing.

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

Franconia Inn, 1172 Easton Rd., Sugar Hill (Rt. 116). 30km network on beginner-to-expert trails on groomed and ungroomed terrain. Rates, more info, 603-823-5542.

Memphremagog Trails, 3892 Darling Hill Rd., Newport. Over 30 km miles (45 trails) of groomed trails. Call 802-825-1673.

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ART & CULTURE

Warmth & Wonder: Arts & Culture To Brighten The Cold Season

BY ANDREW MCGREGOR
Staff Writer

As the first snow settles across the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and the North Country of New Hampshire, the region's outdoor adventures take center stage. But when the weather turns wild—or when you simply need to warm up after a day on the trails—there's a rich tapestry of indoor arts, culture, and entertainment waiting to be explored. From historic museums to vibrant galleries and live performances, winter offers something for every taste.

Cultural Institutions: Curiosity, Creativity, and Legacy

These venues offer immersive experiences in science, art, and storytelling—perfect for snowy afternoons or quiet winter weekends.

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum – St. Johnsbury, VT – <https://www.stjathenaeum.org>
A National Historic Land-

mark, the Athenaeum houses a 19th-century art gallery and library. Visitors can admire Albert Bierstadt's "The Domes of Yosemite" and enjoy lectures, concerts, and community events in a setting that blends intellectual warmth with architectural beauty.

Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium – St. Johnsbury, VT – <https://fairbanksmuseum.org>

Home to Vermont's only public planetarium, this museum offers natural history exhibits and science programming for all ages. It's a beloved destination for families and curious minds. (Note: Closed in January)

Bread and Puppet Museum – Glover, VT – <https://breadandpuppet.org/museum>

Housed in a towering barn, this museum is filled with decades of giant papier-mâché puppets, masks, and banners from the legendary Bread and Puppet Theater. A self-guided experience, it's whimsical, radical, and deeply rooted in



St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (File photo)

folk art and political storytelling. The space is unheated and remember to turn the lights out on your way out the door.

Museum of Everyday Life – Glover, VT – <https://museumofeverydaylife.org>

This offbeat, self-guided museum celebrates the beauty of ordinary objects—from toothbrushes to pencils—through thoughtful, artistic exhibits. It's a quiet, contemplative space that invites reflection and delight.

Crane's Snowmobile Museum – Lancaster, NH –

<https://cranesnowmobilemuseum.com>

A unique museum dedicated to vintage snowmobiles and the history of winter recreation in the North Country.

Historical Societies: Stories of Place and People

Winter is a great time to explore the region's rich history through local museums and historical societies. While some operate seasonally, these locations typically offer winter access or programming.

St. Johnsbury History & Heritage Center – St. Johns-

bury, VT – <https://www.stjhistory.org>

This museum showcases the town's industrial and cultural past through interactive exhibits and rotating displays. The Center recently celebrated the opening of an additional exhibit and event space.

Littleton Area Historical Museum – Littleton, NH – <https://littletonnhmuseum.com>

Located in the town's historic Opera House, this museum features exhibits on Littleton's development, industry, and community life. The museum's volunteers work to maintain the hundreds of artifacts that are on display as well as the many carefully planned exhibits.

Lisbon Area Historical Society – Lisbon, NH – <https://lisbonareahistory.org>

A small but active historical society preserving the stories and artifacts of Lisbon's past. The society is headquartered in the historic Lisbon Congregational Church Parish House, a site on NH's register of his-

toric places. The museum collection includes artifacts from the 1700s to present day.

Danville Historical Society – Danville, VT – <https://danvillevthistorical.org>

Offers exhibits and archives that explore Danville's agricultural and civic history.

The society is headquartered in the Choate-Sias House and is open two days a week.

Canaan Historical Society – Canaan, VT – <http://www.canaan-vthistoricalsociety.org>

Located in a historic schoolhouse, this society maintains exhibits and collections that reflect the town's heritage.

The Rocks Estate – Bethlehem, NH – <https://www.forstsociety.org/the-rocks>

Managed by the Forest Society, The Rocks offers historic tours, nature trails, and seasonal events in a beautifully preserved estate setting.

Entertainment & Events: Lights, Music, and Community

See **Culture**, Page 14

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DESTINATIONS

The Cure For Winter Blues - Find Your Fun In St. Johnsbury

BY GILLIAN SEWAKE
Discover St. Johnsbury

Vermont's winters are not for the faint of heart. The nights are long, the snow is deep, and the chill is persistent.

Those of us who choose to make this our home know that the best cure for the winter blues is to connect over cozy indoor or outdoor activities. Luckily, St. Johnsbury has just the right mix of businesses and amenities to help you make the most of the season. Whether you're new to town or have lived here your whole life, you'll be bound to discover some new ideas for weathering the weather within our suggestions below.

For those who like to curl up with a good book, St. Johnsbury boasts literary assets of all kinds. Find the hot new best seller at Boxcar & Caboose, peruse a curated selection of used books at Secondhand Prose or the new shop Tunnel Books, or settle into an armchair at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, our beautiful public library. Gather with other bibliophiles at Catamount Arts' Poetry Potluck events on the second Wednesday of

each month. The Athenaeum also hosts monthly book clubs exploring classics, best sellers, and cook books too!

If opting outside is more your speed, then the NEK Prosper! Winter Gear Lending Library—with free snowshoes, microspikes, and walking poles that you can pick up from RecFit St. J—will help you safely explore the hiking trails in the Town Forest or make the ascent up Observatory Knob to take in the view. St. Johnsbury's two beloved outdoor public ice skating rinks on Main Street and on Portland Street are a time-honored way to gather with loved ones in winter. Check the Town of St. Johnsbury Recreation Department Facebook page for notifications about rink conditions and other outdoor events.

A warm movie theater is a great place to escape wintery weather, and St. Johnsbury boasts two theaters with six screens to choose from. The Star Theatre shows first run blockbusters and Catamount Film & Arts Center shows indie flicks. Catamount also hosts regular free community film screenings on Wednes-



Liam Storings and Jesse Hoyng take a moment to secure their steps with microspikes before taking a winter walk in the St. Johnsbury Town Forest. (Contributed Photo/Downriver Media)

days, and free horror films on select Fridays. The Film Fan Club at St. Johnsbury Athenaeum features free screenings on the second Tuesday of each month. Dancing can also help you shake off the winter chill, and you'll find free Argentine Tango Lessons with instructor Phil Ciotti each Thursday night at the Welcome Center, or join in the Community Contra Dance at St. Andrews Church on the fourth Sunday of most winter months. Quahog Dance Theater is run by Catamount Arts, and is a great way for seniors to get moving.

If you prefer

to engage in some retail therapy, we suggest timing your visit with Discover St. Johnsbury's Find Your Sparkle Shop Local Rewards campaign. Between Small Business Saturday on November 29 and December 31, make 10 purchases at any combination of shops or restaurants anywhere in St. Johnsbury to earn a gift: a sweet St. Johnsbury T-shirt designed and printed locally by St. Johnsbury's own Magic Wolf Co. Even better, if you shop during St. J Sparkles! Holiday Weekend on Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13, purchases count DOUBLE towards your reward! You can pick up rewards cards as you shop and dine starting the week of Thanksgiving. Learn more at www.DiscoverStJohnsbury.com/stjsparkles

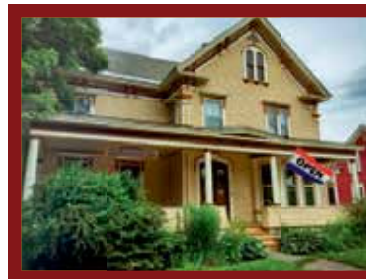
Or, take in some culture with exceptional events all winter long from Catamount Arts' KCP Presents Series, including world-class dance, circus, and live music performances. Catamount Arts also presents First

Night North, selected this year as one of Vermont Tourism's Signature Events, featuring more than 70 performances over eight hours of programming on New Years Eve. New this year, First Night North is offering free buttons to all students, making this event more accessible than ever!

If your New Year's resolution is to learn a new skill, try your hand at pottery at Clay'n Around Pottery Studio, pick up knitting tips at the community table at The Yarn Bank, or explore classes for adults and children at Catamount Arts and Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium.

Have these options intrigued you, but you're not sure where to find out more? The Event, Recreation, Art & Culture, Shop, and Dining listings on DiscoverStJohnsbury.com are the best place to get the full details. Make sure to bookmark the Calendar tab to find events every day of the week.

Gillian Sewake is the executive director of Discover St. Johnsbury.



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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Curds & Curling Event At Highland Center For The Arts

BY AMY ASH NIXON
Staff Writer

Curling is a popular sport in cold regions, particularly Canada, but in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, a special spin on the sport has melded with local cheese-making traditions; it's the Curds & Curling winter event launched by Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) and Jasper Hill Farm in Greensboro.

The next Cheesy Winter Competition will be Feb. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Highland Center.

Keisha Luce, executive director at the Highland Center, said the cheese-meets-curling festivities

with Jasper Hill cheese wheels "is our spin on it!"

"Instead of the traditional curling stone we use rounds of Jasper Hill Cheese," said Luce. "The course we use (which is an ice rink and we paint on the goals) is based on traditional curling rules, but tweaked a bit."

The event also includes a performance of the No Strings Marionette Company's "The Stinky Cheese Man," live music, lots of rich cheesy food and hot drinks.

"There are also lots of other whimsical outside games available for people," said Luce.

The event will reach its fourth year in 2026, and Luce said that it's

grown in interest each year.

"We usually get around 800-1,000 people," she said. "Teams are in groups of four and some people play for fun and others play to win the Big Cheese trophy. The only serious thing about the event is that we want people to have fun."

How the event began was a "total fluke," Luce explained.

"Mateo Kehler was at HCA a few years ago and made a comment about how wild it would be to see if we could curl with cheese," said Luce.

She said, "HCA has a skating rink in the winter and we're always up for a challenge and especially love whimsical and offbeat projects (we

have an artist made mini golf course and this winter we're building a giant cardboard fort), so we put our artist minds to make it happen."

"Jasper Hill figured out how to freeze the cheese wheels and attached the curling handles," Luce continued. "The rest is history."

She said, "The first year we thought maybe no one would come, but 500 people showed up in negative weather and it grew from there!"

The annual winter event is marketed as "a winter showdown like no other!" featuring "live music, warming fires, and plenty of cheese ... we're turning the cold into gold."

A wheel of Jasper Hill cheddar is

the spotlight as the curling stone at the event, and participants are invited "to sweep your way into victory in Vermont's twist on this classic sport, or cheer on the action as competitors vie for the ultimate prize: the coveted Golden Cheese Award."

All through the event, there will be offerings of gooey mac-n-cheese, melty raclette, and samplings of the finest cheeses around, the event promises, in addition to signature drinks from Bar Hill gin to "keep you toasty and festive."

There is no prior registration required for the event; visit <https://highlandartsvt.org/> to find out more.

Culture

Continued from Page 12

From live theater to film screenings and concerts, these venues bring warmth and excitement to winter nights.

Catamount Arts – St. Johnsbury, VT – <https://www.catamountarts.org>

A regional arts hub offering independent films, concerts, gallery shows, and educational programs. Catamount also helps produce the KCP

Presents Performance Series (see below) and the annual First Night celebration in St. Johnsbury (see related story).

KCP Presents Performance Series – Various Locations – <https://kingdom-county.org/kcp-presents>

Presented by Kingdom County Productions, this series brings nationally acclaimed performers to the region—from jazz and classical music to dance and theater. Performers this winter include the Grand Kyiv Ballet,

a Renaissance choir group The Tallis Scholars, Montreal-based African circus Cirque Calabanté, a period instrument rock band Ruckus, The Concordia Choir, Rosanne Cash, Parsons Dance, Jazz at Lincoln Center's Great American Crooners.

Highland Center for the Arts – Greensboro, VT – <https://highlandartsvt.org>

A modern venue for theater, music, dance, and visual arts, with a cozy café and rotating exhibits.

Theatre UP – Littleton,

NH – <https://www.theatre-upnh.org>

A community theater producing musicals, dramas, and youth performances with professional-level production values.

Local Art Galleries: Inspiration Around Every Corner

These galleries showcase the creativity of local and regional artists through exhibitions, workshops, and handcrafted goods.

NEK Artisans Guild – St. Johnsbury, VT – <https://www.nekartisansguild.com>

nekartisansguild.com

A cooperative gallery featuring fine crafts, jewelry, textiles, and visual art from Northeast Kingdom artists.

Satellite Gallery – Lyndonville, VT – <https://thesatellitegalleryvt.weebly.com>

A contemporary art space with rotating exhibits and community events that highlight emerging and established artists.

MAC Center for the Arts – Newport, VT – <https://mac-centerforthearts.com>

Offers rotating exhibits, workshops, and a retail gallery filled with locally made

art and gifts.

This highlights just a sampling of the many arts and culture offerings across the Northeast Kingdom and North Country. From historic institutions and contemporary galleries to bold performance spaces and offbeat museums, the region boasts a vibrant and varied creative scene that continues to thrive—even in the coldest months. Whether you're a lifelong local or a curious visitor, there's always something new to discover indoors while winter works its magic outside.



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ON THE LAKE

Simple & Inexpensive: Ice Fishing An Enjoyable Wintertime Hobby

BY JUD KRATZER

A person can survive in the Northeast Kingdom or northern New Hampshire without enjoying winter, but if that person really wants to thrive in the north country, a winter hobby certainly helps. For me, that winter hobby is ice fishing.

As a fisheries biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and a life-long angler, I have come to appreciate ice fishing for many reasons, including the many great memories I have made through the years. It is a very affordable and safe way to get outside in the winter, a great way to spend time with family and friends, and if you know how to catch and fillet fish, it can provide many meals of delicious, locally-sourced, healthy protein.

While it might seem intimidating to get started ice fishing, it can be quite simple. All you need is a way to make a hole in the ice, a dipper to clear the hole, a rod,

a few small jigs, and some bait like worms or “spikes” (aka, maggots). You can easily carry most of that gear in a bucket. It’s true that you’ll see experienced ice anglers with a lot more gear than that, but newcomers can keep it simple when starting out and then invest in more gear later if they like it.

Yellow perch is by far the most popular species for Vermont’s winter anglers, and they are a great target for new and experienced anglers alike. I typically use a small jig baited with a spike or chunk of worm to target them near the bottom in 10 to 30 feet of water. One of the keys to yellow perch fishing is to keep moving. If I don’t get a bite within five to 10 minutes, I generally drill another hole about 10 to 40 yards away. I keep moving until I find active fish or I get too tired. Did I mention ice fishing is a good workout?

A few good options for perch fishing in the Northeast Kingdom include Joe’s Pond,



Freshly-caught fish are in a pile on the ice before the anglers who caught them, Jud Kratzer and his sons, Josh, left, and Ezekiel. (Contributed Photo) Freshly-caught fish are in a pile on the ice before the anglers who caught them, Jud Kratzer and his sons, Josh, left, and Ezekiel. (Contributed Photo)

Keiser Pond, Shadow Lake (Concord), Newark Pond, and Lake Memphremagog. The New Hampshire Fish and Game biologists tell me that a few of the good options in the Littleton area include Partridge Lake, Martin Meadows Pond, Burns Pond, and Forest Lake.

More important than catching fish is being safe and enjoying the outdoors. There

are plenty of guidelines available online for how to be safe and comfortable on the ice. Four inches of ice is generally considered safe for foot traffic. Check the ice thickness regularly as you move about. My main advice related to comfort is to pick your ice fishing days carefully. Ice fishing in single digits and wind is going to be miserable, even if you are catching fish, but a day of fishing with temperatures in the 20’s and no or light wind will be a pleasant day outdoors even if you don’t catch much. Dress in layers and wear warm, waterproof boots to keep your feet dry because there can be water or slush on top of the ice.

If you are new to ice fishing and would like to learn more, I recommend you visit the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department’s website at <https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-opportunities/vermonts-ice-fishing-opportunities>. The Department has generated

a lot of helpful content on all facets of ice fishing from safety to gear to techniques.

An even better way to learn is to go fishing with a more experienced angler. If you’re an experienced angler, take someone new out with you this winter and share our great winter pastime with them. Vermont’s free ice fishing day is the last Saturday in January, and it is a great day to take a friend fishing. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department celebrates free ice fishing day with an ice fishing festival, which will be at Elmore State Park this

year. For more information about the free ice fishing day and the ice fishing festival, visit <https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/free-ice-fishing-day>

Jud’s Suggested Ice Fishing Gear list:

- Warm clothing in layers
- Warm, waterproof boots
- Ice auger
- Ice dipper
- Fishing rod
- Small jigs
- Bait
- Bucket

Jud Kratzer lives in St. Johnsbury with his wife and three children.

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SNOWMOBILING

The Best Snowmobiling Day Trips In NEK & North Country

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

In the Northeast Kingdom and North Country, snowmobilers have near-countless options for day trips.

Factoring in a desire for shorter or longer rides and skill and ability levels, they can take recommendations from local clubs or state associations or configure some of the 7,000 miles of trail in New Hampshire and more than 4,000 in Vermont to create their own.

NEK

“One of the things we like to do is have some balance of different experiences that different people are looking for,” said Mike Mutascio, president of the Lunenburg Polar Bears Snowmobile Club, which maintains 75 miles of trail in the heart of the Kingdom, spanning Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties.

While riders must obtain the season trail pass — a Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) trail maintenance assessment, or TMA, for each machine — snowmobilers that just want to sample a particular area when conditions are ripe can obtain a three-day TMA, he said.

“And we have over 70 parking areas throughout the state where people can just park and ride,” said Mutascio. “There’s a lot of different opportunities to try different terrain and different experiences.”

Vermont also has guardian angels in the form of designated volunteers.

“We call them our ambassadors,” said Mutascio. “They are outfitted with a First Aid kit and can assist in emergencies. They wear a vest. They can take people on trips who are new to the area. We’re pretty robust as far as opportunities for people to explore the area ... Our trail system that we’re responsible for covers all the way to the radar base in central Essex County, which is high elevation. In our club alone, we have a variety of different terrain, which includes all of the farmland that goes along the river to the interior woods, and then we have more high-performance trails, which is the roller-coaster ride of the pipeline and the VELCO power lines that go all the way north.”

The Lunenburg Polar Bears pro-

vides an online VAST trail map and, through VAST, riders have access to trail conditions, trail-side services, scenic overlooks, and a free smartphone app that displays one’s location on a screen.

One day trip includes the abandoned Air Force base on East Mountain.

“Snowmobilers are drawn to the deep snow and high elevations of East Haven,” said Mutascio. “The Corridor 1 trail wraps around the historic Lyndonville Air Force Station, an early-warning radar base during the 1950s and ’60s. Nearby, The Roost is a welcoming remote cabin along Madison Brook in Ferdinand where riders can sign the guest book and sometimes even warm up near the wood-stove. Head east down Corridor 98 above Maidstone Lake, making sure to keep your cellphone camera handy.”

To the north is another opportunity.

“Island Pond is a popular starting point that includes parking, lodging, great food, and fun events for the family,” said Mutascio. “Snowmobilers head north to the Lewis Pond scenic overlook on Corridor 2000, or northeast to rack up plentiful miles in the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge ... If you get an early start, Corridor 96 is an absolute adventure. Loop north towards Canaan or Averill. On your way back, check out the snowmobile play area on corridor 114 at exit 24.”

The Derby area is jam-packed with trail-side services, including lodging and great restaurants, he said.

“Corridor 105A is an extraordinary route along the international border,” said Mutascio. “Wave to Canadian riders a snowball’s throw away. Head west on trail 105 below Lake Memphremagog for views of snowy Jay Peak. Or travel east to experience the rolling farm fields in Holland. The Country Store near Lake Seymour is a popular stop. Head back at sunset for amazing views.”

The ride along Paul Stream offers spectacular scenery and shimmering rapids.

“Point north towards Bloomfield for food and fuel before you head back to your starting point,” said Mutascio. “For more fun, don’t pass up an opportunity to loop around ma-



Day trips abound for snowmobilers in the Northeast Kingdom and North Country. (Photo contributed by the Lunenburg Polar Bears)

jestic Lake Willoughby. Snowmobile trails lead you to the thick woods in Newark, and even wind through a maple sugaring operation on the tight and twisty 141 trail. Step off your sled in Burke Village for trail-side food and fuel.”

For the ultimate winter adventure, strap down your snowboard and head up to Burke Mountain, he said.

“Many riders make their way to Danville and cruise the amazing Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT),” said Mutascio. “There’s opportunity galore as snowmobilers exit the LVRT north or south for brief loops towards Cabot, Hardwick, and Greensboro. Snowy vistas, winding woods, and access to services will be part of your frosty outing. It’s winter. Enjoy all the Green Mountain State has to offer ... from the seat of a snowmobile.”

Northern New Hampshire

For Grafton and Coos counties, Terry Callum, the new executive director for the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA), offered one southern loop for day trip as well as a northern loop for another day.

“The challenge here is there’s always more than one way to do these,” he said. “The trail network is extensive enough.”

In Grafton County, to experience both the Connecticut River Valley and White Mountains, riders can begin near Woodsville and Haverhill, in the town of Warren, where there is adequate parking at the Baker River Snowmobile clubhouse and access to the rail-bed, which is Corridor 5.

Northbound 5 runs along the river valley, and riders can make an eastward trek to Littleton, Bethlehem, and Twin Mountain, and then go south on Corridor 11 (the Franconia Notch bicycle path) to Lincoln-Woodstock,

before connecting to a primary trail called Warren-to-Woodstock.

“It travels directly through the White Mountains and is pretty much on national forest property and is much like what I would call the western Kancamagus,” said Callum. “You have views and go from the middle of the White Mountains back to the Connecticut River valley with this trail. It gets you back to the Warren area where you started from and would be a really good ride for somebody who wants to see everything from the Connecticut River valley areas north of the White Mountains all the way to the core of the White Mountains all in the same ride.”

The primary trail is No. 156.

In all, it’s about a 105-mile loop with mixed elevation and a mixture of rail bed and woods trails and is a good, solid ride that can be done in a whole day or half-day, depending on how many breaks a rider wants to take or how many trail spurs off the main trails a rider wants to explore, he said.

“The bike path is also quite scenic as well, especially with the leaves off,” said Callum. “If you go in the summer and the canopy’s in, some of the views are pretty restricted, but in the wintertime the views are extremely strong.”

For planning, the NHSA has a web map as well as a map app, which has trip routing and can be downloaded for \$4.99 from Apple’s app store or Google.

For a day trip in Coos County, riders can park beside the Groveton Trailblazers clubhouse, near Nash Stream and offering space for many vehicles.

“I would generally travel 5 north or some of the parallel trails in that stretch and ride up into the Swift Diamond Riders area, which would be basically the east and north part of Colebrook into Stewartstown,” said Callum.

Riders can then loop around the Diamond Ponds area in southern Pittsburg and go south on Corridor 18 to 19, which brings one down to Errol, which would be a good lunch stop.

Southbound 19 connects to 28, which extends back to the Nash Stream area.

In all, the basic loop is about 120 miles, but it can be made longer with added trails to stretch it out toward Berlin and to Success by the Maine border, all while beginning and ending at the parking lot in Stark just east of Groveton, for a ride with elevation most of the time.

“In this scenario, there’s so many side loops and places to stretch this thing out,” said Callum. “The Millsfield area is loaded with loops, the Seven Islands area is loaded with loops. The amount of changes you can make to this ride to add legs to it and lengthen the day is pretty significant ... It’s easy to put together a 180-mile to 200-mile loop very quickly and easily and it can still be a day ride.”

Riders can also come down through Lancaster, although, depending on the winter, Lancaster snow cover can be challenging.

“The key to that second [Coos County] loop is even in a less desirable winter, the odds of that loop playing out are pretty good,” said Callum. “The second route is more or less 5 north, connecting over to primary 134, coming down and connecting with corridor 18, and running 18 down until we make contact with 19, and running corridor 19 south, and coming across either corridor 28 or a little further down to primary trail 117, which runs east-west as well and goes from Milan to Stark.”

For good views, there is the Sugar Hill area around Diamond Ponds, a location that also has the Swift Diamond Riders clubhouse, which on Saturdays and Sundays has a cook shack running and allows riders to directly support a local club, with the proceeds used as a revenue stream to help offset club expenses, he said.

Snowmobile clubs in Coos County also hold events, such as steak feeds.

Along the loop, the town of Errol has restaurants and a convenience store.

Much riding for a day trip is also available along the swath from Jefferson to Gorham and south to Twin Mountain, and the views up by Cherry Mountain are spectacular, said Callum.

For more information, visit <https://vtvast.org> and <https://slednh.com>



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ICE SKATING

Skating Opportunities In The Northeast Kingdom & North Country

BY STEPHEN GARFIELD
Staff Writer

During a cold snap, visions of glory come into outdoor skaters' minds as they get ready to revisit favorite ponds, or lakes with inlets and alcoves that freeze quickly. Many skaters know the thrill of skating while knocking the puck around, sometimes having to go search for it should a slap shot go awry.

Ideal outdoor conditions may not come around every winter, however, so that's when rinks come in. In addition to hockey games, they offer public skates, stick-and-puck sessions, and other such family-friendly activities. The region has outdoor and indoor rinks for public skating.

St. Johnsbury

When conditions are right, folks young and not-so-young are often seen skating around St. J's two neighborhood surfaces, Chet and Pat Buck Park, at the corner of Concord Avenue and Portland Street and Four Seasons Park, at the corner of Main and Winter streets.

Lyndon

Fenton Chester Arena could be called a local hub for all things skating. It is home to the Lyndon Institute Vikings, St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers, Kingdom Blades, and the Lyndon Area Youth Hockey Association (LAYHA).

It's not just about hockey, however, at FCA. Public skating is also a popular pastime at the rink located on College Road in Lyndon Center. The schedule of 2025-26 pub-

lic skating sessions is Wednesdays 2:30-4 p.m., Sundays 2-3:30 p.m. New in 2025-26, Friday night skating, 8:15-10 p.m. with disco lights and music. Stick-and-puck sessions are held regularly, and rental skates are also available at FCA. Info, chesterarena.org.

Jay Peak

The Jay Peak Ice Haus came online in 2010 and is still Vermont's newest ice-skating arena. With four locker rooms plus rental and repair space, the Ice Haus is an NHL-sized ice skating arena (85 feet by 200 feet).

Located at the base of Jay Peak Resort on Tramside, Jay Peak Ice Haus is home to hockey, figure skating and public-skate sessions. The facility is comfortable for spectators

with a snack bar and cafe, licensed bar, and cushy seating. The arena also has rental and repair shops, a pro shop, four locker rooms and ref rooms.

Other Tram Haus stats include bleacher seating for 400 spectators, standing space for an additional 300+ spectators, and an electric zamboni.

Lancaster, N.H.

Lancaster N.H. Outdoor Rink, School Street. Located below the former Lancaster School ballfield, this lighted, regulation-size outdoor rink is popular among young people. The facility has been run for the last 10-15 years by Peter Riviere and Kurt Johnson. Even with no brine pipes to keep the ice frozen, the surface is always trusty.

"It's how we make the ice," Riviere said in a 2024 interview. "If you use hot water, it makes for pretty spectacular ice. The hot-water system makes all the difference." Call (603) 631-0217, email coosrivers@gmail.com.

Additional Outdoor Skating

Local New Hampshire skate surfaces can be found in Bethlehem (corner Main and Agassiz Streets); Franconia (421 Main St. behind Abbie Greenleaf Library); Littleton (Remich Park, 90 Pine Hill Lane); and the Whitefield Town Rink (King's Square).

A well-known place to skate is the long path put in every year, when conditions permit, on Lake Morey Skate Trail, 82 Clubhouse Rd. in Fairlee, Vt. (800-423-1211).



Here is the Caledonian-Record's calendar guide to regional activities in winter 2025-26.

Saturday, November 8

Winter Sports Swap, 8-11 a.m., Mittersill Performance Center, 135 Mittersill Rd., Franconia. Hosted by Franconia Ski Club.

Sunday, November 9

Ski Swap, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Burke Town School, Burke Hollow Rd. Info, facebook.com/BurkeTownSchoolPTO.

Friday, November 22

Gala Christmas Ball, 7-10 p.m., Littleton Elks Lodge, Rt. 302. With the Swing North Big Band. Call 603-991-7517.

Holiday Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sugar Hill Meetinghouse, Rt. 117. Hosted by Sugar Hill Willing Workers. Bake sale, handmade crafts, live music, Grandma's Attic open for shopping.

Friday, November 28

Opening Day, Jay Peak Ski Resort, Rt. 242, Jay. Contingent on snow cover.

Saturday, November 29

Wintershine, Jay Peak Ski Resort. Celebrating start of winter at Jay with annual festival of holiday lights, s'mores around the fire and more. Fireworks, special events every Saturday through December.

Tuesday-Wednesday, December 2-3

Miracle On South Division Street, Mountain View Grand, 101 Mountain View Rd., Whitefield, N.H. Tuesday show 7 p.m., Wednesday show 2 p.m. Presented by Weathervane Theatre

Thursday, December 4

Olde Tyme Christmas, Lancaster NH. A

holiday event hosted by Lancaster Renaissance the Thursday after Thanksgiving on Main Street with vendors, hayrides, music, and Santa. Takes place on the Thursday after Thanksgiving.

Who's Holiday, 7 p.m., Mountain View Grand, Whitefield, N.H. Presented by Weathervane Theatre.

Friday-Saturday, December 5-6

Miracle On South Division Street, Mountain View Grand, Whitefield, N.H. Tuesday show 7 p.m., Wednesday show 2 p.m. Presented by Weathervane Theatre.

Saturday, December 6

Lunenburg Gingerbread Bazaar, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lunenburg School, 49 Bobbin Mill Road. Family event to usher in the Christmas season. Door prizes, cookie stacking, activities with Mrs. Claus. Homemade soup luncheon 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Lunenburg T-shirts, more. Sponsored by Top of the Common Committee. Call 802-892-6654.

Wintermarket, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Live music, holiday show with No Strings Marionette Company, sleigh rides, more in Bavarian-inspired indoor/outdoor market.

The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe, 11-11:50 a.m., Mountain View Grand, 101 Mountain View Rd, Whitefield, N.H. Presented by Weathervane Theatre.

Saturday-Sunday, December 6-7

All aboard! **North Pole Express** train rides, departing from behind Freighthouse Restaurant, Lyndonville, Vt. Christmas caroling en route to the North Pole to pick up elves, Mrs. Claus, and

of course, Santa.

Wednesday, December 10

The Nutcracker, 7 p.m., Lyndon Institute. With the Grand Kyiv Ballet. Show put on by KCP Presents.

Friday, December 12

The Tallis Scholars, 7 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro. "One of the world's premiere vocal ensembles." – Washington Post.

Brass Quintet & Counterpoint Chorus, 7-9 p.m., United Church of Newport, 63 Third St., Newport, Vt. Special guests, the Halcyon Chorale of St. Johnsbury.

Saturday, December 13

Craft/Vendor Event, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., St. Johnsbury Middle School, 257 Western Ave. Sponsored by NEKCAN.

Sunday, December 14

Annual Santa Visit/Tree Lighting. Santa visit in West Burke, tree lighting in East Burke.

Clara's Tea Party, 1 p.m., Littleton Opera House, 2 Union St. Designed for children ages 4-12. Hosted by Evergreen Dance Studios. Sweet treats, photos, and dancing in a whimsical holiday setting.

December 17-21, 2025

US Biathlon International Team Trials, Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. Craftsbury. Senior-level racers hoping to qualify to race for Team USA in Europe. Info, 802-586-7767.

Friday, December 19

Glenn Miller Orchestra Holiday Concert, 8:30 p.m., Mt. Washington Hotel Grand Ball-

room.

Wednesday, December 31

First Night North, St. Johnsbury. New Year's Eve celebration.

Zach Nugent's Dead Set, 8:30-11 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro.

New Year's Eve, Mt. Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, N.H.

Saturday, January 24, 2026

SKIVT Specialty Food Day, all day, Burke Mtn., East Burke. Local food, beverage, other Vermont vendors. Info, skiburke.com.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Young Concert Artists On Tour, 3-5 p.m., South Church Hall, 1052 Main St., St. Johnsbury

January 31-February 1, 2026

Marathon Ski Festival, all weekend, Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd., Craftsbury Common

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Bill's Blastoff BKL Races, 3-4 p.m. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd, Craftsbury Common.

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Cirque Kalabante, Lyndon Institute. Circus performance inspired by daily life in Guinea.

Thursday-Monday, February 19-23

Memphremagog Winter Swim Festival, 12th annual, Lake Memphremagog, Newport, Vt. Capacity of 185 swimmers. Hosted by Kingdom Games. "No lanes, no lines, no limits."

February 21-March 3, 2026

Vermont Snowflake Festival, Lyndonville and Burke.



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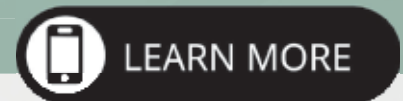
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