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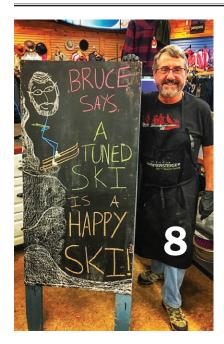


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# GETTING TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

BY LEAH CAREY Staff Writer

ou can't take lots of trips down the mountain in the same day without an easy way to get to the top of the trail!

#### Chairlift romance at Jay Peak Resort

Jay Peak's chairlifts are a great place to meet new romances or even make business deals, according to Director of Communications JJ Toland.

"People meet one another for the first time [on the chairlift] and then wind up engaged ... all the time," Toland said. "If you can conduct a courtship in between five and nine minutes, the chairlift is the perfect place to do it!"

Couples who met on the mountain will often come back to Jay to get married.

"They'll do their wedding photos on the chair where they met with a sign, 'Met here,', and 'Just married' draped off the back of it,' Toland said. "This is a sport that really brings people together - to go outside in winter, in the elements, to go play with gravity and roll through the snow. All that speaks to a very specific kind of person. There is this comradery of the cold that is shared by people that pursue that."

Toland said that it's something that he talks about with his own wife. "Can you imagine

having married somebody that didn't ski or ride? And both of us are like, right, that would be crazy!" Toland laughed. "If that's a passion of yours, you're gonna want that to be a passion in someone else that you're going to consider spending the rest of your life with."

People generally choose their ride to the top based on their favorite trails, not the other way

"I'm a big fan of the Bonaventure quad ... because of the trails it services," Toland said. "One of my favorite trails up here is called 601 and the Bonny takes you right to the top of it, and the trail called Upper Choir, also one of my favorites."

What about people who struggle with a fear of heights?

Typically your love of wanting to ride will overcome that fear," Toland said. "That is part of the adventure and the learning curve of the sport is ... addressing that fear. Honestly that is part of the buzz and the high of our sport is overcoming your fears to access the adrenaline and joy that lie on the other side of it."

#### Good citizenship at Bretton Woods Ski Resort

Gravity works.

It's a fact of life when riding a chairlift if something isn't attached to your body, it's

But according to Craig Clemmer, Director of Marketing at Bretton Woods Ski Resort, the until the summer to find - like when your ski

ski community is filled with good citizenship and random acts of kindness where people help others to reunite with their dropped be-

"The nice thing about the ski community is everybody has that interaction where even though you don't know someone, when somebody drops a ski or drops a pole, they'll put it out on the trail for you," Clemmer said.

He joked that while people want to come to the White Mountains to ask the "Founding Fathers" of the Presidential Mountain Range for permission to marry, they don't often do it on the chairlift thanks to their knowledge of

'You're nervous enough," Clemmer chuckled. "I think we'd be very fearful of pulling the engagement ring out of a pocket on a ski lift!"

As for the regular items - the lost goggles, gloves, and cell phones - good samaritans will either move the item to the side of the trail so it's easy to find, or take it down the hill to the lost and found.

"You can usually find it right there and keep your day going," Clemmer said. "And when spring comes and the snow comes off, that's when we go up and collect the remainder of the lost items. And people do enjoy coming back in the summertime as well - not only to recreate, but to find some of their lost items!"

But there are some things you can't wait

falls off while you're on the lift, or you drop the pole that you rely on.

"I think everybody has empathy when a kid drops a pole," Clemmer said. "You're trying to wrangle the family, trying to keep the kids in line, and people are always there willing to pitch in. But obviously that's what the ski patrol ultimately is for as well - they do come down, they assist people down off the mountain when they've gotten themselves into a place where they don't feel comfortable skiing. We point them in the right direction and bring them down, especially when you kick a ski off."

This winter marks the inaugural season for Bretton Woods' new gondola.

#### A passion for the Tram

The Tram at Cannon Mountain has long been a tourist draw.

It has featured prominently in television shows, campaigns for various charities, and high flying stunts.

The show Top Gear America even attached a Jaguar to the bottom of the Tram and flew it up the mountain.

But during the winter, the Tram operates primarily as a way to get skiers to the top of the mountain. And it has plenty of winter fans.

"The tram is the kind of thing people gravitate toward, especially if the weather is weird

Lifts continues on 6

# Lifts

Continued from Page 5

or it's kind of cold," said Cannon Marketing Director Greg Keeler. "It's a great different way for people to get to the top of the mountain."

There's even a group of people affectionately nicknamed the "Trammies."

"They hang together. They pretty much start their day at the Tram," Keeler said. "They are very particular about the Tram and when it runs. They pretty much do Tram runs all day long."

The group is so in-tune with the Tram that they notice little schedule changes or anything that's odd. "They just ride the Tram up and do runs from top to bottom," Keeler said.

He's never asked them how many runs they get in on a good day at the Tram, but he guesses you could probably do 20 if you were persistent.

Keeler said during the winter the Tram runs continuously Fridays through Mondays.

"Fridays and Mondays are not very busy, so if you're one of those people who just wants to lap the Tram, those are the days that you want to be there," Keeler said. "You can pretty much ski right on."

#### It's All About The People At Burke Mountain

Visitors to Burke can rest assured that while the resort has grown up, and added a new hotel, conference center and new amenities, the resort very much has retained its genuine, unspoiled Northeast Kingdom vibe.

Burke's Mareting Director Jessica Sechler said, "In the age of RFID and mindless robots, it's hard to find a perfect blend of new school and old school, but that's exactly what you'll find at Burke Mountain, and it all starts with the people."

Sechler paints the picture, ticking off longtime employees visitors will get to meet: "Paper lift tickets scanned by an actual person followed by a warm hello by lift attendants like Bill Desrochers, Durwood Legacy, Terry Wright, and Ron Paquette, all can be found waving or sharing jokes with guests day-in and day-out at the loading docks of the Mid Burke or Sherburne Express lifts."

"Passholders and newbies alike look forward to the entertaining banter but nothing compares to carving turns on a perfectly groomed snow surface, and that's what one individual has made it his mission to ensure," said Sechler.

She said, "Meet Mark Jenks, first starting



Skiers and riders work their way down Jay Peak. (Photo courtesy of Jay Peak)

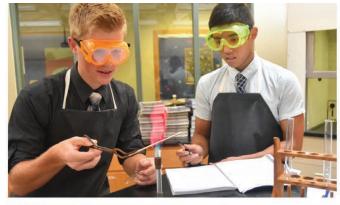
his career at Burke in 1969 and eventually graduating to one of our full-time groomers in 1981."

"This year, Mark is celebrating 50 years of tenure here at Burke Mountain."

Sechler said, "That kind of commitment is rare these days and Mark, along with a growing list of other Burke Mountain staffers with 20, 30, and even 40+ years of contributing to the Burke Mountain legacy is what keeps the story of new school well, old."

"However 'old' in our mind is the best collection of experience and decisions that lead us to one thing, simply the best skiing and riding on the slopes of Burke Mountain," said Sechler.















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# Lessons From A Pro: Maintaining Your Skis

#### **BY LEAH CAREY**

Staff Writer

In our quest to get the behind-the-scenes scoop on various winter activities, we called on Chris Hibshman, co-owner of Village Sport Shop in Lyndonville.

We wanted to know: if we buy skis, what do we need to know about maintaining them?

And if we're newbie skiers and decide to rent, what do we need to know before heading in to get fitted for our rental? [See next article.]

We got Hibshman's thoughts on both these questions for both Alpine and Nordic skis.

#### Maintaining your Alpine skis

Skis come from the manufacturer with a certain level of "tune" - that's the bevel and sharpness on the edges of the skis. A high-level skier may want them to get even faster and sharper, while a new skier may want to leave them at that tune or even "de-tune" them (or dulling them) a bit.

Hibshman said the first decision is whether you want to maintain your own skis or take them to a shop. Because doing it yourself requires a lot of materials, a well-ventilated room, and a good bit of know-how that's beyond the scope of this article, we're going to assume that you've decided to take them to a shop.

When you drop your skis off at a shop, they should ask you some questions to help them figure out the best tune for your skis. After that, each time you drop them off they'll already know what you're looking for.

Hibshman said that you can expect questions like:

- What kind of skier are you? How aggressive are you on the slopes?
- What are you looking for out of your ski? Do you want it to be the fastest and sharpest possible, or do you want it to function well in more general conditions?

Maintenance continues on 10

Bruce Richardson at Village Sport Shop in Lyndon. (Courtesy Photo)



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# **Maintenance**

Continued from Page 8

— Do you know what bevels you want the ski set at? If you don't know, they can help you figure this out.

— Do you want a hand wax or a machine wax?

"What you want is your base to be nice and conditioned so it can glide down the hill the best possible," Hibshman said. Also, "your edges to be functioning, rust free - or mainly rust free - with a bevel that's functioning for the ski."

He encourages people to look at the skis for coloration. "What you'll see when the ski dries out or starts to oxidize, you get this milky white coloring, mainly starting on the edges and then working its way into the base the longer you go without waxing the ski."

When the wax starts drying out, you'll feel the skis slowing down. "You put them in the snow and if they feel super smooth and fast under your feet, you have a well-conditioned, well-waxed for the conditions ski. If they're kind of slow and sticky, then ... you might want to consider getting them waxed. If they feel like, my edges are really good but my skis

feel slow, then that could just be a wax."

The frequency of maintaining your skis will depend on how much you ski and under what conditions.

"If they're a weekend warrior or a fair-weather skier, they're only going a few times a year, they may only get their skis tuned at the beginning of the season, and it may not be until the end of the season that they need to kind of recondition them," Hibshman said. "The more you ski, the more moisture and wax gets pulled out of the ski through the heating up in the base."

Someone who skis frequently and does many runs a day will want to tune their skis as much as once a month.

And always wipe the edges of your skis when you get home so they don't develop rust.

#### Maintaining your Nordic skis

While the principles are the same for cross-country skis, the details are different.

For instance, while the skis still have edges, Hibshman said they don't typically sharpen them. "Your concern with the edges on cross-country skis is just wiping them off so they don't get rusty," he said.

Many cross-country skis are marketed as having waxless bases, but Hibshman said the moisture still gets pulled out of the ski the



more it's used.

"Your skis will slow down and you'll tend to ... even get snow that sticks to the bottom of your ski. That's usually when it's really warm, wet snow," he said. "When it's really cold ... and just super hard-packed snow, that tends to draw out the moisture from the base and you'll find that it will turn milky faster than if you're in groomed or a softer snow, or if you're packing your own trails."

When that happens, it's good to apply a coat of glide wax, like Maxiglide. "That's a rub-on wax, it's very easy," Hibshman said. "It takes no real technical knowledge other than rub it on, wipe it down, kind of rub it in a little bit."

#### End of season storage

Skis should be stored somewhere that's relatively temperature and climate controlled. "Under the deck is not so great, where you're just getting these huge variances in moisture and ... out in the elements," Hibshman said. "The best thing to do to store skis is to actually put a coat of storage wax on your skis and not scrape it off. Just put it on and leave it on over the summer and then have it scraped off pre-season."

Hibshman said that coat of wax will keep them fresh and well-conditioned throughout the summer so you don't have to use excessive amounts of wax to get them back to ready-to-use next winter.



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Skiers head down Burke with a view of Willoughby Gap in the distance. (Courtesy Photo)

# THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN RENTING SKIS

#### BY LEAH CAREY Staff Writer

Next, we turned our conversation with Chris Hibshman, co-owner of Village Sport Shop in Lyndonville, to the topic of renting skis.

If you're new to skiing, renting is a great way to test out different types of skis and see what you like before making a big investment. Hibshman gave us the lowdown on the things you should know before walking into a rental shop.

First, he said, they're going to want to know what kind of skier you are.

"A very beginner who is looking to just ski the basic stuff, they're not looking for a real high performance out of their ski," Hibshman said. "They want to be warm and comfortable out there."

The shop may ask you questions about:

— Which mountains you're planning to

short-term rental at the mountain, but rental shops also do season-long rentals so they want to make sure they're setting you up with the best ski for the entire season)

ski (which will be obvious if you're doing a

— How much speed do you like - are you an aggressive skier, or are you more cautious and want to feel more in control?

— What's your foot size?

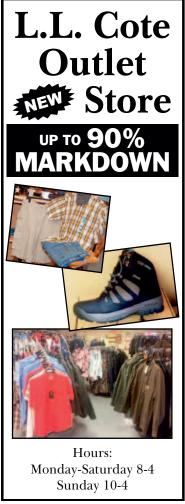
#### What to wear to the fitting

Hibshman emphasized the importance of wearing only one pair of socks to your fitting, preferably made of blended wool.

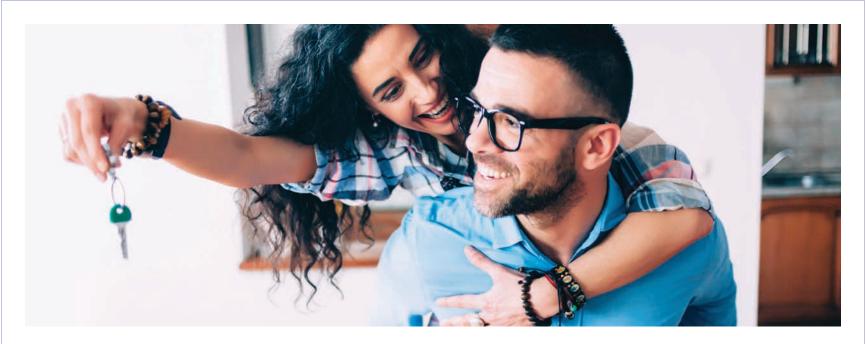
"Blended wool socks are the best socks in the world," Hibshman said. "They sell liner socks and stuff, but I'm not a believer in it. One nice mid-weight blended material sock that's ski-specific, ideally, is the best."

If you don't have that type of sock, you'll be able to buy one in the shop so that you're being fitted with the proper equipment.

Renting continues on 14







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11 Locations in the Northeast Kingdom of VT, Central VT and Northern NH

# Renting

Continued from Page 12

"That's what your boot's gonna feel like when you're skiing."

And never - we repeat NEVER wear cotton socks.

"Frostbite is no fun," Hibshman said. "A \$20 pair of socks can go miles for your comfort and satisfaction and warmth."

Also, don't wear tight-fitting jeans when you rent equipment.

"You want to be able to get everything out of your boots other than just the sock that you're going to be wearing," Hibshman explained. "People will have jeans that can't quite get up past their calf and then it

in the boot and that creates a pressure point and it can cut off circulation ... and your feet can go numb."

If you're getting fitted for Alpine boots, know in advance that they're not built to be super comfy.

"You don't want to expect something that feels like a shoe," Hibshman said. "You want it to feel like a it's wrapping around your foot - it's designed to do that."

"The less your foot moves, the more control you have," he said.

He compares it to driving a car when you're sliding around in a slippery driver's seat with no seatbelt on. "You have to fight your way to

creates this seam. That gets clamped control and stay in one place, versus being buckled in nice and snug. You just have much more control," he said. "If your foot's moving around, that's just getting exaggerated out onto your ski and it's creating vibrations and you can't control it as well. So a little bit of snug feel is good."

#### Renting cross-country skis

These skis are a bit easier to get semi-firm handshake. It's kind of like used to because the boot is meant to feel like a shoe. And the rental process is a bit easier as well.

> "We only rent fairly basic packages," Hibshman said. "It's just knowing where you want to go, and they're waxless skis. So, you know, basically a pole that fits under your armpit and you're ready to rock."

# ALPINE & Nordic Skiing

#### **VERMONT**

#### Downhill

Burke Mountain - www.skiburke.com Jay Peak - www.jaypeakresort.com Lyndon Outing Club - www.skilyndon.com

#### **Cross-Country**

Virginia Stranahan Memorial Town Forest - Marshfield www.town.marshfield.vt.us

Catamount Trail Association - Jay Peak Area www.catamounttrail.org, 802-864-5794

Craftsbury Nordic Center - Craftsbury - www.craftsbury.com, 802-586-7767

Hazen's Notch Association - Montgomery www.hazensnotch.org, 802-326-4799

Kingdom Trails Association - East Burke www.kingdomtrails.com, 802-626-0737

Memphremagog Ski Touring Foundation - Derby/Newportwww.mstf.net

Northwoods Stewardship Center - Charleston www.northwoodscenter.org, 802-723-6551

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Bretton Woods - www.brettonwoods.com Cannon Mountain - www.cannonmt.com Mt. Eustis Ski Tow - www.mteustis.org

#### **Cross-Country**

Bretton Woods Nordic Center - www.brettonwoods.com Franconia - www.franconiainn.com/cross country ski center.php Franconia Notch Recreation Trail- www.cannonmt.com/ recreation-path.html

Bethlehem - The Rocks Estate - www.therocks.org Sugar Hill - Ski Hearth Farm - www.skihearthfarm.com

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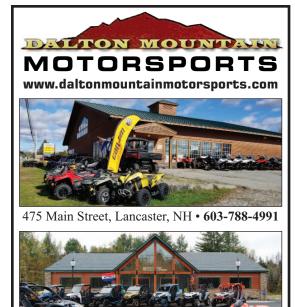
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Please note: This calendar was compiled in October and things may have changed. Please use it as a starting point for your winter fun and call, email, or check online to confirm times and locations before heading out.

#### Thursday, Nov. 14

9:45 a.m. - Story time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, Nov. 15

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, Lyndon Stannard Gym. For info: catamoun-

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Boeing Boeing, Hyde Park Opera House. For info: lcplayers.com.

#### Saturday, Nov. 16

8:30 a.m. - Journey to the Manger Christmas



Bazaar, St. Elizabeth Church in Lyndonville. For banks Museum . For info: fairbanksmuseum. info: 802-467-3019.

9 a.m. - Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, Westfield Community Center. For info: 802-744-

10 a.m. - Rin Gong Bowl class, Littleton Studio School. For info: littletonstudioschool.org.

10 a.m. - Community Craft Fair, Walden School. For info: 802-533-2213.

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - Madama Butterfly, Catamount Arts. For info: catamoun-

2 p.m. - Fairbanks STEM Lab: Math Lab Encounters - Math investigation for youth, Fair-

7 p.m. - Boeing Boeing, Hyde Park Opera House. For info: lcplayers.com.

7:30 p.m. - The Slambovian Circus of Dreams, Court Street Arts. For info: courtstreetarts.org.

Sunday, Nov. 17

10 a.m. - Enameling: Color Play class, Littleton Studio School. For info: littletonstudioschool.org.

10 a.m. - Stories from Space - Toddlers to 5 years, Fairbanks Museum. For info: fairbanksmuseum.org.

12:55 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet - Le Corsaire, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

2 p.m. - Boeing Boeing, Hyde Park Opera House. For info: lcplayers.com.

3:30 p.m. - Circle Dance, Neskaya Movement Arts Center. For info: neskaya.com.

#### Monday, Nov. 18

9:30 a.m. - Folk Crafts Around the World -

Events continues on 16

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### **Events**

Continued from Page 15

ages 7-12, Catamount Arts class-room. For info: discoverstjohnsbury. com.

#### Wednesday, Nov. 20

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

4 p.m. - Drawing Class, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com..

7 p.m. - The Prado Museum: A Collection of Wonders, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Thursday, Nov. 21

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera. com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, Nov. 22

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury. com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury. com.



Ted Hirsch and Kellie Latimer, both of Massachusetts, swim in the ice pool on Lake Memphremagog in February 2019. (File Photo by Gordon Alexander)

8 p.m. - Haunting Titans, The Loading Dock. For info: facebook.com/TheLoadingDockLittleton.

#### Saturday, Nov. 23

9 a.m. - Christmas in the Kingdom Bazaar, Danville Congregational Church. For info: 802-684-1151.

9 a.m. - Holiday Craft Fair, Littleton Opera House. For info: 603-575-5324.

10 a.m. - Etching on Brass class, Littleton Studio School. For info: littletonstudioschool.org.

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com. 12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - Akhnaten, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

7 p.m. - The Telling Project - New Vermonters share their stories of migration, Lyndon Stannard Gym. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Sunday, Nov. 24

10 a.m. - Stories from Space - Toddlers to 5 years, Fairbanks Museum. For info: fairbanksmuseum.org.

3 p.m. - The Telling Project - New Vermonters share their stories of migration, Highland Center for the Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

3:30 p.m. - Circle Dance, Neskaya

Movement Arts Center. For info: ne-skaya.com.

#### Monday, Nov. 25

9:30 a.m. - Folk Crafts Around the World - ages 7-12, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 26

7 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet - Le Corsaire, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Wednesday, Nov. 27

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton
Public Library. For
info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: has-

kellopera.com.

4 p.m. - Drawing Class, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Thursday, Nov. 28

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera. com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, Nov. 29

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Nov. 30

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera -Akhnaten, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Sunday, Dec. 1

St. Johnsbury Band Holiday Concert, TBA. For info: stjohnsburyband. org.

3:30 p.m. - Circle Dance, Neskaya Movement Arts Center. For info: neskaya.com.

#### Monday, Dec. 2

9:30 a.m. - Folk Crafts Around the World - ages 7-12, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 4

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton

Events continues on 17



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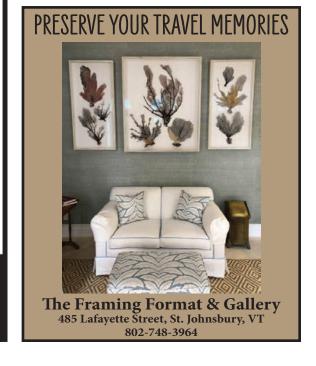
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### **Events**

Continued from Page 16

Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

4 p.m. - Drawing Class, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays - Lifting Shakespeare Off The Page, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: vermonthumanities.org.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays - Vermont's Climate: Past, Present, and Future, Goodrich Memorial Library. For info: vermonthumanities.org.

#### Thursday, Dec. 5

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera. com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

6 p.m. - Name Plate Necklaces class, Littleton Studio School. For info: littletonstudioschool.org.

#### Friday, Dec. 6

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.

6 p.m. - Tree Lighting, Caroling & Santa Visit - bring donation for Jay Area Food Shelf, Jay Town Hall. For info: jayvt.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern



Lyndon Institute, North Country and St. Johnsbury Academy participate in a Nordic meet at Kingdom Trails on Jan. 30, 2019. (File Photo by Paul Hayes)

- all ages, substance free, Catamount Magic Flute, Catamount Arts. For Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.

#### Saturday, Dec. 7

9 a.m. - Barnet Holiday Craft Fair, Barnet School. For info: 802-274-

10 a.m. - Burklyn Arts Council Winter Fair, Lyndon Town School.

10 a.m. - Lunenburg Gingerbread Bazaar, Lunenburg School. For info: questions@topofthecommon.org.

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - The info: catamountarts.org.

1 p.m. - Birch Bark Ornament workshop - adults and high school students, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

3:30, 4:15, 5 & 5:45 p.m. - Night At Bethlehem live nativity and first century village, Green Mountain Mall, St. Johnsbury.

7 p.m. - Catamount Arts Bluegrass Night, Masonic Hall. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

8 p.m. - Adam Reczek Band / Colin

Nevins Solo, The Loading Dock, For info: facebook.com/TheLoadingDockLittleton.

#### Sunday, Dec. 8

10 a.m. - Forged Bracelets class, Littleton Studio School. For info: littletonstudioschool.org.

10 a.m. - Burklyn Arts Council Winter Fair, Lyndon Town School.

3:30 p.m. - Circle Dance, Neskaya Movement Arts Center. For info: neskaya.com.

#### Monday, Dec. 9

9:30 a.m. - Folk Crafts Around the World - ages 7-12, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Tuesday, Dec. 10

6:45 p.m. - Northern Vermont Songwriters, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - In the Mood for Holiday Spirit Featuring the World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra, Omni Mt. Washington Hotel. For info: brettonwoods.com.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 11

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

1 p.m. - LCC Book Club, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

4 p.m. - Drawing Class, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Thursday, Dec. 12

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell

Events continues on 22





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#### **East Burke**

#### MLS #4696861 — 20.9 Acres

Pete's Pond. 20.9 acres with approximately 7 acre pond. Just out of East Burke Village. Close to Burke Mountain, Kingdom Trails. Possible building site on southwesterly end of land. Paved road frontage. Great location for home or recreation. \$75,000.

#### Lyndon

#### MLS #4510073 — 23 Acres Commercial

23 acre lot next to interstate ramp #24. Large flat area, frontage on Route 122 and Urie Drive. Town water line crosses property





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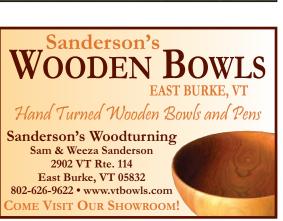




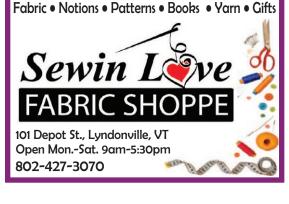






















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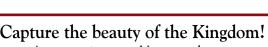
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Joe Fox, director of the St. Johnsbury Recreation Department, fills the Main Street public skating rink in St. Johnsbury on Jan. 7, 2016.

# BEHIND THE SCENES: THE SKATING RINK

**BY LEAH CAREY** Staff Writer

t takes a lot of man hours to make an outdoor ice rink skate-able.

In St. Johnsbury, Mike Welch is one of the people putting in those hours. He is the primary caretaker of the Portland Street rink, a job he started years ago when his son wanted to learn to skate. At the time, the rink was between maintenance people.

"My son started getting interested in skating," Welch said. "I said if I can figure out how to do this, I'd like to learn how so I can get it going for him."

Welch and St. Johnsbury Recreation Director Joe Fox, who maintains the Winter Street rink, got lessons from Bill Terrell, who had long been the keeper of the rinks.

"He instructed us what to do, the best way to get the thing started," Welch remembers. "You have to wait for cold weather. Not only below freezing, but quite a bit below freezing."

Ideally, Welch said, the weather would be around zero degrees for a couple of days to get the rink started. "If it's too warm, [the base] goes away quick, so the cold weather is essential."

There's one other ingredient necessary for flooding a grassy area: a coating of

"When you're first flooding it, it's wetting down the snow, so it's really absorbing [the water] into the snow until it forms ice. The first time you're essentially making a rink of slush as you're flooding it. Once that freezes and you flood it again, the slush makes ice."

That initial layer of ice isn't enough, though. It's not thick enough to hold together if the temperature creeps up a little bit. But even worse, it's not a clean level surface yet. Welch said he usually has to flood the rink between seven and 10 times for the surface to even out.

"Slowly it becomes that there's no more peaks and valleys," Welch said. "Water seeks its own level, but it takes a long time to make that happen."

If the weather is right, Welch can get the water and hoses, and Hugh Wescott of St. rink from first flood to level over the course of two or three days. "I usually try to get it started on a weekend and I'll just keep going down every few hours. Once it's frozen, I'll flood it again. If I can do that over the course of a weekend, I can pretty much get it to the point where it's flat and skateable."

But that's just the beginning of the season. Once the rink is open, Welch works on it almost every day. He'll use a shovel to clean up places where skates have scraped or dinged the ice, then hose it down to add another thin layer of ice.

"It takes about an hour or so to shovel it off and flood it," he said. "You hope it stays cold, hope it doesn't snow too much."

Welch enjoys the time he puts in each

"I'm kind of an insomniac, so to do something late at night or early in the morning, to do something productive is good. Joe [Fox] calls it his therapy."

Others are also involved in the maintenance of the rink - the town provides the J Public Works does the plowing whenever it snows. Community members will also clean snow off the rink after a storm if they get to it before the town.

"I have people all the time who stop and say how much they appreciate me doing this, it looks great, we love it," said Welch. "It's great to have people really enjoy it. When I'm not there, I drive by to see how many people are skating. I like to see people out there skating!"

Now that his son is grown and back in town as a professional engineer, Welch is still happy to be serving the community's kids by grooming the rink.

"I think it's important for the kids to get out and do something in the wintertime ... They're outside doing something that's physical and doesn't cost anything," Welch said. "It doesn't cost a lot to get into it - you can get a pair of used skates pretty inexpensively - and no special training. You can get out and push a chair or a milk crate around. You can just get out and do it. It's available



Children enjoy the Main Street rink in St. Johnsbury. (File Photo)



# **Rinks**

Continued from Page 20

for everybody. You don't need money and you don't need hockey gear or anything fancy. You just need warm clothes and you can get out and take advantage of it."

First published in October 2017

#### Skating rinks in the area:

#### **VERMONT**

Jay - Ice Haus Arena at Jay Peak Resort - 802-988-2750 - www.jaypeakresort.

Lyndon - Fenton Chester Arena at 145 College Road - www.chesterarena.com -802-626-9361

Newport - Newport City Skating Rink at Gardner Park - 802-334-5718

St. Johnsbury - Four Seasons Park at

the corner of Main and Winter streets - 802-751-2304

St. Johnsbury - Portland Street Rink at the corner of Portland and Concord Streets - 802-751-2304

Danville - Hill Street Park community rink

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

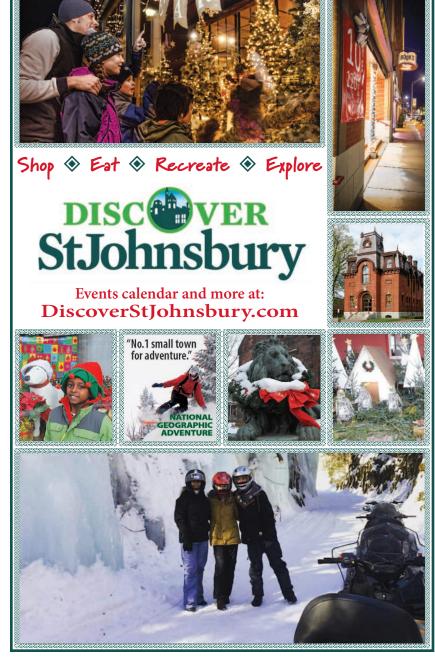
Bethlehem - Recreation Park at the corner of Main and Aggasiz streets - www.bethlehemwhitemtns.com/fun.html

Franconia - Town Skating rink behind the Abbie Greenleaf Library on Main Street - 603-823-7752

Lancaster - Town skating rink behind the courthouse on Main Street

Littleton - Remich Park at 165 Pleasant St.

Colebrook - North Country Community Recreation Center at 33 Rec Center Rd. - 603-237-4019



### **Events**

Continued from Page 17

Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonarea-chamber.com.

#### Friday, Dec. 13

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - The Pine Hill Singers, Court Street Arts. For info: courtstreetarts.org.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Dec. 14

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - The Magic Flute, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts. org.

7 p.m. - The Swingles - Holiday Concert, Fuller Hall. For info: catamountarts.org.

7 p.m. - Michael Hahn Trio, The Music Box. For info: themusicboxcraftsbury.org.

Sunday, Dec. 15

12:55 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet - The Nutcracker,

Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org. 3:30 p.m. - Circle Dance, Neskaya Movement Arts Center. For info: neskaya.com.

Monday, Dec. 16

9:30 a.m. - Folk Crafts Around the World - ages 7-12, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 18

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera. com.

4 p.m. - Drawing Class, Catamount Arts classroom. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Thursday, Dec. 19

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonarea-chamber.com.

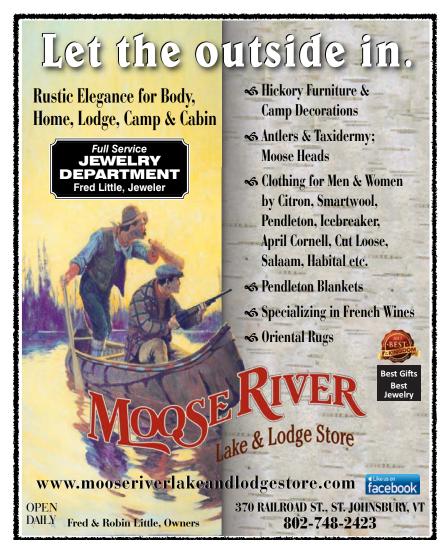
#### Friday, Dec. 20

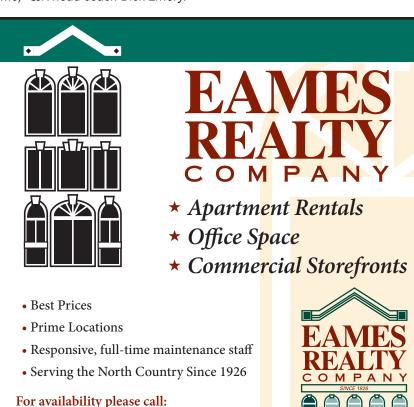
10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

Events continues on 23



The St. Johnsbury Academy hockey team holds an outdoor three-on-three tournament, dubbed the inaugural Green and White Classic, at the outdoor rink on Main Street in 2018. "It's just fun. You can tell the kids just had a good time," SJA head coach Dick Emery.





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### **Events**

Continued from Page 22

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Dec. 21

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

2 p.m. - Fairbanks STEM Lab: Math Lab Encounters - Math investigation for youth, Fairbanks Museum. For info: fairbanksmuseum. org.

7 p.m. - The Heather Pierson Jazz Trio performs A Charlie Brown Christmas, York Street Meeting House in Lyndon. For info: 802-473-4208.

#### Sunday, Dec. 22

3:30 p.m. - Circle Dance, Neskaya Movement Arts Center. For info: neskaya.com.

#### Friday, Dec. 27

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.



A child rides the Magic Carpet at Bretton Woods Ski Resort (Photo courtesy of Omni Mt. Washington Resort)

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Dec. 28

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free

Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

#### Sunday, Dec. 29

3:30 p.m. - Circle Dance, Neskaya Movement Arts Center. For info: neskaya.com.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

4 p.m. - First Night North, St. Johnsbury. For info: firstnightnorth.org.

7:30 p.m. - New Years Eve Ball - Fireworks at 9 p.m., Burke Mountain. For info: skiburke.com.

8 p.m. - Knight Of Queens - Drag Cabaret to welcome the new year, Court Street Arts. For info: courtstreetarts.org.

9 p.m. - New Years Eve - Fireworks, Jay Peak Resort. For info: jaypeakresort.com.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 1

9 a.m. - Resolve to Revolve Fatbike Demo Day, Kingdom Trails. For info: kingdomtrails. org.

#### Thursday, Jan. 2

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonarea-chamber.com.

#### Friday, Jan. 3

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: dis-

Events continues on 24



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### **Events**

Continued from Page 23 coverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Jan. 4

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 8

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

1 p.m. - LCC Book Club, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera. com.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays - Reading Thoreau in the 21st Century, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: vermonthumanities.org.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays - Finding Your Voice in 2020, Goodrich Memorial Library. For info: vermonthumanities.org.

#### Thursday, Jan. 9

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonarea-chamber.com.

Friday, Jan. 10



A snowboarder rides down Jay with a view of the tram above. (Photo courtesy of Jay Peak)

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Jan. 11

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - Wozzeck, For info: haskellopera.com.

Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 15

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera. com.

#### Thursday, Jan. 16

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, Jan. 17

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Jan. 18

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - Wozzeck, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

2 p.m. - Fairbanks STEM Lab: Math Lab Encounters - Math investigation for youth, Fairbanks Museum . For info: fairbanksmuseum. org.

6:30 p.m. - Rock & Roll For Kids - family concert series, Foeger Ballroom. For info: jay-peakresort.com.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 22

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.

Events continues on 25

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### **Events**

Continued from Page 24

Thursday, Jan. 23

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonarea-chamber.com.

#### Friday, Jan. 24

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

Saturday, Jan. 25

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

Sunday, Jan. 26

12:55 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet - Giselle, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

3 p.m. - Northeast Kingdom Classical Series - Shai Wosner, St. Johnsbury South Church. For info: nekclassicalseries.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Li-



Jeremy Stebbins launches off of a jump at Remich Park in Littleton, N.H. (File Photo by Paul Hayes)

brary. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera. com.

#### Thursday, Jan. 30

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

7 p.m. - Yamato - The Drummers of Japan, Lyndon Institute Auditorium. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Friday, Jan. 31

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Feb. 1

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - Porgy and Bess, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts. org.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 4

7 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet - Giselle, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

Events continues on 29

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Ross Page drives a trail groomer. (Photo courtesy of Ross Page)

# Behind The Scenes - Snowmobile Trail Grooming

#### BY LEAH CAREY Staff Writer

Whether it's snowmobiling or cross-country skiing that you're looking forward to on the woodsy trails of Vermont and New Hampshire, we're able to do those things thanks to the overnight ministrations of volunteers like Ross Page of Peacham, Vermont.

A long-time member of the Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club, Page has been grooming trails for his fellow snowmobilers for much of the last 20 years.

"I've run equipment more or less all my life and I just enjoy doing it," Page said. "It's producing a product that looks good and works well for everybody."

To someone who doesn't know a lot about machinery, listening to him talk about the trail groomer (a Tucker Snow Cat) sounds almost like a foreign language.

"It has four 28-inch wide 150-long tracks on it, so that it can get grip in snow. And what we have behind it is a drag with a variation of cutters in it that smooths the snow. It puts it into a pan and packs it down."

To translate:

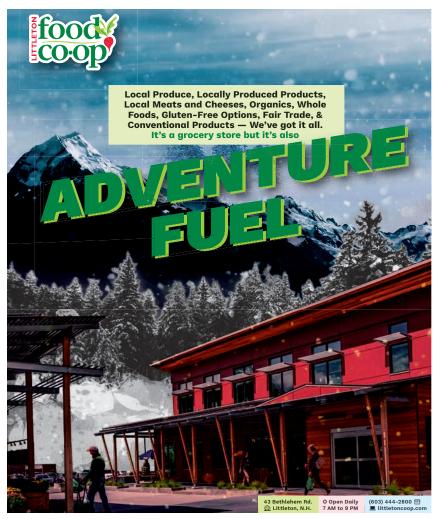
The vehicle has molded rubber tracks with cleats instead of tires. This allows it to move across the snow efficiently. Behind the main vehicle is the "drag," the equipment that actually does the grooming.

As the trail is used, the snow gets packed down and needs to be mixed and fluffed up before it gets smoothed out again. That's what the "cutters" do.

Then the "pan," a heavy flat surface on the back of the groomer, presses the snow back down so it's flat and hard.

"We don't generally go out the first time

Snowmobile continues on 27





### **Snowmobile**

Continued from Page 26

until there's a foot of snow and that pretty much gets packed down," said Page. "Once you get about two feet of snow, or had that much come on the ground over a period of time, you really begin to do well. Snow compresses awfully, so it takes a lot to get things straightened around."

Snowmobilers might go out on the trail when it has just that initial base of one foot of snow, but Page said that isn't always the most enjoyable ride.

"You haven't got all the humps and bumps filled in and smoothed over. Some areas are kind of stony and it takes quite a lot to get up over them and get it filled in," he said. "There are places where we have a real good base, or part of an old road to use, then things go a lot better."

For those of us who are more familiar with food than snow, he offered this analogy: "It's almost like putting frosting on a cake. If the cake is smooth, it don't take so much frosting. But if the cake is uneven, it takes a lot more frosting!"

Page and the guys he works with are out on the trails grooming five days a week. The heavily-trafficked areas will get groomed as often as three times a week including twice on busy weekends.

"It's a real time-consuming thing," he said.

He's not kidding. Page estimates that he spends approximately 350 to 400 hours each winter grooming, plus any time required to repair equipment in the garage. With summertime trail construction and maintenance, plus local and state meetings, he estimates that he spends 1,500 to 2,000 hours a year on making great trails for snowmobilers.

Much of the trail systems throughout New Hampshire and Vermont are available thanks to the good will of landowners who allow the trails to cross their land.

"For the most part, these trails are in the



Ross Page out for a ride. (Photo courtesy of Ross Page)

same place they've been for a good many years," said Page. "But due to land sales, or somebody getting disgruntled, you have to make new trails and you have to do quite a lot of work to make it happen – cutting brush and trees, building a bridge, building a culvert, that kind of thing. There's a lot to it."

In Vermont alone, Page said there are 5,000 miles of Class 1 snowmobile trails and "probably another 1,500 miles of secondary trails," he said. "It's a regular high-

way system!"

First published October 2017

#### **Snowmobile Clubs**

Snowmobiling is popular among lots of people in this area. There miles and miles of dedicated trails around.

#### VERMONT

Information taken from www.vtvast.org and snowmobile club websites

#### **Essex County:**

Island Pond - Brighton Snowmobile Club, www.brightonsnowmobile.org, 802-723-4316

Canaan - Canaan Border Riders, vtvast. org/canaan-border-riders.html,802-266-7811

Guildhall - Connecticut Valley Sno-Riders, www.ctvalleysnoriders.com, 802-328-2182

Lunenburg - Lunenburg Polar Bears Snowmobile Club, vtvast.org/lunenburg-polar-bears.html, 802-229-0005

Granby - Moose River Rock Dodgers, www.mooseriverrockdodgers.homestead.com/index.html, 802-328-2191

Norton - Northeast Kingdom Snow Blasters, www.northeastkingdomsnowblasters.com, 802-371-7301

#### Caledonia County:

Peacham - Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club www.bhrsnowclub.org, 802-592-3382

Groton - Buckaroos of 302, www.buckaroosof302.com, buckaroosof302@gmail.com

West Burke - Burke Drift Skippers, www. burkedriftskippers.com, 802-467-3416

Sheffield - Caledonia County Snowmobile Trail Club, www.snowmobilecaledoniavt.com, 802-274-1118

Danville - Danville S-Ski-Mos, vtvast. org/danville-s-ski-mos.html, 802-684-3372

Hardwick - Hardwick Sno-Flake Ridge Runners, vtvast.org/snowflake-ridge-runners.html

Snowmobile continues on 28



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## **Snowmobile**

Continued from Page 27

Lyndonville - Lyndon Sno-Cruisers, lyndonsnocruisers. com, 802-754-9385

Newark - Newark E-Z Riders, www.newarkezriders.com, 802-467-3436

East Ryegate - Waterford Ridge Runners, www.facebook.com/WRRSnowmobileClub, 802-473-2513

Wheelock - Winter Wanderers, vtvast.org/winter-wanderers.html, 802-626-8133

#### **Orleans County:**

Troy - Country Riders Snowmobile Club, www.countryridersvt.com, 802-988-1115

Derby - Drift Dusters Snowmobile Club, www.driftdusters.com, 802-487-4313

West Glover - Glover Trailwinders Snowmobile Club, www.glovertrailwinders.com, 802-525-3490

North Troy - Hazen's Notch Snowmobile Club, vtvast. org/hazen-s-notch-snmbl-club.html, 802-988-1075

Newport Center - North Country Mountaineers, north-countrymountaineers.com, 802-673-9305

Newport - Orleans Snow Stormers, www.orleanssnow-stormers.com, 802-334-6179

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

All information found at www.nhsa.com (the website of the New Hampshire Snowmobile association) and snowmobile club websites

#### **Grafton County:**

Bethlehem- Mount Agassiz Trail Association, www.face-book.com/MtAgassizTrailAssociation

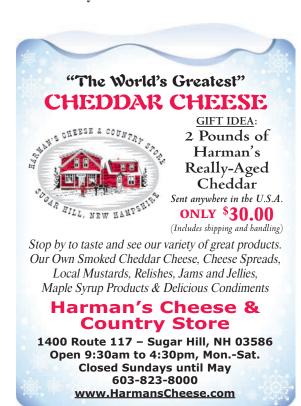
Monroe- Monroe Bumper Humpers, www.facebook.com/MonroeBumperHumpers

Littleton - Littleton Off Road Riders, www.littletonsnow-mobileclub.com

Lisbon - Lisbon Stump Jumpers, lisbonstumpjumpers.

Haverhill- Connecticut Valley Snowmobile Club, www. ctvalleysnowmobileclub.com, 603-989-3005

Coos County:





Out for a ride. (Photo courtesy of Ross Page)

Whitefield - Whitefield Sno Kings

Berlin- White Mountain Ridge Runners, www.whitem-tridgerunners.com

Jefferson- Waumbek Methna Snowmobile Club, www. waumbekmethna.com

Errol - Umbagog Snowmobile Association, www.umbagogsnowmobile.com, 603-482-SNOW

Twin Mountain - Twin Mountain Snowmobile Club, www.twinmtnsnowmobile.org

Stewartstown - Swift Diamond Riders, www.swiftdia-

mondriders.org, 603-237-5845

North Stratford - Stratford Nighthawks, www.stratford-nighthawks.com

Gorham - Presidential Range Riders, www.presidential-rangeriders.org, 603-723-8741

Pittsburg - Pittsburg Ridge Runners, www.pittsburgridgerunners.org

Lancaster - Lancaster Snow Drifters, www.lancastersnowdrifters.org

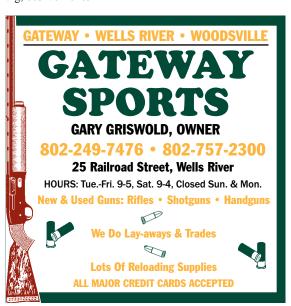
Jefferson - Jefferson Hi-Landers, jeffersonhilanders.com, 603-586-4473

Groveton - Groveton Trailblazers, grovetontrailblazers. wordpress.com

Dalton - Dalton Ridge Riders, www.facebook.com/daltonridgerunners

Colebrook - Colebrook Ski Bees, www.colebrookskibees. org, 603-702-0109





### **Events**

Continued from Page 25

#### Wednesday, Feb. 5

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays - Photography as Social Justice, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: vermonthumanities.org.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays - Stories About Composing Music, Goodrich Memorial Library. For info: vermonthumanities.org.

#### Thursday, Feb. 6

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, Feb. 7

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Feb. 8

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - Porgy and Bess, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

6 p.m. - Riverside School Annual Auction, Lyndon Institute. For info: 802-626-8552.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 12

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

#### Thursday, Feb. 13

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, Feb. 14

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

6 p.m. - Game Night, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Feb. 15

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

2 p.m. - Fairbanks STEM Lab: Math Lab Encounters - Math investigation for youth, Fairbanks Museum . For info: fairbanksmuseum.org.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 19

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.



Sophie Grondin, center, competes in the Youth 10-13 qualifier during the Great North Woods Vintage Snowmobile Racing Series stop in Lisbon, N.H., on Feb. 13, 2016. (File Photo)

#### Thursday, Feb. 20

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskel-lopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, Feb. 21

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Pilobolus, Lyndon Institute Auditorium. For info: catamountarts.org.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Feb. 22

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info:





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#### Sunday, Feb. 23

12:55 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet - Swan Lake, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

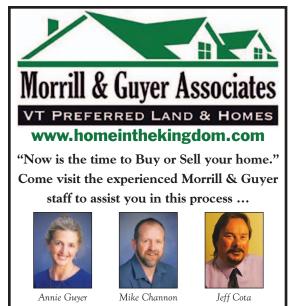
#### Wednesday, Feb. 26

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

Thursday, Feb. 27

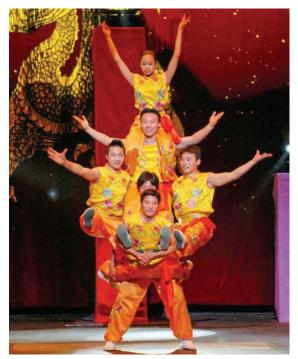
Events continues on 32



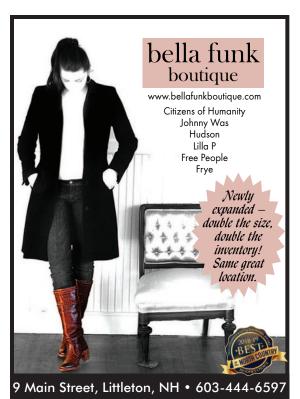
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This season will prove just as enjoyable. The 2019-20 season includes:

The world-renowned Renaissance music vocal ensemble Stile Antico on Sunday, November 10, 7 p.m., at United Community Church in St. Johnsbury.

Legendary country-bluegrass star Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder on Friday, November 15, 7 p.m., at

RUBBERBAND Dance, a thrilling blend of ballet, hiphop and jazz/modern dance, on Saturday, November 16, 7 p.m., at Dibden Center for the Arts at Northern Vermont University - Johnson.

A Holiday concert by five-time Grammy Award-winning masters of a cappella The Swingles on Saturday, December 14, 7 p.m. at Fuller Hall in St. Johnsbury.

The Telling Project, a presentation of new Vermonters sharing their stories of migration, on Saturday, January 18, 7:00 pm, at Northern Vermont University - Lyndon's Alexander Twilight Theatre.

Yamato - The Drummers of Japan, a Spectacular and exhilarating display of virtuosity and endurance, on Thursday, January 30, 7 p.m. at Lyndon Institute Auditorium.

Celebrated comedian Paula Poundstone on Friday, February 7, 7 p.m. at Dibden Center for the Arts at Northern Vermont University - Johnson.

The dazzling surrealism, poetic movement, and sheer physical strength of Pilobolus on Friday, February 21, 7 p.m. at Lyndon Institute Auditorium.

Four of the nation's top a cappella sensations – on stage in A Cappella Live! on Tuesday, March 10, 7 p.m. at Fuller Hall in St. Johnsbury.

The jaw dropping artistry and grace of Peking Acrobats on Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m. at Dibden Center for the Arts at Northern Vermont University - Johnson.

The sizzling and smoldering blues of David Bromberg Quintet on Saturday, April 4, 7 p.m. at Fuller Hall in St.

For tickets and more information on the performance series, visit http://www.catamountarts.org/kcp-presents.



# Forecaster: 'There's Going To Be Cold And Snow'

# Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium: Measuring Snowfall And More Since 1894

#### BY AMY ASH NIXON

Staff Writer

ST. JOHNSBURY — Mark Breen, senior meteorologist for the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, was asked to predict the winter of 2019-2020.

"There's going to be cold and snow! The bold forecast," he said.

This winter will mark the 126th year that the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium has been taking weather measurements in the same location - the second longest running in the United States.

Breen said he uses the Farmers Almanac and has copies going back 40 years, "It doesn't mean I rely on it but I love it."

Going into this winter season, he said, "Some of the ocean temperature patterns which is one of the things that affect weather patterns is very similar to the winter of 2013-14, and the way that winter played out, we had a cold November and a mild December, and then the cold returned in January through March."

Breen said, "Whether the pattern holds the same this year, I don't know, but it's done it before this way, so there are some expectations there may be some similarities."

He was honored last year for his long service recording the daily weather, with the help of other staff and long-serving dedicated museum volunteers.

At an event in March in which the weather station was celebrated, a visitor from the Blue Hills Observatory in Milton, Mass., Dr. Bill Minsinger, visited the Fairbanks, helping to present an honor to Breen. The Blue Hills Observatory has been collecting weather statistics the longest, and the Fairbanks is a close second.

Breen said the idea of museum founder Franklin Fairbanks to collect weather and report it to the National Weather Service has been "a group effort from the start," and he said scores of volunteers' initials are recorded in the records going back to the beginning.

On March 1, 1894, a museum staffer first documented the day's character, high temperature, low temperature, wind direction and precipitation, marking them on a form designed to capture a full month's worth of data, according to museum staff.

The museum at that time was joining what was then a burgeoning national effort led by the U.S. Department of



Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium senior meteorologist Mark Breen measures snowpack behind the museum on Feb. 20, 2019. (Photo by Andrew McGregor)

Agriculture to collect daily weather data.

Since then the museum staff and volunteers have not missed a single day and now the museum's *Eye on the Sky* weather team still perform essentially the same procedure as was done over a century ago, collecting the same data along with a few others added over the years, like pressure and humidity.

Franklin Fairbanks began recording the weather much earlier from his home in St. Johnsbury.

At the celebration last year of the Fairbanks being the second longest weather reporting station from the same location in the entire U.S., some weather stats were shared from the century and a quarter of weather observations, including that in late February of 1969, 34.5 inches of snow fell over a two-day period, according to the National Weather Service, and that the actual depth of snow recorded during that event showed snow at a depth of 54" at the Fairbanks Museum.

Since it began recording the daily weather, the Fairbanks has recorded some 4,600 inches of rain and 10,000 inches of snow, "That's over 80 feet!" said Sisson.

"It is a great record that you've maintained," said Minsinger, from the Blue Hills Observatory, in congratulating the Fairbanks staff at the celebration in the winter of 2018. "I'm glad to see you're still using alcohol, mercury and glass," he said of the weather measurements being used behind the museum.

Breen shared some old weather records during the reception, and read a bit from one of Franklin Fairbanks's records, on which he had recorded that the tower blew off the North Church during a wind storm, and on another that he had planted strawberries.

The remarks next to one day's weather measurements noted that President Abraham Lincoln had been elected that day, said Breen, referring to the documents in the museum's weather archives as "absolute treasures."







### **Events**

Continued from Page 29

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, Feb. 28

Memphremagog Winter Swim Festival, Lake Memphremagog. For info: kingdomgames.co.

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, Feb. 29

Memphremagog Winter Swim Festival, Lake Memphremagog. For info: kingdomgames.co.

Caledonia Primitive Biathlon, Caledonia Forest & Stream Club. For info: caledonia-biathlon@gmail.com.

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - Agrippina, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

7:30 p.m. - Into The Mystic : The Van Morrison experience, Foeger Ballroom. For info: jaypeakresort.com.

#### Sunday, March 1

Memphremagog Winter Swim Festival, Lake Memphremagog. For info: kingdomgames.co.

#### Tuesday, March 3

7 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet - Swan Lake, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Wednesday, March 4

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays - Central Park, The Civil War, and the Creation of the

National Parks, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: vermonthumanities.org.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays - Vermont's 183 Libraries, Goodrich Memorial Library. For info: vermonthumanities.org.

#### Thursday, March 5

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

10:30 a.m. - Handwork Circle & Crafts, Littleton Community Center. For info: littletonareachamber.com.

#### Friday, March 6

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

7 p.m. - Open Stage at the Cavern - all ages, substance free, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.

#### Saturday, March 7

12 p.m. - Code Club for teens, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

12:55 p.m. - Metropolitan Opera - Agrippina, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Sunday, March 8

3 p.m. - Northeast Kingdom Classical Series - Arron-Park Duo, St. Johnsbury South Church. For info: nekclassicalseries. org.

#### Tuesday, March 10

7 p.m. - A Cappella Live!, Fuller Hall. For info: catamountarts.org.

#### Wednesday, March 11

10:30 a.m. - Story Time, Barton Public Library. For info: barton-public-library.org.

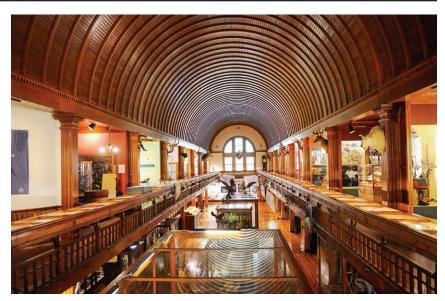
3:30 p.m. - Maker Wednesdays - ages 5-12, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

#### Thursday, March 12

9:45 a.m. - Story Time, Haskell Free Library. For info: haskellopera.com.

#### Friday, March 13

10:30 a.m. - Acorn Story Time - birth to 5 years, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For info: discoverstjohnsbury.com.



Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in St. Johnsbury, Vt. (File Photo)

# Cultural Institutions

When the weather outside is frightful, there are plenty of great indoor spots in our Winter Wonderland!

Here are some of the amazing museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions in our area that are worth a look:

#### **VERMONT**

Fairbanks Museum - St. Johnsbury, www. fairbanksmuseum.org, 802-748-2372

Grass Roots Art and Community Effort - Greensboro, www.graceart.org, 802-472-6857

Highland Center for the Arts - Greensboro, www.highlandartsvt.org, 802-533-2000

MAC Center for the Arts - Newport, www. maccenterforthearts.com, 802-334-1966

NEK Artisans Guild - St. Johnsbury, www. nekartisansguild.com, 802-748-0158

Old Stone House Museum - Brownington, www.oldstonehousemuseum.org, 802-754-2022

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Gallery - St. Johnsbury, www.stjathenaeum.org, 802-748-8291

Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain - St. Johnsbury, www.dogmt.com, 802-748-2700

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The ARTS Gallery - Lisbon, www.lisbonartsgallery.com, 603-838-2300

Franconia Heritage Museum - Franconia, www.franconianh.org/heritage-museum.html, 603-823-5000

Frost Place - Franconia, www.frostplace.org, 603-823-5510

Littleton League of New Hampshire Craftsmen - Littleton, www.nhcrafts.org, 603-444-1099

New England Ski Museum - Franconia, www.newenglandskimuseum.org, 603-823-7177

If a movie is more your style, check out these screens in the area:

#### **VERMONT**

St. Johnsbury - Star Theatre, 802-748-9511, www.stjaytheatre.com

St. Johnsbury - Catamount Arts, 802-748-2600, www.catamountarts.org

Newport - City Cinema, 802-334-2610, www.citycinemanewport.com

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Littleton - Jax Jr. Cinemas, 603-444-1067, www.jaxjrcinemas.com

Lancaster - Rialto Theatre, 603-631-1138, www.lancasterrialto.com

Bethlehem - The Colonial Theatre, 603-869-3422, www.bethlehemcolonial.org









Instructor Tom Houde helps Victoria Foster with her aim and stance during an Oct. 5, 2019 Hunter Safety class for all ages in St. Johnsbury. (Photo By Stephen Garfield)

# Preparing For Hunting Season ... And What To Do After You've Got The Deer

BY LEAH CAREY Staff Writer

eff Houde grew up hunting and has taken home a lot of deer. He's so good at it, in fact, that he's an instructor with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Hunter Education program, and the chief instructor for Caledonia County. He is also a board member at Caledonia Forest & Stream.

We spoke with him recently to get some tips on how to prepare yourself and your gun for hunting season, safety tips for the woods, and what to know about breaking down an animal after a successful trip into the woods.

#### Pre-season prep

When you go to the gun shop, Houde said, you'll need to decide if you want to attach a scope.

"The scope is a lens to look through that magnifies, so that you can see farther down the range and that will bring the picture in closer to you," Houde explained. "Say you had a penny setting out quite a ways down there, you could turn your scope up and it

would zoom it in so you could see if it was them, they will get knocked off." heads up or tails up.'

Once attached, the scope needs to be dialed in, preferably at a shooting range (like Caledonia Forest & Stream) that gives you lots of room to work with.

"Most of the time you start at 10 yards and you shoot at a target and you see where the bullet is hitting. If the bullet's hitting a little to the left, you would adjust it."

The scope has little knobs that move it up and down or left and right, so that you can get the sight pointed in exactly the right place.

Once you've got it sighted in the way you want it, back up to 20 yards and try again. Then 50 yards, then 100 yards.

"If you're off an inch left at 10 yards, if you went out to a 100 yards, you can be ten times that off, which means you'd be lucky to even hit the target," Houde explained.

You should go through this process at the beginning of each hunting season, as well as any time that you know the scope has been seriously jostled. "We're only human - you slip in the snow and you might fall, or maybe you have it set up in the gun cabinet and the scopes aren't perfect. If you bang

#### Staying safe in the woods

Safety is always top of mind for Houde, and he said that bringing water and a snack on your hunt is imperative.

"You never know - you get on a track with a deer and it takes you way into the woods, and then you shoot the deer and you're lucky enough you got it. Now you're trying to drag it out of the woods. A lot of people have heart attacks from dragging the animals and they're not prepared," Houde said.

He is concerned about people drinking dirty water or eating dirty snow and getting sick. Instead, take a bottle of your own water or a straw that filters water (like the LifeStraw) so you can stay hydrated on a

Also, the long periods of sitting still and waiting for an animal can be great for thinking, but it's not great for keeping your body temperature up. It can result in hypo-

"Your brain isn't functioning properly because your body has a lower body temperature. So if you get some kind of food into you, or drink some water to get your

body moving again, get your brain to start thinking again," he said. "That's half the reason why hikers and hunters are getting lost is that they're not totally prepared when they go out there."

Also, take a sharp knife. Houde remembered a time when he forgot his knife at home and took down a deer. "I ended up using a bullet and stabbing the skin and ripping it."

It was a time-consuming and difficult process that could have been avoided entirely if he'd had his hunting knife with him.

#### After the hunt

In recent years, Houde has turned his attention from regular hunting to breaking down the meat from other people's kills. It's an interesting process and he shared it with us (warning - if you're squeamish about how animals become food, you may want to stop reading right here!)

"I've harvested a lot of deer and I spent a lot of time now cutting up the animals to try to get people good quality meat back home so that it's cut properly and that it's cut in a



Under the instruction of J.J. Houde, Emily Dobler aims her rifle at a target during a hunter safety class Oct. 5, 2019 at the Linwood Smith property in St. Johnsbury. (Photo by Stephen Garfield)

# Hunting

Continued from Page 33

timely manner," Houde said.

The first step, he said, is educating hunters about what to do before they bring the deer to him.

Of course, it's important to gut the deer so that it can start cooling. "It helps to keep bacteria from growing inside the meat," Houde said.

He does it in the woods where the deer falls because coyotes come in and clean the site quickly. Next, it's important to clean the cavity.

"I wish people would take the extra time once they get the deer to take it home and rinse it out with lukewarm water and add a little bit of salt to it. Rinse out the inside of the deer and wipe it down with a rag. That would help a lot, but most people don't do that," Houde

The problem is that while gutting it, stomach or other internal organs can leak and bacteria can move around to the

Rinsing it out in a cold stream is not enough because the spring "water has bacteria in it," Houde said. A lukewarm

salt rinse is "just a good healthy way to keep your meat healthy."

Houde prefers to let the meat cool for another 12 to 24 hours because the meat becomes more tender over that time.

"If you got hit by a car, you'd be all tensed up, right? So the longer you wait, what happens is your muscles relax,' Houde explained. "When they relax like that, your meat isn't as chewy."

He takes the tender meat off as steaks and roasts. The less tender portions he grinds up for hamburger or sausage.

He asks customers how they'd like to receive their meat back and uses that as a guide for how to vacuum seal it so they are flat and store well. Most families, he said, like four steaks in a package. For ground meat, he usually divides it up into one-pound portions.

"I usually cut up one steak into little bite size pieces," Houde said. "I don't know about you, but I like to have a little snack, try it to see if it's done. So I always try to throw a little piece in my steak packages for my customers. I haven't heard any complaints yet!"

Houde estimates that a 200-pound deer will yield approximately 60-66 pounds of meat, depending on how and where it is shot.

# Hunting Seasons

#### **VERMONT**

This information covers Wildlife Management Units C, D1, D2, E and H

#### Fishing

Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass - through Nov. 30 Pickerel, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch - No closed season Walleye (all waters except the Connecticut River) - through March 15, 2020

Walleye (Connecticut River) - check vtfishandwildlife.com Rainbow Smelt - No closed season

Trout (catch and release) - year round, open-water fishing Hunting

Deer (bow and arrow) - Dec. 7-15 Deer (rifle / regular season) - Nov. 16 - Dec. 1

Deer (muzzleloader) - Dec. 7-15 Deer (antlerless permit) - Dec. 7-15

Black Bear - through Nov. 24 Moose - check vtfishandwildlife.com

Hare, Rabbit - through March 8, 2020 (WMUs D and E remain open through March 31)

Gray Squirrel - through Dec. 31

Ruffed Grouse (partridge) - through Dec. 31

Woodcock - check vtfishandwildlife.com

Crow - through Dec. 19 (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays only)

Snow Goose - check vtfishandwildlife.com

#### **Furbearer hunting**

Bobcat - check vtfishandwildlife.com

Red & Gray Fox - through Feb. 9, 2020

Raccoon - through Dec. 31

Coyote - open year round

Fisher, Otter, Beaver - no open season

Marten, Lynx, Wolf - no open season

#### Furbearer trapping

Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opos-

sum, Weasel - through Dec. 31

Otter - through March 31, 2020

Muskrat - check vtfishandwildlife.com

Fisher - Dec. 1 - 31

Bobcat - Dec. 1 – 16

Beaver - through March 31, 2020

Marten, Lynx, Wolf - no open season

More information, including hunting tips, can be found www.vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons. Please double-check all dates and regulations before heading into the woods.

#### Vermont Game Bird Season

Canada geese - Nov. 20 to Dec. 16

Ducks, coots and mergansers - Nov. 20 to Dec. 16

Ruffed grouse - through Dec. 31 Snow geese - through Dec. 16

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

This information covers Wildlife Management Units A, B, C1, D1, D2 and E3

#### **Bears**

Bear (general season) - through Nov. 30 in WMUs C1, D2 and E

#### Waterfowl

Canada Geese - Nov. 20 - Dec. 16 (Connecticut River zone); through Nov. 30 (northern zone)

Coot - Nov. 20 - Dec. 16 (Connecticut River zone); through Nov. 30 (northern zone)

Crow - through Nov. 30; March 16-31, 2020

Ducks - Nov. 20 - Dec. 16 (Connecticut River zone): through Nov. 30 (northern zone)

Falconry - Nov. 4-19, Dec. 17 to Jan. 14, 2020 (Connecticut River zone); Dec. 1 - Jan. 14 (northern zone)

Merganser - Nov. 20 - Dec. 16 (Connecticut River zone); through Nov. 30 (northern zone)

Snow geese - through Nov. 30 (northern zone); through Dec. 16 (Connecticut River zone)

Archery - through Dec. 15 (through Dec. 8 in WMU A) Firearms – through Dec. 8 (through Dec. 1 in WMU A)

Small Game and Furbearers

Snowshoe hare - through March 31

Cottontail rabbit - closed

Gray squirrel - through Jan. 31 (no hunting in parks or cemeteries)

Ring-necked pheasant - through Dec. 31

Ruffed grouse, northern bobwhite quail, chukar, Hungarian partridge - through Dec. 31

Crow - through Nov. 30

#### **Furbearers**

Gray fox, red fox, opossum, skunk, raccoon - through March 31

Fisher - Dec. 1 through Jan. 31

Mink, muskrat, weasel - through April 10

Coyote - no closed season

Coyote night hunting - Jan. 1 through March 31

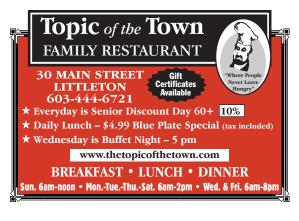
#### Pheasant

Pheasant - through Dec. 31

#### **Turkey**

Fall archery - through Dec. 15 (except WMU A through Dec. 8)

More information, including hunting tips, can be found www.wildlife.state.nh.us/hunting/hunt-dates.html. Please double-check all dates and regulations before heading into the woods.





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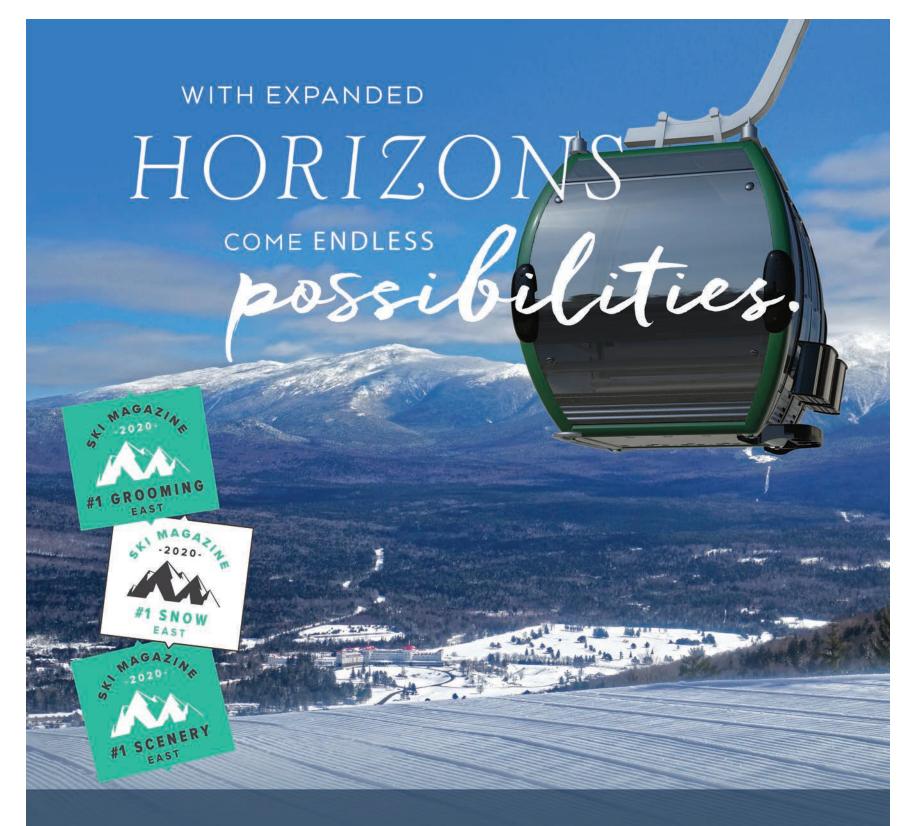
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