Winter Guide 2019 NORTH CONVAN MAGAZINE

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\$29 POWDER & PASTA Ski or ride from 4pm-close and enjoy a pasta dinner Friday & Saturday nights, Dec. 28 - March 9, plus nightly during holiday periods. Or, get on the slopes starting at 2pm for \$53.

\$60 NEXT DAY UPGRADE Upgrade your Sunday-Thursday non-holiday ticket by 4pm and ski the next day for \$60.

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Welcome To North Conway

North Conway has been a destination for outdoor recreation enthusiasts for generations. In winter or summer, it's a great place to get out and enjoy nature and adventure, and then relax with an evening of entertainment.

In this edition of North Conway Magazine, you'll find our guide to local downhill and cross-coun-



has to offer this winter both our picks for the best ways to enjoy the valley and top picks by local readers of our sister paper, The Conway Daily Sun.

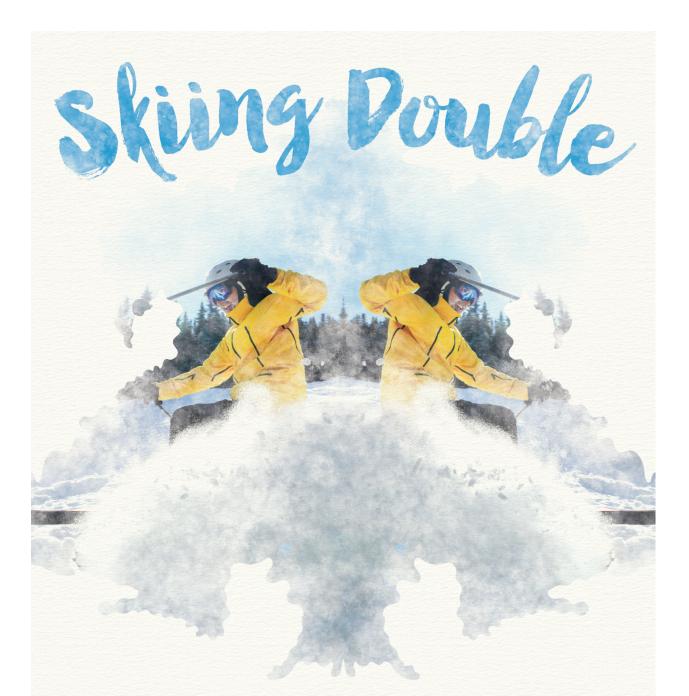
We've got selections of trails for hiking, climbing, snowmobiling, biking and horseback and sleigh rides. In addition, we've included listings for local concerts and special events.

Whether you're here for

North Conway Village from Schouler Park. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

try ski areas, with suggestions on how to find the right fit for your abilities and interests. We also include the best of what the Mount Washington Valley the week or a day, we hope this guide will help you make your visit a memorable one. As you'll see, there's plenty to do. — Terry Leavitt and Tom Eastman









2 MOUNTAINS. 2 DAYS. 1 TICKET.

Attitash Mountain Resort and Wildcat Mountain – just 20 minutes apart in New Hampshire's White Mountains – offer something no other resorts in New England can: the opportunity to ski or ride at two mountains in the same day with one ticket, or over multiple days with a multi-day ticket. The hardest decision is which to ski first.

2MOUNTAINS1TICKET.COM



A skier catches big air . (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

Ski areas For all occasions

Each of the valley's six local alpine ski areas has something unique to offer skiers and boarders, and sometimes non-skiing family members who are hoping for other options than hanging out in the base lodge with a good book. Your needs and desires may change from trip to trip depending on who's coming along and how you want to ski, and all these mountains are worth at least one visit. Whether you're looking for long smooth runs or steep glades, live apres-ski music or a nearby hot tub to help you recover, you can find something to fit.

If you are a beginner and looking for a lot of green circle trails to practice your basic skills, or have three kids going in four different directions, King Pine, Cranmore and Black Mountain are smaller mountains with plenty of beginner and intermediate trails, as well as glades and expert trails for when you are ready for a challenge.

Cranmore and King Pine both have graduated terrain parks, where skiers and boarders can start small and work their way up to big jumps, rails, boxes and other freestyle terrain, as do Attitash and Bretton Woods.

Although it's the smallest of the local mountains, King Pine, located in East Madison, offers a great variety of activities, both on and off the slopes at an affordable price, making it a great deal for anyone who wants other options to complement a day of downhill or a vacation-week stay. There are regular kids' and family ski races, a Winter Carnival and overnight camps during vacation week.

King Pine Ski Area is part of Purity Spring resort, that includes 20K cross-country ski and snowshoe trails, a tubing park and skating, all of which are covered by the cost of the day's ski ticket (or can be purchased

see next page

SKI AREA STATS

Attitash

Mountain Resort in Bartlett has 11 lifts serving 68 trails on more than 300

acres, with about 45 percent intermediate and 28 percent each of novice or expert; along with 60 acres of glades and terrain parks for all ability levels. For more information and current conditions, go to attitash.com or call (603) 374-2368.

Black Mountain in Jackson has a vertical drop of 1,100 feet and five lifts serving

45 trails and glades (divided evenly between novice, intermediate and expert) on about 150 acres. For current conditions, go to blackmt.com or call (603) 383-4490.

Bretton Woods ski area, part of Omni Mount Washington Resort located in Bret-

ton Woods, has 1,500 feet of vertical drop and 10 lifts serving 62 trails (50 percent expert, 27 percent intermediate and 23 percent novice) on more than 450 acres. For current conditions and info, go to brettonwoods.com or call (603) 278-3320.

Cranmore Mountain Resort in North Conway has a vertical drop of 1,200

feet, with nine lifts serving 56 trails and glades (44 percent intermediate and 28 percent each of expert and novice) on over 170 acres. Go to cranmore.com or call (603) 356-5543.



King Pine in Madison has a vertical drop of 350 feet, with six lifts serving 17 trails and

glades (44 percent novice, 31 percent intermediate and 25 percent expert) on 48 acres. For more information go to kingpine.com or call (603) 367-8896.

Wildcat Mountain in Pinkham Notch has a vertical drop of more than 2,000 feet, with

five lifts serving 48 trails (47 percent intermediate, 33 percent expert and 20 percent beginner), one terrain park, a terrain-based learning area and 80 acres of glades for a total of 225 skiable acres. For information, go to skiwildcat.com or call (603) 466-3326.



Boarding on powder conditions at Bretton Woods in November. (COURTESY PHOTO)

from preceding page

separately for non-downhill skiers). The resort also has a fitness center with swimming pool, if you're looking for that hot tub.

Known for its learn-to-ski programs, Cranmore also has live music on the weekends and Cranapolooza family celebrations with s'mores, games and entertainment at the base of the mountain most Saturday and vacation week afternoons (and fireworks on select Saturdays).

If your tastes run to variety in the black diamond category of trails, Bretton Woods places the highest percentage of trails (50 percent) on the expert list. As the largest ski area in New Hampshire, with more than 450 acres of skiable terrain, Bretton Woods also has plenty of beginner trails (23 percent of terrain).

Like King Pine, Bretton Woods maintains its own cross-country trails (and you can trade in that alpine pass for a nordic center pass if you're done with the day's downhill). There are also fat-tire bike trails, tubing and sleigh rides, snowmobiling, dog sledding, an indoor climbing wall and a three-hour zipline canopy tour.

Wildcat and Attitash offer considerable expert terrain. Both are owned by Peak Resorts, and a ticket for one mountain is good at the other, with a combined acreage and variety comparable to Bretton Woods' alpine trails. If skiing among the trees is your thing, and all three now sport large acreages devoted to glade skiing, with 125 acres of glades at Bretton Woods, 80 acres at Wildcat and 60 at Attitash.

Black has also opened new glades and backcountry terrain, and in partnership with Ski the Whites, last year added a backcountry skiing and snowboarding program with skiing and snowboarding lessons and rentals from its base lodge and Friday Night Lights, an uphill weekly ski touring and racing program.

Weekend slopestyle, mogul jam and skier/boarder cross competitions at Attitash make for good spectator viewing.

All of the mountains try to offer complementary activities, whether it be a mountain coaster (Cranmore), tubing (King Pine, Cranmore, Bretton Woods and Great Glen), races and competitions, celebrations on snow and special events. All have live music on Saturdays and vacation weeks.

EARN YOUR TURNS

The latest trend in downhill skiing is going uphill.

Black Mountain last year partnered with backcountry skiing outfitter Ski the Whites to create an uphill ski program, encouraging skiers to bring their skins and freeheal skis to the groomed slopes of the Jackson ski area. Lessons are also available for backcountry skiing an snowboarding, and the program makes use of the areas expanded glades and backcountry terrain.

Black also offers the Ski the Whites' Friday Night Lights program, giving uphill skiers the chance to practice their sport in a community, with a weekly ski touring and racing program followed by social gatherings at Black's Lostbo Pub.

Andrew Drummond, owner of Ski the Whites, said the program was a success and he expects to bring it back with this year's 10-week series starting on the first Friday in January.

Most ski areas have made some accommodations for uphill skiers, though they may limit uphill travel to specific trails or times. Black, Cranmore, Bretton Woods and Wildcat offer day tickets. Black and Cranmore also offer uphill season's passes. King Pine allows access to nordic and alpine ticket and season pass holders. Uphill travel is not permitted at Attitash.



Skiers at the start of Black Mountain's Friday Night Lights uphill racing and touring series in 2018. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Snow report Record start to winter

Without respect for a calendar that places the start of winter at Dec. 21, the snow season decended on the regions peaks and valleys in October. Record snowfall was recorded in November and it has stayed cold enough to keep that snow in place and allow for snowmaking at ski areas, many of which also broke records with early openings.

Mount Washington Observatory's director of research Eric Kelsey. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

Service's Mount Washington Avalanche Center, agreed and said, "It's important to know that a warmer and wetter future can also mean a lot more snow and still be below freezing — so a warmer climate can make for a more volatile atmosphere. So, basically we can have easily bigger storms with more precipitation: The equivalent of all these hurricanes and big rainstorms of the fall can happen a whole lot of snow on us."

What's behind the wacky **research Eric Kelsey** weather patterns — this year's late foliage season and early snow?

Dr. Eric Kelsey, director of research for the nonprofit Mount Washington Observatory, says the above average precipitation for October and November "is what we would expect in a warming climate."

Frank Carus, head snow ranger for the U.S. Forest

in winter and drop a whole lot of snow on us."

And what can we expect for the rest of this season? Kelsey said the jury is still out, but boding well for cold and snow in the Northeast, he said, "is how the troposphere and stratosphere are interacting — there are certain types of wave patterns that will favor the colder, snowier winters." Keep your ski tips crossed ...



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COOKING



Liquid gold

'A taste to excite your imagination'

What if there was a way to take your cooking up a level or two and add some health benefits to the way you cook at the same time?

Welcome to the world of ultra pure premium olive oils and balsamic vinegars. The North Conway Olive Oil Co., located in downtown North Conway and in Settlers Green, has over 80 varieties of some of the freshest olive oils and balsamic vinegars in the world.

In the shop is a tasting bar where you can sample all the flavors before you buy, as well as receive suggested pairings for any dish you can imagine.

How about a spicy Baklouti green chile olive oil paired with a mango balsamic for a fish taco or mango salsa? Just the right amount of heat and sweet! A Tuscan herb olive oil and an 18-year-old balsamic creates an unbelievable dipping oil for bread. Another great idea is an espresso balsamic to marinate your steak tips or meat. Just stop in and let the friendly staff suggest something for you. They promise you will be blown away by the taste and freshness.

North Conway Olive Oil Co. olive oils are ranked 95-98 out of 100, some being crushed just over a month ago, and containing high levels of Polyphenols, an antioxidant in olive oil that research has shown to reduce blood pressure, lower cholesterol and have cancer-reducing abilities. There is also research indicating it helps with Alzeihmers. North Conway Olive Oil is also only one of a handful of olive oil stores in the United States with the designation of ultra premium olive oil. This standard exceeds world standards for olive oil quality.

The store's balsamic vinegars are also the highest quality and are aged from 12-25 years. All are from Modena, Italy, and contain no added sugars, preservatives or salts and all of the store's products are non-GMO and gluten-free.

At North Conway Olive Oil Co., you'll find "a taste to excite your imagination."



Over 80 different Olive Oils and Balsamic Vinegars. Non-GMO, gluten-free, and no preservatives or added sugar

Settlers Green Unit D46, North Conway, 603-730-5515 (next to WM Cupcakery) 2730 White Mtn. Hwy., North Conway, NH 603-307-1066 www.ncoliveoil.com

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GAUGING THE WEATHER

Mount Washington Observatory, a private, nonprofit institution, maintains a weather station on the summit of Mount Washington, performing weather and climate research, and provides daily weather forcast for the mountains, essential information for hikers, skier and others to plan their backcountry trips. Find the higher summit forecast on the Observatory's website, mountwashington.org, or at tinyurl.com/highersummitsforecast.

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SKIING

What's new Alpine ski areas

by Tom Eastman

The state's ski areas are often at work hard during snowless months. renofacilities. vating adding snowmakcapabilities ing and continued maintenance to keep the complex machinery of ski lifts and other systems operating at top capacity.

Much of the work they do easily goes unnoticed by visitors, but year by year, improves con-



Black this year will continue a focus on uphill skiing, which saw the mountain last year add a backcountry skiing and snowboarding program with lessons and rentals from their base lodge, and the Ski the Whites' Friday Night Lights weekly uphill ski touring and racing program, followed by social gatherings at Black's Lostbo Pub.

Black also opened new glades and backcountry terrain, and Granite Backcountry Alliance, a

easily goes unnoticed by visitors, **The new gondola takes shape at Bretton Woods as the first snow of the season falls in October. The eight-person gondola will have an uphill speed of more than 13 mph for a** but year by year, **ride time will be 4.9 minutes. (COURTESY PHOTO)**

ditions on the slopes and the overall experience of skiers and snowboarders at the resorts.

Bretton Woods adds gondola

Among the most noticable changes at the valley's many ski areas over the summer and fall is the new gondola being installed at Bretton Woods.

The ski area is installing New Hampshire's first eightperson gondola, which will have 36 cabins, each carrying eight passengers. It's estimated the 6,000-foot gondola trip will take about five minutes. The new gondola will bring the total number of lifts at Bretton Woods to 10, including four quad chairlifts, a triple chair, a T-bar, Wonder Carpet, Magic Carpet and the Learning Center Quad.

Bretton Woods also has distinction of being named "Best Grooming in the East" by Ski Magazine for the past five years.

Black focuses on uphill

Black Mountain, the oldest ski area in the Mount Washington Valley, opening in 1935, is still keeping up on the latest trends in skiing. non-profit that works to open up and maintain backcountry ski terrain, helped with trail maintenance to prune and manicure the glades.

Attitash, Wildcat, Cranmore upgrade snowmaking

Other local areas have been focusing their energies on snowmaking, grooming and lift systems.

Attitash in Bartlett and Wildcat Mountain in Pinkham Notch, both owned by Peak Resorts, spent the summer performing routine maintenance and upgrading parts of our snowmaking system.

Projects included cleaning and rebuilding each of the pumps in Attitash's pump houses, which will bring them to 100 percent efficiency. Two larger pumps were installed on the Lower Attitash system. All five valve houses were completely rebuilt and now have winterized housing to protect them. Each project shares the goal of maximizing efficiency, which reduces startup time and allows Attitash's teams to move water to different trails to get them covered in snow.

"In short, we'll be able to make more snow in a shorter

see next page

from preceding page

time frame," said Attitash/Wildcat Marketing Director Jack Fagone.

In Attitash lift maintenance projects, the gearbox for the Flying Bear Lift was rebuilt. The summit triple now has a new drive control board, field supply module, blower motor and a completely rebuilt electric motor.

Both resorts have added new snow cats to its fleet of grooming vehicles: Attitash is getting a Prinoth Bison



Wildcat Mountain's snowmaking piles in October. (COURTESY PHOTO)

S, while Wildcat is adding a PistenBully 400. Wildcat also repaired the pedestrian bridge that provides access to the base area from the base lodge.

Snowmaking continues to be enhanced at Cranmore as well.

"Since 2010 (when the Fairbank Group purchased the resort), we have added 500 energy efficient snow guns to our inventory, and have upgraded pipeline to increase water capacity on the mountain, and direct water in a more efficient capacity," Cranmore Marketing Director Becca Deschenes said.

Deschenes said Cranmore is also offering guests the opportunity to save time and money by reserving rental equipment in advance online.

King Pine upgrades infrastructure

King Pine Ski Area in East Madison spent the summer upgrading its lift infrastructure, including a \$35,000 purchase and installation of catwalks and lifting arms as well as replacing seals and bearings on bull wheels.

It also spent over \$40,000 to update and add to its ski, snowboard, Nordic, snowshoe and ice-skating rental fleet, and recently updated its maintenance building by installing efficient, low-energy lighting.

For new ski school programs, King Pine is building upon its popular and affordable children's "Knee-Hi" ski programs and is introducing a similar one for kids age 4-7 who want to learn and develop snowboarding skills.

For kids at heart, King Pine is introducing an affordable Tuesday Seniors Development Program that will run for four weeks in January.





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A skier brings a dog along on a Bear Notch Ski Touring trail. All of Bear Notch's trails are open to skiers with dogs. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

Cross-country by Sally McMurdo Not just about skiing

Once upon a time, cross-country ski centers were just about cross-country skiing. They might have grooming or not. Trails that were narrow and untracked, "groomed" by the skier in front. Then some Nordic centers began grooming trails with snowmobiles and contraptions resembling bedsprings.

Trails were single or double-tracked for two-way traffic, but no "skate lanes" existed then. With the advent of skate skiing in the 1980s, centers widened some trails and groomed them for both classic and skate skiing.

In the past decade, many cross-country centers added showshoeing as technical advances in snowshoes made them easier to put on and use. Initially, snowshoers used the same groomed trails, but then centers added "snowshoe specific" trails that made outings more fun. Soon, dog lovers asked if they could bring Fido, too, when they went skiing and snowshoeing. Each center had to develop its "dog" policies — whether to allow them or not and where. Some centers added snow tubing to expand their offerings and attract families.

The latest addition that some Nordic centers are

offering is "fat biking." Fat bikes are large frame mountain bikes with tires wider than $3 \frac{1}{2}$ inches. The tires are run with low pressure, making for little damage to the trail and lots of fun for the year-round rider.

The Mount Washington Valley has seven Nordic centers: Bear Notch Ski Touring Center, Bretton Woods Nordic Center, Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center, Jackson Ski Touring Foundation, Purity Springs Cross-Country and Snowshoe Reserve; Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring and Snowshoe Center and Trails in the Wood. Ski and snowshoe rentals are available at all but Trails in the Wood.

Each is unique in its offerings. All now have crosscountry skiing and snowshoeing. Dogs are allowed to some extent at each, and fat bikes are continuing to make inroads. At some areas, you'll also find snow tubing, ice skating or sleigh rides. One (Great Glen) has a snowcoach ride halfway up Mount Washington and one has a biathlon range (Jackson). There's even one with a Nordic lift-served option to access high country alpine trails (Bretton Woods). It's not just about skiing anymore.

TOURING CENTER BASICS

Bear Notch Ski Touring: 70 km – 60 km track- and skate-groomed, backcountry trails in the Yates Farm area. Additional multiple-use trails shared with snowmo-

biles in the Bartlett Experimental Forest area. Snowshoers share trails. Dogs allowed throughout the system. *Route 302, Bartlett; (603) 374-2277; bearnotchskitouring.com*



Bretton Woods Nordic Center: 100 km – 95 km track-groomed, 90K skategroomed, 5K backcountry, and a lift-served Nordic High Country area. Snowshoers

share trails; guided snowshoe expeditions daily. Liftserved access to high-country snowshoeing. Fat biking: On the Deception and Fabyan's Fields Trail Network. *Route 302 (603) 278-3322; brettonwoods.com.*



Great Glen Trails: 45 km – 25 km skateand track-groomed, 20K backcountry, 2K snowmaking. Snowshoers share trails. Ski with a naturalist tours and starlit tours

available some weekends (reservations recommended). Ski and snowshoe rentals available. Fat bikes: Open to fat bikes daily, afternoons only, conditions permitting. Dogs welcome on Aqueduct Loop only, on leash.

Route 16, Pinkham Notch (603) 466-2333; GreatGlenTrails.com



Jackson Ski Touring: 154 km — 93 km track-groomed, 88K skate-groomed, 61K backcountry. Snowshoeing beside ski trails or on 45K of snowshoe-specific

trails, two-hour guided snowshoe tours on weekends and vacation weeks. Ski and snowshoe rentals available. Dogs: 15K dog-friendly trails in Prospect Farm area at the end of Carter Notch Road and in Jackson Village: Covered Bridge, Kissing Bridge and Gray's Inn Cut-off Trails. *Main Street, Jackson (603) 383-9355; jacksonxc.org*



Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring: 65 km — 45 km track- and skate- groomed, 20K backcountry. Snowshoers share trials. Saturday guided tours at 1 p.m. Ski and snowshoe

rentals available. Fat bikes allowed on designated bike trail and on ungroomed trails in Whitaker Woods. Dogs allowed in Whitaker Woods only.

Ragged Mountain Equipment, Route 16, Intervale (603-356-9920; mwvskitouring.org)



Purity Springs: 28 km – 15 km track- and skate-groomed, 13K backcountry. Snow-shoe on cross-country trails and back-country trails, tours Wednesdays, 1 p.m.,

and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Ski and snowshoe rentals available. Dogs allowed on weekdays, but not on weekends or vacation weeks.

Route 153, East Madison: (603) 367-8896; kingpine.com



Trails in the Wood: 10 km system developed for education and recreation. The trails were designed for walking, crosscountry skiing, snowshoeing, mountain

biking, maple sugaring, and nature observation. Open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or whenever the gate is open. *Route 16, Intervale; (603) 356-9980; believeinbooks.org.*



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LESSONS & TOURS

Reservations Requested Our ski instructors know how to make your cross-country skiing experience informative and enjoyable.

First-timers and beginners: Our Learn to ski package (lesson, day pass & rental) is an affordable way to pick up the sport.

Bear Notch Ski Touring offers private on the trail instruction.

AFFORDABLE SKIING

Adults: \$20 per person Juniors (up to 16yrs old): Free with paying adult Seniors (age 65 and over): \$15 per person Ask about Frequent Skier Passes. Rentals: \$18 Adults; \$12 Junior • Skate: \$20 Tubbs Snowshoe Rentals: \$20 Call Ahead for Early & Late Season Discounts! Full line of skate demos also available

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Located 3.7 miles west of Attitash on Rte. 302 603-374-2277 · www.bearnotchskitouring.com P0 Box 20, Bartlett, NH 03812

SKIING

What's new Nordic ski areas

by Tom Eastman

Mount Washington Valley's ski touring centers have been beefing up trails, snowmaking and grooming as well as tours and amenities over the past few months. All offer beautiful, scenic terrain, lessons, equipment and rentals.

Bear Notch Ski Touring

Owned and operated by the Garland family, Bear Notch offers 70 kilometers of skiing. Laid-back and friendly, the full-service cross-country ski and snowshoe center has homemade bread and soups daily.



Judith Reardon and Peter Smart of Chocorua and their dogs enjoyed the last bit of spring skiing at Bear Notch Ski Touring and Snowshoe Centerin Bartlett on April 21. The ski touring center has been focusing on trail improvements to help trails hold the snow. (TOM EASTMAN PHOTO)

Bear Notch Ski Touring has been working

on trail improvements to allow the trails to hold the snow in minimal snow — though as veteran ski tourers well know, Bear Notch is usually a snow belt, with skiing last year well into late April.

Bretton Woods Nordic Center

New last year at Bretton Woods is a warming cabin on the Porcupine Lane Trail in the Ammonoosuc Nordic Trail System. The 12-by-16-foot log cabin has room for a dozen Nordic skiers or snowshoers in nearly 200 square feet of interior space arrayed with couches and heated by a small gas stove. A covered porch provides views of the snow-covered Presidential Mountain Range and attendants will be available to serve steaming drinks and snacks during select periods.

Great Glen Trails

The biggest news in what's new at cross country ski areas this year is the new Glen House Hotel added at Great Glen Trails at the base of the Mount Washington Auto Road.

The Glen House Hotel opened in mid-September and now provides trailside lodging at Great Glen Trails. The ecofriendly hotel offers 68 rooms facing mountains on both sides and includes an indoor pool, the Notch Grille restaurant and a full bar. the Northeast.

Jackson has invested in the 2019 ski season and beyond with the purchase of a new PistenBully groomer to upgrade the grooming fleet. In addition, Jackson has acquired a tractor and attachment, according to Executive Director Ellen Chandler.

Chandler also said Jackson will be bringing back its popular Potluck Club Suppers on occasional Saturdays, and on Monday afternoons throughout the season beginning in January, simple time trials will be held on the trails adjacent to the touring center.

Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring

The non-profit Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring and Snowshoe Foundation has been working on the Lower Perimeter in Whitaker Woods to smooth out the trails. Further work is planned for the Lucy and Wellinghurst trails.

Purity Spring Resort

Purity Spring Resort updated its Nordic, snowshoe and ice-skating rental stock, as well as its downhill equpment for King Pine Ski Area.

For more information, go to skinh.com or the Mt. Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce at (603) 356-5701 (mtwashngtonvalley.org).

"We invite everyone to come stay with us and ski right from our door," said Howie Wemyss, general manager of Great Glen Trails.Call (603) 466-3420 or go to theglenhouse. com for more information about the Glen House.

This year marks Great Glen Trails' 25th anniversary season.

Great Glen Trails has invested over \$300,000 on a new PistenBully 400 groomer set up specifically for Nordic grooming.

Jackson Ski Touring

Starting in the heart of picturesque Jackson Village, the 154-kilometer Jackson Ski Touring Center is the largest in



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SKIING

What's new Backcountry Skiing

CONWAY — The popularity of backcountry skiing has surged in recent years, and more and more people are searching the White Mountains for untracked powder each winter.

The Granite Backcountry Alliance, a local non-profit was formed in 2016 to promote the sport across in New Hampshire and Western Maine.

The group has been focusing on rehabilitation of old Civilian Conservation Corps ski trails and the creation of new backcountry skiing areas as well as supporting human-powered recreation and conservation efforts, winter education and avalanche/safety programs and to raising awareness of winter management issues.

GBA volunteers have worked on the John Sherburne Ski Trail and Gulf of Slides Ski Trail on Mount Washington The Doublehead Ski Trail in Jackson and the Maple Villa Ski Glade in Intervale.

Upcoming events include the Otto Rhode Memorial Backcountry Ski Race on Jan. 26 at the Mt. Washington Auto Road.

The group will hold its second annual Mount Washington Backcountry Ski Festival for March 8-10. The event includes full-day courses with experienced guides leading skiers in sessions geared for different interests and skill levels. Participants can also ski on their own and demo the latest gear. For more information, go togranitebc.org.



Tyler Ray, who heads the Granite Backcountry Alliance, skis the trees in the White Mountain National Forest (ANDREW DRUMMOND PHOTO)



EARLY RISER SPECIALS Monday-Friday 6:00am - 8:00am "Welcome Home" "Welcome Home" "It's not just about the food, it's the experience." OPEN EVERY DAY AT 6AM WWW.PriscillasNH.com Open Daily 6am–2pm • (603) 356-0401 2541 White Mtn. Hwy. in the TD Bank Parking Lot, just a 3 minute walk from the train station

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SKIING ON MOUNT WASHINGTON

The Mt. Washington Cog Railway has decided to keep the Marshfield Base Station open for food and hot and cold drinks, on winter holidays and weekends, this winter.

For most recreationalists, the most significant change is that a winter land use permit fee of \$10 a day and \$100 a season will be collected instead of a vehicle parking fee. .

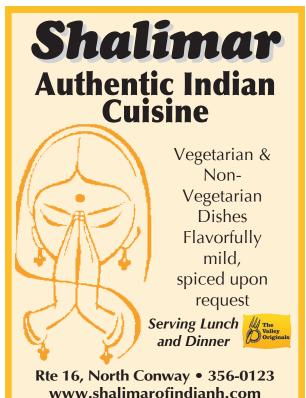
The Cog Railway owns 39 acres of land plus its 99-foot-wide corridor from base to peak and plows the Base Road from the Four Corners intersection to the parking lots.

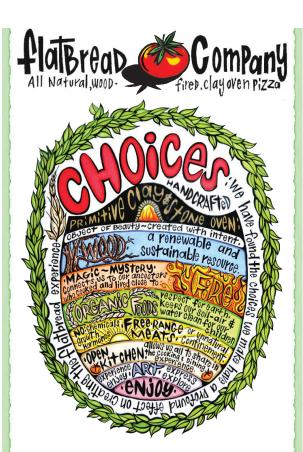
Cog president Wayne Presby of Littleton says the land use fee will be used to preserve, promote, maintain, improve



A backcountry skier on Mount Washington. (COURTEY PHOTO)

> and protect the property to facilitate its use for recreational purposes and keep the Marshfield Station facilities and parking open during the winter and summer seasons.





°ORGANIC SALADS~

NO BOUNDARIES SALAD add Veggies - Cheeses - Meat

THE FLATBREADS

Cheese & Herb Homemade Sausage Punctuated Equilibrium Mopsy's Kalua Pie Harvest Flatbread Pepperoni & Mushroom Jay' s Heart Happy Valley Community Flatbread NO BOUNDARIES FLATBREAD add Veggies - Cheeses - Meat

~DESSERTS~

Barbara's Homemade Brownie Sundae Barbara's Gingerbread Sundae Whoopie Pie Sundae

Gluten-free Pizza and Desserts Available

(603) 356-4470 At the Eastern Slope Inn, N. Conway

AWARD WINNERS

Don't miss out Best of the Valley

The Conway Daily Sun polled its readers to find out their choices for the second annual Best of Mount Washington Valley. More than 4,500 votes were cast in categories of professional services, recreation, health and beauty, culture and community, adult beverages and bars, and food and dining. The winners were unveiled May 22 at the awards party at the North Conway Country Club.

With 100 categories, they tried to pin down the top choices in everything from local band to burger to hiking trail. Tapping that font of knowledge, we bring you a selection of the winners to help you plan your stay. The complete list of winners and runners up can be found at conwaydailysun.com.

CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Best Art Gallery League of NH Craftsmen

The League shop showcases juried craftspeople from around the state. 2526 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH • (603) 356-2441

Best Local Theater Company M&D Productions:

Award-winning year-round community theater, shows range from light comedies to challenging drama staged in an intimate space.

1857 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH ● (603) 733-5275.

Best Musical Series Stone Mountain Arts Center

Up-close and personal performances by national acts in a beautiful timber frame music hall.

695 Dugway Road, Brownfield, Maine • stonemountainartscenter.com • (207) 935-7292.



Dan Tetreault (right) and Mary Bastoni star in M&D Playhouse's production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," which opened Thursday, June 21, in North Conway. (ASHLEY KERR PHOTO)



Riley Parkhurst (COURTESY PHOTO)

Best Solo or Duo Performance Riley Parkhurst Project:

A musician/vocalist based in Conway, Riley performs as a solo act and as lead singer/guitarist of The Riley Parkhurst Project. (603) 986-5193 • rileyparkhurst.com

Best Local Band Shark Martin

North Conway rock band: Ryan St.Onge, Shawn Nadeau, Daniel Spoffard and Rafe Matregrano plays covers and original music. Performs regionally and local bars and festivals. *sharkmartin.com*

Best Venue To Go Dancing McGrath's Tavern

A family-owned Irish pub and restaurant in North Conway that has live music on Thursday nights. Also won for best place for live music. 3465 White Mountain Highway, North Conway

• mcgrathstavernnh.com • (603) 733-5955.

Best Tattoo Artist Darling Grey Tattoo & Gallery

Artists Jess Guercia and Emma Eichner are the owners of this tattoo studio located right in North Conway village

25 Seavey Street, North Conway • (603) 730-5754.





Skiers in the woods at Jackson Ski Touring Center, voted Best Cross-Country Ski Area. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

RECREATION

Best Cross-Country Ski Area

Jackson Ski Touring The 154 kilometers of trails in Jackson have penty of track- and skategroomed trails, backcountry and snowshoe options. *Main Street, Jackson* • (603)

383-9355 • jacksonxc.org.

Best Downhill Ski Trail Wildcat Trail

One of the longest trails at Wildcat Mountain, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps — a classic New England ski trail. Located in Pinkham Notch, Wildcat has spectacular views of the Presidential Range.

542 NH-16, Gorham • skiwildcat.com • (603) 466-3326.



A skier pauses near the top of the Wildcat Trail before taking his run. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)



The Mount Washington Valley Children's Museum has interactive play spaces with a variety of themes. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

Best Place To Take Kids On A Rainy Day

MWV Children's Museum Interactive play spaces, designed for children up to 7 years old.

2936 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH • (603) 356-2992.

Best Bike Trail Fryeburg Rail Trail

Also known as the Mountain Division Trail in Fryeburg, Maine, a paved 5-mile trail away from traffic.

End points: Maine State Visitor Information Center, 97 Main St. US Route 302 and Route 113/ Portland St. at Lyman Dr., Fryeburg, Maine.

Best Spa Christmas Farm Inn

and Spa

3 Blitzen Way, Jackson • (603) 383-4313 • christmasfarminn.com.

Best Ski Shop Stan & Dan's Sports

Skis, boots, boot fitting, rentals, clothing, bikes and other gear. 2936 White Mountain Highway,

North Conway • (603) 356-6997.

Best Outdoor Equipment Store Eastern Mountain

Sports

EMS sells outdoor equipment and clothing from both name brands and its own EMS line.

1642 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway • (603) 356-8618.

Best Yoga Instructor April Deschenes

Deschenes is an instructor at Cranmore Fitness Center in North Conway.

1 Skimobile Rd, North Conway • (603) 356-6301.

FOOD & DINING

Best Restaurant Overall Oxford House Inn 548 Main St., Fryeburg, Maine • (207) 935-3442

Best Restaurant — Ambiance

White Mountain Cider Co.

Route 302, Glen, NH • (603) 383-9061

Best Restaurant — Lunch Rosie's Restaurant 1547 White Mountain Hwy Tamworth • (603) 323-8611

Best Restaurant -Ethnic

May Kelly's Cottage 3002 White Mountain Hwy, Conway • (603) 356-7005

Best Restaurant Asian

Taste of Thai 1857 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway • (603) 356-7624

Best Restaurant Mexican Fiesta Jalisco

6 Mountain Valley Blvd, North Conway • (603) 733-5550

Best Restaurant – Italian Vito Marcello's Italian Bistro

45 Seavey St, North Conway •

(603) 356-7000 • (603) 733-5550

Best Restaurant Vegetarian The Local Grocer

3358 White Mountain Highway North Conway • (603)356-6068

Best Restaurant Breakfast

Sunrise Shack Also won for

Cheap Eats. On Stanley'S Hill, 644 White Mountain Highway, Glen, • (603) 383-7169.

Best

Best Restaurant -Brunch

Red Fox Bar & Grille 49 NH-16, Jackson • (603) 383-4949 • redfoxbarandgrille. com.

Best Restaurant – Cheap Eats Sunrise Shack 644 White Mountain Hwy, Glen • (603) 383-7169.

Best Restaurant – Family Muddy Moose Restaurant & Pub

2344 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway • (603) 356-7696.

Best Desserts Riverstones Bakery Kancamagus Highway (Route 112), Conway • (603) 447-2253.



Chef Vito Marcello of Vito Marcello's Italian Bistro, winner for Best Italian Restaurant



Musicians performing at May Kelly's Cottage, which won for Best Ethnic Restaurant. (FILE PHOTO)

DRINKS & BARS

Best Apres Ski Red Parka Pub 3 Station St, Glen • (603) 383-4344

Best Beer Selection Moat Mountain Smoke House & Brewery 3378 White Mountain Highway, North Conway • (603) 356-6381

Best Wine Selection Oxford House Inn 548 Main St., Fryeburg, Maine

• (207) 935-3442

Best Local Brewed Beer Flip Flop Ale – Saco River Brewing

10 Jockey Cap Lane, Fryeburg, Maine • (207) 256-3028 • sacoriverbrewing.com

Best Sports Bar Delaney's Hole in the Wall 2966 White Mountain Highway, North Conway • (603) 356-7776

Best Neighborhood Bar and Best Trivia Night 302 West Smokehouse and Tavern — Tuesdays 636 Main St., Fryeburg, Maine • (207) 935-3021

Best Place For Cocktails Black Cap Grille 1498 White Mountain Highway, North Conway • (603) 356-2225

Best Meet-Up Bar Cigar Shenanigans 1903 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway • (603) 307-1036 Best Signature Drink Seammus Lime Ricky (McGrath's Tavern)

3465 White Mountain Highway, North Conway • mcgrathstavernnh.com • (603) 733-5955.

BUSINESSES

Best Bed & Breakfast Inn at Ellis River 17 Harriman Rd, Jackson • (603) 383-9339

Best Gift Shop The Penguin Gallery 2655 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway (603) 356-7600

North Conway • (603) 356-7600

Best Flower Shop Dutch Bloemen Winkel 18 Black Mountain Rd, Jack-

son • (603) 383-9696.

Best Jewelry Store North Country Fair Jewelers

S Main St, North Conway • (603) 356-5819.

Best Candy Store Zeb's General Store 2675 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway • (603) 356-9294.

Best Pet Supply Store Four Your Paws Only 1821 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway • (603) 356-7297.

Best Hair Stylist Ashley Snow, Pleasant Image

2686 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway • ((603) 356-3437



A Sampling Of Our Delicious Menu...

Appetizers

Tuscan Framers Appetizer Cannellini Beans, Caramelized Onions, Prosciutto, Garlio Italian Toast

Toasted Ravioli Eight cheese filled ravioli, lightly breaded, fried and topped with marinara & melted mozzarella.

Fried Calamarí Lightly battered and fried, topped with banana peppers. Served with our homemade marinara sauce.

Bruschetta Pomodoro Grilled Italian bread, tomato, kalamata olives, garden herbs, prosciutto di parma, pecorino.

Antipasto Classico Capicola, prosciutto, grana padano, sopressata, marinated kalamata olives, sharp provolone, artichoke heart, tomato, fresh mozzarella

and basil, stuffed cherry peppers.

Children's Menu

Ravioli With Meatballs • Chicken Fingers Fettuccini Alfredo

Homemade Gelato, Spumoni Fresh Fruit Sorbetto Tíramisu • Cannoli • Biscotti and Other Homemade Italian Pastries and Desserts! Entrées Entrees served with our Famous House Salad and Fresh Baked Bread

Fettuccine with Prosciutto, Spinach & Mushrooms in a cream sauce, served with house salad

Penne, Broccolí & Chicken Chicken tenders sautéed with broccoli cream sauce, served with house salad

Spaghettí Carbonara Caramelized onions, peas, pancetta, fresh egg, romano in a cream sauce, served with house salad

Chicken Parmigiana Lightly breaded topped with mozzarella and marinara sauce, served with house salad & pasta

Veal Parmigiana Tender Provimi veal breaded & topped with mozzarella & marinara sauce, served with house salad & pasta

Eggplant Parmigiana Oven-baked then topped with marinara & cheese, served with house salad & pasta

Fruttí Dí Mare Fettuccini topped with sauteed mussels, shrimp, scallops, chopped clams and calamari with white wine, oil, garlic sauce, served with house salad

Lasagna Ala Vocka Layers of lasagna noodles with herbed ricotta, sweet ground Italian sausage, romano cheese, and a layer of hard boiled eggs topped with vodka cream sauce.

We Use All Natural Chicken, Pork, Grass Fed Beef, Wild Caught Fresh Fish, Homemade Pasta Features And Local Produce When Available

Chef Owned & Operated By Vito Marcello ~ "Buon Appetito" 45 Seavey St., North Conway Village • 356-7000 • www.VitoFoods.com Dinner from 5pm • Closed Tuesdays (Closed Monday Seasonally)

For Special Dietary Needs Gluten Free Menu – GF Pasta Imported from Italy

Cocktails

Cucumber Martíní Hendricks Gin, Cucumber, Basil

Italian Margarita Tequila, Triple-Sec, Amaretto, Scratch Sour, Sugar Rim

Cranberry Martíní Captain Morgans Rum, Triple sec, Fresh Cranberry & Lime Juice

Espresso Chocolate Martíní ocolate Drizzled Martini Glass. Vodka. Bailey

Chocolate Drizzled Martini Glass, Vodka, Baileys, Grand Marnier & Espresso. Perfecto!

Lemon Italian Ice Vodka, Triple Sec, Limoncello, Lemon Sorbetto

Víto's Chocolate Martíní Stoli Vanilla Vodka, Blend of Godiva Chocolate Liqueurs, Creme de Cocoa, Splash of Bailey's

Bistro Negroní Gin, Aperol, Sweet Vermouth, Topped with Prosecco

Vito's Holiday Sangria A House Favorite!

Serving Wines From Italy Including Super Tuscan Wines From The Vineyards of IL Borro

Gourmet Pasta Sauces

Three generations have been creating our family's classic and healthy Italian pasta sauces. My gourmet pasta sauce begins with using only the finest of healthy ingredients such as imported San Marzano tomatoes and first cold pressed Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil, just as my father and grandfather used before me.

I am so proud of these traditions and proud to share my love for authentic Italian food by offering my gournet pasta sauces and salad dressings for you to take home and enjoy! Tomato Basil Marinara

 Fra Diavolo Sauce
 Roasted Garlic & Eggplant
 Sunday Sauce



SHOPPING

Find the deals Outlets

Shopping is a year-round activity in North Conway, home to Settlers Green Outlet Village and the boutique shops of North Conway Village. Best yet, New Hampshire has no sales tax, so thrifty bargain conscious shoppers can save on their purchases compared to shopping out of state.

Settlers Green Outlet Village opened in 1988, and is home to a collection of national brand, high-end outlets, grouped together in an outdoor village setting. Settlers Green today has stores on both sides of Route 16, with Settlers Crossing, home to L.L. Bean and Eastern Mountain Sports among other shops, and is its latest build-out, Settlers Streetside, which opened last year.

Visitors can find sculptures and other art installations throughout the center and Setters Green holds promotional and entertainment events throughout the year to enhance shoppers' savings and fun.



367-9841 • cell (603) 662-9841 www.totalconceptnh.com



A busy day at Settlers Green. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

PUBLIC ART

When the owners of Settlers Green opened the Settlers Streetside complex in 2016, they commissioned new works of art from artists around New England to enhance the project. Visitors can see paintings by Rebecca Klementovich and Kristen Pobatschnig; and sculptures by Michael Alfano, Dale Rogers, Melanie Zibit and Antoinette Prien Schultze.



Artist Rebecca Klementovich works on her mural at Settlers Streetside.

Our Real Estate Services offer both Commercial and Residential brokerage as well as Short Term/Vacation Rental, and Long Term Rental Services.

Total Concept is committed to providing full service Real Estate, Management, and Maintenance services for your Residential, or Commercial property. Let Total Concept provide you with the peace of mind of knowing that your property is being professionally, and well, cared for.

BUYING— TCRE works with you to help you search for your dream home, commercial space, or prime land. Whether you are seeking investment property or a personal home, we work with you guiding you through the process to make it as smooth and quick as possible.

SELLING— Any agent can list a property with basic information. We go beyond by providing complete documentation to help move your property to closing as quickly as possible. We actively seek out potential buyers and offer guidance to help you put your best foot forward when showing your home.

RENTALS— TCRE also handles short or long term vacation or home rentals. We can help locate a property for you or assist in renting your investment property. We work with residential, vacation, and commercial properties.

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Shoppers on Main Street in North Conway Village. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

Unique finds Boutiques

North Conway Village is a hub of small boutiques, featuring local and New Hampshire-made items, many of which you won't find elsewhere. The downtown shops include Zeb's, which sells many New England-made items and has a large candy counter; an old-fashioned 5 and 10 cent store; White Birch Books, an independent bookstore; and Fields of Ambrosia, selling bath and body care products. The village also has two coffee shops and several restaurants.

Many of the shops in North Conway Village and elsewhere in the Mount Washington Valley are locally owned and are members of The White Mountain Independents, a network of locally owned and independently operated retail businesses in the valley. The group works to support shopping local with events, coordinated sales and other promotions.

Find out more at whitemountainindependents.com.



Enjoy the scenic terrain on our NEW Arctic Cat snowmobiles. Park and ride at either of our locations... 532 Main St., Fryeburg, ME & 325 Main St., Gorham, NH

MOUNTAINS



A windy day atop Mount Washington seen from Intervale on a day in February when winds gusted to almost 70 mph and temperatures dipped to -63 F. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

The Rockpile how the pioneer obsent the press of a button, here feel the building shake. (2 Mighway, North Control Monte Machine Mach

The highest mountain in the Northeast, Mount Washington is an iconic peak that lends its name to the valley below. It can be seen from North Conway Village and many points in the area rising above neighboring mountains in the Presidential Range. Legends and stories date back to the first settlers, if not earlier, and the mountain has beckoned tourists, adventurers and scientists to its heights since the 1800s. Thousands hike it every year, mostly in summer, although many experienced climbers make the trek in winter (guided trips are available), and ice climbers find world-class climbing in the ravines. Skiers also flock to its slopes, particularly for spring skiing in Tuckerman Ravine and on the Sherburne Trail. The mountain's unpredictable extreme cold and high winds can be a deadly for unprepared hikers. Winds exceeding hurricane force occur an average of 110 days per year.



Hikers at the Tip Top House on the summit of The Rockpile. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)



Want to experience the world's worst weather without climbing Mount Washington in winter? Stop by the the Weather Discovery Center in North Conway and step inside the replica of the Mount Washington Observatory's building where the 231 mph world record wind was recorded in 1934. See how the pioneer observers lived, and with the press of a button, hear the wind howl and feel the building shake. (2779 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, 356-2137)

QUICK FACTS

Also known as: The Rockpile, Home of the World's Worst Weather, Agiocochook (a Native American name).

Height: 6,288 feet, highest peak in the Northeast.

World record wind: Highest wind, 231 mph, recorded April 12, 1934 (stood until 1996).

History: First recorded summit: Darby Field, 1642.

Science: Mount Washington Observatory maintains a year-round weather station on the summit and conducts scientific research under extreme conditions.

Danger: More than 150 people have died on the mountain since 1849, many due to the extreme weather, falls and avalanches.

Best views: Up close on the summit, on a drive through Pinkham or Crawford Notch, from the Scenic Vista on Route 16 in Intervale and from the summit of Wildcat.

Find it in Books: *Not Without Peril,* by Nicholas Howe, gives an eminently readable account of hiking misadventures on the mountain over the past 150 years.

ADVENTURE The world at treeline

PINKHAM NOTCH Guided winter aboard the tours Washington Mount SnowCoaches are about 1.5-hours long and depart daily from December through March from the Great Glen Trails base lodge at the base of Mount Washington on a first-come. first-served basis. Advance reservations may be made for the 9 a.m. trip only.

The SnowCoaches climb to about 4,200 feet, otherwise known as treeline, at about two-thirds the way to the 6,288-foot summit of Mount Washington. Riders have a little time



SnowCoach on the Mount Washington Auto Road. (COURTESY PHOTO)

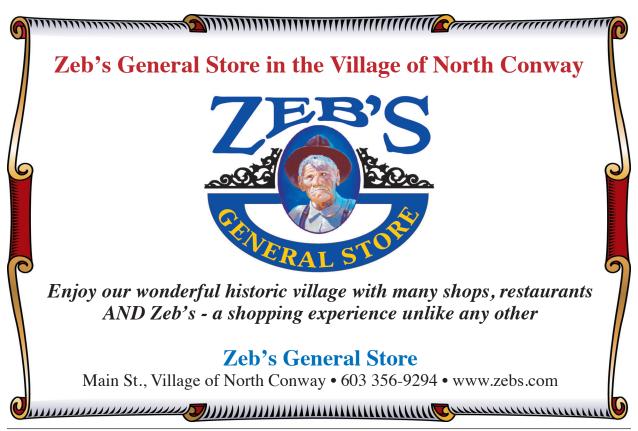
> outside at the high point of the trip before riding back down or snowshoeing down if they choose.

Sunrise SnowCoach tours are set for Jan. 20, 6:15-8:15 a.m., and Feb. 17, 20 and 24, 5:45-7:45 a.m.

More information can be found at snowcoachnh.com or by calling (603) 466-3988.

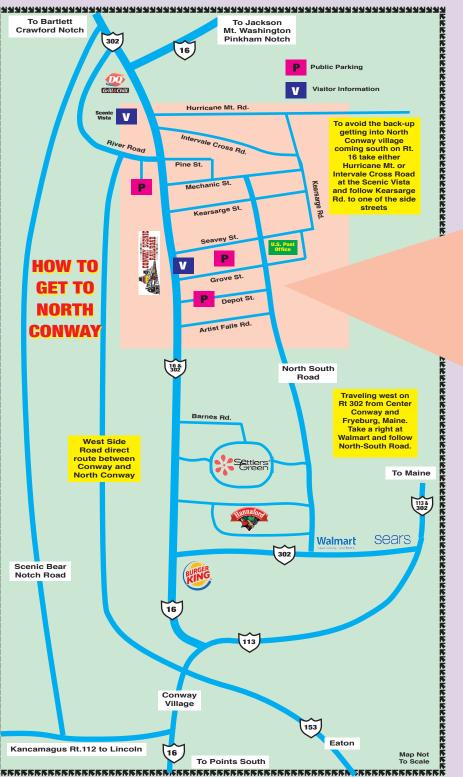


VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION OPEN IN 2019: 1647 WHITE MOUNTAIN HWY



Welcome to North

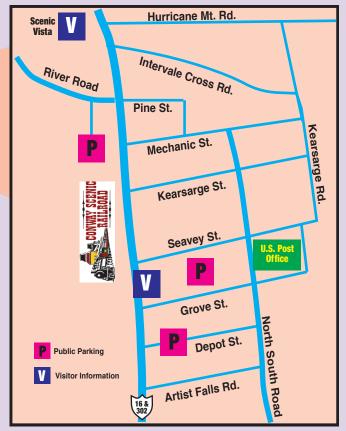
North Conway Village is a buzzing hub in the Mt. Washington Valley, with dozens of locally owned restaurants, unique stores and shops and lodging establishments. Schouler Park lies right in front of the historic, Victorian train station which acts as a landmark for any North Conway Village i. activity. A year-round resort area. North Conway is the largest village within the town of Conway, which is bounded on the east by the Maine state line. The White Mountain National Forest is to the west and north. The Conway Scenic Railroad features train rides that leave from the village. In late September through early October, tourists arrive to see the autumn colors on the surrounding mountains and forests. In the winter, the village is the nighttime destination for skiers visiting the area resorts, including North Conway's own Cranmore Mountain



Convay Village!

There are many great restaurants and shops; here's how to find them!

as well as nearby Attitash Resort, Black Mountain and Wildcat Mountain. North Conway is also a major rock climbing destination in the northeastern United States,[2] particularly Cathedral Ledge in Echo Lake State Park. The 500-foot cliff overlooks Echo Lake and North Conway from the west. Unlike nearby White Horse Ledge, another rock climbing site, Cathedral Ledge has an automobile road to the



summit, which provides fine views of the Saco River Valley.

PARKING 1 — From the South — North-South Road begins at Wal-Mart and passes by the back of Settlers Green. Take this road going North and follow until you get to Depot Street. Take a left onto Depot St and Public Parking is on your right.

PARKING 2 — West Side Road begins at the intersection of Route 16 and Washington St. From Route 16 take a left onto Washington St which turns into West Side and follow until the Stop sign at the end of the road. Take a right onto River Rd and follow over the bridges, before you get into the village and the train track trestle, take a right into Public Parking behind the Eastern Slope Inn and Whitaker Suites. Convenient parking and an easy walk through the pedestrian tunnel brings you up to North Conway Village businesses.

From the North:

PARKING 3 – Driving South, at the Scenic

Overlook take left onto Hurricane Mountain Rd and follow until Kearsarge Rd. Take a right onto Kearsarge Road and follow to Mechanic St. Take a right onto Mechanic St and then another right onto Pine St. On Pine St is the John Fuller School and there is Public Parking available when School is not in session.

 $\label{eq:RESTROOMS1-North Conway Community Center is located next to the park and across from the Visitor Information Booth.$

RESTROOMS 2 — Olympia Sports is located in a complex of businesses in the center of town by the traffic light. Restroom are located next to a cluster of shops in the lower level.



Hiking with a group or with a guide is a great way to find out about new trails and learn the ins and outs of winter hiking. (ED PARSONS PHOTO)

Getting started Winter hiking

For the uninitiated, winter hiking may seem like entering a cold, cold world. But the benefits of camaraderie, healthy exercise and beautiful vistas offer great rewards for those who learn its secrets. It's also a good way to experience fabulous outdoor adventures at a minimal cost.

The best way to get started is to learn from experienced people. These can be found in many ways. On the internet, check out Northeast hiking websites like "Views From the Top" and "Rocks On Top." Here you can find veteran hikers' answers to questions from beginners as well as announcements about group hikes.

The Appalachian Mountain Club offers guided and group winter hikes to its members. You can sign up online at outdoors.org. Local outfitters also offer guided hikes and climbs in the White Mountains.

If you drive to a place like the AMC's Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, north of North Conway on Route 16, you can ask at the hiker's information desk about hiking suggestions and trail conditions, and rent snowshoes there if needed. Reach the center at (603) 466-2721.

However you go, pack the essentials, pay attention to safety guidelines, trail conditions and weather reports. Snowshoes may be needed. Good preparation can make all the difference between a fun experience and a dangerous misadventure. Find out how to be prepared at hikesafe.com, and consider buying a N.H. Hike Safe card at wildlife.state.nh.us. It supports N.H. Fish & Game rescues, and people who have the cards are not liable to repay rescue costs if they need to be rescued.

BEGINNER TRAILS

Pinkham Notch

Lost Pond: This pond, called a "glacial tarn," is reached by a onemile trail directly across Route 16 from Pinkham Notch Visitor Center. A "must do" for beginners.

Liebeskind's Loop, Crew-Cut Trail and George's Gorge Trail: A short, fun network of trails, easily reached from Pinkham Notch Camp, by starting out on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail and then turning right on the trail known as the Old Jackson Road. Visit Brad's Bluff and Lila's Ledge, where great views of the notch can be found.

Crawford Notch

Around-the-Lake Trail: The 1.2mile loop hike that starts next the Highland Center and winds down to the shore of a small secluded pond called Ammonoosuc Lake and continues around it. Across the lake, a 0.3-mile spur path called the Red Bench Trail continues to a comfortable red bench, with a good view of the Presidentials.

Mount Willard: The 1.6-mile Mount Willard Trail is another must for aspiring hikers. The trail is likely well packed, and the summit gives a classic view of the U-shaped Crawford Notch. The trail begins behind the Depot, just south of the AMC Highland Center. It begins as the Avalon Trail and in 30 feet turns left on the Mount Willard Trail.

Mount Washington Valley

Cathedral Ledge: The 1.4-mile auto road to the top of Cathedral Ledge is unplowed in the winter, and is a nice climb to a classic view of the Mountain Washington Valley. To get there, turn left on River Road at the lights at the north end of North Conway. In 1.5 miles, bear left on Cathedral Ledge Road and continue in. The road bears right and the plowed section ends. Walk past the gate and continue up the road. At the top turnaround, bear left through the woods toward the cliff edge, but stay well away from it, as there may be ice under the snow. There is a section with fencing if you want to get close. Be sure to go to the southern end of the summit for more views and safe terrain. The view of the valley is great.

HIKING

Hiking around North Conway

One of the best ways to appreciate the valley in which North Conway sits is to see the view from any of the many peaks that surround the town.

The village sits just south of Mount Kearsarge North, west of the Green Hills and east of the Moat Mountains. Trails lead up all of these mountains, and most of the trailheads are just minutes away from downtown North Conway.

Many of these hikes are more challenging, but there's no saying you have to climb a mountain to enjoy a beautiful winter hike. Puddin' Pond, located off Artist Falls Road offers a relatively flat 1.6-mile loop beginning at the Thompson Road Trailhead, off Artist Falls Road in North Conway. The hike winds through spruce, fir and hemlock stands and past a beaver dam along the shores of Pudding Pond.



Hikers descend Mount Kearsarge. (ED PARSONS PHOTO)

THREE INTERMEDIATE TRAILS IN AND AROUND NORTH CONWAY

Kearsarge North: Kearsarge North (3,268 feet). The 3.1-mile trail to its summit winds steadily upward — first through a shadowy hemlock forest, then past scattered ledges, and finally through shady evergreens on the north side — to a bare summit with a restored historical fire tower. The empty tower is open to the public, providing shelter from the wind and many windows for a nearly unobstructed 360-degree view.

To get there, from North Conway take Route 16 north and just across the railroad tracks after the scenic vista in Intervale, take Hurricane Mountain Road on the right. In 1.5 miles, pull into a small parking lot on the left, next to a trail sign.

Green Hills: The Green Hills is the range of low hills on the east side of North Conway. Cranmore Mountain Ski Area is part of that range. Just south of Cranmore, and visible from town, is a sharp little peak called Peaked Mountain (1,739 feet). It is located in the Nature Conservancy's Green Hills Preserve.

This small hill lives up to its name. On the small flat summit you might feel as if your perch and the surrounding landscape have been arranged for your viewing pleasure. The 4-mile loop hike over the summit has a great variety of terrain.

To get there, just south of North Conway village, take Artist Falls Road on the left, cross the North/South Road under the railroad bridge, and turn right on Thompson Road. Park at the Thompson Road Trailhead. Walk a short way to a Nature Conservancy kiosk, where maps are posted. At the kiosk, take a left (there are many paths in this multiuse area; look for the trail sign). In a half-mile, take a left at a four-way junction onto the Peaked Mountain/Black Cap Connector. This trail follows a winding old road for half a mile to another Nature Conservancy kiosk. Bear sharp right there, just before the kiosk.

The next section of trail climbs to open ledges with good views of the valley and the back side of Cranmore, continuing through a small wooded area before reaching the top. After taking in the views descend and take the Middle Mountain Connector to the Middle Mountain Trail. Take a right on that, taking care on icy spots on the descent of this section in a steep ravine next to a brook. This trail leads back to the parking area.

South Moat: The 2.7-mile trail up to the southern summit of the Moat Range, called South Moat (2,770 feet), is a satisfying venture any day. Like Kearsarge North, the top of South Moat is bare, and the view outstanding. In the winter, the wind on the summit ledge is usually cold and brisk, but exposure to it is found only on the last few yards of the climb and the top itself.

The trail is varied and enjoyable. The bottom third is new, starting at a new trail parking lot. The middle section of trail is old and rocky, and the upper section primarily on wooded ledges. Care must be taken on icy sections.

To get there, from the stoplights in Conway, take Washington Street north, which turns into West Side Road. In 0.9 miles from the lights, take a left on Passaconaway Road, which turns into Dugway Road. In 4.1 miles from Conway, pull into the trail parking lot on the right.

HIKING

Family hikes

Pack a pair of hiking poles, snacks, water, a compass, flashlight and good hiking boots, and bring the family into the great outdoors. Most local ski touring centers are offering guided nature snowshoe walks and rent snowshoes. Here are a few short hiking suggestions:

Tin Mountain Conservation Center on Bald Hill Road in Albany offers a network of trails serviced by a trail map kiosk. Call (603) 447-6991 for more information. Conway's Pudding Pond network of trails off Artist Falls Road in North Conway makes for a nice walk.

Diana's Baths off West Side Road is maintained by the U.S. Forest Service and offers a scenic introduction to nature. The Albany Town Forest is another fine hiking spot, located behind the U.S. Forest Service's Saco Ranger Station off the Kancamagus Highway just south of the village of Conway. The Appalachian Mountain Club offers family nature education programs and hikes, as well as evening lectures. Call (603) 466-2721 for more information.





Good hiking boots and poles, a warm jacket and snow pants, hat and gloves can make all the difference when you take kids out for a hike in the woods. (COURTESY PHOTO)



Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted.

Newenglandskimuseum.org

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Celebrating Our 50th Year!

ENTERTAINMENT

Live music Concerts



Local band Bennett & Perkins performing at Stone Mountain Arts Center in Brownfield, Maine. (COURTESY PHOTO)

STONE MOUNTAIN ARTS CENTER

695 Dugway Rd, Brownfield, Maine • (207) 935-7292

The Stone Mountain Arts Center in Brownfield, Maine, presents nationallyrenowned acts throughout the year. The doors open at 6 p.m. for dinner; shows start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Scheduled performances include:

Dec. 31: Ghost of Paul Revere (7 and 9:45 p.m.)

Jan. 18: Susan Werner Jan. 19: Winter Wine Dinner

Jan. 20: Barn Burner with Tricky Britches Jan. 25: Roomful of Blues Feb. 2: Gibson Brothers Feb. 8: We Banjo 3

Feb. 9: The Song & The Story: Amy Helm and Cindy Cashdollar Feb. 14: Dar Williams Feb. 15: Noam Pikelny (of the Punch Brothers) and Stuart Duncan

Feb. 16: Shemekia Copeland

Feb. 22: Juanito Pascual Feb. 23: Ward Hayden & The Outliers

Feb. 28: Bob Marley Feb. 24: Session Amer-

icana March 1: Rachael and

Vilray March 2: Adam Ezra

Group March 9: Sierra Hull March 15: Kat Edmon-

son

March 22: Dom Flemons

March 27: Los Lobos March 29: Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder

March 30: Acoustic Festival with Low Lily and Mile Twelve



A scene from The Metropolitan Opera's "Carmen," which will be shown live at the Eastman Performing Arts Center on Feb. 2.

EASTMAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

18 Bradley St, Fryeburg • (207) 935-9232 • boxoffice@fryeburgacademy.org

The Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Fryeburg Academy, in Fryeburg, Maine, offers an array of entertainment including the Met Opera Live series. Upcoming: Jan. 11: Bradley Backstage: Al Hospers & Friends Jazz Band at 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 12: Met Opera Live: "Adriana Lecouvreur" at 1 p.m.

Feb. 2: Met Opera Live: "Carmen" at 1 p.m.

Feb. 10: Met Opera Live: "La Fille du Regiment" at 1 p.m.

March 30: Met Opera Live: "Die Walkure" at 12 p.m.



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LIVE PUB MUSIC

Live music is featured throughout the valley at pubs, including the following:

Red Parka Pub, 3 Station St, Glen • (603) 383-4344 • weekends and Mondays.

Shannon Door Pub, 19 Spencill Hill Rd, Jackson (603) 383-4211

Wildcat Inn and Tavern 94 Main St, Jackson (603-383-4245)

Shovel Handle Pub 357 Black Mountain Rd • (800) 677-5737)

McGrath's Tavern, 3465 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway • (603-733-5955) • Thursdays.

May Kelly's, 3002 White Mountain Hwy, Conway • (603-356-7005) • Sunday afternoon Celtic music. Deacon Street Restaurant, 32 Seavey St, North Conway • (603)356-9231 • Friday and Saturday evenings.

Sea Dog Brewing Co. (603-356-0590) Fridays and Saturdays

Almost There, 1287 NH-16, Albany • (603) 447-2325 • Fridays.

Route 302 West Smokehouse, 636 Main St, Fryeburg, Maine • (207) 935-3021.

Top of the Ninth/Fryeburg House of Pizza, 11 Portland St, Fryeburg, Maine • (207-935-4172),

Lake Kezar Country Club at Ebenezer's Pub, 578 Main St, Lovell • (207) 925-3200.

Corner House Inn, 22 Main St, Center Sandwich • (603) 476-3060 • Music and storytelling.



Bennett & Perkins are among the local groups that can be seen performing live at local venues. (FILE PHOTO)



REAL ESTATE Find a community

Lamplighter Mobile Home Park is a community within a community. The small local community of the park features a private



beach on Saco River and direct access to the wooded trails of the Conway Recreation Path.

At the same time, the park's location on Route 16 between the villages of Conway and North Conway, offers easy access to all that the Mount Washington Valley has to offer, from shopping, dining and entertainment to climbing, hiking, snowsports, scenic rides and state parks.

Some residents enjoy all the seasons here; others maintain vacation homes. Lamplighter sells Commodore single and ranch style homes — one-floor living at an affordable price. For more information visit www.lamplighter-mhc. com or call the park office at (603) 447-5720.

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Offices in North Conway, Jackson and Berlin, NH

MUSEUMS

New England Ski Museum Ski history exhibits

The New England Ski Museum this year opened a new branch in the former North Conway Community Center adjacent to Schouler Park in North Conway Village.

Designated the Eastern Slope Branch, the museum's exhibits pay special attention to North Conway and the Valley's place in skiing history, including a full wall mural of Tuckerman Ravine and exhibits featuring local Olympians, the 10th Mountain Division ski troops, the evolution of ski wear and equipment and Hannes Schneider, a world famous Austrian skier who revolutionized ski instruction and brought his Arlberg technique to North Conway's Mount Cranmore in the 1930s.

A rotating temporary exhibit, a ski library, a vintage ski collection and a Cranmore Skimobile on loan from Spike Smith of Conway round out the exhibits. The new Eastern Slope branch of the museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, go to skimuseum.org or call (603) 823-7177.





New England Olympians' gear on display.

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MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITS

Weather Discovery Center

Route 16, North Conway • www.mountwashington.org/education/center • 356-2137

The Mount Washington Valley's own science museum, created by the Mount Washington Observatory and dedicated to helping people under-

stand weather science and the region's role in understanding it better.

The Obs' main work it to conduct weather research on Mount Washington. It also has an exhibit "Extreme Mount Washington" on the Mountain's summit.

The interactive exhibits in the North Conway center are a great way for children (of all ages) to learn about the forces behind weather



Visitors to the Weather Discovery Center in North Conway can learn about weather on Mount Washington.

and climate.

Mount Washington Valley Children's Museum

2936 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, mwvchildrensmuseum.org or (603) 356-2992

A play-based museum for young children.

Remick Country Doctor and Farm Museum

58 Cleveland Hill Rd., Tamworth (www.remickmuseum. org or 323-7591

See what it was once like to live on a rural New England farm and learn about rural medicine in the 19th



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Coffee House Coffee House Fine Art Gallery 2680 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway Village • 603-356-2332

Come visit us in our 2nd location: The Met at Settlers Green 2 Common Court - Bld H-50 North Conway • 603-307-1169 SKIING

Discounts

Savvy skiers and riders don't pay full retail on the slopes. Deals abound like multi-day tickets, online discounts, frequent flyer discount cards and multi-resort season passes. Discount days are a nice part of the mix.

Ski NH Executive Director Jessyca Keeler of Conway said, "Savvy shoppers know where to find deals and take advantage of them, and discount days are not only a great way to find a deal, but if you can ski that day, you're also going to enjoy a day that probably has no lift lines and not many people on the slopes with you."

Cranmore's online deals include a \$25 Game Day ticket on Feb. 3, a half price Valentine's Day pass Feb. 14 and a \$17 St. Patrick's Day ticket March 17. Ticket Rollback Day on Jan. 4 means \$10 lift tickets. Cranmore Saturday night tickets are \$29.

Attitash and Wildcat have discount days like \$30 nonpeak Sunday Funday afternoon tickets. Kids age 17 and under pay \$17 on Youth Days, Jan. 6, and March 24. Go online for \$35 tickets on Game Day Feb. 3, limited \$17 St. Patrick's Day passes on March 15 and March 18, and limited April 1 tickets for \$11.

see next page





A skier tests the powder at Bretton Woods. Enjoy skiing for less during discount days and with online specials. (COURTESY PHOTO)

from preceding page

King Pine has many deals. \$5 Friday is Jan. 4, only in advance online. On Feb. 3's Big Game, buy a one-day ticket for the half-day rate. Valentine's Day is a two-fer day.

The Moonlight four-pack for \$66 that's good on Saturday nights and during vacation week for four people. The \$10 non-holiday Tuesday night ticket is on again, with \$10 rentals, \$10 terrain park lessons, \$10 tubing and a \$10 burger and beer in the Trail's End Tavern. Non-holiday Sunday Funday afternoon tickets are \$29 for adults and \$19 for juniors and seniors.

Two-for-one deals exist during non-holiday periods. Bretton Woods has them on Wednesdays. Cranmore's two-fer is different. On select dates online, ski two days for the price of one.

Bretton Woods' Friday and Saturday nights from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Powder and Pasta deal from late December through early March includes a pasta dinner and lift ticket for \$25. Nab a \$45 ticket on Dec. 25, pay \$69 online on MLK Monday Madness Jan. 21, 2019, score a \$53 ticket for the Big Game Feb. 3.

-Marty Basch





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MOUNTAINS

Ice climbing Ice Fest 2018

Climber Erik Eisele in Tuckerman Ravine. (JOE KLEMENTOVICH PHOTO)

The 26th annual Mount Washington Valley Ice Fest returns Feb. 1-3, with a weekend of climbing, classes, clinics and presentations that attracts climbers from around the world. They come to test equipment, watch slide shows and celebrate the sport and the people in it.

North Conway is one of North America's top ice-climbing destinations. Not only does it have a range of routes, from the hard climbs on Cathedral Ledge to the many flows in Crawford Notch State Park to the gullies of Huntington Ravine high on Mount Washington, but many are easily accessible without a long hike, making the area ideal for Ice Fest.

Clinics include Ice Climbing 101, Learn to Lead, steep waterfall ice climbing skills, crevasse rescue techniques, veterans climbing clinics and a one-day ascent of Mount Washington. Presenters will include Ralph Slawinski. To learn more, go to mwv-icefest.com.



An Ice Fest participant attempts a climb during a clinic in 2016. (COURTESY PHOTO)



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SNOWMOBILING

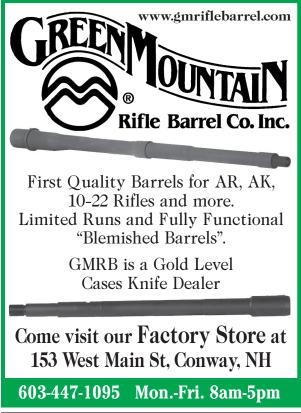
Snowmobiles Open the winter world

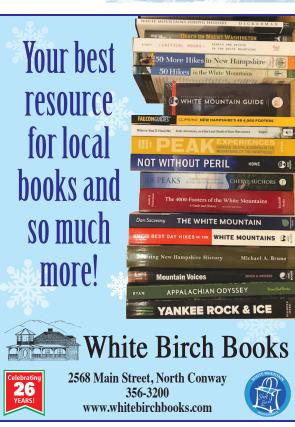
Snowmobiling opens up a world of winter fun for everyone, whether you're an enthusiast with your own machine or you rent from a local outfitter. Terry MacGillivray of Northeast Snowmobile Rentals and Peter Gagne of Northern Extremes agree that snowmobiling is a sport the family can enjoy.

"We get people to places in winter that they otherwise would not have a chance to get to physically," said MacGillivray, who has locations in Gorham, N.H., and in Fryeburg and Bethel, Maine. "A lot of people think snowmobiling is for motorheads who want to spin their tracks and go fast. But it's really about getting out to scenic places to enjoy the view, shut off the machine, and enjoy the quiet of the woods. We take people to the top of Black Cap (behind Cranmore in North Conway), which would otherwise take a long time, and they would never get there," said MacGillivray.

Added Gagne, whose company has locations in Bartlett and Bretton Woods: "It's a great opportunity to explore the outdoors. It's an alternative to skiing for folks who might not normally venture outdoors in winter. see next page







RESOURCES

• Northeast Snowmobile Rentals of Fryeburg, Bethel and Gorham: (800) 458-1838 or northeastsnowmobile.com

 Northern Extremes of Bartlett and Bretton Woods: (603) 374-6000 or northernextremessnowmobiling.com

• Profile Powersports in Albany offers sales: (603) 447-5855 N.H. Snowmobile Association: (603) 273-0220 or nhsa.com

• N.H. Fish and Game: (603) 271-3129 or wildlife. state.nh.us/OHRV/ohrv. htm)

• N.H. Bureau of Land and Trails, which updates state snowmobile conditions: (603) 271-3254 or nhstateparks.org/experience/snowmobiling.

from preceding page

Some like the feel of the power in the machine. Most of our customers are non-skiers, families who want to go out and see the wilderness." Northern Extremes's offerings include guided Sawyer River to Bear Notch sunset dinner tours in collaboration with Cabin Fever Restaurant of Bartlett.

With operations in different locations, Gagne and Mac-Gillivray cover their bets when it comes to weather and snow conditions. "North Conway does not always have the snow, but Bear Notch is a snowbelt," Gagne said.

— Tom Eastman





CLUBS

snowmobile

assists

clubs are the backbone

of the local snowmobile

industry. The clubs work

with the state Bureau of

Trails, under the Division

of Parks and Recreation,

as well as N.H. Fish and

which

with snowmobile safety

courses and oversees

manages 7,422 miles of

snowmobile trails. Clubs

The Bureau of Trails

Local

Game.

registrations.

volunteers do most of the trail maintenance and grooming.

Snowmobiles must be registered with the state, but there are no additional trail user fees.

Local clubs include:

 Mountain Meadow Riders of Conway: (603) 447-2343 or mmrsc.net

• Scrub Oaks Scramblers Snowmobile Club in Madison: sosclub@sossc. com or sossc.com.



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RECREATION

Family fun and adventure Off-slope activities

CONWAY — You don't have to be a skier to have fun in Mount Washington Valley in the winter. There are plenty of other activities to enjoy before, after or instead of hitting the slopes.

Adventure parks: Cranmore Mountain Resort (603-356-5543) offers thrilling downhill rides on its Mountain Coaster on a half-mile track where you control the speed. The two-person cars are perfect for parents and kids. The Mountain Adventure Park also features a Giant Swing, Soaring Eagle Zipline and ropes course.

Bretton Woods Mountain Resort (603-278-3320) has a 524-squarefoot indoor rock climbing wall in the Bretton Woods Base Lodge. The 30-foot climbing wall includes a variety of routes on modular hand holds and artificial rock. For those who like to stay closer to the ground, the 300-square-foot bouldering cave makes for a fun afternoon.

Bretton Woods also offers a thrilling zipline tour from high on the slopes,

descending over 1,000 feet of elevation. The ride features a dual-cable construction (you slide below two separate cables, instead of just one),



coated cables (to make for a quiet, more natural flight) and platforms.

King Pine/Purity Spring Resort (603-367-8896) in Madison is offering ice skating, sleigh rides, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Brewery tours: Enjoy a tour and tasting at Tuckerman Brewing Co. (603-447-5400) in Conway Village from noon to 5 p.m. Visit the pub at Sap House Meadery (603-539-1672) at 6 Folsom Road in Center Ossipee and learn about how this sweet nectar is made plus try a sample. Moat Mountain Brewing Co. (603-356-6381) of North Conway and Hobbs Tavern (603-539-2000) on Route 16 in West Ossipee are also great options for enjoying tastings of locally made craft beer. White Mountain Winery (603-356-9463) of Main Street in North Conway offers custom-made wines.

Dog sled rides: Can you think of a better way to take in the beauty of the White Mountains than on the back of

see next page



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Skaters in Schouler Park in North Conway. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

from preceding page

a dogsled? No snow? No worries. The Muddy Paw Sled Dog Kennel (603-545-4533) in Jefferson has specially fitted sleds with wheels, making this adventure available yearround. Bretton Woods Omni Mount Washington Hotel (603-278-1000) also offers adventures by Muddy Paw Sled Dog Kennels. You can also view two days of sled dog racing, Jan. 27-28, at the Tamworth Sled Dog Races on Lake Chocorua in Tamworth. Check the New England Sled Dog Club webpage at nesdc.org for more information. **Ice skating:** Indoor skating available at Conway Village's Ham Arena (603-447-5886) year-round. You'll also find skating under the shelter available at King Pine/Purity Spring Resort (603-367-8896) and in Schouler Park in the center of North Conway (depending on cold weather!) Skate rentals for the latter are available through Sun & Ski Sports (603-356-9411) in North Conway. Ice skating and rentals are offered at the enchanted Victorian Emerald Pond at Nestlenook (603-383-7101) in Jackson, conditions permitting.

see next page



from preceding page

Tubing: No special equipment or skills necessary here. Skiers, riders and non-skiers alike will experience the thrill of the downhill run at Mount Washington Valley's tubing parks. Facilities include Cranmore Mountain Resort's Tubing Park (603-356-5543), Purity Spring Resort/King Pine (603-367-8896), Bretton Woods Mountain Resort (603-278-3320 or 603-278-1000) and the walk-up tubing hill at Great Glen Trails (603-466-2333).

Indoor family fun and fitness: There's no shortage of fun ways to spend an indoor winter's day. Saco Vallev Sports Center (207-935-3777) in Fryeburg, Maine, offers candlepin bowling, pool tables, an arcade, and simulator golf courses. UberBlast Family Entertainment Center (603-356-5655) of North Conway offers a indoor and outdoor fun year-round - be sure to check out the arcade. Birthday parties and camp groups are welcome. Hartmann Model Railroad Museum (603-356-9922) in Intervale has a great model train layout to delight train buffs of all ages. see next page



Tubing at King Pine Ski Area. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)





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from preceding page

Many of the larger local hotels have gyms, plus Cranmore Fitness Center (603-356-6301) and Fryeburg (207-935-4299), A Better Body in Eaton (603-447-1824), Integrity 24-Hour North Conway Fitness (603-733-5572); Mountain Center Physical Therapy of Glen, Conway and Fryeburg (603-447-2533); White Mountain Aquatic Center (603-447-1824) and Ginger Rober Restorative Health and Fitness (603-986-5037), the Technogym at the Snowflake Inn (603-383-8259) and the new North Conway Community Center (603-356-2096), to name a few.

Check with the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce at (603-356-5701 or www.mtwashingtonvalley.org for a full listing.

Cranmore Fitness is open daily with a full line-up of classes, programs and tennis clinics. Day passes are available for purchase along with month to month and annual memberships. Cranmore fitness has a full cardio and weight room, functional training area, Les Mills group exercise classes, yoga, TRX Suspension



Kahuna Laguna Water Park.

Training, spin, personal training, two indoor tennis courts and scheduled tennis clinics for all ages and abilities. A full schedule of classes and pricing information can be found online at Cranmorefitness.com.

Indoor water park: Looking for an indoor swimming adventure? The Kahuna Laguna Water Park (603-356-5411) offers ton of water fun at the Red Jacket Mountain View. The cost is \$50 per person, ages 3 and up. The hours are noon to 8 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis.

Museums: When the weather outside is frightful, come inside to learn more about it at the Mount

Washington Observatory's Weather Discovery Center (603-356-2137) in North Conway. It offers interactive displays for budding meteorologists of all ages. For the younger set, the Mount Washington Valley Children's Museum (603-356-2992) offers an educational play setting in North Conway Village. From dressup in the drama center to creative building in the Lego Room, kids from infants to 8-year-olds will find plenty to do.

Spas: The valley is home to several salons and spas, including the Inn at Thorn Hill (603-383-4242), Christmas Farm Inn and Spa (603-383-4313), Omni Mount Washington Resort (603-278-1000), Tower Spa at the Mountain View Grand (877-935-0356), The White Mountain Hotel, Advanced Skin Care Center and Spa (603-356-7070), Pleasant Image Family Salon & Day Spa (603-356-3437), the Cutoff (603-356-6276) and the Root Cellar (603-356-6995), all in North Conway. Check with the Mt. Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce at (603-356-5701 or go to mtwashingtonvalley.org for a full listing.





Located at the Snowflake Inn! 603-383-6540

SKIING

Deals for beginners Learn to Ski Month

CONWAY — Many New Hampshire ski areas celebrate"Learn to Ski and Snowboard" month in January by offering a \$39 lift, lesson and rentals beginner package for downhill skiing and riding, and a \$19 trail pass, lesson and rentals beginner package at crosscountry ski areas.



Taking a lesson your first time on skis or a snowboard

Taking a lesson your first Children at the King Pine ski school. (COURTESY PHOTO)

can make all the difference in the world in terms of having a great experience, and Ski NH's Learn to Ski

dents: that is, people who have never been on skis or snowboards before.



varies, so customers should check with the resort of your choice for availability

and additional information. This program is designed for Level 1 stu-

and Snowboard Month spe-

cial is great and affordable

Hampshire participate, but

each resort's availability and

restrictions for this program

Most ski areas in New

way to try a new sport.

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Fat bike riders take to the trails on the Marshall Conservation Area in Conway. (TERRY LEAVITT PHOTO)

Rolling through winter Fat bikes

While many local outdoor recreation enthusiasts trade in bikes for skis at this time of year, a growing number of people, aided by the latest evolution of the bicycle — fat bikes — are opting to keep two wheels on the trails throughout the winter.

Three local ski touring centers, Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring, Great Glen and Bretton Woods have added fat biking on limited trails. Nordic ski areas require trail passes for fat biking and offer rentals so you can try out the sport. Many bikers seek out mountain bike trails like those in the trail system being developed by biking clubs on in the Marshall Conservation Area off West Side Road in Conway. There are now several miles of trails there, and club volunteers are working to groom some of them for winter biking.

Among the shops offering sales of fat bikes are the Bike Shop (603-356-6089) and Stan & Dan's Sports (603-356-6997. Stan & Dan's also offers rentals, and shuttle service to trailheads on an as-needed basis.





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"Mount Chocorua," by Erik Koeppel. (COURTESY PHOTO)

ART

Art Galleries

There are many galleries in the Mount Washington Valley. They include:

The Cassidy Gallery at Jackson (662-2074; cassidygallery.com).

Ellis River Art Studios and Group 8 Gallery: Jackson (Group8Gallery.com).

Jackson Art Studio and Gallery (jacksonartnh.com).

Jackson Historical Society and White Mountain Museum of Art. (jacksonhistory.org).

League of N.H. Craftsmen, 2526 White Mountain Highway, Route 16, North Conway (356-2441; nhcraftsmen.org).

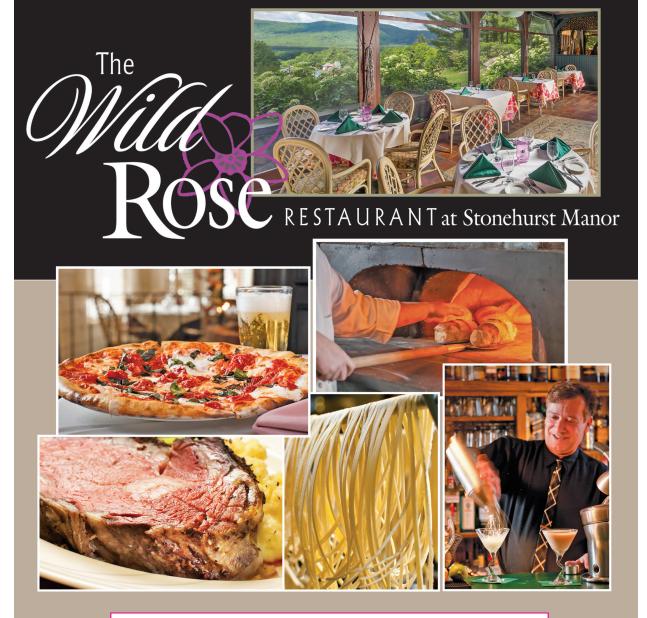
Mount Washington Valley Arts Association; 16 Norcross Circle, North Conway (356-2787); mwvarts.org.

White Mountain Photo Gallery, 95 Main Street, Jackson Village (374-6050; whitemountainphoto.com).

Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries of Art, Fryeburg Academy, 18 Bradley Street, Fryeburg, Maine (207-935-9232; fryeburgacademy.org).



Fireplace Martini Lounge & Casual Dining Homemade wood-fired bread and pizza meet seasonal salads, pit-smoked prime rib, Maine seafood and Manor-made pasta.



3351 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH 03860603-356-3113 • TheWildRoseRestaurant.com

COVERED BRIDGES

Spanning history Coverd bridges

There are various theories about why bridges were first roofed. Some say that the bridges' heavy timbers lasted longer when protected from the elements. In earlier days, young couples soon took advantage of the privacy the bridge allowed, and as a result, covered bridges came to be known as "kissing bridges."

Still preserved, many of the valley's covered bridges remain as working bridges, and a myriad of visitors to valley come just to tour the bridges. Here is a sampling of some of the area's favorite covered bridges.

Albany Covered Bridge: Six miles west of Conway and north of the Kancamagus Highway. Sometimes known as the "Lovers Bridge," this 120-foot bridge over the Swift River was built in 1858, the second bridge on this spot. With numerous trails and the Swift River nearby, it is a popular stop for tourists (closed to traffic in winter, but accessible from parking area off Kancamagus Highway).

Conway Covered Bridges: Conway has two covered bridges, located close together. Turn west at the light in Conway (at the junction of Routes 16 and 153). Bear right at the fork to find the bridge over the Saco River. This "two-span" covered bridge, built in 1890, is 235 feet long. It is open to traffic. Bear left at the fork to find the 130-foot covered bridge spanning the Swift River. Restored for foot traffic, it is not open to cars but has a pulloff and picnic tables.

Bartlett Covered Bridge: 4.5 miles east of Bartlett Village on Route 302 in Glen. This 167-foot long span has been closed to traffic since 1939. From time to time it has been home to a gift shop, which remains open today.

Jackson's "Honeymoon" bridge: This often photographed covered bridge is located on Route 16A, just off Route 16 at the entrance to Jackson Village. Built in 1876, spans 121 feet across the Ellis River.



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Mt. Washington Valley Economic Council

At Mount Washington Valley Economic Council, we have all the tools you need to build a successful business, such as:

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Micro-Enterprise Program offers help for low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs.

Revolving Loan Fund can give you a headstart on your startup or business expansion.

For more information and opportunities, visit www.mwvec.com

DIRECTORY

Resources to help Plan your trip

VISITOR INFORMATION

North Conway Village (603) 356-5947 2617 White Mountain Hwy North Conway mtwashingtonvalley.org

Scenic Vista (603) 356-2769 3654 White Mountain Hwy • Intervale visitnh.gov

Saco River Ranger Station (603) 745-3816 33 Kancamagus Hwy • Conway fs.usda.gov/whitemountain

Conway Village (603) 447-2639 250 Main St. • Conway

MEDICAL

Memorial Hospital (603) 356-5461 3073 White Mountain Hwy North Conway memorialhospitalnh.org

Huggins Hospital (603) 569-7500 240 S. Main St. • Wolfeboro hugginshospital.org

Saco River Medical Group (603) 447-3500 • (603) 383-3005 7 Greenwood Ave. • Conway 15 US Route 302 • Glen Sacodocs.com

White Mountain Community Health Center • (603) 447-8900 298 White Mountain Hwy • Conway whitemountainhealth.org

GROCERY STORES

Hannaford Supermarket (603) 356-6341 32 Mountain Valley Blvd • North Conway

Hannaford Supermarket (603) 539-7531 891 NH 16 • Ossipee Shaw's Supermarket (603) 356-5471 1150 Eastman Road North Conway shaws.com

Grant's Shop'n Save (603) 383-4282 9 US Route 302 • Glen grantsshopnsave.com

Conway Shur Fine (603) 447-5781 234 White Mountain Hwy Conway

Valuland Food Store (603) 539-4416 Indian Mound, 280 NH 16B Center Ossipee

Walmart Supercenter (603) 356-0130 46 North-South Road North Conway

LIBRARIES

North Conway Public Library (603) 356-2961 2719 Main St. • North Conway northconwaylibrary.com

Conway Public Library (603) 447-5552 15 Greenwood Ave. • Conway conwaypubliclibrary.org

Bartlett Public Library (603) 374-2755 1313 US-302 • Bartlett bartlettpubliclibrary.org

Jackson Public Library (603) 383-9731 52 Main St • Jackson jacksonlibrary.org

Madison Public Library (603) 367-8545 1885 Village Rd • Madison madisonlibrary-nh.org **Freedom Public Library** (603) 539-5176 38 Old Portland Rd • Freedom freedompubliclibrary.org

Chocorua Public Library (603) 323-8610 25 Deer Hill Rd • Chocorua chocorualibrary.org

Cook Memorial Library (603) 323-8510 93 Main St • Tamworth tamworthlibrary.org

Ossipee Public Library (603) 539-6390 74 Main St • Center Ossipee ossipee.lib.nh.us

LIQUOR STORES

New Hampshire State Liquor and Wine Outlet Stores do not sell beer, which can be found at convenience stores or supermarkets in the state.

NH Liquor & Wine Outlet #23 (603) 447-2782 234 White Mountain Hwy • Conway

NH Liquor & Wine Outlet #54 (603) 383-9000 65 US 302 • Glen

Discount Beverages Plus Cigarettes (603) 356-8844 1130 Eastman Rd • North Conway

Vista Bev & Market (603) 356-5084 10 Hurricane Mountain Rd • Intervale

MOVIE THEATERS

Mt. Valley Mall Theatre (603) 356-6410 Route 16 • North Conway

Magic Lantern (207) 647-9326 9 Depot St • Bridgton, Maine

POLICE STATIONS

Conway Police Station (603) 356-5715 35 East Conway Rd • Center Conway

NH State Police Troop E (603) 323-3333 1864 White Mtn Hwy • Tamworth

Carroll County Sheriff (603) 539-2284 95 Water Village Rd • Ossipee

Ossipee Police Station (603) 539-2011 7 Dore St, Center Ossipee

Tamworth Police Station (603) 323-8581 100 Tamworth Rd, Tamworth

Madison Police Station (603) 367-8334 1923 Village Rd • Madison

Freedom Police Station (603) 539-8268 218 Village Rd • Freedom

Fryeburg Police Station (207) 935-3323 89 Bridgton Rd • Fryeburg, Maine Bartlett Police Station (603) 356-5868 56 Town Hall Rd • Bartlett

Jackson Police Station (603) 383-9292 54 Main St • Jackson

MAILING

North Conway Post Office 78 Grove St. • North Conway

Conway Post Office 175 Main St. • Conway

The UPS Store (603) 356-4881 1857 White Mountain Hwy North Conway

LAUNDROMATS

Seavey Street Laundormat 60 Seavey St. • North Conway

Jem Coin Laundry 73 Main St. • Conway

Acorn Wash & Dry 175 Main St. • Conway

DIRECTORY

Dunkin Donuts

Conway: (603) 452-5311 402 W. Main St. • Conway North Conway: (603) 356-5676 1946 White Mountain Hwy North Conway Glen: (603) 374-9088 539 US 302 • Glen

Starbucks (603) 356-6860 1456 White Mountain Hwy North Conway

The Met Coffee House (603) 356-2332 2680 White Mountain Hwy North Conway

Aroma Joe's Coffee (603) 662-0491 Shaw's Way • North Conway 2315 White Mountain Hwy West Ossipee

Frontside Coffee Roasters (603) 356-3603 2697 White Mountain Hwy North Conway







HORSEBACK RIDING

Horseback and Sleigh rides

Several local stables offer the classic experience of riding fields and wooded trails in a horsedriven sleigh or wagon. Some also offer horseback rides.

Farm by the River B & B with Stables

North Conway • (603) 356-2694 for inn • (603) 356-6640 for stables • farmbytheriver.com

This is an award winning, owner-operated stables and bed and breakfast inn. The horses are selected for soundness and good temperament and are cared for and trained by experienced wranglers all year round.

Nestlenook Farm

Jackson • (603) 383-7101 Nestlenook Farm Wagon in Jackson has sleighs equipped with runners and wheels, depending on the terrain.

The Stables at Bretton Woods

(603) 278-8989 • www.omnihotels com

Just a few steps from the Omni Mount Washington Resort and Bretton Arms Inn. the Stables at Bretton

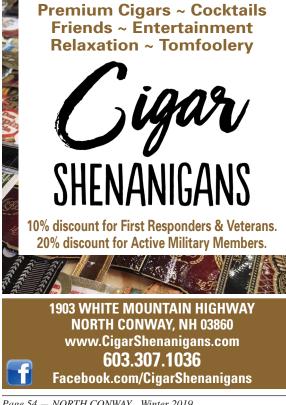


Woods offer equestrian activities for all levels. Daily group and individual rides, interactive programs, carriage rides. Reservations are encouraged.

Purity Spring Resort

Madison • (800) 373-3754 • kingpine.com Purity Spring Resort offers horse-drawn sleigh rides, 15 to 20 minutes long, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 29-Feb. 23, as well as Sunday, Jan. 20; Tuesday, Feb. 19 and Thursday, Feb. 21. Reservations are recommended. Warm yourself by an outdoor fire before and after your ride.





New Hampshire by the numbers

of the thirteen original colonies, New Hampshire was the first to declare independence from England, six months before the Declaration of



Independence was signed. As leaders in the Revolutionary cause, New Hampshire delegates also received the honor of being the first to vote for the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.



of employers in New Hampshire are small business owners.



There are 48 mountains in New Hampshire with an elevation of 4,000 feet or higher. The Appalachian Mountain Club hosts a 4k Footer Club for

> people who climb all 48 peaks at least once. Even more

THE GRID"

impressive, however, is hiking "The Grid". That's hiking each of the 48 mountains in each of the 12 months, a hardcore 576 hikes. There's even a patch for it.



we're also a mountainous one. 13 of those mountains make up the Presidential Range, 9 of them are part of the 4,000 footers. Mount Washington is the tallest at 6,288 feet.



There are 54 historic covered bridges in New Hampshire.

New Castle is the smallest town in New Hampshire. It covers .8 square miles, or 512

acres. The town is composed of one large island and several smaller islands, and serves as a scenic residential and recreational community.

110,229

Manchester is the biggest city in New Hampshire, the most recent census 110,229 people in 2015.

Manchester is also the largest city in northern New England (Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine).





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- Snowshoeing Tubing Zip Lining Ice Climbing
- Sledding Ice Skating Snow Coach Rides Hiking
- Apres Ski Fun
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For visitor information & events

MtWashingtonValley.org





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