

# NORTHWOODS

## STEWARDSHIP CENTER



## NorthWoods Trail Report

### December 31, 2015

Call 802.723.6551 for more information

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#### Winter 2016

Happy New Year! After an interminably long fall season, winter has arrived in the North Country and we are pleased, once again, to offer our weekly trails report to our loyal skiers, snowshoers and NorthWoods friends.

There are quite a few updates and changes this year--each explained in more detail below--that broaden our presence throughout the Kingdom and reach out to a greater audience. The two most significant updates include a new program partnership with Q Burke Mountain Resort and taking over grooming duties at the Willoughby State Forest Nordic ski trails on the CCC Road and Bartlett Mountain near Mt. Hor.

Of course, NorthWoods will continue to offer low-cost skiing and snowshoeing on our own East Charleston trails system and several local schools will be participating in weekly winter recreation programs throughout the winter season--which we hope will last well into March.

With our first significant snowfall this past week and cold temperatures forecast in the future, we hope that winter is here to stay. A note of restraint for our over-anxious skier friends, though: despite the recent snow, there is still very thin (and wet) cover throughout the region. For this reason, we will wait for another few inches before we start to pack and groom our trails. In the meantime, skiers and snowshoers are welcome to visit our trails (and help with the packing) but be advised that early winter conditions persist.

Have fun, be safe, and we'll see you on the trails!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NorthWoods Trails Update

NorthWoods made a number of upgrades to our trail system in 2015, including extensive brushing and improvement work on our Echo Lake/Tripp Hill Trail network which continues to expand and improve. Other changes that will be great in the long run, but are slower to take shape, include two new bridge spans on the Leadership Trail. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get the decking on these bridges yet and, as a result, **the Leadership Trail is temporarily CLOSED.**

Other changes include a new trail map (hot off the presses this week) and a soon-to-be-completed winter brochure that will pair with the new map. Over the summer we installed a new outdoor information kiosk (by our front walkway) and here you will find ski and snowshoe information, maps, register box, program information, etc. Of course, if you arrive during business hours (8-4, M-F), we will be happy to assist you with trail information, rentals and advise.

Our snow report will continue throughout the winter months and will also be available (on a weekly basis) on our [website](#). Once we have a sufficient base, we expect to groom 2-3 times each week and will report on trail conditions accordingly.

### Willoughby State Forest

This winter, NorthWoods is partnering with Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (VT FPR) to maintain and groom the Nordic ski trail system near Mt Hor. We want to recognize our friends at Memphremagog Ski Touring Foundation (MSTF) for taking this on in recent years and VT FPR for giving us a shot at it this year.

The Willoughby Trails are located off of the CCC Road in Westmore--just south of Lake Willoughby on Vermont Route 5A. There are large parking lots on either side of the road at the base of the CCC Road and an information kiosk where skiers and snowshoers can learn more.

NorthWoods will be grooming roughly 12 kilometers of trails for both classic and skate skiing. There are also some opportunities for backcountry skiing as well. Conditions permitting, we will groom 3 days a week and report on conditions here. Access is by donation and all funds support trail maintenance operations.

A note to walkers and dog owners: there has been much debate in the past about whether/not to allow dogs on the Willoughby ski trails due to the tendency to 'track up' and poop in the ski trails. NorthWoods welcomes dogs and walkers but asks that--per Westmore Town Ordinance--dogs be kept on a leash and owners dispose of any waste. In general, hikers, walkers, snowshoers and dogs should stay to one side of the trail to preserve the groomed ski trails. Thank you for cooperating and spreading the word!

### Q Burke

NorthWoods is teaming up with Q Burke Mountain Resort to provide a variety of winter programs this year. Once the new Hotel is complete, NorthWoods will staff a recreation kiosk, offer ski and snowshoe rentals, and provide personal lessons and tours. We will use the Dashney Farm Trails (a short distance down the road) where Q Burke grooms roughly 12-15 kilometers of Nordic trail.

NorthWoods will provide daily 11am group Nordic Ski Lessons Thursday- Sunday as well as Snowshoe Ecology Tours Thursdays and Saturdays at 2pm. Friday evenings, NorthWoods will lead an evening Snowshoe Tour at 5pm.

For more information on our Q Burke programming, check our [website](#) or go to the [Q Burke](#) website.

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## TRAIL REPORT UPDATES

One of our goals at NorthWoods is to provide a variety of educational content to as many people as we can. The Trail Report provides us with a targeted audience with a particular interest in conservation, outdoor recreation, trails and seasonal goings-on. Together with our program mailings and our frequently updated website ([www.northwoodscenter.org](http://www.northwoodscenter.org)), the Trail Report provides a (mostly) weekly reminder about what is going on at and

around NorthWoods.

New this year, NorthWoods will provide weekly updates on the Willoughby State Forest Nordic Trails in Westmore and, to a lesser extent, the programs and happenings at Q Burke Mountain Resort where NorthWoods is offering a variety of Nordic ski and snowshoe lessons and naturalist programs.

Let me know what you think. Email [Luke](#) with comments and suggestions.

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## **NORTHWOODS NORDIC TRAILS**

**Ten Mile Square Road, East Charleston, Vt**

### **Winter Details**

We are open for skiing and snowshoeing during business hours, Monday-Friday, and offer a variety of terrain and trails. Staff is on-hand to provide rentals, answer questions, distribute maps and lead guided programs (see our [website](#) for a complete list of winter activities). Trails are groomed twice weekly (generally Fridays and Mondays), weather permitting. Maps and information are available at the Lodge and at selected trail locations. Trail donations are collected on the honor system and help pay for grooming and trail maintenance expenses. For after hours and weekend use, check-in at our back entry.

**NorthWoods Business Hours:** Mon - Fri 8am- 4:30pm

**Trail use:** \$5/person/day (suggested donation)

**Ski and Snowshoe Rentals:** \$5/day

Weekend and after hours Rentals are by appointment

**Maps and Sign-in** at rear entrance.

We are dog-friendly! *(Please clean up after your pet)*

***PLEASE SKI SAFELY! AND HAVE FUN!***

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## **SNOW REPORT: NorthWoods Nordic Trails**

**December, 2015**

New snow this week: 6.0"

At the Stake: 6.25"

Trail base: minimal

Trails groomed: 0.0 kilometers

Conditions: early season but white

***PLEASE NOTE:*** NorthWoods trails have 'early season conditions', meaning there may be hazards on the trails, including thin cover, some wet crossings and shallow-depth rocks, stumps and branches. Please us caution.

<b>Trail Name</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Status/condition</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Leadership Trail	2.5K	closed	all trails are currently un-groomed
Tamarack Island	1.5K	open, wet	
Up and Away	0.5K	open	
Meadow Loop	1.0K	open	

Lower Clyde	1.5K	open
Shed Trail	0.25K	closed
Pond Loop	0.25K	open
Tripp Hill Connector	1.5K	closed
Above and Beyond	1.0K	closed
Echo Lake Trail	1.5K	closed
Olympic	0.5K	closed
<b>Total</b>	<b>12K</b>	

**NorthWoods Snowshoe Trails**

Trail	Length	Condition	Notes
Lang Brook Trail	1.0K	open	all trails are open but may have thin cover
Gardner Path	0.75K	open	
Lower Clyde	1.5K	open	
Echo Lake Shore Trail	0.5K	open	
Wolcott Homestead Trail	0.75K	open	
Tripp Hill West	2.5K	open	
Beaver Meadow Trail	0.5K	open	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.0K</b>		

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**WILLOUGHBY STATE FOREST NORDIC TRAILS**  
 VT Route 5A, Westmore, Vt

**Winter Details**

NorthWoods is partnering with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (VT FPR) to maintain and groom the winter ski trails in Willoughby State Forest. Access is available from the CCC Road parking lot on Vermont Route 5A in Westmore, just south of Lake Willoughby. Trails are open to the public seven days a week on a self-serve basis. Trail donations are collected on the honor system ad help pay for grooming and trail maintenance expenses. Donations can be made at the trailhead kiosk or sent to NorthWoods PO Box 220 East Charleston, VT 05833.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Trails are groomed for classic skiing (with set tracks) and skate skiing. All other uses, including snowshoeing, walking, crampons, etc. should avoid the groomed lanes and keep to one side. There is no ski patrol or afternoon sweep on the trails system and visitors use the trails at their own risk. Trails are groomed 2-3 days per week, weather permitting. Maps and information are available at the trailhead and at [www.northwoodscenter.org](http://www.northwoodscenter.org).

**DOGS:** Dog can significantly impact the quality of groomed trails--particularly for skate skiing--by leaving weaving and wandering tracks. In addition, many visitors--particularly children--are not comfortable around dogs. Hikers and dog walkers are encouraged to use other trails in the Willoughby area. If you choose to use the groomed trails, **visitors MUST keep all dogs on a leash! Please clean up after your dog on the groomed trails and in the parking area.**

**PLEASE SKI SAFELY! AND HAVE FUN!**

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**SNOW REPORT: Willoughby State Forest Nordic Trails****December, 2015**

New snow this week: 6-8"

Trail base: 2'''

Trails groomed: 0.0 kilometers

Conditions: early season snow with some thin cover and wet areas

**PLEASE NOTE:** NorthWoods trails have 'early season conditions', meaning there may be hazards on the trails, including thin cover, some wet crossings and shallow-depth rocks, stumps and branches. Please us caution.

Trail	Length	Condition	Notes
CCC Road	2.75K	open	all trails are currently un-groomed
Bartlett Mtn Loop	1.5K	open	
Connector	1.0K	closed	very wet, not recommended
Bartlett Mtn Road	2.5K	closed	
Small Loop	1.5K	open	
Middle Loop	2.75K	open	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.0K</b>		

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**Q BURKE MOUNTAIN RESORT**  
**Dashney Road, East Burke, Vt**

**Winter Details**

NorthWoods is partnering with Q Burke Mountain Resort to offer Nordic ski and snowshoe rentals, lessons and guided programs. When completed, NorthWoods will staff a recreation kiosk in the new Q Burke Hotel and Conference Center. A shuttle bus will run between the Hotel and Dashney Nordic Center where Q Burke will be grooming roughly 10 kilometers of Nordic terrain.

For more information on the Q Burke Nordic Center, including snow and trail conditions, visit:

<http://qburke.com/skiing-and-riding/more/q-burke-nordic-centre/>

With a tentative January Hotel opening date, NorthWoods will provide Nordic services Thursday through Sunday. A detailed schedule of activities is listed below. Check the [Q Burke](#) and [NorthWoods](#) websites for the latest updates or email [ski@northwoodscenter.org](mailto:ski@northwoodscenter.org).

**Nordic Ski Lessons**

*Thursday through Sunday at 11am*

NorthWoods will teach the beginner progression, helping you improve efficiency and enjoyment on skis.

Group lessons offered daily; private lessons by appointment

Group: Junior (6-18) \$25, Adult (19+) \$30

Private: Junior (6-18) \$40, Adult (19+) \$50

**Winter Ecology Snowshoe Tours**

*Thursdays and Saturdays, 2-4pm*

Approximate 1-mile outing with tips on tracking, winter tree identification, and natural history  
Snowshoes provided; appropriate for all ages (children accompanied by an adult)

Cost: Adult/Junior: \$25/\$15

**Moonlit Snowshoe Tours**

*Fridays 5-7pm*

Approximate 1-mile outing with tips on winter ecology and night time wildlife  
Cocoa and campfire to follow at QBurke Hotel

Cost: Adult/Junior:\$29/\$19

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Until Next Time, Take Care!

Luke O'Brien

NorthWoods Stewardship Center

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