

NORTHWOODS

STEWARDSHIP CENTER



NorthWoods Trail Report

January 22, 2016

Call 802.723.6551 for more information

Blue Skies, Full Moon

Its crisp and sunny out right now and the waxing moon will be rising in a clear sky tonight. These cold nights are helping our winter trails firm up and freeze over. This past week was really our first best opportunity to groom the trails at NorthWoods and at Mount Hor. And even though there was very little additional snow this week, the trail conditions continue to improve. I know there are quite a few people out there that wish we could receive the dumping of snow that will fall on Washington, DC this weekend.

Nevertheless, it looks like we may be able to salvage what's left of this winter and enjoy some descent skiing and snowshoeing. As you will see in the snow reports, we are gradually expanding our trail coverage and winter is not quite half over.

Be aware that you will still find wet spots and shallow cover wherever you go.

For up to date conditions updates, visit our [winter programs](#) page for details. Here you will also find maps for the NorthWoods and Willoughby State Forest trails. (Or you can stop NorthWoods for a paper copy).

We'll see you on the trails.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NorthWoods Trails Update

This week, we opened up the Leadership Loop and made a pass on Tripp Hill Connector and Above and Beyond. Both routes will improve with additional snow but are good to go. Again, beware of shallow hazards (rocks, stumps, wet areas). All local trails--Tamarack, Olympic and Echo Boulder--are groomed as well and, strung together, make for a nice tour. We will wait for some more snow before we open up Lower Clyde, Up and Away, and Gardner Path.

Meanwhile, all of our trails are open for snowshoeing and the woods trails, in particular, are looking great. It's a winter wonderland out there right now!

You will find an updated [NorthWoods Trail Map](#) on our website and at select junctions on our trail system. Weekend visitors can register in our outdoor information kiosk and we welcome your donations. Our snow report will continue throughout the winter months and will be archived on our [winter programs](#) page. You can also check in for daily updates. 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

After a string of challenges at Willoughby, we completed our first full coverage of grooming this week. All trails are open and groom with the notable exception of the Connector Trail between CCC Road and Bartlett Mountain Road. Tracks are set and the Bartlett Mountain Loop is opened too!

There are 12 kilometers of terrain for both classic and skate skiing at Willoughby State Forest. Please find maps at our trailhead kiosk. Again, donations are welcome. 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

Still waiting...

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.

Stay tuned.

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 targetted 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), 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.

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!

SNOW REPORT: NorthWoods Nordic Trails

January 22, 2016

New snow this week: 3.5"

At the Stake: 9.75"

Trail base: 4.0"

Trails groomed: 10.0 kilometers

Conditions: powder, packed powder

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 Name	Length	Status/condition	Notes
Leadership Trail	2.5K	open, groomed	some shallow hazards on downhill
Tamarack Island	1.5K	open, groomed	groomed, packed powder, some wet spots
Up and Away	0.5K	closed	
Meadow Loop	1.0K	open	groomed, packed powder
Lower Clyde	1.5K	open, backcountry	
Shed Trail	0.25K	open, groomed	groomed, packed powder
Pond Loop	0.25K	open	groomed, packed powder
Tripp Hill Connector	1.5K	open, early season	one groomer pass, some wet spots

Above and Beyond	1.0K	open, early season	one groomer pass, some shallow hazards
Echo Lake Trail	1.5K	open to glacial erratic	groomed, packed powder
Echo Lake Loop (via Hopkins Hill)	6K	closed	
Olympic	0.5K	open	groomed, packed powder
Total	18K		10K groomed

NorthWoods Snowshoe Trails

Trail	Length	Condition	Notes
Lang Brook Trail	1.0K	open	all trails are open
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	
Total	8.0K		

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.

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!

SNOW REPORT: Willoughby State Forest Nordic Trails

January 19, 2016

New snow this week: 3.5"

Trail base: 4.0"

Trails groomed: 11.0 kilometers

Conditions: powder, packed powder, wind blown; tracks set, some thin cover and wet areas

PLEASE NOTE: Trails may 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, groomed	packed powder, tracks set
Bartlett Mtn Loop	1.5K	open, groomed	packed powder
Connector	1.0K	closed	wet, not recommended
Bartlett Mtn Road	2.5K	open, groomed	
Small Loop	1.5K	open	packed powder, tracks set
Middle Loop	2.75K	open	packed powder, tracks set
Total	12.0K		11 K groomed

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.

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

Until Next Time, Take Care!

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