

**December 2023 – February 2024**

Bring water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed for winter hikes. Distances are round trip and approximate, as are elevation gains. Hike leader has discretion to refuse anyone who is not adequately prepared. If you are sick or have any symptoms, please stay home and join us next time.

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**December 2, Saturday, rain date Sunday – Poultney Area Trek**

Our destination will be determined by the weather, but plan on 3-5 miles of moderate hiking with some possible climbs and likely a view. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed depending on conditions. Call leader for meeting place and time. **Diane Bargiel, 413-687-1109**

**December 9, Saturday -- Mt. Tabor Scramble, Mt. Tabor**

Climb to a rocky outcropping with nice views. Approximately 3 miles with some steep climbing, 750' elevation gain. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed. Vaccination recommended for carpooling. Call leader for meeting place and time. **Larry Walter, 802-775-3855**

**January 6, Saturday – South Hill Loop, Stockbridge**

Depending on weather, we will either hike or snowshoe from South Hill Road to Fletcher Brook Road on one old road and return by another. There are good views and an interesting old cemetery. Good footing, 5.6 miles, 900' total climb. Current covid vaccination required if you carpool. We will leave from Main Street Park in Rutland near 27 South Main St. at 9 a.m. and return around 3 p.m. Please contact the leader to make sure the outing will occur as scheduled. **Herb Ogden, 802-293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)**

**January 20, Saturday – Cook Mountain Preserve, Ticonderoga, NY**

This has been a popular K Section hike in recent years and the trail has recently been improved. We will climb to beautiful views of Lake George and Vermont, and loop past a Civil War-era cemetery on the way down. 3 miles, moderate, with a steep section. Spikes or snowshoes will be needed. Vaccination required for carpooling. Call leader for meeting place and time. **Allison Henry, 802-779-4404**

**January 28, Sunday – Pine Hill, Rutland**

We'll start at the Rutland Country Club, climbing and traversing the hilltop for sweeping views of the (hopefully) snow-covered peaks to the east. Then we'll head through the woods to Rutland's gem, Pine Hill, choosing our route based on conditions but including some fine views and Rocky Pond. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed. Meet at the north end of the Country Club parking lot at 10 a.m. **Sue Thomas, 802-773-2185**

**February 3, Saturday – New Sunrise Shelter, Brandon**

Hike south on the Long Trail from Brandon Gap to check out the brand-new Sunrise Shelter. The new shelter is about a mile and a half south of the old one and not far from the junction with the Chittenden Brook Trail. 4 miles, moderate, with a steady climb out of Brandon Gap. Spikes or snowshoes will be needed. Vaccination required for carpooling. Call leader for meeting place and time. **Allison Henry, 802-779-4404**

**February 10, Saturday – Lily Pond, Bomoseen**

We'll snowshoe on old roads through the woods and past abandoned slate quarries to a remote beaver pond. In the past we've found abundant animal tracks, including otter slides on the piles of waste slate. 3 miles moderate. We need a good snow cover, so check with the leader ahead of time -- a different destination may be substituted if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate -- and for meeting place and time. Vaccination recommended for carpooling. **Sue Thomas, 802-773-2185**

**February 24, Saturday – Rail Trail Walk, West Pawlet**

An easy walk along the scenic rail trail, with views of farmlands and hills in the picturesque Mettawee Valley. The distance will likely be 2-3 miles. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed, vaccination recommended for carpooling. Call leaders for meeting place and time. **Larry Walter & Vivien Bebee, 802-353-3976**