

December 2025 – February 2026

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.

December 6, Saturday – Equinox Preserve, Manchester

We'll hike a combination of routes in this beautiful natural area on the lower elevations of Mount Equinox. Distance and difficulty will depend on which we choose, but likely 4-6 miles with some climbing and some flatter terrain. Snowshoes may be needed if the weather demands. Rain date Sunday. Call for meeting place and time. **Diane Bargiel, 413-687-1109**

December 13, Saturday – Wildcat Crag, Chittenden

Hike to Leffert's Pond and then climb to the summit of Wildcat Crag. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed, dependent on the weather conditions, rain date Sunday. Difficult, 5 miles, with about 1000' elevation gain. Call for meeting place and time. **Larry Walter, 802-775-3855**

January 3, Saturday – Mendon Peak, Mendon

Climb Rutland County's highest trailless peak on the well-established bushwack route following Eddy Brook. Enjoy views of Killington Peak to the east and the hills of Shrewsbury to the south. 7 miles, difficult with a 2000-ft elevation gain. Snowshoes will be required. Call for the meeting place and time. **Sheamus Fagan, 802-498-8751**

January 10, Saturday – Lapland Pond, Lake George Wild Forest, Dresden

Hike moderately rolling hills past several remote ponds. Minimal elevation gain, 5 miles, moderate. Option to continue to Millman Pond depending on conditions and group preference. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed. Call leader for meeting place and time. Must call by 5 p.m. Friday to sign up. **Allison Henry, 802-779-4404**

January 17, Saturday – Hot Dog Roast, Location TBA

We're reviving a popular mid-winter tradition. Join us for a short hike or snowshoe followed by lunch in the outdoors. Bring hot dogs or whatever you want to roast over the fire. We'll decide on a location based on the conditions at the time. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed. Call for meeting place and time. **Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee, 802-353-3976**

January 24, Saturday – Aitken State Forest East Road, Mendon

We'll follow the East Road south from the Tamarack Notch trailhead, then follow another good wood road east to the edge of the State Forest, where there's a wide view to the west. Round trip 4.8 mi., total climb about 600', moderate difficulty. We'll hike unless there's enough snow for snowshoeing or skiing. Bad weather date January 31. For meeting place and time contact **Herb Ogden, 802-772-7322, hogden@vermontel.net**

February 14, Saturday – Sugar Hollow Brook, Pittsford

Celebrate Valentines Day with a short but scenic afternoon hike or snowshoe featuring a babbling brook and a fearsome beast! Bring hot drinks and treats to share if you'd like. 1.5 miles, mostly easy with a short climb, option to go longer if we choose. Bad weather date Sunday. Call for meeting time and place. **Sue Thomas, 802-773-2185**

February 28, Saturday – Chittenden Brook Ski, Chittenden

This trip requires advanced backcountry skiing skills, including the ability to make at least controlled snowplow turns. Climbing skins are not necessary. We must have two or more cars – leaving one at the Chittenden Brook pull-out on route 73 we'll head to Brandon Gap and ski the relatively easy ascent south on the Long Trail to the Chittenden Brook Trail (2.3 mi.). This 1.8-mile trail, though not generously wide and gentle, was designed with skiing in mind. It has just enough space and runout to be fun. Once we reach the campground, it's an easy 2.5-mile ski out to route 73 on a logging road. Call for meeting place and time. **Dave Coppock, 802-683-1614**