



279 NH Route 16-302, P.O. Box 646, Intervale, NH, 03845 USA 603.356.9920
located next to Ragged Mountain Equipment and Scarecrow Pub

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For Immediate Release
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20th ANNUAL CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL - February 22, 2009

Bring your friends, bring your family, and join us for the 20th Annual Chocolate Festival on Sunday, February 22nd. Cross country ski, snowshoe, or drive between trailside chocolate stops from 11 am to 4 pm and then visit other area businesses for more chocolate and discounts for snowtubing! This annual event presented by the members of the Mt. Washington Valley Ski Touring Foundation along with area businesses is a fundraiser for this intown Nordic and Snowshoe Center providing groomed trails connecting North Conway Village and Intervale.

The last Sunday in February is now known as the "sweetest day on the trails" and the one day of the year when sweet indulgence is guilt free! Every year hundreds of chocoholics travel between 12 and 15 kilometers of gently rolling network trails stopping along the way to enjoy chocolate prepared in a variety of ways. Participants have enjoyed everything from chocolate fondue, handmade peanut butter cups, cookies of all kinds, chili prepared with chocolate, chocolate-dipped strawberries, chocolate fountains, and brownie sundaes, to the classic hot chocolate topped with whipped cream.

This year, the Special Event Festival Pass will include **Nine Trailside Chocolate Stops**, including the new stop at the Whitaker Woods Meeting House, **Five Additional Area Chocolate Stops**, and a **Discount on Tubing** at Cranmore Mountain. Skiers and snowshoers will also find a **New Refreshment Stop** located on the Intervale Trail between the Touring Center and the 1785 Inn. The Believe in Books Literacy Foundation will be selling refreshments, scarves, and offering comic relief to raise funds for their non-profit. Be sure to plan to stop for a break to enjoy the spectacular mountain views in the Intervale and to help support their literacy initiatives in Northern New England.

Chocolate Festival passes are \$20 for adults and children if purchased in advance, and \$25 if purchased the day of the event. Get an early start on your chocolate tour, avoid the crowds, and SAVE by purchasing your ticket in advance online, at the Touring Center or any of the trailside chocolate stops. The Chocolate Festival Brochure and Trail Map with all details will be available the day of the event at any trailside stop.

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The **Nine Trailside Chocolate Stops**, as listed by location beginning at the Northern end of the trails, include: Riverside Inn Bed & Breakfast, Old Field House Country Inn Suites and Townhouses, New England Inn and Tuckerman's Restaurant, Touring Center located at Ragged Mountain Equipment, 1785 Inn, Adventure Suites, Stonehurst Manor, Eastern Inns, and Whitaker Woods Meeting House. The new Whitaker Woods stop will feature the chocolatier from Dove Chocolate Discoveries offering samples of homemade restaurant quality desserts that you can learn to prepare. This southern most stop of the tour offers parking at the John Fuller School, tickets, and a great way to begin your day. Visit all of these stops then plan your route to visit these additional **Five Area Chocolate Stops**. The Bernerhof Inn located on Route 302 in Glen will be offering Swiss Chocolate Marzipan Taste Treats from 3 - 5:30 pm. The Cathedral Ledge Resort on the corner of Hurricane Mountain Road and Route 16 invites participants to stop between 11 am - 8 pm for hot chocolate and their own kit for S'mores to prepare outside by the bonfire. Then continue traveling on Hurricane Mountain Road to the Buttonwood Inn on Mt. Surprise offering some delectable homemade chocolate treat between 11 am - 5 pm. Two new area businesses will also be participating this year. Molly B's Ice Cream Shoppe, located on Route 16 just a short walk from the Whitaker Meeting House, will be serving a choice of a hot fudge sundae or chocolate ice cream cone. The Vintner's Cellar Winery at Willow Place, located south of North Conway Village on Route 16 next to Bellini's Ristorante Italiano, invites all adults to stop for a taste of their Chocolate Tart Cherry Port - a nice way to end the 'Sweetest Day on the Trails'.

Also new this year, there will be three trailside restaurants open for lunch and refreshments for those interested in buying something to eat that is not chocolate! Tuckerman's Restaurant at the New England Inn will open at noon, Moat Mountain Smokehouse and Brewing Company opens at 11:30 am, and 1785 Inn will offer soup and salad from 11 am - 4 pm.

Limited parking is available at each of the stops along with the Intervale Post Office, the Scenic Vista Welcome Center, John Fuller School, and NH Electric Cooperative located next to Ragged Mountain Equipment. Many participants take the chocolate tour with friends and leave a second car at the end of the trail. If you need a ride back to your car, there will be a complimentary shuttle service running continuously from 1 pm - 5 pm with stops at John Fuller School next to Whitaker Woods Meeting House, Stonehurst Manor, New England Inn, Touring Center, 1785 Inn, and Adventure Suites.

For online ordering, complete and up-to-the-minute Festival details, visit www.MWVSkiTouring.org or for tickets, rentals and information visit the Touring Center located at Ragged Mountain Equipment, 279 NH Route 16-302 in Intervale or call 603-356-9920.

Join us and discover winter's secrets!