

NNEC-SIA Tour

Saturday, July 20, 2024, in Hartland at 9:45 and later Windsor, VT

This tour will begin with the twin-turbine hydro-station that was designed by our tour-guide. Jay Boeri is a Mechanical Engineer who specializes in hydropower. We will learn a lot from Jay. His station is in the old mill village immediately south of Hartland's Three Corners Village. There were 5 adjoining mills there that were powered by one original dam. They were collectively called the Gulf Mills.



After lunch, we will go to the “Great Dam” (below) that powered the mills in Windsor. It is a half mile upstream from the American Precision Museum of which Edwin Battison was its founding director. Jay can tell us a lot about that.



For years, the waterpower facilities were just an abandoned set of mill buildings and an intact dam that the town wanted to divest itself of. Ed Battison was a mechanical genius, later a Smithsonian curator, who loved to collect interesting things. He acquired perpetual use of the dam from the town for \$1.00 and formed the Franklin Museum of Nature and the Human Spirit.

All of the interesting artifacts that wouldn't fit there are stored in his other buildings. We will have fun exploring them that afternoon. One of the buildings contains the very first Stanley Steamer, plus a few others. The main house will captivate us for hours exploring the ingenious devices that Ed Battison collected. Jay Boeri can tell us all about them. Jay is the caretaker/curator of this collection as well as the head of the Franklin Museum. This tour will be worth the trip just to talk with Jay about all of this, including hydro power generation.





Lunch will be at the Harpoon Brewery in Windsor. It will include our annual meeting.

Directions

Set your GPS for Mike's Store & Deli at 148 US Rt. 5 in Hartland, VT. Get off of I-91 at exit #9

Go north on RTe 5 & 12 for just 0.8 miles; plan a few minutes to get your coffee and snacks and use Mike's restroom. Then back-track 0.2 miles and turn left down the steep drive to the hydro-station, there's a ribbon on tree. (DO NOT skip Mike's and try to just turn right to go down the hydro driveway!! Believe us, it doesn't work.) There's ample parking at the bottom of the driveway. By the same token, we can't turn back left at the top of the drive; go up to Mike's and turn around first.

To get to the Harpoon Brewery, backtrack to I-91, go over it and then go another 1.8 miles. Turn left into a business park. Then take your second left onto Artison's Way; Harpoon Brewery is on the right. We have the outdoor Beer Garden; it has picnic tables and a roof. It's just to the right of the main entrance, shown below. We'll order individually.

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Leaving here, we turn left at the top of the drive onto US Rt-5 south into Windsor, at 2.8 miles. Then turn right at the 2nd light onto Union St. (across from Cumberland Farms). Follow Rt-44 for maybe a half mile and when it curves left, turn into the third house on the left (shown below). Pull way down across the grass and park by the big green roofed Foundry building. (Bring bug spray.)





Stop #1 Mike's

