

**NNEC - SIA SPRING TOUR - FRIDAY, MAY 30th, 2025**  
**9:30 A.M. MERRIMACK, N.H. (rain or shine)**  
**MEET AT WATSON PARK, 441 Daniel Webster Hwy., MERRIMACK, N.H.**

BRING YOUR LUNCH - There are picnic tables in the park under cover

From Dave Coughlin / NNEC-SIA:

Attention: For those with phone or auto GPS - I would recommend using it, as it's easier than directions.

Directions: From Rt. 93 North or South, get on Rt. 293 and from there go onto the Everett Turnpike heading south. Take Exit 11, turn right at light and right again at four-way intersection. Go under the highway and turn left onto Rt. 3. South. From here it's approximately 2 miles to Watson park across from the fire station. Turn into the parking lot. If your taking Rt. 3 south rather than the Everett Turnpike, the park is right after a gas station and before the bridge.

From the South on the Everett Turnpike, take Exit 11, turn right, then left at stoplight onto Rt. 3 South and follow the directions above.

Schedule:

9:30 A.M. - Town historian Chuck Mower will meet us in the park which once was the site of numerous mills run by waterpower along the Souhegan River beginning in the 1730's. Over the decades these mills consisted of cotton mills, woolen mills, shoddy mills, a tannery, shoe factories, carpet mill, leather mill, nail mill, excelsior mill and other mills. The last mill buildings were torn down in the year 2000 and this was a hazardous waste site before becoming a town park. Some mill remains are visible today.

After the presentation, we need to car pool for the next couple of stops, returning to the park for lunch. Chuck Mower will explain to us how he makes Windsor Chairs in his barn.

Directions: Take a right out of park onto Rt. 3 South. Travel approximately 3 miles and turn right onto Depot St. after the Reeds Ferry Market and BEFORE the BP gas station. Chuck's place is the colonial brick house and large red barn. Do not park in the driveway, park in front of the house.

Next, we drive down Depot St., turn right and park along the road or in the parking area. This was the site of a railroad depot. We will walk down a path to where Reed's Ferry was once located. Oxcarts would bring bricks, granite, lumber, hay, etc. to the Merrimack River to load onto canal boats.

Soon after departing, look to your left for a large mill complex. This was the site of the Fessenden and Lowell Cooperage going back to the mid-1800's. The mill buildings are still used today by companies. We return to the park for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION: Three Sites. Leaving the park, take a left onto Rt. 3 heading south. After crossing the bridge, turn left onto Railroad St. There we will find the only Merrimack railroad station in original condition outside. This is a brief stop.

Go back to Rt. 3, turn left and drive through 2 stoplights and get into the left lane as you see the cemetery on your left. This is where Matthew Thornton, signer of the Declaration of Independence is buried. Turn left at the stoplight and go down the hill, then turn left at the bottom. Very soon is a SHARP right that takes you under the railroad tracks. Continue straight ahead past the model airplane field, bear left and keep going until you reach the parking area.

We will look at the site of Matthew Thornton's ferry. Once Merrimack and Litchfield were part of the same town and the towns were very closely related, unlike today.

Then return the way we came. Turn left at lights back onto Rt. 3 south. We drive about 4 miles to the Harris Pond plaza on the right. Do not turn into it at the lights. Continue to the southern entrance, turn right and park nearby.

We will receive a short visit with the recently opened New England Typewriter shop and will be shown a few typewriters from the early 1900's, and listen to the shop owner talk about them.

If you have questions about the tour, either call or write Dave Coughlin at [ykforestry@yahoo.com](mailto:ykforestry@yahoo.com) or 603-714-4052 BEFORE the day of the tour, as I'll be too busy that day. Hope you can make it!