The Ford Model T Snowmobile Club will hold its 18th annual meet at the Remick Museum this weekend. (Courtesy photo)

The Remick Museum in Tamworth will host its 14th annual ice harvest and winter carnival on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The day will feature activities for all ages, including traditional ice block cutting, piking and hoisting with the harvested ice transported to the farm’s ice house by teams of oxen for storage.

Visitors can also listen to live music by Brier Hill Band in the Hearth Room, try their hand on a winter-themed craft or go on a scavenger hunt. Self-guided tours of the museum are available, including a walk through the modest apartment Doc Remick shared with his wife Marion Miles Remick; take in the “Our Medicine Through Time” and “From Fields to Fiber” exhibits and warm up with Farmhouse Kitchen favorites for purchase at the Sugarhouse, including cook-your-own hot dogs and s’more kits for enjoying at an outdoor campfire.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to meet Chinoek dogs, the New Hampshire state dog, a breed which was developed by Arthur Walden of Wonalancet in 1917 and were named for Chinoek, who became the most famous dog in the world after leading his team to victory in the first international sled dog race in Berlin in 1922.

The museum is also hosting the 18th annual meet of the Model T Ford Snowmobile Club, which opens on Friday, Feb. 3, and continues through Sunday, Feb. 5. Rides will be available on the antique machines, snow conditions permitting, which were modified for winter use with a kit developed by Virgil D. White, a Ford dealer from Ossipee. White received a patent for an attachment designed to convert a Model T into a “Snowmobile,” a name coined and copyrighted by White in 1917.

He put it on the market during the winter of 1922 after “perfecting it in every detail,” selling the attachments exclusively through Ford dealers. The Snowmobile attachment consisted of the complete package necessary to convert a Ford into a reliable snow machine. Skis made of metal and wood and rear mounted tracks were the most noticeable differences.

The standard passenger car rear axle and drive-shaft, rear spring, and radius rods were removed and replaced with a 7-to-1 Ford truck worm gear drive line attached to the frame by a pair of cantilevered semi-elliptical springs. Special heavy-duty wheels to fit the TT rear axle were provided along with anti-skip chains.

Farm Specialty Manufacturing Company later bought the patents of the Snowmobile Company and sent its managers to run the factory in West Ossipee. From 1924 to 1929, the company manufactured about 3,300 units per year in its plant at West Ossipee and had a branch warehouse in St. Paul, Minnesota. The company closed in 1929, and the factory mysteriously burned down shortly thereafter.
The Remick family settled in Tamworth more than 200 years ago. Six generations of the same family worked the farm, prospered, and were active in the town’s history. The last two generations of the Remick family produced country doctors: Dr. Edwin Remick and Dr. Edwin “Doc” Crafts Remick, each of whom served the rural community where they were born and raised. Together they provided 99 years of continual medical care for the residents of Tamworth and surrounding towns.

Before his death in 1993, Dr. Edwin Crafts Remick created a foundation to preserve the family homestead, farm and history of the country doctors in a way that the public could learn from and enjoy. Doc Remick had an ice house at his Hillside Dairy business in the 1930s and was the first dairy north of Rochester to have a pasteurization plant. In addition to the cattle barn, there is also an English barn, a sugar house, an ice house and the Captain Enoch Remick house, which is on the national register of historic places, on the 100-acre homestead property.

Harvesting natural ice was a big business in New England during the 19th century and at one time ice trains with 50 cars made daily runs from nearby Milton to Boston, where as many as 600,000 tons were used each year. To this day, the historic Rock-yold-Deephaven camp, located on Squam Lake in Holderness, still harvests ice for use in ice boxes in their cabins.