



New England Regional Ski for Light
P.O. Box 861, Georgetown, MA 01833
781-667-9270, www.nersfl.org
Email Address: nersfl@nersfl.org
Summer 2010

Message from the President

Hello Everyone!

Thanks to visually impaired participants, guides and board members for your help to make this year's winter season such a great success! What was most exciting was that we had new blind participants and guides on both our trips, during our March trip eight new guides were trained by board members Dave Fisk and Joanne Jordan, and, oh yes, all new guides and participants do plan to join us on future trips!

In addition to the great weather and wonderful snow shoe and cross-country skiing conditions at Craftsbury and Bretton Woods, our evenings were spent enjoying time together with new and old NERSFL friends, eating delicious meals and all taking part and contributing with items and financial contributions at our silent auction and raffle to raise money for NERSFL.

Spring is quickly sliding into summer and so it is time to look forward to NERSFL summer and fall activities as well as our upcoming NERSFL elections in July. We have 3 board positions available. **As your president I am asking you to consider applying to join the NERSFL Board.** You will have the opportunity for the next four years to work with a great group to help shape the future of NERSFL by sharing your unique ideas, skills and expertise. This commitment entails attending at least two board meetings per year via conference call, assisting with committee work between board meetings and spreading the word about New England Regional Ski For Light. So consider sending in a one-page bio describing your interest in becoming a board member: e-mail it to nersfl@nersfl.org or mail to the NERSFL P.O. box. **All bios must be received by July 9, 2010.** Please be sure to include your name, e-mail address, phone number and mailing address so that a member of the Nominating Committee can contact you!

In memory of one of our visually impaired participants who attended events with great enthusiasm and was a joy to know, NERSFL has created the Nario & Helen Brenes Scholarship Fund. It will benefit blind participants who may need financial assistance to join us at our events. We hope you will consider making a contribution to this fund to keep Nario's memory alive. Nario's children were very touched after learning that we were remembering their dad in this way.

Also, as many of you know participant since 1977 and current board member Joanne Jordan's father recently passed away. Joanne's family requested that donations be made to NERSFL in Mr. Jordan's memory. These donations are to provide financial assistance for guides to be able to attend NERSFL events. We will notify the Brenes and Jordan families of any donations.

For those of you who are interested in the Camp Hazen weekend mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are planning a weekend in either June or September of 2011. We still need at least 10 more individuals to make a commitment to attend, as we need to send in money to hold a reservation. If you are interested, please call Marie at 781-321-1071 or e-mail her at cnppr@verizon.net.

My message would not be complete without thanking all of our Board members, guides and participants who have worked so hard this past year. I want to let everyone know we are all so fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed NERSFL board. I would encourage you to consider joining one of our committees and "get involved". Maybe you are unable to participate in our activities at this time but there is always work to be done to increase our membership, promote NERSFL and assist with phone calls, mailings and the newsletter! I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see many of you on our summer trip or at our event in October!

In conclusion please stay in touch by e-mailing or calling with questions or ideas, as well as updates to your contact information and names of individuals in being added to our mailing list. Most importantly, please join me in keeping with our NERSFL tradition and let's continue to have fun with all of our NERSFL friends while enjoying physical activities together this summer and fall. I look forward to seeing you!

Marie Hennessy

UPCOMING SUMMER TRIPS

The Wayside Inn

August 6-8, 2010

Bethlehem, NH

This event features hiking and kayaking. Two choices of hikes will be offered - one for those who would like a less challenging hike on a paved trail and the other a moderate hike with lots of roots, rocks and a longer climb up one of the many beautiful mountains in the White Mountains. Our kayaking location has not been determined as yet but there will be opportunities for all levels of enjoyment. It may be possible for those who wish to have a second day of hiking in lieu of the kayak excursion. Many of our guides from last summer will be joining us for this summer's activities.

Price includes two nights lodging in double rooms with private baths, two breakfasts, two lunches and a Saturday night barbecue. Please sign up early as space is limited! *Don't miss this opportunity to join us as NH is a beautiful place to be in the summer.*

Cost: \$150 if received by June 30, 2010. \$160 if received after that date.

Middlesex Fells Reservation

October 2, 2010

Join us beginning at 9:30 a.m. for a day hike at the Middlesex Fells in Stoneham/Medford MA. This day hike will be easy-moderate. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water.

Cost: \$10 Full payment due by September 17.

Payments and Refund Policy. Please make payments by check to New England Regional Ski for Light and mail to NERSFL, P.O. Box 861, Georgetown, MA 01833.

For all events early application returns will assist in planning for adequate guide and transportation matching. If for any reason you need to cancel your reservation for the August weekend trip, \$25 of the trip cost is nonrefundable. The balance may be refundable in part minus charges incurred by NERSFL from the vendor. We will do our best to assist you to find someone to take your place, but it is ultimately your responsibility to find a replacement.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to participants and guides who cannot afford to pay the full cost of a trip. Up to three-quarters of the cost of a trip may be subsidized. In order to be considered one must submit a letter with the event application by June 30 for the August weekend trip and September 17 for the fall hike. The letter should contain total monthly or yearly income with expenses and

other related information to demonstrate need. You will be notified by telephone within one week from receipt of your application.

Forms

Enclosed is a trip application for you to complete and return with your payment. Health and Liability forms can be downloaded from our website: <http://nersfl.org> or mailed to you in hard copy at your request. All forms must be filled out, signed, and returned before you can participate in an event.

Physical Condition and Guide Pre-Requisites

Anyone in good physical condition can expect to complete these activities. If there are any questions about your ability to participate, we will be happy to discuss them with you. In questionable cases, the decision to participate will lie with the participant and his or her physician. Participants must take responsibility for their own health-related issues at events. If you are interested in attending an event as a guide, please be assured that training in guiding a visually impaired person is available at events. However, it is expected that guides have prior experience and skill with hiking and kayaking. Everyone's enjoyment will be enhanced by any measures taken to improve physical fitness and stamina before the event. All guides and visually impaired participants must be at least eighteen years of age.

More information about participating as a guide or as a visually-impaired participant can be found on our web site, <http://nersfl.org> or requested by sending an email to nersfl@nersfl.org or by calling 781-667-9270.

Transportation

Transportation to events is a shared responsibility. We will make every effort to have transportation available by carpooling. Guides are encouraged to let us know if you are willing to drive and just how many passengers you can take. All passengers are expected to contribute towards the cost of gasoline and tolls. *Remember! Take into consideration the high price of gas when paying your drivers!!* If you are coming to an event from out of town, do not make travel plans back home on public transportation prior to 7:00 pm on the final day of an event. It is very difficult to guarantee a return to transportation centers prior to this time without disrupting other participants' plans.

Guide Dogs

Although guide dogs are welcome on most trips, there are restrictions that may impact your participation in some activities. On the last day of an event, after checkout time you will be responsible for attending to your dog. Please consider this when deciding whether or not to bring your dog. Dogs are not allowed in the kayaks.

Trip Application

Name _____ Phone (H) _____

Address _____ (W) _____

_____ (C) _____

E-mail _____

I am a guide _____ visually impaired participant _____

I need transportation to the event/s _____ (yes or no)

I can offer a ride to # _____ passengers ___to and ___from the event.

I wish to attend the following event/s. Enclosed is my payment for:

_____ Wayside Inn, Bethlehem, NH

August 6-8, 2010

Please register by June 30, 2010 with the total amount of \$150.00. \$160.00 after this date.

_____ Middlesex Fells

October 2 , 2010

Please register by September 17 with total amount of \$10.00

___ Enclosed please find my donation of \$_____ to ___ the Helen & Nario Brenes Memorial Fund and/or ___in memory of Joanne Jordan's father. We are a tax exempt not for profit 501c3 organization. Any donations to NERSFL are greatly appreciated.

___ I wish to receive future NERSFL newsletters via email rather than in hard copy. I know that this saves NERSFL time and money and gets info to me sooner.

Detach and mail with payment to: NERSFL, P.O. Box 861, Georgetown, MA 01833

NERSFL Board of Directors

Marie Hennessy – President

Dave Fisk – Vice President

Nancy Brown- Secretary

Carolee Miller - Treasurer

Nancy Campbell –Director

Polly Jacobson- Director

Joanne Jordan –Director

Cindy Wentz –Director

Barry Wood - Director

New England Regional Ski for Light
P.O. Box 861
Georgetown, MA 01833

Free Matter
for the Blind