



New England Regional Ski for Light

P.O. Box 861, Georgetown, MA 01833

781-667-9270

Web site: www.nersfl.org

Email Address: nersfl@nersfl.org

Summer 2012

Message from the President

Hello Everyone!

I am pleased to share with you our winter highlights. Whether traveling by car, bus, train or plane, the long trip to Craftsbury, such a comfortable and familiar Vermont venue, always seems so worthwhile. Fun, friendship, great skiing and snow shoeing are only some of the reasons that make this trip one you don't want to miss. Don't forget those tasty cookies served on Friday afternoon, great meals we enjoyed together and our very successful auction and raffle, raising over \$700.00. Thanks to everyone who donated items, including a weekend stay at the home of two of our participants from Virginia, those who made financial contributions and those who helped before and during the auction especially our auctioneer Steve.

After attending last year's Craftsbury event Laurie Gullian, Director of the Outdoor Education undergraduate Program at the University of New Hampshire returned as a guide with eight students from her program. Under Laurie's leadership these enthusiastic students were trained as ski and snow shoe guides.

On our March trip we were once again warmly welcomed by our hosts, the Hoffmans, at the Wayside Inn where we enjoyed a weekend of skiing and snow shoeing at Bear Notch, a venue we had not visited for several years. Bear Notch is one of the few family owned ski & snow resorts left in the area. The owners went out of their way to accommodate our group. Bear Notch staff worked very hard to groom the trails making skiing and snow shoeing enjoyable for all even though the snow conditions were less than perfect.

Thanks to board members who helped with work needing to be done prior to our trips, to the guide trainers who trained new guides and to all participants and guides for making our winter season such a great success!

No, we did not forget about our spring picnic advertised in the Winter Newsletter! Because May is such a busy month for everyone we decided to reschedule our picnic to take place on October 6, 2012 at Breakheart Reservation in Saugus MA, along with our regularly scheduled October day hike. Bring your lunch, walking shoes or hiking boots and meet at the reservation at 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a challenging hike or a short walk and mingle with NERSFL friends over a picnic lunch following the hikes.

During this winter season we provided financial assistance to several individuals, making it possible for them to participate in our NERSFL events. Remember that donations are welcome on behalf of the Nario & Helen Brenes Scholarship Fund and the Jordan Family Memorial Fund. We hope you will consider making a contribution to one or both of these funds so we can continue to offer financial support to participants and guides who otherwise would not be able to attend.

My message would not be complete without thanking all of the current board members: Nancy Brown, Kari Dunlop, Dave Fisk, Polly Jacobson and Barry Wood for their time, work and support during this transition and a special thanks to our outgoing board members, Joanne Jordan, Carolee Miller and Cindy Wentz for their years of hard work and dedication to this organization. I am happy to report that they all plan to continue to be involved in various capacities with NERSFL. I would like to welcome our new board members Margaret Gaffney, Kim Gale, Donna Paterson and Shelly Wine. Thank you to guides and participants for all that you contribute to NERSFL.

I encourage you to consider joining one of our committees. 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!

Be sure to stay in touch by e-mailing or calling with questions or ideas. 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 hearing from you and hope to see many of you on our summer trip or at our hike in October!

Marie Hennessy

UPCOMING SUMMER 2011 TRIPS

The Royalty Inn, Gorham, NH

August 3-5, 2012

On Saturday two choices of hiking will be offered in the White Mountains of NH: a moderate level hike with rocks, roots and some climbing and a less challenging hike on a paved trail. On Sunday we are exploring various fun outdoor activities which are currently being arranged. Be sure to bring your bathing suit as the Royalty Inn offers a hot tub and pool.

Price includes two nights lodging in double rooms with private baths, two breakfasts, two lunches and Saturday night dinner. 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: \$170.00 Full payment due by July 9, 2012.

Breakheart Reservation, Saugus, MA

October 6, 2012

Join us at 9:30AM for a day hike at Breakheart Reservation in Saugus. There will be two hikes, one easy and one moderate, followed by a picnic. 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. The NERSFL event form can be downloaded from our website: <http://nersfl.org> or mailed to you in hard copy at your request. The form must be filled out once per calendar year, 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 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. We can not guarantee a return to transportation centers prior to this time.

Note: Please contact Marie at 781-321-1071 or email cnppr@verizon.net before making plane or train reservations to make sure the arrival and return times fit in with the event schedule.

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.

Summer 2012 Trip Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: (H) _____ (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:

_____ Royalty Inn, Gorham NH August 3-5, 2012

Please register by July 9, 2012 with the total amount of \$170.00.

_____ Breakheart Reservation October 6, 2012

Please register by September 15, 2012 with total amount of \$10.00

Note: Please contact Marie at 781-321-1071 or email cnppr@verizon.net before making plane or train reservations to make sure the times fit in with the event schedule.

In addition to this trip application, please complete the NERSFL Event Form if you have not already done so for the current calendar year and mail it to the address located on the form. All forms can be found on our web site at nersfl.org/appforms.html .

_____ Enclosed please find my donation of \$ _____ to _____ the Helen & Nario Brenes Scholarship Fund and/or _____ the Jordan Family Memorial Fund. We are a tax exempt not for profit 501c3 organization. Any donations to NERSFL are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

_____ I wish to receive future newsletters by email rather than by mail.

_____ I wish to receive future newsletters in Braille

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

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Margaret Gaffney – Director

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Free Matter
for the Blind