



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

Winter 2011-2012

Message from the President

Hi Everyone!

As I write my message for this winter's newsletter on a rather cool fall evening, it seems like just yesterday many of us were traveling to the White Mountains in NH to stay at the Wayside Inn. I love listening to the Ammonoosuc River from our balconies and spending time with everyone!

Our activities for Saturday included choices of hiking, biking, kayaking, swimming in the lake and taking a tram up to the top of Cannon Mountain. Just as our hike on Sunday was nearly over, heavy rain began falling as we all gathered together for lunch before beginning our journey home. Those of us riding back to the Boston area in the van have great memories of our ride! Once again we had new guides and participants join us who all plan to come to future events.

Thanks to everyone, both guides and participants, for pitching in and helping to make our event such a success and thanks to Sandy and everyone from ASPNC for guiding and assisting with the coordination and use of equipment throughout the weekend.

Our fall hike which took place at Breakheart Reservation in Saugus, MA turned out to be a lovely fall day although rain was forecasted. A small group of us took to the trails and did some great climbing. Two new guides joined us for this hike making it possible for it to happen.

As a result of all of our outreach efforts over the past year we have recruited new guides and participants. Prior to our August trip Board member Polly Jacobson recruited her neighbors to join us on our August hike as guides. Most recently Cindy Wentz put an item in newsletter that reaches over 800 Boston area people and we received calls from two potential guides. I attended a support group for individuals who are visually impaired to present information about NERSFL, and some new VIPs are interested in our winter trips.

We have brochures, a one-page flyer to email or send out, a slide show, and posters. We are available to speak to groups about NERSFL. Let me know if you can help us get the word out about our great organization.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our NERSFL board of Directors for their hard work, dedication and commitment to this organization as well as their ongoing support and assistance to me as your president.

Many of you have offered your assistance during our day and weekend trips and I want to thank all of you who have helped to make our events such a success! Now I am asking you to consider becoming a board member 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 February 15, 2012.** 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!

Please stay in touch by e-mailing or calling with questions or ideas, as well as providing us with names of organizations and individuals interested in being added to our mailing list. Most importantly, please join me in keeping with our NERSFL tradition to continue to have fun with all of our NERSFL friends as we enjoy physical activities together during this winter season and at future NERSFL events! I look forward to seeing you at our winter events and our NERSFL picnic!

Marie Hennessy

2012 TRIPS

CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER Craftsbury VT

Jan. 6-9, 2012

Our annual trip to one of NERSFL's favorite winter places. Ski right from the lodge. Great food! Trip includes three nights lodging double occupancy with hall baths, all meals from Friday evening through Monday lunchtime and trail passes are included. There will be opportunities for cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

Cost: \$275. *Additional \$20 late registration fee will be charged if payment is received after December 1, 2011.* (This trip fills fast, so register early!)

NOTE: We will be holding a fun and exciting silent auction and raffle at this event. Be sure to bring unused items or unwanted holiday gifts that would be enjoyed more by someone else than by you and your family to donate as well as any items you solicit from your favorite merchants. And don't forget your dollars to purchase auction items and raffle tickets!

THE WAYSIDE INN, Bethlehem, NH

March 2-4, 2012

This location has become yet another favorite venue for NERSFL. It offers spacious double rooms overlooking the Ammonoosuc River and features meals prepared by the award winning chef/owner.

Price includes ski pass, 2 breakfasts, 2 bag lunches and Saturday night dinner.

Cost: \$180 if payment is received by January 30th, 2012. *Additional \$20 late registration fee will be charged if payment is received after January 30, 2012.*

Come and cross-country ski or snowshoe at Bear Notch, offering all levels of cross country skiing without crowds at a family-friendly location in the White Mountains of NH.

PICNIC AND HIKE , Saugus MA

May 19, 2012

The first NERSFL Spring Picnic and Hike will take place Saturday, May 19, 2012 at Breakheart Reservation in Saugus, MA from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wouldn't it be great to see old and new friends from NERSFL and have a chance to catch up while hiking and enjoy a picnic lunch together outdoors on a beautiful spring day? This is an event you won't want to miss!

We are finalizing the plans as this newsletter is being written so more details will follow and will be available on the NERSFL website. If you are interested in helping to work on this event please contact Marie Hennessy by phone at 781-321-1071 and/or by email at cnppr@verizon.net. Please put your name and NERSFL in the subject line.

SUMMER 2012 WEEKEND TRIP

August 3-5, 2012

We will spend the weekend somewhere in northern New England (probably New Hampshire) for hiking, kayaking, and perhaps tandem biking. (See the description of the summer 2011 trip in the Message from the President.) Location and full details to be announced later, but put the dates on your calendar now! The summer trips have been featuring a variety of activities in the beautiful north country of New England.

Event Policies

Payments and Refund Policy

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

Full payment and application for the January weekend trip must be received no later than December 1st. (\$20 late registration fee added if received after this date.)

Payment for the March trip is due by January 30th (\$20 late registration fee added if received after this date).

For all events early application returns will assist in planning for adequate guide and transportation planning. ***Don't miss out on our winter events as space for both trips fills up quickly!*** If for any reason you need to cancel your reservation for a 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 November 30 for the January trip and January 26 for the March trip. 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 no complete and return with your payment. Health, Liability, Guide, and Participant 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 cross country skiing and snow shoeing. 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.

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 on ski trails.

The information about event policies can also be found on our web site, <http://nersfl.org> . If you have any questions about them, call 781-667-9270.

Writers and Photographers Wanted!

Do you enjoy writing? We are always looking for event participants to write trip reports after attending an NERSFL event. These trip reports are posted on our web site and help to provide information about NERSFL activities as well as generating enthusiasm for future trips. Photographs of our events are also welcomed and much appreciated.

Interested in joining the NERSFL Board of Directors?

As Marie indicated in her President's message, some of the current Board positions will be up for re-election in the spring, and we want to give everyone a chance to get more involved in NERSFL. If interested, send 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 February 15, 2012.** 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!

Winter 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:

_____ Craftsbury Outdoor Center, Craftsbury VT January 6-9, 2012
\$275 plus additional \$20 if received after December 1, 2011

_____ Wayside Inn, Bethlehem, NH March 2-4, 2012
\$180 plus additional \$20 if sent after January 30, 2012

___ Enclosed please find my donation of \$_____ to ___ the Helen & Nario Brenes Memorial Fund for financial assistance to VIPs and/or ___in memory of Joanne Jordan's father for financial assistance to guides. 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 the newsletter to me sooner.

___ I am interested in writing a trip report about NERSFL trips and/or take and provide photographs.

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

Kari Dunlop –Director

Polly Jacobson- Director

Joanne Jordan –Director

Cindy Wentz –Director

Barry Wood - Director

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Free Matter
for the Blind