



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 2012-2013

Message from the President

Hi Everyone!

I am once again pleased to have the honor of serving as President of New England Regional Ski For Light. It is exciting to continue working with a great Board of Directors, to have the opportunity to introduce NERSFL to new guides and participants, and to plan and participate in year round day and weekend NERSFL events. Welcome to our new participants and guides who joined us during our summer and fall trips.

Both our August weekend and October day hike were a great success. We returned to one of our old haunts, the Royalty Inn, in Gorham NH. Manager Don King was very pleased to host our group. On Saturday we hiked the Great Gulf Wilderness trail in the White Mountains and everyone enjoyed it. This trail offered great scenery and opportunities for everyone to hike with a variety of terrain and difficulty. After a day of hiking followed by a unique dinner experience, many of us spent the evening outdoors at the pool swimming or just relaxing - a great way to end a beautiful day. On Sunday some of us explored the trails adjacent to the Royalty Inn while others once again enjoyed the pool and others visited a nearby shop. Before we knew it, it was time to leave NH and our NERSFL friends and head home.

We had hoped to see many of you join us for our October hike and picnic at Breakheart Reservation where those of us who did attend enjoyed a great day of hiking. A couple of us hiked to the summit. The weather cooperated with us making for a very nice fall day hike.

I am pleased to report that as a result of outreach by board members we had new guides on both our summer and fall events. So let's all work together and keep this trend going by "Spreading the word about NERSFL" to recruit new participants and guides so that they too will be joining us on future NERSFL weekend and day events. We have brochures, a one-page flyer to email or send out, a slide show, and posters. We are available to speak to large and small groups of individuals interested in getting involved with NERSFL. Please contact me by email or phone to discuss possible speaking engagements within your local area, as well as providing us with names of organizations and individuals interested in being added to our mailing list. And please share this newsletter with persons you may know who would be interested in learning more about NERSFL!

Barry Wood, one of our current board members and I have been calling many of you who we have not heard from or who have not attended events for several years. I hope that you will take a few minutes to return our phone calls as we would love to hear from you and keep our membership list updated.

In closing I want to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing board members Joanne Jordan, Carolee Miller and Cindy Wentz for all of your dedication, many hours of hard work, your friendship and all of the fun we have had over the past several years. Thank you for your ongoing help with the newsletter, Cindy. I hope all of you will continue to stay involved with NERSFL. Please help me by welcoming our new board members Margaret Gaffney, Kim Gale, Donna Paterson and Shelly Wine. I am looking forward to working with *our new board members who bring great ideas and are committed to continuing the work of NERSFL. With regret I wish to inform you of the resignation of Nancy Brown, our current secretary who has contributed so much time and great work to NERSFL in recent years. Nancy and her husband are relocating to Olympia, WA in the spring. I am very pleased that current Board member Kari Dunlop has agreed to assume Nancy's secretarial duties.

I look forward to seeing you and hope that you will join me and many other NERSFL folks on one or both of our winter weekend events for a great season of fun and friendship while enjoying first-rate skiing and/or snow shoeing in the great outdoors of Vermont and New Hampshire.

Marie Hennessy, President

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 to complete and return with your payment. Consolidated health and liability form for guides and participants can be downloaded from our website: <http://nersfl.org> or mailed to you 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 you have any questions about your ability to participate, we will be happy to discuss them with you although the decision to participate ultimately lies with you and your physician. Participants must take responsibility for their own health-related issues at events. 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. 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 finalize any plane, train or bus reservations to and from an event until you contact Marie Hennessy by phone at 781-321-1071 or by email at cnppr@verizon.net. 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.

Winter 2013 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 4-7, 2013
\$280 plus additional \$20 if received after December 5, 2012

____ Wayside Inn, Bethlehem, NH March 1-3, 2013
\$185 plus additional \$20 if received after January 30, 2013

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 Memorial Fund for financial assistance to VIPs 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 to save NERSFL time and money and gets the newsletter to me sooner.

____ I am interested in writing a trip report and/or in taking photographs for NERSFL.

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

Donna Paterson – Treasurer

Kari Dunlop –Director

Margaret Gaffney- Director

Kim Gale - Director

Polly Jacobson- Director

Shelly Wine - Director

Barry Wood - Director

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for the Blind