



New England Regional Ski for Light

P.O. Box 861

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Summer 2018 NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

Hello Everyone!

I have had the pleasure to serve as President of New England Regional Ski For Light since 2008, as my term comes to an end my memories of the many NERSFL friendships I have made, time spent during NERSFL events (no matter what the weather might be), how much work it takes to plan an event, and being together with NERSFL folks doing outdoor activities are memories I will always treasure.

Thank you to past and current board members for your ongoing commitment, hard work and time in your role as board members and to all NERSFL guides and visually impaired persons for your assistance and willingness to pitch in when needed prior to and during day and weekend NERSFL trips!

Thank you to outgoing board members, Heather Berg, Dave Fisk, and Larry Povinelli, for their ongoing commitment and work serving on the NERSFL board. Join with me in welcoming the newly elected NERSFL board members, David Deans, Maurie Hill and Joan Holcombe. Also congratulations to our incoming president, Susan Bueti-Hill.

Before we can think about our summer and fall events, for those of you who were not able to join us this winter, did you know that the Craftsbury weekend was the coldest weekend of the year? Not surprisingly though that did not deter us from dressing for the weather and enjoying the skiing and snow shoeing which Craftsbury offers. In addition to having yet another successful auction and 50-50 Raffle which raised over \$950! New guides and VIP's joined us for another great weekend at Craftsbury.

During our March trip to NH we were welcomed by the new owner of the Wayside Inn and enjoyed our stay with them. On Saturday, despite the cold weather, we cross-country skied and snowshoed at Bretton Woods which everyone enjoyed. Thanks to each of you who helped to make our winter events so successful and fun! Special thanks to board members, drivers, guide trainers, persons who assisted with the auction, and the new VIP's and guides who joined us.

Help us spread the word about NERSFL by encouraging individuals interested in learning more about NERSFL to go to our website www.nersfl.org to read our newsletter, read write ups from past trips and complete forms for upcoming events.

Stay in touch by emailing NERSFL at nersfl@nersfl.org or calling 781-321-1071 for questions, to update your contact information, or to provide us with new names to add to our mailing list. We are actively recruiting guides for our August 10-12, 2018 summer NH weekend and our October 13 day hike in Saugus, Mass. We look forward to seeing you and any new VIPs and guides you may know interested in joining us during our summer weekend and fall day hike!

Be sure to sign up early and see you in NH! Prices for our events are very reasonable.

Marie Hennessy, President

Call for donations for new radios!

NERSFL fervently wants to avoid the situation in which a skier, snowshoer or guide is unable to continue, and must hope for someone else to come along and offer assistance. Such a situation could result from injury, a broken ski, exhaustion, getting “turned around” (a euphemism for “lost”), or ending up on a trail that’s longer or more difficult than thought.

Our two-way radios allow us to communicate with each other when difficulty rears its head, or when we just want to know the conditions on Ruthie’s Run or whether Charlie’s Cabin has cookies today. But our original radios are more than ten years old. Their older battery technology isn’t always up to the challenge of cold weather, and one radio gave up the ghost for no apparent reason.

To begin replacing the old ones, we recently purchased six radios with modern (lithium) batteries. Ideally, at a well attended event like Craftsbury, we will have 18 radios so each skier-guide or snowshoer-guide pair can carry one. If we retire the old radios, we will need 12 new ones. That is what I hope we can do.

Our newest radios are Motorola model RMM2050. I can’t find them for less than \$189 each. A six-radio charging station is \$206. I think one charger in addition to the one we have will suffice; the radios charge in three hours, so we can quickly cycle them through. I asked Motorola if they could donate the radios we want, but their charitable foundation is geared more toward education, disaster relief and public safety organizations like fire departments.

That said, our best solution is probably for NERSFL to just buy the radios. NERSFL hopes you will agree that we should have a two-way radio for each skier-guide or snowshoer-guide pair. If you do, will you donate the cost of a radio? Can you talk with a charity in your area and ask them to donate? Can you share the cost of a radio with someone else? I will start the process by donating a charging station.

The thought of being delayed on the trail and missing a Craftsbury turkey dinner positively makes me shudder!

-Dave Fisk

NERSFL Summer 2018 TRIPS

THE WAYSIDE INN

August 10-12, 2018

Bethlehem, NH

This event features hiking and water activities and may include tandem biking – details to be finalized depending on the number of guides who attend.

Two choices of hikes will be offered on Saturday – one for those who would like a less challenging hike on a paved trail and the other a moderate hike with roots, rocks and a longer climb up one of the many beautiful White Mountains in NH.

Price includes two nights lodging in double rooms with private baths, two breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner. Please sign up as soon as you receive this newsletter as space is limited! If you have never joined us before, this is a weekend you don't want to miss out on as NH is a beautiful place to be in the summer!

Cost is \$205. Full payment is due by July 1, 2018. \$20 late registration fee added if received after July 1, 2018.

BREAKHEART RESERVATION

October 13, 2018

Saugus, MA

Join us at 9:30 a.m. for a day hike at Breakheart Reservation in Saugus, MA. This day hike will offer an easy hike on a paved path or a moderate hike with roots, rocks and some climbing. Bring snacks, lunch, and plenty of water. For the moderate hike wear hiking boots. This is yet another day event you don't want to miss if you have not been with us in the past.

Cost is \$10.00. Full payment due by October 1, 2018.

You will be notified that we have received your check and forms for events. If you do not hear from an NERSFL board member that your forms have been received contact NERSFL by emailing us at nersfl@nersfl.org or calling 781-321-1071.

NERSFL 2018 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. NERSFL does not accept credit cards and Paypal at this time.

For all events, early application returns will assist in planning for adequate guide and transportation matching. Don't miss out on our events as space for our summer trip fills up quickly! If for any reason you need to cancel your reservation for the 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.

NERSFL President and Treasurer make all trip arrangements. No one should contact the venues regarding lodging or with questions about a trip. Call President Susan Beuti-Hill with any questions or information needed regarding events.

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 27 for the July weekend trip and September 17 for the fall day 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 ten days from receipt of your application if you will be receiving financial assistance.

Forms

Enclosed is a trip application to 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.

Payment for the August weekend is due by July 1, 2018.

Payment for the October hike is due by October 1, 2018.

Physical Condition and Guide Pre-Requisites

To attend a NERSFL trip you must be willing to actively participate in all athletic events as either a VIP, guide, or guide in training. 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, kayaking and biking. Everyone's enjoyment will be enhanced by any measures taken to improve physical fitness and stamina before the event. All persons attending events including 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 website, <http://nersfl.org> or requested by sending an email to nersfl@nersfl.org or by calling 781-321-1071.

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 cannot guarantee a return to transportation centers prior to this time.

Guide Dogs

Although guide dogs are welcome on trips, there are restrictions that may affect your participation in some activities. You must not contact staff at venues where we do activities, or lodging operators to ask them to check on guide dogs left unsupervised. Dogs are not allowed in boats and are not allowed on many ski or snow shoe trails. When outdoors at an event Guide dogs must be on leash at all times. 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.

The information about event policies can also be found on our web site, <http://nersfl.org> . If you have any questions about them, call 781-321-1071.

Please consider making a donation to NERSFL. Donations can be made to The Helen and Nario Brenes Scholarship Fund and/or The Jordan Family Memorial Fund.

Another way to make a donation is to use our Go Fund Me site. This site can be found at www.gofundme.com/NERSFL. Check it out - it's Jaws friendly! There are links to post it on your Facebook or Twitter so that you can share this site with others who may be interested in making a donation.

We are a tax exempt not for profit 501C3 organization. Any donations to NERSFL are tax deductible and greatly appreciated! These donations allow us to cover the cost of van rentals for summer and winter trips, provide financial assistance to guides and VIPs to attend events who otherwise would not be able to participate, purchase new radios, and other costs incurred by NERSFL. If you have any other suggestions for fund-raising opportunities, please contact us!

NERSFL Board of Directors

Susan Bueti-Hill, President
Esther Levegnale, Vice President
Kari Dunlop, Secretary
Donna Paterson, Treasurer
David Deans, Director
Margaret Gaffney, Director
Maurie Hill, Director
Joan Holcombe, Director
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Free Matter
for the Blind