



New England Regional Ski for Light
P.O. Box 861
Georgetown, MA 01833
Phone: 781-321-1071
Web site: www.nersfl.org
Email address: nersfl@nersfl.org

Winter 2017 NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

Hi Everyone!

While writing my message on this beautiful summer-like day in October I am reminded of how much I enjoyed our summer weekend and fall day event.

In late July a small group of NERSFL folks traveled to NH and stayed at the Wayside Inn and hiked Lonesome Lake Trail on Saturday. On Sunday some of our group kayaked while others of us rode the tram up Cannon Mountain and took a short walk at the top of the mountain. Thank you to guides who without each of you this trip would not have happened and to the VIPs for helping to make our NERSFL summer event fun and successful. Thanks to everyone from ASPNC who joined us on Sunday and to those who provided the kayaks.

Once again plans for our fall hike at Breakheart Reservation was canceled due to rainy conditions. The weather did not deter our NERSFL group and we chose to take a 6 mile walk on a local bike path and ended our day enjoying lunch at a nearby restaurant. Thanks to everyone for a fun NERSFL day event.

We have a great winter season to look forward to in Vermont and New Hampshire. Let's hope for lots of snow for great skiing and snow shoeing with new and old friends at Craftsbury and at The Wayside Inn.

This year in addition to planning our events and recruiting new guides and VIPs we will be focusing on fundraising activities to help defray the cost of van rentals, purchasing or soliciting donations for 12 additional radios needed, and providing financial assistance to guides and VIPs who cannot afford the full cost of NERSFL trips.

There are many clubs, companies and organizations for us to contact who may be interested in making a donation to NERSFL. Outreach can not only assist us in our fund-raising efforts but will increase visibility throughout our communities and help to recruit new guides and VIPs. Board members, VIPs and guides are available to speak to community groups. If you are interested in assisting with fundraising and/or outreach activities contact President, Marie Hennessy at cnppr@verizon.net or by calling 781-321-1071.

I want to thank all of our board members for their hard work, the many hours of time they have devoted to NERSFL and their willingness to assist me when ever needed.

I look forward to seeing many of you at one or both of our winter trips. Remember to continue to "Spread The Word about NERSFL" and encourage individuals interested in 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. For additional information or to sign up for an event email us at nersfl@nersfl.org or call 781-321-1071.

Marie Hennessy, President

NERSFL 2017 Winter TRIPS

CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER

January 6-9, 2017

Craftsbury, VT

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center offers cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing right from the lodge, with trails for all levels of skiing or snow shoeing. Trip includes 3 nights lodging, double occupancy with hall baths, and great food. All meals are included beginning Friday evening through Monday lunchtime. Trail passes are included.

Cost: \$290. Payment for the Craftsbury trip must be received by December 1, 2016. Additional \$20 late registration fee will be charged if payment is received after December 1, 2016. This trip will fill up fast so mail in your check and forms ASAP to reserve your spot!

We will no longer be holding our usual auction but are going to have a 50/50 raffle following dinner on Saturday. So don't forget to bring your dollars to participate in the 50/50 raffle as this is our only fund-raising event during the year. All money received from our auction will go towards the cost of van rentals, the purchase of radios and financial assistance for VIPs and guides to attend events.

THE WAYSIDE INN

March 3-5, 2017

Bethlehem, NH

This venue offers spacious double rooms overlooking the Ammonoosuc River and features meals prepared by the award winning chef/owner. Price includes 2 nights lodging, ski and snow shoe passes, 2 breakfasts, 2 bag lunches and Saturday night dinner.

Cost: \$205. Payment should be received by February 1, 2017. Additional \$20 late registration fee will be charged if payment is received after February 1, 2017. This trip will also fill up fast so mail in your check and forms as early as possible to reserve your spot!

Come and cross-country ski or snowshoe at Bretton Woods, offering all levels of cross country skiing and snow shoeing in the White Mountains of NH.

If you have not attended the Craftsbury or Wayside Inn winter events, these are ones you don't want to miss out on as you will not only have an opportunity for great skiing or snow shoeing but will enjoy spending time with a great group of folks!

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 2017 Event Policies

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 or Paypal at this time.

Full payment and application for the weekend trips must be postmarked no later than the 1st day of the month before the trip. For example, payment for a January trip is due December 1. See Trip Application Form for exact deadlines. (\$20 late registration fee added if received after this date.)

For all events early application returns will assist in planning for adequate guide paring and transportation planning. Don't miss out on our 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 attempt to find someone to take your place but cannot guarantee it.

NERSFL President and Treasurer make all trip arrangements. No one should contact the venues regarding lodging or with questions about a trip. Call President Marie Hennessy at 781-321-1071 with any questions or information needed regarding events.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to VIPs 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 60 days before an event. The letter should contain total monthly or yearly income with expenses and other related information to demonstrate need. You will be notified within 14 days of receipt of your application.

Forms

The Trip Application and Guide and VIP Forms are included in this newsletter and also can be found on our website at www.nersfl.org. All forms must be filled out, signed, and returned before you can participate in an event.

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 cross-country skiing or snow shoeing for winter trips and hiking, kayaking or biking for summer trips. 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. 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.

NOTE: The information about event policies can also be found on our web site, <http://nersfl.org>.

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.

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. 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!

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.

NERSFL Board of Directors
Marie Hennessy, President
Esther Levegnale, Vice President
Kari Dunlop, Secretary
Donna Paterson, Treasurer
Heather Berg, Director
Susan Bueti, Director
Dave Fisk, Director
Margaret Gaffney, Director
Larry Povinelli, Director
Barry Wood, Director

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

Free Matter
for the Blind