

NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN NORDIC SKI PATROL



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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center is celebrating the snowy season by sponsoring a winter photo contest. The categories include:

- ❖ **People Enjoying Winter** ~ specifically people cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- ❖ **Winter Scenery** ~ nature, landscape, animal tracks and wildlife in our area.

First place winners (one in each category) can choose Rossignol Evo Touring Skis or Tubbs Frontier Snowshoes.

Second place winners receive a 2012 cross-country skiing season pass for Northfield Mountain.

Photos should be submitted by March 15, 2011. For more information, rules and eligibility, please visit: www.firstlightpower.com/northfield/photocontest.asp



SLED TO THE RESCUE!

Northfield Mountain patrollers joined Bill Gabriel on a cold January day for a refresher on the use of our rescue sled, then took it for a short spin around the trails. (L-R): Bob Duris, Dave Brown, Riley Liptak, Bill Gabriel, Sue Menick.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

by Joannie Duris

It has been a couple of years since I've been able to interview one of our candidates to share interesting and unique bits of information with the rest of the patrol – things you may not know just by crossing paths at Northfield Mountain.

Riley Liptak describes himself in one word: curious. He's always wondering, "Why?"

His dad's family is from Chicago, his mom's family from Seattle – which is where he was born. Collectively, his immediate family is a transplant to the area and they've been in Northampton for the past twelve years.

Riley is currently a senior at Hampshire College. His independent major was titled: Health and Behavioral Sciences with Applications in Medicine, Education and Public Policy. He is spending the 2010-2011 school year writing a thesis titled: **Education for Community Health & Medical Capacity Building: Medical Education Program Development on the Thai- Burmese Border.**

Riley has an avid interest in wilderness medicine and the outdoors. His favorite activities are climbing and biking, including variations of both.

He experienced his first winter twelve years ago, and has since been exploring winters sports, namely, alpine and cross-country skiing. He viewed becoming a candidate at Northfield as a chance to improve his skiing abilities and serve as part of a team.

I always like to wrap up interviews by asking candidates to share three, unique, fun, little-known facts about themselves. Here are Riley's offerings: he loves swimming, spent last winter in Thailand, and just finished watching the fourth season of Dexter. Bet nobody knew all that! *

WWW.NMNSP.ORG

Don't forget to check our website for the latest patrol news and dates of upcoming courses and events.

If you don't remember the user name and password for entering the 'patrol room', contact Bill Schweikert at: webmaster@nmnsp.org

CHOCOLATE POT CHAT

by Tom Deam

Well for those who wanted snow, you most assuredly got your wish!! On Sunday, January 16th, we had about 400 skiers and snowshoers at the Mountain. That's a lot, and a good incentive to get to the trails if you can.

The new log/check off sheet appears to be going well. Our new Candidate, Riley Liptak, has been tasked with reviewing the sled bag inventory for completeness. He successfully challenged the Region's OEC course in December and is now in the Nordic phase of his climb to be a Nordic Patroller. Riley also is a part of Hampshire College's SAR organization and has taken the WFR course. All in all, a good person to have in the Patrol and to review the sled bag with a fresh viewpoint.

April 16th is the suggested date for the Banquet at Johnson's Farm in Orange. They serve a good meal at a reasonable price and now have beer and wine.

OK, put your thinking caps on and send in locations for a post-season Patrol Ski Trip. It could be a downhill, uphill, across the hill, or walkup-bar-in-a-hot tub location.

Finally, I've been sidelined for the next six weeks, or so. Sidelined? I won't even get to the stadium! Skiing the 14th was fun, especially on the fresh snow-covered and well-groomed trails. But clearing snow at home for the past week aggravated an existing arthritic lumbar area, resulting in some nerve impingement again. The next six weeks will be spent in rehab, physical that is. I'll be at the upcoming meetings, but that's about it, so don't sell the store!!! ✱

*The next issue of the Rattlebone will be published this spring.
Please get all articles, information, dates, etc.
to Joannie Duris by May 15th.
(978) 928-5587 or jduris@charter.net.*

IN MEMORIAM

Wallace J. Huston, 87, of Northampton, formerly of Greenfield, died on Wednesday, December 22, 2010, at Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

Wally was a long-time member of the Northfield Mountain Nordic Ski Patrol and a veteran of the Tenth Mountain Division in World War II.

Those of us who were fortunate to be on the patrol during Wally's years with us were inspired by his dedication, and his ability to ski circles around patrollers who were twenty or thirty years younger than him. Wally was the living definition of a true gentleman. ✱

PATROL BANQUET

Saturday, April 16th

Johnson's Farm

Social Hour 5pm – Dinner 6pm

We have marked off April 16th for our patrol banquet, and will again be heading for Johnson's Farm in Orange, MA. They provide generous portions of home style cooking, plus a great deck overlooking fields for an after dinner chat. This year, they will also be able to offer beer and wine with our meal. Patrollers, candidates, friends, family and significant others are all invited. Johnson's Farm is located at 210 Wheeler Avenue in Orange, MA. Wheeler Ave is off of Rt. 2A, just east of the center of Orange, and the farm stand is about 1.8 miles north of 2A. You can check them out at:

www.massfarmstands.com/johnsonsfarm.htm

The patrol has reduced the cost of the banquet to \$10/meal for both patrollers and guests. Plan for a quiet evening socializing with friends and family as well as a brief speech or two. Service awards will be presented next fall.

Because of our small numbers, we'll be able to select our meals from their full menu, and can make our choices that evening. We will need a headcount for reservations before then, so please contact Tom Deam by April 8th if you plan to come: tdeam@verizon.net. ✱

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, February 12th: Thunderbolt Ski Race

- **Mount Greylock.** The legendary race held on the state's highest peak. For a look at race history and info on this year's race: <http://thunderboltskirun.com/>.

Sunday, February 13th: Patrol Meeting & Nominations

- **6pm: Northfield Mountain.** Already?? Yes, it's time to nominate candidates for next season's Executive Board. If you're interested in running for office, but can't make the meeting, let Tom Deam know, and he'll add your name to the ballot.

Weekend of March 4th – 6th: Nordic Fest 2011

- **Finger Lakes Region, NY.** A weekend of skiing skills development, telemarking, & more. For details, visit: <http://nmsnp.org/nordicfest/>.

Sunday, March 13th: Region Patrol Competition

- **Berkshire East.** A day of friendly rivalry. For details, visit: <http://www.nspwmr.org/>.

Sunday, March 13th: Patrol Meeting & Elections

- **6pm: Northfield Mountain**

Weekend of April 2nd & 3rd: Post-season Trip

- Reserve the dates for a long overdue patrol trip. When available, details will be emailed to all patrollers. This is *your* trip! Where would you like to escape to?

Saturday, April 16th: Patrol Banquet

- **Dinner 6pm. Johnson's Farm, Orange, MA.** See details elsewhere in the Rattlebone.