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UNH Recreation Society Hosts Rail Jam For Cancer At Loon March 1

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UNH Recreation Society

February 25, 2008

DURHAM, N.H. - On Saturday, March 1, students from the University of New Hampshire give skiers and snowboarders a chance to ride, jump, spin, and trick their way to prizes—and raise money for cancer research.

The UNH Recreation Society hosts Ride for Relay, a rail jam at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event. The jam—in which skiers and riders do jumps and tricks in a small terrain park—will be judged, with prizes to winners in a variety of categories.

- Ride for Relay: A rail jam competition hosted by the UNH Recreation Society
- Saturday, March 1, 11 a.m. (registration from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.)
- Loon Mountain, Lincoln; registration in Bunyan Room (Octagon Lodge), competition on Little Sister Terrain Park
- \$25 includes entrance fee, t-shirt, barbecue lunch (does not include lift ticket)

"It's going to be an awesome event for a great cause," said Jared Dobson '10, president of the UNH Recreation Society and a recreation management and policy major at UNH.

Dobson and fellow recreation management and policy majors Caitlin Riviere '08 and Michelle Daigneault '08 originally conceived the event as a much smaller rail jam on the UNH campus. "But we said, 'let's blow it up and do a real event,'" said Dobson. The students approached Loon Mountain, a popular ski area among students and one of the closer major mountains to Durham, and soon found themselves hosting a full-scale fundraising event. They anticipate up to 100 participants and hope to raise \$1,000 for the Relay for Life event at UNH April 19.

The trio of students—all officers of the recently formed UNH Recreation Society—has been busy not only planning details of the event, but also soliciting sponsors and prizes. Awards will go to the best ski and snowboard trick for males and females as well as the best wipeout. Among the prizes are jackets from Outdoor Outfitters in Lincoln, Ness hats from Identity in Portsmouth, Life is Good ski and snowboard bags, and gift certificates and winter sports gear from a variety of Seacoast businesses, including Portsmouth Brewery, Moe's, Fatbellies, Fire on the Mountain, and Uncommon Boarder. Starbucks and Red Bull have also donated products.

"These students developed their idea until they were approaching major ski resorts and getting backed by sponsors," said Joshua Carroll, assistant professor of recreation management and policy and the faculty representative for the Recreation Society. "They're likely to generate a rewarding experience for participants and spectators alike, and they're not only raising money for a good cause but also creating an awareness around active winter lifestyles."

Dobson, himself a snowboarder, notes that coursework in recreation management and policy has helped the organizers execute the Ride for Relay. "Event planning is a lot of our field, so we're pretty well-prepared in that area," he said. He adds that the recreation management and policy department was influential in launching the Recreation Society and has supported the event. Additional support comes from the UNH Student Activities Fee.

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