

TASC NEWS

Happy Holidays

Holiday DNA

As the holidays begin to tug on our consciousness, we are reminded of our sources of celebration. For some, it is the roots of their faith, for others it is the “visions of sugar plums” and still for others it is the man dressed in red, led by a deer with a legendary red nose.

Sadly, for some it merely reinforces their sense of isolation imprisoned by their lack of mobility. Their sleigh has been grounded by either age or infirmity or both.

Although the TASC cannot modify age or alter infirmity, it can help assuage isolation. TASC does not dispatch men in red suits, but it does have men and women imbued with the same holiday DNA. They volunteer their time and their vehicles to shrink isolation and help disburse holiday happiness.

Although all the board members and drivers are volunteers, TASC does incur some costs to deliver free rides to qualifying persons on the NH seacoast. To pay the bills TASC solicits funds from all individuals, businesses, institutions, grants and yes even men in red suits.

TASC wishes a Happy Holiday season to all of the stakeholders; those in need of mobility, those who provide it and those who help pay for it.



Imagine you could no longer drive! Your friends all work and your family lives far away. How would you get to the doctor or pharmacy or grocery store? For countless adults this is an every-day reality. **TASC** is alleviating that problem by utilizing and coordinating its corps of volunteer drivers.

TASC drivers choose when they'll be available. Once a week, one or two times a month or once in a blue moon. Volunteering for **TASC** can easily fit most schedules.

TASC is a great opportunity for people twenty-five or older with a valid driver's license, a favorable driving record and an insured, registered and inspected vehicle.

RideScheduler Software

First a bit of history.

TASC's primary goal is to match up volunteer drivers to persons needing transportation. This TASC task is coordinated through the TASC office by Carol Gulla & Nita Niemczyk. Until 2019 TASC used a program developed by a local volunteer, who provided a valuable service to TASC. His program provided almost everything TASC needed for its operating and reporting requirements. And if it didn't, he found a way to get the needed information.

But as the links between the program and other applications, like Google Maps, became more complicated and required more frequent updates, the "down time" began to increase. It was then we realized we needed a third-party program with ongoing support and a more robust user base.

Enter Ride Scheduler. Carol & Nita have a data base of all our passengers, destinations and drivers, which only they have access to. As passengers call in their requests, they post the request to the "Available Rides". All drivers have access to these requests and can sign up and call the passenger to confirm.



The driver receives an e-mail confirmation and a reminder the day before the ride. All the driver's future rides are stored their "My Appointments" list.

After the ride the info is transferred to their "Mileage Report" folder to complete the mileage and time spent.

As a driver I must say this is an excellent system that should meet all of TASC's future needs.

Scott Blair

Volunteer Driver
Treasurer &
Acting President

The dark side of snow!

For those of us who live in this part of the world, either by choice or birth, embrace or excoriate the seasonal assault called winter. For some “snow news is good news” is a clarion call that provides a plethora of activities unique to this season. For others it is merely that space between fall and spring; tolerated and unloved.

One of the hallmarks of the season is the uninvited and much maligned spread of that semi-solid form of rain called snow. It is more silent and stealthier than rain. There is no pattering on the roof to announce its arrival. It is just there awaiting redistribution.

Most people would declare it a beautiful site until the time comes to move it from those places where it is not wanted to some other temporary location. As soon as the weather warms the beautiful landscape becomes like a guest that has overstayed its welcome and the former fan cannot wait for the inevitable departure. The site that was once so beautiful becomes an unsightly squatter on the greenery waiting beneath. But this is not the real “dark side of snow”!



The “dark side of snow” is not its color but the energy necessary to move it from where it fell to some other place. In some cases, mechanical energy is necessary either because of the area or the depth or both. When mechanical energy is not available biological energy must be used.

When biological energy is used the heart rate increases to meet the demand from the muscles for more oxygen. Normally not a problem but if the heart has already been weakened either by age or biological misfortune the results can be terminal.

On December 3rd, 2019 one or both of these problems conspired to end the life of Richard Niemczyk President of TASC and husband of TASC assistant director Nita Niemczyk. May he rest in peace. We will miss him!