

Northeast PVA Chapter

The NEPVA organization is a tax-exempt non-profit organization dedicated to quality healthcare and issues concerning the well being of persons with disabilities. At present, it consists of some 1,000 members in the New England area.

On a continuing year to year basis NEPVA schedules many events to ensure that our veterans and other disabled persons throughout New England will enjoy. Events such as bowling, skiing, dinners and many other activities including a bass fishing tournament trail that results in regional and national championships are just part of what NEPVA does for these great folks.

Needless to say all these events rely heavily on donations, sponsorships and the unselfish efforts of volunteers that are adamant about their specific sport or interest in improving the quality of life for those who are afflicted with disabilities beyond their control.

Every year The Bass Federation of Maine (TBF) sends volunteers to participate in a tournament trail event held at Pine Tree Camp, on North Pond, in Smithfield , Maine for the NEPVA organization. The NEPVA participants come from every state in the New England area to enjoy a weekend event beginning on Friday afternoon thru Sunday evening. Volunteers from all the states participate as well as the ones from Maine. Volunteers with boats are paired with the paralyzed vets to compete for prizes and trophies and, of course, "BRAGGING RIGHTS." The actual tournament is held on Saturday of the weekend designated each year but everyone is welcome to stay at the camp all weekend. Meals are provided for all, free of charge. Other than persons with boats other volunteers come to help set up the tournament and coordinate and help the vets get into and out of the boats for the tournament. If you decide to spend the weekend be prepared with sleeping bags and pillows. Also be prepared to hear some great fishing stories!!!!!!!!!!!!

Many of you may think that it would be virtually impossible for paralyzed persons to compete in a fishing tournament but I assure you the determination of these persons is unequalled to participate competitively, the ladies too!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Should you participate in this event you will most assuredly have your heart touched by the enthusiasm, attitude, and determination of the vets who compete in these event. The smiles will warm your insides as never before. They have given their all for all of us and we all gain by giving them something back for their dedication to our country. If you wish to help us in our tournament the forms to be a boater are included. Other volunteers are encouraged to contact the president of the TBF. Further information about NEPVA can be obtained at www.nepva.org. If you wish to see some file footage of past events you can go to WWW.thebassbureau.com That is a web site run by Bill (Hawkeye) Decoteau, a sports writer who is the emcee at the yearly Pine Tree Camp tournament. This year the tournament will be held May 23rd and 24th.