

NESI Attendee Guide

There are some things you may want to know in order to maximize your revelry and minimize horrible surprises . . .

Arrival and Departure:

- We can arrive at Chimney Corners any time after 3 pm on Friday. Please don't come earlier than that. Registration will open no later than 4 pm and probably sooner.
- Come to the dining hall to sign in. The registration room is on the right-hand side of main room. You'll get your official event name button, among other things, which makes you One of Us.
- Check the Big Board in the registration room to see the workshop schedule and other stuff. Consider offering a workshop, please, and feel free to request one.
- The Saturday concert sign-up sheet will be there, too.
- If you are going to be arriving late on Friday, come to the Pub Sing in the dining hall registration room. Lynn will be there and will sign you in. If even Lynn has gone to bed, booked rooms will be indicated on a list taped to the registration table. Confirm your room assignment and sort it out with us in the morning.
- Parking areas are well defined on the campus map. Please make sure your car is there and not somewhere else on the grounds. No vehicles can remain on the fire roads in the camping area. You may NOT drive on the field, even with a bicycle. Please keep all wheeled vehicles on the road. If we put ruts in the field, there may be no camping at all in the future.
- People in cabins and lodges need to be packed and out of their rooms by noon on Sunday, but remember that lunch is served at 12:00, so don't forget to enjoy one more meal and perhaps a final jam before you go. The Sunday lunch is always sandwiches – intended to make it easy for some of you to grab one and take it with you as you hit the road, if you must. And yes, you can hang around for a while afterward, just not in your room.

What to Bring:

- Everyone staying on site (in cabins and lodges) needs to bring bed linens (sheets and blankets or a sleeping bag), a pillow and pillowcase, your favorite stuffy, wash cloth, soap, shampoo, towels, toothbrush and toothpaste, and other personal items. The bunks in the cabins and lodges are single-bed size. You might want to consider bringing a fitted sheet to cover the mattress and a sleeping bag to put on top, but it's up to you. We have heat and electricity in the lodges but not in the cabins.
- A **flashlight** – it gets very dark after the sun goes down.
- People in cabins need to bring their own battery-operated lanterns.
- Campers who are doing their own cooking should bring a propane camp stove. Please remember that there can be **no** open fires of any kind except in approved locations.
- People in cabins may NOT cook in the cabins. (But why would you, since you have paid for meals in the dining room?) So just bring your appetite.
- If you are planning to offer a workshop, please bring your own handouts (if any).
- You may want to bring some kind of recording device for any workshops you attend. Be sure to ask for permission from the workshop leader before recording, of course.
- You may want to bring a music stand. You can always hang your wet socks on it.
- Bring your pet to spend the weekend at a local kennel or herpetology center, if you want him/her/them along for the ride. There are NO pets allowed on site. That applies to campers as well as to people staying in buildings.

Private Sales of Instruments, etc.

- Private sales of a few instruments by an attendee are welcome. There will be table space set up at the back of the dining room. Be sure to include written information that includes the price and your contact information (phone, cabin or lodge room #, email, etc.).
- Your own original publications (music books) and recordings (CDs) are also acceptable for sale by attendees. Most people set up an honor-system cash box for this.

- Sales by professional instrument builders and/or dealers are limited to having flyers or business cards and one or two samples that are not for sale. Please do not bring instruments with the intention of selling them on-site.

The Limerick and Haiku Contest

Our literary event is always delightful. Winners are announced during the Saturday night concert. But we need entries! You have lots of time to think about it and even write some out *legibly* before you come. There is a container (a concertina body, actually) for entries on the table near the Big Board. Your entry needs to conform to standard limerick or haiku structure, must have your name on it, and it must refer to free reeds in some way. The rest is up to you!

The Saturday Night Concert (*past attendees – be sure to read clarified rules below*)

Everyone is welcome to perform. You'll never find a more supportive audience. Please be sure to sign up by 5:30 pm on Saturday night (on the same registration room table as the Big Board that lists workshops). The concert is always a delightful collection of performances by people at all different levels. But it also tends to run too long, leaving the contra dance participants with a very late start. So, in order to keep the concert to a manageable length, here is what you need to know:

- The concert will end at 9:30, whether everyone who has signed up has gotten onstage or not.
- First-time participants in the concert will perform first to ensure that we will have time to hear them. There is a check box to indicate this on the concert sign-up sheet.
- People may get onstage to perform **only once**. If you are working as an accompanist and not as an integral part of a duet/trio/etc., that appearance will not count. Neither will performing as part of a large-ish group that was created through a workshop. However, you cannot appear as a solo act and again as part of a duet and again as part of a trio . . . it's one performance per person.
- Your performance should consist of one song or tune or a very short set of tunes. Very short, please. If you are part of a duet or trio, it's still just one song or tune or short set – not one per person in your ensemble.
- The contra dance will start as close to 9:30 as possible and last for one hour. Please help us with folding and moving chairs to the sides of the room so there is space to dance and we can get started promptly.
- Consider joining the dance band, which will meet for rehearsal in one of the workshop spots. You don't need to attend the workshop in order to join the band. The list of tunes is published on our website.

The Contra Dance

Not a dancer? Hang around after the concert and learn! And consider joining the dance band. There will be a band rehearsal listed as a workshop on Saturday afternoon, but you don't have to go to the workshop in order to sit in with the band on Saturday night. Look for Bill Quern if you have questions. In the meantime, the tune list is up on our website. Still not interested? Join the Pub Sing in the dining room instead. Funny songs, folk songs, pop songs, rude songs, patriotic songs, rugby songs . . . they're all welcome!

Miscellany

- Alcohol is BYO and is limited to those of legal drinking age in MA. Ask your mom if you aren't sure that you are going to be 21 by the start of the event. Please be responsible about cleanup and intake. There is an ice machine in the dining hall for everyone's use and small refrigerators in most of the lodges for residents. Coffee and tea are also available to all. It would be a good idea to put your name on anything you leave in the refrigerators to avoid misunderstandings.
- As usual, the Button Box will be setting up their traveling shop in one of the side rooms adjacent to the dining hall. They probably have the instrument of your dreams, along with books, shirts, and other stuff.
- Weather permitting, we do a processional walk from the dining hall to the arts center for the Saturday night concert. Please join in, even if you haven't quite mastered the tune (*Appelbo Ganglat*).
- There are lots of places for workshops and for jamming – please respect other people's sound space.

- Lodge rooms and cabins do not have locks. The good news is that you won't have to remember to return your key when you leave. However, if you are worried about your stuff, you should probably plan to keep it in your car when you are not carrying it around.
- We like to set up a late-night snack table on both Friday and Saturday, and that depends on contributions. Please consider bringing something sweet or salty, fruity or veggie to share with others. If your contribution contains tree nuts or peanuts or if it is gluten-free, it would be a good idea to label it so others will know. You should also bring anything needed for serving – spoons, cups, plates, etc. We'll have a place to store your donations in the registration room, and one or two of our volunteers will set it up and clean it up. Consider being a volunteer to help with this much-appreciated snack.

Looking for a ride? Do you have room for a passenger who could share the cost of gas?

Please use Si-Talk to let other attendees know. If you are not already a member, you can find information about that here: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/si-talk/info> .

By the way, even if you don't need Si-Talk for this reason, consider joining anyway. The more members we have, the better it works for all kinds of squeeze-related purposes. And you should join Si-News while you're at it. That will ensure that you get important messages about the event. At least, we think they're important. We promise not to fill your mailbox with useless stuff, and we never sell or pass on email addresses beyond people on our registration list. More information about Si-Talk and Si-News can be found [here](#) at our website.

Please – when you receive the list of this year's attendee emails – adhere to our privacy policy and don't use it on behalf of some other person or group.

Still have questions?

Check the FAQ on our website first. Then, if all else fails, email register@squeeze-in.org .

Are you having a problem *en route* to the event?

Emergency phone numbers:

Chimney Corners (for directions if lost) (413) 623-8991

NESI organizer (Stewart) (845) 797-1897

No, Stewart does not give birthing-in-the-car instructions. Call 911. And please call Stewart only if it is truly an emergency. Believe it or not, the organizers do plan to participate in the event.