

## Viking Nordic Kid's Programs

By Jonathon Wiesel

If you're looking for a XC area in the Northeast that's run with panache, humor, and special attention to families, check out **Viking Nordic** (802-824-3933) in Londonderry, Vermont. That's in the scenic south-central part of the state. Managers Dana and Malcolm McNair are expanding their kids' program by a dimension or two. A lot of places have sheltered trails near their lodges, a good selection of snowshoes and XC gear, friendly staff, trailside picnic tables, and heated bathrooms (mundane but very very pleasant on a cold day).

Viking has all these plus on-snow "babysitting," 3 k of lighted trails on Saturday nights, pulks (insulated enclosed sleds) to pull youngsters, instruction, ski patrol and now a Terrain Park with painted plywood cutouts of fabulous creatures for kids to ski around and under. I've seen this kind of play area at a very few places (Sun Valley Nordic in Idaho comes to mind) and children love them.

I first skied Viking over 20 years ago, and the trails are still liting and delightful. As an uncertified Ski Counselor, I advise you to visit, with kids or without (and if you don't have your own, borrow a couple!).

### About The Author

Jonathan Wiesel is a nordic guide, instructor, and ski area planner, who has written for over 120 magazines and newspapers on three continents. He wrote *Cross-Country Ski Vacations*, a guide to the great destinations of North America. He lives near Boulder, Colorado. For



Southern Vermont Cross Country Skiing