



Randall Richards of Sunapee To Lead 7th Trip to South America

SUNAPEE – Randall Richards, of Sunapee, under the name of Mountain Spirit Institute, a new, non-profit educational corporation being organized in the area, will be leading a group of five to Peru this month. This will be his fourth trip to Peru, and his seventh trip to South America.

The trip is aimed at facilitating participants' contact with locals in the Andes Mountains, and helping them learn by experience the ways and philosophy of village elders and priests in the small mountain village of Q'eros. The village, at 16,000 feet, is tucked in a remote area near the regional capital of

Cusco, and can only be reached by foot or horseback. The group will also visit Machu Pichu, the famed ruins of Inca culture discovered by American historian Hiram Bingham in 1911.

The first leg of the trip will help acclimate the three teenagers and two adults to higher altitudes reached later during the 13-day trip. The group will take needed wool sweaters, mittens and long underwear to villagers, and also work on a short service project in the community.

The organization conducts experiential educational programs ranging from the two-

year-old program: Kearsarge Wilderness Experience in outdoor and mountaineering skills, to Solo experiences and Corporate Team-building seminars. The new organization's mission is to facilitate one's connection to self, each other and the environment.

Richards has been a senior guide for Alpine Ascents International of Seattle, Wash. and a Course Director for Pacific Crest Outward Bound for over 10 years. An initial start-up fund-raising campaign for Mountain Spirit Institute will be launched this fall.

