



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



December 2008

President's Notes

On a mild night in early November, more than fifty members trekked up to the 16th floor of the Yale Club on Vanderbilt Avenue, getting their quadriceps pumped and ready for the Mad River ski season. Okay, I admit I took the elevator, but I did think about taking the stairs...really I did.

It was more than seventy-five years ago when our Club's founders decided to "promote skiing by a congenial group of amateurs living in and around New York City." Well, we didn't let them down on November 7th. Thank you to Hilary Hotchkiss and Hooley Wilks for their hard work in planning the event - we all enjoyed table settings reminding us of our favorite trails up at MRG...Paradise, Porcupine, Chute, Antelope... - and for arranging some terrific auction items. Two great videos were played at the Dinner, thanks to Rick Moulton.

The event was attended by young and old, but skiers all. It was a congenial group, reminis-

cent of most Fall Dinners. We even heard one of the Stones singing a few notes. There were two generations of Walkers in attendance and a group of the younger generation too: Stowe, Nagler, Warren, Gerson. We welcomed our new Club member Wen Barker and his wife Jinah and look forward to seeing Wen and his sons on their telemark skis in a few weeks up at MRG. Be sure to check out "The Social Whirl" on pages 4 & 5 of this issue's Fall Line for photos that capture the spirit of the event.

As the days get shorter and we await the first snowfall, the Fall Dinner reminds us that a few hundred miles to the north of New York City is that place we all love... a mountain ridgeline, a

winding river, hillside farms, covered bridges, and steeped villages... Remember to book on-line and review the revamped ASCNY website. Another Mad River winter is just around the corner. See you at the Lodge!

Patrick Mooney



New ASCNY President Patrick Mooney with new Governors Hooley Wilks, Chris Warren, Simon Gerson & Tasha Nagler

Calendar of Events

January 3, 2009

Slalom Race - 10:00 am

Cocktail Party & Awards @ ASC Lodge - 6:00 pm

January 9 - 11, 2009

Young Members & Guests Weekend @ ASC Lodge

For information, contact Simon Gerson at

simongerson@gmail.com

January 17, 2009

Cross Country Race - 10:00 am

at Ole's Cross Country Ski Center, Warren

Cocktail Party & Awards @ ASC Lodge - 6:00 pm

January, 27, 2009

Rollback Day - MRG ticket prices will be \$3.50!

January 31, 2009

Mad River 60th Anniversary Gala

For information, visit www.madriverglen.com.

February 14, 2009

Giant Slalom Race - 10:00 am

Cocktail Party & Awards @ ASC Lodge - 6:00 pm

February 28 - March 7, 2009

ASCNY Trip to Alta, Utah

For reservations, contact the Rustler Lodge at

1-888-532-2582 and mention ASCNY.

For general trip information, contact

Belinda Shepard at 203-227-6999 or

bjshepard@mindspring.com.

TALES OF TRAILS

4th Annual Young Members Weekend

January 9 – 11, 2009

(with scenes from YM '08 to whet the appetite!)

This year we will be repeating the best parts of the last three packed Young Members' Weekends - with a few new twists. Most important is the new leadership of Simon Gerson, who just joined the Board of the Club with a resume that includes turning our ASCNY "most vertical feet per dollar" trip in Alta (in the Alta Alps Chalet nestled way up under the Supreme Lift) into an eight-day culinary tour de force, compliments of Costco, creativity and a daily dash of fresh tracks. While we are, of course, hoping that he brings his luck with powder from Alta and the last Young Members Weekend to MRG this January 9th through 11th, we are guaranteed to enjoy a level of fine dining quite literally experienced only at one of New York's finest restaurants - where he was a chef following our graduation from Bowdoin College. He also brings the talent and style of his lovely new wife Kara, who will be his co-conspirator in drumming up the finest pre- and après ski activities, regardless of whether your day takes you through the Octopus's Garden or just sledding on the practice slope (a thrill that is not to be underestimated). Pictures speak a thou-



New member Brian Haklisch contemplating some "packed waterfall" in the Octopus's Garden



End of the Day: Dinner for 25



Tyler Merrill - Deep in the sweet stuff



Simon Gerson & Carrie Fowler Stowe demonstrating the ski-in / ski-out convenience of the Lodge.

sand powder drenched, al dente pasta-ed, Single Chair Ale-d words, so take a look at Chris Leach's shots from last year, which should convince you that this year's Young Members Weekend is not to be missed!

Doug Stowe

NOTE: Apparently the word is out that this is a pretty fun weekend, because the Lodge filled immediately after word spread that the date was set - but don't be distraught! There are many places to stay in the valley and all young members are encouraged to join as many activities as possible.

Meeting times on Saturday include:

- 9:30 am at the single chair (some will be out before)
- 1:00 pm at the base box for lunch
- 4:00 pm in General Starks Pub (MRG base)
- 7:30 pm at the Lodge for everything else Simon & Kara have planned!

For more information, contact Simon Gerson at

simongerson@gmail.com.

- Photographs courtesy of Chris Leach, young member class of '07-



2009 Hosts, Simon and Kara Gerson, with some ASCNY "art" and sweaters from Grandma

TALES OF GREEN

— Ware & Nichols Win 2008 ASCNY Golf Classic —

On October 4, 2008, a beautiful peak foliage Saturday, the 9th Annual ASCNY Golf Tournament was held at Sugarbush Country Club. In a tightly contested match, Adam Ware held on to defeat Jim Byrne & Stuart Randall by two strokes, and Helena Nichols ran away with the woman's title. Ware led by four after nine, and after the rest of the field insisted on a "swing lube" stop in an attempt to break Ware's momentum, he gave back three strokes on the next two holes before regaining control and finishing off the field. The highlight of the day was on the treacherous downhill par-three 11th hole, where Ms. Nichols' iron slid less than a foot by the hole and gently rested five feet away. She proceeded to calmly drain the birdie, effectively ending any further competition.



Stuart Randall, Jim Byrne, Helena Nichols and Adam Ware

Later at the Lodge (with a glorious new roof), a potluck dinner was shared by all, including non-golfers, such as

Stefanie Kies and new board member Tasha Nagler and family. Dave & Susan Clark were up with UVM scholar Caldwell for parents' weekend, as was Stuart Randall, whose daughter and son, Kate and Henry, attend UVM and the prestigious St. Michael's College, respectively. Also present were new members Trey & Margie Gregory and their children, Hanna & Hayes, who had an active weekend, climbing both Mt. Mansfield on Saturday & MRG on Sunday. A fine time was had by

all on Saturday night. The following beautiful warm Sunday morning, many in the Lodge ascended to the top of MRG to enjoy the colors of the season before heading home. All expressed hope for a snowy winter and pledged to return next October for the 10th Annual ASCNY Golf Tourney.

Jim Byrne

**Don't
Forget
Alta!**

**There's Still Time
To Sign Up For
The 2009 ASCNY Ski Trip!!
February 28 – March 7, 2009**

For those of you who haven't been to Alta lately, the good news is that not much has changed... still the best snow and skiing to be had anywhere, no flashy condos, or giant billboards, and best of all: no snowboarders.

Our Hotel: The recently remodeled Rustler Lodge is rated best in the canyon. It's a full service ski-in/ski-out facility, with great food and spa/fitness facilities: outdoor heated pool, steam room, jacuzzi, spa services, fitness room and early morning stretch class. For more information visit www.rustlerlodge.com.

Our Rooms: \$466 for double occupancy and \$390 for single occupancy, plus a 15% service charge and local taxes. Includes breakfast and dinner.

How to sign up: Call the Rustler for reservations at 1-888-532-2582 and mention you are and ASCNY member. A \$500 per person deposit is required, with the balance due January 1.

Need more information? Call or email Belinda Shepard at 203-227-6999 or bjshepard@mindspring.com.

The Soc

November



Adam Verost and Bob Nichols



Former ASCNY Presidents Rick Stowe, Stuart Goldman & Charlie Stone

As Patrick Mooney reported in the President's Notes, the November 7th Fall Dinner at the Yale Club in New York City was a smashing success, thanks to the efforts of Hilary Hotchkiss and Hooey Wilks. Sixty loyal members joined in the chance to support the ASCNY and toast the start of the new season.

The Fall Dinner also included an auction, proceeds from which subsidized the dinner, with results as follows:

- Two Vintage Ski Posters - won by Dudley Johnson.
- Hand-Painted Pottery with ASCNY logo, designed and painted by two Vermont artists who happen to live in New Canaan:

1. One Platter – won by Doug Walker - which, if Amanda doesn't approve for her kitchen, will end up at the Lodge.

2. One Decorative Plate – won by Simon Gerson – good for cigars!



Christine Gerli and Alice Goldman



Brendan Dickinson, Simon Gerson, Doug

Inquiring minds want to know... so *The Fall Line* asked!

The Fall Line brings you Q & A with your Board of Governors and other ASCNYers. We begin with two new Governors, Simon Gerson and Hooey Wilks, but look for others in upcoming issues of *The Fall Line*.

Simon Gerson

When did you start skiing?

Ski school at 3 years old. Picked up tele skiing in 2002 and haven't locked the heel since.

Who introduced you to the ASCNY and when?

Doug Stowe during a monster storm in 2004 - really cold, very wet and super windy. Classic VT and MRG skiing.

Your best and worst experience at the Lodge?

Best - Walking out of the Lodge to 8" in the parking lot and an empty single chair maze.

Worst - Having the flu and sleeping the ski day away.

Best and worst road trip to MRG?

I've been lucky enough to carpool and sleep through them all!

Best day at MRG?

Young Members Weekend. Everything was open, a ton of snow on the ground and it seemed like I knew everyone on the hill. After last call, we went sledding.

Your favorite trail at MRG?

Octopus's Garden

If you weren't skiing at

MRG, where would you rather ski?

Teton Pass

Who is your fantasy ski buddy?

If I could get Albert Einstein to strap on a pair of teleboards, I think we could really take this sport to a new level.

Favorite après ski beverage?

Single Chair Ale

Favorite ski outfit and skis?

I had a neon green pullover with neon pink elbow patches back in the day. Now I just wear the same boring red jacket. I learned to tele on a second hand pair of straight 215s. I miss them dearly.

Why did you join the Board of Governors?

The Lodge is a very special place and I want to keep it that way.



Simon's take on the ASCNY Logo!

ial Whirl

7, 2009

3. Set of six Dessert Plates – Harry Fisher prevailed after a real fight!

- A Felt Skier Pillow won by Christine Gerli, which she plans to display at her condo in Alta when the ASCNY trip group comes to visit.
- Hand-Painted Snowman decorative ornament donated by Melissa Byrne and won by Rick Stowe - good thing, since he lost out to Christine Gerli on the pillow!
- Case of Wine donated by Stuart Randall that went to Scott Alexander - to be served at his Thanksgiving table!

Two ski documentaries for entertainment were donated by Rick Moulton of Keystone Productions.

Thanks again to Hilary Hotchkiss and Hooey Wilks for all their efforts in coordinating the evening, and to all who attended and donated or bid on items from the auction.

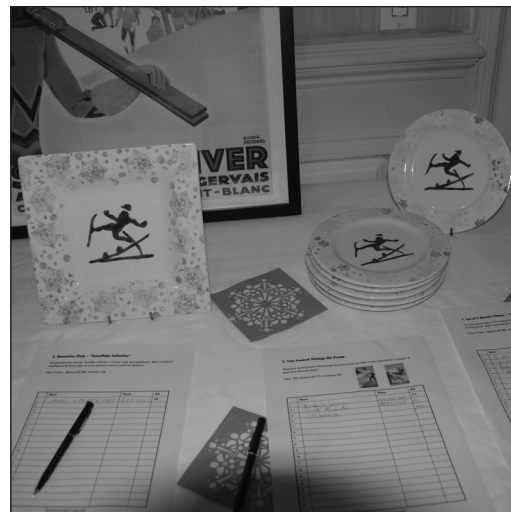
-Photographs courtesy of Amy Mooney-



Stowe and Heather Halsey



Alex Walker and Ned Nunes



Silent Auction Table



Hooey Wilks and Hilary Hotchkiss with Silent Auction items

Hooey Wilks

When did you start skiing?

Around 5 years old at Cazenovia Ski Club in a place that

reminds me of a mini MRG. My family also had a house just over the mountain but mostly skied Sugarbush at that time.

Who introduced you to the ASCNY and when?

Alyson Walker around 6 years ago.

Your best and worst experience at the Lodge?

All my experiences at the Lodge have been positive ones since I always bring my earplugs for sleeping! I like to go to bed early.



Hooey - front & center!

Best and worst road trip to MRG?

All the worst road trips are followed by the best ski days. I remember one white out Friday drive in particular with my two children (my husband was meeting us there). The final hour of the drive took four. We arrived to a parking lot 3 feet deep and had to leave our car on the road. It was definitely a night for ear plugs as the plows worked the entire night clearing the two parking lots.

Best day at MRG?

Spring break of March 2006 was showing signs of being a complete bust for skiing. The better part of the week was spent skiing solid ice. Then Friday it started to snow. We woke up to a solid 2 feet, still snowing and had the absolute best 2 days on the mountain.

Your favorite trail at MRG?

Hard to pick, but I do love to end a run in the Periwinkle Bowl.

If you weren't skiing at MRG, where would you rather ski?

Love the ease of skiing at Vail and the steep narrows at Snowmass.

Who is your fantasy ski buddy?

I must be living in a fantasy because it is my husband!

Favorite après ski beverage?

Cold beer.

Favorite ski outfit and skis?

After a solid 18 years of the same, I just upgraded both my skis (teal Rossi 4S's which I loved) and outfit (purple one piece that went out of style long ago but was so warm, it was hard to give it up).

Why did you join the Board of Governors?

It is always nice to help out when you are a fairly regular user of the Club.

Why do we Love **MAD RIVER GLEN** so much?

Mary Kerr, a long-time member of the Amateur Ski Club, has tackled this question in her new book *A Mountain Love Affair: The Story of Mad River Glen*.

A short chat with Mary reveals that her book is not just a history, a collection of vintage photographs, or even a lineup of Mad River personalities, but an examination of a philosophy and uniqueness that has attracted a breed of devoted skiers for over 60 years. One might say this is Mary's love letter to Mad River Glen, which we can all now share through her book.

Over 20 years ago, Mary began interviewing people about Mad River and, although the costs of self-publishing a book were prohibitive, she kept right on accumulating material through the years. Delving into **Roland Palmedo's** early reports to shareholders, talking to **Phil Palmedo** in 1991 for insights into his father, interviewing **Betsey Palmedo** and finally talking to the keeper of



the legacy, **Scout Palmedo Proft**, Mary shaped the Roland story into fact. She calls **Ken Quackenbush** the anchor of the book, as he was the one who carried out Roland's ideas. In fact, Mary revealed to me that the book is dedicated to Ken.

Her interviews with over 60 significant people include many ASCNYers, such as

Betsey Pratt, who kept the area unique; **John Gerli**, an early friend and investor who was caught on tape; and contributions from **Hooker and David Judson**, which fleshed out the early days. Additional material came from **Gussie Graves**, **Tex Thompson**, and **Nancy and Allen Clark**, among others. A trove of photographs collected by **Henry and Ginny Perkins**, the **Sewall Williams** collection and thousands of other pictures were scanned with the help of **Eric Friedman** and over 600 are included in the book. The more recent story continues with the momentous decision to rescue the mountain by turning it into a skier-owned enterprise and the excellent upgrade replacing the



Reservations FOR DUMMIES

Lodge rooms can now be booked online at www.ascny.org.

What you'll need:

- Credit card
- username: ASCNY
- password: mrg50

What you do:

- 1) Click on "room availability."
- 2) Select your week from the drop down list to the right. Check which rooms are free and *write these down*, as you will need to this info later. (Note: names appear on the night the guest is there, not the day they leave.)
- 3) Click "make a reservation request" at the top of the screen under "room availability."
- 4) Click "I have read and agree to these policies..." at the bottom of the "terms" page. Re-enter user: ASCNY and password: MRG50 when prompted.
- 5) Select a room from the drop down list of the available rooms you wrote down in step 2, select dates, click

"Continue." (Note: Again, select the nights you will be there.)

6) The next screen shows you your order. If that's the only reservation you want to make, click "no" under "would you like to make another reservation?" at the bottom.

7) You will be asked for your email & password. If you have yet to set up an account, use the email on file with the ASCNY to do so. Then enter your info on the next page and click "Continue".

(Note: If you don't have a registered email or you submit the wrong one, the site will tell you. You can retry or email reservations@ascny.org to submit your email to the database.

Then wait for a reply (within 24 hours) from Reservations Chair, Jim Byrne. If he doesn't confirm within 24 hours, email him at: Byrne4@optonline.net.)

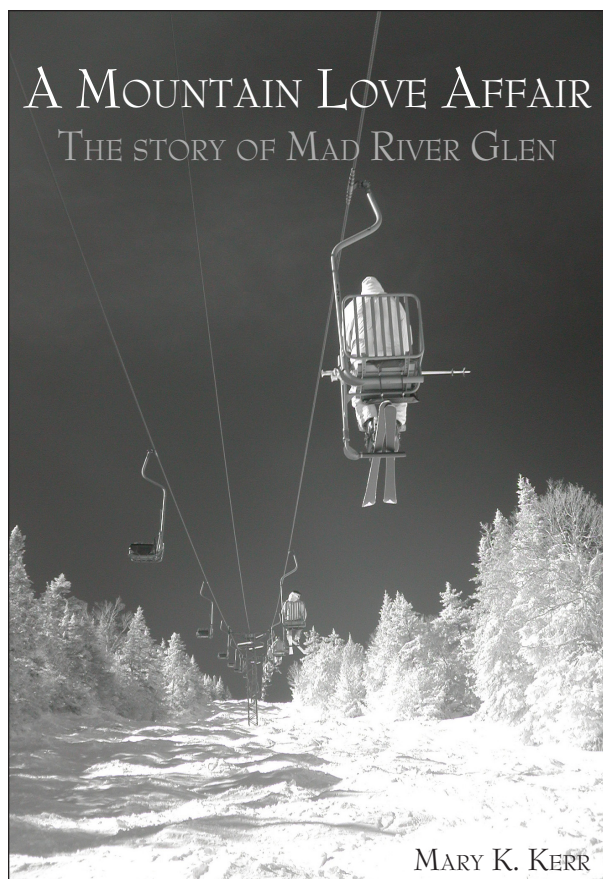
8) Last is the payment screen, which is standard.

9) To check your reservation, click "room availability" at the top, and then "your account" at the top of the following page. Click "your reservations" at the bottom of that page, and it should be listed.

If you don't receive a confirmation from Jim Byrne, the Reservations Chair, within 24 hours, email him at: Byrne4@optonline.net.

single chair with...another single chair!

The book finally became reality when MRG Marketing Director, Eric Friedman called Mary to say that, if she wrote the book, they would publish it in honor of the 60th Anniversary. She holed up last winter in the ski house of **Bill and Candy Davidson** (the old Warner house) with a view of the Mountain for inspiration. The book was published on Thursday, November 20, and can be ordered at www.madriverglen.com, or found at the hallowed site and at local book stores. Although the dimensions are 9 x 12 inches and 224 pages long, with a price of \$49, this is no coffee-table book. In the winter issue of Vermont Life, Tom Slayton says "a



friendly, fascinating book about a friendly, distinctive ski area and is as quirky and enjoyable a book as the ski area it celebrates." True devotees of Mad River will want to get in on the first printing of 2300 copies.

This is Mary Kerr's first book, although she has been writing most of her life and has a degree from Medill School of Journalism. We at the Amateur would like to think that she honed her skills as the editor of the ASCNY Newsletter from 1988 - 2000 and in her "As I Ski It" column in various newspapers. In between, she has managed to ski 140 mountain resorts on five continents and has led many ASCNY trips to the US and Europe.

Sally Pinkham

OWDOWN

Lodge Etiquette Redux

Now with the ease of making reservations online at www.ascny.org, it is easy to see that the Lodge is going to get a lot of use this season. For that reason, it may be time to gently remind everyone of exactly what is expected from our Members.

Clean Up After Yourself! Remember, you are sharing a relatively small space with a lot of people. Keeping things picked up and clean will go a long way. So go ahead and empty the dishwasher, take out the trash or bring in some wood. Even if you're not staying at the Lodge - it's always appreciated!

The Boot Room should also be kept neat and clean. Store your gear in the racks and on the boot dryers. Clothing, etc. should be hung up or otherwise put away and not left on the floor. Make sure your kids do the same.

Parking Spaces in front of the Lodge are reserved for those staying there during weekend and holiday periods. Other members should park along the side of the building or in the lots across the road.

Children should be supervised - and they should not be jumping on the furniture or running wild at cocktail hour!

Please attempt to keep your children reigned in. It's your responsibility to help ensure enjoyment of the Lodge for all.

Use Common Sense. Guests are welcome - sometimes, and within reason. But use your best judgment. Crowded, high capacity weekends and holidays are not the best times to invite the crew over to use the boot room and bathrooms. Save that for a quiet off-weekends or mid-week, and limit those that you do include. Our small building cannot handle the crowds.

Shrink Your Carbon Footprint. Turn thermostats down during the day while out skiing and turn your lights off. Help keep our energy bills low! Be sure to do the same (heat down to 50) before leaving for home.

Quiet Please! Whether arriving late at night or gathering by the fire for a nightcap, be sure to keep the noise level low. Sounds travels at the Lodge and others may be trying to sleep.

Finally, the best rule of thumb is to treat the Lodge as you would the home belonging to a friend, who has lent it to you for the weekend. Leave the place as you found it - in perfect working order.

Thank You!
ASCNY Lodge Committee

The Fall Line



Amateur Ski Club
of New York

165 W End Ave, #22K
New York, NY 10023

**For Lodge Reservations and
general information,
visit www.ascny.org!
Username: ASCNY & Password: MRG50**

Correction for ASCNY Acctg/Admin Contact
Susan Kluger's email address is incorrect
in the Membership Directory. The correct
address is susankluger@rcn.com.
We regret the error.

The Fall Line
is a publication of the Amateur Ski Club of New York

For submissions, ideas, or to share photos
contact Anne Bonacum at
abonacum@fashioncenter.com / 631.422.3669
or Sally Pinkham at mecko165@aol.com

RACE DATES

Slalom
Saturday, January 3, 10am

Cross Country
Saturday, January 17, 10am

Giant Slalom
Saturday, February 14, 10am

Membership Committee Announcements

New Regular Member

Anne Mundinger
New Canaan, CT