



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



January 2008

President's Notes

Happy New Year!

Another ski season is here and everyone in my household is excited about the new season at Mad River Glen. There is a lot of snow already – a good sign for 2008!

Driving to Mad River Glen involves many hours on the highway, but what makes the drive worthwhile is the unique experience of weekend skiing in New England. Once we have our room reservations at the ASCNY lodge and pull our gear together, all we have to do is show up. After that, a short walk across the parking lot is all it takes to get to the lift. The lodge is appealing to me because it is such a friendly place which breeds camaraderie and familiarity. Whether I go there to use the boot room or kitchen, sit by the fireplace, spend the night, chat with friends, sign up for a race, or attend a cocktail party, it is a place I can go anytime and feel welcome. Additionally, the lodge is filled with history and tradition.

When we first joined the Amateur almost 20 years ago, dues were \$75 annually which, until two years ago, had only risen to \$105. Fortunately, the lodge had been in a holding pattern where very little maintenance had been required. Unfortunately, we suddenly found ourselves in a position where many major projects needed urgent attention. In order to fund these critical renovations, the board had no choice but to raise dues.

The common bathrooms have now been successfully refur-

bished and look great! The lodge has also gotten a new kitchen stove and two new armchairs for the common room, and we are planning to install a new insulated roof, a major undertaking which will be started in the spring. Other important projects in the works include new alarm and smoke detector systems throughout and upgraded electrical systems. We are also doing a feasibility study to explore adding a new common room to the lodge. At the club level, the accounting software is being upgraded to increase efficiencies, and improvements are being made to our website.

Because of our strong membership, I am pleased to report that the Club is financially very healthy. Lodge usage during last season was extremely high, as it is a very popular destination. We try to encourage this by maintaining room rates at very reasonable levels. There is also a steady flow of applications for new membership, so we don't anticipate having to raise dues again in the near term.

An exciting new addition to the lodge will be the single chair #31 we acquired from the Mad River Glen auction which will be strategically mounted. The number was carefully chosen to commemorate the year our club was founded, 1931.

There has been increasing interest in the away ski trips. Last year's trip to Cortina was very successful and there are almost 20 people committed to go to Alta this season. We are

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Calendar of Events

December 29, 2007:

Slalom Race - 10:00 am

Cocktail Party @ ASC Lodge, 6:00 pm

January 19, 2008:

X-Country Race - 10:00 am

January 25-26, 2008:

Young Members / Guest Lodge Weekend

(after last year's "sell out" the Young Members weekend has been fully subscribed again this year!)

February 16, 2008:

Grand Slalom Race – 10:00 am

Awards ceremony - 6:00 pm

March 1-8, 2008:

Club trip to Alta, Utah

Contacts:

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John Emanuel Gerli died peacefully at the age of 96 on June 20th in Rye, NY.

Born on October 16, 1909 in New York City, John attended the Allen Stevenson and Hotchkiss Schools, and graduated from Yale University, class of 1932.

In World War II John served as an intelligence officer with U. S. Army's 66th Fighter Wing of the 8th Air Force. Stationed in Cambridge, England with a fighter plane group supporting bombing raids and reconnaissance flights, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service.

He was an executive with E. Gerli & Co. and Green Fabric Company and co-owner of Palmer Marine Engine Company in Cos Cob, CT. Active in the community life of the Town of Greenwich, he represented District II in the Representative Town Meeting for over 50 years. He was honored in 2004 for his long and devoted service.

An active skier until his 92nd year, he was a co-founder and a Vice President of the Mad River Glen Ski Area. John and his family maintained a residence at the base of Mad River. He and his wife Christine were regulars on the ASCNY trips for many years. Gerli children and grandchildren appeared often at Mad River, skiing and/or racing.

He was a member of the Amateur Ski Club of New York, the Round Hill Club, the Indian Harbor Yacht Club, and an honorary member of the Ye Old Kings Highway Stamp Club of Darien and the Horseneck Club of Greenwich.

A Memorial service was held on June 28th, 2006 at the Round Hill Community Church in Greenwich.

Memorial contributions can be made to: The Boys and Girls club of Greenwich, or the Mad River Valley Community Fund.

Excerpt from the Greenwich Time's article by Bernie Yudain: "John Gerli, who was not exactly tall in physical stature, was a tough hombre and a man who tackled jobs with zeal and commitment. He seemed to take service to community and country as his lodestar".

Except from John's eulogy, delivered by long-time friend & skier John Sherwin:

"My good friend John was a true pioneer, and he blazed many trails in his life. His favorites were ski trails; first at Stowe and later at Mad River Glen. We met when Mad River opened in 1949. Things were quite different back then. Not enough snow? No problem. We just skied to the bare spots, took off our skis, and shoveled snow out of the woods. John became the chief organizer of these volunteer 'shovel brigades.' His love of the mountain was truly remarkable – it never ended – even when winter did.

Summer time found John lugging his chainsaw up the mountain to improve existing trails or cut new ones. Eventually, John realized that trail maintenance was becoming difficult to keep pace with. Yet Roland Palmedo, President, Founder of MRG and an old friend of John's, would not invest in a snowcat. Ever the investment banker, he spoke of amortization and interest costs. He finally capitulated when VP John Gerli and Godfrey Rockefeller opened their checkbooks and agreed to loan the money...Interest Free!

An early member of the Amateur Ski Club, one of the very first downhill ski clubs in the nation, John participated in club races for 60 consecutive years. At the awards dinner he received a memorable trophy: a piece of the snow fence

he collided with after his stellar performance in the Giant slalom.

After 7 more years of doing what he loved so much, John negotiated his last icy race course on a windy and bitter cold day at Mad River at the age of 92. Just a few weeks later, while skiing at Alta with Christine, he noticed something that brought a real smile to his face: printed on all the lift tickets that day were the words "Congratulations John, Still Skiing at 92!" A fitting salute. Shortly after that day, always sharp and realistic, John decided to retire from skiing.

We will miss you, John. Your friendship and camaraderie. Your no nonsense, straight talking "can do" spirit. I can't help but believe that if there's a corner of heaven with snow covered mountains...you will be there."



Single Chair READY TO *ROLL* with Amateur Ski Club's Support

The campaign for the restoration of the historic Mad River Glen Single Chair is nearing its goal thanks to the support of over 800 donors, including more than 60 Amateur Ski Club Members. The Amateur, thanks to a financial guarantee by one of its members, has been able to endow Tower 7 on the refurbished lift. Tower 7 is dedicated to the memory of Roland Palmedo, founder of Mad River Glen and ASCNY.

Betsy Jondro accepted a replica of the new Amateur Tower Plaque at a gala dinner held at the Basebox on October 7, 2007. The tower plaque along with the original wooden number from the tower will be hung in the Amateur Lodge, along with a plaque listing the ASCNY members who contribute to the campaign.



The Amateur is still in need of tax deductible donations to complete the endowment of the \$50,000 tower. Additionally, there are still a number of opportunities remaining for individual recognition, such as endowing a new chair with a \$5000 donation, or participating in the endowment of mid or base station with a more significant contribution.



All ASC members contributing to the Single Chair Campaign will be listed on the plaques in both the Mad River Glen Base Area and in the Amateur Ski Club Lodge.

Charitable contributions may be made to the Preservation Trust of Vermont or the Stark Mountain Foundation. If you are interested in contributing or getting more information, please contact Betsy Jondro at jondro@madriver.com; (802) 496-2868, Penny Parson at starkmt@aol.com; (802) 496 8922, Rick Moulton at rwmjr@gmavt.net; (802) 434-3629, or Sharon Crawford in the MRG office (802) 496-3551 ext. 113.

Thanks to everyone listed below who has supported this amazing effort! It is a great tribute to the memory of Roland and the important role that Mad River and the Amateur Ski Club have played in the history of alpine skiing. See you on the Single!!!

By Betsy Jondro and Penny Parson

Anna Albright	C. Wesley Dunn	William & Jean Miller	Trey Reynolds
Bear & Pam Albright	Eleanor Gerli	Alan Moats	George & Cynthia Sherwin
Scott Alexander	Stuart Goldman	Patrick & Amy Mooney	John & Eileen Sherwin
Norma Bartol	Hector & Anne Griswold	Halsey & Laura Morris	Rob and Hong Sherwin
Anne Berntsen	Warren & Patricia Hellman	Rick & Melinda Moulton	Christine Stiassni-Gerli
Henry Blodget	Hans Hopf	John & Pam Nesbett	Gregg Stone
Taylor and Willa Bodman	Win & Hilary Hotchkiss	Ned Nunes & Kate Stiassni	David & Landon Storrs
Bill & Betsy Botzow	Dudley Johnson	Philip Palmedo	Charlotte Taylor
Dorothy Brill	Betsy Jondro	Joe & Penny Parson	Doug Taylor
Josephine Bush	Jean Kane	Tom & Peggy Pettibone	Barbara Tobin
Cassie Cammann	Bill & Stefanie Kies	Peter & Jean Pettibone	John Tobin & Cathy Ellis
Andrew Carey	Will Kies	Vicky Pettibone & Adam Verost	Doug Walker
Bill and Kip Carey	Arthur & Roelfin Kuypers	Betsy Pratt	Lucia Walker
Peter Cosel	Lawton Lamb	Betsey Kies Raftery	Alex & Alyson Walker
Rob Cosel	Ray & Bonnie Meagher	Stuart Randall	Brooks & Ashley Ware
Ian Cross	Newton P. S. Merrill	John Rawlings	Ashley Young

TALES OF TRAILS

The Steeps of La Grave

Members' Ski Stories

Two years ago, I had the good fortune of being introduced to back-country skiing by a group of my “diehard” Mad River ski friends who had begun traveling regularly to Europe in search of untracked powder. I had an incredible trip with them the first go around so I decided to return again last year for an encore - and now I’m hooked!

Back country skiing differs a bit from regular skiing in that it involves skiing down off-piste terrain with a high degree of challenge, offering a tremendously thrilling and rewarding experience. It does require a certain amount of gear, which includes an avalanche transceiver (beacon), shovel, probe, harness and pack. It is also recommended to use back country powder skis, which need to be equipped with special randonnee bindings and seal skins for hiking from the top of a lift over a mountain pass to access a run, or for hiking out of a valley at the bottom. Having the right clothing is also essential, as skiers are constantly heating up and cooling down over the course of the day. Most importantly, skiers must have a guide familiar with the local terrain to lead them to the snow and keep them out of danger. Because much of the accessible skiing in Europe is above the tree-line, it is very conducive

to this type of skiing, but crevasses and avalanche danger are always present.

Some of the more memorable days of our trip last year were spent at La Grave, France. This particular area gained notoriety over the past decade as a back-country ski Mecca. It was made known primarily by Doug Coombs who operated his steep skiing camp in the area. After having spent two days exploring some of its terrain, I understand why he was drawn to this locale.

La Grave is a charming village of about 600 residents, 35 miles up into the mountains from Grenoble on the route to Briancon, a few miles past the access roads which lead up to Les Deux Alpes and Alpes d’Huez. There are 6 rustic hotels, several ski shops and a guide service to accommodate the influx of skiers who come from all over to experience the steeps. The town overlooks the ski area which is dominated by a huge glaciated rock peak called La Meije.

Several of the unique things about the ski area of La Grave are its lack of marked trails, (there are none), along with no ski patrol, no trail grooming, and no ski school. It is a true



back country area. Apart from a couple of small t-bars located almost at the summit, there is only one lift, a tramway, which takes 30 minutes and includes several stops at mid-stations before reaching the top. This lift accesses 2150 vertical meters of skiing which offer some of the most thrilling skiing available anywhere in the world.



Our first day at La Grave was spent following our guide through the trees and down the faces of the middle section of the front of the area because the very top section was closed due to extreme weather conditions. Here we enjoyed powder run after powder run, one great line after the next, for most of the day. The second day, the weather had cleared, so we were able to take the tram all the way to the top. We made numerous top to bottom runs which culminated in a thrilling trip down the Freaux couloir. This is a 20 - 30 foot wide 3000 vertical foot long chute which descends at a 45 degree pitch and ultimately ends up in Freaux, the next village down the road from La Grave.



This run marked the end of our two fabulous ski days at La Grave. As we reminisced about the day in the local café afterwards, we felt that our refreshments and efforts at rehydration were more than well-deserved!

Stuart Randall

President's Notes - Continued from page 1

always happy to assist any members with ideas on activities which would be fun for the membership. Next year, this might include an extended weekend ski trip to Mont Tremblant in addition to the regular trip. Since the young members weekends at the lodge have been so successful, there is also the possibility of the club coordinating a young member's trip as well.

We are very pleased at the level of initiative and time committed by dedicated members to insure the continued success of the club. Whether it is dealing with lodge related issues, putting together the newsletter or the trip, organizing events and outings, or making sure we are on solid financial footing, there is much work behind the scenes to make sure it all happens.

Our sincere thanks to all who contribute to making the Club such a vibrant organization.

We look forward to a healthy and exciting season!!

Stuart Randall

Membership Committee Announcements

Posted for Regular Membership

Wen and Jinah Barker
Greenwich, CT

Tyler P. Merrill
Charlestown, MA

Jack Woodstock
Bangor, ME

Amanda Newton
New York, NY

Tielman van Vleck
New York, NY

ASCNY 2008 Ski Trip

Alta, Utah, March 1st ~ 8th

The March trip to Alta, Utah is in place and over 20 people have signed up! The August 1st reservation deadline has past, but those wishing to join the group should call The Rustler Lodge at 1-888-532-2582 to check for room availability and current rates. The following information appeared in a mailing this past summer:



is \$462 for double occupancy and \$385 for single occupancy, plus a 15% service charge and local taxes.

Skiing/ Other Activities: The snow (500 inches a year) is Alta's secret to providing plenty of groomed trails as well as untouched runs for die-hard powder skiers. A day of heli-skiing and/or cat skiing is also available for anyone

interested. Want to ski Snowbird? You can easily ski from the top of Alta to Snowbird, or take the free hotel shuttle. In 2007 Alta ski passes were \$52 a day a person, and the Alta/Snowbird pass was \$71. Want to try something else? There are groomed tracks for snow-shoeing and cross-country, and frequent shuttles to the shops and restaurants in Snowbird.

Getting there: All the major airlines fly into Salt Lake City. From there, the Rustler will arrange a shuttle to the hotel (please tell them your flight information, in advance) for approximately \$28 a person.

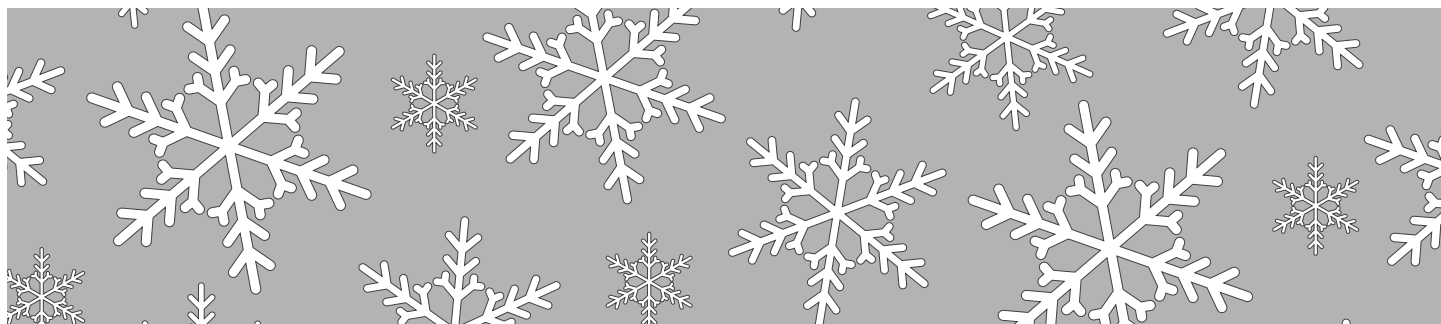
How to sign up: Please call the Rustler for reservations at 1-888-532-2582 and tell them you are part of the Amateur Ski Club of New York. They will require a \$500 credit card deposit per person to hold your room, and the balance will be due January 1st. If you are interested in a shorter (long weekend) stay, these reservations can only be made 60 days prior to arrival, and rooms and rates will be based on availability at that time.

Book early as The Rustler is holding a limited number of rooms for us until August 1st.

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. There is also complimentary wifi and a business center. The Lodge operates on a modified American plan, so the room rate includes a large breakfast buffet and a four-course dinner. For more information visit www.rustlerlodge.com.

Need more information? Please feel free to call or email Rick Stowe or Belinda Shepard. Rick can be reached at 917-710-2047 or rstowe@hepfund.com and Belinda at 203-227-6999 or bjshepard@mindspring.com

Our Rooms: All rooms are comfortably furnished with king or twin single beds, TV's/VCR's etc. Some rooms have a balcony and/ or mountain views but you need to ask for these. Because we booked our rooms early, the hotel has guaranteed us their regular 2007 rates (2008 prices are higher). Our discounted room price, including breakfast and dinner,



LOST IN THE SNOW

(February results unearthed on the Practice Slope)

GIANT SLALOM

Prattfall

male over 40

1) Bobby Nichols	69.16
2) John Tobin	73.28
3) Alan Mizejeski	74.19

Sitzmark

all male

1) Bob Nichols	69.16
2) John Nesbett	72.34
3) John Tobin	73.28

Fairsexmark

all female

1) Kate Albright	83.10
2) Tasha Nagler	84.7
3) Helana Nichols	84.7

Billy Ross

10 and under male and female

1) Isabel Taylor	88.81
2) Harold Parket	101.12
3) Tyler Boland	111.52
4) Emily Byrne	163.40
5) Benjamin Albright	171.78

Smallfrymark

1) John Parket	82.92
2) Kate Albright	83.10
3) Anne Taylor	84.96

Jr. Boys

16 and under

1) John Parker	82.92
2) Dylan Kavookjian	94.29
3) Harold Parker	101.12

Jr. Girls

16 and under

1) Kate Albright	83.10
2) Anne Taylor	84.96
3) Isabel Taylor	88.81
4) Phoebe Wilkes	93
5) Kat Byrne	95.44

8 & Under

1) Alexandra Nesbett	2.06
2) Lucy Wilks	3.16
3) Scott Alexander	2.15

5 and Under Unaided

1) Isabella Nesbett	5.54
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5 and Under Aided

1) Macklin Mizejeski	2.72
2) Paul Rawlings	2.78

Family

1) Byrne family	1.40
2) Wilks family	1.46
3) Nesbett family	2.31

Husband and Wife

1) Bobby and Helana Nichols	1.54
2) Pam and John Nesbett	1.64
3) Christian and Tasha Nagler	1.64

Father and Son

1) Brett and Tyler Boland	1.01
2) John and John Parker	1.26
3) Scott and Scott Alexander	1.45

Father and Daughter

1) Jeff and Phoebe Wilks	.88
2) John and Kate Byrne	.96
3) John and Alexandra Nesbett	1.39

Sibling Rivalry

1) Isabel and Anne Taylor	1.73
2) John and Harold Parker	1.84
3) Kate and Emily Byrne	2.58

CROSS COUNTRY

Mens

1) John Tobin	12.25
2) Bobby Nichols	13.09

Womens

1) Helana Nichols	27.48
2) Pam Nesbett	27.52

Junior

1) Alexandra Nesbett	N/A
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Amateur Ski Club
of New York

117 Cedar Road
Wilton, CT 06897

RACE DATES

Slalom

Saturday, December. 29 - 10:00 a.m.

Cross Country

Saturday, January 19 - 10:00 a.m.

GS

Saturday, February 16 - 10:00 a.m.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE
that, after last year's "sellout,"
the Young Member's Weekend
has been fully subscribed again for
this year. It is planned for the weekend of
JANUARY 25TH -26TH.

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR TRIP TO ALTA?

*Join the Amateur Ski Club
of New York for its
2008 trip to Alta Utah
March 1 — 8*

The Fall Line

is a publication of the Amateur Ski Club of New York

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