

At the end of October, I shockingly received eleven inches of snow at my home in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Unfortunately, the snow took down several trees on my property and my street lost power for more than a week. My two sons missed a week of school, while my wife and I pondered investing in a standby generator. Despite these inconveniences, I found myself day-dreaming about skiing Lower Antelope and the 19th Hole with my family. I was huddled in front of our fireplace, furious at Connecticut Light and Power's inability to get power back to much of Fairfield County. Later, Mad River Glen's sizeable marketing department sent me a timely e-mail on my Droid cell phone, talking about how ready MRG is for the upcoming season. They asserted that their three aged snow making machines were reconditioned and "ready to blow snow."

I am excited to take my family up for a Mad River Valley weekend of relative solitude at our sky blue-colored ski lodge, which, if you haven't been to recently, can still comfortably sleep twenty-four people. I look forward to relaxing in front of our massive fireplace after a long day of chasing my sons through and around birch trees, down the challenging General Stark mountain. If you don't yet own a share of Mad River Glen's Cooperative, please explore doing so before you pull on your ski boots this season. Like so many investments these days, the return on an MRG share may not help your retirement plans, but you will be proud of your ownership. I certainly am.

Some news: We have moved the Slalom race from New Year's Weekend to President's Day Weekend because a lack of snow on eight of the ten previous attempts has pushed the race to February anyway. This schedule change may result in a greater turnout for the awards dinner on February 19th. Book your plans to be there. Betsy and John Rawlings are planning



(continued from previous page)

the ages of all of our members so we can accurately predict future cash flow changes as our membership ages into different categories. In addition, this information will allow us to forecast potential lodge usage in coming years. By providing your current e-mail, we can also keep you better informed of upcoming events. Finally, we are working to update our membership directory. Birthdays will not be published and will be kept confidential. As a private club, the ASCNY will never release, sell or trade any information about members. If you have not yet sent this critical information back to us, please do so immediately. This questionnaire can be downloaded from our website at www.ascny.org. We will soon release a summary of findings from this membership study. We need to better understand where our club should be in ten, twenty years. The Amateur Ski Club of New York is incorporated as a “club to promote skiing by a congenial group of amateurs.” We must ensure that our treasured club exists in perpetuity. Sadly, as you will read in this newsletter, we have recently lost several key members to the ASCNY family.

Additionally, the Board of Governors recently approved nine new applicant requirements for ASCNY membership. These requirements significantly tightened our barriers to club entry, including that the applicant must reside in the New York City metropolitan area. Further, we significantly increased the initiation fee. As a result of member feedback from the demographic profiles, the Board of Governors overwhelmingly voted to suspend new member applications until January of 2014. This decision was made in response to comments from many members that it has become increasingly difficult to obtain lodge reservations. To ensure that members have a good return on their dues investment we will continue to monitor these two critical club issues – how many new members, if any, do we need over time; and how hard should it be to get a room at the lodge.

Staying at the lodge is as popular as it has been in more than a decade. Lodge reservations are up significantly over last year and several weekends are booked already. Log onto our website to review availability and make reservations. Remember that we have an active wait list if a weekend is sold out.

Thank you so much to Jeff and Hooley Wilks for hosting our annual fall event at their lovely home in New Canaan, Connecticut. The Chili Cook-Off was a tremendous success.

I hope to see you at the lodge this winter. As always, please feel free to contact to me to discuss ways to make our club better.

–Scott Alexander



Sibling Rivalry Champs Bradford and Scott Alexander in the original Single Chair lift, which the ASCNY now proudly displays on the lodge deck.

2011 CROSS COUNTRY RACE

There is a resurgence in participation at the ASCNY Cross Country race. Four years ago, the only two adults who participated were John Tobin and yours truly. Now, I can't even personally participate in the race because of the increased logistics of coordinating so many participants (no, that is not an excuse, really).

I think there are various influences combining to draw increased participation. Yes, there may be an element of demographic expansion and contraction, similar to school systems. And yes, people these days tend to be more health conscious and embrace cardio-intensive exercise. But it is more than that. The Cross Country Race is very much about members wanting to participate and help uphold a cherished tradition. Believe me, the downhill that many of these casual Nordic skiers left behind on MLK Weekend 2011 was exceptional the morning of the race.

Interestingly, the Cross Country race is relatively new to the ASCNY, having been established in 1978 with the Palmedo family providing the Roland Palmedo trophy. The first race was held at the Tobin's farm and it notes in "50 Winters," the club history book, that there was a very large turnout of 25 participants. In 2011, including children, we had 22 participants, very close to the attendance at the large inaugural race.

Gregg Stone won again, stretching his winning streak to three years. His daughter Gevie took second overall and first in the women's division. The Stones are a force to be reckoned with on the Cross Country course - both are accomplished athletes with Gevie currently training for the Olympic Rowing Team.

The children's race was very close, with Hanna Gregory taking the gold and Paul Rawlings on her tail at the finish. The race was a veritable sprint. There was no "pacing oneself" in this race, with skiers furiously fighting for each inch.

—John Nesbett



Above: Trey Gregory, Bob Nichols, Rich Gervase, Gregg Stone, Brooks Ware
Left: John Rawlings and Tasha Nagler
Below: Andthey're off!
Bottom left: Paul Rawlings
Bottom right: Matilda Nichols



Left: Hanna Gregory takes the gold in the children's category, with Paul Rawlings close behind.



Photos Betsy Rawlings



Above left: Race Chairman John Nesbett
Top: The kids' eld was packed!
Above: Gregg Stone, Gevie Stone and John Tobin
Far left: Izzy Nesbett, Will Gervase and Paul Rawlings
Left: Pam Nesbett and Helena Nichols

2011 ASCNY CROSS COUNTRY RACE RESULTS

Adult

- 1) Gregg Stone
- 2) Gevie Stone
- 3) John Tobin
- 4) Bob Nichols
- 5) Richard Gervase
- 6) Brooks Ware
- 7) Helena Nichols
- 8) Trey Gregory
- 9) Pam Nesbett
- 10) Sara Albright
- 11) Amanda Walker
- 12) Ann Gervase

Children

- 1) Hanna Gregory
- 2) Paul Rawlings
- 3) Katie Gervase
- 4) Sam Albright
- 5) Tigger Nesbett
- 6) Hayes Gregory
- 7) Will Gervase
- 8) Henry Nagler
- 9) Isabella Nesbett
- 10) Matilda Nichols



Above: Gevie Stone, Ann Gervase and Gregg Stone
Above right: Hanna Gregory
Right: Sarah Albright and Pam Nesbett



MLK Weekend Cocktail Party

Cocktails and camaraderie were the order of the night on January 15, 2011. Following a morning of Cross Country competition, ASCNYers put their friendly rivalries aside to toast each other and the club as they gathered at the lodge. The newest ASCNY members, the Gervase Family, were welcomed into the club that evening as part of the festivities.



Top: Betsy Rawlings, Tasha Nagler, Ashley Ware and Pam Nesbett
Left: ASCNY Treasurer Trey Gregory
Above left: With the Cross Country race over, John Nesbett (left) nally gets to relax.
Above right: Hanna Gregory, Tigger Nesbett, Anna Albright



Photos by Betsy Rawlings

Above and Left: Members mingled at the lodge.

YOUNG MEMBERS WEEKEND 2011

For those driving to Mad River from New York and Connecticut, the ASCNY Young Members' Weekend of 2011 began with a long and harrowing drive. The season's second major storm was a bust in New York City, giving false security to some; but, the storm unleashed a quick foot over parts of Connecticut and Massachusetts, where heavy bursts of snows slowed travel to a crawl.

I drove up with Young Members weekend founders, Doug and Carrie Stowe, who were well prepared to drive in the snow, but weren't prepared for the traffic that averaged 20 mph, which resulted in a 3 a.m. arrival for us. Simon and Kara Gerson were trapped on a 20-mile stretch of I-84 for three hours and did not arrive until 5AM.

To add insult to injury, Mad River Glen was closed due to the big warm-up on New Years Day. The late arrival and MRG conditions did not quell the spirits of the hearty young members, though, some of whom woke up early to head over to Sugarbush. The limited available terrain at Sugarbush was still adequate – some new snow had freshened conditions overnight. Some members, Tyler Merrill and Amanda Newton included, stuck to Mt. Ellen, while the rest of us, including Camilla Bradley, skied at both Mt. Ellen and Sugarbush South. We took advantage of fun terrain features and skied in a large group, racing one another down.

Saturday night was typical for any Young Members Weekend – with a large dinner for all at the lodge. As has become tradition over the last three years, we closed the evening with a big game of “salad bowl,” a cross between charades and similes.

The late arrival Friday night did take its toll on motivation on Sunday. Most left early, while a friend and I decided to buy the \$25 dollar practice slope pass. It had snowed overnight and continued to snow all day. I managed to get in some good, albeit short, powder turns. Doug Stowe and Jack Woodcock decided to hike/skin up to the top of the double chair and got fresh lines in wind-protected areas. Upon learning they had hiked up, I did a solo hike to the top of Canyon and got in some good turns.

Of course, 18 inches of snow fell right after we left, allowing the mountain to re-open, but such is the life of a Mad River skier.

—Chris Leach



Photos by Chris Leach

Top: Camilla Bradley watches Brian Haklisch pick his line.
Bottom: Doug Stowe



Top: Young Members gather for the traditional Saturday night dinner, followed by "Salad Bowl."
 Left: Chris Leach
 Below: Hooray for Sugarbush!



2011 SLALOM & GIANT SLALOM RACES



Because the New Year's Day Slalom championship was postponed to Presidents Day weekend, the ASCNY held both the Slalom and Giant Slalom races on a wind-swept, bitterly cold Saturday. The weather was so severe that the Single Chair and Sunnyside Double were closed because of dangerous winds. Despite these conditions, more than fifty racers, ranging from four to sixty-eight years of age, completed four runs down the Race Hill, down patches of blue ice and snow so hard even ruts were hard to spot around gates. The Slalom race had to be shortened because Mad River's Race Chairman declared too much speed would be carried down the Race Hill's knoll; therefore, he began the race just above the knoll, instead of at the top of the Practice Slope Chair. As a result, our Slalom race times averaged well under thirty seconds. Despite these challenges, Helena Nichols defended her title from last year, capturing her seventh Skimeister award with victories in both the Women's Slalom and Giant Slalom.

Helena's husband, Bob, grabbed second place finishes in the Men's Slalom and Giant Slalom and a fourth place finish in January's Cross Country Championship, giving him his eleventh Skimeister Championship. Bob and Helena's daughter, Matilda, competing in her first race at the age of five, finished in second place behind Lindsey Carey in the six and under category of the Giant Slalom.

Hanna Gregory defended her Mighty Meister title with four fast runs, besting Paul Rawlings and Tigger Nesbett. The Billy Ross Awards for the fastest racers in the Giant Slalom Championship for those ten years and under went to Scott Alexander and Emily Richards.

Former President, Stuart Randall, who has spent most of the last decade overseeing and encouraging his children's ski racing careers at Cannon Mountain in New Hampshire, made a last minute phone call to Race Chairman, John Nesbett to see if he and his daughter, Kate, could enter the race with only two days' notice. With a green light from John, the Randalls surprised everyone by appearing at the top of the Practice Slope Chair with ASCNY race bibs.

Stuart Randall didn't disappoint. In his first ASCNY race in eight years, he won both the Slalom and Giant Slalom, besting Bob Nichols in both races by only fractions of a second. Randall and Nichols have been competing in ASCNY race championships since the mid 1980s. Brooks Ware was also in the medal round of both races, finishing third in each race.



Top: ASCNY race bibs – ready for action!
Above: John and Paul Rawlings
Below: Six and Under Giant Slalom Champ
Lindsay Carey



Left: Henry and Christian Nagler
Above: Top contenders Brooks Ware, Stuart Randall and Bob Nichols



Above: Richard and Ann Gervase, Norma Bartol, Izzy Nesbett, Heather Spehr, Anna Spehr, Sam Albright, Tigger Nesbett, Tim Albright, Will Spehr
Right: Men's Slalom and Giant Slalom Champ Stuart Randall



Above: Priscilla and Scott Alexander
Below: Bradford Alexander



Above: Pam Nesbett, Margie Gregory, Betsy Rawlings, Priscilla Alexander and Hooley Wilks
Left: Ann Gervase
Below: Tasha Nagler and Hooley Wilks



Far left: Girls Billy Ross Champ Emily Richards and Smallfry Champ Hanna Gregory
Left: Ten and under Slalom Champ Paul Rawlings and Izzy Nesbett



2011 PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND RACE RESULTS

GIANT SLALOM

Prattfall (men's 40 and over)

- 1) Stuart Randall
- 2) Bob Nichols
- 3) Brooks Ware

Sitzmark (men's overall)

- 1) Stuart Randall
- 2) Bob Nichols
- 3) Brooks Ware

Fairsexmark (women's overall)

- 1) Helena Nichols
- 2) Kate Randall
- 3) Tasha Nagler

Billy Ross (girls 10 and under)

- 1) Emily Richards
- 2) Lucy Wilks
- 3) Lindsey Carey

Billy Ross (boys 10 and under)

- 1) Scott Alexander
- 2) Will Spehr
- 3) Thomas Walker

Smallfrymark (14 and under)

- 1) Hannah Gregory
- 2) Tigger Nesbett
- 3) Anna Albright

Jr. Girls (16 and under)

- 1) Phoebe Wilks

6 and under

- 1) Lindsey Carey
- 2) Matilda Nichols
- 3) Hadley Carey

8 and under

- 1) Will Spehr
- 2) Sammy Albright
- 3) Anna Spehr

9 Year Olds

- 1) Thomas Walker
- 2) Paul Rawlings
- 3) Madeline Carey
- 4) Hayes Gregory
- 5) Nicolas Ware

Family

- 1) Nichols
- 2) Wilks
- 3) Gregory

Husband/Wife

- 1) Bob and Helena Nichols
- 2) Christian and Tasha Nagler
- 3) Jeff and Hooey Wilks
- 4) Liza and Andrew Carey

Mother/Daughter

- 1) Heather and Anna Spehr
- 2) Pam and Tigger Nesbett
- 3) Hooey and Phoebe Wilks

Father/Son

- 1) Scott and Scott Alexander
- 2) Doug and Thomas Walker
- 3) John and Paul Rawlings

Mother/Son

- 1) Heather and Will Spehr
- 2) Margie and Hayes Gregory

Boyfriend/Girlfriend

- 1) Paul Rawlings/Hannah Gregory
- 2) Tigger Nesbett/Sam Albright
- 3) Lucy Wilks/Hayes Gregory

Sibling Rivalry

- 1) Alexander
- 2) Gregory
- 3) Wilks

SLALOM

Men's Slalom

- 1) Stuart Randall
- 2) Bob Nichols
- 3) Brooks Ware

Women's Slalom

- 1) Helena Nichols
- 2) Kate Randall
- 3) Heather Spehr

5 and under

- 1) Bradford Alexander
- 2) Amelia Walker

6 and under

- 1) Amelia Walker
- 2) Bradford Alexander
- 3) Matilda Nichols

8 and under

- 1) Will Spehr
- 2) Anna Spehr
- 3) Sam Spehr & Izzy Nesbett (tie)

10 and under

- 1) Paul Rawlings
- 2) Scott Alexander
- 3) Thomas Walker
- 4) Nicholas Ware
- 5) Emily Richards
- 6) Hayes Gregory
- 7) Lucy Wilks

12 and under

- 1) Hannah Gregory
- 2) Tigger Nesbett

16 and under

- 1) Phoebe Wilks

Right: Eight and Under Slalom and Giant Slalom Champ Will Spehr
Far right: Matilda Nichols takes home a medal in her first year of competition.



The ASCNY Celebrates the Season!

2011 was all about the hardware.

The members and guests of the ASCNY gathered on the night of February 19th to celebrate the triumphs achieved on an unusually arduous MRG race course. Setting the evening's stage were the club's iconic trophies themselves, removed from their glass case and displayed as centerpieces at each dining table.

Skimeister. Fairsexmark. Billy Ross. Mighty Meister. The memories of past champions etched in each slightly dented award served as a small table-top history lesson for the partygoers, with members wandering from table to table admiring and remembering the names and stories behind each memento.

As usual the bar did a brisk business, with Trey Gregory in command of the variety of requested old-school drink combinations (including a keg cooling/tapping system apparently dating back to his freshman year at St. Lawrence). The Wooden Spoon again provided a wealth of passed nibbles, and soon the lodge decibel level approached a satisfactory din.



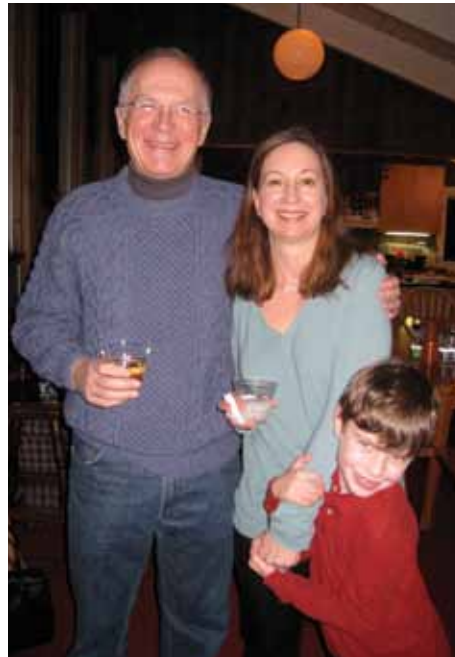
Above: Past trophies made sentimental centerpieces

Left: Rick, Natasha and Clifford Stowe

Below: Five and Under Slalom Champ Bradford Alexander



Above: Norma Bartol
Below: Tim Albright



Left: Kids helped get the lodge party-ready.
Above: Jeff and Phoebe Wilks

Photos by Betsy Rawlings

2011 SEASON RACE RESULTS

(Combined Slalom, Giant Slalom and Cross Country)

Skimeister

- 1) Bobby Nichols
- 2) Brooks Ware
- 3) Trey Gregory



Skimeister
Bob Nichols
11-time winner

Skimeisteren

- 1) Helena Nichols
- 2) Pam Nesbett
- 3) Margie Gregory



Skimeisteren
Helena Nichols
7-time winner

Mighty Meister

- 1) Hanna Gregory
- 2) Paul Rawlings
- 3) Tigger Nesbett
- 4) Sam Albright
- 5) Hayes Gregory



Mighty Meister
Hanna Gregory
2-time winner



Girls Billy Ross
Emily Richards
1st-time winner



Boys Billy Ross
Scott Alexander
1st-time winner

President Alexander began the awards ceremony by welcoming the club's newest members, the Gervase clan. He then announced the club's newest award, honoring life time contributions to the ASCNY, the Legacy Cup. Legends Alice Powers and Rod Aller were the award's inaugural recipients, the joy of the announcement tempered by the sad news of Alice's passing only two days prior.

Race Chairman Nesbett proceeded to distribute the various medals, cocktail glasses, and trophies to the winners in each of the distinct race categories. The gleam in the eyes of the winning children and adults alike reinforced the adage "everyone loves to win some hardware".

Afterwards, mac and cheese for the kids. Lasagna for the grown-ups. Some good wine and a roaring fire. Tables of friends, old and new. Another memorable evening for the ASCNY.

—John Rawlings



Above: Stefanie Kies and daughter Tasha Nagler
Below: The kids pitched in to pass the hors d'oeuvres

Special thanks to Race Chairman John Nesbett for coordinating another great season of friendly competition and to Betsy Rawlings for all her hard work planning our lodge celebrations!



Above: Maggie Spehr
Below: The night belonged to the Nichols who took top honors for Skimeister, Skimeisteren and Family awards.



Top: Henry Nagler
Above: Hooley Wilks and Tasha Nagler



Above: Trey Gregory tends the bar.
Below: Pam Nesbett and Betsy Rawlings



NEW ASCNY RACE

President Scott Alexander is in discussions with Sugarbush to host the ASCNY's inaugural Super Giant Slalom. Alexander feels that Mad River Glen's Race Hill trail is about 20 seconds too short. That said, Alexander would like to add a 75 second Super Giant Slalom Championship in 2013. "I think our young racers would enjoy this new tradition – one day of racing down Sugarbush South's "Elbow" and "Which Way," a Super GS route that, according to the Sugarbush race director, will take our fastest racers (likely Nichols or Randall) 60 to 65 seconds of leg-burning speed," he said. "I know it may be controversial to host an ASCNY race at Sugarbush rather than Mad River Glen. Perhaps someone can negotiate with Mad River Glen's Eric Freidman to allow us to take over the Slalom Hill, the Creamery, Moody's, and Upper and Lower Canyon for a Super Super Giant Slalom at Mad River!"

Chili Fest 2011

On an appropriately cold, but not quite snowy, November 5th night, thirty-plus hardy ASCNY members gathered in New Canaan, Connecticut. The site was the 100 year old dairy barn at the home of club members Hooey and Jeff Wilks.

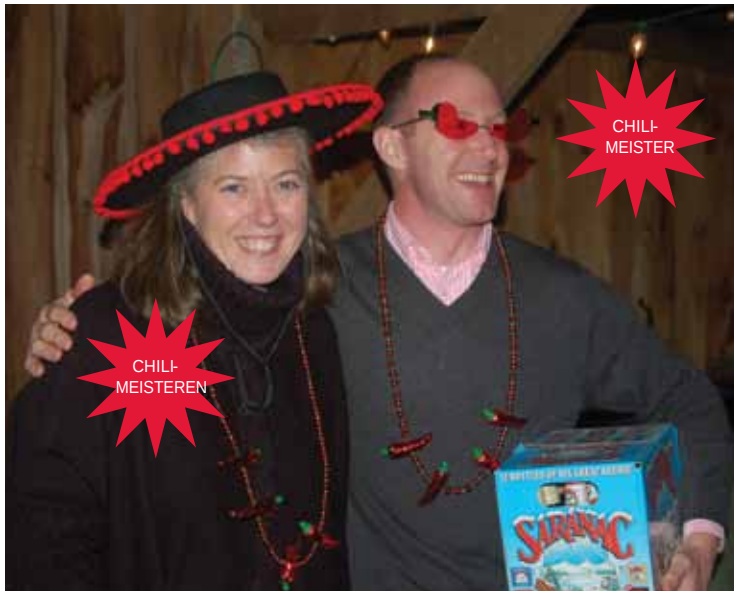
The theme for this year's Fall Party was a Chili Cook-Off, and club members/party-goers turned into chefs, dove into their secret chili recipes and brought forth a delicious and spicy array of chilies that everyone taste-tested. Ultimately votes were cast for Tastiest and Spiciest chilies. After extensive ballot box audits, Ann Gervase and Sam Gaudet ended in a dead heat for the Tastiest category, taking the crowns as Chili Meister and Meisteren. After an emotional and heart warming awards ceremony, all eyes turned to the



Above: Lots of chili for the tastin'!

Left: Chili-Meisteren Ann Gervase and Chili-Meister Sam Gaudet

Below: Entertainment Chairperson Betsy Rawlings and Ann Gervase



Left: John Rawlings and Trey Gregory

Above: Lynn Kavookjian and Amy Mooney

Photos by Betsy Rawlings

Right below: John Rawlings and Spicy-Meister John Nesbett
 Right: Former ASCNY President Patrick Mooney and Sam Gaudet
 Below: Margie Gregory, Tony and Aimee Richards



Above: Pam Nesbett and former ASCNY President Hilary Hotchkiss
 Below: Betsy Rawlings, Margie Gregory and Aimee Richards



Spicy contest where John Nesbett eked out a win over several close competitors. A special shout-out must also go to Trey and Margie Gregory who produced not one, but two chilies despite coming from Woodbury, CT where power had been out at their home for the week prior, following the epic freak October snowstorm.

In addition to the chili, many members brought delicious desserts and all indulged.

Add in some Sam Adams on tap, a little vino, chips, guacamole, hot cider and continuously looped ski films and it is safe to say the ASCNY team in total had a great and memorable night.

—Jeffrey Wilks



Happy Trails

by Jessica Lustig

Published in *The New York Times*, November 14, 2011

It can feel as though you've somehow gone back in time when you're driving up the looping curves of Route 17 in northern Vermont and take one last turn, toward the spine of the Green Mountains, to suddenly find what appears to be the movie set of a small 1960s ski resort brought painstakingly to life. There is a cluster of quaint yellow and blue rustic clapboard buildings. A rutted dirt parking lot. A single-chair lift rising into the clouds over narrow trails that seem to pitch and hurtle down the mountain.

Here at Mad River Glen, you won't find high-powered quad chairlifts or gondolas. You'll find hardly any snow making or grooming. And you won't find snowboards at all — they aren't allowed. What you will find is a cult of simplicity and rugged outdoorsmanship, and a form-follows-function aesthetic in which some of the best skiers in the country are often kitted out in a kind of duct-tape-and-deerskin-gloves reverse chic. They pray at the altar of natural snow and are impatient with the kind of spoon-feeding that many ski resorts

serve up these days, in which the bumps are literally smoothed out for their customers. "The skiing is so different from the places where everything is just like a big superhighway because it's been plowed or groomed," says Elliot Wiener, an attorney from Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., who's been coming here for years. "You get to Mad River Glen and it's like driving the back roads. What would you rather do — drive the interstate or drive the back roads?"

It's the kind of place that could only be in New England. Mad River Glen was founded on a particular sort of flinty East Coast old-money bedrock that is still apparent to the eye if you know how to read the code. Just look around the lodge, called the Basebox, at lunchtime and count the L. L. Bean Norwegian sweaters and the characters who look like they could have stepped out of the pages of "The Official Preppy Handbook" (which calls that sweater "the nearest thing to a Prep membership card," and which also name-checks Mad River Glen). In fact, the place owes its current existence to an

Slope stars Clockwise from top left: A Mad River Glen skier circa 1950; the resort's single-chair lift; the founder Roland Palmedo; the onetime owner Betsy Pratt.



actual marriage of society and sport. Because as it happened, it was a dance card that was signed at an exclusive Montclair Ski Club party in 1954 that would determine the eventual fate, and the legacy, of the mountain.

It all started in the 1930s with Roland Palmedo, a New York investment banker and a dedicated skier. He was one of the original investors at Stowe, helped start the National Ski Patrol and was the founder of the Amateur Ski Club of New York, which held parties at J. P. Morgan's house on Long Island. Palmedo and some fellow enthusiasts began scouting terrain for a new Vermont ski area that they imagined would be a Mecca for the sport itself and not its trappings, where they would hand-cut trails that followed the natural contours of the mountain, always seeking the fastest, most direct way downhill — the “fall line” — and where the point would be to commune with the mountain itself. They homed in on General Stark Mountain, and Mad River Glen opened in 1948. Palmedo's finance friends began to meet on Manhattan corners with their wooden skis on Fridays for the drive up. One of them was Truxton Pratt, a banker who joined the volunteer ski patrol.

In the winter of 1953, a Vassar College graduate named Betsy Stratton from Greenwich, Conn., was invited up to Mad River Glen, where she met Pratt. “I had this blind date at Christmas,” she remembers. “We walked to a party, and halfway there I decided I had to marry him. He was the best skier on the hill by far. It took me till April. He was in Mont-



Ken Quackenbush Rides the “new” Single Chair — Early 1950's

clair Ski Club — he'd been president of that club — and they had a dance. He signed my dance card and danced with me, and we were engaged a week later.” Truxton Pratt and a group of friends bought Mad River Glen in 1972, and when he died three years later, Betsy Pratt, who was raising their children in Greenwich, bought a controlling interest in Mad River Glen, determined to run it the way their friend Roland Palmedo had envisioned.

That meant decisions that could seem ornery — against most snow making and grooming, against snowboards and, really, against almost anything new at all — but had everything to do with preserving the look and feel and spirit of Mad River Glen. And, in a funny way, the same things have played out at the ramshackle Inn at Mad River Barn just down Route 17 from the mountain, which Pratt runs and where, at a peppery and eccentric 83, she still holds court in a cashmere sweater and mended khakis.

The Barn was another Roland Palmedo idea. He convinced friends to buy property that bordered the mountain's private land and held two farmhouses that could sleep 50 people in bunks. They put in a pub room with a huge stone fireplace and stuffed caribou, moose and bear heads on the wall, and called it the 19th Hole. A ski run, also called the 19th Hole and not appearing on the trail map, led directly from the mountain to the Barn for the après-ski scene. Pratt bought it decades ago. “I've changed nothing anywhere,” she says. “When somebody's done something really well, you don't have to change it.”

This testament to New England thrift, and to Pratt's own personal philosophy, is also at the core of what Mad River Glen is today. In 1995 Pratt sold it “to the skiers,” as she puts it, a co-op of some 2,000 loyalists committed to protecting everything that makes the mountain so unusual — a very Vermont arrangement and one of the few of its kind in the nation. “This is a way of life,” says Walt Haviland, a longtime Mad River Glen skier who moved from Westchester, N.Y., to the valley 19 years ago with his wife, Ave, a shareholder. “I have skied in Europe, Switzerland, France, most of the ski areas out west, just about all of the ones in New England,” says the grandfather of three who still skis moguls, “and there is no place that equals the pleasure of skiing down closed trails. In other words, you can't just wander anywhere you want to go; the trails decide where you have to go. And black-diamond trails at Mad River are equal to double-black-diamond trails out west, easily.”

The steep, wild terrain — served by four lifts — can indeed be so challenging that Mad River Glen's iconic red-and-white bumper sticker, SKI IT IF YOU CAN, is often read as a dare. The truth, says Pratt, is that it's really more of an exhortation. “If there's snow, go!” she says. “It has nothing to

King of the mountain Looking over the Mad River Valley in the 1960s.



do with your ability.” But the conditions mean that skiers have to work harder at control and technique — I can confirm that those who are intermediate skiers certainly do — and kids who grow up skiing there are said to be able to ski anywhere and on anything. My daughter, who started at Mad River’s small, excellent ski school at 5 years old, proudly announced, “I can ski on snow, rocks, grass and ice!”

“When you’re out west,” says Rick Causey, who works at the mountain’s ski shop and at the Barn, “you can spot a skier from back east. And sometimes you say, ‘They have to be from Mad River, the way they’re making turns!’” Rick, the long-haired cook, and his brother, Matt, the genial bartender in the pub room, are known as the “Barn boys.” (Rick plans to use the name for his custom-ski business.) With their ski-bum dude drawls and Rick’s menu of cheeseburger pizza and Brobdingnagian cookies, they probably give the place a bit more of a **Matt and Rick’s Excellent Adventure** vibe than it had in the past. But hardly anything else has changed, and the Barn, like the mountain, feels like something of a secret.

“How did you find this place?” Elliot Wiener asked across the breakfast table on my family’s first morning a few years ago. He and his friend Bennett Fradkin have been coming up from Hastings-on-Hudson with their families for years. “I can be really very fussy about staying in places,” says Fradkin, an architect. “If it weren’t for the people and the history and the experience. . . . I mean, I’ve asked for a new mattress a couple of times, the bed was missing a leg, it was held up on a book. But it couldn’t have been more fun and enriching to have spent all this time there.” Somehow, as with the mountain, the very things that could be drawbacks or deprivations are instead celebrated by the regulars and turned into lore.

“It’s pure ‘Fawlty Towers,’” says George Michelsen Foy, a writer from New York. “And it’s pure New England. My kids love the Barn as much as the mountain.” Foy has skied around the world but has found himself enthralled by Mad River Glen, even using it as a setting in a novel a few years ago. “I’m half French,” he says, “and it reminds me of the places that I grew up skiing in the Austrian Alps. It’s just beautiful. Even Aspen or Taos, they’re nice, but they don’t have that kind of miniaturized, jewel-like quality, the mix of trees, the configuration of the valley.” He smiles. “I also like that it’s hard.”

Even though there are only 45 trails on the map, there are many more runs through enchanted forests and over frozen waterfalls (some named, some not) that aren’t shown, and it’s a point of pride to be able to say you skied Ice Palace or Octopus’s Garden. “You can be skiing there for all these years,” says David Zaus, a season-pass holder from TriBeCa, “and in



Ski in, ski out at the Basebox lodge, in 1970s. Decorated with old trail maps and wooden skis, it has always been the center of activity at the resort.

the woods, there are still a dozen places you’ve never been in before.” Zaus and his wife, Donna Downes, often ski here with their 14-year-old daredevil daughter. “But the family part of it goes beyond your own family,” Downes says. Zaus adds, “We’re sailors, and we have had people approach us on our sailboat and recognize us — ‘You guys are skiers at Mad River, aren’t you?’ — when we were a thousand miles from home.” They are seasoned travelers, but this, Downes says, “is our favorite place in the universe.”

As with all favorite places, no one ever wants this living museum to change. They want to tell stories about the first time they went down Paradise, the legendarily hair-raising run with the six-foot drop. They want to see Betsy Pratt out there skiing her favorite run, Porcupine, and talking at breakfast about selling the Barn and her 800 acres, but never doing it. They want to tromp into the Basebox lodge and eat lunch under the old trail signs and wooden skis decorating the beams overhead. “It’s used and scruffy,” says Marisa Bowe, an editor from New York who found herself so charmed by Mad River Glen that she goes up to work in the Basebox kitchen during the winter season. “They’re not trying to preserve it to be a ‘perfect’ thing, they’re just trying to preserve it as it is. What’s that Japanese word? *Wabi-sabi*. They’re not trying to be *wabi-sabi*, they just are.”

And if you want to find the spirit of the place — a kind of tao of gnarliness — and why it summons this devotion that can verge on the mystical, you’ll take your place on the single-chair lift line and wait your turn to swing up into the air. It’s impossible not to feel it, as you start to rise through the scene of snow-laden woods straight out of Narnia and fall into a kind of pensive hibernation and meditation on the mile-long ride. “It’s so quiet,” George Michelsen Foy says. “And when it gets really frosted, when the trees up there are sheathed in ice, it’s just otherworldly.”

Hazard Gillespie

Hazard Gillespie, long time member and alumnus of the ASCNY, died peacefully on March 7, 2011, at 100 years old in his home in Nyack, New York, overlooking his beloved Hudson River. His passion for sailing and the environment is the reason that the river has stayed the beautiful sailing waterway it is today.

His brother, Stuart, recalls him winning the ASCNY Sitzmark in 1936, raced on the lawn of the Fountain Inn at Stowe. In that day, the club members packed, set and timed the event after climbing to the start gate. The Sitzmark then was a downhill and slalom, adding up to a combined best with a heavy emphasis on the downhill portion. Hazard was Vice President of the ASCNY in 1940-41 and served on the Board from 1937-1941. In 1936, he qualified for the U.S. Olympic skiing squadron for training at Mount Rainier.

In addition to his wife, Adelma, Mr. Gillespie is survived by two children from the first of his four marriages; a daughter, Jane Brown Grimes, and a son, Samuel H. Gillespie III; two stepchildren, Adelma Lilliston and Leonard T. Lilliston III; two brothers, Stuart and David; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.



Paul C. Munding



Paul C Munding died at his home in Rye on November 10. He was 77.

Dr. Munding was Professor of Biology, Emeritus, at Queens College, City University of New York, where he had taught and conducted research for over 35 years, focusing on the genetic basis of bird song.

He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology from the University of Michigan, and his Ph.D. in Ethology from Cornell University. He conducted the first of his avian field studies at Cornell's then new Laboratory of Ornithology. He received a post-doctoral fellowship to study at Rockefeller University in New York City in 1967, bringing him and his family to Rye, where they have lived for nearly 45 years.

An inspirational teacher, Dr. Munding led many students into their own careers in science. He was an innovative researcher, combining observational fieldwork with controlled laboratory breeding studies. His son, Thomas, said, "His novel approaches to demonstrating the genetic basis of learning led to a wider acceptance of gene-based behavior throughout the scientific community."

When Dr. Munding retired from Queens College earlier this year, he had the largest live bird research laboratory in the country. Dr. Munding was a member of American Yacht Club and the Amateur Ski Club of New York.

His son Paul said about his father, "He expected a lot from all of his family members, but never judged them." His daughter Ann added, "Dad had a huge influence on all of his grandchildren, guiding them and delighting them with stories from his childhood." His daughter Elizabeth said, "We will all miss his joyful laughter and the twinkle in his eye."

In addition to his wife of 53 years, Mary, Dr. Munding is survived by his four children: Paul (Rye), Ann (New Canaan), Thomas (Seattle, Washington), and Elizabeth (Bethesda, Maryland); seven grandchildren; and a sister, Cheryl Heitmann.

Memorial donations be directed to the Queens College Department of Biology.

Alice Powers

2011 Legacy Cup Honoree, Honorary Governor and ASCNY's First Woman President



For many years when the skiing was good at Mad River, you could find Alice up on the Catamount, often having driven up from the city Friday night with Roland Palmedo, our esteemed founder, in his vintage sports Volvo...a white knuckles journey all the way, she would relate, but especially coming over the constantly curving Route 17 Gap Road at Midnight, under less than perfect driving conditions, and with Roland at the wheel.

She was a longtime fixture as a member of the Board, serving as the club's first female president in 1978-1980 (Barbara Tobin and Hillary Hotchkiss coming later), and then as one of just two lifetime Honorary Governors (the other being Duncan Gillespie). Her lifetime achievements were again acknowledged at this year's annual ASCNY awards ceremony on February 19, when our President, Scott Alexander, named Alice one of two Legacy Cup honorees that night. The Legacy Cup is a new award, created this year, to honor longtime members who have made outstanding contributions to the ASCNY; no doubt Alice was an obvious choice.

Alice cared greatly that things were done with thoughtfulness and decorum in the lodge at all times. To wit, Newt Merrill remembers Alice's admonishing his children for wearing their ski boots up into the living room, an experience from which, he says, even to this day as adults, they have never fully recovered.

She also spent days sorting old club archival material and newsletters. Dedication to administrative chores (at which she excelled), and her personal sense of responsibility toward the lodge were not all devoid of her sharply honed sense of humor, however. Once when a proposal for membership was lost by the board (it later was found behind someone's file cabinet, and the candidate has been a member in good standing for many years) Alice exclaimed, "Well, we're not perfect. After all, we are the Amateur Ski Club."

Alice was born on March 16, 1921, in Mount Vernon, New York, daughter of James A. and A. Shirley (Arnold) Powers. Following graduation from Emma Willard School and Smith College, she worked for the government during World War II in Washington, D.C. In 1946, she joined the New York advertising firm of Young and Rubicam, rising to the position of Vice President of Human Resources.

Upon retirement twenty-five years ago, she moved to Essex, Connecticut, where she enjoyed the many cultural and four-season outdoor activities the area offers. She was a past president of the Essex Land Conservation Trust. She also was a member of the Connecticut River Museum, the Essex Garden Club, the Essex Yacht Club and the Old Lyme Country Club, where she served on the golf committee.

Alice passed away on Friday, February 18, 2011 at the Avalon Health Center in Mystic, Connecticut. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Robert and William Powers. She is survived by her nephew, James H. Powers of Montpelier, Vermont, and his partner, Marilyn Hart and her sons, Charles, Otis and Michael Hart.

A memorial celebration of her life was held at the Essex Yacht Club on Saturday, May 21. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Essex Land Trust, P.O. Box 373, Essex, CT 06426.

—Dan Nesbett



Christine Stiassni Gerli



Christine Stiassni Gerli, known to many as wonderful friend, impeccable hostess, inspirational teacher, creative entrepreneur, and loving, devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, died peacefully on Thursday, December 2, 2010, after a brief struggle following a stroke. She was 83.

Christine is survived by her children, Kate and son-in-law Ned Nunes, Sandy Stiassni, Margot and son-in-law Chris Sieracki; grandchildren Max Nunes, Sof Stiassni, Francesca Nunes, JC Stiassni and David Sieracki; brother and sister-in-law Sandy and June Illingworth and half-brother and sister-in-law Martin and Elisabeth Savage. In lieu of flowers, her family asks all donations be made to the Fef Stiassni Dance Studio at Carver Center, 400 Westchester Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573-3604 (914) 939-4464, www.carvercenter.org.

An ASCNY Legend

Christine's passion for skiing began in the 1930s, when she spent a season at the famed Austrian resort of St. Anton, under the tutelage of famed Arlberg stylist Hannes Schnieder. Her step-father's first and favorite memory of Christine, as an eleven year old, was to watch her fearlessly schuss down an open piste on the great powder descent into Zürs.

Christine's first taste of skiing in the U.S. came as a chalet girl at Stowe's Foster Place. There she demonstrated an impeccable ski technique and formed lifelong friendships. Returning to Austria as a newlywed, Christine narrowly escaped a potentially fatal avalanche in Zermatt. Ever the avid outdoorswoman, Christine managed to out-ski its main thrust. She joined husbands Charlie, then John Gerli, on wide-ranging ASCNY adventures, from Mad River's Chute to Portillo in the Chilean Andes.

Christine vigorously supported her children, with varying degrees of success (!), to become accomplished skiers. Always ready to assist, many ASCNYers can recall Christine at the top of a course, offering cheerful encouragement to youthful ski racers.

Anxious to unite east and west coast extended families, Christine picked Utah's Alta as a place she loved to ski and socialize. Her children, grandchildren, brothers and countless friends remember Christine's generosity of spirit and warm hospitality at her Ski Haus on Alta's By-Pass Road.

—Authored by her son, Sandy Stiassni and edited by her daughters, Kate Stiassni Nunes and Margot Sieracki.

The Classic Ski Experience

What is it about Mad River Glen?

Why is Mad River Glen on the MUST ski list for any skiers worth their salt? There are plenty of areas that are bigger, steeper, and offer more amenities. There are certainly plenty of places that get more reliable snow. So what is it that makes Mad River Glen the iconic "holy grail" for so many skiers?

It's a combination of many things and for every skier the answer is a little different. Mad River Glen offers the most challenging and diverse terrain in New England with an uphill capacity that guarantees low skier density on the trails even on the busiest days. It is one of the last bastions of natural snow skiing in New England and is one of only three areas in North America that prohibit snowboarding. The trails were cut to follow the mountain's natural contours. Skiers can descend the entire 2,037' of vertical on true expert terrain with absolutely no run-outs. On the other hand, Mad River's mountain layout with a single base area makes it an ideal family mountain. The area's character, the result of a long and proud history, reflects the terrain and natural beauty. There is a special camaraderie among the skiing community, with its co-op ownership, non-commercial, family-friendly atmosphere, dedicated staff, and - of course- the Single Chair, America's favorite ski lift.

Combined, these qualities create a unique ski experience that stands in stark contrast to the mainstream world of skiing. The various facets of the Mad River ski experience appeal to different skiers in different ways but together they create a feeling and sense of place that is truly unique. The mission of the Mad River Glen Cooperative is to protect and preserve these special qualities. The skier-owners of Mad River Glen invite you to discover for yourself the experience they are dedicated to preserving.



Join Us

**Help Preserve the Experience...
Buy You Share Today**



About the Co-op

Mad River Glen became one of Vermont's first major ski areas when the Single Chair began carrying skiers to the top of General Stark Mountain in 1948. From the very beginning, Mad River Glen has been unique, a place where skiing is a sport not an industry, working with nature not against it. Mad River Glen began a new era in 1995 when its skiers came together to form the Mad River Glen Cooperative. The Cooperative works to fulfill a simple mission:

"... to forever protect the classic Mad River Glen skiing experience by preserving low skier density, natural terrain and forests, varied trail character, and friendly community atmosphere for the benefit of shareholders, area personnel and patrons."



Why Join the Mad River Glen Cooperative

Preserving the Legacy for Future Generations

Each shareholder brings the Cooperative one step closer to the goal of preserving and protecting Mad River Glen forever. Purchasing a share of the Mad River Glen Cooperative for yourself, your children, and your grandchildren means leaving a special legacy for future generations.

Enjoy Special Rate

Shareholders receive 15% discounts on season passes and day tickets.

Have an Impact on Mad River's Future

As part of the Cooperative, you have a voice in decisions through your vote on major issues and by electing representatives to the Board of Trustees.

Help make important capital projects possible.

To maintain the ski area's infrastructure and ensure its long-term viability share sales are critical. Funding for these projects comes from share sales and operating income, so every new share sold helps make these projects possible.

Most importantly, Cooperative owner-ship gives you the feeling that you are a part of something special- Mad River Glen.

What does a Co-op share cost?

A share of the Mad River Glen Cooperative costs \$2000. An individual may purchase a maximum of four shares. Shares may be purchased in a single payment or in 40 monthly installments of \$50 with a \$150 down payment. The total cost of the installment plan is \$2150, which includes interest at an 8% annual percentage rate, and allows you to become an owner for as little as \$50 a month. Monthly payments are made through an automatic debit program set up from your checking or savings account. Shareholders purchasing shares on the installment plan start enjoying the benefits of ownership immediately.

Mad River Glen

Top Ranked Skiers' Mountain in the Eastern Resorts of the United States



"No grooming, no snowmaking (to speak of). No tubing, no uniformed ski valets, no sleigh rides to gourmet mountaintop dinners. So don't come here to sip wine on the deck. Come here to get your ass kicked by unrelentingly steep terrain covered with whatever snow nature deigns to provide. You will ride alone to the top, it will take 15 minutes, and if you can ski it, you will like it very much."

—Ski Magazine's Resort Guide 2011



Jeb Wallace Brodeur



All photos by Mike Kiddell unless noted

FEATURE FAMILY:

Three generations
of Nesbetts
enjoying MRG on
Opening Day 2010.



EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTED TICKET OFFER

The ASCNY Board has re-joined the Metropolitan Ski Council. A benefit of membership in this new organization is the ability to purchase discounted tickets to select mountains. Chris Warren has again volunteered to run this program for the club. Below are the instructions and order form for obtaining tickets. As much as we love MRG, it's nice to have an alternative.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please print this form and fill out the appropriate information:

NOTE: Orders must be received by January 16.

1. Number of tickets desired next to the "#=" field.
2. Total dollars next to "\$".
3. Order Total on last line PLUS \$1 for SHIPPING AND HANDLING.
4. Send order form with a check made payable to Chris Warren to:

Chris Warren
20 Wolfpits RD
Bethel, CT 06801

5. Tell us where you want the tickets shipped:

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

IMPORTANT: Along with your vouchers, you will be sent an ASCNY membership card with a Metropolitan sticker on the back. Some form of Metropolitan Ski Council authentication is needed when presenting your ski lift ticket voucher. Stratton might be the exception as actual tickets will likely be sent for them. EACH PERSON USING THE VOUCHER NEEDS TO SHOW HIS/HER OWN MEMBERSHIP CARD. You cannot walk up to the ticket window with one membership card and 5 vouchers. Sugarbush is said to be the strictest.

Questions? Email Chris Warren at cwarren@factset.com.

We've been told there are no restrictions on these tickets (i.e. holidays, weekends, etc). ASCNY will not take responsibility if vouchers are not accepted for any reason. ASCNY suggests that you call the mountain you're interested in ahead of time to ensure you will not have an issue.

(continued on next page)

SKI AREAS

Stowe 13-64	# = _____	@ \$56 each	= \$ _____
Stowe 6-12 or 70+	# = _____	@ \$50 each	= \$ _____
Pocano Card	# = _____	@ \$50 each	= \$ _____
Pico	# = _____	@ \$36 each	= \$ _____
Killington	# = _____	@ \$55 each	= \$ _____
Killington Jr (<13)	# = _____	@ \$45 each	= \$ _____
Okemo 19-64	# = _____	@ \$62 each	= \$ _____
Okemo 13-18 & 65-69	# = _____	@ \$52 each	= \$ _____
Okemo 7-12 & 70+	# = _____	@ \$41 each	= \$ _____
Mt. Snow	# = _____	@ \$55 each	= \$ _____
Sugarbush	# = _____	@ \$57 each	= \$ _____
Stratton	# = _____	@ \$52 each	= \$ _____
Bromley Adult 13 & up	# = _____	@ \$46 each	= \$ _____
Bromley 7-12 or 70+	# = _____	@ \$36 each	= \$ _____
Jay Peak Adult	# = _____	@ \$50 each	= \$ _____
Jay Peak Jr/Sr	# = _____	@ \$45 each	= \$ _____
Gore Mt	# = _____	@ \$50 each	= \$ _____
Whiteface (blackout dates TBA)	# = _____	@ \$53 each	= \$ _____

Shipping/Handling = \$1.00

ORDER TOTAL	# = _____	= \$ _____
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6. Name(s) of member for ID card:

Scissors icon
detach here

2012 ASCNY Legacy Cup Awards

Seeking Nominations from the Membership

Established in 2011, the ASCNY Legacy Cup is an annual program designed to honor, recognize and promote the contributions of key ASCNY members, who have created, nurtured or somehow augmented our club through the years. Honorees must be at least sixty years old to be nominated. Awards may be made posthumously if necessary.

If you would like to nominate someone, please send an email to ASCNY President Scott Alexander at familyalexander2000@yahoo.com by March 31, 2012. Tell us why the person you are nominating should be honored. This initiative enables us to celebrate our club's esteemed history and will serve as a teaching tool for our club's next generation of members.



HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE?

It is vital that we have current, accurate information about our members so that we can update our Membership Directory, plan meaningful activities, anticipate future needs AND keep you informed about all club news and events. If you have not already done so, please complete and return the questionnaire, which may be downloaded from our website at www.ascny.org.

IDEAS? SUGGESTIONS? COMMENTS?

We always want to hear from you about ways to make our club the best it can be. Let us know what you are thinking...contact ASCNY President Scott Alexander at familyalexander2000@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

The ASCNY expresses its condolences to the family and friends of the following members:

Christine Stassni Gerli 2010

Hazard Gillespie 2011

Paul C. Mundinger 2011

Alice Powers 2011

If you know of an ASCNYer who has passed away, please notify The Fall Line so that we may recognize him or her.



Amateur Ski Club of New York

165 West End Ave #22

New York, NY 10023

RACE TO SAVE THE DATES!

January 15, 2012

Cross Country Race

@ Ole's Cross Country Center,
Warren, VT – 10:00 am

Race Registration: John Nesbett at
jnesbett@institutionalms.com

Cocktail Party and Awards:

@ ASCNY Lodge - 6:00 pm

RSVP: Betsy Duevel Rawlings at
betsyduevel@hotmail.com

February 19, 2012

Giant Slalom – 10:00am

Slalom Race – 1:00pm

Race Registration:

@ ASCNY Lodge 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Cocktail Party and Awards Dinner:

@ ASCNY Lodge - 6:00 pm

RSVP: Betsy Duevel Rawlings at
betsyduevel@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

Richard and Anne Gervase
New Canaan, CT

The Fall Line is calling

Do you have news, information or photos for publication in The Fall Line? Please send all submissions to Anne Bonacum at annebonacum@gmail.com.

Whether you have a story about the ASCNY days of yore, or news from the present, we want to share it with our readers. Photos please too!