



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



May 2016

A Letter from our President

Relocating The ASCNY

Skiing the East: cold rain can pelt you in the face, rocks loom below turns, ice is everywhere. And then, every once in a while, the whole winter works against you.

Your Board understands your frustration. While we respect the legacy of ASCNY and its ties to the Northeast and Mad River, we also understand that clubs need to evolve and adapt in order to thrive for our children.

After months of analysis and debate, The Board of Governors has voted to move the ASCNY to Big Sky, Montana. It is a decision that reflects the adventurous spirit of the membership and will guarantee the club's vitality for years to come. I respect that there will be many questions and I will not be able to answer them all with this letter. More correspondence will follow. But some initial details:

- The Women's Ski Trip was in fact a Board subcommittee focused primarily on scoping out real estate and meeting with local mountain officials to move the plan forward. Tasha, Pam, Ashley and Ann negotiated excellent tax incentives and secured a beautiful plot trailside at Big Sky. Thank you for your work to quietly move this forward.
- Board Member **Trey Gregory** has leveraged his architecture expertise to arrange for deconstruction and reconstruction of the existing lodge out at the site. This will include keeping the exact structure as it stands currently at MRG. For the benefit of the membership, he has even been able to maintain the vintage bathrooms between bedrooms A and B and in bedroom E. We will, unfortunately, not be able to take any summer reservations, as deconstruction and transfer will begin in June. Keep your eyes posted on the website for a few work weekends in order to help with the process in June (before the professionals come in). Board member **Scott Alexander**, as a condition for his vote, insisted that he personally deconstruct and transport the ASCNY bar and bar stools out to the Big Sky site in a U-Haul so that it does not get damaged.
- An anonymous donor from the Board has agreed to secure and pay all expenses for two planes to shuttle members back and forth between Bozeman and Westchester and Logan. His only requirement was that "each Gulfstream 6 must be shared by two families to encourage membership interaction and camaraderie." This is an amazing gift.

Look for separate communications about next steps in this exciting transformational initiative to ensure that ASCNY will prosper for our children and their children.

John Nesbett
President of ASCNY



Rendering of the lodge at it's new Big Sky slope side future site.

Highlights from the First Annual ASCNY Chicks that Rip Ski Adventure



Ashley Ware, Tasha Nagler, Anne Gervase, Pam Nesbett

By Pam Nesbett

On Wednesday, January 27th, four intrepid ASCNY-ers: **Tasha Nagler, Ashley Ware, Ann Gervase**, and yours truly, **Pam Nesbett**, woke in the middle of the night to catch an early flight to Bozeman, MT, home of Big Sky Mountain. None of us had ever been there. None of us had ever traveled together. None of us knew what to expect. None of us will ever forget it!

Big Sky, Montana conjures up many images: big sky (obviously), big mountains, and big animals. And it doesn't disappoint. Upon landing, we marveled at the wide valley before us, surrounded by breathtaking mountain ranges on all sides encompassing us like a bowl. You feel small, Alice in Wonderland kind of small. But safe, too, within the walls of the valley as if everything else outside it just ceased to exist.

After picking up our rental car, a Suburban, of course (staying with the BIG theme) we headed into Bozeman for a bite to eat and a quick grocery shop before driving to the mountain. Although it boasts some chain stores, Bozeman's Main Street harkens back to the days of old. The town has preserved a quaintness and a charm, a ruggedness and a romanticism reminiscent of our beloved Waitsfield.

That aesthetic carries onto the mountain. With only two moderately sized hotels at its base and neighboring beautifully appointed log cabins nestled into the trees, Big Sky has a small mountain feel with big mountain terrain.

After settling in, we went to meet our fearless leader for the next few days, Dan Egan, one of the famous Egan Brothers, extreme skiing pioneer and star of a dozen Warren Miller films. He and his brother now run skiclincs.com, a leader in adventure travel vacations. They run trips from the Alps to the Arctic and across North and South America. Over the last decade, Dan has made Big Sky his Western home base. And it is easy to see why. Known for the most vertical skiing in the lower 48, Big Sky offers the best big mountain skiing in North America with lift access to Lone Peak with its classic steep lines and access to the "Big Couloir."

Over dinner that first night, Dan regaled us with stories from his many, many adventures. Let me just say that he is lucky to be alive. And although he is older now with a little salt in his hair, his eyes still sparkle with the enthusiasm of a 10 year old talking about the sport he loves so much. We were quite surprised to find out, however, that we were the first women's ski clinic he had ever held. "What changed your mind?" we asked. "Since you ski MRG," he said, "I figured I would have some serious chicks that rip on my hands." We gulped. From that point on we were the "Chicks that Rip" and I have to say I think we lived up to expectations.

Over the next few days, we skied bowls, steeps, woods, and bumps until our legs were spaghetti. Like puppies, we followed him blindly, trusting he would keep us safe while

Highlights from the First Annual ASCNY Chicks that Rip Ski Adventure

showing us the best the mountain had to offer. It is a beautiful thing to not have to think about where you should ski on a new mountain — no wasted time surveying trail maps. He taught us some key life saving skills and sprinkled pointers in where appropriate, but for the most part he just let us ski, wind in our hair, smiles on our faces. The last morning, after an 8-inch dump overnight, we skied untracked terrain and rode empty lifts until 11 a.m., something unheard of at almost any other mountain you can name. We kept asking him why there were no lines and he would just laugh and say, 'that is the beauty of Big Sky.' We skied 18 runs before lunch, more vertical than any of us had ever skied on a given day.

Big Sky is not fancy but it is quality. The staff is friendly and attentive. The ski rental office is well equipped and will store your skis and boots overnight so they are warm and waiting for you in the morning. And the cabins range from modest to high end, whatever your heart desires and your pocket will afford. Our cabin included a large kitchen, living room with fireplace, a deck with hot tub and many comfy bedrooms. Most nights we would cocktail in the hot tub, watch the sun go down and then curl up by the fire indulging on delicious meats, stinky cheese, french bread, and wine. Not that the area lacks good restaurants but we loved our cabin so much that it was hard to leave. Even harder to say goodbye.

The Chicks that Rip have vowed to return next year. Who's with us?

The Chicks that Rip 2017 — January 25-29, 2017

Email Pam Nesbett with interest: riverez@aol.com



Ashley Ware, Pam Nesbett, Dan Egan Tasha Nagler, Anne Gervase



The ladies with Dan Egan



Bumper stickers make it west



*Was Dan not invited to the hot tub, or was he the photographer?
We will never know.*

Presidents Day Weekend

Race Day dawned bright and cold.... too cold in fact. Double digits below zero cold. While some of our more intrepid members insisted on skiing (while insisting it wasn't *that* cold), the decision was made to postpone the races to the following day.

What wasn't postponed, however, was the highlight of the weekend - the Club's Annual Awards Dinner. Races or not, the show must go on. Arranged months in advance by Entertainment Chairs **Adam and Taylor Ware**, a fantastic evening was in store.

The festivities kicked off with cocktails and member provided hors d'oeuvres at the Lodge before trekking across the parking lot to General Stark's Pub for another cocktail or two before sitting down to a buffet dinner provided by local caterer, Carolyn Bauer. Her daughter, Corin (who works in the Basebox), and Virginia Ferris (ticket office) also worked the party that evening. In such a rough winter, we were glad to support the mountain and locals trying to earn a living in the Mad River Valley.

Among the highlights from the evening were the presentation of the Legacy Cup Award to both **The Gillespie Family** and to **Herbert Brucker**. **Duncan Gillespie** enchanted the group with recollections of years past. **Rick Moulton** showed a wonderful vintage ski film of old footage provided by the Sowles that had everyone absolutely enthralled. The younger generation of ASCNY skiers were in awe of what ski equipment was like in the "old days" and the daring feats that were accomplished despite it!



Race Chairs from over the years: Duncan Gillespie, Bob Nichols, John Nesbett, Stephen Pettibone

Despite the frigid temperatures and the challenging snow conditions, over 70 people attended the dinner - including 18 from the **Sowles / Brucker** family, who came together for a "Legacy Cup Family Reunion". Hooray for them!



Sharpening the skis for race day where every hundredth of a second counts: Nicholas Ware, Hayes Gregory and Bennett Ware



The party planners: Adam, Taylor and Neily Ware



Stefanie Kies, Patrick and Amy Mooney

Race Results

Giant Slalom

KIDS

Billy Ross (10 & under)	Combined
1 Matilda Nichols	01:15.3
2 Hadley Carey	01:19.0
3 Neily Ware	01:30.5

Smallfry Mark (14 & under)

1 Lindsay Carey	01:11.5
2 Nicholas Ware	01:15.3
3 Matilda Nichols	01:15.3

Junior Boys (16 & under)

1 Will Gervase	01:11.3
2 Nicholas Ware	01:15.3
3 Hayes Gregory	01:21.3

Junior Girls (16 & under)

1 Lindsay Carey	01:11.5
2 Matilda Nichols	01:15.3
3 Hadley Carey	01:19.0

WOMEN

Fairsexmark (Overall)	Combined
1 Lindsay Carey	01:11.5
2 Matilda Nichols	01:15.3
3 Hadley Carey	01:19.0

Prattfalline (Over 40)

1 Helena Nichols	01:19.9
2 Betsy Rafferty	01:20.2
3 Liza Carey	01:20.8

MEN

Sitzmark (Overall)	Combined
1 Brooks Ware	01:07.5
2 Andrew Carey	01:10.7
3 Bob Nichols	01:11.0

Prattfall (Over 40)

1 Brooks Ware	01:07.5
2 Andrew Carey	01:10.7
3 Bob Nichols	01:11.0



The Kip and Bill Carey with Phil Palmedo



Amy and Patrick Mooney, Richard and Anne Gervase



Sarah, Liza and Andrew Carey and Penny Parsons



Members of the Sowles family

Race Results

Giant Slalom

Mother/Son	
Will Gervese	01:11.3
Ann Gervese	<u>01:38.9</u>
	02:50.2
Mother/Daughter	
Liza Carey	01:20.8
Lindsay Carey	<u>01:11.5</u>
	02:32.3
Sibling Rivalry	
Brooks Ware	01:07.5
Adam Ware	<u>01:19.6</u>
	02:27.1



Family	Combined
Andrew Carey	01:10.7
Liza Carey	01:20.8
Lindsay Carey	<u>01:11.5</u>
	03:43.0
Father/Son	
Brooks Ware	01:07.5
Nicholas Ware	<u>01:15.3</u>
	02:22.7
Father/Daughter	
Andrew Carey	01:10.7
Lindsay Carey	<u>01:11.5</u>
	02:22.2



Mary Brucker and Sydney Sowles



Parker Pettibone, Lindsay Carey, Matilda Nichols, Tigger Nesbett

Thanks to Taylor Ware for uploading lots more Race Weekend photos to a shutterfly album at Shutterfly.com, login: ascnyentertainment@gmail.com , password: skimrg50

Boot Room Clean Out!

This year we are giving members a pass on removing all their belongings from the boot room by a certain date. With the ski season unexpectedly cut short this year, many members were caught off guard and did not make their final trek to the mountain for a last weekend of corn snow and to pack up all their gear and head south. We understand it's a long drive for some just to pick up a pair of boots or forgotten ski poles. Hopefully you might be up during the summer months (or know someone else who will be) and can clean up what's been left behind. You might even encounter the bear **Penny Parson** took a picture of recently. We don't want to make a habit of this, but understand the special circumstances this year. As always, members assume all risk with leaving their belongings at the lodge.

Behind the Scenes with Susan Kluger

Many people work behind the scenes to help run our club and lodge. This issue, we went behind the scenes with **Susan Kluger**, our bookkeeper for **50+ years**.



When did you start working with the Amateur Ski Club of New York? I believe I started in 1964 or 1966.

Who hired you? Christine Stiassni/Gerli asked me if I would be interested to help with the bookkeeping as at that time, the volunteer had not been doing the work on time and taxes were in a mess! I was working at American Heritage Publishing Co., but not bookkeeping. Christine must have known that I could bookkeep as I had done so at Clarkson Potter Publishing before going to Heritage.

My office was in the Fred French Building, Fifth Ave at 45th St. and at that time the Treasurer **Dickram Sarkisian's** office was just across the Ave on 44th Street so at lunch time I could go and pick up the papers. Dick's assistant Ms. Washington was not too happy to be landed with the work so was delighted when I offered. Little did I know I would have a family and grandchildren while working for the Club!!!

How have things changed since you first started bookkeeping for ASCNY? I was given a box containing index cards for each regular and intermediate member. The juniors were simply added to the parent cards and each year the dues were noted on these cards plus any address change. They were a really crowded mess but somehow they worked.

1990 was about the time we finally changed to the computer with an old dot matrix program and in 1995 changed over to QuickBooks where it has stayed since then.

The database moved from the cards to various programs landing online a few years ago. It has changed through several different programs until an online application several years ago. Now the whole dues billing process is

about to take on another major change for the better with dues payments going online this year.

What were dues, room rates when you first started? I think regular dues were \$50, but don't hold me to that. The bunk rooms were \$15 for years, rooms A B and 1 were the only three rooms at first and I think they were \$40-55.

Who are some of the other people you have worked closely with over the years? I worked most closely with the following treasurers: (Might be out of order and some could be missing) **Dickram Sarkisian, James Graves, Newton Merrill, Robert Taggart, Russell Reynolds, Jr., Stuart Goldman, Alex Walker, Harry Fisher, Bob Nichols, Patrick Mooney, Trey Gregory.** Other members I have had involvement with: **Sally Merrill, Brad Nichols**, for logging room rent and screaming together about all who had not paid for their stay! Also, **Alice Powers** who was secretary for years. I spoke with and also her assistant who would bring work to me as she lived in my building. **Mary Kerr** was often in contact as she published the newsletter for years. I had some communication with many of the presidents and other Board members over the years too.

Do you ski? Have you ever been to the Lodge? The best I did at skiing was cross country. My husband and I enjoyed a number of years at more local areas. My only downhill experience was at Mad River when we went for a week before the season really got off to a start and we could use the Lodge. We had a great time. **Betsy and Truxton Pratt** came up to stay before we left and took us for a real challenge. Fun, but did not know what we were getting into to say the least! They were really so helpful though.

The Legacy Cup

Editor's Note: The Legacy Cup was first awarded in 2011 to "honor members who personify the spirit of the ASCNY by making key contributions to the Club that have carried forward to the present either materially or via tradition. The recipient may be living or deceased, but a minimum of 65 years young." Please contact Scott Alexander if you have a candidate you would like to nominate or if you are interested in joining the committee. familyalexander2000@yahoo.com

The Sowles Family gathered to receive the award for Herbert Brucker



The Clan per Tom Sowles: Jimmy, mom Syddie on right, me with daughter Eiley in front, Whit is holding son Max, Nick is behind mom, his daughter Olivia is next to mom, his son George is next to my dad, Nick's wife Penny is holding their daughter Sydney

Herbert Brucker was an early skier, teaching himself how to ski first from a book. He and Roland Palmedo knew each other from childhood. Their widowed mothers were friends and when their sons were at Williams they used to stay at the Williams Inn for long periods in the spring.

Herb and his wife, **Sydney**, joined the ASC in the early 1930's. He was a member of the National Ski Patrol. In the 1940's he and his family enjoyed occasional outings to ski the Ghost and the Shadow trails near Pittsfield MA and also the Thunderbolt on Mt Greylock climbing on skins. In earlier days they also skied at Peckett's in Sugar Hill NH. Sydney broke her leg coming down the Nose Dive, said she would never climb the trail again and then fortunately the next year the chairlift was built.

For many years Herb edited the ASC newsletter under the name Baron Dunski. During his working career he was an editor, writer and teacher.

Duncan Gillsepie receives the award for the Gillespie Family

The **Gillespie family** was awarded the Legacy Cup this year for all the contributions they have made to ASCNY. At the awards ceremony, Duncan had these words to share with the younger generation and future ASCNY club leaders.

"I'm honored to be a recipient of this prestigious award and to be included in the company of the many previous winners. It should be noted this honor is not all about me but it is about my family. The amateur ski club is a family club and ever member should make an effort to see that it continues that way.

Now a word to you younger kids. Sooner or later this is going to be your club. Some of you will be board members, committee chairs, (volunteer for the entertainment before race chair) presidents and vice presidents when it becomes time for you to be on your own as a regular member, keep paying your dues, put a log on the fire and keep skiing. With any amount of hope you will generate as many fond memories as I have. When you young skiers get the helm, your voyage will be to promote skiing by a congenial group of amateurs as your founder Roland Palmedo envisioned. I'm confident having known many of you for quite some time; you will all have the enthusiasm and capability to succeed."

Additionally, Duncan Gillespie shared some of these funny anecdotes with club members present at this year's awards dinner. In no particular order, here are just a few:

- ❖ I remember ticket books and free 1/3 rides for the single.
- ❖ Single chair blankets blowing off in to the woods and rescuing them for a free chair ride.

More Reminiscences by Gillespie Family Members

- ❖ Best race course ever was Bunny to Lower Canyon for the finish.
- ❖ Worst race course was with no snow on Rockefellers. **Douggie Walker** used a gas driven drill to set the course in frozen ground.
- ❖ The most spectacular race finish, Rob Young here on the practice hill went airborne over the timing light beam finishing at the flagpole.
- ❖ Following the Skimeisterin award, I saw a need to include the boys and girls and the Meightymeister was born, which to date has been won more times by girls than boys. Since then it has been named the Gillespie Meightymeister following my retirement from race chair.
- ❖ Best rocking bar in town was the Dipsy Doodle, a favorite of Bud Phillips, ski school and staff. Believe it is now a pizza kitchen or maybe even Chinese take out?

Stuart Senior, now 103 shared these incredible highlights of the ski industry at its infancy. He also shared some great history about many of our awards and trophies which we plan to highlight in our Fall newsletter.

The members of the Amateur Ski Club took the night train from NYC to Waterbury, Vt. and then took a taxi to the village of Stowe and we stayed with a Dr. Fogner in sort of a bed-and-breakfast style place. We skied on trails named Chin Cliff and the Nose Dive. There was no Mad River Glen at this time. This was 1936 - 38. I clearly recall climbing up these trails with skins on our skis and then racing down with the skins tied around our waist. There were no lifts in that day.

My brother won the Sitzmark in 1936. The race was held on the lawn of the Fountain Inn. This was a three event race weekend not just the downhill. I was not there at the time as I did not start racing with the Amateur Ski Club until 1937.

In 1939 I flew with Roland in a biplane out of Manchester. We flew up into the valley and he pointed down over the edge of his cockpit and he yelled this is where it's going to be!

One of the other founders of the National Ski Patrol was **Minnie Dole**. He was a longtime member of the Amateur Ski Club. In addition, there was a member of the Club named Frank Edson, a great racer, who while racing in Pittsfield, went off the trail and hit a tree. Sadly he died the following day of a punctured lung from his rib cage. It was then the club realized there was a need for some type of organization of a safety patrol. It was in the spring of 1937 that a group of us were seen patrolling on the National at Stowe with no real manual of how to be a ski patrol. It was that time, that myself, **Gordon Helmer** and John E P Morgan brought the idea to Roland Palmedo. Following that, the Amateur Ski Club formed a study reinforcing the need for an organized ski patrol. At this time it was Minny Dole who was asked to come on as president of the "new" National Ski Patrol and had the privilege to hand out the numbers for the first members of the ski patrol one of which was Roland Palmedo. There were 15 original numbers and everyone was shying away from number 13. Minny Dole called me from New York and asked if I would accept number 13. I said yes and from that point on I was number 13, and I still I am! Of the original 15 at least six were members of the Amateur Ski Club. I have fond memories of commuting in from Summit New Jersey to New York to teach members American cross first aid. After ski patrolling at MRG for 25+ years I was inducted in to the ski patrol hall of fame at my later age of 100.



Stuart Senior, 103



Hooker and David Judson with Duncan Gillespie



Stuart, Helen and Duncan Gillespie, year unknown

85th Gala

The 85th already? Seems like yesterday we were celebrating the 75th at the Yale Club in New York. It doesn't take much to get the ASCNY membership to find a reason to celebrate, but 85 years is definitely worthy of a cocktail or two with old ski buddies. Grab your directory and start to get a table together for this event. **Adam and Taylor Ware** have begun to work out the particulars for this celebratory event which will likely be held in Greenwich this year. So far **Betsy Raferty, Whitney Sowles, Ashley Ware, Pam Nesbett** and **Hilary Hotchkiss** have all offered up their time to act as committee members. We would welcome more. Please contact the Wares if you can help.

 **SAVE THE DATE!**
85th Anniversary Party
SATURDAY, November 5th
Location: Likely Greenwich 

Kick off the start of the Holiday / Ski season by getting together with old friends & new at this not-to-be-missed party.

Contact taylor.ware@gmail.com or
Ware adam@gmail.com to help

Mark your calendars now!
Watch for an Evite in your inbox.



*So a bear walks into the ASCNY lodge....
Photo by Penny Parsons.*

Member Weddings

Membership can grow in a number of ways. Each year the 21 year old children of the club age up into Intermediate members, unions are formed and babies are born. This year, I was privy to a few member wedding pictures I thought you'd enjoy. Feel free to share any future wedding pics for newsletters.



Elizabeth and Riley Clark



Haik Kavookjian and Hannah Lowe married at The West Monitor Barn in Richmond, VT. ASCNY members would have enjoyed their wedding band of fellow Middlebury Alum – The Grift (Also known to entertain frequently at the Basebox!)



Special shout out to member Monique Wiedel who turned 100 this past March. That's a lot of candles! She has been a member since 1955. Happy Birthday Monique!



President John Nesbett shared his collection of ASCNY ties which shows the progression of style through out the years. If you look closely, the second tie on the left was misprinted with the logo upside down. Members happily wore these unaware of the mistake until someone finally pointed it out! Now they are collectors items!

Roland Palmedo

Phil Palmedo is writing a biography of his father, Roland. As most of you know, Roland was the founder of the Amateur Ski Club of America and instrumental in the birth of Alpine skiing in North America. Roland Palmedo, the founder and an original investor at Stowe, envisioned a ski area where sport not profit would be the overriding concern. Roland believed that "*...a ski area is not just a place of business, a mountain amusement park, as it were. Instead it is a winter community whose members, both skiers and area personnel, are dedicated to the enjoyment of the sport.*" Mad River Glen developed over the years with this vision of community as its foundation" Phil would appreciate hearing any anecdotes or reminiscences to use in his biography. Contact Phil Palmedo: pfpalmedo@gmail.com, 631-751-2474, 631-584-8945, or at 4 Piper Lane, St. James, NY 11780.



Kids Corner...

- ❖ The freeski competition started well, but it was all downhill from there.
- ❖ We went to France to learn how to ski, but for some reason they wouldn't Alp us.
- ❖ There was basically no snow on any of the runs this morning. I was SO piste off.
- ❖ Skier: "Doctor, Doctor, I slipped on my way to the single chair." Doctor: "Icy."
- ❖ I cut a hole just above the arm of my friend's ski jacket. I was giving him the cold shoulder.
- ❖ Those in the snowbelt live in *squallor*.
- ❖ Skier #1, "Do you ride your bike year-round?", Skier #2 "No, in the winter I ride my icicle!"
- ❖ There is snow possible way these puns can get worse.



Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

319 Ponus Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

Book the lodge for a summer weekend!

The 4th of July Warren Parade is usually filled with political satire and this year will likely not disappoint.

Thanks to
**All the ASCNY helpers
behind the scenes!**



**Watch your inbox in early
July for your annual dues
invoice and pay online!**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASCNY**

DECEMBER 5TH

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS

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

For submissions, ideas, or to share photos contact Hooey Wilks at hooey@optonline.net or Ashley Ware at ashleyware@me.com