



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



December 2016

A Letter from our President

Dear ASCNY members,

Skiing, and particularly skiing the East, tests one's resolve and patience. One knows that the rain or thaw - like death and taxes - will come. Nonetheless, it still hurts every time almost as much as the first time.

It snowed like heck this December and created epic early season skiing, only to be rained on just prior to the writing of this letter. But after the initial disappointment, conversations with fellow members were laced with euphemisms like "firm" and "base building" and acknowledgement that "rain doesn't kill a mountain only heat does." As our new treasurer Rich Gervase said, "it is just part of it."



Even with a bit of rain, I am optimistic about the prospect of a good season. While lodge usage was low last season, an average winter should refill our coffers given that we have no major capital expenditures planned this year.

This will be my last letter to the membership as President. The last two years saw the enhancement of the technology of the club with the new website and electronic payments (thank you Hooey), as well as the installation of new water heaters at the lodge (thank you Trey), and an 85th party that was a memorable evening for all (thank you Taylor and Adam). My tenure as President reinforced my appreciation for the many members who care deeply about the ASCNY and volunteer more time than many realize to ensure that the Club thrives for years to come. Thank you for trusting me with the privilege of guiding the Amateur Ski Club for two years.

Trey Gregory is our next president. Trey has been our club treasurer, vice president, a social chair and on the lodge committee, on top of simply being an active member and lodge user. The ASCNY is a big part of Trey's life, and he will steer it beautifully.

See you all on the hill.

John Nesbett

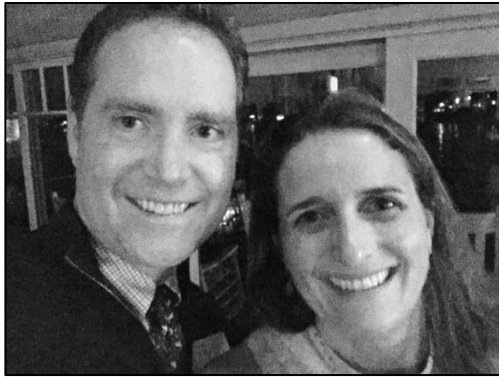
Roland Palmedo to be Honored President's Weekend

As you may recall, just this past spring Phil Palmedo, son of Roland Palmedo was requesting anecdotes and remembrances about his father to include in the biography he is writing about his dad. Join us this February on President's Weekend for a very special presentation he will be making at our race awards dinner that will be honoring Roland as the second recipient this season of an ASCNY Legacy Cup award. He has prepared a 30 minute slideshow that all are sure to enjoy! Mark your calendars to attend this year's awards dinner on February 19th. Details and online sign up will be coming on the website.

The 85th Anniversary Party

On a warm fall night in early November, sixty ASCNY members gathered at the Norwalk Yacht club in Rowayton, CT to celebrate the club's 85th anniversary. The party was organized by a committee headed by Taylor and Adam Ware and included Ashley Ware, Pam Nesbett, Hooey Wilks, Hilary Hotchkiss, Betsy Raftery and Tasha Nagler. The Norwalk Yacht Club was the perfect venue as it reminded many of us to our Lodge up North. Retro one piece ski suits, vintage signage and ski boots were fitting decorations for the party.

Drinks and fantastic appetizers were followed by a delicious dinner where we took the time to honor some key people with ties to the club. First we took a moment to toast to Ad Hardin, president from 1986-1988 whose passing was just days earlier. The next honoree was Susan Kluger. Many of you know Susan as our bookkeeper, but even more important is the continuity she has brought to the club and her bottomless pit of membership knowledge. We are truly lucky to have her as part of our club. Next up was honoring our first Legacy cup recipient of the season Jim Graves. (The second Legacy Cup recipient of the season will be awarded as usual at the Race Awards Dinner in February.) Jim and Kitty Graves were in attendance for Jim's honoring for all he has done for Mad River and ASCNY. Rumor has it Tasha hosted the after party just a few hundred yards away. It was a night of sharing fun ski stories and making new memories.



Bill Raftery, Taylor Ware



Doug Walker, Betsy Raftery, Anne Gervase



Bob Nichols, John Nesbett, Kitty Graves



Cissy Yorke, Adam Ware, Bill Raftery



9 Past Presidents!



Adam Ware, Tony Richards, Scott Alexander



Ken Yorke and Jim Byrne



Andress Pettibone, Natasha Stowe, Peter Pettibone, Gregg Stone, Rick Stowe, Trey Gregory & Brendon Dickinson



Ed Nunes and Hilary Hotchkiss in front of vintage ski suits



The Norwalk Yatch Club all ready for the party



Pam Nesbett and Peter Pettibone



Stephanie Kies and Kate Nunes



Jim and Kitty Graves with Hooey and Jeff Wilks

Legacy Cup Award

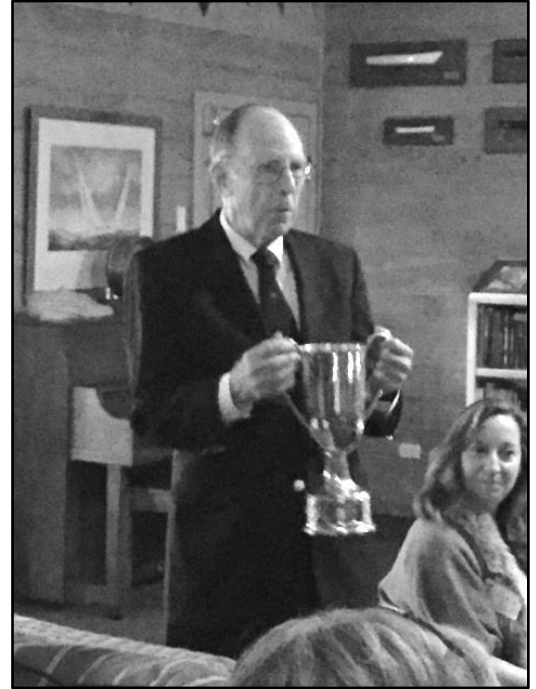
By Margie Gregory

On Saturday, November 5th at our 85th anniversary party, we had the pleasure of honoring Jim Graves as one of this year's recipient of the ASCNY Legacy Cup. The second recipient of the Award will be honored at the President's weekend awards dinner.

Jim became a member of the club at age 11 with his parents in 1946. He tested his skills in his backyard in Fairfield, CT and learned quickly enough to enter his very first ski race - the Sitzmark at Snow Valley, VT. (long gone) in 1947. Jim went on to race in prep school and college and did Masters racing for many years after that. He became active in club affairs after college and law school. Jim served as Race Chairman, Treasurer (working with Susan Kluger) and President (1970-1972) and was a Governor for many years. Additionally, Jim was one of the original investors in Mad River Glen. In Feb 1972, 92% of the shares of Mad River Corporation were acquired by McCullough Corporation, of which Trux Pratt was Chairman and Brad Swett President. Other shareholders included Betsy Pratt, Jim Graves and a few others.

At 81, Jim continues to be an active skier, although no longer skiing in New England. He is happy to report that the senior element of the club is doing well. John and Anne Duffy, Stuart and Alice Goldman, Jay and Judy Inglis, Wilmot Kidd, and Peter Pettibone are those who Jim has seen recently on the slopes of Europe or Colorado.

We thank Jim for his many contributions to the club and MRG and wish him and his wife Kitty a great ski season this year!



Jim Graves receiving the Legacy Cup Award.

In Memory of **Ad Hardin**

We share the sad news of the passing on October 29th 2016 of one of our past ASCNY presidents (1986-88). Adlai Stevenson Hardin Jr., of New York City, Lyme, Connecticut and Ephraim, Wisconsin died of cancer on October 29, 2016. Husband for 46 years of the late Cecilia Jo Parrish Hardin, he is survived by children Hunter, Peter, Melissa, Adlai III and daughter-in-law Elizabeth, grandchildren Phoebe, Emily and Wyatt, companion Margaret Douglas-Hamilton and many dear friends. Adlai received his undergraduate degree from [Princeton University](#) and his law degree from Columbia Law School, following which he joined the U.S. [Army](#) National Guard. He practiced law at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy for 33 years, and then served as a federal bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of New York from 1994 until 2008. Adlai's humor was vivid to the end. His great spirit will be sorely missed. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to one of your favorite charities.

Honoring Susan Kluger

The following was read by John Nesbett at this year's annual dinner (and 85th anniversary celebration) where we honored Susan Kluger for all of her years (54!) of service. Many people have worked with Susan over the years and benefited from her font of membership knowledge. Harry Fisher was unable to attend the party but wanted to share these kind words.

A Tribute to Susan Kluger, by Harry Fisher

I came onto the board of the ASCNY at the behest of Alex Walker in the early 90's. Alex then urged me to take over as Treasurer. I should have seen that coming !

Alex was very direct with me that Susan Kluger was a highly valued resource and a key to the success and stability of the club. I quickly learned how much I would depend on Susan to perform my duties as Treasurer. She always was ready, willing and able to address any request and always delivered clear and accurate reports on finances of the club. It always amazed me how much she knew about our membership from her years of working with us. She would know all the quirks of the membership, who was related to whom and when so and so would pay his bill after returning from a stay in Florida or elsewhere. She is a font of knowledge and provided the necessary continuity when the leadership of the club changed every two years.

When the board became concerned about the long – term health of the club's finances and decided to form a Finance Committee, Susan quickly recognized the wisdom of that decision, provided strong input, and supported its efforts with enthusiasm. She is a pleasure to work with, and certainly deserves the accolades she will receive tonight.

I am sorry that I cannot be with you to honor Susan's service to the club, but I send all my best wishes and thanks to her for her years of assistance and friendship.



Susan Kluger with Stephanie Kies

More Party Pics...



John Nesbett, Bill Miller and Peter Pettibone



Bill Kies and Bill Raftery

Tony Richards



When did you start skiing? Where? I was introduced to skiing at age five by my mother, Madeleine Walker. We were living in Switzerland at the time, so I was fortunate to learn at assorted Swiss ski resorts.

Who introduced you to the ASCNY and when? I was introduced to ASCNY and more importantly to Mad River Glen by my step-father, David Walker in 1972. Funny story: my Swiss born mother, who had grown up skiing in the Alps, turned to David after her first late-night arrival at Mad River and asked him in all seriousness, "Where is the mountain?"

Your best and/or worst experience at the Lodge? Perspective is everything. Best: a spontaneous mid-week trip to Mad River with three college friends from Hamilton in 1985. We had the lodge and mountain to ourselves and we got more snow over the next two days than I have seen since then. Worst: a 'romper room' weekend, where the children were allowed to take over the lodge, making it look like a missing chapter from Lord of the Flies.

Tell us about your best road trip to MRG? Your worst? Best: for me it is always about time. I made it to MRG from my home in Darien in 4 hours 23 minutes. I might have modestly exceeded a few speed limits. Worst: driving home in a snow storm after windshield wipers failed about 30 minutes into trip. White knuckle for 3 hours, reaching out the driver's window every few minutes with a towel to make a small clean area so we could see.

Best day at MRG? Skiing with my daughter Emily and my son Dean.

What is your favorite trail at MRG? I have always loved Fall Line. My favorite spot, however, is the glade on Ferret after a fresh snowfall. It's only a hundred yards, but the silence and beauty is amazing.

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

Who is your fantasy ski buddy? My best friend died of cancer when he was 22, I would like to ski with him again.

Favorite après ski beverage? A cold beer at the base box.

Favorite ski outfit and skis? Whatever keeps me warm and dry. My favorite ski accessory was my step-father David Walker's clear plastic bag that he kept in his pocket. When the wind was howling, he would put it over his head on the chairlift. It kept his face protected and warm. As a teenager, I was, of course, mortified by this, but now I see the man had great wisdom!

Why did you join the Board of Governors? I have been arm-chair quarterbacking (usually with a beer in hand) every aspect of the lodge for twenty years. Opinions are wonderful when you have no accountability! It's about time I actually gave back to a place that has been so special to me and my family.

New Club Outings!

More Fun Race Opportunities

Meet up with other fellow ASCNY members at some of these classic races that have been around almost as long as our Club!

The Snow Derby, Sunday February 26, 2017

The Stowe Derby is one of the oldest and most unique ski races in North America. It started in 1945 as a personal challenge between two amazing skiers - Austrian Sepp Ruschp, who was hired to come to America and head the new ski school at Stowe and Erling Strom, world famous mountaineer from Norway. The challenge was the same as it is today - to race from the top of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak, to the historic village of Stowe... on ONE pair of skis! The ultimate test of a skier's ability. Ruschp was the winner of the first Stowe Derby.

Today, the race attracts over 800 competitors, ranging from Canadian Cross Country Ski Team members and NCAA Champions to recreational skiers looking for a thrill. While the race can be very competitive at all levels, it is also a fun race, having been chosen as one of the top sporting events in the state by readers of Vermont Sports Magazine.

Over the course, participants ski through 20km or 14km of challenging terrain, racing down Mt. Mansfield's Toll Road and along the entire length of the Stowe Recreation Path before reaching the finish in the village. The course has a total vertical drop of over 2,600 feet. The winners will complete the course in less than 45 minutes, while recreational skiers can take a couple of hours to go the same distance.

<http://www.stowederby.com/images/pdf/entryform2017.pdf>

<http://www.stowederby.com/race-specifics/registration-fees-and-deadlines>

The Thunderbolt Ski Race, Saturday March 4, 2017

With a vertical of 2,050 feet, a racing length of 1.6 miles and a grade of as much as 35 degrees, the trail quickly acquired the title of "The Thunderbolt" due to its thrill ride feel similar to the Thunderbolt roller coaster at Revere Beach in Massachusetts. The United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association (USEASA, today known as the United States Ski and Snowboard Association) crowned the Thunderbolt as an Expert-Class A ski trail. It was this trail that would go on to be the location of local, collegiate, state, and Eastern championship races from 1935 until 1959, involving such notable racers as Olympian Dick Durrance and Ski Hall-of-Famer Toni Matt.

-In 1935 Dick Durrance wins first place at the bolt but the cool thing is that ASCNY 'S Tommy Clement placed second in that race.

<http://www.thunderboltkirun.com/history.html>

<http://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2015/03/14/thunderbolt-ski-run-nowicki>

Contact Trey Gregory at gregoryhome@mac.com if interested in joining either of these two events.



Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

319 Ponus Ridge Road
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RSVP and Pay Online

Sign up and pay online at
ascny.org/events
For this year's races and
award dinner

**Round of applause for
Taylor and Adam
Ware for organizing
the 85th party!**



Additional party photos
are available on our
Facebook page and
in our website archives.



Mark your calendars!

ASCNY X-Country race 1/15/17
Slalom and Downhill 2/19/17
The Snow Derby 2/26/17
The Thunderbolt Ski Race 3/4/17

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

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