



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



Fall 2020

A Letter from our President

I know that one of my jobs is to help stoke the membership for the ski season that is fast approaching. Any other year firing-up the ski engine is pretty simple. However, 2020 has thrown a lot at the ski community.

I cannot stop thinking about my lost spring ski days in March. Gosh! if I could just have had that quintessential sunshine-daydream ski day. You know the day I am talking about. The morning starts out with the bitter-sweet sound of the corn horn to announce the beginning of spring skiing. The chute is loaded and coated with hero snow and every turn you make is perfect and in slooow-mooootion just the way Warren Miller showed us in his movies. The day closes at the basebox with high fives and cold beer. So here's my question, how do we get that 'sunshine daydream' ski day in 2021?

There are roughly 460 ski areas in 37 different states in the USA, most of which have been impacted by some form of shutdown last spring due to COVID-19. The question for most skiers is, will they open this winter? The big pass companies are certainly trying to influence the 2021 season by offering extensions and "adventure insurance" to try to keep the customers locked in.

I am an optimist and believe that we will ski this year at Mad River. If you think about it, the sport of skiing is itself pretty safe in regard to the relatively low risk of getting the virus while skiing. Most people who are skiing are healthy. While you wait in the lift lines, people are already separated by the length of their ski extending from the toe of the ski boot to the tail of the ski to the heel of the ski boot to the person in front of them. If the space between the lift lines is increased to seven feet between the corrals, we should be all set to get on the lift without much of a social-distance problem.

Okay, so what about when you are finally on the chair lift? If you are on the single chair- you're in luck. On the double chairs if you keep your mask on and ideally ride up with a family member it should still be relatively safe. Obviously be smart and stay out of the gondolas, high speed quads, and the heated 8 seat chairs with the blue bubble.

So now you are on top of the mountain. The skiing down the mountain is completely safe except for the normal inherent dangers and risks associated with the sport.

Ski back to the line and repeat.

The social aspects that surround skiing will change the most. Eating, drinking and lodging will all be very different (as it will be for the rest of our lives). MRG is discussing changes such as 'grab and go' food to keep skiers outside. The ASCNY will have to have changes too. In order to be able to ski safely we must change the social aspect of the sport until it is deemed safe to resume our normal policies. Listen to the Vermont State Governor, listen to the new rules at MRG and listen to the ASCNY board of Governors. Everyone must abide by the new rules, as it is the only way that we are all going to get back to that sunshine-daydream day.

Vermont still has a two-week quarantine in effect if you come from any counties that have over 400 COVID-19 cases per 1,00,000,000 people. This means all family members need to isolate for 14 days at home BEFORE arrival, or upon arrival in VT for 14 days before engaging with others. More about that in the pages to follow! Here is a quick link to check the map and see where your county stands now: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>.

Think Snow! Trey

Lapsed Legacies Re-admitted

By Gregg Stone

As many members know, the Club has not accepted new members for over 10 years. Treasurer **Rich Gervase** and his wife **Ann** were our last new recruits. The Board purposely slowed and then put on hold new membership applications because members were not able to use the Lodge as much as they wanted to, and we were solvent enough to not require initiation fees.

In the intervening years some members have resigned, and others have sadly skied their last run. In 2018, the Board agreed to slowly add to the membership by re-admitting legacy members whose membership had lapsed while life happened. We think there are about twelve such members who might qualify.

In order to rejoin, lapsed legacy members must participate in at least three club activities (one at Mad River) over two years, fill out an application form, and be sponsored by two Governors and two other members. Anyone interested should contact **Gregg Stone** directly. Intermediate members might note, however, that it is far less expensive and far more certain to pay annual intermediate dues and convert at age 30 to a full membership and pay half of the normal initiation fee. The door for re-admitting legacies could be closed at the time you might be interested in rejoining.

We are pleased to report that in 2018 **Darcy Morris** rejoined the Amateur, and last spring **Chris McNally** followed suit. Here, in their own words, are the stories behind their decision to re-join us.

Darcy Morris, rejoined 2018

Growing up, skiing was not just a vacation, it was a way of life. That is just what we did come Thanksgiving weekend through Easter. My fondest memories as a child wrap around being together on the mountain. While Sunday River became our second home, Mad River Glen always had a special spot for the Morris family.

My furthest memories go back to when my father's whole side of the family took over the Lodge. See, my Dad's father was one of the founding members, so all of my Uncles at that point were members which meant all of us were, too! My Dad is one of four brothers, there are three wives, and seven in my generation. It was a blast being all together in one lodge around skiing, the fireplace, meals along the long table, how can you go wrong?

I made the mistake of dropping my membership after college when I moved out to CA. I blame it on college grad naivete. After moving back to Boston in 2010, my family and I started my campaign to re-join the ASCNY. We were just a year or two too late. No new members we were told. Didn't matter that I had been a member my whole life other than my California fling. So my parents started taking me once a year up there with them, taking me to social events like the annual holiday event in Boston, the Parlor Ski outing, and more. Finally, my luck prevailed; my return to membership was accepted in 2018. Now I can continue my family's tradition of having another home in VT, making new

friends and acquaintances who share a love for New England skiing, single chair lift rides, big fireplaces, and being all together in the mountains.

Chris McNally, rejoined 2020

Freedom. Freedom to play, explore, push limits, get scared, laugh, usually while on skis and do it again and again. Feeling free is how I remember skiing at MRG as a child while staying at ASCNY. That freedom is what I missed for many years after my junior membership lapsed and my parents were geographically isolated from the club and the mountain.

When my parents once again began frequenting ASCNY and MRG I felt a bit like an outsider but quickly reacquainted myself with the mountain while introducing my wife and two boys to my old childhood haunts. In a moment of reflection, after a great day on the slopes, I recognized that it was the opportunity to explore and play freely on what felt like home turf that I missed the most; either with friends I met on the slopes or that accompanied our family for a weekend stay at the ASCNY lodge. I want to share that feeling with my children and provide them the opportunity to explore, ski and play freely on the mountain.

(Continued)

Reservations – Thank You!

By Hooley Wilks

There are a handful of people who give a huge chunk of their personal time to help run the ASCNY lodge, races, reservations, parties, newsletters, etc. for all of us to enjoy, and **Jim Byrne** is one of them. As most of you know, Jim has been the face of reservations ever since our club went online in 2004. Not only did he help design the online reservation system, for 16 years he has spent countless hours confirming rooms, switching reservations, coordinating keys, codes and cleaning services, charging and refunding credit cards, etc. Prior to the online reservation system, we used to run it with a fax machine and paid our cleaning woman, Bonnie, close to \$3k a year to sort things out using a system of index cards. Seeing open rooms online and who will be where helps members make last minute decisions to head to the mountain. Financially speaking the online system has been a huge help to our bottom line and we have Jim to thank for that.

This summer, Jim stepped down from that role. A huge thank you needs to go out to him for all those years of service. He is remaining on our board and will help the transition for our new reservations team of **Ann and Rich Gervase** and **Betsy Raftery**. There was no arm twisting. These folks happily stepped into this roles and so we owe them a great deal of thanks too.

While the website looks smooth on the outside, there are many steps taken from the time you book to the time your head is resting on a lodge pillow. Please be patient as the new steps are learned. As before, reservation request for this coming season will be open for a week starting October 15th and confirmed a few weeks later. Ongoing requests throughout the season will be taken based on availability. There will be some changes coming too. We all need to adapt, especially this coming winter with new protocols everywhere you look. Thank you again to Jim and hope to see him on the slopes and drinking a beer by the fire.



Lapsed Legacies

Chris McNally *(Continued)*

Learning that I might become a member of ASCNY through the lapsed legacy program was wonderful news, and I was thrilled to be considered for membership. While the timing was bittersweet, because it transpired after my Father passed away, I am thrilled that I can now consider myself part of this very special group of people that all love ASCNY. I truly look forward to recapturing that sense of belonging and sharing the freedom to ski, laugh, and explore this special place with my wife Kelly, and my boys Owen and Gavin.



Chris and Kristine McNally

Ski Trip Update

Wondering what's happening with the Big Sky trip we were so optimistically talking about last Spring? We are too! With all the rapidly changing ways we may or may not ski this year, and what is refundable and what is not, we thought it best to postpone the trip until next year. Ski mountains are doing their best to open but as we saw last spring things can rapidly change. Stay tuned until 2022, because that winter is going to be EPIC. I promise!

ASCNY COVID Policy

The following has been put together by our Reservation Committee for the coming season. Please read it closely.

Winter Season 2020-2021 COVID Policy

The State of VT has issued Guidelines restricting those who can travel into VT. The Cross-State Travel Map is updated each Tuesday. This means that if you are coming from a county that is “yellow” or “red” on the map found in this link <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel> you must quarantine for 14 days prior to your arrival in VT or complete a 7 day quarantine followed by a negative COVID test (and continue to quarantine) before coming to Vermont. VT requires this be a PCR test (nasal swab sent to a lab) vs. a “rapid test”. As of September 18, 2020, most of CT, MA, NJ, PA, and the parts of NY around NYC all fall into this category. You will be asked to acknowledge you have read and will abide by these Guidelines both when making reservations and prior to checking in. ***For the health and safety of those staying at the Lodge, we urge you to do the right thing for your fellow members and the MRG community.***

Links to VT State Guidelines to be followed:

- Travel to VT: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/traveling-vermont>
- Cross State Travel Specifically: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>
- VT State Lodging <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance#lodging-accommodations>

New Lodge Guidelines during COVID:

- Members will need to read and acknowledge all VT COVID State regulations prior to reserving rooms on the ASCNY website. The Cross-State Travel Map is updated each Tuesday. Members living in a county that is “red” or “yellow” need to adhere to all quarantine regulations as outlined by the State of VT. This means that as of this writing most of our membership at present levels will need to quarantine at home for either two weeks prior to their arrival in Vermont or quarantine for 7 days and test negative from a PCR nasal swab test while still quarantining until arrival. This also means that if your children are IN school or participating in sports during this 7- or 14-day period you are not complying with the quarantine requirements.
- An email will be sent to you from a member of the Reservations Committee 15+ days before your arrival date. This will include a reminder about the current VT COVID travel restrictions as well as a “Certificate of Compliance” which must be returned to the Reservations Committee on the day of your arrival. Per the VT regulations all members and guests staying at the Lodge must acknowledge the guidelines and compliance, both when making the reservation AND upon “check in”. Certificate of Compliance: <https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/Lodging%20CoC%20-%20Updated%202020-07-01.pdf>
- Masks and social distancing are required in the Lodge including the boot room at all times except in private bedrooms.
- Boot Room capacity will be 6 people with face coverings at a time. Please wait your turn outside and boot up as quickly as possible in consideration of those who may be waiting their turn. Signs will be on both doors as reminders.
- If you are not staying in the Lodge, please do not enter the Lodge except for the boot room. This means there will be no bathroom or lunch access for members not staying at the Lodge at this time.
- 1 person/family in any bathroom at a time. Please wipe down the area after every use. Wipes and hand sanitizer will be stocked for this purpose.

ASCNY COVID Policy (cont'd)

New Lodge Guidelines during COVID: (continued)

- Max of 2 people in the kitchen at a time. If 2 families need access at the same time, please restrict to 1 person per family in consideration of other guests. Each family should use the same table for the weekend. We will limit dining room capacity to 2-3 families at a time with tables distanced and if necessary, have two shifts 5-6:30 and 6:30-8. Please make use of the wipes provided to sanitize cooking and dining areas after use.
- No mixed families in bunk rooms.
- Any member bringing a guest is responsible for that guest's compliance with the Lodge's COVID Guidelines and those of the State of VT.
- Normal cancellation policies apply. However, cancellation fees will be waived if a guest receives a positive COVID test result in the 7 days prior to their scheduled arrival or if their county changes from "green" to "red" or "yellow" on the Cross-State Travel Map within the 14 days prior to arrival.
- Please know these policies may change based on Vermont's regulations and we appreciate flexibility and understanding as we navigate through this together. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Reservations Committee.

Ann Gervase - anngervase1@gmail.com

Richard Gervase - rggervase@gmail.com

Betsy Raftery – betsyraftery@gmail.com



Less of this!



More of this!

Monique Wiedel (July 11, 1918 – August 8, 2020)

It is with great sorrow, we report that our oldest member, Monique Weidel passed away peacefully on August 8th at the age of 102. Her granddaughter wrote, "The ASCNY was such an important part of her and our grandfather's lives. It gave them such a wonderful community and helped make skiing an important part of our lives and our kids' lives too." We did a newsletter piece on her on her 100th birthday. If you recall, we included a picture of her with her walker that had a "Ski it if you can" sticker on it! Monique and her husband joined the club in 1955.

New VT Food Scraps Law in Effect

By Dave Clarke

As of July 2020, Vermont instituted a new law mandating that all food scraps have to be treated separately from recycling and non-food garbage. With the exception of ONLY MEAT AND BONES, **all uneaten food will need to be placed in one of the two 7 gallon food grade buckets** that will be clearly marked and stored next to the other two trash receptacles in the kitchen area. The last person to leave will need to dump the bucket(s) of food into a larger receptacle outside stationed outside next to the wood pile. Protocols will be firmed up and procedure signs will be posted in the kitchen with clear instructions. All food scraps will be carted off to large regional composting sites and we'll be able to buy Vermont Compost Soil 6 months later! Please be VERY mindful to respect this new law as there will be fines levied on the ASCNY if food gets thrown in with the other garbage. Thank you for paying attention to this new law and for helping us help Vermont continue to lead the nation in such environmental endeavors!



Canoodleing in Connecticut

By Margie Gregory

Canoeing along the Housatonic River in Northwestern Connecticut offers many options depending on the water level. The six- and ten-mile sections near West Cornwall is a mixture of moving flatwater and easy whitewater. The famous Covered Bridge marks the halfway point and is a nice place to have a picnic lunch.

A small group of friends, including many ASCNY members gathered together in full masks on a sweltering day in June to enjoy a six mile stretch of the river. We are pleased to report that we had no capsized vessels and full smiles for the adventure!



Hooey, Lucy, Jeff and Phoebe Wilks, Bobby, Matilda and Helena Nichols, Margie and Trey Gregory and Friends



Where is my newsletter? And my Body Wash?

The Board has been hard at work making sure we have safe rules in place to use the lodge and boot room. We also recognize that the number of rooms booked will likely be much lower than we typically see in a winter. To proactively reduce costs, we have decided to mail this newsletter only to our senior members and instead email and publish the newsletter online. This will be true for the next few issues as well. PLEASE PRINT this out at home so all the members of your family "can read it if they can!" In addition to the newsletter, we are cutting back on lodge supplies to offset additional COVID safety supplies like required hand sanitizer stations and wipes, additional deep cleaning and so on. Soaps and shampoos should not be shared, so please plan to bring your own.

Susan Kluger Update

I checked in on Susan Kluger recently and here is what she had to say. "I'm fine and doing well with a little work at home and a rather dull routine compared with other years but then that's true of all. Can get out and have plenty of gardens around me here so make the most of it. I went to my son's house in Briarcliff Manor at the start of the "shelter in place". Neither son wanted to know that I was alone in the city at that time. Had a great spring up in the country taking good walks each day, playing with the dog and starting some planting before leaving in early May when Dan started to come into the city to figure out what to do about outgoing meals. Between that and outdoor dining he is surviving with PPP but they have to decide very soon about indoor dining in the city. He has a cookbook coming out next month so am excited to see how that does. He is also opening another restaurant in a new building in Long Island City. A bit worrying but not much he can do about it now as he had already committed to this a long time ago."

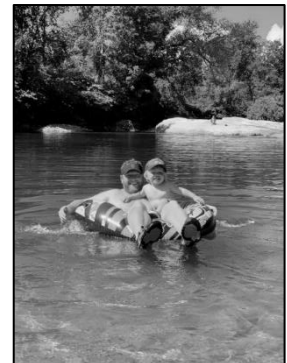
Summer Pics!



Sean and Jason Raftery hiked every trail in Wilton, CT in alphabetical order and then headed to VT to tackle some bigger quests.



Betsy and Jason Raftery



Sam and Teddy Kies enjoying a VT watering hole.



Jeff and Lucy Wilks

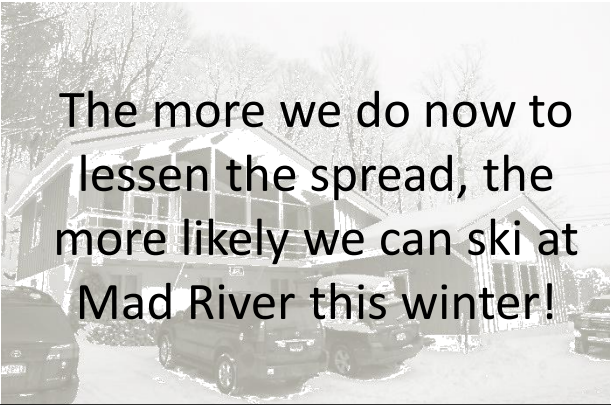


Margie Gregory with Hooey Wilks and Margie Roraback in the background.



Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

319 Ponus Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

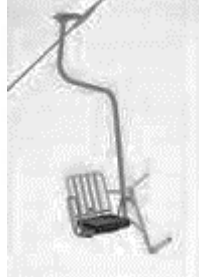


The more we do now to
lessen the spread, the
more likely we can ski at
Mad River this winter!



Thank you Jim Byrne for your
years as reservation Chair!
Read more inside

**PLEASE READ
about the
food scraps and
COVID policies!**



**The single chair at
MRG, one of the
safest places on the
planet and social
distancing long
before that was cool!**

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

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