



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



Fall 2022

A Letter from our President

Dear Members,

I'm enjoying the recent morning chills in the air because that means one thing, winter is coming! I've just returned from a rejuvenating weekend at the Lodge on Green and Gold weekend. Was it filled with spa treatments and cucumber water? Not even close, but a fall weekend in VT can have the same effects on the mind and body. A group of members gathered for our second Lodge Work Weekend, which was as much fun as it was work. We enjoyed some great new hikes, beers on our deck watching the sun set behind the colorful Mad River Glen, the famous fish fry at General Stark's Pub, foliage lift rides and of course time sitting fireside talking about skiing. It was great spending time with folks who love the lodge and skiing at MRG as much as I do and giving our beloved asset some much needed TLC. While there, **Betsy Raftery, Ann and Rich Gervase** attended the Homeowners Association meeting and met a few of our neighbors and learned about some collective programs that could potentially save us some money on things like propane and future tree work. During one of our hikes, we noticed new signage compliments of the Stark Mountain Foundation with information about many of the trail named animals found on the mountain, including fox, porcupine, chipmunk, etc. If you haven't been up to the Mad River Valley in the offseason, plan now to book sometime in VT this fall or next year. Its spectacular.

Lots of lodge work has happened over the summer. It did not include the shiny new bathroom we had priced out and had workmen all lined up to do. Unfortunately, we discovered the need for some serious foundation work (see **Dave Clark's** article) so we did that instead. We followed that up with ripping out wet rotted wood, insulation and sheetrock on the backwall of bedroom D, hopefully tackling some of the musty smell we have lived with the last few years. It's never fun to spend money on unseen work. Home ownership is a game of Whack a Mole, especially when you have a structure over 70 years old that is often uninhabited and managed by a group of out of staters.

Reservations will open as usual on October 15th and stay open until October 31st for winter seasonal requests. Look for "How To" steps on the website that should guide you through the new process and terminology. Finally, if you are not receiving our emails, (there have been quite a few in the last few months), please reach out ASAP. Our new systems sends out billing notices automatically and could possibly be going to your spam folder. Also, if the person who typically pays the bills or books the social calendar is not receiving the emails, contact **Alex Merrill** (alex@merrillemail.com) to get that changed.

Hope to see you at the lodge in the coming year!

Regards,

Hooey Wilks
President



Work Weekend

Our second Work Weekend was again a huge success. We started the weekend with what we believed was a much smaller and more manageable list of tasks than last year, but in the end, we realized we knocked off many more tasks than we had planned for. Once you start, its hard to stop! We also got in two nice hikes and lots of hang time, on the deck, at General Stark's and fireside to make the weekend lots of fun.

Below is a list of this year's accomplishments.

- Inspected and cleaned gutters
- Adhered anti slip strips to new rear steps by kitchen door
- Cleaned Renai filters
- Cleaned out garbage bins
- Repaired bear damage to garbage bins
- Stacked firewood
- Cleaned out eaves by dining area and organized into plastic tubs (to keep safe from rodents) Installed motion light
- Made a plan for replacing crumbling Styrofoam used as insulation behind eave doors.
- Hung new helmet hooks in boot room
- Purged lost and found and share gear bins
- Adjusted heights on boot room shelves to fit more boot bags
- Replaced broken fireplace grill
- Replaced dead modem/router and reset passwords. **Ann Gervase** spent hours on the phone sorting out the issue. (You will be required to relog in when you arrive)
- Cleaned out and reorganized supply closet
- Restocked cleaning supplies
- Cleaned out and reorganized utility room
- Cleaned out ski lockers
- Replaced all old shower curtain liners, washed cloth shower curtains and rehung.
- Tightened up all the loose doorknobs
- Restocked salt pellet bags for water softener
- Multiple trips to Bisbee's
- Packed cars with dump run items including moldy cots and old icemaker to name just a few

The winter is for skiing, so its great to get these things taken care of during the off season. Lots of fun on a fall foliage weekend. By taking on these easy tasks ourselves, we can reduce our Lodge maintenance expenses which benefits us all. Join us next year!



Jeff Wilks, Betsy Raftery and Rich Gervase stacking this winter's supply of wood



Jeff Wilks cleaning the doghouse gutters with a ski pole.



Bear damage to trash bins

Lodge Drainage Project

by David Clark

Well ASCNY'ers, we finally bit the proverbial financial bullet and as a board decided to remediate the water problem that has been plaguing the Amateur Ski Club Lodge for the last 5 years. For those of you who don't know what has been going on, there have been a series of floods that have ruined carpets, soaked the walls and structural elements in Bedrooms E, C and especially D for quite some time. Last year we attempted to do the poor man's fix and built a swale along the back side of the building to divert rainfall to flow around the lodge instead of towards the back wall. Unfortunately, this year, just before we embarked on doing some interior work, we learned that room D was still having moisture problems.

Prior to digging into the walls in bedroom D to tear out rotted sills, 2x4's and wet insulation (hence some of the musty smell), the board unanimously voted to "do it right". Through a team collaboration led by **Hooey Wilks** and myself (with help from our in-house Architect **Trey Gregory** and the full support of the entire board), Zack Fenn of Mountain Top Excavation was contracted to excavate all the way down to the bottom of the foundation outside the back wall of the kitchen to assess and install a sophisticated curtain drain system. Additionally, he installed a series of drains which empty perimeter water and the down spouts onto the employee parking lot. The overall project included waterproofing the foundation with tar and a water-proof barrier. Prior to that he spent a lot of time filling in and patching cracks in the cement, which was where the water was coming in and causing hardship. Zach Fenn did an outstanding job and did many things that were above and beyond what the contract stipulated. Anybody with property in the Valley looking for such craftsmanship would do well to have Zach do the work! During the last heavy rain, the week of September 26th Zach came by to check on his work and sent along pictures of water gushing out of the drainpipes. There was some extra gravel from the drainage project, so Zach spread it out in the parking area for us, which will help us from sinking into the mud on those warm spring days. Job well done and a big thanks to Mr. Fenn!



Rear footing drain



Wet rotted structural elements in bedroom D

Perimeter drains for down spouts



New stairs (outside kitchen door) were needed after the old ones were torn up.

Hike It If You Can!

By Jeff Wilks

At 8:00 am on Saturday morning of Green and Gold and our Fall Work Weekend, after a semi-raucous Friday Night Fish Fry at the Stark Mountain pub, an intrepid group of hikers gathered outside the ASCNY. The plan was simple; climb to the top of the single and take the chair down to take on a list of projects that ranged from installing new helmet racks to repairing the bear damaged trash bins.

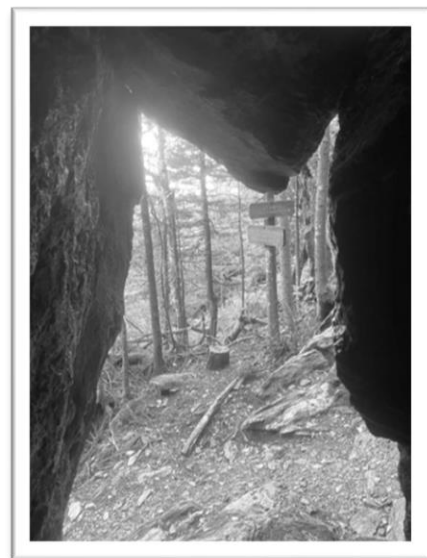
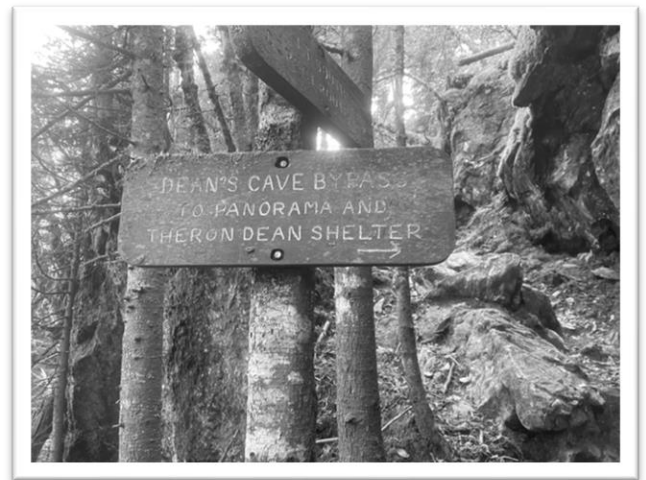


The Lookout

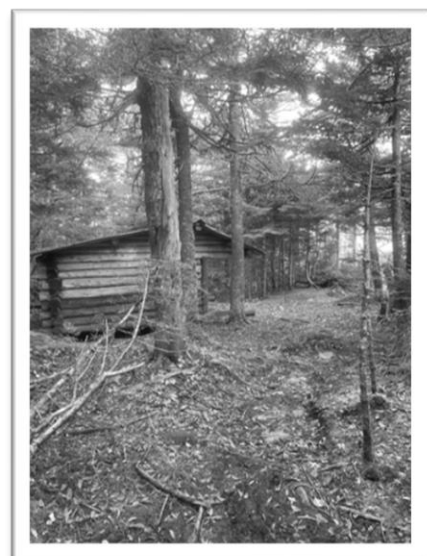
The troop slogged their way up the mountain road, on the s-turn, past Porcupine, around and over Chipmunk, Bunny and the Canyon then straight up Vixen and Fox to the top of Double chair. There we met a gang of Boy Scouts, breakfasting and prepping for a hike of their own. At the Double we hopped on the Long Trail and truly started the hike.

This section of the Long Trail is highlighted with heavily forested, pine scented stretches that include Vermont's version of a Via Ferrata, iron ladders letting you scale steep faces. It also includes great vistas of Camel's Hump, Green Mountain club lean-to and Dave's cave, which our team believes was named for ASCNY member Dave Clark. (Editor's note – it is called Dean's Cave) A couple of hours in, we made the summit, soaked in some sun at Stark's nest and altered our plan to start the work weekend. Instead of riding down, a few of us kept southward on the Long Trail with an eye on the peak of Mt Ellen. As the group made our way up and down the ridgeline, we were beginning to feel guilty about our decision to delay the start of the workday, so at a fork in the path took a turn down mountain following a sign for the "Glen Ellen Lodge." Not to be mistaken

(continued)



Dean's Cave



Hike It If You Can! (continued)

for any kind of on mountain skier amenity, the Lodge is a 1933 log cabin with a double wide bunk beds and an indoor picnic table, not to mention an appropriately distanced outhouse. Unfortunately, the trail to the GEL is a dead end. So rather than hike back up to the Long Trail we made the semi-inauspicious decision to bushwhack our way down mountain, which resulted in many scratches, muddy boots and clothes, and pine needles in the teams' clothes and hair. Thankfully, four bars on the phone meant our apps could direct us to a utility road that would lead us to the top of the Inverness lift. After walking straight down that widest of Eastern ski runs, we called back the lodge and got a pickup for the ride back to ASCNY.

All in all, a great morning warm up to a fun filled Green and Gold / Work Weekend.



Early morning hike



*Jeff Wilks, Betsy Raftery, Hooley Wilks
and Rich Gervase*



New Stark Mountain Foundation signage

Room Reservation System On The New Website



As in the past, ski season lodge room requests will be taken October 15 – 31. The Reservations Committee will do their best to sort through them and try and make most people happy most of the time. Probably the most difficult volunteer job in our club! **Please remember to include all beds/rooms (“bookings”) needed for a stay under one reservation (“order”) and create a new order for each weekend stay.** Also, reread the reservations policy when making your order as a few things have changed.

Changes in the way the new website works are mostly related to check out and payment process. After putting in request, be sure to go to the check out cart. At this time, it looks like the website is asking you to pay now, but these orders will not be charge at this time. Once your order has been confirmed by the Reservations Committee, you will be asked via an email generated from the website to make your payment. If you are making an order now (or during the ski season more than two weeks out), you have the option to pay ½ now and the remaining ½ a few days before arrival of that stay or pay in full. If you choose to pay half, you will receive a second email from the website a few days before arrival asking you to make the final payment on that stay. We no longer have the option to hit your credit card for the second half of the payment. **This is a big change and requires you to make the final payment online through your website account.** The payment and final payment emails will go to the primary email on the account only. If you wish to change the primary email on your account, contact reservations@ascny.org. Any unpaid orders at the time of the stay, risk being put back into the pool of available rooms, so watch carefully for those emails or just opt to pay in full.

Please be patient as we all learn this new reservation system together.

Ski Lockers for Rent

Ski lockers are once again available for rent for \$100 per season on a first come basis. Keep in mind, lodge access is only available when overnight guests are staying at the lodge, which is most weekends. Anyone with multiple skis should consider a locker rental to help alleviate ski rack demand in the boot room. To rent a locker, contact **Betsy Raftery** (reservations@ascny.org)

Any skis that we found in the lockers whose owners we could not identify were left in the lockers for now. Please let us know if you left skis in a locker. Otherwise, we will toss them. Anything we found worth saving (little) has been added to community supplies.

CONTEST: From the list below, name the correct three things that were **not** found in the lockers when we cleaned them out and be eligible to **win a free seasonal locker!** Send guesses to **Ann Gervase** (anngervase1@gmail.com)

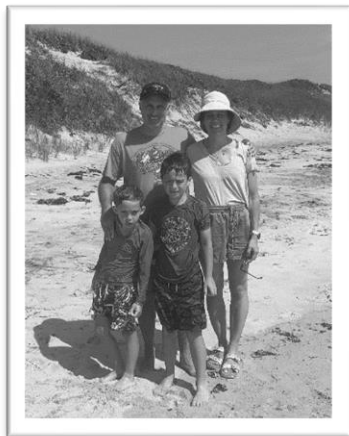
- Jim Beam Whiskey
- Sip of Sunshine
- Scrag Mountain Pil
- Heady Topper
- PBR
- Otter Creek
- Wine
- Tea Bags
- Seltzer
- Tonic
- Lindsey Vonn bobble head
- Toe warmers
- Band aids
- Lint Roller
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Hand lotion
- Clif bars (2011)
- Peanut butter
- Hot Cocoa
- Fondue Base
- Nuts
- Tylenol (expired 2013)
- Broken ski poles
- Trail map of Alta
- Goggles
- Expired Mad cards
- MRG ski passes dating back to 2006
- Sunscreen
- Long Johns
- Boxer shorts
- Socks
- Lots of old skis

Legacy Cup

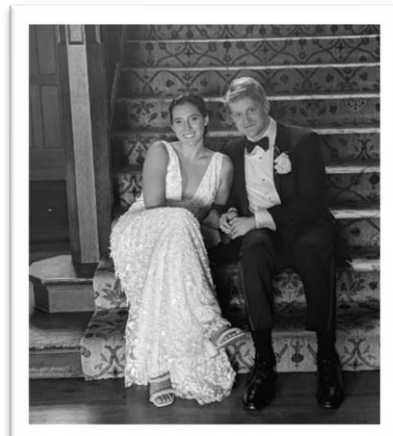
The Legacy Cup Committee is taking submissions for Legacy Cup Honorees. We have already selected this year's recipients but are looking out for future honorees. The Legacy Cup was first awarded in 2011 to "honor members who personify the spirit of the ASCNY by making key contributions to the Club that 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** (familyalexander2000@yahoo.com) if you have a candidate you would like to nominate or if you are interested in joining the committee.

Welcome New Members!

This summer we welcomed legacy member Cat Balco and her family back to the club as well as some new spouses through marriage. We look forward to meeting you at the lodge! If you've had a baby, let us know so we can highlight our new Junior members and add them to our database!



*Cat Balco with husband Alex Grennan
and children Broc and Will*



*Phoebe Wilks and Michael Heffernan
Married 9/10/2022*



*Phoebe Stone and Anik Debnath
Married 10/15/2022*

New Member Applications

We have been having lots of small events during the offseason, which is a great way for any new applicants to get to know our membership and Board members. Do you know a family that loves to ski and wants to join a community of ski enthusiasts with the best located lodge in the Valley? If you have someone in mind, contact **Margie Gregory** (mhgmhb@gmail.com) or **Gregg Stone** (gstone@kestrelvm.com) to get the ball rolling. We have a few applicant requirements, all of which can be found on our website. Bring them to an event or better yet, get them to the lodge or have them participate in race weekend to meet even more members and learn about the history of our club.

A black and white photograph of a pen resting on a form titled "APPLICATION FORM". The form has fields for "First Name", "Middle", "City", "State", "Email address", and "Phone".

Greening the Lodge

These past 2 winters provided lots of time to reflect on what is important. One thing we know for sure is climate change is real and as skiers who love the snow provided by Mother Nature, paying attention to our footprint is more important now than ever. As a club, we also need to pay close attention to our propane and electrical usage with the rising cost of utilities that affect the cost to run the lodge, in turn affecting room and dues rates. Over the years we have taken a few steps to make the lodge more “Green”, but we know we can do more.

Things we have done, planning for or looking into:

- Done - Replaced electric hot water heaters with energy efficient propane heaters.
- Done - Replacing any light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs.
- Coming - Putting in motion switches by the Men’s and Ladies’ room sinks. (coming)
- Coming - Putting a timed switch for any fans in the common bathrooms.
- Coming - Better insulation on the doors that open to the eaves.
- Planning for - Replacing any worn single pain windows with energy efficient windows. Additional ones that are rotting and starting to show real wear have been added to our long-term capital projects list.
- Planning for - Looking at whole house fan at bedroom level to help air quality in summer without having to run dehumidifiers which use a lot of electricity.
- Looking into - Solar power to harness summer sunlight to offset winter electrical use. A few members have mentioned interest in this. If you have a lot of experience or knowledge on this topic and want to get involved, contact **Dave Clark** (slowdogvt@gmail.com) or **Jeff Hopkins** (hopkinsjeffrey@hotmail.com).
- Looking into – Full insulation shades for upper part of peaked windows
- Other ideas. Send them to **Dave Clark** (slowdogvt@gmail.com)

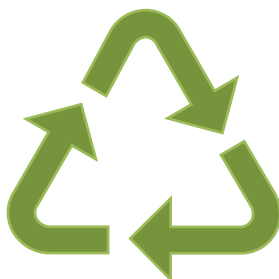
More ways you can help!

During your stay:

- Turn off lights in rooms you are not using
- Turn down heat in bedroom when skiing for the day
- Please recycle
- Turn down all the propane heaters (including the boot room heater) and close the curtains at night
- If visiting during the off season, note we keep the temps in fridges in the bar area set to use less electricity when not in heavy use. If you are a small group, keep all your food and beverages in the kitchen for nice cold drinks and food. If you are a large group, feel free to set the bar fridges cooler, but return the settings to energy saving settings when you leave.

Last person to leave before going home:

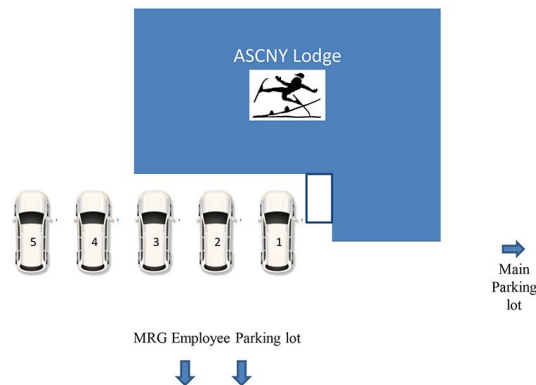
- Close the flue
- Close the curtains
- Turn down all the heaters including the boot room heater.
- Check that all the bedroom and bathroom thermostats are turned down to 50.
- Make sure bathroom lights and fans are turned off.



Lodge Usage

We are looking forward to the lodge being back on track for a full winter of happy members heading off to great days of skiing. We have a number of new members, both intermediates and sponsored members and thought it might be good to revisit some of the lodge procedures that help keep the lodge a pleasant place for all. We have some new procedures here and there, so please update yourself on these guidelines. Most of this can be found listed around the lodge or on the website, but here are some reminders.

Parking – We are reminded by MRG annually to please ask our members to not park in their employee parking area. Every year they see people leave their cars in their parking lot and then head into our lodge. We have five designated spots in front of the lodge. Those are for members staying at the lodge overnight. Once those are filled, please park across the street in the main parking lot. Feel free to drop off your family and equipment and then park in the large lot. Please do not block the flow of traffic in and out of the MRG staff parking lot.



Boot Room

- **Boot Bags** - We have recently noticed a rise in boot bag use. Having all one's gear in one spot for any easy exit from home when the powder is coming is great! But when we fill our boot room with 30 boot bags, there is no where to walk or sit. We are asking anyone staying at the lodge to please feel free to leave boots on the drying rack but keep the boot bags in their rooms. There is plenty of space under the bunks or beds for stashing boot bags. For boot room only users, we ask that you please tuck your boot bags in a cubby and do not leave on the floor or on a seating surface.
- **Helmets** - We have hung new helmet hooks to keep those from also taking up valuable seating or coat space. Please use the new hooks or cubbies, leaving the lowest ones for young children.
- **Boot Dryers** - If you are not returning to ski the very next day, please do not leave your boots on the drying rack overnight. Please store boots in a cubby if you will not be returning the following morning. Please store shoes and snow boots in cubbies as well.
- **Skis and Poles** – If you will not be returning the next day and wish to store your skis, please move them against the back wall by the heater or hang them up.
- **Garbage** – Please throw out all garbage, including toe warmers and wrappers. This seems obvious, but these are often found discarded on the floor.
- **Lunchroom** – Now that we are back in swing for anyone to enter the lodge on weekends or when overnight guests are present, we look forward to seeing more members enjoying the kitchen. Please help clean up after lunch and run the dishwasher if it looks full. Remind children to eat at a table or the bar.
- **Heating Costs** – Feel free to turn up the boot room heater first thing in the morning, but please turn the heat to low overnight and while out skiing. If you are the last to leave or here on a weekday, please be mindful of our heating costs and keep the heater on low when the boot room will not be in heavy use.

Finally, please share these guidelines with all children and guests.

Lodge Usage (continued)

Behind every check out step listed below, there is a story that goes with it. Its hard to remember everything when you are rushing to get home on a Sunday afternoon after a fun and tiring few days of skiing, but our lodge and utility bills will thank you! Please review and note the new items on the list.

Check out list – this applies to overnight guests, and some apply to day users who leave last.

Please check the following:

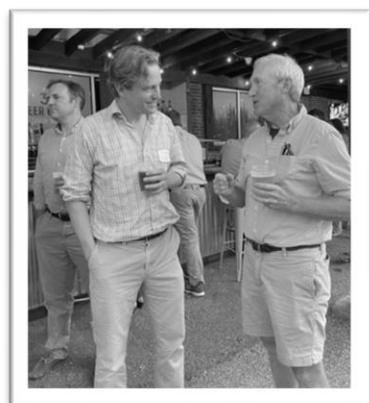
- All thermostats have been turned down to 55
- All bathroom fans are off, no toilets are running
- All bathroom and bedroom doors are left ajar (in case the bathroom heater fails pipes will not freeze)
- The hallway doors between boot room and lodge and also before bedrooms C & D are fire doors and should remain shut.
- Fireplace flue is shut (IF THERE ARE NO WARM EMBERS)
- Curtains closed
- All 4 exterior doors are locked (kitchen, deck, hallway, boot room)
- 3 propane heaters are turned to low (including boot room heater)
- **New:** Unplug coffee makers, microwave, toasters
- Fridges are left empty with the exception of condiments, ice cream, non-perishable beverages
- Dishwashers are run and/or unloaded.
- All garbage and recycling is removed and placed in outside bins. This includes the boot room garbage.
- For overnight users, please strip all beds and place under stairwell in supply closet. **NEW:** If your towels are still damp, please hang the towels in the front hallway. Sometimes the cleaning staff / laundry service does not arrive for a few days, and we don't want the wet towels sitting for days with our new sheets.
- **New:** All crayons in the bookcase area are stored in the plastics crayon holder provided. We discovered that crayons are a tasty treat for mice. Please help by returning all crayons to the container and sealing it up before leaving.



Summer 2022

Brewery Outings

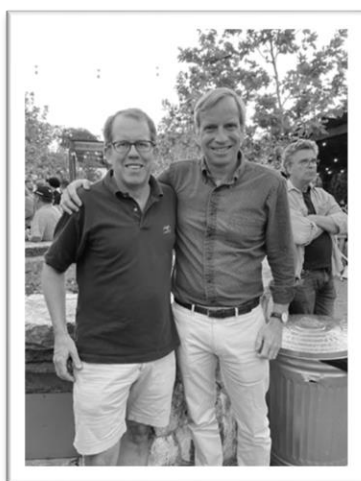
Members in Connecticut planned and attended two outdoor brewery outings this summer at 314 Beer Garden (Norwalk) and Nod Hill Brewery (Ridgefield). It was a great way to catch up with members we have not seen in a few years and meet some new membership candidates. We hope to see you at some of the other events planned this year.



Doug Stowe and Stuart Randall



Hooey Wilks and Betsy Raftery with Alex Merrill (on the phone)



Stephen Pettibone with John Nesbett



Tasha and Christian Nagler, Margie Gregory and Ann Gervase

Save the Dates!

October 19th – Nod Hill Brewery:

Join your fellow ASCNY friends for an outdoor evening of drinks, food and fun at the Nod Hill Biergarten in Ridgefield, CT. A few members were sad to miss the first one, so we are doing it again!

Nod Hill's Biergarten is a family and dog friendly outdoor space where we can enjoy delicious local beer (wine and cider available too) and bites from the food truck du jour. It has a casual outdoor atmosphere with picnic tables and heat lamps. Everyone is welcome! We will be joined by two prospective families looking to join the club.

- When: Wednesday 10/19 @ 6pm
- Where: Nod Hill Brewery
- 137 Ethan Allen Highway (Rte 7)
Ridgefield, CT 06877
- RSVP: Please rsvp to betsyraftery@gmail.com by noon on 10/18 so we know how much space to save for our group.

For more information about the Nod Hill Biergarten: <https://www.nodhillbrewery.com/biergarten>

Annual Party

November 12th – Fondue and Fun at the paddle hut!

Last year was so much fun, we are doing it again. The food and games will be different but hope we can again gather a hearty crowd for some late afternoon fun. Wear your sneakers if you wish to play paddle. We will have extra balls and rackets. We also have a few fun ideas for indoor games. In the spirit of ASCNY competition, we have some fun ski themed team games to play while enjoying a variety of fondues. We need to relinquish the Hut at 7:00 to another party, so arrive on time and join up with others after if you want to hit downtown New Canaan for dinner. If you have a fondue pot to share, please let us know.

Where: New Canaan Field Club Paddle Hut
164 Smith Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT

When: Saturday 11/12 4:30-7

Cost: \$20 per person

RSVP: to hooey@optonline.net by 11/10

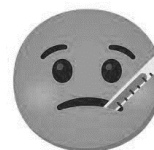


Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

319 Ponus Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840



Pre-season Room Rentals Requests Go Live Oct 15-31



COVID Policy:
If you are sick,
please stay home.

Looking for a WordPress Expert

We always need help with the website and would love someone with expertise to join our team

Annual Party

Fondue and Fun

Nov. 12th

(details inside)



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

For submissions, ideas, or to share photos contact Hooley Wilks at hooley@optonline.net or Phoebe Wilks at pwilks315@gmail.com