



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



Fall 2018

Thoughts from our President

Waiting for the Blizzard of AAHHH's!

I like this time of year. The leaves are beginning to fall. The days are getting shorter and colder. My Instagram images are quickly transitioning from water sports and bikes on @jerryoftheday (Instagram account) trying to "respect the send." This is also the time of year when skiers go through a ritual of preparation to be ready for the next ski season. This year is an El Niño winter and the polar jet stream will dip slightly further south allowing cooling arctic air to slump and combine with the moisture filled jet stream resulting in the deepest blower pow imaginable.

ARE YOU READY?

Here's a top 10 list of things you can do to stoke yourself up for the 2018-2019 ski season!

10. Go to every ski premier.
9. Buy an Ikon Ski Pass.
8. Memorize the Powder Magazine buyer's guide and interrogate the local ski store staff about the newest equipment.
7. Start dry land training. Seriously, start your dry land training now.
6. Read the 2019 Old Farmers Almanac winter weather section while in the grocery store.
5. Watch the Blizzard of AAHHH's all weekend.
4. Begin checking the Josh Fox single chair weather blog daily.
3. Call all your ski buddies to inquire where they will ski this winter (beside ole MRG).
2. Book rooms on the ASCNY website before the season starts (sign up begins October 15th).
1. Try on all of last year's gear in your living room and look in a mirror.



Summer party at the lodge

Think Snow!

Trey Gregory

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10/15 | Online reservation requests for this winter begin! |
| 11/16 | Annual Party - Cocktails and Movie, Stamford, CT |
| 1/13 | Stowe Derby (Contingency date 2/24) |
| 1/20 | MLK weekend, X-Country Races, Cocktail Party |
| 2/17 | President's Weekend Races and Awards Dinner |
| 2/23 | Thunderbolt Ski Race - Mt Greylock |

The Role of the Amateur Ski Club of New York in U. S. Ski History

By Philip F. Palmedo

In my previous article I described how and why, in 1931, Roland Palmedo started the Amateur Ski Club of New York. Roland relished the adventure that skiing was in those days, before lifts and trail maps, and inns open in the winter. And he liked to share his adventures with like-minded, hardy companions. That was – and still is – the spirit of the Club, and that was the spirit in which Roland undertook many other enterprises. Club members were often included in those adventurous undertakings, and were often at their center.

The Mount Mansfield Lift Company

As the club was being born, Roland was seeking out more and more adventurous and distant locations to ski. He had climbed Mt. Mansfield, the highest mountain in Vermont, in the summer and knew that the village of Stowe was a popular summer tourist area. But how could he get any information on the prospects for skiing? There must be a postmaster, he reasoned, so he wrote a letter to the "Postmaster, Stowe Vermont," asking for information. The postmaster gave Roland's letter to Mr. C. C. Stafford, Secretary of the Stowe Civic Club who wrote back, and Roland started to plan a trip.

The next year, on Washington's Birthday weekend, 1932, Roland and Jose Machado Jr., a charter member of the Club, set off for Stowe. Roland and Machado spent three days around Stowe and on Mt. Mansfield, climbing the Toll Road with seal skins strapped on their skis to climb, and around their waists to ski down. When they got back to New York they reported not only to their friends in the Club, but also to the broader ski community by an article in the Club's widely distributed *Ski Bulletin*. He noted that "a week or ten days could be spent at Stowe and a different trip or circuit taken each day..." Roland's positive report was the first public identification of Stowe as a ski destination and it started to attract skiers from New York and New England.

As he was climbing and skiing around Stowe, seeing Mt. Mansfield from many angles, Roland imagined a ski resort like those he had known in Europe. With his encouragement, the first trails were cut by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the first major down mountain race was held there in 1934 between the recently formed Mt. Mansfield Ski Club and the Amateur Ski Club. In 1937 Roland started to raise funds to build a chairlift on the mountain. His approach to entrepreneurship matched his approach to skiing: it should be a group activity, and many of the initial investors in the Mt. Mansfield Lift Company were members of the Club, including Godfrey and Sterling Rockefeller, and Lowell Thomas. Roland didn't promise high returns, telling his investors, "Not all your money will be lost, and you will be

Lehman Brothers

*One William Street
New York*

Feb. 19, 1931.

*To the Postmaster,
Stowe, Vermont.*

Dear Sir:

I should greatly appreciate your giving me some information on the following questions. I ask them in anticipation of a ski trip to Mt. Mansfield next winter. This may seem rather early to make such inquiries, but being at present confined to bed, as a result of my last ski trip, with two bad knees, I now have the time to plan and inquire, which I perhaps will not have later.

*(1) Is there a good, clean, comfortable inn in Stowe, open in the winter? What is its name?
(2) Is the road over Smugglers Notch broken in winter? If not, how far is it*

Letter to Postmaster, Stowe Vermont

The Role of the Amateur Ski Club of New York in U. S. Ski History

Continued....

doing a wonderful thing for skiing.” Roland invested along with his friends, taking no equity or cash for his role as founder and president. On December 9, 1940, in an early snowstorm, the longest chairlift in the world, at 6,330 feet, took its first passengers up the mountain, and Stowe became the number one ski resort in the East.



Roland's commute to Stowe: Burlington Airport, 1938

The First U. S. Women's Ski Team

The Club also had a central role in creating the first U. S. Women's ski team. In 1934, Alice Damrosch Kaier, a member of the Club who had a chalet in St. Anton, Austria, spoke to Roland about the possibility of an American women's team entering the 1936 Olympics. Roland thought it was worth a try. There were only two problems: There was only a handful of women racers of any ability in the country, and there wasn't any money to send a team to Europe. To help solve the first problem he wrote a letter to Arnold Lunn (the dean of British skiing who

would become an honorary member of the Club) and persuaded him to let Helen Boughton-Leigh, an American on the British team, married to an Englishman, to ski for her native country. Some of the women could afford to pay their way to

Europe, and Roland and his Ski Club friends aided the others. Most of the members of that team were, or would become members of the Club, including Helen Boughton-Leigh, when she became Helen McAlpin. Many went on to have distinguished racing careers and Alice Kaier managed the U. S. women's team for many years.



Alice Kaier, 1948

The National Ski Patrol and the First Giant Slalom

Two years after that first interclub race on Mt Mansfield, Roland and his friends in the Club organized a four-club race, on the Ghost Trail on Pine Mountain in Pittsfield Mass. The conditions were icy and part way down the trail, an inexperienced Club racer, Franklin Edson, lost

The Role of the Amateur Ski Club of New York in U. S. Ski History

Continued....

control on a turn and crashed full force into a tree, breaking his arm and fracturing four ribs. He was carried down in a toboggan, in a way that made his condition even worse, for his lung had been punctured by the shattered end of a rib. He died the next day in the hospital. The following day, at a somber meeting of the Club governors, Roland asked Minnie Dole, a director and good friend of Edson's, to chair a committee to research ski accidents and to find out what could be done about them. He asked two other directors, John Morgan and Borden Helmer to help.

Some months later the Club published its *Safety Report* in the Ski Annual. With the report's backing, Roland started to persuade local groups to form ski patrols. A joint patrol was organized for the 1938 National Downhill and Slalom Races held on the Nose Dive at Stowe. Roger Langley, president of the National Ski Association, was so impressed by the work of the patrol that he asked Dole whether he would organize a national patrol system. It was a formidable task, which Dole took on – as a volunteer – and the National Ski Patrol was born.

Because of the Club's sprit and strength, the tragedy of Frank Edson's death produced benefits for skiing ever after. The National Ski Patrol wasn't the only positive result. Frank Edson's widow, Jean, told Minnie Dole that she hoped that someday there could be a race in Frank's memory that preserved the thrill of downhill racing, which Frank loved, but that was less dangerous. The inaugural Franklin Edson Memorial Race was held the next year at Tuckerman Ravine on Mt. Washington, with a Trophy presented by the Club. It was the first Giant Slalom held in the U. S.



Roland and two ASC friends, John E. P. Morgan and John W. Ross, at the first Edson Memorial Race, 1937

The next article in this series will describe the founding of Mad River Glen.

Note: This article is based on Philip Palmedo's book, *Roland Palmedo: A Life of Adventure and Enterprise*, available from Enfield Distribution at www.enfelddistribution.net. Club members receive a discount with the code SKI.

Congrats to **Phil Palmedo**! His book, *Roland Palmedo, A life of Adventure and Enterprise* has received the Skade Award, for the best ski history book of 2017 by the International Skiing History Association.

The Tree Well Incident(s) – A MUST read for skiers of all ages.

By Tony Richards

A few years ago, after a stretch of very heavy snowfall at Mad River Glen, I pushed out onto the terrain that lies between Paradise and the Fall Line. I was joined that day by Brooks Ware and his son Nicholas. I remember being struck by the quantity of snow that had fallen and the fact that the 6-7 foot pine trees were almost completely buried, with only the last few inches protruding from the snow. We were skiing above the trees in the most literal sense.

There was very little pitch and we were all in relaxed stances as we moved toward the steeper part of the hill. Brooks made a turn to the left ahead of me and I followed his lead, but I lost my balance. What I thought would be gentle flop on my right side became something very different. I fell right into a tree well. The branches and snow had created a well concealed trap door five feet deep. I was upside down, pointing straight down into the snow. Brooks later told me that all he could see were my boots and skis sticking out of the snow.

I looked up and saw a hole of light that was rapidly getting smaller as snow poured in behind me. I could feel the snow covering my face and mouth and the involuntary panic that is caused by being smothered. I had failed to remove my ski pole straps before entering the woods (something you should always do). As a result, my arms were pinned by my side- I could not clear my face and airway. Fortunately, Brooks was staring down at me from above. Despite the cold snow in my throat, I was able to croak out "I can't breathe"! Brooks plunged his arm into the hole and was able to clear some of the snow away from my face. I was gasping for air and my heart was racing. Once we were sure I was out of immediate danger, we began the process of removing my skis, getting me right side up and ultimately out of the tree well.

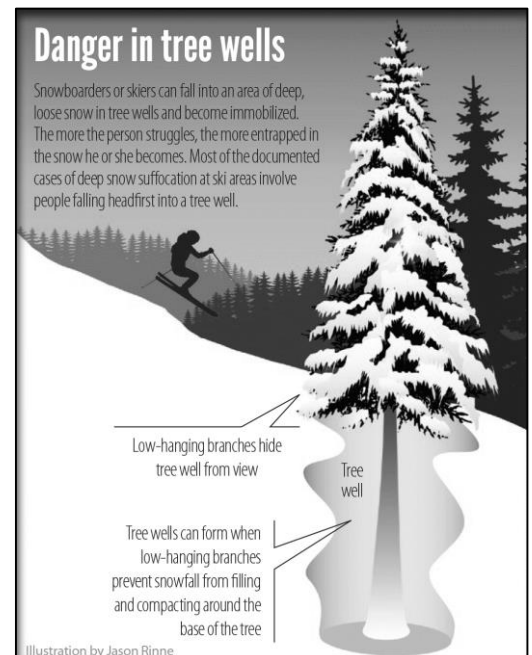
The snow was so deep it took ten minutes just to get my skis on and my gear back in place. I was badly shaken, but ready to start skiing. I moved forward, this time behind Nicholas. We had gone 10 yards beyond the tree well and my right ski unexpectedly released. Down I went again on my right side-into another tree well! I had not realized while putting my skis back on, that there was snow built up under right boot which prevented the binding from seating properly.

In the span of a minute, I was once again upside down, five feet below the surface with snow pouring into the hole, unable to move my body. This time, however, I was able to get my hand free to keep my airway clear. After another 10 minutes of furious digging by Brooks and Nicholas I was out of my second hole. I had had enough. I wanted no more skiing that day. I made it back to the lodge without further incident.

My 12 year old son recently asked me if I had ever thought in my life to that point that I might die unexpectedly. I remember almost drowning from a rip current when I was seven. I had some very close calls as a pilot in the military. To that list, I'll add my experience with two tree wells at the top of Mad River Glen. If I had been stupid enough to be skiing in the woods by myself, or if Brooks had been 100 yards ahead of me on the trail, I would have suffocated to death. He would not have seen me and would not have known I was in trouble. It happens just like that. Not a monstrous avalanche in the Rockies, not a fall into an icy crevasse in the Alps, just a snow covered pine tree in Vermont.

I remember reading in Ski magazine years ago about an unfortunate skier who died in a tree well. I thought to myself, 'who falls in a tree well and gets themselves so badly stuck that they die'? The answer, I now know, is me. In fact, a handful of skiers die each year in tree wells.

Never go in the woods or off trail by yourself. Stay with your group, frequently check each other's position and never think that the small mountain that you have happily skied for 45 years won't kill you.



The Early ASCNY Membership Books



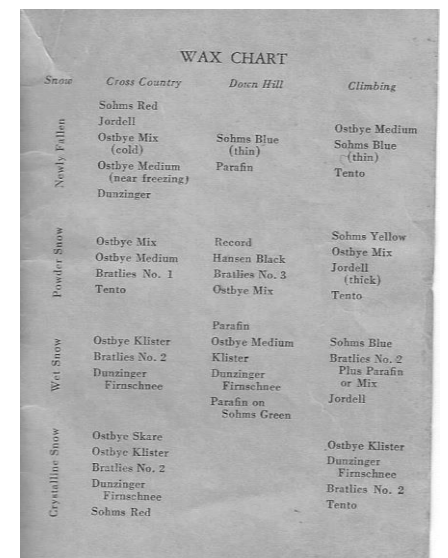
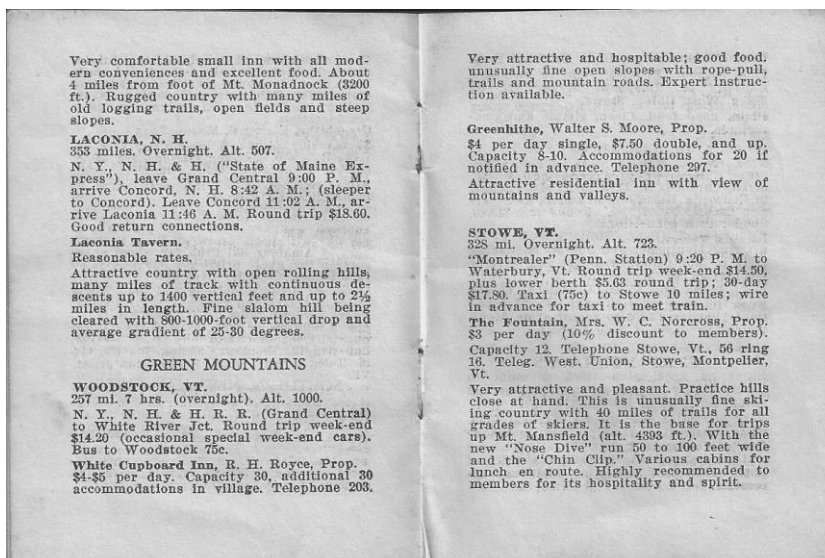
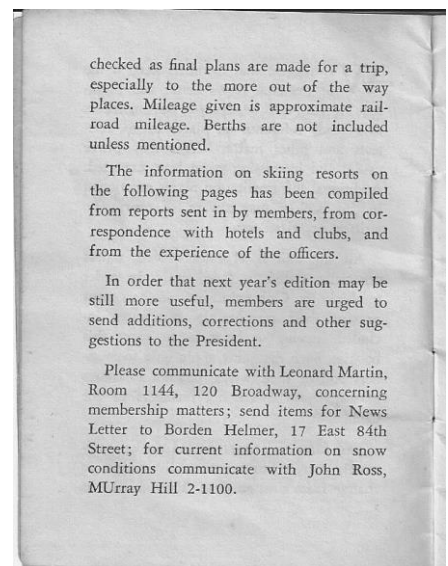
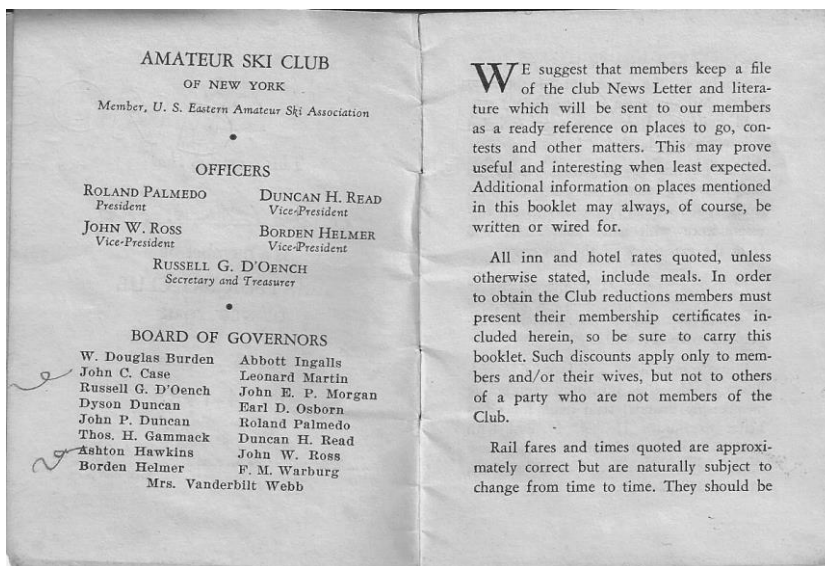
By Hooley Wilks

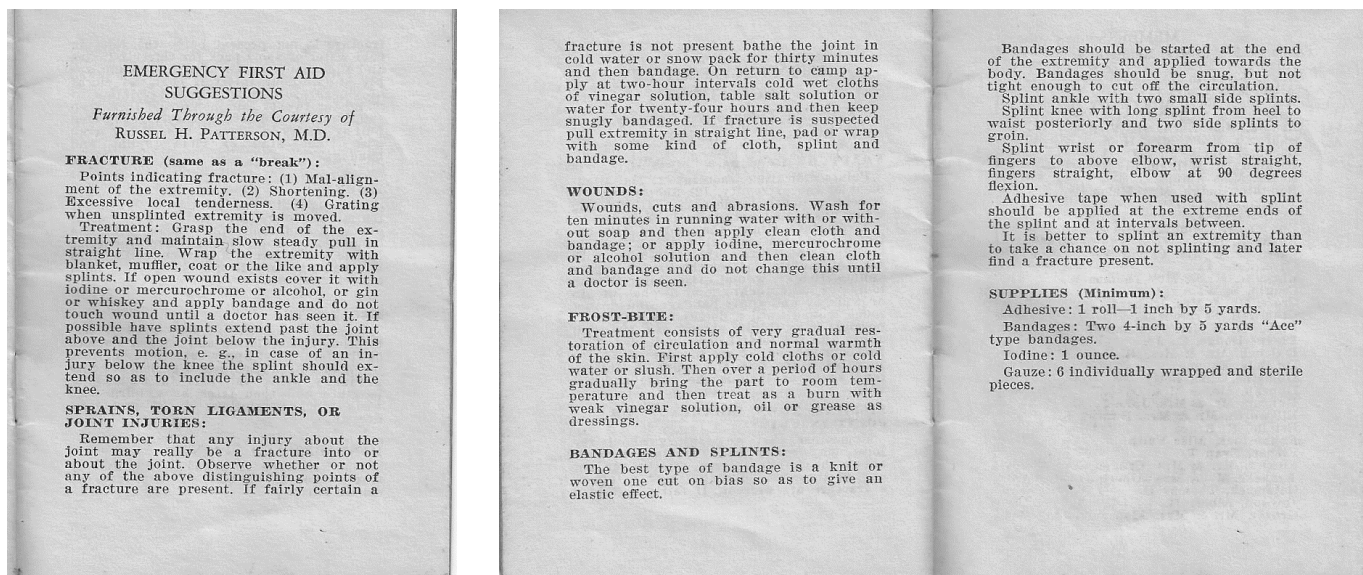
I recently paid a visit to the treasure trove of ASCNY archives stored in **Rob Young's** basement and was smitten with the original membership books dating back to 1932. Over the years the books have grown in dimensions and currently our membership directory only exists on our website. The first membership book was so small, it was designed to fit in one's shirt pocket, so it could be easily referenced.

At the time, the booklet of 24 pages included not only a list of the members, but also served as a source of information on hotels, train fares and the length of distance and time to travel from NYC.



Members were encouraged to share what information they learned in their travels and then it was compiled and printed for everyone's use. Areas included in this first booklet were New England, the Laurentian Mountains and the Canadian Rockies. Perhaps my favorite part of the book are the three pages of Emergency First Aid Suggestions including those for fractures, torn ligaments, frost bite and wounds. The back cover is of course a handy wax reference guide.





First Aid pages from an early membership book

Ski It If You Can at 100!

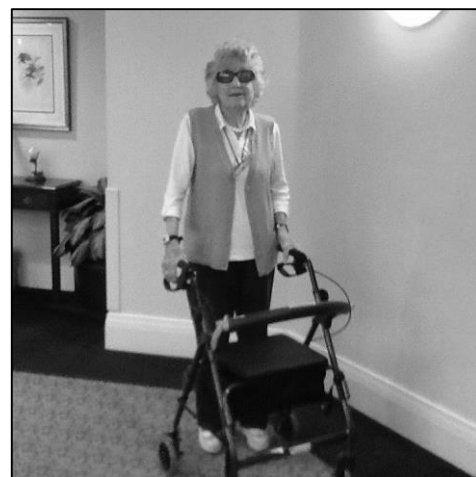
By Hooley Wilks

I recently received a letter from our oldest member of the club, **Monique Wiedel** and then spoke with her on the phone. Here is what I learned.

Monique and her husband Philip joined the club in 1955. In the late 60s, they built a house at the top of the practice slope on Ridge Road. The house is still in the family and used by her two daughters, grand and great grandchildren. (Mostly used by Daughter Suzanne Pace-Wiedel as the second daughter Janine lives in London.) Digging through *50 Winters*, hoping to uncover a bit more history about this centurion, I uncovered a photo of her husband cross country skiing, and notice her two daughters had each won the Fairsexmark in 1965 and 1969. Unfortunately, the children did not keep their membership going and now Monique said they all wish they had. **My favorite fun fact I learned about Monique is that she has a "MRG – Ski It If You Can" sticker on her walker!!!!**

Monique told me that she just turned 100 this past July which confused me since we had already wished her a 100th Happy Birthday in this newsletter just a few years back. We figure out that the birthdate associated with her membership was that of her late husband's. We had tried to reach her at that time, but had a wrong numbers, so were so happy to finally connect and clear that up. Other family history I learned when the daughter Suzanne followed up with a call, included that both she and her mom both served on the ASCNY board at one point. The other daughter, Janine was a ski instructor at MRG and was captain of the Yale ski team.

Happy 100th Birthday Monique!



This might be the best
"Ski It If You Can" sticker sighting to date!



Summer Fun!

Fun for a hot summer day....

It was 103 degrees in New Canaan and I received an email from my husband (**Jeffrey Wilks**) with this subject line: Dream Job Alert: Get Paid \$10k to Ski the World. It got me thinking about all the places on my ski bucket list. It also made me think of all the places I have already been and the great memories associated with them.

Just for fun, make a list of all the places you have skied in your life! For those of us who have been around for quite a while, the list is probably quite long. There were many more small local hills during the infancy of the sport. As a kid growing up in upstate new York, I had five ski hills within 30 minutes of my home. The smallest one I could walk to after kindergarten and meet my mom for an afternoon of skiing the rope tow or T-bar. I recently read that in the last 50 years, Colorado had an additional 100 small ski areas that are no longer operating after falling into disrepair or financial ruin.

The new multi resort passes (Epic, Ikon and Mountain Collective) are enticing people to explore more places these days. Myself included. While we all LOVE Mad River Glen, we have all spent time away from our beloved mountain. On the next hot day, make your list, even the small ones count. How many resorts have you skied? Hope to share some thoughts on this at our next social gathering.

For more information on how to get paid to ski the world, google Ski.com's Epic Dream Job. Don't wait, the deadline to apply is quickly approaching.



Here's an ASCNY summer sighting at a swim meet on the North Shore. Members of the Hopkins, Ware and Raftery families. Not pictured are Will Ware, one of the Hopkins daughters, and Connor Cammann who were all also in attendance!

Gardening Tip from a Skier

Anyone who spends time in the garden has likely accidentally left a small pruner outside for a moment, only to be forgotten, rained on, and found rusted a week later or perhaps dropped one in the pachysandra never to be found again. I've now attached an 18" neon cord to my hand trimmers and those problems are solved! I call it my powder strap for gardeners!



This photo would be better in color so you could see the neon pink cord, but you get the idea, even in b/w.

Gran Fondo

Italian for Long Distance or great endurance

By Andrew Carey (and Trey Gregory)

One quiet summer morning I'm reading the ASCNY email blast about a bike race through a few VT gaps followed by a club summer party.

Andrew: Hey Liza, any interest in riding some VT gaps this weekend?

Liza: Sure, sounds like fun.

Andrew: Uh, oh...

The Mad River Valley is home to some of the best road biking in New England - great climbs, exhilarating downhill and scenic country roads. The Vermont Fondo covers these roads with the added advantage of going by Mad River and Sugarbush. We started with a early departure from Middlebury heading to Bristol then on to Lincoln. Thankfully we were spared climbing the Lincoln Gap with a timely turn toward Jerusalem and the bottom of the Appalachian Gap. As we climbed and descended beautiful country roads, we met numerous local riders as well as folks from around the US. All were taken by the beauty of the area. At mile 27, the tone of the ride and the angle of the climb changed for the worse, we started up the Appalachian Gap. 2.5 miles of glory and despair, followed by glory. The payoff is the 4.5 mile descent to German Flats. It is slightly reminiscent of floating down through an endless field of powder, except you really do not want to fall...

Our next turn started a 8.5 mile approach to the one of the steepest paved miles in the US - Lincoln Gap. The mind plays interesting tricks. When looking ahead to climbing over the Lincoln Gap, otherwise steep hills become less challenging, paling in comparison to the main event. When you start up the final ascent, you are filled with optimism and excitement; by the summit, you are again filled with optimism and excitement. The middle is considerably more difficult - but achievable. I am embarrassed to report the I fell twice while trying to keep up with Liza who ground her way up the pitch.

While resting atop our final summit, we were excited for 25 miles of gentle, downhill sweeps and beautiful rolls to Middlebury. While mostly true, the organizers had one final surprise. Toward the bottom of the Lincoln Gap, we turned south toward Ripton, through the Breadloaf Wilderness. Breathtakingly beautiful and at times steep as well. As we rolled into the Ripton rest stop, we were relieved to know that the climbing was done and the celebration was not far away. 10 miles back to the start of the ride and our adoring fans. For anyone reading this who has not ridden this type of terrain, the logical question is "why." The answer is simple - "because they paved the hills..." Final statistics, 6,800 feet of climbing over 70 miles ridden. As a point of reference, that is 3 1/2 times up MRG!

The Gran Fondo, Medio Difficile, Medio Facile, and Piccolo Fondo are 4 different courses that all start on a dirt road out of Middlebury. Five ASCNY members collectively rode all the gaps. **Liza and Andrew Carey** are the official ASCNY Queen and King of the mountain by signing up for the Medio Difficile and conquering the Appalachian and Lincoln Gap, climbing a total of 7000' in 67 miles on a 90 degree day. Liza took first place for her age category and not only that, but she was the fastest female in our ride category up the Lincoln Gap! Apparently she's not just fast on skis! **Gregg Stone** on his custom built steel Serrotta powered 62 miles over the Brandon and Middlebury Gaps with **Margie and Trey Gregory**.

Needless to say but the Sip of Sunshine at the end of the day never tasted better!



Meet Kelli Patterson

This year we welcome Kelli Patterson to the small group of staff who help run our club. She has been working closely with Susan Kluger and myself (Hooey Wilks) on annual dues collection and will eventually transition to full time bookkeeper as Susan Kluger is wishing to spend more time with her grandchildren.

Tell us a little bit about yourself? My accounting experience comes from 10 years as the office manager for a luxury car dealership on Long Island. Two years ago I left that position and moved to Connecticut so that I could stay at home and raise my son, age 4, and daughter, just born! I'm happy to add ASCNY to my growing list of clients that make up my work-from-home business. In addition to bookkeeping, I am also a wedding and event photographer. Outside of work, I am enjoying my life as a new mom and trying my best to enjoy this moment in time while they're young.

What is your connection to the club? Trey Gregory knows my father-in-law, McKee Patterson. We met at McKee's retirement party.

Have you ever skied? I am embarrassed to admit that I have only skied once. I went with a youth group in my early high school days. I had fun but was definitely overwhelmed! I was never presented with an opportunity to try again as a kid. Now that I am working for a ski club and I have children of my own, I hope to take them skiing one day. We live 30 minutes from Mohawk Mountain. I expect that will be our first stop!

Favorite hobbies? Photography. Watching my puppy play at the dog park. Making messy recipes with my son.

Favorite winter meal and movie? Homemade French Onion Soup and my most recent favorite movie is "Interstellar".

What is the coldest place you have ever been? What was the temperature? This past Christmas we were with family in Castine, Maine. The high for the day was -2°F! I bundled up and took the dog out for a quick walk. It was amazing how quickly that level of cold can set into your bones. I'm a big weather nerd, so I loved setting a new personal temperature record.



These special ASCNY pins were given out at various events throughout the year. There are a limited supply still remaining, so don't wait to join the fun and get a pin! If you already have a pin, don't forget to wear it to the Annual party on November 16th!



Annual Fall Gathering Cocktails and a Ski Movie



"If you don't do it this year, you'll be one year older when you do." - Warren Miller

Kick off the Ski Season with ASCNY friends!

Friday, November 16th

Join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
and then we are off to the movies!

Cash Bar

Appetizers (\$20 collected at the bar)

5:30-7:30 pm

The Cask Republic

191 Summer St, Stamford, CT

Movie - Warren Miller's "Face of Winter"

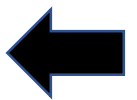
8:00 – 10:00 pm

Palace Theater, Stamford, CT

Just a 3 minute walk from The Cask Republic



RSVP for pre-party to rggervase@gmail.com
Please purchase your own movie tickets separately.



More info about the Cocktail hour information to be released in an email blast and on the web site.

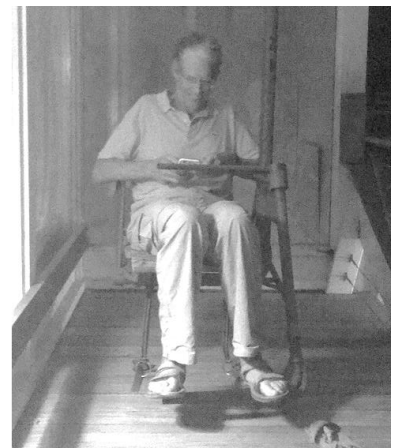
Warren Miller's "Face of Winter"

Loving the unadulterated joys of winter is something we all have in common with the late, great Warren Miller—who helped create and capture the magic of skiing. This year, new and veteran athletes alike pay tribute to the man who started it all in Face of Winter, the 69th installment from Warren Miller Entertainment (WME).

In this 69th chapter, WME visits some of Warren's favorite locations, from Engleberg to Chamonix, British Columbia to Alaska, Chile, Iceland, New Zealand, Washington and more. Watch as world-class athletes such as Anna Segal, Dash Longe, Forrest Jillson, Amie Engerbretson, Simon Hillis, Seth Wescott, Jim Ryan, Jess McMillan, and others carve the faces of remote mountain ranges and pursue the thrills of a life lived in high places.

Membership Update!

Our club continues to grow from within. This year we welcomed four new intermediate members and converted seven intermediates to regular membership. Looking forward to spending time with and sitting fireside after a long day on the mountain with these future guardians of the club.



*Gregg Stone relaxing this summer
on the deck after his big ride!*



Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

319 Ponus Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

Save the Date

Drinks/Appetizers
Followed by a
Warren Miller Ski Movie
November 16th 2018
Stamford, CT
Look inside for more details!

Our club is run mostly by
**volunteers. Please let us know
if you are interested in taking
on a role to help out. The
more helpers the better!**

Order Now!

Roland Palmedo: A Life of Adventure and Enterprise

Order your copy now through the distributor's
website www.enfelddistribution.net where Phil has
arranged for a 20% discount for ASC members using
the code SKI.

If you have a pin, don't forget
to wear it to the parties!



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 Tony Richards at trichards18@gmail.com.