



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



October 2019

A Letter from our President

A little snow can change everything!

What gets you psyched for skiing this fall?

Here are a few things that change my mood:

- The magic of the Matterhorn in Zermatt, Switzerland being the first European destination on the Icon pass.
- Three weekends of Green & Gold! September 28-29th MRG will be spinning the Single for Fall Foliage Rides, and plan to crank "Old Faithful" up again on October 5-6th for [Green & Gold Weekend](#), the annual kick-off to the ski season. The third and final weekend for peak foliage viewing will be on October 12-13th.
- Parlor skis designed a new ski called "Japow"! It is perfect for that trip of a lifetime! And yes of course they will add the ASCNY logo – it's your fantasy!
- The World Cup returns to Killington Resort for the fourth year! It includes women's giant slalom and slalom races, attracting athletes such as U.S. Ski Team superstar Mikaela Shiffrin who has emerged victorious in slalom each of the last three years at Killington, for the hat trick.
- 70th anniversary film, Warren Miller's "Timeless" featuring ski legends like Glen Plake, alongside newcomers Caite Zelif, Jaelin Kauf, and Baker Boyd. Road-trip with rippers from Arlberg to the Matterhorn, be immersed in the hometown hill of Eldora and discover a different side of Jackson Hole, plus much more.
- Match Stick Productions 2019 ski movie "Return to Sender"
- Hooey Mountain – Downhill Divas – Just Google it! [and then follow on Instagram]
- A "Polar Coaster Winter" of frigid temperatures and above normal amount of snow, sleet and rain is coming this winter, according to the [2020 Farmers' Almanac](#), the latest iteration of an annual tradition dating back to 1818.
- Black Crows is a French independent ski brand based in Chamonix, France that designs skis, poles and technical outerwear. Thinking about a crow as a ski provides an entirely different context to Robert Frost's "Dust of Snow"

Dust of Snow

By Robert Frost

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Hoping for another late November to April ski season at MRG! Think Snow!

Trey

Mark your calendars -

Sign up for room rentals begins October 15th. There is a week to submit your requests and then our tireless Jim Byrne (who is never thanked enough for doing this thankless job for what seems like over a decade) sorts them all out and tries his best to make everyone happy! Check back on the reservations calendar in mid November to see what weekends you'll be enjoying sitting fireside with other members swapping stories about how great Lower Antelope was skiing or the secret stash of powder found in some secret named woods trail. The après skiing at ASCNY is where memories are made.

The Creation of Mad River

Philip F. Palmedo

In my previous articles I described how, in 1931, Roland Palmedo formed the Amateur Ski Club of New York and then went on to create the ski area at Stowe; formed the first U. S. Women's ski team in 1934; and initiated the National Ski Patrol. In all these endeavors, Roland enlisted like-minded, hardy companions. Club members were often involved in those adventurous undertakings, and were often at their center. Skiing and enterprises were group activities: challenging, but fun; to be enjoyed with others. He brought families in, and particularly enjoyed acting as a "to nature" Pied Piper to youngsters. Those ideals were at the heart of one of Roland's signature accomplishments, the creation of Mad River Glen.

But first, I can't resist recounting another adventure, taken while the new area was being contemplated. Roland re-enlisted in the Naval Air Force following Pearl Harbor. On its way to Japan, his ship, the Yorktown, stopped in Hawaii and Roland noticed snow at the very top of the 13,000 ft. Mauna Kea Volcano. Of course, he had to reach it. Somehow, he managed to find two pairs of skis on the island, and then enlisted 14 pilots and seamen, and convinced his commanding officer to let him lead the two-day expedition up the mountain. Roland and two other officers made it to the snow and managed a few turns before having to head back down. Later one of his comrades drew a telling rendition of his friend.



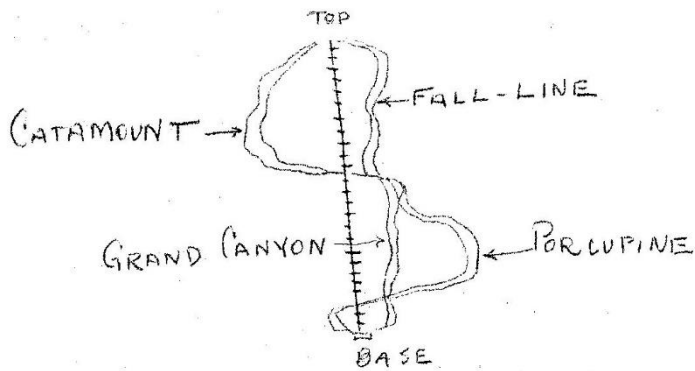
On Mauna Kea

The Yorktown was off the coast of Japan when news of the first atomic bomb reached them. The next day, Roland re-started plotting – by mail – with his Stowe colleagues J. Negley (Cookie) Cooke and Charlie Lord a new ski area in Vermont. At Stowe, Roland's Mt. Mansfield Lift Company ran the lift, but there were many other actors involved and by 1944 Stowe had started to take on characteristics that clashed with Roland's ski philosophy. He had a clear conception of the ideal ambiance for the ski experience, based on places like the early St Anton and Zermatt: pure alpine villages, unadulterated by anything outside the Arcadian world of climbing and skiing. He was chagrined at how quickly success was spoiling the alpine character of Stowe. He was very clear about his vision when he wrote: "I would like to see Vermont ski areas stay as simple and as rustic as possible. I don't think we need to import a lot of plush and sophisticated gimmicks. I am suspicious of man's effort to improve nature."

Before the war, Roland and his colleagues had explored the Warren area, but when Roland got back and the team explored it more, they decided it just couldn't be developed. After a year of exploring maps and terrain, they found "the ideal location": General Stark Mountain. Unlike at Stowe, the land on Stark Mountain was privately owned, and by early November, 1946 Roland's team had negotiated options to buy land from local Lumber Companies. As it was in Stowe, Roland's approach to funding Mad River was akin to his approach to skiing; it was something you did with colleagues and did for the non-financial rewards. The approach also made strategic sense for the area's shareholders would become the core of Mad River's clients, and the foundation of its character. As at Stowe, Roland got no preference in his ownership (and no salary for his significant efforts for the company). The list of the initial shareholders in the Mad River Corporation is telling, reflecting both the breadth and the durability of Roland's friendships. The list includes prominent names from the worlds of skiing, business, finance, and even aviation. Four of the charter members of the Amateur Ski Club from 1931 are there, as well as other early ski buddies like Russell D'Oench, Herb Brucker, and John Gerli.

The Creation of Mad River (continued)

Roland involved himself in every detail of the project from the lay-out of the Base Box to attracting a doctor to the area. But the mountain and its trails were central. Roland, along with Charlie Lord and Bobby Schwartzenbach, climbed up and down, back and forth, hacking through underbrush with machetes, following out ledges, gullies, scree, and rocky areas. Interesting trails, Roland believed, derived from variety and sensitivity to the detailed character of the terrain. He considered a slashed open slope down a mountain to be an insensitive insult to nature. There was also hot debate about the names of the trails. Nothing “blood-curdling,” declared Roland who sketched the first lay-out.



Roland's first trail map

Fundamental to the concept was that Mad River would be family-oriented. In an unusual step, land around the base would not contain a money-making hotel or condominiums and Roland worked hard to persuade ski clubs to build lodges. He personally donated the land for the Amateur Ski Club Lodge which was completed in 1959.



Opening Day. Jean Peatman (Miss Vermont), General Stark (aka Sandy McIlvane), Sam Ogden, and Roland.

The area was supposed to open at the end of 1947, but heavy early snow halted construction, and new funds had to be raised. At the official opening on December 11, 1948, the snow that had been so unfortunately abundant the year before was all but missing. But the event went off with due light-hearted fanfare. Unfortunately, that first winter was pretty much a washout, with serious financial losses. When the next year was much the same, Roland opened a meeting of his Board of Directors by saying, “Gentlemen, if you expected this Corporation to make money, you’ve invested in the wrong business.” But then the Corporation actually did start to make money – with all of the profits poured back into improving the skiing experience.



Preserving Palmedo's Spirit

On President's Day weekend of 2017, the Ski Club held its annual outing at Mad River. With new snow, moderate temperatures and bright sun, Saturday was one of the finest days the area had seen in years. When skiers arrived at the area, they were greeted by a notice, under the area's familiar logo (designed by Roland, of course) that read, “Preserving Palmedo's Spirit.” Mad River and the Amateur Ski Club: intertwined embodiments of Roland's ski philosophy. Embodiments, in fact, of his philosophy of life.

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

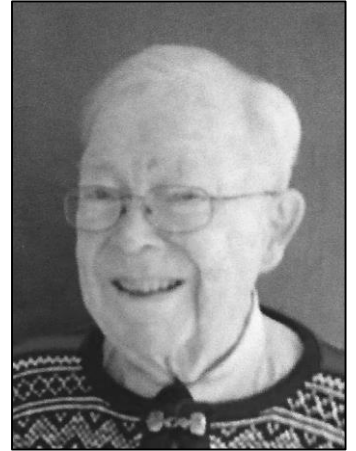
Robert Bradley “Brad” Nichols

(1931 – 2019)

Legacy Cup Honoree

Robert B. Nichols, Jr. passed away peacefully in Middlesex Hospital on July 22nd after complications from a bad fall. Brad was born in Binghamton, New York on November 24, 1931 son of the late Robert B. Nichols and Beatrice Powell Nichols.

He was educated in Binghamton public schools until going away to prep school at Proctor Academy and The Hotchkiss School. When the Korean War broke out Brad was accepted at the U S Naval Academy and remained a Midshipman during the early fifties in spite of his poor hearing which the Navy waived. But when the war ended the Navy would no longer accept medical waivers and he was given an honorable medical discharge from the service which was a big disappointment to him. He completed his college studies with a BA in business from Middlebury College and went on to work in outside sales at the Armstrong Cork Co and then Republic Steel Corp.



Brad was an ardent skier having skied on various school ski teams. He was a ski instructor, ski patrolman, and ski coach. Brad so loved the ski business he opened up a chain of ski shops in the greater Hartford, CT area in the early sixties. Brad also enjoyed golf and was a member of the Hartford Golf Club and later the Black Hall Club and the Old Lyme Country Club after he and his wife Helene moved to Essex after Brad sold his ski shops and became President of Wilt-Pruf Products in 1976 - a company which produces a line of Horticulture anti-transpirants which are sold throughout the world. Brad was also an enthusiastic sailor on local waters as well as blue water. Brad belonged to the Indian Harbor Yacht Club of Greenwich when his new business took him to the Greenwich area. **He was also a long time member of the New York Amateur Ski Club where he served a term as President.** After they moved to Essex, he was active in the Connecticut River Museum where he was Vice Chairman and became a lifetime trustee emeritus. Brad was a lifetime member of the First Congregational Church and active on many church committees.

Brad leaves behind his beautiful Dutch born wife H  l  ne after nearly forty years together. He also leaves his devoted son Robert III, his wonderful wife Helena and their very special daughter Matilda of Fairfield, CT. He also leaves his lovely daughter Whitney Covington and her supportive husband Jim together with their two great sons Sam and Will who live in Chestertown, MD. And he leaves behind his beloved dachshunds, LadyBug and Buttercup. A memorial service was held at the First Congregational Church in Essex on Saturday, August 10th at 10 a.m.

Summer Biking in VT

After proofing the spring ASCNY newsletter and reading about this fun bike outing, Phoebe Wilks was inspired to sign up for the Farm to Fork Fondo on the Champlain Islands. The gourmet food bites served at farms along the way and the blues band at the finish were big hits.

We love hearing what our members are up to over the summer. Especially when the great State of Vermont is involved. Send us pictures and info and we are happy to include them!



Phoebe Wilks and Mike Heffernan

Lodge Improvements

Welcome to the ASCNY!



Over 40 members responded to our request for donations to our furniture fund and as a result there are several exciting changes underway at the lodge!

- A new couch and chairs are on order!
- We're working to replace 25% of our linens with a new business account with Land's End!
- We have a very special task force to replace our tired curtains! Leading the charge on this project is our own Ken Yorke who also volunteered to install the new window treatments before the holiday season! Thank you, Ken, for making this extra effort for our club.
- You can donate by credit card via Venmo (@ASCNY), over the phone with Kelli Patterson at (914-582-4879) or mail a check to her at PO Box 548 New Milford CT 06776.

THINK SNOW!!!

In Other News

Not part of the furniture fund, but still a much needed upgrade, the garbage bins out front of the lodge have finally been replaced!



Along with the new intermediate and regular members of the club, here are some other additions! Send your photos of family additions to newsletter editors listed on the back of this publication.



Welcome Laura Clarke, bride to Caldwell Clarke. The two have moved back east so we are hoping to see them around the lodge this winter.



Westley Robert Windham, born July 15, 2019 to Ani (Kavookjian) and Matt Windham



Sklar – Daughter to Chris and Victoria Warren
Nice t-shirt!

Annual Fall Gathering Cocktails and a Ski Movie

Kick off the Ski Season with ASCNY friends!

Friday, November 22nd

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

Cash Bar

Appetizers (\$20 collected at party)

5:00-7:30 pm

The Cask Republic

191 Summer St, Stamford, CT

Movie - Warren Miller's "Timeless"

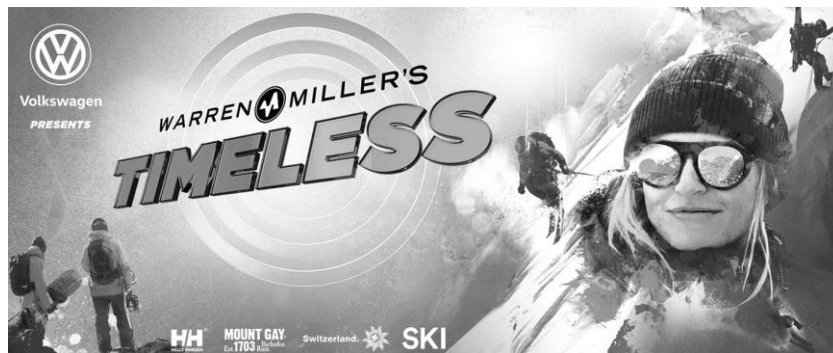
8:00 – 10:00 pm

Palace Theater, Stamford, CT

Just a 3 minute walk from The Cask Republic

RSVP for cocktail party to Betsy Raftery (betsyraftery@gmail.com)

Please purchase your own movie tickets separately.



Warren Miller's "Timeless"

The only constant is change, but winter stoke is eternal. After seven decades of celebrating skiing and snowboarding, Warren Miller Entertainment can confirm that nothing compares to the excitement of another season in the mountains.

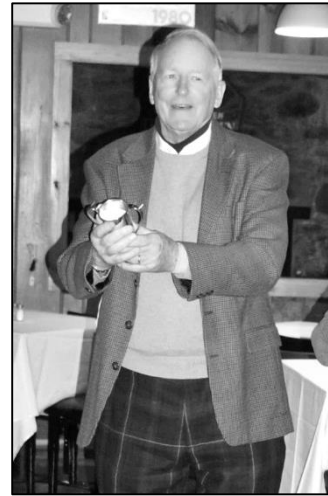
Join the kickoff to winter with our 70th film, "Timeless", presented by Volkswagen, featuring ski veterans like Glen Plake and Forrest Jillson, alongside up and coming athletes like Queen of Corbet's Catie Zelif and Olympic skier Jaelin Kauf.

Explore the enduring spirit of winter across the globe, from the slopes of the Colorado Rockies to the rooftop of the Alps, and the steeps at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, to Mustang Powder Lodge in the Monashee Mountains in British Columbia.

All moviegoers receive discounts on lift tickets, gear, swag, and more. This includes a free mid-week ticket to Sugarbush. Timeless is more than a ski and snowboard film, it's an experience 70 years in the making.

Charles Minot “Mint” Dole

(1934 – 2019)



*In 2015, Mint accepted an ASCNY
Legacy award for his dad*

Charles Minot Dole Jr. died peacefully on Friday, July 19 at home in Essex, Connecticut, after a brief battle with multiple myeloma. He was 85.

An entrepreneur and innovator with degrees from Middlebury College and the Chicago Institute of Design, “Mint” founded Dole Associates, a virtual corporation that conceived and produced industrial design solutions. He was a pioneer in user-centered product design and developed a wide array of innovations, from adding bungee cords to tent poles for Eureka to developing in-home mononucleosis and pregnancy tests and medical devices for Becton Dickinson to engineering Duracell’s initial line of flashlights.

Mint, the son of Charles Minot Dole (“Minnie” who was credited as the founder of the National Ski Patrol) and Jane Ely Dole of Greenwich, Connecticut, grew up in a very musical family. While at Middlebury College, he co-founded the Dissipated Eight, a men’s a cappella singing group. With his tenor voice, he continued singing with their alumnae group and the Yale Whiffenpoof Alumnae group. He also was a talented water color artist and loved skiing, sailing and bird hunting with his beloved Gordon setters.

Mint’s ingenuity as a designer and problem solver extended past his work, best seen in his 50-plus years of devotion to maintaining the family’s 120-year-old Adirondack Great Camp. He was a generous and gracious host, offering guests the chance to experience the magic he felt so deeply while encouraging them in lively, open-minded conversations. He was indeed a great character.

He is survived by his loving wife Burgess Dole, sister Susan Armstrong, children Trux Dole and Erika Hemphill and their mother Istar Mudge, grandchildren the late Gage Dole and Oliver and Natalia Hemphill, stepsons Peter and Alex Russell, and step-grandchildren Violet and Alex Russell, along with his second wife Barbara Hall and her three children.

The services were held at St. John’s in the Wilderness in Paul Smiths on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 10 a.m. and at the Onteora Club in Tannersville. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Mint’s memory to the Dissipated Eight Alumni Association, c/o Middlebury College: <http://go.middlebury.edu/give>.



Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

319 Ponus Ridge Road
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Winter Reservation Requests Begin Oct 15th



Thank you everyone who donated to the Furniture Fund!

**There is still time to contribute
if you have not already.**

Annual Party

Save the Date
November 22nd Stamford, CT

Boston Fall Gathering - TBD

Lots of important things
happened 50 years ago....

- Man landed on the Moon
- Woodstock
- The modern-day ski boot with a plastic shell and inner padded lining was invented

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 Phoebe Wilks at pwilks315@gmail.com