



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



Spring 2018

A Letter from our President

The sound of corn horn was heard this morning throughout the legendary terrain of MRG and the Easter Bunny will make some tracks down the Bunny slope on April fools day this year. Holy resurrection! What a great way to end the ski season that almost died several times.

When I skied Thanksgiving day from the top of the Sunny Side Double to Base box I thought this was going to be a great winter for East Coast skiing! Instead, erratic weather patterns brought heavy rains after a big freeze on the MLK weekend that caused ground water to come up below the foundation and flood bunkroom 4, Bedroom E, and Bedroom D for the first time ever. Luckily, we were able to dry the rooms out in time for the next week's renters and not lose any reservations or revenue. The cross-country ski races were cancelled due to lack of snow and were never made up - so no Skimeister Trophy was awarded this year.

Boreas, the God of winter provided his gift of snow to the club for President's weekend. The GS and slalom races brought many participants filling every category of competition; the party and dinner were also well attended with members of all ages. It was great to have Phil Palmedo, the Randall's, the Gerli's and the Nichols' all in the lodge again. It was a special evening as we honored John Gerli and had fun hearing about his many contributions to our community. The club is healthy; when we have snow, we get crowds for the races and the rooms sell out. Regardless of the weather, our members always show up for the parties! We have a record number of legacy members who let their membership lapse and want to rejoin. I have established a new committee to address this so we can all look forward to seeing some new families in the club in the coming years. As our founder, Roland Palmedo advocated, our club and skiing at Mad River Glen should be all about the adventure, the joy of skiing and participation from our membership. To that end, we need volunteers to help with trip planning, submitting content to the newsletter or organizing a float for the Warren VT 4th of July parade. Please contact me with your interest in contributing to our club.

As we transition in to spring please consider joining me for the ASCNY bike & hike summer weekend in Vermont June 29-July 1st. On Saturday June 30th Middlebury, VT will host the Vermont Gran Fondo (<http://vermontgranfondo.com/event-info/>) offering four great road rides. Margie (my wife) and I are going to ride the Medio Facile and are looking for some company. Another option is to come up and hike General Stark Mountain and then hit some world class Vermont swimming holes! To finish off the day we will have summer cocktail party at the lodge on June 30th and then head over to the base box for a group dinner.

Have a great spring and summer! I hope to see you somewhere on the mountain.

Trey

Summer Gathering!
June 30th Cocktail Party
at the Lodge and dinner at the Basebox!

Leagacy Cup Recipient – John Gerli

Below is the letter Marnie shared with Scott Alexander about her Grandfather.

Thank you for reaching out to me. I have now lived in England longer then I lived in America if you can believe it. I have a daughter at university in Scotland and my son lives and breaths Colorado and is a ski instructor. Obviously Gerli blood in his genes.

I do have very fond memories of Mad River and being there with Grandpa. Every weekend, practically from Thanksgiving to Easter, every year for most of the first 17 years of my life, Vermont was my second home. Snow or not! If there wasn't snow, there was always something to do up there with one of the houses or at the club (ASCNY) or at The Barn. Grandpa was always stopping in somewhere to tinker with something that needed tweaking. It wasn't just about skiing with Grandpa, he was a real part of the community at Mad River and in Waitsfield.

Winter and Summer.

When we children were little, he drove around in the wackiest red jeep with a duck taped steering wheel and no back seats. Even though he lived 200 yards from the mountain, he would start it up and drive it up to the ASCNY parking lot for his morning of skiing. If we were dressed and ready to go, we would get a ride that short distance and we are alive today to tell the tale. Looking back, I am sure that relic was not road worthy but probably worth a fortune today!

Growing up, I rarely skied with Grandpa though as ski school was the place to be. That's where our friends were when we were little. Once we accomplished all the Non-Stop Non-Falls though, we could ski anywhere and with anyone. I do remember skiing with Grandpa for the odd pre lunch run that meant I could follow him into the bar afterwards and have a bowl of onion soup with him by the fire. A treat back then.

The Family Race weekends were a highlight of the season. And in 1982 we won the Grandfather Granddaughter award. I do remember Grandpa having several awards, badges and medals on his mantle at the Mad River house. He skied until he was 92 and if I can ski until that age, well, what a treat that would be.



John Gerli on race weekend.



The Gerli Family accepting the award. From L to R, Peter Bilowz, Will Bilowz (great grandson), Brooke Bilowz (great granddaughter), Brooks Gerli (grandson), Ellie Gerli (daughter), Linda Bilowz (granddaughter)

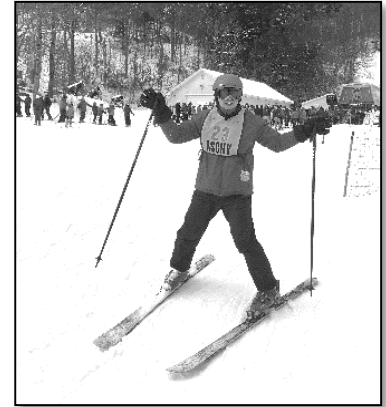
Race Weekend



Racers Ready!



Will Ware as the racing giraffe



Doug Walker AKA the man with the golden skis racing on his K2AMP RICTOR 90 XTis

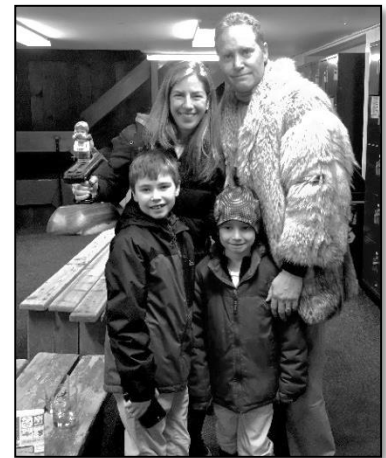
Another great race weekend for the books. Mother nature looked like she was not going to cooperate, but with some last minute snow we were able to pull off two of our three races. All who participated were rewarded afterwards at the Vintage Sweater Cocktail party and Awards Dinner.



John McNally AKA the Heady Topper runner



Former President Stuart Randall



Betsy & Bill Raftery with their children Sean and Jason



*Vintage sweaters that are probably newer than the bar stools!
Back Row- Andrew Carey, Bill Raftery, Adam Ware, Stephan Pettibone,
Stuart Randall, Philip Randall, Beck Pettibone*

The Thrill of the Thunderbolt Trail

By Margie Gregory

Meeting and reading about the legacy members of our great club, the Thunderbolt Ski race and the Stowe Derby have been on our bucket list to experience as our founding members had. As luck would have it, both races have been cancelled due to conditions for the past two years. So when we finally got some great snow this March, I knew that we had to make some time for the trip to Williamstown, MA to experience skiing on Mt. Greylock, the tallest peak in Massachusetts.

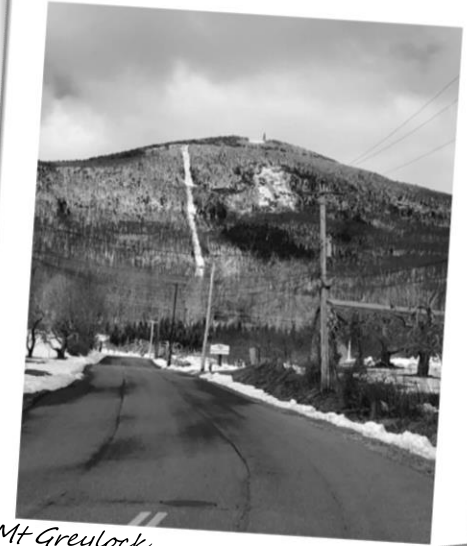
In the early 1930's, as Roland Palmedo was gathering friends and family to join him in his many winter adventures to develop skiing in the east and expose anyone who would join him to the great fun of skiing, the Mount Greylock ski club initiated the idea of building a "world class ski trail on the slopes of Mt Greylock". The Thunderbolt trail, named because it replicates the thrill of a roller coaster ride, is 1.6 miles long, holds a vertical of 2,050 feet (MRG is 2,037 of vertical) and a grade as much as 35 degrees. In 2008, a bunch of local outdoor enthusiasts got together and formed the Thunderbolt Ski Runners "TSR" club with the mission of "To preserve the integrity and continue the legacy of the Thunderbolt Ski Run". From 1935 until 1959, the trail served as the location of local, collegiate, state, and Eastern championship races but then fell victim to years of low interest and neglect until the TSR organized.

Our adventure to experience this legendary trail began around Noon on a recent sunny Sunday in March. With our skins affixed to our skis, our layers packed in our backpack and our curiosity we started up the hill. As hoped, we were not alone as we encountered several other skiers, a lonely snowboarder and a few hikers joining us along the way. The trek up was akin to hiking up MRG via One Way-Glade-Lift Line-Fall Line – not easy! After a couple of hours of skinning, a few rest stops and a lot of appreciation for the volunteer "TSR" club, we summited. At the top, we got to experience the formidable Massachusetts Veteran War Memorial Tower and a spectacular view of the Berkshires.

Now the fun part!

The ski down was everything you hope for on a great spring skiing day. We had the thrill of the bumps cushioned with soft spring snow, steep and deep turns the whole way down. The course record, establish in 1948 is 2 minutes, 8 seconds which by any standard at any time would translate to: FLYING! For Trey and I, we took our time and got down in about 12 minutes – enjoying every minute.

Please consider joining us to form a team for next year's race so we can bring back an ASCNY presence for this historic event.



Mt Greylock



The legendary trail



Trey Gregory



Margie Gregory at the summit



Plaque on Veteran War Memorial tower



This trail is part of the AT



Did you know you can follow ASCNY on Instagram? Seen here is a great picture of Jim Byrne, Trey Gregory, Gregg Stone and Margie Gregory with their new custom Parlor skis with ASCNY and MRG logos!



*More
Race
Weekend
Pics!*



Matilda Nichols



Philip Randall



Betsy Raftery

Membership Update

Reminder of Membership Classes

The classes of membership in the club are listed in the by-laws of the last printed directory or on the website. Children of members become intermediate members when turning 21, and then become full members upon turning 30, when half of the current initiation is assessed. Senior membership begins at age 68. Intermediate members who let their membership lapse will have to re-apply and pay the full initiation. This may involve being placed a waiting list if membership is full. Currently there is a waiting list for eight lapsed legacy members. A committee has been formed to discuss the process and timing of admission of these individuals. Lapsed legacies will be considered before any new applicants for the club.

Survey Update - Lodge, Social, & Reservation Issues Revisited

When the membership survey was conducted under President Mooney's term, updating the lodge, increased social activity, and availability of rooms in the lodge were the top 3 issues voiced by the membership. Below is an update:

Lodge improvements - commercial fire alarm, new egress windows to code, new padding, carpet, and cork flooring, fireplace hearth, refrigerator on the main floor, solid core doors for the bedrooms, interior and exterior painting throughout, commercial water filtration and heaters, and boot room carpeting. Frozen pipes to the lodge and recent flooding this year were also addressed with only a small increase to dues or room rates. Next up will be bathrooms and furniture. Trey Gregory has been a big help here.

Social & Communication- holiday parties were sporadic and now are held yearly in New York and Boston. Race awards and the presentation of the Legacy Cup held in the lodge a decade ago with 20 members have expanded to 70 at the base box with more racers and families thanks to Margie Gregory and Scott Alexander. The development of the new website, increased email blasts, and an increase in newsletters being sent out consistently has improved communication.

Reservations - the ability to get a room or bring a guest was the number one complaint members had about the club. Quite simply, the demand exceeded the supply. The board decided to put a hold on membership in the hopes that time would lessen the demand as the membership aged. Unfortunately, this has not happened, and in fact the situation has become worse, as essentially no one has stopped using the lodge and organically more members have, and the trend is for continued growth. This is a good problem to have. In the last two years we had 12 members over 60 at the lodge, 12 new intermediate members making reservations, 18 teenagers poised to become intermediate members, and 28 preteen kids filling the bunks. The use of the waiting list feature of the reservation site has allowed more members to get a room and relieve members who have to cancel, but essentially the lodge is sold out every year, with members hoping that the weekend they chose in October will have snow. Again, it is a problem due to the club's popularity, but the survey overwhelmingly stressed that the membership is more valuable when one can spontaneously grab a bed or bring a guest, as was often the case in the past. Finally, a committee has been formed to address the situation of lapsed legacies who want to return to the club and use the lodge.

Overall the various boards have addressed the issues and suggestions from the membership in the survey, and the interest and participation in the club has continued to grow. Any further suggestions would be welcomed by President Trey Gregory at 2skiit@gmail.com.

Summer in the Mad River Valley



The view from the top of Camel's Hump is hard to beat.

By Hooey Wilks

Last summer my family and I took a long overdue summer vacation in Vermont. When our children were very young, we used to spend many summer vacations in Vermont while my husband's family still resided in the area. It had been at least 15 years since we'd been back during the warmer months. While the Mad River Valley has many options for lodging, our trip was last minute and we decided to stay at the Lodge. There was something very comfortable about knowing exactly what to expect. We also had the place to ourselves. Our goal was to do some hiking for a few days on our way up to North Hero Island to enjoy some biking and kayaking on Lake Champlain.

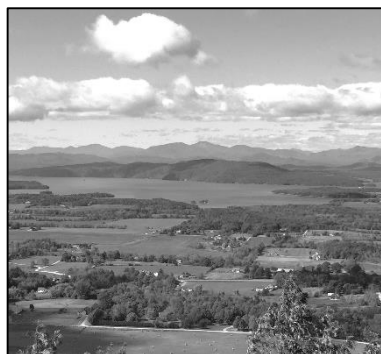
It was nice to actually visit some of the many restaurants and shops we often pass by in a hurry to get to the slopes or rushing home on a Sunday night after skiing. The following are just some of the fun things we did during the few days in the MRV: Hiked Mad River, Camel's Hump, Burnt Rock and Mt. Philo. This last one is a rewarding quick hike we took our way into Burlington one day. It would be great for any one with older parents, young children or unmotivated teenagers. The reward at the top of this short hike are the most beautiful views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. We visited the Sweet Shop in Waitsfield for delicious fig bars and warm brie and apple sandwiches we packed for our hikes, and ate at Flatbreads with no wait. We enjoyed a morning of trail riding on Icelandic horses with great views of the Valley. We swam in watering holes, visited the llama farm on Route 116, lunched in Burlington, and finally spent a full day at Shelburne Farms & Museum. Its great for all ages and included milking a cow! The only thing we did not do, but maybe next year was to tour the Mad River Distillery.

The lodge was a great place to stay so we could easily prep delicious food from the farmers market and also pack energy food needed for our hikes. Enjoying the lodge fireplace during the cool evenings and a grill were a bonus too. On our last night before heading to North Hero, we were unexpectedly surprised with a fireworks display put on by MRG. There was no better way to enjoy a relaxing evening after hiking all day than by lying on the lodge couch with a summer fire and fireworks filling the big glass windows.

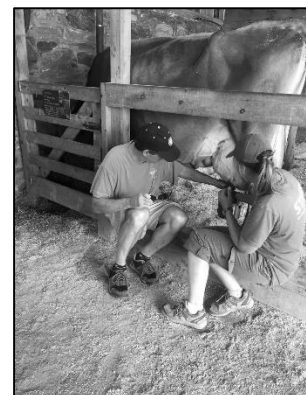
We had such a great few days that my husband and I came back again in the Fall and filled the lodge with college friends for more hiking. It's a great place to host a large group of outdoor enthusiasts. If you have not considered it, I highly recommend taking advantage of the empty lodge during the off season.



Cliff jumping



View from Mt. Philo



Milking a cow



Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

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Summer in VT

Enjoy all that the Mad River Valley has to offer! Hiking, Biking, Farmers Market, Craft Fairs, Parades, Swimming Holes, etc.



Summer Gathering!

June 30th Cocktail Party at the Lodge and dinner at the Basebox!

Boot Room Alert!

Any equipment left in the boot room will be removed by June 30th unless we hear from you!



Follow ASCNY on Instagram!

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

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