



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can."



Spring 2022

A Letter from our President

Dear Members,

It was great to see so many returning members at the lodge this winter once the Omicron surge settled down and the snow began to fly. We welcomed two new families this year and I was delighted to see some of their children and others on race weekend morning getting ready for the big event. The excitement was palpable. And while Mother Nature did not fully cooperate with us to have a long ski season, we had a few fully booked weekends mid season that really helped us through another Covid winter.

The combination of two new families' initiation fees and a few packed weekends allowed the Finance Committee (**Gregg Stone, Betsy Raftery, Rich Gervase, and Hooey Wilks**) to forgo the second part of the assessment for this year and will re-examine again after next season as to where we stand financially and what capital improvements still need to be addressed and planned for.

As I watch big and small ski resorts across the country adjust for global warming and the shorter seasons that come with that, I'm noticing that those that seem to be thriving the best are those that have created a more year-round experience. We too should be following that model. The board has put together a calendar of events, some taking place in the Mad River Valley in hopes that you will come up, rent a room, eat at the MRG fish fry or Lareau Farms, climb Camel's Hump, play golf at Sugarbush, shop the farmer's market, spend the day mountain biking, enjoy a Sip of Sunshine by a firepit at Lawson's brewery, and so many other ways to enjoy the beauty of Vermont in the summer. Off season rentals will become more and more important to the club as the number of skiable days at MRG gets smaller. You can all help by coming to these events or offering to host one yourself.

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

Regards,

Hooey Wilks
President

New Member Applications

We have lots of planned events this 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 a 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 a summer event!

Calendar of events – SAVE THESE DATES!

We have got a lot of fun events and weekends planned this summer. We would love to see more folks up at the lodge this summer, making use of our great location in the Mad River Valley. We hope to see you at one or all of these fun events. Hosts have put in a lot of work to make these events happen. They are a great way to meet prospective new members and reconnect with old friends. Mark your calendars now.

June

314 Beer Garden

Come join us for a frosty beverage and some axe throwing.

Thursday June 9th

6:00 –

314 Wilson Ave, Norwalk, CT

Contact: **Doug Stowe** (doug.stowe@gmail.com)

Grand Fondo Biking Event

Saturday June 25th

Bristol, Vermont

Visit <http://vermontgranfondo.com/> for more information or contact Gregg Stone at gstone@kestralmv.com

July

4th of July

Always a good weekend to visit VT. Come hike MRG, watch the Warren Parade, take a dip in the beautiful Warren Falls and maybe host a cocktail party for anyone at the lodge and invite some locals members to join!

August

Sugarbush Golf outing

Saturday August 20th

Tee Time TBD

Contact **Scott Alexander** at

familyalexander2000@yahoo.com for more information and to save yourself a coveted spot.

September

Sip Fest

Location: Mad River Glen

Saturday, September 17th

1:00-5:00

The Sip Fest is planning for a big return event this year. Rooms at the lodge are first come, first serve, so grab a group of friends and book now.

October

Work Weekend & Green and Gold

October 1-2

Return of the work weekend. We had so much fun last year, we are doing it again! Penny Parsons will be hosting a cocktail party at the club for Saturday night.

Contact **Ann Gervase** at anngervase1@gmail.com about the work weekend and **Penny Parsons** if you'd like to come or help with the cocktail party.

FIRST EVENT OF THE SUMMER

Join your fellow ASCNY friends for an outdoor evening of drinks, food and fun at

314 Beer Garden, Norwalk, CT

8000 sq ft Open-Air Beer Garden, Food, Live Music and Axe Throwing. Over 21.

When: Thursday 6/9 @ 6pm

Where: 314 Beer Garden

314 Wilson Ave

Norwalk, Connecticut 06854

RSVP: Please rsvp to Doug Stowe (doug.stowe@gmail.com) by noon on June 9th so we know how much space to save for our group.

For more information visit <https://314beergarden.com/>



ASCNY RACES 2022

And we are BACK! It was great to see so many racers lined up for our races once again on the practice slope at Mad River Glen. Our Covid friendly award ceremony was simplified and held outdoors with **Stephen Pettibone** as the Master of Ceremony announcing from the deck while **Hooey Wilks** did her best Vanna White impressions parading out the trophies for all the see! A chilly night indeed, but our hardy members had a great time.



Trey Gregory manning the grill with Brooks Ware



A very chilly night did not stop members from enjoying the awards ceremony



Betsy Raftery in her purple shiny one-piece with Brooks Ware and Jeff Hopkins



Award Ceremony from the Deck! Stephen Pettibone and Hooey Wilks

Welcome New Members

This past December we admitted two new families. Welcome to the ASCNY!
Colton and Natasha Brown and son John (10)
Doug and Sarah Reid and daughters Annabel (9) and Phillipa (7)



The Browns



The Reid Family on Race Weekend (with Alex Merrill)

ASCNY Race Results

Giant Slalom



Celine and Alex Merrill with Betsy Raftery



Lilly Verost with some nice hardware

			Age	Run 1	Run 2	Combined	Gap
Billy Ross - Fastest Boy or Girl 10 or Under							
1	Verost	Lily	F	10	35.14	37.68	72.82
2	Reid	Annabel	F	9	37.37	37.52	74.89 2.07
3	Raftery	Jason	M	9	40.23	45.79	86.02 11.13
Smallfry Mark - Fastest Boy or Girl 14 or Under							
1	Pettibone	Parker	F	12	33.65	33.59	67.24
2	Verost	Lily	F	10	35.14	37.68	72.82 5.58
3	Reid	Annabel	F	9	37.37	37.52	74.89 2.07
Kids' Slalom - Fastest Kid Under 18							
1	Nichols	Matilda	F	16	37.52	41.62	01:19.14
2	Zeller	Tally (guest)	F	18	47.54	45.58	01:33.12 00:13.98
3	Pettibone	Kellogg	F	15	46.53	49.38	01:35.91 00:02.79
Sitzmark - Fastest Male							
1	Stowe	Doug	M	47	30.23	30.92	61.15
2	Ware	Brooks	M	55	31.23	30.60	61.83 0.68
3	Walker	Douglass	M	58	31.71	31.83	63.54 1.71
Fairsexmark - Fastest Female							
1	Nichols	Matilda	F	16	29.38	29.64	59.02
2	Zeller	Tally	F	18	31.68	32.35	64.03 5.01
3	Pettibone	Parker	F	12	33.65	33.59	67.24 3.21
Prattfall - Fastest Male over 40							
1	Stowe	Doug	M	47	30.23	30.92	61.15
2	Ware	Brooks	M	55	31.23	30.6	61.83 0.68
3	Walker	Douglass	M	58	31.71	31.83	63.54 1.71
Prattfalline - Fastest Female Over 40							
1	Pettibone	Victoria	F	46	34.32	33.89	68.21
2	Raftery	Betsy	F	45	33.81	34.92	68.73 0.52
3	Nichols	Helene	F	55	37.39	40.1	77.49 8.76



Raquel Merrill, Richard Boston, Lily Verost, John Brown with Alex Merrill



Matilda Nichols, Alex Merrill and Kellogg Pettibone

ASCNY Race Results

Giant Slalom

			Age	Run 1	Run 2	Combined	Total
Sibling Rivalry							
1	Pettibone	Victoria	M	46	34.32	33.89	68.21
	Pettibone	Stephen	M	47	37.09	40.17	77.26
							145.47
Father-Daughter							
1	Nichols	Matilda	F	16	29.38	29.64	59.02
	Nichols	Bob	M	57	32.57	33.72	66.29
							125.31
Father-Son							
1	Verost	Adam	M	45	34.44	34.2	68.64
	Verost	Ethan	M	7	44.47	43.17	87.64
							156.28
Mother-Daughter							
1	Nichols	Matilda	F	16	29.38	29.64	59.02
	Nichols	Helene	F	55	37.39	40.1	77.49
							136.51
2	Pettibone	Victoria	F	46	34.32	33.89	68.21
	Verost	Lily	F	10	35.14	37.68	72.82
							141.03
Mother-Son							
1	Raftery	Betsy	F	45	33.81	34.92	68.73
	Raftery	Sean	M	12	39.12	43.95	83.07
							151.8
2	Raftery	Jason	M	9	40.23	45.79	86.02
							154.75
3	Pettibone	Victoria	F	46	34.32	33.89	68.21
	Verost	Ethan	M	7	44.47	43.17	87.64
							155.85
Husband-Wife							
1	Pettibone	Victoria	F	46	34.32	33.89	68.21
	Verost	Adam	M	45	34.44	34.2	68.64
							136.85
Family							
1	Nichols	Matilda	F	16	29.38	29.64	59.02
	Nichols	Bob	M	57	32.57	33.72	66.29
	Nichols	Helene	F	55	37.39	40.1	77.49
							202.8



*Sarah and Annabel Reid
with Alex Merrill*



*Hugh Boston, Fritz Merrill,
Richard Boston and Alex
Merrill*



Bobby Nichols, Alex Merrill, Matilda and Helena Nichols

ASCNY Race Results

Slalom

			Age	Run 1	Run 2	Combined	Gap
Men's Slalom							
1	Brooks	Ware	M	55	41.54	44.82	01:26.4
2	Stephen	Pettibone	M	47	43.04	44.77	01:27.8 00:01.45
3	Bob	Nichols	M	57	44.88	44.87	01:29.8 00:03.39
Women's Slalom							
*1	Matilda	Nichols	F	16	37.52	41.62	01:19.14
2	Victoria	Pettibone	F	46	43.71	46.15	01:29.86 00:10.72
3	Tally	Zeller (Guest)	F	18	47.54	45.58	01:33.12 00:13.98
Kids' Slalom							
1	Matilda	Nichols	F	16	37.52	41.62	01:19.14
2	Tally	Zeller	F	18	47.54	45.58	01:33.12 00:13.98
3	Kellogg	Pettibone	F	15	46.53	49.38	01:35.91 00:16.77

* Overall Winner



Jason, Betsy and Sean Raftery



Racers READY!



Race Chairman Stephen Pettibone with his helpers.

Help needed!

Newsletter - After 10+ years, I'm ready to pass this torch to the next person. Please contact me (hooley@optonline.net) if you can take over the role. Be the first to know what is happening at the club! **Emily Mooney** has offered to do the page layout and taking it to print. We need someone who wants to coordinate and write articles.

Website - Familiar with the WordPress Platform? Interested in helping the club? Please drop **Alex Merrill** (alex@merrillemail.com) or **Jeff Hopkins** (hopkinsjeffrey@hotmail.com) an email. They'll brief you on ways you can help.

Celebrate the Ladies!

By Victoria Pettibone

I vaguely recall, when I was a young skier, noticing that there were more ASCNY racing trophies in the male categories, and that overall, they were...well, larger, shinier, grander. I remember the fierce competitions in the men's categories and the final award of the night, the great culmination, was the giant Skimeister, presented to the overall fastest man in the three races, Slalom, Grand Slalom and Cross Country.

My last memory of racing as a kid was the heartbreaking, but unsurprising loss to **Lindsay Cochran** in my pursuit of the Small Fry Award (fastest boy or girl 14 and under). I knew going in I would only win if she didn't show up or missed a gate, neither of which occurred. I had the Billy Ross (fastest boy or girl 10 and under) under my belt, but sadly, would never see my name on the Small Fry – arguably the coolest trophy in the trophy case, with its mini glove, jackknife, pan and rabbit's foot (almost made one want to go out and get lost in the snowy wilderness with it).



*Small Fry mark circa 1941
GS Fastest Boy or Girl U14*

Four years ago, I participated in race weekend again, now as a grown woman, a mother of a girl and a boy. I was amazed to learn that this was the *first year* at which there would be an actual trophy presented for the Women's over 40 category. The counterpart to the men's Pratfall, this *Pratfalline* trophy was designed by our President, **Hooey Wilks**, and, like the Small Fry,

beautifully captures the ASCNY eclectic, pieced-together, vintage-meets-modern ethos. I was honored to be able to have my name carved there, but surprised, that between 1988 when I last remember participating in Race Weekend, and 2018, not one of the thirty fastest women over 40 were recognized! The trophy now sits in its rightful place with all the other trophies, with the names of the winners since 2015 (the year Hooey was inspired to design the trophy when 14 year old **Madeline Carey** nosed out **Tasha Nagler** for the Fairsexmark).



*Pratfalline, circa 1915
GS Fastest Woman 40+*

But it was this year, that the dissonance was most strong. Race Weekend was swept by the women in all categories. Billy Ross and Small Fry, the two unisex categories, were both won by girls (my daughter **Lily Verost** and my niece **Parker Pettibone**), the competition was the steepest between women for the Pratfalline, with a mere .52 seconds separating first from second (combined times), and the fastest times overall for both GS and Slalom were female, specifically, **Matilda Nichols** (daughter of two of the club's most medaled skiers throughout time, **Bob Nichols** and **Helena Nichols**). And while two incredibly wonderful males (namely my husband and son) won the giant, towering Father / Son trophy, it is notable that they were 19.77 seconds behind the first place mother/daughter team (**Helena / Matilda**), and 15.2 seconds behind the second place mother/daughter team (who happened to be myself

(continued)

Celebrate the Ladies! (Cont'd)

and my daughter but I promise I'm not writing this article because I'm competitive with them...really!), and yet, no trophy recognition for Mother / Daughter champions!

It's not that the club is not progressive – certainly I find that most of the members I've had the pleasure of spending time with are forward-thinking, it's that institutions and traditions are slow to change, and always a bit behind the times. Plus, there are the logistics – that darn trophy case is already bursting at the seams – how could we possibly add a few more trophies to the rotation?! The good news is that I have heard that a Mother / Daughter trophy is in the works and being designed by none other than the team that keeps winning it, **Helena and Matilda Nichols** and built again by **Hooey Wilks**. (As long as we are talking about strong women, let's give a shout out here to women who love to use power tools and have their own work shop!) It is high time the awards catch up with the reality – we have (have always had) some bad ass women skiers and it is important we honor them accordingly, so that we continue to send the right message to, and inspire, the next generation of skiers. And while the legacy men's trophies may remain bit grander, shiner, larger, at least we can have parity in the categories. **Doug Stowe** (who showed up last second and proceeded to win all the men's GS categories, and then left before the ceremony), summed it up nicely - I texted him that night to let him know that while he had swept the mens', he was beaten by a teenage girl..."that's exactly as it should be" he texted back. Amen.



Victoria Pettibone and Betsy Raftery



Matilda Nichols with a new charcuterie board!



Victoria Pettibone, Parker Pettibone and Lily Verost

THANK YOU



After a few Tree Wells, Doug Walker and his band of merry men, Trey Gregory, Brooks Ware and Stephen Pettibone dialed now West Coaster Tony Richards.

At this year's race awards party, once again, we have **Trey and Margie Gregory** to thank for their hard work in pulling off a covid friendly event (outdoors) for members of all ages. Margie organized a team of helpers and hors d'oeuvre providers (including **Andress Pettibone, Sarah Burch Carey** and **Helene Nichols**. We cleared out the cars and Trey fired up the grill for some spicy sausages. Trey put on his creative hat and once again wowed us with a signature drink for the night. Below is his recipe and thought process around the name for a drink he calls the Tree Well.

"A tree well is formed when the snow accumulates around the base of a tree, but not under the lower branches or around the trunk. This hole around the trunk of the tree gets progressively deeper with every snowfall and can behave like quicksand if you fall into it. When a skier falls in, they knock the snow off the branches and it falls in on top of them, burying them like an avalanche. The tree well drink is equally dangerous and should also be approached carefully."

The Tree Well

2 oz bourbon (Mad River)
2 oz Zirbenz Stone Pine Liqueur of the alps
1.5 oz Amaro Montenegro
6 dashes Angostura Orange Bitters
Stir all ingredients together. DO NOT dilute with ice.



MRG STAFF APPRECIATION PARTY



Doug Walker with Andres and Parker Pettibone

ASCNY participated in the MRG end of season staff appreciation day hosted by all the ski clubs together for the first time. In the past, it has been hosted by the Hartford Ski Club. In an effort to work together and learn from one another, we have been having multiple calls on a regular basis with other clubs during covid. When we learned that the Hartford Club was having this party annually, several of us want to do one as well. In the end we decided a joint effort would best celebrate the staff and from what we hear, it was a big success.

This year and we have **Doug Walker** and the **Stephen and Andress Pettibone** to thank for representing us well.

Here is what Doug sent us:

"In addition to wonderful hors d'oeuvres from the Pettibone family including a delicious lentil and feta dip, we baked six flatbread pizzas in the amateur ovens, sliced them as appetizers and brought those over.

It was a wonderful time getting to meet and greet with both other clubs and staff. Three different types of Lawson's cans were available (donated by Lawson's) for all who wanted a beer."

Thanks to the Hartford for letting us jump on board and **Larry Durkin** (White Plains Club) for organizing the first joint event.

Check out @ASCNY on Instagram, it's a great way to keep up with the latest ASCNY happenings

Alice Damrosch Pennington Wolfe Kaier (1892-1967)

Rick Moulton shares this article from the New England Ski Museum which is an in-depth article about one of our founding members, **Alice Damrosch Pennington Wolfe Kaier** (1892-1967). Many will recognize that name from the large photo of her in our boot room. Rick writes, "I learned so much and realized that there is probably still a lot more to learn about this amazing woman." Rick got permission for us to reprint the article and the timing is great, coming off a race weekend dominated by women racers. References are provided with a link on our website.



The women selected for the 1936 U.S. Women's Olympic Ski Team are depicted here with Alice Wolfe: from left, Clarita Heath, Grace Carter, Helen Boughton-Leigh, Betty Woolsey, Alice Wolfe, Marian McKean, and Mary Bird.

by E. John B. Allen with Lars Buerkle

In the world of skiing, the release by the Nazis of Hannes Schneider from a form of house arrest in February 1939 and his coming to America played out on the international political scene involving the very top echelon of the Nazi government, numerous lesser lights of the NSDAP, the Nazi party, Austrian and German individuals along with others from England and the United States. We could single out the roles played by Herbert William Auburn, Arnold Lunn, Karl Rösen, and Harvey Gibson. Auburn was Gibson's agent for the Manufacturer's Trust in London; Lunn cancelled the Arlberg-Kandahar race; Rösen was a lawyer who vouched for and housed Schneider during his house arrest in Garmisch-Partenkirchen; and Gibson provided the wherewithal and persuasive financial influence to bring Schneider across the Atlantic to a job in the United States. And then there was also Alice Damrosch, then forty-five years old and who had married (this would be her second marriage) Dudley Wolfe on 27 October 1934 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Skiing and politics were then men's worlds, although by the 1930s women were ski racing and, like Leni Riefenstahl, were becoming influential in politics. What is surprising is that Alice Damrosch was not a particularly excellent racer (she had started skiing long after her youth was over) and neither was she essentially 'political.' She had gained a first in the Visitors' class in the Parsenn Derby in 1930, and she was, with her Jewish background, increasingly concerned with general antisemitism. Since she spent much time in Germany and particularly Austria she could plainly see the mounting brutality against the Jews.

Alice Damrosch had grown up under the baton of her famous father, conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra Walter Damrosch. His extended family lived among very wealthy New York City and Bar Harbor, Maine urban and country aristocracy, as well as the musical and art stars of those years; George Gershwin, for example, was a regular visitor at soirées. Alice herself had some talent as well as some success as an author and poet. As early as 1905, her work had been noted by the magazine *St. Nicholas*. In 1912 "The Camp Fire" was published in *Everybody's Magazine* and two years later "Swimming by Night" was taken by *Scribner's*. 1914 was the year she married Princeton and Beaux Arts Paris trained architect Pleasant Hall Pennington. They left for their honeymoon in a garlanded canoe and it was Alice who handled the paddle.

Alice had a theatrical side to her, "a decided penchant for amateur theatricals," according to *The Spur*, and had played a prominent role in the morality play "Maskynd" in the winter of 1913-14. The Damrosch family enjoyed charades at home and being on the public stage. An audience of 1,500 people turned out for "Tangled Hearts," to benefit the Bar Harbor hospital; Walter, Alice, Anita and Gretchen Damrosch all had parts and it was reported in the New York City papers as a major success. (Continued)

Annual Fall Party Pics

This past November, several ASCNYers gathered for our annual club party. Hosted by **Hooey and Jeffrey Wilks** at the New Canaan Field Club, all enjoyed a night of paddle tennis, chili and a ski trivia competition. We were heavy on past presidential attendees and as usual, competitive spirit.

ASCNY
Presidents
Ned Nunes,
Rob Young,
Hilary
Hotchkiss,
Patrick
Mooney, John
Nesbett, Scott
Alexander,
Hooey Wilks
and Stuart
Randal



Trivia team
hard at work.
Pam Nesbett,
Andress
Pettibone, Jeff
Wilks, Rob
Young and
Amy Mooney



(Continued from previous page)

Right from the start, Alice's marriage to Pleasants Pennington was not a success. It is said she returned to her home the day after the marriage, but certainly by the time of the entry of the United States into the First World War, they were going different ways and Alice was taking lovers. She and Pleasants went to France but to different stations. She was with the YMCA at Brest and took up with the commanding admiral of all naval forces. She was able to get a wounded relative transferred from the army hospital to the much better naval one. She wrote about her experiences, "With the Navy at Brest," by "notable contributor...Mrs. Pennington, a member of one of the first YMCA naval units stationed overseas and served at Brest for fifteen months." She had arrived in November 1917 with censorship so thorough that only on arrival was she told why she was at Brest.

Alice's infidelities were worrisome to the family, but not considered particularly sinful. Back in New York City after the war, she found outlets for her vitality serving as President of the Junior League from 1923 to 1926 and Executive Secretary of the New York Symphony Society from 1926 to 1928 before deciding to make Europe her base.

Interested in outdoor activities including camping and swimming, in Europe she found guides to set her on her way. With Otto Furrer, later hired as a ski trainer for the U. S. Women's Olympic team, she climbed the Matterhorn, and she also took to hunting. She settled in an apartment in the Haus Angelika, owned by the Falch family in St. Anton am Arlberg. *(continued)*

Alice Damrosch Pennington Wolfe Kaier (1892-1967)

She took to skiing with her usual enthusiasm and perseverance under the guidance of Europe's most famous ski school. Hannes Schneider's Arlberg technique had virtually swept the Norwegian telemark turn off the slopes of the Alps; downhill and slalom were the names of the day. Alpine skiing was *de rigueur* and St. Anton provided its center. As early as 1929, she was extolling the joys of skiing, taking care to include the six days spent at St. Anton and St. Christof as well as hut life to American readers in an account of a skiing trip. The following year, in *Vogue*, she described her first contacts with Hannes Schneider and her attachment to St. Anton. She became part of the ski town's scene, joining the Ski Club Arlberg and in 1932 received the club's silver sport badge that she wore with visible pride. By the end of the 1920s, racing on skis was one of the 'attractions' of particular ski villages. The British, especially, seemed keen on competing for cup after cup. By the 1934-35 season, there were an astonishing 64 named races at Mürren alone.

But where were the American girls? The English women had done very well at the *Fédération Internationale de Ski* (FIS) meet at Zakopane in 1929 and were the team to beat. Alice was determined to build a team for the Winter Olympic Games, scheduled for Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936. A good beginning would be for the competition in 1935 run by the FIS at Mürren and a team for the Arlberg-Kandahar race would also be a possibility. How to put this together?

One mainstay of early Alpine skiing in America was Roland Palmedo, President of the Amateur Ski Club of New York (ASCNY). With his friends, he was spreading the Alpine ski doctrine all over New England. He knew everyone who skied and he had wealth and the drive to make it all happen. Alice was a member of the ASCNY so this was a natural combination. Indeed, as Alice wrote, "it was Roland Palmedo who had the imagination and enterprise that no matter how badly the USA ladies did at first, they must make a start even to do well. So with some backing of the ASC of NY and some money raised" off the women went under Alice's wing.

Haus Angelika became the headquarters of the Women's FIS team in 1935 and Alice was in charge. She better be! Three of the women were 19 year old girls, and ski instructors trailed a glorious run in flying powder snow straight into the bar of the Hotel Post. With *Tanzen* and *Bier* it was easy to socialize with the unparented young. Alice was both *ex-parentis* and financial manager. Betty Woolsey, one of the selected, "had enormous respect and admiration for Alice," but "not much affection." She was "not cruel, just uncaring." And tough. She and Otto Furrer set the day's training: 12,000 feet of downhill—which meant 12,000 feet of uphill since this was before the installation of the tramway on the Galzig. Slalom was different because there were lifts—the one at Davos being the most popular.

A portrait photograph of Alice Damrosch taken in December 1913.



Alice Damrosch Wolfe with friends identified as Dennis Fox and Enid Loyd, likely at the St. Anton railway depot.



Alice Damrosch Wolfe with the American women in training above St. Anton in late 1935 or early 1936. Hannes Schneider and Otto Furrer, their trainers and guides, are in the back row. The man to Otto Furrer's right is likely Hermann Tschol, assistant trainer.

At the FIS competition in 1935, Alice's girls came 10th, 15th, 25th and 30th, which amounted to being last in the women's team competition. Actually, not a bad showing by any means. At the Arlberg-Kandahar that season, Betty Woolsey came 7th. For the Olympics, the American team put up at the Pension Trautheim which also housed the German women. Christl Cranz, the reigning super-star of women's alpine skiing was there. In the Olympics, Woolsey came in 19th, veteran Helen Boughton-Leigh 21st and Clarita Heath 27th. It really did seem the Germans were superwomen as Alice had described them.

It was during these ski sporting years that Alice met and married Dudley Wolfe, wealthy yachtsman, hunter, skier and would-be mountaineer. They enjoyed St. Anton together. But politics intruded, most obviously first with a Vienna centered coup that failed in 1934, then with the ultra-efficient Nazi Olympic Games of 1936. Nazi ideals continued to affect Austria more and more since Hitler put increasing pressure on the government to join the German Reich: *Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Führer* would bring all German speakers home to the Fatherland. This did not sit well with a number of folk in St. Anton. In 1934, that attempted coup had led to the removal of one of Schneider's instructors. He vowed to return...and so he did, immediately taking over the ski school the day after the *Anschluss*, the Nazi take-over of Austria 12-13 March 1938.

Hannes Schneider was imprisoned and then taken to Landeck, a short half hour east by train. Immediately, a number of individuals started taking action. Arnold Lunn came from Rome, convened a meeting of the A-K and cancelled the race that was scheduled for a week later unless Schneider was released.

Alice Damrosch took two very practical steps. The first was to bribe the Landeck jailer and have a respectable meal for Schneider and the other four St. Anton prisoners sent in to the prison daily. In the long run the second matter was the more important. She contacted and met secretly in Innsbruck with a lawyer. This lawyer turned out to be Dr. Karl Rösen, well known in ski circles and already an honorary member of the Kandahar Club so he knew Arnold Lunn too. Procuring Dr. Rösen turned out to be crucial in obtaining Schneider's release. Rösen became the conduit through which Schneider had to pass. And it was not an attractive group of people that Rösen and Damrosch had to deal with: Himmler and Göring were the two most recognizable. Alice contacted her hunting guide who had guided Nazis like Hermann Esser—one of the early supporters of Hitler. She had good relations with the Austrian Secretary of State, Guido Schmid. Later, Rösen would say that all the help he got certainly helped to make his efforts successful, "those of Frau Wolfe had a certain importance." Meanwhile, Benno Rybizka, one of Schneider's instructors in North Conway, had the ear of Harvey Dow Gibson. "It was Benno Rybizka," Alice wrote in an obituary for Schneider in 1955, "who persuaded Harvey Gibson to act."

Alice Damrosch Pennington Wolfe Kaier (1892-1967)

Alice Wolfe sits with Hannes Schneider and others in St. Anton. The name of the St. Bernard which appears in photos with her is not known.



For Alice, 1938 was a memorable personal year; Dudley Wolfe finalized, with Alice, his divorce from her and took off to attempt the 8,611-meter peak of K2 under the questionable leadership of Fritz Wiessner. In the still much-debated expedition, three Sherpas and Dudley Wolfe died on the mountain. Alice got the telegram announcing his death while she was in St. Anton. It was another bleak sign of how her world was breaking up. In Europe, fascist Austria was not the same; it was not even called *Österreich* anymore, but *Ostmark*, the eastern boundary of the empire of the Reich.

Alice Damrosch left St. Anton in the summer of 1939 via Genoa for the United States and spent the war years in America. Through her contact with Harvey Dow Gibson, Alice worked for the American Red Cross during the war, looked after prisoners of war, and lectured. She continued to be active with the FIS and maintained her international skiing contacts. She also continued to look after her U.S. Olympic women's ski team. From 1938 she was forced to organize a replacement training camp for St. Anton as well as find a new women's coach due to Germany's takeover of Austria. Friedl Pfeiffer, one of Schneider's leading instructors, already escaped to Australia where he taught skiing and now in the United States, was hired as coach. Averill Harriman's Sun Valley, America's answer to St. Moritz, was chosen as the training venue for the team.

Alice kept in touch with her friends and acquaintances in St. Anton as much as possible during the war. Thanks to her contacts with the International Red Cross, she was able to smuggle essential items to her friends in St. Anton via Switzerland. She was not able to help her Jewish friend and benefactor, longtime tourism pioneer of St. Anton Rudolf Gomperz. In a personal note found later, Gomperz expressly thanked about twenty people, including "Mrs. Wolfe" for her help before he was deported to Vienna and murdered in a concentration camp in Belarus in 1942.

In 1940, she married Norwegian Hermann Kiaer. He came from Norway to study at MIT in 1917 and later managed arrangements for the Norwegian team at the 1932 Lake Placid Winter Olympics. He was in charge of the Norwegian Pavilion at the New York World's Fair or, to give him his official title "Deputy High Commissioner for Norway." He was tall, handsome, and elegant and shared Alice's passions for hunting and skiing.

After the war, Alice Kiaer was again active. With a broken leg, she was the manager of the US women's team that competed in Switzerland in 1948. Just before the Games, she published an article comparing the attitudes of the 1936 women with the youngsters of 1948; four were under 20 and Andrea Mead was only 15! And she had not forgotten



In this group portrait of the FIS Women's Committee at Oslo in February 1952, Alice Kiaer stands on the left in the back row. To her right are Laila Schou Nilsen of Norway and Miss Bolotova of the Soviet Union. In the front row from left are Inga Loftén of Sweden, Madame Desjardins of France, Madame Van den Bergh of Holland, Chair Elsa Roth of Switzerland, and Erika Mahringer of Austria.

her old acquaintances from St. Anton; she gave Franz Gabl and Edi Mall U.S. aviator's goggles for their upcoming downhill race. The fact that Franz Gabl won the first Olympic medal in Alpine skiing for Austria, the silver in men's downhill, is partly thanks to Alice Kiaer. The top of the line laminated 218 cm. Northland downhill skis that came from Hannes Schneider in America were another reason for this great success.

As Chairman U. S. Women's International Competition Committee, she was particularly concerned about the increasing danger of downhill racing for women because many had accidents the previous racing season. She proposed that women should not race on the same downhill course as the men. She advocated that they not train with the men, nor should they race on the same day—largely because the women were slotted in to race after the men, and therefore in worse course conditions. Alice deplored the lack of experienced and responsible race officials, complaining that some only showed up only the day before a race.

From 1952, Alice Damrosch was responsible for the Winter Olympics within the committee and was heavily involved in the Olympic Committee as supervisor, manager, and permanent advisor. She spent the entire winter in Austria, Sweden, and Norway in 1954. From 1956 on, Alice also established close international contacts with various international reception committees. And she also kept in close contact with Hannes Schneider until his death in 1955; she and her husband regularly visited him in North Conway to play cards and chat about old times.

After the war, she and husband Hermann Kiaer regularly visited St. Anton where they continued to live in their flat in Haus Angelika. Both were enthusiastic about hunting and, indeed, Alice's gravestone depicts a hunting rifle along with a pair of skis—signifying her two passions, both shared with Hermann.

Alice was well known and well liked, especially by the village youth, due to her 'care packages' during the war from the 'aunt from America'. She organized an annual Christmas party for the village children at the Resti station restaurant in St. Anton and organized events to help St. Anton rebuild its ski tourism. She also re-established contact with her friends from the Ski Club Arlberg. She had supported the club generously, donating prizes and considerable amounts of money. She remained loyal to the community of St. Anton, to the Ski Club Arlberg, and Haus Angelika throughout her life. Today in St. Anton, only Haus Angelika remains to remind us of the outstanding services and eventful life of this extraordinary woman, who devoted a large part of her time to skiing, St. Anton, and the Ski Club Arlberg, and was a staunch friend of Hannes Schneider, the world-renowned ski figure she helped to extricate from a Nazified Europe.

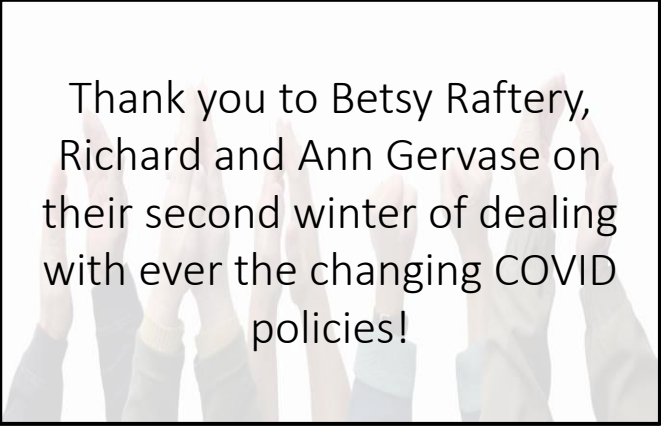


Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

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