



The Fall Line

"Read it if you can"



Fall 2025

A Letter from our President

Greetings Fellow Amateurs!

I hope you and your families have had a wonderful summer! Ours was filled with time outdoors in the woods and on the water exploring and creating new memories. With Labor Day and back-to-school activities behind us, our focus shifts to the fall and preparations for the '25 / '26 ski season.

The ASCNY all-volunteer Board of Governors has had a busy summer! We are close to completing the remodel of our lodge fireplace, Alex Merrill (our Treasurer) has worked with the team to develop a responsible budget for the upcoming season, and we are planning a number of opportunities for the fall and beyond for us to get together and socialize as a club.

The fireplace project, the first funded by our Legacy Fund, is a good example of the capital improvements we aspire to undertake in the coming years. It is also a good example of how the club comes together to donate money, expertise, and time to pull off complex capital projects. Our fireplace project would not have gone as smoothly as it has without Haven Ladd's leadership. By way of a snapshot: over the past year Haven has worked with the Fireplace Committee and Board to finalize designs, creatively problem solve for diverse opinions and complex building code issues, find the right contractors, and made countless trips to Vermont to meet with contractors and check in on progress. If you see Haven this winter at the lodge, be sure to thank him for his herculean efforts!

As we look forward to the upcoming ski season, we are looking for a few volunteers to help us host events locally and at the lodge. We would also like to launch a club store so we can all enjoy some ASCNY swag. If you are interested in helping out with any of these, please reach out to Jeff Hopkins (president@ascny.org) or Betsy Raftery (reservations@ascny.org).

Enjoy the fall and see you on the mountain soon!

Think Snow!

Jeff Hopkins

President, ASCNY

Best,

Jeff Hopkins

president@ascny.org



Jeff, Amelie, Ashley, Thomas, and Juliet Hopkins

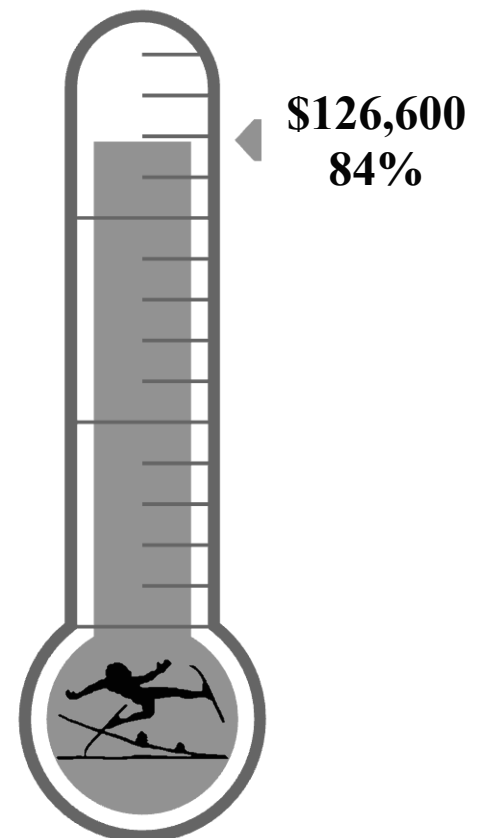
Capital Campaign / Legacy Fund (Update)

The ASCNY Board of Directors has launched a Legacy Fund campaign to create a sustainable financial foundation for our club's future. This fund will support strategic improvements that preserve and enhance our club and lodge for years to come, beginning with our fireplace renovation which is nearly complete. Our two year goal is to raise \$150,000, and thanks to generous pledges, we've already reached 84% of that goal! We're off to a strong start—but we need everyone's support to reach the finish line. Every contribution counts, big or small. To learn more, contribute, or track our progress, visit ascny.org/capital-campaign.

We are deeply grateful to the following Members who have generously pledged to support the Legacy Fund and we encourage others to join them in making a lasting impact on our beloved Club.

Scott & Priscilla Alexander
Bradford Alexander
Scott Alexander, Jr.
Samuel Axelrod & Sarah Dowst
Chris & Jodi Barry
Taylor & Willa Bodman
Hugh & Sarah Boston
Colton & Natasha Brown
Jim & Melissa Byrne
Gib & Sarah Carey
Andrew & Liza Carey
Chris & Katie Carey
Eliza Carey
Madeline Carey
Riley & Elizabeth Clark
Tyler Clark
David & Susan Clark
Christopher & Claire Fanning
George Foy
Richard & Ann Gervase
Katie Gervase
Will Gervase
Michael & Nancy Grogan
Leslie & Sam Hayes
Phoebe & Mike Heffernan
Brian & Sally Henninger
Win Hotchkiss III
Win & Hilary Hotchkiss, Jr.
Haik & Lynn Kavookjian
Lewis & Caroline King
Rebecca Kruger & Allen Vetrosky
Molly & Haven Ladd
Tyler & Suzanne Merrill
Alex & Celina Merrill

Newton & Polly Merrill
Patrick & Amy Mooney
Frederic & Elizabeth Morris
Halsey & Laura Morris
John & Pam Nesbett
Philip & Elizabeth Palmedo
John Parker Jr.
Penny Parson
Peter & Jean Pettibone
Stephen & Andress Pettibone
Victoria Pettibone & Adam Verost
Betsy Raftery
John Rawlings & Betsy Deuvel
Doug & Sarah Reid
Tony & Aimee Richards
Roger & Pamela Shepley
Peter & Henrietta Sherwin
Robert Stone & Cara Mattaliano
Gregg & Lisa Stone
Chelsea & Paul Terkovich
Tielman Van Vleck
Henry Walker
Thomas Walker
David & Maggie Walker
Lucia Walker
Douglass Walker
Alex & Alyson Walker
Adam & Taylor Ware
Brooks & Ashley Ware
Lucy Wilks
Hooey & Jeff Wilks
Jack & Elizabeth Woodcock
Ken & Cissy Yorke



Fireplace Update

While many of our members have been enjoying the warmth of the summer sun over the last few months, rest assured that your steadfast Fireplace Committee has been hard at work to bring you the warmth of crackling Vermont maple this ski season.

From our last update in February, we are pleased to report that not only have the technical issues which doomed our prior (much loved) fireplace been resolved, but we have designed and built a new fireplace which we hope will become much loved for generations of ASCNY skiers. It is also much loved by our local chimney inspectors and our insurance company so, drumroll please...we are actually allowed to use it and light fires this winter! A brief summary of the project is below:

- In addition to all the known issues of the original fireplace and chimney construction (outlined in the February newsletter), we discovered that our cinderblock chimney has been unlined since it was built in the late 1950s. That we have been burning wood since then without a major issue is both lucky and crazy.
- Most of the masons we consulted recommended tearing down our current chimney (which supports our roof) to the ground and rebuilding from scratch. This approach was considered...and considered unwise, expensive, messy, and slow.
- The new fireplace is an engineered Ahrens fireplace unit mated to a new stainless-steel liner which has been slipped down our chimney from the top. This approach is preferred by the fire marshal since the engineering of the fireplace is certified by the manufacturer.
- The Ahrens fireplace was chosen because it is designed to use a smaller flue liner than others. This is the only flue liner which we could fit in our existing cinderblock chimney.
- While we all love the original black smoke hood, rest assured that it will be back, albeit in a slightly different form (more on that in the next newsletter).

Many thanks is due the Fireplace Committee Chaired by Molly Ladd and staffed by Brooks Ware, Ann Gervase, David Clark, Colton Brown, and Haven Ladd. Special thanks to Roger Shepley for providing his invaluable and wise architectural counsel throughout the process. The many generous donors to the Legacy Fund made this significant improvement to club life possible and have provided funding for more projects and activities to continue to improve the club for the enjoyment of all.

The picture [right] was taken on September 2nd, 2025. While there are some minor details to finish, including a screen, we are 98% of the way there. We hope you can join us at the lodge for the October work weekend (10/3-10/5) and the inaugural fire-lighting!



ASCNY Membership Update

The club is maintaining an active and engaged membership of about 160 members, up from about 150 just after COVID, and while this is down from the historical high, the Board does its best to manage a number that financially supports the club and maintains vibrancy, without feeling impersonal or over crowded. It is your dues, which the club raised this year by about 3% across all categories, along with initiation fees that keeps the club running and able to offer races at Mad River Glen, run the lodge that we all adore, and offer off-season events both closer to home and in Vermont. With that in mind, herewith is a quick refresher on what it costs to be a member of the club.

Initiation fee for new members is \$4,000; for legacy members, the fee is \$1,750 due in the year in which the member turns 30. Legacies who opt not to join after turning 30 are always invited back, and have a streamlined application process, but contribute the full initiation fee.

- Regular membership is \$410 per year.
- Intermediate members are legacies who have reached their 21st birthday but not their 30th, and they pay \$119 per year.
- Senior members who have reached their 68th birthday pay \$92.50 per year.
- Distant members of any age who live more than 500 miles from Vermont pay \$50 per year.

The club is and always has been a tremendous family club. It's great to see gatherings of members who can trace their legacy to their great grandparents and new families who have established family traditions that will hopefully last many generations.

Do you know a family that loves to ski and wants to join a community of ski enthusiasts with the best located lodge in the Valley? If you have someone in mind, contact **Alex Merrill** (Alex@merrillemail.com) or **Gregg Stone** (gstone@kestrelvm.com) to get the ball rolling. We have a few applicant requirements, all of which can be found on our website. Bring them to an event or better yet, get them to the lodge or have them participate in race weekend to meet even more members and learn about the history of our club.

New Garbage & Recycling Collection Policy

Important changes are coming! Garbage collection was very unreliable last season and we are very excited to announce that this year Mad River Glen is offering us the opportunity to dispose of our trash in their dumpsters by the back of the Practice Slope Chair. In order to make this work, all lodge guests **MUST** use the **RED** garbage bags that will be provided in the kitchen closet. Because we pay by the bag (\$5 per bag of waste), we ask that you be conscious of using them efficiently. Recycling should be collected and taken out to their separate recycling dumpster but dumped loose rather than bagged.

We are hoping that the new system will work much better moving forward this season. As always please take the garbage /recycling out to their appropriate dumpster before leaving at the end of your stay (bagged garbage in the left dumpster and loose recycling in the right dumpster). Please do not leave any garbage anywhere other than in the MRG dumpsters and please let the lodge committee know if our red garbage bag supply is running low!



New Board Member - Doug Walker

When did you start skiing? Where?

I started skiing at about age 4 at Catamount, a small mountain in eastern NY.

Who introduced you to the ASCNY and when?

My mother and father had been ASCNY members for years by the time I showed up. My father, David Walker, was on our Board of Governors for perhaps 25 years. My mother Norma Bartol was awarded the Legacy Cup in 2018.

Your best and/or worst experience at the Lodge?

My best experiences are fairly common. A great day of skiing followed by a great apres ski and evening with family and friends at the lodge. I can't really think of a "worst" experience. Some weekends are more complicated. I recall arriving a bit early on a Friday maybe 10 years ago to a growing water problem in bedroom D and E. Hard rain on a frozen surface outside. This was before the recent water remediation on the hill side of the lodge. I found a wet-vac and pumped water into a bathtub drain for maybe 4-6 hours.

Tell us about your best road trip to MRG? Your worst?

I always loved the drives up to MRG when my kids were younger. We might have just picked them up from school and they were super excited. Great energy and mostly channelled in positive directions! Going back much further, I do recall a harrowing drive when I was still in college in Boston. My brother Alex called Friday night and said I had to come up as it was going to be great powder skiing all weekend. I drove in a full on snow storm overnight and arrived in Waitsfield early AM, followed the plow up 17 and had a great weekend!

Best day at MRG?

Looking beyond epic powder days, which have been awesome, my best day at MRG was April 8th, 2024. My son Henry and I were up for his birthday, April 8th, some spring skiing for me and a full solar eclipse for all. We all skied in the morning and during the build up as it slowly got cooler and darker. There was a live band on the deck. Then lifts closed as it got even darker. Everyone was wearing glasses at the base and at the top of the lifts. We had several minutes during the full eclipse without needing glasses. Then it slowly became warmer and lighter and the lifts opened again. It was spectacular!

What is your favorite trail at MRG?

Fall Line has always been a favorite.

If you weren't skiing at MRG where would you rather ski?

I've always loved Alta, Utah. Although just this past winter I skied with former ASCNY Board member and current step-brother Tony Richards at Copper Mountain, CO, among others, and that was a blast. I love the back bowls at Copper.

Who is your fantasy ski buddy?

It would be awesome to take a few runs with a few US Ski team members. Perhaps Bode Miller or Lindsey Vonn.

Favorite après ski beverage?

Any Lawson's brew at General Stark's pub.

Favorite ski outfit and skis?

My favorite skis are my current K2 Amp Rictor 90 XTi All Mtn skis. I always try to use their full name. These were featured as my "new" skis about 10 years ago in a Trey Gregory newsletter article entitled "The Man with the Golden Skis". The title of the article refers to my 207cm Dynastar CourseSlis circa 1980s. Also a great pair of skis. I don't really have a favorite ski outfit these days. But others have requested that I show up on race day in my classic 80s and 90s race outfit. I'll try to work this in.

Why did you join the Board of Governors?

I joined the Board to contribute more to our Ski Club. We have such a great membership, Ski lodge at MRG and passionate Board that I knew it was my time to join the Board and contribute more. I am looking forward to doing more in many ways over the years.



Father/Son Bike & Hike Weekend

A small but adventurous group braved a soggy, wet May weekend to enjoy the 3rd Annual Father & Son Bike and Hike Weekend at ASCNY. After a leisurely Saturday morning breakfast spent watching the waves of rain circle General Stark Mountain, we headed out to the Blueberry Lake Trails. After looping around the beginner's trail Leonard's Loop, the sun briefly made an appearance. The intrepid bikers then dodged puddles on the Flying Squirrel trail, which saw one beginning rider take flight, launching over his handlebars. With members and their children now sweating, bruised, bleeding, and gasping for air, club President Jeff Hopkins ended the morning by (either ambitiously or inadvertently) leading the group the wrong way up a one-way, intermediate trail. Fortunately, on a wet rainy day no one else was on the trails, and for trip leader Lewis King, Bike and Hike Weekend devolved to hiking with your bike while trying to catch up with your child. After a brief stop to recover, hydrate, and consume sandwiches at the Warren General Store, the group set-out for a gentler ride on gravel roads near Waitsfield. Gentle did not last long. With storm clouds quickly descending into the valley and lightning in the distance, the gentle ride gave way to a race back to the cars to beat the rain. The rain when it came was torrential, but we all made it back safely to the lodge for a hearty dinner. Waking up to a wet and muddy mountain and with more rain in the forecast, the group decided for a hike up the snowshoe trail and back down on bunny. While we may not have reached the top of Stark Mountain this year, a good time was had by all.



Damian O'Rourke, Thomas Hopkins, Brad Thompson, Collin O'Rourke, James King, Lewis King, and John Thompson



James King, Thomas Hopkins, and John Thompson

ASCNY Summer Golf Outing

On Sunday, June 1st, seven of our par-seeking members—and one enthusiastic prospective member—teed off for our inaugural 9-hole scramble at the beautiful Redding Country Club in Redding, CT. The weather was perfect, the course was pristine, and our shots ranged from spectacular to... let's just say "exploratory." Whether we were crushing drives or bushwhacking in search of lost balls, it was a fantastic day on the course. We're already looking forward to growing the tradition with an extra foursome next year!



Pictured L to R: Ryan Sherwin (prospective member), Cissy Yorke, Scott M. Alexander, Scott Alexander, Jeff Wilks, Betsy Raftery, Richard Gervase, Ann Gervase

In Loving Memory



Stuart B. Goldman passed away on July 31, 2024 at the age of 87. Born and raised in New York City, he was a graduate of Cornell University and Yale Law School. After law school he joined the law firm of Cravath, Swain and Moore, where he stayed for many years. He then moved to Lazard Freres. In his later years he formed a company that pursued investments in large properties all over the country. With his wife, Alice Hildreth, whom he married over 59 years ago, he pursued his love of skiing and sailing. They rented, along with many friends, two houses in Vermont. First the Tuttle house (Irwin Tuttle was an artist whose work is still hanging in the hall of the New York City apartment), and then a house on the road to Lincoln Gap. With a friend, he bought a run down house and barn right on route 100. It had the Mad River running through it, and somehow it got fixed up, with help from the wives, and made it habitable. Stuart and Alice eventually found the Amateur Ski Club of New York, through Peter Pettibone, and joined. The children were growing up and learning to

Ski... so many happy times were spent at the Club. Stuart and his family participated in many ski races and cross country trips. Stuart became President of the Club from 1988-90. When Mary Kerr started organizing trips abroad Stuart and Alice signed up. Many happy times were had. Besides his wife, Alice, he is survived by his two daughters, Margaret Verheijen and Genevieve Peirce and three grandchildren, Emma and Jessica Verheijen, and Carter Peirce.



Mary K. Kerr of Ferrisburgh, VT, passed away quietly in her sleep on March 3, 2025, in her home on Lake Champlain, which she fondly referred to as “the most beautiful place in the world.” She was one day shy of her 92nd birthday. Born Mary Sonja Krabbe in Bellingham, WA, to Johan and Winifred Gamble Krabbe, Mary spent her youth moving about the west coast with her family. She attended Sequoia High School in California and graduated in 1954 from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern Univ. in Evanston, IL. She first met her devoted husband, Joseph Minott Kerr, while skiing at Sugar Bowl. They continued their relationship at Northwestern and were married on April 2, 1955. While living in New Jersey, Mary and Joe fell in love with Vermont, and eventually built a “ski home” in South Fayston in 1962. They moved there full-time in 1965, where they raised their three sons. In addition to loving the mountains and skiing, Mary and Joe loved the water and sailing. In 1981 they bought a home on the shores of Lake Champlain near Basin Harbor,

where they moved permanently in 1997. Mary was an avid writer and photographer and capitalized on her training as a journalist. She served as the editor of two publications, Window of Vermont, a bimonthly newspaper devoted primarily to the ski industry, and the Valley Reporter, the weekly newspaper for the Mad River Valley. Mary wrote two books: *The Tapestry of My Life*, an unpublished autobiographical work that she gave to her sons; and what she called her life’s work, *A Mountain Love Affair: The Story of Mad River Glen*, a compendium of photographs and stories of the iconic ski area’s history. Mary loved to ski and travel. From the moment the mountains had enough snow until it was completely gone, you could find Mary and Joe schussing one of the 140 ski areas around the world where they adventured during their lifetime together. She loved organizing ski trips all over the world for the Amateur Ski Club of NY, of which she and Joe were lifelong members. Above all was Mary’s passion for traveling and seeing the world, having been to five of the seven world continents. Her most passionate project grew out of her senior thesis on women and leadership at Northwestern and her travels to Afghanistan, where she sought to help young women become strong and independent. She worked with the School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA), a boarding school for Afghan girls that operated in Kabul from 2016 until 2021, and since the return of the Taliban, now operates out of Rwanda. She made several trips to that war-torn country to mentor the girls, as well as teach them writing and journalism. Though a devoted wife, she was fiercely independent, and she left this life exactly as she said she would to anyone who knew her well: “Out of her house feet first, going up through the trees.” Her outgoing personality and strong belief systems will be remembered by many. Mary is survived by her three sons, Minott Kerr, Geoffrey Kerr (Dan Flanagan) and Gibson (Diane Lawliss) Kerr; five grandchildren, Kirstin (Seamus) Kerr O’Connor, Alyssa (Matthew) Kerr Pyrak, Maxer Kerr, Gavin Kerr and Peter Kerr; and one great-granddaughter, Rory Kerr O’Connor.



Amateur Ski Club of New York Newsletter

PO Box 92
Wilton, CT 06897

Warren Miller 2025 Movie “Sno-ciety”

November 2nd @ 5pm

Roulette Intermedium
Brooklyn, NY

Tickets: <https://warrenmiller.com/events>
RSVP for post-movie dinner/
drinks: alex@merrillemail.com

ASCNY Annual Meeting & Dinner

**Thursday, November 6th,
6-9pm**

Table 104
299 Long Ridge Road
Stamford, CT
RSVP: www.ascny.org

ASCNY Boston Holiday Party

December 17th - 6-8pm

Brown Advisory
100 High Street
Boston, MA

RSVP required: gstone@kestrelvm.com

Intermediate's Ski Weekend

January 9-11, 2026

Open to all Intermediates
(Members age 21-29)

Guests welcome without guest fees

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

For submissions, ideas, or to share photos contact Ken Yorke at kyorke55@gmail.com or Betsy Raftery at betsyraftery@gmail.com