



VARA Announces Honorees for 2014

VARA Celebration of Vermont Ski Racing GALA

The Gala Committee of the Vermont Alpine Racing Association has announced its Honorees for its 2014 Celebration of Vermont Ski Racing Gala planned for November 8, 2014 at The Equinox in Manchester, VT.



Diann Roffe, an alumni of the Burke Mountain Academy, and the US Ski Team, has been selected to be inducted into the **Vermont Ski Racing Hall of Fame** for 2014. Diann is a 3 time Olympian 88, 92, 94, and a 3 time member of the USA World Championship Team 85, 89, 93.

Diann was a committed athlete at the Burke Mountain Academy for her High School years 1982-1985. Since her 3 Olympics she worked for Turner Broad Casting in Nagano and for the USOC for the Salt Lake games. Diann and her husband, Art Pursel, live in Camp Hill, PA with their son Tripp. She is co-owner of a company called ALPINEOne Inc. which specialized in lockers and drying systems for ski areas, as well as universities and sports teams. She is spending a lot more time on snow with her family and coaches at Roundtop Ski Area in PA.

Some of Diann's Career Highlights:

1985 World Championships in [Bormio](#), Italy: **Gold medal** in [Giant Slalom](#) at age 17.

1992 Winter Olympics in [Albertville](#), France: **Silver medal** in [Giant Slalom](#).

1994 Winter Olympics in [Lillehammer](#), Norway: **Gold medal** in [Super G](#).

1994 World Cup Finals in [Vail, Colorado](#): **1st Place** in [Super G](#), her final World Cup race.^[2]

Won 6 U.S. National titles.

Inducted into the [National Ski Hall of Fame](#) in 2003

Katie Mallia, Stratton Winter Sports Club, has been selected as the **Vermont Development Coach of the Year**.



Katie is presently the head U12 Coach at Stratton Winter Sports Club. Katie has been working with the SWSC for over 5 years and is a dedicated and talented member of their race organization. She works a full time job mid-week in Albany and doesn't miss a day all winter on the weekends. Katie's leadership, knowledge, and connection with the kids and coaches is a model for the SWSC. Katie grew up racing as a VARA member in the Southern Vermont Council system, and is carrying on her dad's legacy, who has been a long time coach at Stratton as well.

Topher Harlow - PG, U21, U18 Women's Alpine | Head Women's Alpine Coach has been selected as the Vermont Development Coach of the Year



Topher is entering his third season as the MMSC Head Women's Alpine Coach following three years of coaching U16's and the Women's Alpine Team. Topher, who grew up in North Conway, N.H., raced for Plymouth State University where he was a seven-time All-American. Prior to working at MMSC, he was the head alpine coach at Plymouth State College. Topher models respect and patience with his skiers. His goal is to understand them as whole people and support their individual goals and dreams. He is "laid back", but firm. He communicates the value of hard work and expects it from everyone. He also understands the lasting value of teamwork and the lifelong community that ski racing builds. His philosophy has inspired other coaches to be steady and thoughtful as they plan for the future. He is helping to strengthen Vermont ski racing through his coaching expertise and his ability to build lasting relationships

with athletes, parents, officials, and colleagues. Topher lives in Stowe where he recently bought a house and is the golf pro at Stowe Mountain Resort.

Robert Mangiacotti, Bromley Outing Club/SVC, has been selected as the Vermont Alpine Official of the Year.



In 2008, Bob, his wife Mary and family relocated from New Jersey to Vermont allowing their children to pursue competitive alpine ski racing at the Stratton Mountain School. Bob started officiating, as most parents do, when his children became involved in ski racing. He has been a Technical Delegate since 2011 and has been volunteering and working in skiing in Vermont for over 7 years. Bob is a dedicated and talented member of

Bromley and Stratton Mountain's race organization as well as a Technical Delegate for the United States Ski Association and of Vermont Alpine Racing Association across the state of Vermont. Bob has been selected as the VARA Alpine Official of the Year for his work throughout the state and his commitment to alpine ski racing in Vermont. Bob has two children who race in the Vermont system and his wife is currently teaching at SMS.



Dave Iverson, Burke Mountain Academy has been selected as the VARA Volunteer of the Year for his tireless efforts on behalf of Vermont Ski

Racing. Dave has been on the VARA Board of Directors for 7 years and was the 2005 Alpine Official of the Year. He is teacher and race organizer at Burke Mountain Academy for 7 years. He has been a leader in the state, helping with the Race Administrator clinics, Alpine Official updates and creator of the "Never Ever, First Timer AO update", an event Dave organizes and runs on his own time. Dave has also created helpful YouTube channels for BMAPhysics and SkiRaceHelp, which feature video lectures on Physics, Calculus, Race Timing and Administration and assorted topics in math. He has posted in excess of 350 videos which have received over 50,000 views. Dave is available and willing to assist at all times with technical scoring, timing and race administrator issues as well as being a vocal member of the VARA Board of Directors. He is always thoughtful of the athlete and student first. Simply stated, he has exemplified a commitment to VARA's missions of Lifestyle, Competition, Community and Scholarship.

The Vermont Alpine Racing Association Celebration will be held November 8, 2014 at The Equinox Resort, Manchester, VT.

Congratulations Diann, Katie, Topher, Robert and Dave .