



The Vermont Alpine Racing Association proudly announces its Honorees for the
2016 Celebration of Vermont Ski Racing Gala
and Hall of Fame Induction

October 29, 2016, [Killington Grand Hotel](#)



Preston Leete Smith

2016 VARA Hall of Fame Inductee.

Preston Leete Smith is the founder of Killington Ski Resort. His legendary contributions to the skiing industry include cutting edge innovations in snowmaking, grooming and lifts, “learn to ski” models, the long ski season, branding and consumer loyalty, and of course, *resort support of youth skiing and ski racing*. Pres Smith epitomizes the classic “owner operator” of a ski resort who made a full commitment to provide the infrastructure, snowmaking, terrain and competition venues necessary to support a top level ski racing program and FIS sanctioned race schedule. Pres Smith’s 2 children both reached exceptional levels of competition, daughter Leslie reaching the U.S. Ski Team for 5 years and the U.S. Olympic Team in Innsbruck, Austria in 1976, and then the Middlebury College Ski Team. Son, Scott competed for 4 years on the powerhouse University of Vermont Ski Team. Scott will also be honored this year as the VARA Development Coach of the Year. Pres has been inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame and the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum Hall of Fame and he has received numerous lifetime achievement awards throughout the ski industry. He has been praised for his belief that *“skiing is one of the healthiest sports one can do in winter”* ... and his conviction that *“everybody should have the opportunity to do it.”*



BB Baker

Sugarbush Ski Club

Alpine Official of the Year

BB has been part of the Green Mountain Valley School Program and GMVS Ski Club since 2007-2008 and acts as Race Administrator and Venue Coordinator for all Sugarbush race events. He oversees all aspects of race timing and race production. He participates regularly in VARA Alpine Official programming, updates and Eastern Regional education programs. He is generous with his time and has offered to tutor any program that needed assistance with the new VOLA timing system. BB carries a Technical Delegate credential and has been an important part of strengthening VARA’s Alpine Officials program through training, education, technological upgrades and recruitment.



David Edry
Stratton Winter Sports Club
VARA Volunteer of the Year

David is the Program Director at the Stratton Winter Sports Club. In his volunteer role on behalf of the VARA Board of Directors, David has taken over as Chair of the VARA Children's Committee, working hand in hand with VARA's Youth Coordinator, Alex Krebs to pursue a statewide Junior Development mission. David has been the Southern Vermont Council Chair for years and has sat on the VARA Children's Committee for over 5 yrs. In his new leadership role, he has worked tirelessly to forge bonds among the three Vermont Council's, North, Mid and South, in an effort to facilitate cooperation as well as to encourage innovation within each Council, and to stimulate new ideas and test new initiatives. David is committed to offering state wide support through his efforts and through those of Youth Coordinator Alex Krebs to all of VARA's Clubs in an effort to expand on VARA's mission in support of the youngest level of VARA's development pipeline as well as their parents, coaches and Clubs.



Scott Leete Smith
Suicide 6 Ski Club
VARA Development Coach of the Year

Scott Leete Smith is the Head U-16 Coach and the Woodstock Union High School Coach operating out of Suicide 6 in Pomfret, Vermont. Scott had a very long and successful career in ski racing as both an athlete and coach. Scott came up through the Mid Vermont Council racing in the Killington Ski Club and went on to ski at the University of Vermont where he anchored a team of great athletes for his 4 year career during which time UVM regularly finished in the top 3 for NCAA Division I teams nationally. Scott is a committed coach for each one of his athletes regardless of their level of racing, from FIS level to pure High School. He is fair, dedicated, and hardworking. He is always ready to set a race course, or to take on the referee role while still giving his kids his full coaching commitment on race day. In addition to his weekend coaching job, Scott has a full time career outside of skiing but still heads to Suicide 6 at least 3 afternoons per week to support training for his after school athletes. Scott and his wife Kim have also raised two successful Vermont ski racing athletes, Spencer and Alison.



Reese Brown
Quechee Ski Club
VARA Junior Development Coach of the Year

Reese Brown is a year round coach for children at the Quechee Ski Club. The sports and athletes may change with the seasons, but Reese's dedication to developing young athletes never does. He has been an invaluable asset to the Mid Vermont Council and has been a staple of the Quechee Alpine Ski Team for 7 years. Reese has promoted a "fundamentals first" philosophy for the youngest development age groups in Vermont (U10-U12). In addition to helping his Quechee skiers and the Mid Vermont Council focus more on fundamentals, Reese coordinated the MVC Slalom Camp and the U10 festival each of which have received rave reviews. Both events involve dozens of volunteers, participants, parents and programs. Reese is fully committed to his Quechee Program, parents and athletes as well as the MVC and has devoted days of his time creating educational "skill focused" programs and communicating about the ski racing pipeline with parents. His passion for youth skiing has truly fostered a deep love of the sport for his U12 and U10 racers and their families.