

## **INTRODUCING THE ROBERT REICH MEMORIAL SNOW SCHOLARSHIP AKA the Bob Scholarship**

### **Mission:**

To provide Ramapo Mountain Ski Club (RMSC) adult members opportunities for professional ski or snowboarding instruction at a mountain or at a Professional Ski Association and American Association of Snowboarding Instructors (PSIA / AASI) event, in memory of Robert Reich's philosophy that we can always improve on our skiing. The goal of this scholarship is to improve the overall skill and knowledge of membership and increase the numbers of instructors in the club for skiing, snowboarding, telemarking or nordic skiing. Winners will have to provide a service to the club to pass on their knowledge.

### **Background:**

Skiing and snowboarding are sports that continue to evolve as modification in equipment are made and in response to world class athletic performances. Professional instructors are trained on the latest trends of skiing and snowboarding advancements. The highest level of instruction comes from those who lead PSIA / AASI events. This scholarship is an effort to improve the overall skills of our membership and internal instructors. The Eastern Division PSIA / AASI training events are open to non-members (athletes not working as an instructor) and cover lift tickets but not lodging or transportation. There are events offered across the nation, including Mad River Glen, and include various topics such as steeps and trees, bumps, stance and alignment, as well as cross-country and tele-marking. Attendees should be at least of intermediate level. Prequalification of PSIA Level 1 may be waived and arranged through Elyse Stoller.

### **About Bob:**

A member from 1987 to his death on February 15, 2022, Robert Reich "Bob" was a dedicated member. He learned to ski as an adult and believed that one never stops learning. He often shared tips with other members while skiing and was a ski instructor at Campgaw in Mahwah, NJ. He would instruct there on a Saturday and head to Hunter on a Sunday, unless he was in Vermont or out West. Bob often skied till the lifts closed, which he attributed to good form he gained from years of lessons, including a week of instruction at Stowe multiple years in a row. RMSC members often benefited from his lessons at Instruction Weekend or free skiing around other events. With an engineering mind, he articulated or modeled his lesson. Students of Bob were encouraged to "feel" the new sensations on the slopes.

While Bob served as Vice President, he is mostly remembered for writing monthly articles as the Ski Local Chair for over a decade. He was awarded the Aorangi Award. Bob was instrumental in designing and building the retaining wall for the parking lot at the lodge.

Bob "recruited" 3 Juniors, his niece Gail Reich, his nephew Marc Reich, and a friend's son, Zach Mayer. Along with another RMSC Junior, Elyse Stoller, the group became Bob's Ski Children, an avid ski, snowboarding, and telemark group who wish to promote Bob's philosophies postmortem.

**Application process:**

Applications will be accepted starting at the yearling opening party till November 30. The selection team will meet between December 1 and the holiday party. The winner will be announced at the holiday party. Another member may nominate another member, with that nominee's consent. Once a person wins the scholarship, they can not apply for another 5 seasons.

Interested members should fill out an application [online](#).

**Winner's responsibilities:**

The winning members will be required to volunteer for the club in relation to their lesson. For example, write an article for the Skier, instruct at Instruction Weekend, or host a ski meetup to share new knowledge.

**Selection process:**

Scholarship selection team will be voted on at the August or September Board meeting. Possible voters can consist of any board member, any of Bob's "Ski Children" and committee representatives from instruction, testing, local skiing, as well as past winners. No current voting member may also be running for the award that season.

The Board will also appoint a selection team Captain to organize and facilitate the voting process. This person will also select who will present the award at the holiday party. The winner shall stay secret until announced at the party. The Captain will also organize announcements on the website, in the Skier, and via Social Media.

Majority vote wins. To avoid a tie, only an odd number of votes will be collected. If an even number of selectors attend the process, the Captain's vote will be excluded.

**Financial distribution:**

This scholarship is a refunded process and a valid receipt must be presented. The winner will submit their receipt of the event after attendance, no later than May 1, to Elyse Stoller. She will submit a check request to the Treasure who will distribute the funds to the winner. Efforts will be made to return the funds ASAP.

Funds can only be used for lessons and events, not for tips, travel, lodging, food or beverage. Reimbursement for lift tickets can only be awarded if included in the package lesson.

Current maximum to be awarded is \$300. If the event costs \$259.00, only \$259.00 will be awarded. If the winner takes multiple lessons in excess of \$300, only \$300 will be awarded. The winner will have to take the financial responsibility for the difference. A valid receipt must be provided for reimbursement to occur. An email confirmation is acceptable.

If the Scholarship's funds exceed \$1,000, and adequate nominees apply, two winners may be announced in any given year. If funds exceed \$2,000, 3 winners may be announced. If funds exceed \$1,000, instead of 2 winners, a PSIA event may be funded for 6-8 members in good standing. If prices for PSIA events rise, pending board approval, the amount awarded may be increased.

If the member is unable to access an event that season, a one season extension may be granted by writing a letter to the President 14 days in advance of the May Board Meeting where the extension will be voted on. Otherwise, funds will remain in the account.

**Fundraising:**

The scholarship team will conduct fundraising for the sole purpose of awarding this scholarship. No other club funds will aid in this endeavor. The committee may only fundraise as needed. Activities may include but are not limited to ski trips, "I skied with Bob" merchandise, May 29 birthday music parties, bike rides, and donations. A check may be made out to RMSC with a note of "Bob Scholarship" and handed or sent to Elyse Stoller for general donations.

Additional inquiries can be made at  
[thanksbob2022@gmail.com](mailto:thanksbob2022@gmail.com)

2022/2023 Team Bob is  
Elyse Stoller  
Chris Moog  
TBA

