



Fall 2020 Education Update: Holding Educational Events in the COVID-19 Era

By Don Haringa
 PSIA-AASI Eastern Director of Education and Programs
 PSIA-E Alpine Examiner

A few months ago, early March, to be more precise, I was a part of a PSIA-AASI Eastern Division staff meeting that resulted in us canceling the remaining on-snow events of the 2019-2020 season with the health and welfare of the members and staff of PSIA-AASI Eastern as our top priority. In retrospect, it wasn't a difficult decision; it was our only choice. It was a sad day, but it made sense, and it was the right decision

It is now early November; there is a forecast for snow tonight and tomorrow, and in a little over a month, we will hold our first on-snow events of the 2020-2021 ski and snowboard season. We have had almost eight months to learn about and understand COVID-19, and to plan for a season on the snow with our skiing and snowboarding friends and family members. There are still a lot of unknowns, but the resorts are finalizing their plans on how to open their mountains, and likewise, we at PSIA-AASI Eastern are finalizing our plans to run on-snow events. Our goal is to provide valuable educational opportunities to you, our members, while preserving our philosophy of SAFETY, Fun, and Learning. This will require some different protocols, some patience, and a lot of common sense. Are you ready?

Here are some things you should know before you go to a PSIA-AASI Eastern event this winter:

Meeting inside is unlikely

We are not planning to hold indoor events or indoor meetings at our events this year. This means that we are planning to check in our members and meet our groups outside. In the days leading up to an event, the participants will receive an email telling them where their event will meet. This will likely be just outside of the lodges where we would meet during a "normal" season, but it could be somewhere else on the property, depending on the wishes of the resort management.

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view from the chair

ROSS BOISVERT,
BOARD CHAIR

An Evolution of Ideology in Leadership



Back in mid-October, I sent you a message telling you about some pretty big changes to our governance structure that your Eastern Board of Directors was proposing. As developed by the

Eastern Governance Committee (chaired by Eric Jordan) and discussed at length by the Board during the past several months, this new structure will provide the organization with greater diversity of age, gender, discipline etc. in your leadership than the previous structure through the inclusion of more at-large representatives as well as cost and logistical efficiencies through a significant reduction in board seats (from 20 to 10 total members).

I invited you to complete a brief survey and share your comments with us about the changes. I would like to thank the 259 members that accepted our invitation and completed the survey. 72% of you either supported the changes or indicated you had no strong opinion. Perhaps even more valuable than the data, we received nearly 150 comments in including statements of support, statements of concern, questions and suggestions.

We also reached out to our divisional partners from across the country as well as National PSIA-AASI CEO Nick Herrin and Board Chair Eliza Kuntz for their policies, perspectives and insight.

All of our current 20 board members received and reviewed the survey results and comments you shared with us. That feedback formed the foundation for our more than six hours of board discussion during three virtual meetings in October.

In our discussions and in consideration of your

feedback, we recognized the importance of maintaining a healthy balance of ALL types of members regardless of their other roles within the organization or snowsports industry. Thus, the revisions.

You can find the complete details of the new board structure here:

[New BoardStructure-November2020](#)

If you are interested in learning more about our governance policies and goals under the new Policy Governance model, I invite you to review the [Board Policy Manual](#) and the [Organizational Ends](#) (desired outcomes for the membership).

I also invite you to a special virtual “Town Hall Annual Membership Meeting” on Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00pm EST to provide an update to members, answer your questions about the season to come as well as discuss the board structure changes and how they will help us govern and serve you, our members. I will be joined by Eastern Past Chair Eric Jordan, Chair-Elect Pete Howard, Eastern Director of Education Don Haringa, Eastern CEO Michael Mendrick and National PSIA-AASI CEO Nick Herrin.

If you’d like to attend the Town Hall Membership meeting, please register here: [Eastern Town Hall Meeting](#)

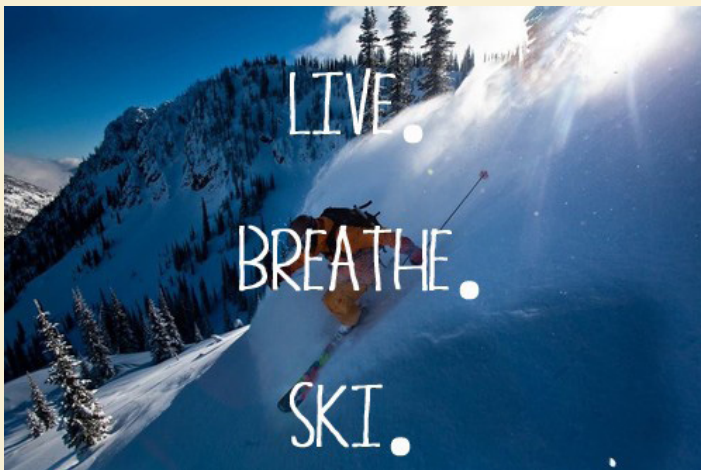
There is a maximum participation limit of 250 attendees so please register in advance to secure your spot!

Also, if you’d like to submit your comments or questions prior to the meeting, please submit them to feedback@psia-e.org.

Thank you and I hope many of you can participate in the program on Tuesday, November 24!

Ross Boisvert

Board Chair, PSIA-AASI Eastern Division ☞



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General Information

Submission of articles, photos or other items for publication is invited. Articles are not to exceed about 1000 words. Receipt of submissions will be confirmed to the writer. Upcoming deadlines are published in each issue of *SnowPro*. Material should be sent to “*SnowPro* Editor” at: psia-e@psia-e.org as an MS Word document attachment.

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executive tracks

MICHAEL J. MENDRICK, CEO

“Webinar Warriors” Save the Day!



You hear the buzzword “pivot” a lot these days in reference to what companies, organizations, parents and educators have had to do in response to the COVID health crisis. For the staff at the Eastern Division, “pivot” doesn’t do it justice. We needed to come up with an entirely new way to provide you with the educational opportunities and connections with each other that you expect and deserve. For us, it was more like attempting a 360 in the park for the first time and trying to land it perfectly. While we may not have completely “stuck”

the landing, from my perspective your team at the division office along with our education staff members and Eastern E-Learning Task Force members landed it clean again and again!

From the time we shut down our season on March 13, 2020 through the middle of November, this collaborative effort between a combination of dedicated staff and volunteers has resulted in the following programs:

JUNE 17, 2020

Stance and Alignment: The Alpine Boot and the Body

JULY 1, 2020

Movement Description without Prescription

JULY 15, 2020

Tips for Training for Your Big Day Panel Discussion

JULY 16, 2020

Tips for Training for Your Big Day Panel Discussion

AUGUST 5, 2020

Adaptive for All: A One Team Approach

AUGUST 12, 2020

Women in Snowsports Absolutely, Positively, Inspiring!

AUGUST 26, 2020

NextCore Town Hall Meeting

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Fall Fitness Series: Optimal Alignment for Peak Performance

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Movement Prioritization

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Snowsports in a COVID World: School Directors Panel Discussion

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Fitness Series - Stability, Mobility and Flexibility

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Fitness Series - Building Endurance and Strength

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Fitness Series - Power and Agility

OCTOBER 7, 2020

Fitness Series - Nutrition and Program Design

OCTOBER 21, 2020

Straight from the Scorers: What do they look for at a tryout?

OCTOBER 22, 2020

Straight from the Scorers: What do they look for at a tryout?

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

T.O.T.A.L. P.L.A.Y. Series - How Children Learn

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

T.O.T.A.L. P.L.A.Y. Series – Skiing & Riding Fundamentals

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

T.O.T.A.L. P.L.A.Y. Series – Backyard Design Principles

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

T.O.T.A.L. P.L.A.Y. Series – Dynamic Teaching

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

T.O.T.A.L. P.L.A.Y. Series – Putting it all together

That’s 21 programs attended by 2,564 members - impressive numbers particularly for what is typically the “off-season” and a testament to your interest in education and interaction with your fellow snow pros.

I want to thank the Eastern E-Learning Task Force for their energy and efforts to make this programming happen for our members. Namely, Task Force Chair Angelo Ross along with Sue Kramer, Dave Capron, Greg Fatigate, Kathy Brennan, Matt Boyd, Joe Forte, Erik Barnes and Norm Staunton.

They have been supported by Eastern Division professional staff members Don Haringa, Melissa Skinner, James Friedman, Karen Haringa and Regina Moerikofer (who has been editing and posting previous webinars online for member access).

In addition, we have had an incredible response from our education staff, snowsports school directors and other members stepping up to deliver presentations and share insight as panelists. While I am likely to miss one or two (apologies in advance) that includes dedicated snow pros Angelo Ross, Sue Kramer, David Taylor, Nate Gardner, Brandon Rist, Adele Wellman, Brennan McCleary, Tom Mulligan, Allie Doro, Nate Meade, the late GH Salazar, Alec Blossom, Norm Staunton, Mike Ma, Lindsey Harris, Kathy Brennan, Katie Brinton, Ali Spaulding, Mermer Blakeslee, Amy Gan, Katherine McLauchlan, Shannon Rucker, Matthew Iyerly, Margie King, Gail Setlock, Tom Butler, Duane Stutzman, Jim Polinchok, Karen Dalury, Joe Forte, Leigh Pierini, Brian Donovan, Candace Cresci, Josh Haagen, Greg Fatigate, Peter Novom, Matt Heller, Dave Capron, Chris Ericson, Mickey Sullivan, Doug Daniels, Dave Wenn and Gary “Griz” Caudle.

Thank you ALL for making this “off-season” decidedly “on-target” for our members!

For more information on upcoming webinars and access to recordings of past programs check out the link at: <https://www.psia-e.org/ed/webinars/> ☞

zipperline

Celebrating Our Trajectory

By Mark Lacek
 PSIA-E Telemark and Cross Country Examiner
 Assistant Director Gore Mountain Snow Sports School

Hey all you Snow Sports fans!
 As we head into the 20-21 Season, which will undoubtedly be filled with unique challenges AND unique opportunities, I choose to remain optimistic regarding our professional organization's prospects and direction. From my humble perch here in the Adirondacks, I offer the following six observations which support my upbeat outlook.

First, the adoption of the current Learning Connection Model laid the foundation for a more grand and accurate portrayal of what it means to be Snow Sports educators and ambassadors. Elevating People Skills to its distinguished position in the Model signifies that those Skills are learnable, measurable, and vital to our profession.

Second, in the Learning Connection Model, effective Teaching Skills and effective People Skills are common to all disciplines. This structure encourages

more interdisciplinary training and education. The potential benefits are exciting to consider. (More inclusion, cross-pollination, just a couple examples).

Third, since all disciplines share a common Model, we are now much closer to the "One Team" concept aspired to both Divisionally and Nationally. A common Model promotes a common language to achieve this lofty goal.

Fourth, I salute you all who are involved in the pursuit of the exam format changes necessary to reflect the previously mentioned foundational shift. Your work will result in greater consistency with regard to the National Standards.

Fifth, the one-year gap for implementation - Wisdom!

Sixth, because all these refinements are sweeping in scope, I really appreciate (as a member) the proliferation of on-line educational opportunities which are largely free and which importantly explain and supplement our new direction. They have been hugely helpful in providing a roadmap. As a result, I feel more connected to the Divisional and National conversation.

In closing, please accept my thanks for providing the vision, the leadership, the coordinated roll-out, the extensive collaboration, and the creativity on display as we hurtle along on our new trajectory. I think it is worthy of celebration! <<

Corrections and Congratulations!

We send our heartfelt Congratulations to these members who earned certification or Children's Specialist 2 Accreditation last season and whose names were inadvertently left off the list in the Spring SnowPro:



Mac Jackson, Dave Capron, Troy Walsh and Sean Warman congratulate Peter Soria on his newly earned Level III Certification

Alpine Level III Certification

Earl Brown
 Thomas G. Polansky
 Peter A. Soria

Alpine Level II Certification

Thomas M. Norton

Adaptive Level II Certification

William J Bredenberg
 Patty A Jordan-Smith
 Christopher J Ujvagi

Children's Specialist 2 Accreditation

Kevin Beach
 John J. Carey
 Deborah W. Dennison
 Meg Heckman
 Laurent R. LaFontaine <<



Meg Heckman, John Carey, Kevin Beach, Deborah Dennison and Laurent LaFontaine earn their CS2

ELC Update

By Kathy Brennan

PSIA-E Dev Team Coach, Examiner

PSIA-AASI ELC – Eastern Representative

Technical Director – Waterville Valley

At the Whale's Tale Waterpark, where I work in the summer, the *Go To* reply to our guests this summer was "Due to Covid 19..." It was like a get out of jail free card. You had trouble making a reservation? "Due to Covid 19 we have limited capacity." You didn't like the wait time for lunch? "Due to Covid 19 we are understaffed." For PSIA-AASI, however, Covid 19 wasn't an excuse, but instead the opportunity for an unprecedented amount of volunteerism for our organization.

As our representative to the Education Leadership Council, I've been able to see firsthand the enormous amount of work the task forces have been doing on the development of the components of the Learning Connection Model including: fundamentals, learning outcomes, assessment criteria, assessment activities, and performance guides.

The new Alpine and Snowboarding National Certification Standards, which include the learning outcomes and assessment criteria, have been approved by the National Board and will be implemented nationwide during the 2021-2022 season. You may find a link to the new certification standards at <https://www.thesnowpros.org/certification/national-certification-standards/>.

The standards include the new teaching skills and people skills. It is very exciting that the same fundamentals, learning outcomes and assessment criteria for these skills will be implemented by every discipline. This supports our strategic alignment goals for improved communication, consolidation and collaboration within, and across, all divisions and allowing us to function as One Team. The teaching skills refine and codify what we have known to be good teaching. The people skills expand upon our Service Model to help us to

understand our customers, ourselves and how we work together to build trust and create an effective learning partnership.

The Telemark, Cross Country, Freestyle, Children, and Adaptive Task Forces are hard at work developing and refining their own components of the Learning Connection Model. They are developing fundamentals for technical skills where they have not existed before. Capitalizing on the work of the Alpine and Snowboard groups, users will be able to make connections between what they know and new learning.

In my opinion, one of the most exciting new tools will be the Performance Guides. These guides will provide specific examples of the contributors to successful (or unsuccessful) performance which demonstrate ownership of the learning outcomes and associated fundamentals. These guides will be used by examiners to frame assessments; trainers to develop programs; members to prepare for certification; and all of us as a guide for excellence in snowsports instruction. White papers on some of the Performance Guides may even be available this season. Ultimately, we hope the information in the guides will be shared in some type of online platform that will allow the user to control the search criteria and the results will be linked to related videos, articles, manuals, images and more.

Finally, due to Covid 19, much of the education staff training has been moved online. For the first time, the National Office is coordinating training from the task forces to all PSIA-AASI Ed Staff across the country. Everyone will receive the same message about the components of the Learning Connection Model. As a result, a consistent message will be shared with members nationwide!

Would all of this work have been accomplished without the free time created due to the quarantines imposed by Covid 19? Probably, thanks to the dedication of the contributors; however, it is clear the extra time has allowed for more collaboration, thoughtful consideration, and in-depth evaluation that will make these tools extremely beneficial to us all.

Keep an eye out for new materials as they get released and have a great season. ☞

Attending an Event this Season? COVID Travel Advisory Links by State

REGION 1

ME: <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy>

NH: <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/out-state-visitors>

REGION 2

VT: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/traveling-vermont>

REGION 3

CT: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>

MA: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>

RI: <https://health.ri.gov/covid/travel/>

REGION 4

NJ: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/travel-and-transportation>

PA: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

REGION 5 & 6

NY: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

REGION 7

MD: <https://www.visitmaryland.org/article/travel-alerts>

VA: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions/u-s-travelers/>

WV: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/travel.htm>

NC: <https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/covid-19-travel-resources>

Event is Full? Don't Worry - Online Waitlists Are Available

If the event you want to attend is already full, make sure you utilize the online waitlist which is new for this year! You'll be able to add yourself to the waitlist and if we're able to open another group, you'll be automatically added to the event according to your position on the waitlist. We'll make every effort to get you in to the event you want to attend. The capacity limit on an event is often set for only one group, so if we can see that the number of people on a waitlist is enough to open another group, it makes it much easier for us to do that. ☞

Event Registration: Streamlined for Your Convenience

Our new database has opened up many new features that have allowed us to streamline the registration process for ALL of our events, online courses and webinars. Here are some highlights and tips on how to register for events.

Online Exam Registration

New this year! – You will be able to register for ALL events online – including exams! No director's signature will be required for exams and our new database is set up to recognize if you've taken the necessary prerequisites, so registering online will be your "go to" option to ensure your spot in any event. Space will be limited for most events, so registering online and early will be the best way to make sure you're on the roster.

To find out how to register for an event, you can find a short video here: https://youtu.be/721L49_v9_k

Or, you can scan this QR code with your phone to see the video:



Registering for an event

To register for an event, start at this link: www.psia-e.org/cv/schedule/. On the calendar, you'll be able to filter the events by:

- **Discipline:** Adaptive, Alpine, Children's, Cross Country, Freestyle, Multi Discipline, Snowboard or Telemark
- **Location:** You can choose from a list of all resorts that are hosting an Eastern Division educational clinic or exam. Or, you can select all.
- **Event Type:**
 - Certificate Assessment – i.e. Children's Specialist and Freestyle Specialist courses.
 - Certification Exams – Level I, Level II or Level III exams or Team Tryouts
 - Education Clinic – moguls, race, senior clinics, update clinics, prerequisites, etc.
 - Examiner Training – these clinics won't be displayed on the calendar as they are only open to staff.
 - Prep Clinics – these include all required prerequisites for certification exams with the exception of Nordic. (Nordic members may attend any two-day (or more) Education Clinic as their prerequisite.)
 - Webinars – Great choices if you prefer not to be on snow this season

Filter Displayed Events

Events can be displayed based on the following categories:

Include Only Weekend Events?

Event Discipline

- Select All
- Adaptive
- Alpine
- Children's
- Cross Country
- Freestyle
- Multi
- Snowboard
- Telemark

Event Location

- Select All
- Bolton Valley
- Bretton Woods XC
- Cannon Mountain
- Holiday Valley
- Jack Frost
- Mount Snow
- Online Webinar - Eastern
- Online eLearning - Eastern
- Seven Springs
- Sunday River
- Wachusett

Event Type

- Select All
- Certificate Assessment
- Certification Exam
- Education Clinic
- Examiner Training
- Prep Clinic

Filter Events

Early Bird Pricing and Number of Spots Remaining

Once you find the event you'd like to attend, you'll want to sign up early and take advantage of Early Bird Pricing until two weeks before the event! Space will be limited for most events, so sign up early to guarantee your spot. The system will also show you the number of spots available.

Registration Information:

- **Early Bird Price:** \$205.00 (available through Sunday, November 29)
- **Standard Price:** \$230.00
- CEUs: 12
- **Spots Remaining:** 4 (as of 10 minutes ago)

Online Waitlists Are Available

If the event is already full, make sure you utilize the online waitlist which is new for this year! You'll be able to add yourself to the waitlist and if we're able to open another group, you'll be automatically added to the event according to your position on the waitlist. We'll make every effort to get you in to the event you want to attend. If we can see that the number of people on a waitlist is enough to open another group, it makes it much easier for us to do that.

Prerequisites

You'll be able to see the prerequisites for taking the course or exam. The prerequisites must be met in order to be eligible to register. Here's an example for an Alpine Level II Skiing exam:

Prerequisites: Current PSIA-AASI Membership, Alpine Level 2 Online Exam, Level 1 Certification

Registration Closes Date

This is the last day the clinic will show on the calendar. After this date, you may call the office to see if any openings are available.

Before you sign up, make sure you check the potential travel restrictions

Some Eastern Division Resorts may require quarantine if traveling from another state. Please check for any travel restrictions BEFORE you register for any event or exam. Please continue to keep an eye on the travel restrictions even after you've registered as they've been changing frequently.

When you're ready to register:

Online Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

Follow the instructions from there or take a quick look at this event registration video for more information: https://youtu.be/721L49_v9_k.

Once you're registered, keep an eye on your email for notice of any potential changes to the event. Most groups will meet on-snow at 8:45 AM and wrap up between 3:30 and 4:00 PM. You'll be notified where and when to meet your clinician for the first day. Due to COVID-19, each resort will have their own policies and restrictions which may include booting up at your vehicle and bringing a lunch. Flexibility will be key.


We hope to see you at an event this season!

#seeyouthere <<

Changes to the Governance Structure of the Eastern Division

By Eric Jordan,

Eastern Governance Committee Chair

 In October 29, 2020 the Eastern Board of Directors finalized a series of changes to the board's structure that will reduce its size and increase its diversity and range of skill sets to better serve you, the membership. This took place after months of discussion, proposals and revisions within the Board of Directors and led by the Eastern Governance Committee, consideration for feedback from members to our board structure survey and outreach to our partners in other divisions and at the national office.

As developed by the Board, this new structure will provide the organization and its membership with the following benefits:

- Greater diversity of age, gender, discipline etc. in your leadership than the current structure sustains through the inclusion of more at-large representatives.
- Continued geographic diversity via the election zones.
- Greater efficiencies in governance and costs due to the board's reduced size.
- A balance between traditionally member-elected board seats and at-large seats both of which invite member participation in the nomination and selection process.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Eastern Governance Committee; Dave Welch, Dick Fox, Katherine MacLauchlan, Ted Fleischer, Dave Capron and Charlie Knopp for their commitment of many hours during the summer and fall in order to put together a solid plan for consideration by the Eastern Board. I also thank the membership for your input via our survey on board structure as it gave us some important feedback to both consider and implement into the final plan.

Below is a summary of the new structure of the Eastern Board of Directors.

Size and Composition:

The previous board was quite large. It included 14 regional directors and representatives (two elected from each of the 7 regions through staggered elections held every three years), a vice chair and two at-large board members. That represented a total of 17 voting members.

Additionally, the board is led by the board chair and supported by the past chair and the national board representative. So, at any given meeting, there are 20 board members around the table. To better encourage meaningful discussion and action that furthers your interests and the long term vision of the organization, the new proposed structure significantly reduces this number.

Under the new structure, the board will be comprised of the following:

- 4 members elected by you via four newly defined geographic election zones
- 4 at-large members, vetted by a nomination committee and selected or affirmed by the membership.
- A board chair (voting only in tie breaks) and a past chair (non-voting) for a total board size of 10 (with 8 voting members).

The 4 newly defined election zones will be as follows:

Election Zone 1: Northern New England (NH, ME, VT)

Election Zone 2: Southern New England (CT, MA, RI)

Election Zone 3: Mid-Atlantic (NY, NJ, PA)

Election Zone 4: South (MD, VA, WV, DE, NC)

The 4 members elected from these zones will ensure that the board continues to benefit from geographic diversity. Although these 4 board members are important because they can offer a point of view informed by members of their specific geographical areas, they will represent the interests of the entire membership, as do all board members under the Policy Governance™ model, which the board adopted in 2019.

Eligibility & Election Process

Election Zones:

- A) We will continue to allow education staff including ETS and BOE to run for general election with the cap at 50% maximum representation on the board (unchanged from previous bylaws).
- B) We will continue to allow snowsports school directors to run for general election to the Eastern Board without restrictions (unchanged from previous bylaws).
- C) All other members in good standing and certified Levels 1, 2 or 3 and in their fourth year of continuous membership may run for election to the Eastern Board (unchanged from previous bylaws).

At-Large Board Seats:

The 4 at-large board members will be found via a nomination process. At-large board members will be selected for presentation to the membership based on the board's assessment of its needs for diversity of thought, experience, demographics, disciplines, age, gender, race, and expertise, etc. A nomination committee of the board will identify and solicit suitable candidates through board outreach as well as member nominations (including self-nominations) received during an open nomination period. All candidates will be vetted, and then a candidate (or candidates) will be presented to the membership for a vote to fill the available number of at-large spots in a given year.

Board Chair:

- Any sitting member of the Board may be elected to serve as Board Chair.
- To serve a two-year term as Board Chair (voting only in tiebreaking situations) and a two-year term as Past Chair (non-voting).

Term Limits:

- All board members may serve a maximum of two three-year terms (6 years) either consecutively or not, after which they must sit out from elections and board service for a minimum of three terms (9 years) before running for election again.
- Any current sitting board member that has already completed 6 years of service shall need to sit out from elections for a minimum of three terms (9 years) before running for election again.
- The only exception to these term limits applies if a board member is elected to serve as Board Chair and that two-year term will put him or her over the 6 year maximum.

For more details on the transition process and timetable, I invite you to check out the dedicated web page on the Eastern Division website at: [NewBoardStructure-November2020](#). ⬅

Alpine Ed Staff Tryout Update

By Kathy Brennan

PSIA-E Dev Team Coach, Examiner

PSIA-AASI ELC – Eastern Representative

Technical Director – Waterville Valley

Do you have your sights on earning a coveted spot on one of our teams? Did you submit your application last year, only to be disappointed when the tryouts were cancelled? Were you not ready last year, but hoping for a shot this season? Well, with any luck, you will get your chance. We are currently planning to conduct the Alpine Development (Dev) Team and the Advanced Children's Educators (ACE) tryouts on March 16-17, 2021 at Sugarbush. But that's not all, if you have completed your Dev Team mandatory requirements, are a member in good standing, and you receive an invitation to apply for a position on the Examiner Training Squad (ETS), we will be conducting that tryout at Sugarbush as well!

Traditionally, we have alternated the Dev Team and ETS tryout years. Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel the Dev Team Tryout last year. We recognize there is a lot of interest, so we have decided we want to conduct the Dev Team Tryout this season. Furthermore, we do not want to delay the ETS tryout for our

Dev Teamers who are ready for the next step in the process toward becoming an Examiner. As a result, for this season, the ETS and Dev Team tryouts will be held together.

On the first day, the Dev Team and ETS candidates will participate together in a Technical Skills Assessment, including activities to assess Performance, Technical Understanding and Movement Analysis. (NOTE: it is possible the ACE team candidates will join us in some, or all, of the day one activities, this will be determined as we get closer to the event.) Candidates will also be scored on their application packet, resume/experience, and their People Skills. Exceptional candidates will move on to day two of the tryout.

On day two, candidates will participate in various teaching activities. It is likely that groups on day two will be divided between Dev Team, ETS or ACE team candidates; however, we reserve the right to change our plans. Candidates may be asked to:

- Lead the group in developing skills related to a specific fundamental.
- Share something they are working on in their own skiing.
- Present an activity that would help a typical member to be successful at a Level II skiing exam.
 - Problem solve with their group how to improve their performance in one of the assessment activities.
 - Explore how you would help an instructor to improve a selected teaching or people skill.
 - ACE team candidates will also be asked to do children specific and CS1/2 related teaching segments.
 - Other options to be determined.

More specifics will be provided as we get closer to the events. Unpredictable or unforeseen circumstances may require that we change our plans. It is possible the candidates will be asked to do different activities based upon their experience and the results of the first day. COVID 19 may also require us to adapt our process. Candidates may be asked to participate in web conferences or to complete an online assessment prior to the event. To be successful, candidates should be well versed in the Technical Manual, Teaching Snowsports Manual, Children's Instruction Manual and the new National Certification Standards.

Candidates should consider this event a job interview. Participants will be assessed based upon their application packet; resume/experience; interactions with the office, staff, and peers before and during the assessment; and skillfulness in the use of the learning connection model at the tryout. Team selections will be made at the end of day two. Eligible ETS candidates, who do not earn a spot on that Squad, but score within the range of candidates who will be selected for the Dev Team, will be offered a new four year term on the Dev Team.

Registration and application packets are due January 24, 2021 to allow time, if necessary, to coordinate any pre-tryout activities. Please refer to the website for the application packet requirements for your team.

Many of the best instructors in our division will be putting everything they've got on the hill, March 16 and 17th at Sugarbush. It should be a great two days! I look forward to seeing you there. <<

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How to Make Lemonade

By Chris Ericson

PSIA-E Examiner

PSIA-E Alpine Education and Certification Committee Chair

As the meme states, 2020 was a unique Leap Year. It had 29 days in February, 300 days in March and 5 years in April. As we get ready to start our ski season, I think we could all agree that life has sure changed a bunch since the last time we were on snow. However, with every hurdle that is placed in front of us, there is opportunity, and this year the off-season opportunities were plentiful.

It was that March day that started out fairly regularly, and by noon the rumors started spreading. “We are closing at 4:00 for the season.” The way the 2020 ski season ended for most was abrupt and emotional to say the very least. It left many of us feeling cheated, unfulfilled, and unsure of what was next. PSIA-AASI events and certification exams that so many had prepared for were canceled. PSIA-AASI National Team candidates, who held their breath, hoping that somehow, someday, the tryouts would be held only to finally hear they were canceled also. So much preparation, training and sacrifices that were made, swiftly resembled a “blue screen” moment on your computer with everything frozen in time and options for restarting limited. Once it set in that our way of life was not going to be changing anytime soon, it was time to start looking at that big bowl of opportunities (lemons) that needed to be squeezed into something delicious.

“Let’s have a conference call or Zoom!” If I never hear that again it will be too soon. Look at anyone’s desktop or smartphone and you are likely to find at least three different platforms you have been using. One day found me using *Ring*, *GoToWebinar*, *Zoom*, *Microsoft Teams* and of course *Basecamp* before the day had ended. As much as there was disconnect with human interaction and not being face to face, something different started to evolve. As an organization it felt like our level of communication and task completion may have actually increased, or at least became much more efficient. This has been evident not only as a Divisional organization, but also at the National level where huge progress continues to be made.

In the east we quickly pivoted, and the *Eastern E-Learning Taskforce* was created. A group of talented “out of the box” thinkers chaired by Educational Staff member, Angelo Ross who knew what we all had suspected; the membership was hungry for information, training, education, interaction and frankly, to talk about anything that wasn’t COVID. I can remember in early spring the Divisional Office putting out a few feelers about having a webinar on *Boot Fitting*

with Dave Taylor. When the announcement went out, we had over 400 people sign up and Angelo said; “I think we have something here.” Since then, there have been over 15 different webinars with topics that have included everything from *Movement Description without Prescription* to a *Fitness Series* that had five different episodes. Webinars of various interest are scheduled right into December and with the cancelation of the Snowsports School Management Seminar on-snow event this year, a handful of specific webinars are being used to give Snowsports Managers tools they may need for this season.

From a National standpoint, the momentum that has been created over the past few years in developing strategic alignment not only continued, but gained valuable strength. Our goal of achieving consistency through communication, collaboration, and consolidation to drive the PSIA-AASI educational value, moved to another step with the early release of the 2021-2022 National Standards. These [Alpine](#) and [Snowboard](#) standards were approved by the PSIA-AASI National Board in June. The significance of the standards is that they were all developed and based off the Learning Connection Model and the Learning Outcome framework. These new standards, when implemented, represent true consistency in all our disciplines.

During this time of increased quarantine, the Education Leadership Council along with the various National Task Forces had plenty of conference calls and work sessions. These groups continue to work tirelessly to help foster a better understanding and develop the training tools that are critical to the instructor. One of the things you will start hearing more about over the next few years is the development of the Performance Guide (PG). The “down-time” that we have had really allowed us to sink our teeth into this. The PG will be a huge part of national alignment and will become the overarching document of how to apply the fundamentals. The PG will give indicators of an appropriate and inappropriate performance not only in the Technical Skills, but the People and Teaching Skills also. When completed, this document will likely become one of the most comprehensive and valuable tools that an instructor can have for their own personal development.

As we look towards our 2020-2021 season, we know that things will definitely be different. As an instructor, you know what it is like to be flexible already, but this season may require you to be like Gumby. Lessons, lift riding, ticket limitations and getting booted up in your car may add to everyone’s frustration. For sure, this could be a lemon of a season. However, in the right environment and with the right tools, you may actually find huge opportunities for you to have the most successful and fulfilling season you have ever had. ☞

Schedule Your Own Member Customized Event!

By Don Haringa

Director of Education and Programs

Are you concerned about attending educational clinics outside your home area? Wondering how travel restrictions may impact your plans? With so many uncertainties this season why not schedule your own clinic, at your home mountain, with your fellow colleagues on the dates that work for you.

Order your own Member Customized Event (MCE for short). You can order any educational event on the schedule except Level II or Level III Exams. Need an exam prep? Are you ready to attain your Children’s Specialist 1 professional designation? Or maybe you just want to get together with fellow instructors and rip it up; no problem, we can do that too!

How it works:

- They’re held at your resort.
- Snowsports educational events will be delivered by a member of the PSIA-AASI Eastern Division Education Staff.
- You choose the topic(s) for your clinic.
- Continuing Education credits will be issued to all members.
- Approval from the Snowsports School Director is required prior to setting up a clinic.

To request a Member Customized Event, Accreditation event or Level I Exam, your Snowsports School Director should send an email to MCE@psia-e.org with details regarding the clinic or exam requested. Please include preferred dates and expected number of participants (maximum of 8 this season).

Get together with your fellow colleagues and start planning your own Member Customized Event today! ☞

PSIA-E

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New Alpine Ed Staff and ACE Coaches Announced

*By Don Haringa**PSIA-E Examiner**Director of Education and Programs*

Did you know that the Education Staff members have coaches? You do now! The Alpine Ed Staff has three coaches: the Development (Dev) Team Coach, the Examiner Training Squad (ETS) Coach, and the Examiner Coach, or X-Coach, as we like to call him or her. The Alpine Coaches serve three-year terms, at the end of which they may have their contracts renewed, or a new coach is hired. Recently, **Matt Boyd**, stepped



**Sue Kramer –
New Alpine Examiner Coach**

down from the Alpine Examiner Coach position, due to his new position as the **Alpine Assistant and Development Coach** for the **PSIA-AASI National Team**. After a thorough search, we are proud to announce the selection of **Susan Kramer** as the new **Alpine Examiner Coach!**

We thank Matt for his leadership and the training programs he implemented during his tenure as the X-Coach. He did an outstanding job of training the Eastern Division Alpine Education Staff, and he has prepared us well for understanding the Learning Connection Model, and preparing for the upcoming changes to the National Standards

We are also very excited to have Sue taking over as the X-Coach. She is incredibly creative, has outstanding critical thinking skills, and is one of the most talented coaches on our staff. The Alpine Education staff is in good hands.

Over the summer, the ETS Coach term expired. Doug Daniels, who has done an outstanding job as the ETS Coach, decided that he would not return to that position for another term. Thanks go to Doug Daniels for the many years he coached the Examiner Training Squad and for the outstanding job, he has done for the Eastern Division! With Doug stepping down, we are pleased to announce that Troy Walsh has been selected as the new ETS Coach. Troy is a very highly regarded clinician/examiner, and a current member of the Alpine Eastern Team. He is a natural fit for the ETS Coach position, and we are thrilled that Troy accepted the position.

Our Alpine Dev Team Coach, Kathy Brennan applied for a second term as the Alpine Dev Team Coach, and having done an amazing job in her first term, she has been rehired for a second term. Welcome



**Kathy Brennan –
Alpine Dev Team Coach**

back Kathy! It is also notable that Kathy is the Eastern Alpine rep to the Educational Leadership Council (ELC). She has done an outstanding job working with this group of educational leaders, so many additional thanks go to Kathy!

On the Children's Education side, with Sue Kramer stepping down as the ACE Coach to take the X-Coach position, we began a search for the next ACE Team Coach. Five members of the ACE Team applied, as well as one Alpine ETS member. We are proud to announce that the selection committee chose Bonnie Kolber as the new ACE Team Coach. Bonnie is a long-time member of the ACE Team, and also a current Eastern Division AASI Examiner. She brings a lot of creativity, enthusiasm, and energy to the team. We are excited to have her succeeding Sue. Welcome Bonnie!

With new National Standards coming out as well as a focus on the Learning Connection Model, the Eastern Division is extremely fortunate to have these amazing teachers leading the coaching of the Alpine Ed Staff and the ACE Team. We are in good hands! <<

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Over the summer, the ETS



**Troy Walsh –
New Alpine ETS Coach**



**Bonnie Kolber –
New ACE Team Coach**

national report

By Tom Butler, Eastern Representative
PSIA-AASI Board of Directors



Covid-19 has presented all of us -- both in and outside the ski industry -- with incredible challenges. If someone was sitting in a staff meeting at a ski area this time last year and was engaged in a SWOT analysis, a couple of the potential "threats" identified may have included climate change contributing to a lean snow season or perhaps an economic downturn reducing disposable income which forced skiers and riders to limit their on-snow activities. There are more threats, of course, but if someone in the back of the room raised their hand and said, "What about a global virus with no known cure that spreads throughout the world, cripples nations and brings economies to a standstill?" after a few moments of silence and the sound of crickets chirping a response might have been expressed that they should go write screenplays for Hollywood because nothing like that could ever happen in real life!

Well, here we are. Hollywood has come to life and we're all working feverishly to figure it out. That said, I am reassured and inspired by the innovativeness and resourcefulness of our industry and I am most impressed by the level of communication and collaboration that has permeated throughout the industry. Early on in the pandemic, Ski Area Management magazine (SAM), NSAA, and SIA embraced Zoom and other virtual platforms to host discussions that sought to bring together all levels of leadership within our industry to help make sense of the challenges before us and figure it all out *together*. To scroll through the pages of participants, 250-plus sometimes, and see leaders from areas as varied in character from Titcomb here in

Maine to Aspen and every other size and shape area in between was truly inspiring. To know that Squaw Valley, CA and Sugar Mountain, NC are wrestling with the same problems and working together to solve them really shows the resiliency and strength of who we are as an industry.

Competition has been replaced with collaboration and snowsports industry leaders are talking and sharing at all levels. Leave it to a global pandemic to foster improved communication but we are all lowering our shields (Star Trek fan over here) to leverage our potential economies of scale and build a stronger foundation to withstand the new challenges before us. One of PSIA-AASI's (National and Eastern's) Organizational Ends is to take advantage of economies of scale to improve our delivery of education and services to members. National has been facilitating the increased communication and collaboration between divisions so far. Successes and efficiencies to date have been recognized in delivery of education, member services and divisional operations. Where the true gold exists though is when divisions start reaching out unprompted to each other to share and work with each other to help deliver exceptional service to our members. Signs of that are popping up such as co-sponsored webinars and revenue sharing on e-learning programs.

Think of your resort and all of the departments that make up your operations. We hear the word "silo" a lot in the industry and I'm sure there have been internal efforts at your area or through third party companies like Snow Operating to disassemble these silos and get people working more closely together. It's one thing for a GM to facilitate collaboration between departments where they may get compliance but will it be sticky enough to endure? It's an entirely different thing though when departments choose to work together on their own to improve overall operations. In the former, departments are motivated (or worse -- coerced) to work together. In the latter example where they organically collaborate, they are inspired to work together.

I perceived the efforts this past summer by the industry as nothing but inspiring. Once we emerged from the shock of the massive industry shut down in mid-March last season we started working together in earnest because the industry as a whole recognized that we didn't even know what we didn't know.

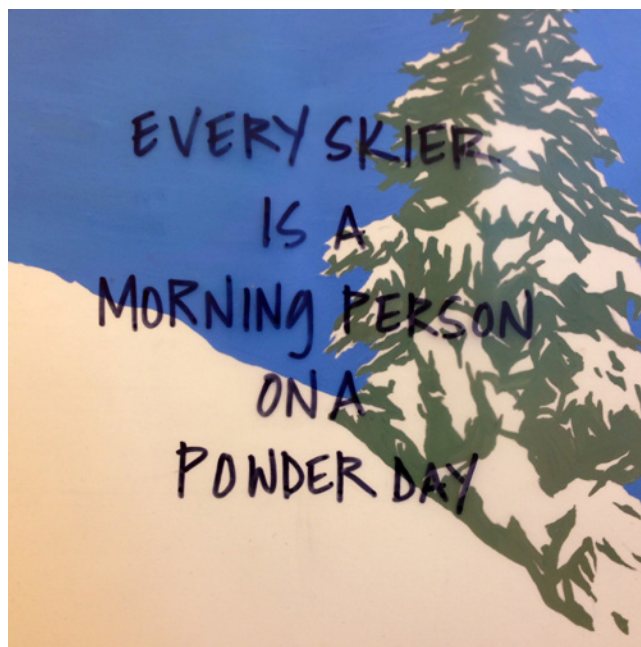
When we set to the task to figure it all out, we were embracing the crux of author Ken Blanchard's quote when he commented that "None of us is as smart as all of us." Our transformation from competitive to collaborative reminds me of the story of a person walking down the street where they encounter two masons working. The passerby asked both masons what they were doing. The first mason said, "Can't you see, I'm laying bricks." The second mason further down the road said, "I'm building a cathedral."

The significance I see in this for our industry and PSIA-AASI is that we used to be like the first mason. Each resort, each PSIA-AASI division was focused on "their" thing. Yes we're all in the snowsports biz and focusing on similar initiatives but, for the most part, there was little sharing and little room for anyone else. Today we are more like the mason engaged in building the Cathedral because when you build something like that, there is room for others to collaborate and enjoy. Areas are actively comparing notes and best practices and the eight PSIA-AASI divisions are working together like never before at all levels.

In every challenge lies an opportunity. If that holds true then we have LOTS of opportunities out there this season and beyond for us to unearth and help us improve all the way around. PSIA-AASI is committed to leveraging those opportunities and building on our economies of scale to help deliver more effective training and member experiences.

Thanks for reading, for being a teacher and I hope you all have a safe and fabulous season.

Tom <<



Women's ^{VIRTUAL} Summit

By Mermer Blakeslee, PSIA-E Examiner,
Former Alpine National Team Member,
Member of the Women's Virtual Summit Planning Group

Last March, none of us at the Women's Summit in Snowbird, UT wanted to leave. As the reality of Covid-19 descended, the three days felt like an oasis in both time and space—filled with heart, intellect, and physical vitality. But we left feeling assured that in the spring of 2021, we'd be together again at Stowe, VT.

Sometime this summer, the planning committee realized we had a choice either to abandon the Summit altogether or go virtual and build on the energy, education, and community that has been growing since the Summit began. The decision took less than a minute.

And then we got lucky, or more accurately, we received an unexpected blessing. The Nancy Oakes Hall Women's Scholarship committee decided to subsidize our virtual Summit to make the event affordable and accessible to all women. We started planning with even more fervor and imagination. In the spirit of Nancy's vision, we're striving for a program that is comprehensive, in-depth, illuminating, and inspiring.

Nancy Oakes Hall and her Scholarship

By Mermer Blakeslee on behalf of the
NOH Scholarship Committee

Almost everyone knows that Nancy Oakes Hall was a strong woman, and by so many measures, successful. But what many don't know was that her life was actually more interesting than that blinding star of achievement. She worked hard, really hard, with persistence and thought and courage, to overcome nagging self-doubts, lack of confidence, and an all-too-acute awareness of her liabilities. That helped foster in Nancy a compassion, an empathy, and a deep generosity for others that you could immediately feel whenever you came within her orbit. She was by no means saccharine or disingenuous in her encouragement and praise. You believed her, because she was smart and perceptive and not easily fooled. She was a genuine lover – of people, of learning, of skiing, of the mountains, of art, of design, of beauty, of life.

That's what makes the scholarship Nancy created so special. Every aspect of it is permeated with her vision – its breadth and depth. She wanted more women to be involved, engaged, and recognized in every aspect of snowsports teaching – in every niche and skill level – from new talent to management, from Level I to PSIA-AASI National Team members, in the office behind the scenes or on the hill with little kids, coaching racing, training teachers, or guiding an all-mountain adventure. She wanted us to be the best versions of ourselves, and collectively, to make our mark on this industry, this passion, this way of life.

Nancy didn't just want it, however, she made it happen. She made her own mark in the form of this scholarship, a living, meaningful manifestation of the gratitude she felt for having the means to pursue and develop her own passions. In so doing, she passed her gift and her vision on to all of us.

All of us on the NOH Scholarship Review Committee feel that Nancy has



Nancy Oakes Hall

The Summit will start on the evening of Sunday, February 28th, at 7:30-9:00 ET, with a Keynote. On Monday, March 1st, from 11:00 to 5:00 ET, we'll offer an interactive program with coaches from all around the country and Canada. There'll be something for everyone—skiers, riders, patrollers, teachers, clinicians, and coaches.

The themes will be centered around the Learning Connection Model as well as what it means to be a woman in the industry, whether you're a leader or passionate learner, whether you're focused on your own development, on paying it forward to others, or engaged in the balancing act of combining it all.

Finally, to remind us all of how much fun we have as women when we ski and ride together, check your schedules for Women Crush Winter! A day to ski or ride with other gals in a nearby resort with a leader from the PSIA-AASI Education staff. A day full of learning and laughter that we hope will culminate in a few selfies and a short video. We want you to share your group's story with the rest of the Summit.

If we've learned anything from Covid-19, it's that we need more than ever to stay connected and engaged, and celebrate all the reasons we love this sport!

Watch this page for information about registering for the Women's (Virtual) Summit 2021: <https://thesnowpros.org/events/womens-summit/>

Follow and use the hashtags:

#womenscrushwinter #slidewithnancy #snowpros <<

opened our eyes over the past few years to a community of women all across the country we might have dreamed about or hoped for, but never knew existed. These women are not copies of Nancy. They are unique, inventing their own lives, but they do reflect Nancy's energy and commitment toward excellence, as well as her kindness and humility and genuine regard for her fellow teachers. They're talented and smart and generous, passing on to others what they've learned. They're committed to generating positive change for women in the industry, but they also understand how women can be instrumental in promoting positive growth for the industry as a whole. After reviewing a pile of applications in the depths of December when time is short and the dark is long, we have found ourselves moved, energized, hopeful, and full of gratitude – to all the women Nancy has helped us get to know, and to Nancy herself, a woman of grace and courage.

If you want to apply, visit the Nancy Oakes Hall Women's Scholarship page at <http://tiny.cc/NOHScholarship> to learn more. For the 2020-21 season, you can apply for a scholarship to attend a division training and certification event, or to participate in National Academy 2021.

New this season, the Nancy Oakes Hall Women's Scholarship is subsidizing the virtual Women's Summit to make the event affordable and accessible. The online event will take place Feb. 28 and March 1. In the spirit of Nancy Oakes Hall, the Eastern Division will work with coaches from around the country to create a comprehensive, in-depth, illuminating, and inspiring event. We will share registration details when they are available. <<



Nancy Oakes and Dee Byrne



Professional Ski Instructors of America
American Association of Snowboard Instructors

A Commitment to Snowsports Area Operators Regarding PSIA-AASI Events

This has been an extraordinary and unprecedented time in our history – both as a nation and as an industry. We recognize the enormous challenges you are facing in preparing for an uncertain winter season of hosting guests and staffing your resorts safely.

PSIA-AASI enhances the engagement, morale, and retention of your instructors by supporting their education and career development. Now more than ever we need to help instructors succeed and feel safe as they pursue their passion for working in the mountain environment. Promoting instructors' professional growth translates into better, more engaging lessons – which helps drive the guest experiences that bring skiers and riders back throughout the season and beyond.

Our eight divisions conduct hundreds of instructor-training events a year and we believe that we can work with you to safely educate our members. It is our commitment as an organization to adhere to federal, state, and resort guidelines, and to take the following measures while conducting on-snow events at your facilities:

1. We will adhere to all resort/area policies related to COVID-19, including guidelines that may be adjusted throughout the season.
2. We will maintain social-distancing and face-covering guidelines at all times.
3. We will limit our group size to adhere to guidelines issued at a regional and resort level.
4. We will respect demands on your facilities and your potential reduction in availability of those facilities by adhering to the following practices during PSIA-AASI events:
 - We will prioritize direct-to-snow events and minimize indoor facility use.
 - Events will be held mid-week and/or coordinated to avoid regional peak periods.
5. We will maintain an operational mitigation plan that takes into consideration the health and safety of our members and your staff.
6. We will adhere to all governmental restrictions when managing event registration.
 - Divisions will direct members to regional and local events, being mindful of relevant travel restrictions and the individual comfort level of attendees.

This list has been created by PSIA-AASI's operational leaders, based on current knowledge regarding COVID-19. All event coordination will go through regional divisional offices, which are committed to working with staff, resorts, and clinicians to be aware of and adjust to the ever-evolving pandemic. Please contact your regional PSIA-AASI Division if you have any questions – or policy decisions to share.

around the regions

Region 1 Report

By Dave Capron

PSIA-E Alpine and Telemark Examiner
Region 1 Director

I woke up this morning turned on the news and to see that it snowed in Northern New Hampshire and Maine last night. Sugarloaf posted a photo of snow on the top of Skyline. Now if that does not get you excited for skiing and riding, we need to have a discussion. Winter is on our doorstep and resorts are gearing up to keep us safe and let us enjoy the outdoors on our skis and boards. It was great to get the new skis and boots delivered to the porch a week ago. It gets the thoughts of skiing brewing in the brain. New gear, a glimpse of snow, the leaves not just turning but falling, and the days getting shorter are all signs that our season is almost upon us. Yes, we are going to experience a different winter season from what we think of as “normal,” but as long as everyone continues to make smart decisions, I believe we all will be able to ski and ride and enjoy the mountains and winter environments that draw us back every year.

I hope you have seen the large number of webinars the Eastern Division has been making available to the membership over the summer and fall. I am part of an Eastern E-Learning task force that has been meeting virtually every week, brainstorming, planning, and implementing webinar education. If you have not taken advantage of these programs you should. All of our webinars are recorded and uploaded to the Eastern Division website. The five-part Fitness program is an absolute must see! If you want to know some ways to get in better shape and how to use your workouts to get ready for the season or to better target your workouts for better results, you need to go through the Fitness webinars.

This summer we experienced a loss of such magnitude that I have a hard time expressing in words how devastated I feel. On July 20 I received a call from Ross Boisvert letting me know that Peter Holland had passed away that day. I had been texting with Peter the day before and he was so excited that the grandkids were there at the lake house and he told me about driving to Bedford the day before to watch Wyatt's lacrosse game. Everything was so great and in an instant, it changed. Peter was a truly dedicated to his family. He was always talking about the family. His family was his pride and joy and he spoke of them so proudly. It was a joy to see how dedicated and supportive he was of his family in all of their pursuits. He showed this same support and enthusiasm to the world of PSIA and ski racing.

Peter's pure love for skiing helped to bring the race coaching world and ski instructor world together. It was a top priority for Peter that everyone have fun and “SHUT UP AND SKI.” He loved the fall line. Troy Walsh and I heard him say many times, “How do you guys go so slow; I can't stay behind you guys?” Peter, or “Chewy,” as his friends knew him, was always the first one to the bottom ready to load the lift and head back up. The number of people who he impacted over his incredible ski career through his ski instruction, race coaching, PSIA-AASI Board Member service, NHARA Board of Trustee service, and his work as a USSS Level 3 Technical Delegate is beyond my comprehension. What I admired the most about Chewy was the personal relationship he developed with so many of us, including me. Chewy was my friend, I miss him every day and wish I could thank him for his kindness and caring nature and the way he always supported me and mentored me when I needed his advice and guidance.

Chewy I will keep it in the fall line and make some turns for you soon.

To Bertie Holland and the entire Holland family I want to thank you for sharing Peter with us. The time he dedicated to all of us in the PSIA community has had such a positive impact on so many. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Holland family.

Region 2 Report

By Ted Fleischer

AASI-E Examiner
Region 2, Director

Normal? Nope. Still looking forward to sliding? Ayeep.

We are in unusual times to be sure. One thing we can count on (for the time being at least), is that winter is still coming. Winter in Vermont is one of my favorite temporal places. Not to be missed. Knee-deep and waist-deep blizzards; cold, crisp air sneaking through zippers or under a door; your friendly neighborhood liftie dropping the rope for first chair on yet another powder day. These things are fleeting and timeless, cool and HOT, real and surreal, all at the same time. This season hints towards the surreal.

With a rather abrupt end to last season, many folks are looking forward to a change for the better. In Vermont we hope to make the needed adjustments so that all of us, both locals and guests, can enjoy some sense of normalcy in a very different world landscape. We've all likely made adjustments to our lives recently and this winter will be no exception. With travel restrictions for those who wish to visit Vermont and mandatory quarantines for many who will want to enter or re-enter our state, the landscape has changed. PSIA-AASI have plans to hold many of our popular events in Vermont this season including Freestyle, Powder and Teaching

Clinics as well as exams on all types of gear. Attending these may take a little more planning on your part than it has in our recent past.

Our Governor and the Advisory Teams he's put together seemingly have done an excellent job keeping Vermonters safe and the Coronavirus at bay. Making sure the winter sliding season is successful, is front and center in a state largely driven by tourism. To keep everyone safe, and thus allow us the freedoms of mobility that are expected, we Vermonters will need the help and cooperation of all of our friends who visit. There are likely some benefits too, so please read on and spread the word.

As I said earlier, Vermont has new travel guidelines based on the U.S. County that you are traveling to or from. The Canadian border is also closed for the foreseeable future. The travel guidelines and map of Northeastern US Counties can be found here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>. Chairlifts will also likely have loading restrictions based on social distance guidelines. Having the strength and pride to follow these guidelines will help keep our season on-track. I suppose that it's just like driving too fast on icy roads. These guidelines come down to personal responsibility for oneself and others and whether an individual has the character to have some.

That brings me to the potential up side. If you're a local, or don't live in Vermont but your county is in the green, or you otherwise meet the travel guidelines, it's possible you might be rewarded with a Vermont of days-gone-by. Fewer folks travelling, means fewer folks around, fewer folks on the hill, fewer turns through that fresh powder stash you've discovered. The best part is that the SNOW will still cross state lines unrestricted, being outdoors is a healthier alternative to being in an elevator, and we could very well need your help slicing up that fresh blanket of pow. Spend some quality road-trip time with your family, tell stories on the car drive instead of getting frustrated in the airport, and bond with loved ones while skiing and snowboarding in Vermont.

Hope to see you (from an appropriately responsible distance, of course) soon in Vermont.

Region 3 Report

By Dave Beckwith

Region 3 Director

Greetings Region 3! I hope everyone is staying healthy through all the challenges that Covid-19 has brought to our industry. The good news is that we will be on snow this season; but it will be much different than what we are used to.

In contacting several of the snowsports schools in our region, many are adopting similar practices to ensure that both the instructor and the guest are safe while creating a positive and fun learning environment.

Here is some of the information that was reported back to me:

For the guest, it will mean registering for lessons online, limited capacities in both lessons and area guests, and limited access to inside facilities (i.e. food, booting up, warming up).

For the instructor, temperature checks and health checks prior to working will be in place. There will be limited or no locker room capacity. Instructors will have to arrive ready to work. For lessons there will be smaller sized group lessons and an increase in private lesson offerings. Instructors may find themselves teaching the "family lesson." A lesson that might include ages 5 to 50.

There are many moving parts to this whole scenario and some aspects will be worked out once the season gets underway. Your local snowsports director will be able to tell you what the protocol is for your area.

Director of Education Don Haringa, Associate Director Melissa Skinner and discipline advisors Mickey Stone (Nordic), Brian Donovan (snowboard) and Kathy Chandler (Adaptive) have put together an outstanding season of events. If you do have any reservations or concerns about attending an on-hill event, there are plenty of e-learning opportunities available. Please check the PSIA-E website to see what is available.

We do not have a regional meeting planned at this time. We are waiting to see how the season gets underway prior to planning a meeting. Should we schedule a meeting, we will send notice through the area rep network to you all.

Both your Region 3 Representative, Dave Welch, and I would love to hear from you. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns or just want to get together and ski, please do not hesitate to let us know.

This is going to be a challenging season. We must be patient and work together to be successful.

Stay healthy and happy and let's hope for early snow and a great Winter!

Region 4 Report

By Bob Shostek

PSIA-E Examiner and Region 4 Director and Steve Martin

Region 4 Representative

reetings fellow Region 4 members!

Well gang, it is that time of the year, early darkness, leaves falling, NO more grass to cut and steadily getting colder -- our time for sliding is right around the corner. This year with all the turmoil going on, I am more excited than ever to get on the snow and I trust you all feel the same!

As we all know, the effects of the worldwide pandemic have changed almost everything we do and how we do it for safety concerns. Your Eastern Division leaders have been doing everything possible to bring

members a safe and fun filled educational experience while continuing to follow national, state and resort restrictions/protocols. Our plans have been updated several times on how we will conduct our on-snow events. These plans continue to evolve weekly as protocols change. You can find more specific information about on-snow events in this newsletter and on our web site. Our leaders are on top of the on-going changes and we plan with the safety of our members and the event staff as top priority. We ask that you be open to the changes from normal operations to be in compliance with resort and state safety restrictions.

Regarding events, our Education and Programs Director, Don Haringa, and his team have been working hard putting together the division's schedule of educational events. I am happy to say region 4 will tentatively hold 50 events at 10 different resorts starting in mid-December to mid-March - not bad compared to last season when we scheduled 78 events at 12 different resorts. (I say tentatively due to possible changes in safety protocols at R4 resorts that may occur during the season.) We need to be understanding of last-minute cancellations and/or additions to our R4 schedule. The team is still trying to secure permission from resorts to hold additional events including an Alpine LII exam. Don and his team will keep us updated as soon as changes occur in the schedule.

With all the restrictions now in place, the continuous changes about percentages of people allowed at a gathering inside/outside, lodging, travel, lifts, cafeteria, and other safety concerns, I highly suggest you to **consider creating your own clinic at your home area with our Member Customized Events (MCE)**. Snowboarders can also take advantage of the MCE program. For a set fee, up to 8 coaches could attend the MCE and order any educational event on the schedule (except for a Level II or III exam) including: an update clinic, skiing/riding or teaching exam prep, skiing/riding or teaching specific enhancement, children's specific events (CS1 or CS2) or any of our other educational offerings. The MCE might be the safest event to consider since you will be at your home area with home area coaches, and limited travel, dining, lodging or over state line concerns. You will be already in touch with your home area protocols about safety concerns, etc. This is something to start looking into now before the MCE availability is sold out; the MCE could be a very popular offering for the membership in this current environment.

We would also like to give a "Big Hats Off" to the members of the Eastern Division who put together some GREAT e-learning courses and webinars in such a short time frame. We hope you are taking advantage of the numerous courses and webinars available from our eastern division as well as all 7 other divisions across the country and national. Check out the national and divisional web sites to see the various educational events happening online that are available to all members.

Due to the restrictions for indoor gatherings, we are not planning on holding any R4 meetings in our region. If restrictions change during the season, Steve and I will consider holding R4 meetings. The regional meetings are designed to update members about the division and the region as well as to provide national news. These meetings are also a forum for members to voice concerns or issues and present suggestions and questions about the association and the division. Since we currently do not plan on holding any meetings, Steve and I are available *any time* during the year for regional members, so feel free to contact us directly with any questions or concerns.


Lets ALL stay safe and THINK positive about the upcoming season!!!

Have a great fall and early winter. We hope to see you on the hill soon.

Region 5 Report

By Dick Fox, Region 5 Director

Joe Hazard, Region 5 Representative

reetings everyone. I love this time of year. Due to some of the limitations that everyone is dealing with, I have been doing much more hiking and the spectacular autumn colors mixed with the tranquility and beautiful weather has been a real relief to my soul. I hope that all of you have been able to enjoy the mountain environment even while we wait for this pandemic to pass.

Winter is at hand. Yes, it will be different and we will have to do things differently, but it will still be winter – crisp mornings with fresh snow, old friends smiling (behind face coverings) and the joy of sliding down a slippery slope on whatever flavor of toy each of us prefers.

In New York State, we will be spending less time inside. There will still be food and hot drinks, but guests will be encouraged to minimize their time inside and get back out on the slopes. Holiday Valley is encouraging guests to do more planning and purchasing online and in advance (especially holidays and weekends). Ski school programs will be staggered and grouping up outdoors with a great deal of attention being paid to a different aspect of safety.

Holiday Valley has continued "plowing" (pun intended) investments back into the guest experience. They have added to their automated snowmaking systems, high tech snow measurement systems and snow grooming strategies. There is even more LED Slope lighting and more improvements to the glades. The Snow Sports school will be sporting new uniforms with snazzy logos.

My colleague and Region 5 Rep Joe Hazard Reports:

"As I write this on Monday, October 19th, we received some very welcome news this morning as New

York State has released its guidelines for ski resort operations for the coming season. Most noteworthy is that areas will be operating at 50% capacity and lift access will be restricted by the relationship of those riding. Obviously, we expected this but it is still great to be able to plan and anticipate for our season.

We have yet to hear specifics from any of our areas, but we know each has been planning for different scenarios for opening. From our contacts, we've heard that everything has been 'on the table' for consideration, including lesson offerings and the impact on staffing. We will all need to closely monitor the news and updates from the management of the resorts we serve and adjust to their requirements and the needs of safety for all.

Even though COVID has created such a great deal of uncertainty, many areas proceeded with preparation to improve on the services which we provide. Bristol, for example, completed full renovations of the Rocket Lodge. Other resorts are reporting enhancements to snow making and lift capabilities as well.

It's just good to know we'll be back in business.

Relatedly, I hope everyone reading this will take the time to review, comment, and consider the work that our Board has embarked upon, to restructure and refine our business model. It was a challenging effort but one that is noteworthy to accomplish. As we move into this and future seasons, we need to address issues of how to better direct the efforts of our organization's leadership to ensure progress in meeting operational objectives while enhancing the diversity of our membership representation.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing all of us back at it in the near future."

Thanks for the report, Joe!

I'd just like to finish by telling you that the

PSIA-AASI Eastern Division Board of Directors has been hard at work for the last two years implementing a Policy Governance system which is intended to modernize how we operate as an association. There will be several articles describing the "why" and "how" of this change in this and upcoming issues of the *Snow Pro*. One set of changes will include the size and the method of selection of Board members (already the subject of a recent email blast).

If you would like more information, just email me or Joe at:

dfox@wmf-inc.com

J-hazard@hotmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to be your representative. It has been a GREAT ride. See you on the mountains (but you will have to get up early in the morning).

Region 6 Report

By Joan Heaton
Region 6 Director

As we embark on this unprecedented 20-21 Snowsports Season, we need to be flexible, cooperative, and understanding. PSIA-AASI Eastern Division and our resorts are doing their very best to pull together the best possible snowsports experiences for us. The financial impact Covid19 will impose on our resorts will, in turn, affect our association's ability to offer the educational experiences we normally see. However, giant efforts on the part of PSIA-AASI to work 'outside the box' to provide those experiences are in full swing. Please stay tuned and let's all 'pull' together.

To my knowledge, most resorts are planning to open and operate under the guidelines of masks, social distancing, limited capacity lift rides, and

outdoor food facilities. Locker room procedures are still not clear. Also, much attention must be paid to the different travel requirements of different states which, ultimately, affect travel for both the instructors and the public. The whole process is most certainly a work in progress.

As you already know, our Fall Regional Meeting which was scheduled to be held at Hunter Mountain on November 8th was cancelled. Hopefully, I will try to hold a virtual meeting sometime after the Virtual Snowsports Seminar. It is hoped that our Spring Regional Meeting will be held as we normally do. We are looking forward to the 'good ole' times, Oreo cookies and all!

This is an election year for Region 6. The transition of our governing procedures to *Policy Governance* is still a work in progress; however, the plan itself is being shared with the membership as I am writing this article. Please read your emails about the restructuring of the Eastern Division Board of Directors and respond accordingly. Although this year is an election year for Region 6, the newly defined election zones will affect how this election takes place. According to the newly defined election zones, Region 6 will be part of the newly formed Zone 3. The membership will be informed as to how the elections will be handled.

I do want to share with you that as your present Region 6 Director, I will not be running for re-election in our new form of governance. My term will officially end at the conclusion of this 20-21 Season. Please know that it has been a distinct honor and total pleasure for me to serve you, the members of Region 6 and PSIA-AASI Eastern Division.

Good luck!

Not reporting: Region 7 <<

2020-21 Event Calendar now online

Due to the fluidity of the Eastern Division event schedule for 2020-21 as a result of COVID-related challenges and restrictions, we did not include a printed event schedule in this issue of the *SnowPro*. We encourage you to visit the Eastern Event Calendar online at

<https://www.psia-e.org/ev/schedule/> for the most up-to-date listing and event status. Thank you! <<

In Memoriam

Allen Ray "Chip" Loring, Jr.

Chip Loring, 69, passed away at home in Sandy, Utah on October 6th, 2020. He was a devoted ski teacher known for his uncanny ability to share the joy of skiing and beauty of the mountains. He knew instinctively how to keep his fellow adventurers smiling. Are your teeth dry yet? was one of the well-delivered sayings in an extensive catalogue of 'Chip'-isms he was known for.



Chip was born in Laconia, New Hampshire on August 21, 1951, and started skiing in his backyard at six years old. He taught himself and saved all his money to buy his first pair of skis. He also loved to hunt and fish. A favorite spring day was skiing in the morning and fishing in the afternoon. He was a member of the Lake Regionaires Drum and Bugle Corp.

In 1973 he left New Hampshire to seek adventure on the Alaska pipeline but detoured in Colorado where he found his calling. He taught skiing first at Estes Park and then at Crested Butte. During that time Chip joined the Professional Ski Instructors of America, and pursued certification through the association. He attained the highest level of certification while at Crested Butte. In the summer, he worked as a white-water rafting guide. He was sought out by boatmen and skiers alike because of the unique combination of his skill for navigating the natural world and his gift for connecting with people.

In the 1980s, he returned to New Hampshire and became the training manager for the Loon Mountain ski school. In 1989, he met and fell in love with Maggie Sjostrom, who was later hired as the children's program director. They joined forces and in 1992, left Loon to work for a new concept in ski teaching called Perfect Turn being rolled out at Sunday River, Maine. Both remained active as Examiners with PSIA. They married in 1995, with Maggie's two children, Josh and Karin, standing as Best Man and Best Woman, and Gus, their Labrador as their stand-up dog. For the next eight years, Chip was part of the group who developed Perfect Turn at eleven resorts across the United States and Canada, influencing many programs and hundreds of instructors.

After the children left for college, Chip and Maggie decided to head west again, eventually landing in Utah where they made their home. It quickly became the Red Sox Nation in Salt Lake City, as both Chip and Maggie were devoted life-long fans. In 2002, Maggie became the Snowsports School Director at Snowbird and Chip became the Adult Program Manager at The Canyons in Park City. They worked at separate resorts until Chip decided to teach at Snowbird in 2007. He learned the mountain contours quickly and under the tutelage of the legendary Junior Bounous, developed his unique guiding persona (inventing names for secret powder stashes to share with kids) and continued to master the art of teaching. Throughout his teaching career, he could often be found in the locker room or at the bar, explaining technical concepts to less experienced teachers, or lending an ear and cheering them on if they needed encouragement.

Chip loved old things and had a knack for arranging them into a story people could understand. Along with Keith Hanson, he created the Cottonwood Heritage Museum in Snowbird's Peruvian Tunnel, which illustrates the canyon's story from its early mining days. Chip spent many summers hunting for artifacts throughout Little Cottonwood Canyon and devising creative ways to transport them up to the tunnel. In 2013, Chip suffered a severe hiking accident and spent the rest of his life dealing with chronic pain.

Chip was a free spirit and often connected with young people who were discovering who they were. He was a careful, compassionate listener and a keen observer of both people and the natural world. He will live in our hearts, especially as we enjoy a hidden powder stash, watch a river run, or see a loon spread its wings over a New England lake.

Mermer Blakeslee had this to say about Chip: "Chip was one of the finest ski teachers I've ever known. He could understand a mountain—every knoll and dip— and he knew exactly how to share that intimate knowledge with his students, bringing them such joy, and revealing not only the mountain itself, but the essence of skiing. I will always be inspired by his gift."

Chip is survived by wife Maggie, stepson Joshua Sjostrom (wife Karyn Sjostrom), stepdaughter Karin Denholm (husband Andrew Denholm), grandson Miles Sheehan, brothers, Bret Loring (wife Krista) and Randy Loring.

His family is working on an instructor scholarship in his honor and other ways to memorialize Chip's life. Please consider a gift earmarked "in Chip's memory" to the Education Foundation

<https://thesnowpros.org/who-we-are/foundation-gifts/>.

Or, mail donations will be accepted. Specify "PSIA-AASI Education Foundation: in memory of Chip Loring"

PSIA-AASI

133 S. Van Gordon St., Suite 200, Lakewood, CO 80228 ☞

Craig E. Dininny

Craig E. Dininny, 71, of Lakewood, N.Y., passed away unexpectedly on Friday June 5 of an apparent heart attack while volunteering with community members to maintain the Youngsville Cemetery. He was born June 11, 1948, in Youngsville, Pa., to the late Paul and Ethel Dininny. He grew up in Youngsville attending school and graduating in 1966 from Youngsville High. He then attended Bryant & Stratton Business Institute in Buffalo, N.Y., completing a two-year Business course.



Craig was an expert alpine skier, learning to ski and then becoming an instructor in 1968 at the Youngsville Skiways, later known as the Buckaloons. He went to Stratton Mountain in 1972, taking the week long exam to become a full certified ski instructor. He later became the general manager of the Buckaloons / Peek'n Mountain ski area. He continued his ski teaching career at Holiday Valley in 1977 becoming a member of the 'Tech Team' leading clinics for the ski school staff and participating in the hiring and training of the new instructors. Craig was always quick to demonstrate on request tip stands, tip rolls, outriggers and double edge sets. He served as ski school director for the 1984-85 season and retired from ski teaching in 2005.

In 1986, Craig secured his real estate license and began a 31-year career first selling the Camelot condominiums at Peek n' Peak Resort and then in 1988 became an agent with Holiday Valley Realty. Personable, sociable and honest, he continued there until his retirement in 2017.

Craig enjoyed living at and spending time on Chautauqua Lake owning several boats over the years. Most recently he became involved with the Lawson Center, helping to restore several boats and helping to organize the annual Antique Boat Show at Bemus Point.

Craig was a great storyteller and could tell jokes one after another like no one we have ever known. He was a dear friend to so many, a joy to be around and always ready to help you in any way he could. Craig will be deeply missed and the many great memories will be carried on in the hearts of those who knew him.

In Memoriam

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Paulette Dininny. He is survived by his cousins and many friends.

Memorials may be made to the Lawson Center, 73 Lakeside Drive, Bemus Point, NY 14712 or to the Saron Lutheran Church, 148 W. Main St., Youngsville, PA 16371. <<

Earl Benjamin Whitmore Jr.

Earl Benjamin Whitmore Jr., age 53, of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, passed away at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care early in the morning on Saturday, September 5th, 2020 with his wife Jennifer by his side.

Earl was born in Oakland California on September 11th, 1966. He grew up primarily in San Mateo County, California with his parents, Earl B. Whitmore Sr. and Mary O'Connor. Earl moved to Massachusetts with his mother and finished high school at North Hampton H.S. He attended St. Michael's College where he earned his bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in 1991. He was married to Jennifer Alexander in 1995. They recently celebrated their 25th anniversary together.

Earl was a well-known member of the snow sports community, being part of the PSIA-E division for professional ski instructors of America for 30 years, as well as a member of the PSIA-E Advanced Children's Educator Team. He loved art, shooting, cycling, baseball umpiring, and was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox.

Earl is survived by his wife, Jennifer Alexander-Whitmore, and his son, Benjamin Whitmore of St. Johnsbury, Vermont. He is also survived by his step-mother, Beverly Whitmore, and his in-laws: John and Anne Alexander, John and Cheryl Alexander, Steve Alexander and Devon MacLeod, Sarah Janes Alexander, and Eben Alexander, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Condolences may be sent to 37 Spring Street, St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the PSIA-E "Terry Fund" in Earl's memory. Checks may be sent to PSIA-AASI: Eastern Division, 5 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203.

While no formal service will occur at this time, a celebration of life will be held at a later date due to Covid-19.

Memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.saylesfh.com

Note from Maureen BH Drumme, PSIA-E ACE Team

Earl "the Squirrel" Whitmore, my friend and team-mate was an Advanced Children's Educator since the late 1990's. I remember him coming to team practice for the first time like a nervous schoolboy. He slowly jumped in sharing information. He skied so smoothly and with confidence. As the years went on and all of our hair started turning grey... Earl's did not. He had this playfulness about him. His goal was to have fun, share his love for the sport and to make people laugh. He was always up to no good, texting during training to get the other teammates to do something they shouldn't. Or texting a funny picture of someone just at the right moment to make us burst into laughter during an important presentation. Some of my most memorable moments on the ACE team had something to do with Earl. But there was a more serious side to Earl. In his full-time job, Earl worked with Traumatic Brain Injured individuals. Helping them deal with the day to day that we take for granted. Sometimes taking a phone call during training to talk someone off of a ledge... he was so compassionate and gave everything he had to help someone else.

The ACE team had a zoom meeting recently to toast (or roast as he would prefer) Earl in all of his greatness. Some of the memories people talked about were; his snoring (nobody wanted to room with him), his ski fast-talk less style of conducting a group, his antics of once zip tying a luggage cart to Bob



Shostek's room, his green puffy LL Bean jacket, Rossignol skis & boots, his love to share the technical aspects of skiing, his love for the sport, his love for others and his love for his family.

On September 5th, Earl passed away from cancer. He fought the good fight but it was time for his moment on this earth to be done. Although, he is no longer walking the earth alongside us... he will always be with us. "The song has ended but the melody lingers on". Rest easy my friend, Earl the Squirrel. #cancersucks

It was Earl's wish to have a scholarship in his name. Please consider donating to the PSIA Terry Fund in Earl Whitmore's name. This would mean a lot to Earl, his family and the ACE Team. Thank you.

Note from Tina Buckley, PSIA-E ACE Team

Earl the Squirrel. We knew the day would come to say our final "good-bye's" but when it came it still hit us, hard and somehow even unprepared. The harsh reality of "this is it", the end, the book is closed. But wait, is it?

We did not spend a whole lot of time together, Earl, but when we did, it was always fun, exciting, special. Snow brought us together, teaching children brought us together, the ACE team was our common ground. We had meetings, indoors, where your thoughts brought the Team back on the right path, as you know we tend to venture off to all kinds of grounds, your comments demonstrated knowledge and enthusiasm and were always welcome. But what I remember most is the action you brought with you. Sitting still for a long period of time, no, that was so not you. Trying new things with the curiosity of a 5-year old, that was more like it. I still see you rip sticking down the wheelchair access at one of our indoor meetings, barely scraping the corners. All the time wearing this big smile on your face. We had training, outdoors on snow. Your skiing skills showed perfection and understanding. And every run we took you enjoyed, whether it was challenging or cruising.

"The song has ended, but the melody lingers on!" Maureen posted this on her Facebook and I agree with this 100%. Earl, you left a lot of notes to be sung, a lot of pages to be read, a lot of memories to be shared. We will continue without you in person, but with you in our hearts and minds. There will be situations where one of the ACE Teamers will suddenly laugh out loud, being reminded of something "Earlish". There will be a spontaneous story like "hey, remember when Earl did this and that...? We will ski and ride some turns in your memory and honor and we will remember "Earl the Squirrel" not just as an ACE Team member, but as a true friend.

Rest in Peace, my friend, but knowing you, you will read "RIP" and bring your heavenly rip stick out and go. <<

Gerardo Humberto "GH" Salazar Jr.

Gerardo Humberto "GH" Salazar Jr., 56, of Pocono Pines, Pa., passed away early Wednesday morning, September 16, 2020, after a two-and-a-half-year battle against Lymphoma. GH was surrounded by his family at his home in Pocono Pines at the time of his passing. He is now at peace and suffers no more.

GH, as he was known to everyone, was born February 9, 1964, in Cali, Colombia, South America, and emigrated as an infant to the U.S. with his parents, Dr. Gerardo Humberto Salazar Sr. and Amparo Navia de Salazar. His brother, Jorge H. Salazar, was born a year later.

The family eventually settled in Edison, N.J., where the brothers attended St. Matthew School in Edison, and St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, N.J., from which he graduated in 1982.



In Memoriam

In 1986, GH graduated from the University of Scranton with a degree in Business and Chemistry. After graduation, GH traveled to Germany where he lived for a year to study the German language and culture and then returned to the U.S. to begin a 32-year career in the brewing industry. The majority of his career was spent as a hops commodities broker, which required him to travel the world for months at a clip. During the course of his career, he visited exotic places, ate the best foods, and stayed in the best hotels. Over the years, fueled both by his career and passion for other cultures, GH became fluent in multiple languages, including German, Portuguese, and Japanese, in addition to English and Spanish. Towards the end of his career, GH became an independent consultant in the brewing industry.

To say GH had a passion for skiing would be an understatement. He could be found on the slopes a record number of days per year. His home mountain was Jack Frost Ski Resort in White Haven, Pa., where he taught and coached for years. GH was actively involved with the Professional Ski Instructors of America Eastern Division since 1982, and had secured his Level III certification and was most currently supporting the Alpine DEV team.

In addition to his parents and brother, GH is survived by Rozenilda, his wife of 18 years; his son, Jorge “Max”, daughters, Sofia L. and Carmen E.; and a very large extended family in the United States, Colombia, and Brazil.

To those who have been present in person or in spirit over the period of GH’s illness, the family are eternally grateful. You are too numerous to name. Many friends were able to come and visit GH at his home and bedside over the past several weeks. Cards, emails, and messages were read to him, and all this lifted his spirits. The in-person visits permitted for some great story telling and reminiscing.

Memorial announcements will be made on his Facebook page. In lieu of flowers or gift baskets to the home, donations may be made to the [American Cancer Society](https://www.cancer.org) at <https://www.cancer.org>

Note from Matt Dembinski, PSIA-E Examiner

“GH” Salazar Jr., passed away early Wednesday morning, 16 September 2020, after a two-and-one-half-year battle against Lymphoma.

To say that GH was passionate about skiing and teaching would be an understatement. He grew up skiing at Jack Frost Mountain, where he started his ski-teaching career in the late ‘70s as a junior instructor. He achieved Level 3 Alpine Certification in the ‘90s and also became a staff trainer at his beloved home mountain. He was a member of a remarkable group of Jack Frost/Big Boulder ski teachers who went on to become Ed Staff members. Most recently, GH served three terms on the DEV Team and was determined to achieve his dream of becoming an examiner. His determination to overcome any and all obstacles was legendary, and no one who knew GH doubted that he would succeed in that quest.

One of the most distinguishing things about GH was his ability to connect with people. Although I had observed this firsthand for as long as I knew him, I didn’t appreciate the full scope of his ability until witnessing his work on Ed Staff. He was a world traveler in his “real life” occupation and was also multilingual. After attending the 2019 Interski in Pamporovo, Bulgaria, he returned with tales of skiing with the various national delegations and sharing ideas in their native languages. It was a perfect opportunity for GH to showcase his talents and to perform at his personal best. I’m quite sure that he left an indelible impression on all involved.

In his last days, he showed his passion for his skiing family and friends by requesting that we all be there for him. As I stood by and watched him greet people from his bed, I was amazed that he was the one consoling us and not the other way around. He left us far too early and with so much yet to give. All who were lucky enough to ski with GH know that he sought joy in every turn and wanted to share that joy with us.

Rest in peace, GH. It will be our honor to continue your legacy in this world as you enjoy the snow in the next. We’ll take it from here, champ!

Your friend forever,
Matt Dembinski <<

Isadore “Izzy” Ture

Saratoga Springs, NY- Isadore (Izzy) John Ture, age 87, of Saratoga Springs, New York, passed peacefully with his family by his side on October 23, 2020. Born in Saratoga Springs on February 3, 1933, he was the only son of Isodoro Tur Guardiola and Julia Mangini Ture. A lifelong resident of Saratoga Springs, Izzy graduated from Saratoga Springs High School in 1951, served in the US Army from 1953–1955, and attended Union College. He married his true love, Kathryn Bernice Witkop on December 26, 1953. In 1953, Izzy began working for Callanan Industries, Inc., leading to a forty-five-year career. His strong work ethic and relentless pursuit of excellence enabled him to succeed in positions of increasing responsibility. At the age of 35, he became the youngest Vice President in Callanan’s 100-year history and remained in that position until his retirement in 2000. Izzy was known as a formidable executive with drive and determination who would accept no obstacle that impeded progress.

Izzy was introduced to skiing at the age of 8 when his parents purchased a set of wooden skis. Always one to tinker with his equipment, Izzy and his father screwed on segments of metal edging, enabling him to execute his first truly carved turn. He was hooked – skiing became his lifelong passion! In his early years, Izzy frequented Darrow’s Ski Hill in Greenfield Center. He taught skiing and racing at Skidmore College, then at Alpine Meadows in Porter Corners. At 30, he became the Ski School Director at Gore Mountain in its inaugural year. The next season, he began the West Mt. Racing Program, where he coached scores of athletes to state, national, collegiate and international levels. Later, Izzy became co-director of their ski school, before taking the reins as director and owner of the West Mountain Ski Shop. In 1979, he became the Technical Director of the Karl Plattner Ski School at Hunter Mountain Ski Bowl, a position where he achieved significant influence and made lifelong friends.

In 1974, Izzy became an Examiner for the Professional Ski Instructors Association- Eastern Division, and later served as the chairman of the PSIA Education Committee, chairman of the board of examiners, and served on the board of PSIA at a national level. In the face of significant opposition nationwide, Izzy drew a parallel between world-cup racers and the natural movement of children. With those similarities in mind, Izzy developed the Milestones Concept, which forever changed the American Ski Teaching Method to this day. For his significant contributions to the ski industry, Izzy was awarded Lifetime Membership at



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the Snowsports Management Seminar in 2001. Those who learned to ski under Izzy's guidance knew him as the "instructor's instructor." A strong mentor, he imbued all he encountered with his love for skiing and a deep commitment to technical expertise.

Izzy loved the outdoors and imparted his love for the Adirondacks to his family and friends. He led them on numerous hikes and backpacking trips and taught them to enjoy the splendor of the mountains and lakes of the North County. He enjoyed camping each summer at Cape Cod, preferring sleeping in a tent to posh accommodations as long as he was accompanied by his beloved children and grandchildren. His silly humor transformed every outing into an adventure, giving his family much to laugh about —memories that will sustain them in this time of grief.

A memorial service is planned at a later date at the home of Kevin and Judy Ture in Saratoga Springs, NY. The family requests that memorial contributions be directed to the Local Beach Wheelchair program at www.Smilemass.org. Izzy would be happy to know your contributions will enable more elderly and handicapped guests to enjoy the seashore as he and Katie did. Additionally, the family looks forward to hearing your condolences at www.burkefuneralhome.com or on Facebook.

Note from Suzy Chase-Motzkín, PSIA-E Alpine Examiner, former Snowsports Education Manager for Hunter Mountain

Isadore Ture, the PSIA-E Examiner better known to the skiing community as IJ, was the well-loved Drill Sergeant that brought out the "A" game in those he coached. Many heard his famous lines: "Hey, that thing you did there; is it more fun than skiing?", "A boulder can go down the hill fast, but it takes skill to go slow." and, "You can't drive the car from the back seat." We didn't feel insulted (much). We laughed and tried it again... and again... and again...

IJ facilitated a culture of training at Hunter Mountain during his stint as Assistant Director of the school. We didn't sit around drinking cocoa till the next lesson, he gathered us and we worked hard to perfect the demos and build dynamics; not only in our skiing but in our relationships. He fostered an environment where we cared about one another, even if it was to perform better so we would get nods of approval, rather than an IJ zinger. He had a great eye and a clever mind.

He gave the young screw-ups a second or third chance to "toe the line" instead of being fired. He knew of their potential and he fostered it. He was great with the guests; encouraging them and assuring them they had the best instructor. Trust was built before we even began the lesson. IJ understood. IJ cared. IJ will be missed, loved, and remembered fondly. <<

James P. "Jimmy V" Vorozilchak

James P. "Jimmy V" Vorozilchak, 61, of Scranton, died Sunday at home after a sudden cardiac event.

Born Dec. 19, 1958, in Scranton, Jimmy was the son of Lillian (Kervalavich) Vorozilchak, Scranton, and the late Phillip Vorozilchak. He graduated from Central High School and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from the University of Scranton.

Jimmy worked as a real estate appraiser for Kanton Realty Inc. and for Montage Mountain as a ski instructor and race coordinator for 36 years. He was a level 3 instructor in PSIA-AASI. Along with his more known professions, Jimmy modeled for the sports industry. Jimmy enjoyed fishing, skiing, cooking and gardening. He had a strong love for biking, running and triathlons. He was the king of fireworks and always had a stash at his family's home. He loved his animals, includ-



ing but not limited to dogs, cats, Muscovy ducks and turtles. Most of all, Jimmy loved his family. He was an amazing father and wonderful son.

Surviving, in addition to his mother, are his children, Sasha and Pavel Vorozilchak, of Archbald; one sister, Phyllis Ruzbarsky and husband, Joe, of Clarks Summit; his aunt, Monica Kashuba; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by brother, David Phillip Vorozilchak.

In lieu of flowers, there will be a Jim Vorozilchak Memorial Scholarship created. Memorial contributions may be made to Alexandra and Pavel Vorozilchak, P.O. Box 41, Archbald, PA 18403. <<

Peter White Holland

Peter White Holland, 74, also known as "Chewy", but definitely not "Mr. Holland", passed away on July 20, 2020 after a brief illness. He was a resident of Brookfield, NH.

Born in Portland, ME on September 29, 1945, Peter was the son of Barbara (Healey) and Robert Cades Holland. He grew up in Andover, MA and moved to Bedford, NH in 1980 where he spent 35 years raising his family before retiring to Brookfield.

Peter's early education began at the Pike School in Andover where his avid appreciation for the fun in life became apparent. He ended up spending more time on the bench outside the Headmaster's office than in class. But that was ok. He later graduated from the Canterbury School in CT, where he earned the nickname "Chewy" for his enthusiastic caloric intake prior to football games.

Peter worked at Worthen Industries, headquartered in Nashua, NH as a Business Unit Manager for 43 years before retiring last February. He also served on its Board of Directors. In his recent retirement he was appointed to the Planning Board for Brookfield.

Beyond work and family, skiing was his greatest passion. A hockey player in his earlier years, Peter was introduced to skiing at Black Mountain when he was 12 years old. It was all downhill from there because he became obsessed with all things skiing and never missed an opportunity to talk about it; winter, spring, summer and fall. In 1980 he became an instructor at Pats Peak in Henniker, NH where he worked for his wife, the other love of his life, until she retired 2017.

Peter also spent years coaching aspiring racers at Waterville Valley, Franconia Ski Club and most recently at Abenaki Ski Club. Through his coaching of athletes (and parents of athletes), he tried to foster a love of the sport rather than a focus on short term results.

Peter had a unique perspective of the ski industry in that he always tried to merge ski instruction with ski racing. He established a two-day New Hampshire Alpine Racing Association (NHARA)/Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) coaching clinic for both instructors and coaches who came from all over New England to attend. This was a source of great pride for him and he looked forward to it every year. Peter logged every day he spent skiing in his calendar and was very proud of being on snow at least 100 days a season.

He was a longtime member of the NHARA Board of Trustees, a level three Technical Delegate, a level three Certified Instructor with PSIA and Treasurer of the Eastern Division of PSIA. These were the only accolades he cared about.



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He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Roberta (Avery) Holland; a sister Elizabeth (Holland) Vaughan of Brunswick, ME; a son Robert Cades Holland II and his wife Genevieve of Hopkinton, NH; a daughter Avery Holland Murdock and her husband Colin of Andover, MA; and four grandchildren, Parker Bye Murdock, Peter White Holland II, Wyatt James Warfield Holland and Grace Farnsworth Murdock (who he nicknamed Eloise for reasons still unknown to her... or to anyone else). All of whom will miss him beyond words.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Friends of Abenaki, Inc., P.O. Box 506, Wolfeboro, NH, 03894 or to Pats Peak Educational Foundation, PO BOX 698, Henniker, NH 03242 for the Peter Holland Scholarship Fund.

Due to the coronavirus, there will be no service until spring, but in the meantime, well-wishers are enthusiastically encouraged to drink a Coors light (bottle only please) and eat a hot dog or two (natural casing of course), in his honor.

A Tribute to “Chewy”

By Ross Boisvert, Eastern Division Board Chair
G.M., McIntyre Ski Area, NH

Peter “Chewy” Holland. Chewy was such an amazing person, friend, and colleague. His life defines the words love, family, his wife Bertie, friends & everything skiing. I absolutely loved him and thought the world of him. I loved his passion and his ability to say, “Don’t worry about it,” and, “It’s no big deal.” He had this special way about him to always encourage people; it didn’t matter if they were going for their level 1, 2 or 3 certification or it was a young athlete’s first time down the race course - Peter was the voice of support.

Peter achieved his Alpine Level III at the age of 63 and was so proud of his accomplishments. He became a member of the Eastern Board of Directors in 2015. He always had great insight and contributed greatly to our organization. He held great accomplishments of skiing – Technical Delegate USSA, Level 300 USSA, PSIA level III and has countless volunteer hours on the side of many ski hills and many more I’m sure.

Peter was an amazing passionate, loving and giving person. He was truly larger than life and his passion for snowsports was infectious. Chewy you will be greatly missed. Thank you for your encouragement, friendship, passion and all the cocktails on the dock at your lake house. My thoughts, love and prayers to the Holland Family -- Bertie, Robbie, and Avery. I love you my friend. May every day be a powder day.

Tribute to Peter Holland

By Kris Blombeck
General Manager, Pats Peak, NH

The Holland family meant the world to Pats Peak and I know they lived and breathed everything about PSIA. His mission in life was to transform people into the best skier they could be. Peter along with the entire Holland family converted more skiers – to the best they can be - than anyone else I know. Equally, the world also lost an ambassador of passion in skiing and the loss of that energy is devastating.

Not only was Peter a great inspiration to us at Pats Peak he was also a great friend. The passing of Peter Holland has left a big hole in the heart of Pats Peak. Our condolences are always with Bertie, Robbie, Avery and the entire extended family and as only Chewy would have it -- that was plenty of words — now let’s get back to skiing. ☞

Richard N. Stevens Jr.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Richard N. Stevens Jr. passed away Friday, May 15 after a brief stay at Cheshire Medical Center. He was 82 years old. He was born June 18, 1937, the son of Richard Stevens and Margaret (Brown) Stevens. He lived in Springfield, Vt. Dick graduated from Springfield High School in 1955.

After high school, he joined the Army and spent the first part of his enlistment in New Jersey and Maryland as an Army photographer and later, stationed in Alaska, as a member of the Army Biathlon Ski Team. In 1960, he enrolled at Michigan State University, graduating with honors with a degree in landscape architecture. He married Janet Whipple and had two sons. Later divorced, he raised both kids as a single parent. In addition to his career as an architect, he worked alongside his parents operating Skyline Nursery. In 1984 he married Shannon with whom he spent the rest of his life.

Besides family and career, Dick had many passions in life. Above all, skiing brought him the most joy. He worked as a professional ski instructor for over 60 years, spending a large part of his career at Okemo Mountain in Ludlow. He was an avid gardener and plant person and a member of the International Plant Propagators Society. In addition to raising plants, he became skilled in countless ways related to running the farm. He could, and compulsively would, fix anything. When not working, he enjoyed making wine and picking the five-string banjo.

Dick was predeceased by his sisters Nancy and Alice and also his oldest son Hans. He is survived by his wife Shannon, his son Hugh, and his brother Eric. He also had numerous stepchildren, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. He will be buried at the Weathersfield Bow Cemetery.

Note from Marty Harrison, Former Ski School Director, Okemo Mt. Resort

The Okemo Ski and Ride School lost a legend when Dick Stevens passed away on May 15 at the age of 82 after a period of ill health. In the “real world”, Dick was a landscape architect who owned and operated Skyline Nursery, a family business in Springfield, Vt. This enabled Dick to teach skiing full-time during the winter for most of his life. He was a man of many interests: playing the banjo, photography both in the army and later, raising and canning vegetables, making tasty and potent elderberry and blackberry wine, as well as being on the biathlon team in the army. He had a large garage full of every tool known to man, carefully organized on the walls and in drawers. Dick could make or fix just about anything. He once made a fully functional pogo stick for the staff to give to me at our season-end party.

As an instructor, trainer, and supervisor at Okemo for more years than I can count (and for a few years at Sunapee), Dick was known as a man of great wisdom and few words. His solution to a skiing problem was often given in just one sentence, occasionally less. His one-liners are famous in the ski school, as was his humor which also was usually given as a one-sentence punch line. In his younger days, Dick was a beautiful and graceful skier. Flying royal christies were his specialty, but he could also show many different and older techniques to the younger staff. He was very proud of his 50-year pin from PSIA-AASI. Dick Stevens was a skilled and well-loved clinician and teacher who will be missed by all who knew him. ☞

In Memoriam

Salvatore Giammona

If you ever shared a chairlift with Salvatore Giammona, there's a good chance you made a friend for life.

Salvatore was many things to many people. He lived a storied life: he was a satellite technician, a pilot, he owned an amazing horse, he was a cruise ship entertainer, a performing magician, a hardware store operator, a certified Canadian Ski Instructor, a certified PSIA Ski Instructor, a Children's Specialist, a child at heart, and a man of the world. He was a loving and doting husband to Eileen. He was an overwhelmingly supportive friend to many. And he was the constant source of a smile for everyone he interacted with.

Salvatore thrived on learning just as much as he thrived on teaching. He enjoyed several clinics each year to work on his own skills and always volunteered to take a new instructor under his wing to help show them the ropes. He (and his wife, Eileen, who was always by his side) were always the first two staff members ready for morning training, as well as morning line-up; both were exemplary examples of professionalism and the model of "we make winter more fun!" Granted, they arrived very early each weekend day so they could socialize *and* get their boots on to make that happen, but they were still the first two instructors ready!

Salvatore – or "Hot Tub Sal" as some called him – didn't leave anything on the table in this life and it was a joy sharing time with him during our adventures on and off snow. Many will always remember the childish smile on his face after working with a snow student or playing a little prank on us; it was his little wink to acknowledge something special. We traveled together, skied together, learned together, and played together. We laughed a lot...and I mean, a lot. Seeing him laugh to the point of tears, and seeing that boyish smile, that was heartwarming.

The Bear Creek Snowsports School is devastated by his loss and will remember him fondly as we honor his legacy of helping people learn, smile, and enjoy life to the fullest each day. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Salvatore's wife, Eileen, as well as his family and friends. We hope that the next time we meet, Sal has found some great powder for us to play in, has more stories to tell, and has his boots on so we can play. We will cherish the many memories we made together and remain thankful we had the opportunity to share you in our lives. Rest easy, Sal, we love and miss you.

Brian J. Nuss
PSIA Alpine Level 3
Bear Creek Mountain Resort <<

Scott J. Riel

Scott Joseph Riel, 69, died on May 31, 2020, after a long illness. He passed peacefully at home, with loved ones by his side.

Scott was born on June 7, 1950, in Manchester, NH, to Joseph A. Riel and Patricia M. (Jennings) Riel. He attended Manchester Public Schools, graduating from Memorial High School in 1968. He studied art, earning a BA from Plymouth State College in 1974 and a Master of Fine Arts from Michigan State University in 1976.



Salvatore pictured with his wife of 53 years, Eileen, at Bear Creek Mountain Resort where he proudly taught for 14 years. Photo credit: Tina Buckley



He married Pamela Mack in 1973, and they had one child, Rebecca. They made their home in Manchester from 1976 until his death. Scott was a talented artist, woodworker, luthier and avid skier. His talents were realized in his drawings, paintings, custom cabinetry and beautiful hand-crafted guitars. In these works, he left a tangible legacy which will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

Scott loved to ski, rock climb and spend time in the mountains. He was a ski instructor and supervisor at Mount Sunapee Learning Center for 27+ years...this was truly his happy place. He taught indoor and outdoor rock climbing at the Allard Center in Goffstown and enjoyed many rock-climbing outings, including scaling Cannon Mountain.

Scott taught art classes at Manchester Institute of Art and was an adjunct art instructor at Plymouth State College. His paintings were displayed at the Currier Gallery of Art, Plymouth State, AVA Art Gallery and Michigan State. Members of his family include: his wife, Pamela Riel of Manchester; his daughter, Rebecca Riel Beauchemin and her husband Peter, of Bedford, NH; his sister, Debra Dubisz and her husband Edward of Manchester; two grandchildren, Parker and Brynn Beauchemin.

He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Steven Riel. A private family gathering is planned.

Memorial donations may be made to Home Health & Hospice Care, 7 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack NH 03054.

Note from Sandie Webb-Peabody:

Scott Riel was a dear friend of many of us who worked at Mount Sunapee during the past three decades. Scott, an Alpine Level III teacher, was our full-time training supervisor for the latter half of his career at Sunapee.

Scott was a soft-spoken, kind man who always gave his full attention to whomever sought his advice or help. In addition to Scott's work at Mt. Sunapee, he was a fine cabinetmaker, luthier and artist. Scott's dry sense of humor befitted his quiet nature. He was truly one of those special people who make a life a little better for having known him. <<

Timothy C. Hedrick

Easton, MA - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Timothy C. Hedrick on Monday, August 31, 2020, after his long struggle with diabetes and health issues from a stroke in 2010.

Tim, 52, was born December 26, 1967 in Providence, Rhode Island, grew up in Easton, MA and graduated from Southeastern Regional High School in 1985.

Tim was preceded in death by his father Thomas J. Hedrick of South Easton, MA, grandparents Charles and Winifred Hedrick of Randolph, MA and grandparents Charles and Irene Prentiss of Ayer, MA. Tim is survived by his mother Carole Hedrick of Easton, brother Tom Hedrick and his wife Jodi Hedrick of Seekonk, MA, brother Terry Hedrick and his wife Lindsey Hedrick of Easton, MA, brother Todd Hedrick and his wife Kimberly Hedrick of Easton, MA.

Tim loved to entertain his family and friends. Whether it was playing the piano or cooking up a fabulous meal, it was his goal to ensure everyone was having fun. He acquired his musical talents from his mother and father both of who were music teachers. His talent allowed him to



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play in various bands from Tarrytown, NY to Fairhaven, MA with the band called Overboard. His passion for music showed through on stage or in the comfort of his living room or backyard. Tim was full of adventure. His talents expanded beyond music, as he was an accomplished skier who earned his Professional Ski Instructors Level 3 certification. He was the ski coach at Oliver Ames High School and a ski instructor at Mount Snow and Stratton. Additionally, he worked for Rossignol ski company, as a Marketing Sales Representative.

Another passion of Tim's was boating and fishing. He was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary – New Bedford Flotilla 1N65. He captained many family outings on his boat. Whether it was trolling for striped bass in Buzzards Bay or reeling in monster sharks on the Vineyard, the water was where Tim wanted to be. He participated in the Monster Shark tournaments for many years. In July 2005, he was part of the Bobby's Girl IV fishing crew who won the

19th Annual Oak Bluffs Monster Shark Tournament.

Tim's professional career started in Boston in sales, then moving to Tarrytown, NY in 1992 where he held Account Management positions and then ventured to New York City. He also worked at a local ski shop in Tarrytown. He moved back home in 1999 and worked for AOL in Boston. Tim married Theresa Bouchard and resided in Fairhaven, MA for 11 years with their cats and dog Gracie.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you please donate to the Type 1 diabetes foundation at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/seekonk-policefire/jimmoore16>

A celebration of Tim's life will be at a time and date yet to be determined. He wished to be cremated and his ashes spread into Buzzards Bay. ☹☹

» Fall 2020 Education Update, continued from cover

Resort rules rule

We will follow the regulations that individual resorts have in place. Depending on the resort, this may or may not include booting up in the parking lot. Consider having a pair of "Cat –tracks" for the walk from the parking lot!

Group sizes will be smaller

We will have a maximum of eight students in a group this year, as opposed to 10 in a group in prior seasons. Some events will have less than eight in each group to comply with resort protocols.

Who is that masked man?

Masks will be the rule. Whenever we are inside, or cannot maintain proper social distancing while outdoors, we will respect the health and wellbeing of others by wearing an appropriate facial covering. Your mouth and nose will need to be covered whenever social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Interstate Travel may be restricted

Currently, many states have travel restrictions. These restrictions are likely to change as the season progresses. When planning to attend an event, please read the travel restrictions for the state where the event will be held, so that you are not caught in a situation where you may be required to quarantine for several weeks to be in compliance with the state laws.

Some events may have a smaller number of openings

The travel restrictions that affect our members when they plan for an event also affect us by limiting where we can send our Education Staff. This will likely result in us having to limit the number of groups for many of our events. When you sign up for an event, you may be placed on a waitlist. We will do our best to find additional staff members for that event if possible.

The event schedule is likely to change

With the afore-mentioned travel restrictions, our event schedule is likely to change as we near the season, and as the season progresses. Currently I am optimistic about running smaller events at many different resorts this winter. I am hopeful that we may be able to offer a big **Spring Rally**, and maybe even a spring version of the **Pro Jam/Masters Academy**, but we will have to play with the cards that COVID-19 deals us. Please check the event schedule on a regular basis, as more events may open up.

Weekend events are scarce

Many resorts are anticipating restricted capacities this winter. Due to these restrictions, most resorts will not be in a position to provide comp or discounted tickets on the weekends. With that in mind, we did not schedule weekend events this year. We will be happy to provide in-house events on the weekends for the resorts that are willing to host us.

We may not hold events at some of our traditional resorts

Due to resorts having limited capacities, many resorts are expecting weekdays will become a popular option for their guests. This may limit the availability of comp tickets at some resorts, even during traditionally slow periods. We are currently working to ensure that our events are scheduled at resorts that continue to offer complimentary tickets for our members who are participating in those events.

We have to take care to be mindful of the health of those around us

The Education Staff will be under orders to cancel out of events if they discover that they have been exposed to COVID-19, or if they develop any of the symptoms of COVID-19. We hope and expect that any members attending an event will do the same. Our cancellation policy will be very lenient for anyone who needs to cancel due to illness, or exposure to COVID-19. I'm not sure who first said this, but a phrase to keep in mind when you are about to head for the mountains to ski or ride and take part in a clinic or an exam is, "Don't be the reason we ended the season."

What it all means

We are looking forward to getting back on the hills and mountains, and to once again feel the exhilaration and joy that skiing and snowboarding bring us. We are also looking forward to getting together to share our insights on the People Skills, Teaching Skills, and the Technical Skills that are legs of the Learning Connection Model. We are committed to doing this as safely as possible and within the guidelines set by the states where we ski and ride and by the individual resorts that are gracious enough to host our events. Remember that our event schedule is likely to change as guidelines from the states are just being announced. We will do our best to offer a variety of events near your home mountains and we will continue to offer webinars and on-line course that will allow you the option of earning education credits from the comfort of your home.

Be safe, be considerate, and we will see you on the slopes soon! ☹☹

People Skills Assessment

By Tony Bailey

AASI-E Development Team

Seasonal Programs Manager, Stratton Mountain, VT

By now you've probably seen or heard something about the "Learning Connection Model" which covers the relationship between student and teacher through technical skills, teaching skills, and people skills. To paint with broad strokes, these are the pieces that go into creating a successful lesson.

Technical skills focus on riding proficiency, cause and effect, movement analysis, etc. Teaching skills focus on how you're presenting information and People Skills focus on building a relationship between student and instructor through trust and respect.

Most of us are familiar with working on our technical skills and our teaching skills but may not have put much thought into improving our people skills. When I started teaching, I heard people talk about how snowsports schools "hire personality" and then teach them how to ride/teach if needed. The thought was that your people skills are what they are and can't be changed the same way your riding or teaching skills can be. Thankfully this is not true and these skills can be practiced and improved upon.

The same way saying "I want to improve my riding" is vague and potentially overwhelming, saying you want to improve your people skills can be the same if you're not breaking it down into manageable pieces. For starters, let's look at what the People Skills Fundamentals are:

- Develop relationships based on trust.
- Engage in meaningful, two-way communication.
- Identify, understand, and manage your emotions and actions.
- Recognize and influence the behaviors, motivations, and emotions of others.

A common thread that is woven through all of these fundamentals is empathy. Being empathetic to the people you're interacting with will help break down social barriers and allow deeper and more meaningful connections. In a lesson, a more meaningful connection between students and teacher will lead to a greater level of trust. Once these have been established, learning and progression will follow with

greater ease. It's important to remember that these fundamentals are not simply things you can check off a list, instead they are building blocks that should be built upon throughout the lesson. The goal is to take each piece and use it to create a solid foundation as you work towards accomplishing the student's goals. To relate this back to teaching/technical skills, we don't teach people how to change edges before we've taught them how to balance and control themselves on each edge.

I think it's also important to understand that there's a difference between personality and people skills. The goal is not to change your personality but to improve on the way you connect with different people. I wrote an article in the [Winter 2020 issue of the SnowPro](#) (Page 20) called "Know Your Audience" that goes into detail about connecting with different people and how to be cognizant of your mannerisms and how to adjust them to better connect with students. It may be helpful to go back and read it if you're looking for more clarification about the People Skills fundamentals.

Now that you have an understanding of what people skills are, you may be wondering how we will assess this in an exam format. Just like our focus for assessing riding, there's no right or wrong way when it comes to your people skills. Different things will work for different people, the same way different movement patterns will be more or less efficient based on terrain, conditions, physical characteristics, etc. This means that we're not looking for all candidates to act the same way but instead use the fundamentals listed above in order to create a safe, fun, and successful environment throughout the exam. Below are some helpful Do's and Don'ts to keep in mind for your exam:

Do:

- Get to know your other group members
- Ask questions to develop an understanding of who they are
- Share information about yourself so your group members can get to know you
- Create an environment based on teamwork and help your group members whenever possible

Don't:

- Try to change your personality during the exam
- Put your group members in unsafe situations
- Create an environment of competition
- Put down your group members

The addition of the people skills fundamentals to the assessment form is not meant to make the exam process any harder, instead it provides an additional opportunity for examiners to give you feedback on what you do well and what you can improve upon. At the exam, just be yourself, try to have as much fun as possible, and create lasting relationships with your other group members. «



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are the next
best things to
having wings*

AASI-E Education Staff Development Team Tryout in 2021

By Brian Donovan

AASI-E Advisor

AASI-E Examiner and Eastern Team Member

AASI-E Education Staff Development Tryout in 2021

We are continuously seeking talented, passionate, and inspirational AASI members to join the AASI-E Education Staff. We will be hosting an AASI-E Development (“Dev”) Team Tryout in the spring of 2021 at Stowe, Vermont. The 3-day tryout process will be open to any AASI Level 3 certified instructor in good standing. This is a prime opportunity for candidates to display their talents and potentially be selected as part of the AASI-E Education Staff. Before you commit to the tryout, there are some important things you should note:

1. You should be an inspiring instructor, clinician, rider and AASI member! This should go without saying. You should want to share your knowledge and experience with others as we all strive to continuously improve our snowboarding skills and ability to teach others.
2. You should love to travel...on a budget. The Eastern Division is enormous! We host events in over a dozen states from Maine to Tennessee. If you are selected to the Development Team, you should be prepared to visit lots of new resorts, put lots of mileage on your vehicle, and be comfortable sleeping on a couch or a floor from time to time.
3. Speaking of vehicles – You should have a reliable form of transportation. You’ll want to ensure that you’re able to safely and reliably travel to all of these new resorts you’ll be visiting.
4. You should know that it’s a large time commitment – As a Development Team member, you will be expected to commit fifteen to twenty days per winter on snow dedicated to training and understudying other Education Staff members running events.
5. Making the Development Team is like winning the lottery – if the lottery paid out its winnings in education and knowledge, instead of currency you can spend. Quality coaching, knowledge, and improving your skills through understudy opportunities is the compensation you will receive. Being on the Dev Team is very similar to an unpaid internship, and most of your time spent on the Dev Team doesn’t come with a paycheck...to start.
6. The AASI-E Development Team is not AASI Level 4. The Development Team Tryout is a **JOB INTERVIEW** for a position as part of a travel-

ing snowboard school for instructors. You should know this coming in. At the Dev Team Tryout, you will be spending 3 days and evenings teaching, riding, running clinics, giving indoor presentations, sitting through interviews, and displaying to the selection committee what qualities and skills you bring to the table that would benefit the membership of the AASI-E community. The selection committee will be looking for talented individuals who can become the AASI-E Examiners of the future.

7. The timeline from Dev Team tryout to becoming an Examiner typically looks like this:
 - a. You are selected to become a Dev Team member at a competitive tryout! Heck yes! Nice job!
 - b. You spend 3-4 years on the Development Team training to become a better clinician, rider, coach, and instructor. You will write articles for the SnowPro. You will understudy other Education Staff members running clinics and exams. You will attend annual training sessions and contribute to Education Staff conversations, homework assignments, and production of content for the membership. You might even start to run some clinics and Level 1 Exams. You will have your performance and development annually assessed by the AASI-E Teams Coach and Steering Committee.
 - c. If the AASI-E Steering Committee feels that you are developing the skills to become an Examiner one day, you will be elevated to the AASI-E Examiner Training Squad (ETS). You will typically spend 2-4 years on ETS attending annual trainings, writing articles, contributing positively to the AASI-E Education Staff and community, running education events, running Level 1 Exams, and learning how to run and score Level 2 and Level 3 Exams. You will have your performance and development annually assessed by the AASI-E Teams Coach and Steering Committee.
 - d. If the AASI-E Steering Committee feels confident in your development and ability to run Exams, you will be elevated to AASI-E Examiner status. Once you are an Examiner, you will continue to attend annual trainings, contribute to the AASI-E community and Education staff, and run educational clinics and Exams. The AASI Examiner Coach and Steering Committee will annually review your performance.

If you’re still reading and you’re still interested, check out the AASI-E Event Schedule. There are Dev Team Tryout Prep events (mock tryouts for practice) and an official AASI-E Development Tryout at Stowe in April.

I’m looking forward to seeing you all there! <<



AASI Update: New Assessment Form for AASI Exams

By Brian Donovan

AASI-E Advisor

AASI-E Examiner and Eastern Team Member

Attention all snowboarders: We have a new AASI-E Assessment Form that we will begin using for the 2020-2021 winter season (included below). Here are some highlights:


- The new AASI-E Assessment Form is rooted in The Learning Connection Model. At Exams, you will be assessed on your Teaching Skills, Technical Skills, and People Skills, and how you utilize those skills to demonstrate your abilities to teach lessons that are student centered. Your students are the center of this model, and all of your decisions, behaviors, and actions will affect their ability to learn and progress.
- The new AASI-E Assessment Form includes the new 6-point scoring scale. Candidates at Exams will need to receive a minimum score of 4 in all categories in order to successfully demonstrate the skills needed to pass sections of the Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Exams. This 6-point scoring scale has been adopted by all disciplines and all Divisions of PSIA-AASI as we make efforts to create consistency throughout the entire country and within all disciplines.

- The MA and Technical Knowledge section will be the section where your technical understanding and ownership of concepts and snowboard instruction knowledge will be assessed. These knowledge scores will be assessed through, but not limited to, teaching segments, question and answer segments, and group and individual discussions during Exam days.
- The Teaching Methodology section will be the section where your knowledge of teaching and learning concepts is assessed. These teaching scores will be assessed through, but not limited to, teaching segments, quick tips, and clinics that you run on Exam days.
- The Riding section will be the section where your riding ability is assessed. These riding scores will be assessed through riding activities on Exam days.

*Please note: MA and Technical Knowledge, Teaching, and Riding scores will all be based on the PSIA-AASI Snowboard National Standards appropriate to Levels 1, 2, or 3. These National Standards can be found on the www.thesnowpros.org website.

**Please note: We are not changing the format or process of our Exams at this time. The new AASI-E Assessment Form will simply be a new and improved Assessment Form used to score Exams following the same formats as in prior years.

If you are preparing for an Exam this season, or you are helping others prepare for Exams this season, please make sure you familiarize yourself with this new Assessment Form. We're really excited to deliver this new and improved version that better highlights The Learning Connection Model. <<



PSIA AASI

AASI-E ASSESSMENT FORM

Candidate: _____

#: _____ Date: _____ Day: 1 2 3 Exam Level: 1 2 3 RR

Assessment by: _____ Signature: _____

MA and Technical Knowledge Assessment:			Attain Level						Maintain Level					
MA and Technical Knowledge Feedback														
Biomechanics, Movement Concepts	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Performance Concepts	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Equipment Knowledge	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Teaching and Learning Concepts	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Cause and Effect Relationship	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Movement Analysis	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
CAP Model, Student Profiles	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Lesson Content & Accurate Feedback	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
People Skills Fundamentals	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		

Teaching Methodology Assessment:			Attain Level						Maintain Level					
Teaching Methodology Feedback														
Group Safety, Responsibility Code, Park SMART	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Communication Skills	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Presentation of Logical Progressions	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Accurate Explanations & Demonstrations	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Appropriate Use of Feedback Models	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Group Handling (Terrain, Task, Skill Level)	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Pace: Talk vs Action	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Service Concepts, Professionalism	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		

Topic(s) that you taught: _____

Teaching, MA, and Technical Knowledge Comments (optional): _____

Maintain Level	R	1	2	3		Circle (if applicable)	
Attain Level		1	2	3		Riding Retake	Written Incomplete

This assessment form is for members and the Education Staff to assess performance against the written AASI National Standards. Score proficiency in each element using the following scale (candidates must receive scores of 4 or higher in all categories to attain level):

6: This element appears continuously, at a superior level

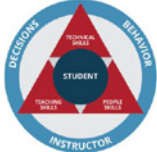
5: This element appears frequently, above required level

4: This element appears regularly at a satisfactory level

3: This element appears, but not with the necessary consistency

2: This element is beginning to appear

1: This element was not observed or is not present



Riding Assessment:			Attain Level						Maintain Level					
Riding Feedback														
Versatility	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Stability (Balance & Alignment)	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Movement: Effective Rotation	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Movement: Effective Flexion/Extension	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Timing, Intensity, Duration	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Performance: Turn Shape & Size, Board Control	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Skidded Turns on Certification appropriate terrain	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Carved Turns on Certification appropriate terrain	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Ungroomed and Varied Terrain (Moguls & Trees)	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Freestyle/Terrain Park Skills	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1		

Riding Comments (optional): _____

Additional Comments: _____

American Association of Snowboard Instructors – Eastern Division Rev. 10/2020

AASI Update: Open Position on the AASI Steering Committee

By Brian Donovan
AASI-E Advisor

AASI-E Examiner and Eastern Team Member

Attention Snowboarders!!! The AASI-Eastern Division Steering Committee is looking for members interested in joining the Steering Committee. A “Member-At-Large” position on the AASI-E Steering Committee will be opening up in the spring of 2021, and we are looking for the next person to sit in that seat.

What does this mean?

- Whether you know it or not, AASI-E has a Steering Committee that works to create content, develop programming, evaluate the performance and direction of the Education Staff, and make decisions on policies and procedures that govern the education and certification events in the Eastern Division. The Steering Committee helps to manage the yearly operations for the AASI-E Education Staff and members.
- The “Member-At-Large” position on the AASI-E Steering Committee is a volunteer position that helps to shape the direction of AASI in the Eastern Division.
- The “Member-At-Large” helps to represent the AASI-E membership and ensures that the Steering Committee is making decisions that are in the best interest of the membership and in line with the mission and vision of the Eastern Division and PSIA-AASI as a whole.
- The “Member-At-Large” has the ability to make motions to the AASI-E Steering Committee and also has the responsibility to vote on all motions brought before the Steering Committee.

The extra details:

- The “Member-At-Large” is open to any member of the Eastern Division that is a current AASI Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 certified instructor in good standing.
- The “Member-At-Large” will be required to participate in up to six AASI-E Steering Committee meetings/calls annually. Some meetings occur via conference call and some meetings occur in person at pre-selected events/locations.
- It will be the responsibility of the “Member-At-Large” to either travel to the location of the Steering Committee meetings or to conference call into all meetings. All Steering Committee members are volunteer positions and do not include travel reimbursement or a wage.
- The “Member-At-Large” will serve a 3-year term beginning in the spring of 2021.

If you are interested in a position on the AASI-E Steering Committee, you will need to submit the following:

- Resume
- A brief position statement regarding your beliefs about the needs of AASI-E members and how you plan to best represent those members’ needs as part of the AASI-E Steering Committee.
- Submit your Resume and position statement to Brian Donovan (mrbrandonovan@hotmail.com) by no later than December 30, 2020.

The Steering Committee will vote to select the most qualified candidate. The new “Member-At-Large” will be announced in a future SnowPro issue.

Thank you to Tom “Two Guns” Mulligan for serving as the “Member-At-Large” on the AASI-E Steering Committee for the past 3 years! Tom was a terrific representative for the membership of the Eastern Division and we thank him for his service. <<

Education Foundation

News

Education Foundation Donors

The PSIA-E Education Foundation expresses its sincere appreciation to the following members who have contributed at least \$50.00 to the Foundation through the annual dues “add-on” program and standalone donations since May. Since no dues or program fees go to the EF, contributions are the primary source of support for the Foundation and its scholarships. Thank you!

Richard A. Adams
William B. Allen
Terrence Barbour
Craig W. Baum
Thomas Behr
Bruce G. Bennett
Daniel Bensen
Wayne Berthiaume
Tom Bird
Ross Boisvert
Andrew Z. Borbas
Virginia H. Bousum
Michael F. Briggs
Paul R. Buccheri
Martina Buckley
Herbert W. Burnham
Deborah E. Butts
William C. Calderara
Robin Calitri
Linda J. Carabis-Brown
Thomas D. Chase
Paul G. Childs
David F. Clune
Peter Comiski

Robbin Comiski
Eugene C. Connell
Christina Cosentini
John E. Cossaboom
Kathryn Y. Cowdery
Ralph B. Currey
Carla De Mendonca
Robert L. Del Boca
Robert J. Deutsch
Robert DiMario
Patrick J. Dougherty
Richard Downing
Anonymous
Dan Earley
Karen M. Earley
John M. Eason
Nicholson Eastman
David E. England
Herb Eschbach
F. Dennis Fahey
Donald R. Falardeau
David L. Farrell
Gault M. Farrell
Steven J. Favorite

Howard B. Foltz
Dale R. Fox
William F. Fusco
Robert E. Gallo
Mark Gemmiti
Steven M. Gevarter
Katherine M. Giannini
Reinaldo Gonzalez
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Douglas Hammond
Joseph C. Hill
Frank T. Hirai
Dwight Holland
Peter Holland
Michael S. Holt
Robert G. Howard
Richard Jackson
Robin L. Jackson
Lynn Johnson
Murray Johnson
Kirk E. Jordan
Peter U. Jucker
Michael P. Keane
Karlis V. Kopans

Ron Kubicki
Keith Lawrence
Fred R. Leff
Mark Lindberg
Bruce Livingston
Amanda M. Lopez
Robert Malecki
Stacy T. Malecki
Richard Marron
Jeannie E. Masters
Michael E. McCabe
James P. McHale
Gerard G. Meyer
Robert Montbach
Stephen D. Moore
Juliet M. Moringiello
Mike Murdock
Leslie R. Nitkiewicz
Dolores Nolder

Maurice J. O’Connell
Donald J. O’Connor
George Paras
Joanne L. Penn
Nicholas Pera
Thomas W. Petersen
George B. Phalen
Beverly B. Rainone
Ole Retlev
Bonnie R. Ricker
Christa Ross
Richard J. Rossi
Jim W. Rowell
Heather Ryder
Robert M. Shane
Stephen Sheehy
Pamela Singer
John W. Sniezyk
George H. Spangler

Elizabeth Starr
Linda Steinle
Peter Stransky
Mickey Sullivan
Rick Svencer
Catherine L. Sweetser
Garry E. Tank
Kenneth Thulin
Christopher Tinkham
Randolph E. Trow
Brooks Tuttle
Evan Vomacka
Andrew VonDeak
Teryn Wernick
Larry Wilberton
Robert Wisser
Frederick A. Yost
Roger Zilliox

There were 44 members from the Eastern Division who purchased business cards during the 2019-20 season. A donation of \$88.00 was sent to the PSIA-E Education Foundation from Tyler Barnes of SnowPro Portal.

adaptive airtime

Adaptive Education 2020

By Kathy Chandler
PSIA-E Adaptive Examiner
Eastern Adaptive Advisor

Over the past few years (maybe 5), the Adaptive Board of Examiners and PSIA-E Education Department have been watching the numbers for education events decline and members get frustrated when we have to cancel events in adaptive. Our challenge is how to provide education to the membership from some of the best educators. How do we keep people hungry to expand their knowledge in adaptive techniques, as they are growing with changes in technology and methodologies?

The COVID-19 pandemic has added more complications, smaller group sizes, very little, or

no indoor gathering. Each ski area is different in how they are handling their restrictions, but we can be sure that things will be different at all of them. So, this year we will try a new format that offers educational opportunities for members who want to get some one-on-one or small group instruction. We have a group of examiners, adaptive clinic leaders, and development team members of the ABOE (Adaptive Board of Examiners) who are eager to share their knowledge and expertise with you. They will be your personal trainer, using video, virtual meetings and some on-snow training if/when possible.

Call Melissa at the Eastern Division office and let us know your interest. Are you preparing for an exam? Is it your skiing that you want to hone in on? Have you mastered all of the tasks that you may be asked to do or do you want to be sure you are tethering at the national standard? Can you ski the equivalencies of all of the fundamentals for each of the disciplines? Do you understand how to analyze movement patterns for upper level sit

down skiers and how to improve those movements for more efficient use of the ski or skis? Whatever your interest, we are here and eager to help. The office will help with setting up a program for you, using virtual meetings; video analysis; and possibly even some one-on-one, on-snow time. You will choose or be assigned an ABOE staff member, with the expertise in the area you want to improve, who will guide you through the program. It is private instruction for you at a reasonable price.

We will also continue to do in-house education days and exams. Call the Eastern Division office to set up a day or days to run an event at your area with your choice of topic. It is another way to get some personal instruction geared to the needs of your program. If you need help getting more participants, we will try to help by opening it to other participants from nearby areas. In an effort to personalize adaptive education for all, we will come to you with our programs for 2020- 2021. We hope it will appeal to your interest and we will see more ongoing education throughout the eastern region. ☞

we got next!

NextCore News

NextCore is a dedicated group of young members age 16-36 that are working together to promote the change and develop the programs and benefits vital to long-term engagement of the "next core" of PSIA-AASI membership.

NextCore Plans Next Steps in Its Evolution in PSIA-AASI

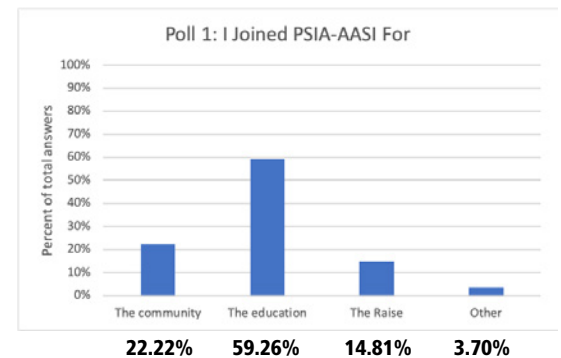
By Matt Lyerly
NextCore member, A2, FS1, CS1, Massanutten Resort, VA

Greetings Eastern Members. Over the past several months the Next Core Steering Committee has been busy at work planning ways to reach out to our age demographic at large and to share our voice with Eastern Leadership. In case you need a reminder, Next Core (NC) is a group of 16-39 year-old members within PSIA-AASI East. You might think of us as the next wave of membership advancing through the ranks. We formed in 2018 as part of an initiative by Eastern Division CEO, Michael Mendrick, to make our younger membership more durable and ultimately more engaged in this division. Fast forward to 2020 and we have accomplished the following:

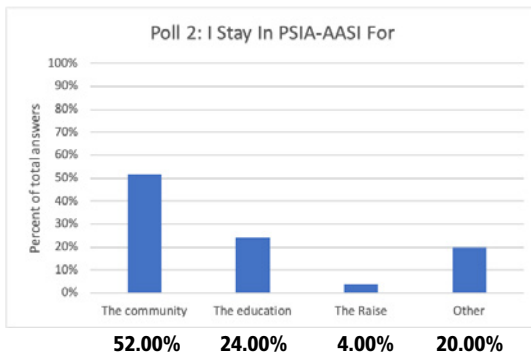
- Our first official on-snow event and après happy hour at Stratton Mountain in spring 2018.
- 2019 Social Media campaign to provide interesting content: #TeamTuesdays, #WOWE (Women of the East), #FitFridays, along with the rad hashtag #seeyouthere.
- Pro Jam 2019 Raffle raised over \$2,000 for future work projects.
- Winter 2019 – met with PSIA-AASI CEO, Nick Herrin, and the National Board of Directors to share our views.
- Had two NC members appointed to at-large positions on the Eastern Board of Directors (BOD): Katie Brinton and David Isaacs.
- Hosted our first Town Hall-style Webinar to hear specifically from our membership.

The purpose of our webinar was to host a series of polling questions to gauge exactly what the NC demographic does value/doesn't value in our organization.

Here is the breakdown:

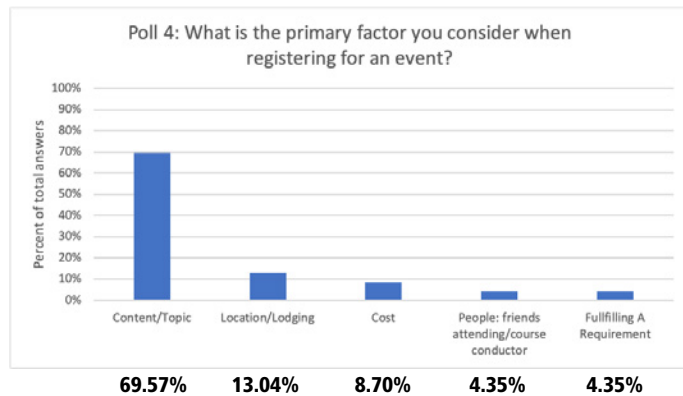
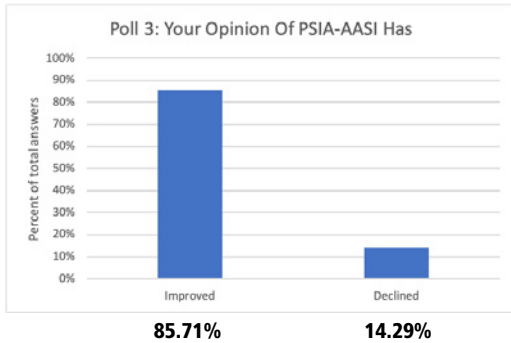


POLL 1: Folks join PSIA-AASI for the education, to learn more about the sports we love, and to improve ourselves.

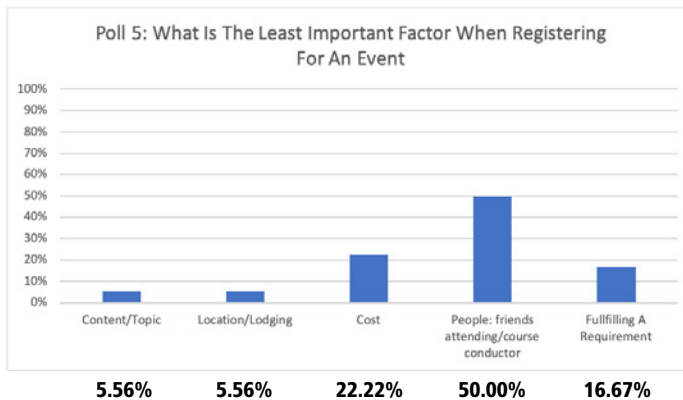


POLL 2: This is perhaps the most encouraging result from the entire webinar. We join the organization because we love the sport but stay because once we're in, we feel a sense of belonging and a connection to others who share our values.

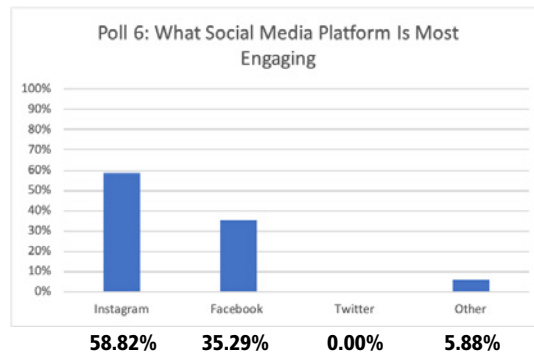
POLL 3: The majority of members in our webinar said their opinion of PSIA-AASI has improved. However, as one astute viewer pointed out, if their opinion had not improved, members were less likely to participate in the call so these numbers may be skewed.



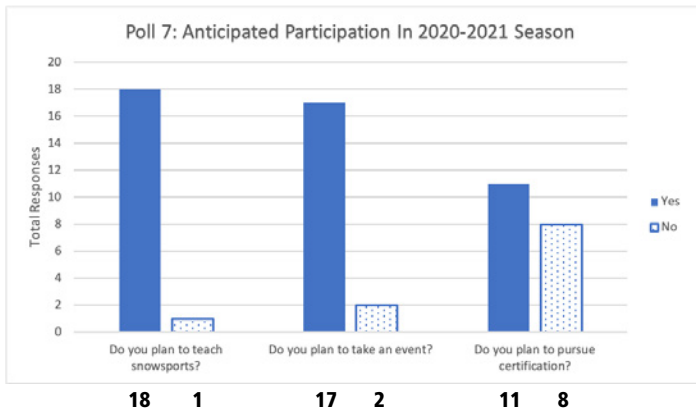
POLL 4: No surprise here. We take events because we want to learn. Another positive takeaway here was that cost was not the number one factor when considering an event.



POLL 5: Somewhat surprising results. NC members remain in PSIA-AASI for the community but that is the LEAST important factor when considering an event. Again, it was nice to see cost rank highly as not important when considering an event.



POLL 6: PSIA-AASI uses Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for its social media purposes and will likely continue to do so in the future.



POLL 7: 2020 – 2021 participation by Next Core Members. We were pleased to see the majority of members participating in our webinar are indeed planning to teach again in 2020-2021 AND planning to take events or pursue certifications.

Summary and takeaways:

- We join PSIA-AASI for the love of snow sports and to improve our skiing/riding skills.
- We stay because once we are in, there is a tremendous sense of belonging that comes with snow sports instruction
- Cost is not ranked highly as the most important aspect of attending an event but was frequently mentioned in comments as an issue. In this case, cost refers to the cost of event attendance, not the auxiliary costs (travel, food, lodging). Remember, PSIA-AASI offers numerous opportunities for event scholarships that can significantly decrease the financial burden of event attendance. Be sure to check out the PSIA-E scholarship page for an application (<https://www.psia-e.org/ed/scholarships/>). Did we mention a certain portion of the scholarship fund is set aside as NextCore-specific?

What's next?

The NC steering committee is working on several projects for the 2020 – 2021 season including:

- Zoom Happy Hour
- On snow event in 2021
- Re-engaging our Social Media campaign

If you haven't had a chance, check out our advisory page on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NextcoreEast>

Thanks to all NC members who participated in our Webinar. We heard you and want to continue raising awareness and recognition of what you bring to PSIA-AASI.

Special Shout Outs to Don and Karen Haringa for organizing the Webinar and to Angelo Ross for keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes. ⚡

snowsports school management

PSIA-AASI E Recognizes Long-Time Serving Area Reps

By Joan Heaton
Area Rep Program Coordinator

The PSIA-AASI Eastern Division Area Rep Program proudly recognizes five long-time serving Area Reps. This year, the following Area Reps will be recognized with a 10-year certificate for their service in our program.

Fred Funk, Gunstock Mountain Resort
Lorraine Briand, McIntyre Ski Area
Patrick Doherty, Pats Peak Ski Area
Bob Crowle, Otis Ridge
Allen Shaver, Roundtop Mountain Resort

Normally, the presentation of these certificates has been done at the Snowsports School Management Seminar Banquet. However, this year, because the Seminar will be held in a Virtual Setting, we will announce the names of the Area Rep 10-year Recipients prior to the virtual Keynote Address, "Women Belong on the Mountain," on November 30 at 5:00 PM. It is our hope that these 5 Area Reps will be present, virtually, during this time. Certificates will be mailed to each of the 5 honored Reps.

Presently, 126 Area Reps are serving in our Eastern Division Area Rep Program as dedicated liaisons to our Snowsports Schools. They also serve as contributors of valuable input from their schools for our Eastern Staff. The Reps also serve as willing helpers for local PSIA-AASI Eastern Division events and projects.

Please check with your Snowsports School Director to be sure that your area does have a PSIA-AASI E Area Rep. If by chance your school does not have an Area Rep, please speak with your Snowsports School Director. It's a service to our association that could be yours!! <<

Snowsports School Management Seminar 2020

By Gail Setlock
PSIA-E Examiner
Snowsports School Management Committee Chair

Just like every other premier event, sports event, concert or large gathering, our annual Snowsports School Management Seminar (SSMS) has changed to accommodate our new socially-distanced reality. This pandemic has forced many of us to think outside the box. The number of panel discussions, webinars and online learning courses is growing exponentially. We are truly grateful this is an option during these trying times.

We too have jumped on board the webinar wagon and will offer a selection of topics during our 2020 Eastern Division All New Virtual Snowsports School Management Seminar starting the week of November 30, 2020. While many things remain uncertain about the future, we are committed to delivering fun and safe lessons this season. We are offering a variety of webinars to help you and your instructors prepare for this coming season. In a year where we're all going to have to expect the unexpected, you need instructors who are flexible, well-rounded, resilient and ready to take on challenges and opportunities for each and every lesson. We're here to help give you the tools, ideas for handling guests as well as your staff, and to share information about operating your snow sports school. Two or three topics are offered throughout the week beginning at 2:00pm when you have more time to devote to these discussions. Some of the offerings will be presentations with time for questions and answers while others will be very interactive group discussions.

This year the keynote – "Women Belong on the Mountain" will be at 5:00pm on Monday, November 30th. Women are some of the most requested instructors in PSIA-AASI, yet they make up only about 30% of our organization. Two Women's Initiative Task Force members, Leigh Pierini and Karen Haringa, will discuss the results of the first comprehensive survey regarding the needs of our female membership. They will provide ideas and suggestions on what we can do to help increase the number of women in our ranks and in our schools.

So, let's Boot Up - and get this season started! <<

Looking to stay connected with your fellow members during the off season?

Check out our "member-to-member" Facebook groups and join in on the conversations with more than 1,300 of your friends and snowsports colleagues at

www.facebook.com/groups/PSIAEast/ and www.facebook.com/groups/AASIEast/



kids, kids, kids

Teaching in the Time of COVID 19

By Gary "Griz" Caudle
ACE Team Member

March 15th, with snow covering most of the Northeast, skiing was at its spring best. However, the COVID pandemic had other plans for us. The season abruptly ended. What might happen this season, a full seven months into this health crisis? We can all agree that there will be a 'new normal' for the 2020-2021 ski season. What will this 'new normal' be? I will leave the specifics to the directors; they know what is best for their respective schools. My impetus for writing this article is to discuss what we as instructors have learned and what we might expect from our students.

Let's face it. March 15, 2020 not only ended ski schools, it pretty much ended schools the way we have always known them to be. Virtual learning became the norm. Children no longer attended school, and parents became teachers. Computers became a critical element in teaching, as teachers taught lessons via a computer screen. If the students did not have computers or internet access, their schooling became non-existent until they were able to secure a space where they could receive learning virtually. Parents fretted over trying to teach their children and maintain their own livelihoods. In a nutshell, education, as we knew it, ceased to exist for almost every child in America. So how will this drastic change in our daily lives impact how we instruct this season?



First, we should look at what school means for children. What was taken away when schools closed their doors and moms and dads became the teachers? I have always viewed school, the act of going to school and sitting in a classroom surrounded by your peers, as a great socialization project. Children learn from one another; they imitate what they see as right or wrong, cool, or not cool, smart, or not so smart. Their actions with peers on a cognitive, affective or physical level are a function of what they believe to be right "for them" to succeed (check out Kohlberg's Moral Development).

Now this is oversimplified, however, looking just at the face of these statements, by shutting the doors of our schools to deal with the COVID pandemic, we took away a child's ability to grow, intellectually, socially, and physi-



cally from the participation in what I referred to as the 'great socialization project.' Parents became more than parents; they became classroom teachers. Rules at home are not always in concert with rules at school, and kids

know this. The structure and consistency provided by being physically present in school is very much different than that provided around the kitchen table or home office. This very fact will impact each and every lesson taught this season.

So, what can we expect? Lessons are going to be significantly different. Children will challenge instructors by testing the limits set unless there is a solid understanding of the structure of the lesson and where its intended outcome lies. Having less structure in their day to day interactions with peers will create possible conflicts within the group, and we must be aware of how to break the potential conflict cycle that will ensue.

Family lessons will become the 'norm.' The instructor will have to differentiate the teaching to meet the instructional needs of each family member. This will require instructors to have a firm understanding of the Learning Connection. It is imperative that Teaching, Technical and People skills are honed in order to present the very best lessons for our clients.



How can you prepare? Here's a brief step by step outline that may help:

1. Make a plan: know what you want to teach, the outcome you wish to achieve, and develop your objectives to reach that outcome. This is a backward design construct.
2. Be aware that your students have had little social interaction outside their immediate family unit and may be 'different' from what you might expect...more/less talkative, more/less receptive to your directions, thereby making your first encounter even more critical to the success of your lesson...make it fun, positive, and about them.
3. Be ready to differentiate. Don't think a linear progression will work; be diverse in your thinking and ready to adapt your lesson plan to meet a variety of learning styles. This will require creativity on the instructor's part.
4. Adapt not only your teaching repertoire, but adapt the environment where you teach the requisite skills. Many upper level skills can be taught on the easier terrain that will accommodate each member of your group. This will require a greater understanding of the technical skills involved in various skiing levels.
5. Hands off...physical touching or lifting students may not be possible. The simple act of speaking to your students will change due to face coverings and social distancing.
6. Communicate and collaborate with other instructors; you're not alone.
7. Above all make it FUN and SAFE for all group members.
8. Relax, a song from the play *Annie* comes to mind: "The sun will come out tomorrow..." ☺

2020-2021 Nordic Highlights

By Micky Stone

PSIA-E Nordic Examiner

PSIA-E Nordic Coordinator

Hello Nordic members! We hope you had an enjoyable summer and fall this year. We are fortunate that in New England that it was certainly a sunny hot season to recreate and play. Actually, we had the most days over 90 degrees for the last 40 years and also the driest days too. But south of Pennsylvania, they've received more rain and milder temperatures.

We found it amazing that trailheads, mountain bike networks, pathways, cycling routes, swimming holes and our favorite smooth macadam roads were all crowded, over parked and filled with ten times the number of users we usually see in a day. It is fortunate that we live in such great areas for hiking, cycling, mountain biking and rollerblading. Plus, this season it was awesome to be near water to cool off almost every day.

According to the long-range models for the winter weather, it looks as if they are showing cool temperatures and an average to above average amount of snowfall. With such a dry summer and fall, let's hope the weather catches up with ample snowfall to balance it out.

So, the philosophy for this year with PSIA-E Nordic is FLEXIBILITY and ADAPTABILITY. Currently our Event Schedule is on the website. Resorts, the office staff and coordinators did a lot of communicating to get it this far, congrats to all. Plus, we continue to make adjustments and changes now and through the year. You should look at it frequently. There could be additions and changes depending on what is happening in each region. We are still waiting for some resorts to return their confirmations, which is understandable with all these businesses need to do to prepare. Once again, FLEXIBILITY and ADAPTABILITY stand out as important skills needed for this season.

Due to the early closure of the past season and not being able to host our premier events the PRO JAM and MINI ACADEMY this season, we are offering a Level II Exam at Mount Snow 12/17-18 with the knowledge that there were a lot of people who were ready to take the exam last March. We will be having another exam in March (currently 3/20-21 at Killington for all three levels. There will

be the need to purchase lift tickets daily. Currently, Killington is not offering any pro discounts on lift tickets and they are not providing complimentary tickets to our members for the event. We know this could be a burden for some so please prepare early for the added expense. Scholarships available at www.psia-e.org/ed/scholarships.

The reason that we only offer a Level II exam in December is that terrain may not yet be available that is appropriate for a Level III exam. We have also postponed Nordic Divisional Clinic Leader (DCL) and Development team tryouts until next season when travel and training hopefully will be back to our old normal.

We will be hosting early Cross Country events in December at Rikert, VT 12/5-6; that's a Saturday and a Sunday and we'll be offering our popular Instructor Training Course at Bretton Woods on 12/16-18 which is Wednesday through Friday. Both are excellent venues and have snowmaking capacity if needed. Please view the Cross Country Event Schedule, there are fewer events this season but as always the events are carefully placed geographically throughout the East to attempt to provide access to all. A shout out to Mike Innes from Bretton Woods who is spearheading the National Standards and new educational formats that are on the way. Plus, a shout out to Randy French who has retired from teaching school.

December still is a big month for Tele too. The southern and northern Primers are at Seven Springs in PA and Sunday River in ME; check the dates and sign up now. We need to get our numbers back up from last year. Plus, we have the new Level II Exam at Mount Snow 12/17-18 (Thursday – Friday). Make sure you are familiar with the Telemark Fundamentals and the Learning Connection Model: People Skills; Teaching Skills; Technical Skills; Learning Environments and Safety and Risk Management. It will be essential to have a sound knowledge and understanding for teaching a Never Ever or Crossover to tele from their first days all the way up to teaching those same students to make parallel tele turns on blue terrain. The written exam is not quite up to speed with the Learning Connection material so be prepared to go over the Learning Connection Model on the hill. Good luck!

A big Thank You to Mount Snow and Brian Donovan for their support of Nordic. Also, a shout out to Keith Rodney for spearheading the National Standards and new educational formats that are coming soon.

Looks to be a great December, without Pro Jam our numbers will be down so anything you feel comfortable attending please do. Also, on the web-

site we have Member Customized Events (MCE) for those who want to arrange a group at their home mountain and cover their own topic(s). A group of 6-8 folks can pay just about a regular event cost to have an event at your home mountain that supports you with others in the same area. Check it out here: <https://www.psia-e.org/mce/> or send an email to MCE@psia-e.org.

Adam Kline, DCL; Shawn Riggle and Adele Wellman, Development Team; with Jay Nation, Examiner, have crafted a fun three-day event at Timberline (grand reopening and new owners), Canaan Valley and Whitegrass all in West Virginia. Check out this event description:

Telemark Nordic Tour of Canaan Valley

New for the 2020-21 season is a three-day multi-discipline event based out of Canaan Valley, WV called the Telemark Nordic Tour of Canaan Valley. Participants will experience the charm and diversity of Canaan Valley from three different resorts. Day one will be on Telemark equipment at Canaan Valley State Park, day two we will explore the backcountry on light gear at White Grass Touring Center, and the third day we will be back in Telemark gear at Timberline Mountain. The three-day multi-discipline event will provide participants with the opportunity to hone both on-piste and backcountry techniques while we explore the best the Valley has to offer. The event is open to all levels, no experience is required.

Participants must bring or rent their own Telemark and backcountry equipment. To rent Telemark equipment contact Adam Kline, Shawn Riggle, or Adele Wellman via the psia-e office. Backcountry equipment is available for rental from White Grass Touring Center. The clinic dates are Feb. 1-3, 2021 and the cost for the three-day event is \$215.00.

Get back to the roots of skiing and fine-tune your stance while learning new Telemark and backcountry skills in a relaxed atmosphere.

Thanks!

So, don't let stick season get you down, rollerblade, bike, hike, plios, stretch and get ready to be back on the hills and flats in a bit of a different manner but still get out there and do what we all love to do: SLIDE. The first snows have started, so the slopes, trails and backcountry are only a short wait away. ☞

Congratulations to 20, 30, 40 and 50 Year Members

The following PSIA-AASI Eastern Division members are completing 20 or more years of membership in PSIA-AASI during the 2020-21 season. We congratulate these individuals on this outstanding accomplishment and thank them for their dedication to snowsports education. All qualifying members will receive a commemorative pin and a letter of recognition directly from the national PSIA-AASI office.

20 Year Members

Roman Ahsanov
Jim Albright
Kenneth Allen
Richard Allen
Manuela Armandgau
Daniel Arnow
Bette Babinski
Kathryn Backman
Patricia Backman
Dean Bagnoni
Donald Bailey
James Baker
Marc Baker
Lucinda Beaty
Tad Bettcher
Stanley Biasini
Jeff Boliba
Michael Bravman
Kenneth Breen
Joseph Brevard
Joseph Brodeur
Eric Bruns
JB Bucha
Leslie Bucher
Doug Caldwell
Terry Carey
Richard Carpenter
Erik Carr
James Carr
Larry Cimperman
Matthew Clemens
Henry Cobb
Peter Comiski
Robbin Comiski
Laurence Cookson
Colette Couter
Althea Cranton
James Crawford
Sharon Crossan
James Crowley
James Curren
Michael Cuzydlo
Peter Darrigo
Chris Dayton
Sylvia de Bruin
Suzanne Dean
Richard Donahue
Margot Donovan
Rina Drake
Douglas Drysdale
Daniel Dunn
Eric Dykes
Michael Egan
William Eichorn
Melinda Fairchild
Kelli Fennessey
Leigh Fischer
Norman Fish
Mills Fitzner
Jamie Forsy
Eva Foster
Bridget Freudenberger

Janet Fritzen
Matthew Gay
Linda Gibeault
Mary Giunti
Marcia Goodwin
Dan Greer
Ted Groesbeck
Laurie Hagan
Jessica Hall
Martin Hamburger
Clay Harpending
Joseph Henderson
Matthew Henigman
Chris Hill
Sherry Hofecker
Stephanie Hovey
Timothy Hudson
Sarah Jesudowich
Theresa Johnsonbaugh
Kathleen Jordan
Chong Jue
Kimberley Kalinowski
Andrew Kattermann
Dewayne Keener
Galen Kemp
Mitch Klutsch
Diantha Korzun
Richard Landis
Karl Laskowski
Kevin Lee
Ron Lenker
Brian LeSchander
Jon Lyons
Paul Maguire
Keith Maier
Alexa Manning
Paul Marcus
Timothy Mathisen
Margarita Mayo
Eric McNamara
Louise Medeiros
Marina Meerburg
James Merz
Sam Michaels
Michele Miller
Stephen Miller
Robert Monczynski
Matthew Moore
Warren Mors
Kim Morton
Richard Mowry
Joan Murphy
Daniel Murray
Tom O'Donnell
Mary Ormrod
Letitia Osborne
Melissa Pajak-Anderson
Meredith Peace
Joyce Pelrine
Christopher Pete
Cassandra Petrillose
Jessica Pfaffinger
Cathleen Polinchok

Joanne Pomerantz
Mary Positano
Dick Pugh
Joseph Rail
Paul Rainbow
Richard Reddy
Randell Reid
Thomas Rock
Robert Roest
Matthew Rubenstein
Sarah Sampsel
Peter Sargent
Mark Sauers
Beth Scavone
Carl Schelble
Christopher Seanard
Joseph Shannon
Chris Shea
Robert Shnyder
Helen Slone
Aleks Smith
Marcia Smith
Peter Soria
J B. Spong
Mark Stega
Robyn Stein
Tyler Stevens
Kevin Sumter
Jackie Swartz
Lowell Swartz
Michael Tallman
David Tator
Robert Thacker
Camilla Thompson
Julia Thompson
Glen Torres
Dana Walton
Gail Webster
Jason Whipple
David White
Temple White
Jill Wilkinson
Matthew Williams
Mel Wolpert
Paul Wydysh
Kris Yelsits
Michael Yocum

30 Year Members

James Achey
Douglas Axtell
Paul Beck
Michael Benchimol
Marc Berube
Putnam Blodgett
Scott Book
Patricia Burns
Tim Carbone
Richard Carrara
Craig Casey
Regina Cashier
Kevin Chamberland
Ed Chernosky

Donald Conger
Roger Cooney
Stephanie Copeland
John Coppola
Timothy Corle
Kathryn Cowdery
Gordon Coxe
Blaine Cromie
Justin Cross
Francis Daino
Leonard DeBenedictis
Robert Del Boca
William Delaney
Claude Derosiers
Terry Duffield
John Fagone
Erin Fernandez
Jay Fishman
Krista Frei
William Galbraith
Robert Giacobbe
Richard Glotzer
Richard Gortet
Gregory Greicius
Joseph Haduck
James Hamlin
James Hand
Alison Harley
Jack Harnick
Patty Harrington
Dwight Harrison
John Hazard
Joseph Hazard
Patricia Hefferman
William Heisey
Nathaniel Herron
Frank Heslin
Douglas Holl
Dan-George Icon
Stephen Jamison
Kurt Johnson
Robert Johnson
Stephen Jupena
Bart Kilraine
Marcene Kipe
Carl Klein
John Knight
Kevin Koski
Don Kuczarski
Mark Kulzer
Gregory Leeds
Mark Levi
Kevin Leyland
Inda Loring
Andrew Luca
Michael Mandel
Francoise Marchat
Brian McBride
Anthony McCurdy
Ed McElroy
Kenneth Mead
Harold Meehan
Sandy Meilillo

Ryan Miller
Robert Montbach
Erik Mostue
Cathie Mulgrew
Edward Mulholland
Steve Nickoski
Richard O'Brien
Shelley Ochterski
Mark Ouellette
Viktor Paerg
Ann Paffendorf
David Paulger
Judy Prescott
John Rainone
David Raphael
Bill Richards
Keith Rodney
Brett Rubright
Walter Rusch
Sandra Russo
Paul Schiffbauer
Kathryn Schwing
Jonathan Segal
Lennie Shaw
Carole Sheehan
Michelle Shuford
David Shulman
Patrick Simpson
Joseph Smith
Paul Sollitto
John Springer
Leonard Steigerwalt
Chandler Stowell
Michael Stump
John Sullivan
Heidi Tillenburg - Ross
Todd Titone
Jon Turkel
Denise Valone-Cristelli
Dale Vander Voort
Scott Varin
Robert Veit
Damian Vincent
Kevin Walker
Albert White
Sally White
Michael Wirt
Martha Witte
Thomas Woodrow
Thomas Yen
James Young
Michael Zeugin
Marc Zuckerman

40 Year Members

Kent Alderfer
David Bell
Brian Bennett
Paul Best
Richard Block
Gary Bommer
Gary Bradley
Breck Campbell

Marc Carlin
Lynn Conrad
Paul Crenshaw
Ronald Currie
Kelly Davis
James Deloy
Robert Dexter
Chuck Dominick
Richard Downing
Douglas Duguay
Helen Flood
Joseph Fucci
Susan Garrison
Timothy Giese
Kim Grove
Michelle Havlicek
Steven Hayre
Alan Highhouse
M. Mark Hymes
Kirk Jordan
Douglas Kaufman
Mary Lou Kelly
Jonathan Segal
Martha Leich
Dennis Lell
Jeffrey Loewy
Frank Macy
Pam Macy-Williamson
James Mancuso
Dick McCann
Elaine Noll
Robert O'Gara
Ann Ostroski
George Paras
Nathaniel Putnam
Dale Ramsey
Kristin Reed
Jay Reich
Debra Riley-Williams
Christopher Sansocie
Paul Sawchuk
Joe Scott
Terence Scott
Barry Slifstein
David Smith
Phillip Smith
Eric Stamp
Andrew Stevens
David Stitt
Timothy Walker
Christopher Weiss
Thomas Wojtkowski
Ronald Yackel

50 Year Members

Charles DeLine
Frederick Knott
Gale Plunket
Edward Trudel
Katrina Villeneuve
Sander Zangardi

your turn

A Different Fall

By Tina Buckley

PSIA-E ACE Team Member, Children's Committee Chair

Bear Creek Mountain Resort, PA

I think we can all agree that this current year can't end fast enough. Too many negatives frame it and we were thrown out of our routine box even before the ski season was officially over. But there is one thing this year that is different from all the other previous years. For the first time we (as in PA, NY south, NJ) are able to ski/ride in September – indoors that is, on real snow, without major travel expenses.

Big Snow in New Jersey makes it possible. Yes, we had to wait until the restrictions were lifted and yes, we still need to adhere to CDC guidelines, but we can slide, this early in the new season.

The slope is long enough and steep enough to exercise your discipline, whether you're on groomed snow or in the terrain park. The snow is perfect due to the fact that inside the facility the temperature is a constant 32 degrees. I will be spoiled by those snow conditions once the outdoor areas open with our "Pocono Powder." It is the weirdest feeling to walk through a mall and use an escalator to get to a ski slope while it is 80 degrees outside. Don't expect to have fun skiing there in a T-Shirt; it is winter inside. But once you are on snow, all that matters is that you can slide.



At this point, I've gone skiing twice already in September and I was not alone. PSIA-AASI and ski club friends were there, race kids and parents, families with young kids, all enjoying this early season treat. There were skiers and riders in the park which offers rails, jumps, banked turns and obviously a lot of fun. And you can watch them up close from the comfort of the chair lift, or even closer when you're being pulled uphill by the Poma lift. Sliders of all types were practicing their turns on the groomed part of the hill. Racers can also be seen doing their thing. And folks new to the sport

can learn the skills in the terrain-based learning area which is separate from the other two slopes and serviced by magic carpets.



Overall, it is a great feeling to be on snow again this early. As an instructor, your teaching mind gets a pre-season boost while watching yourself and others on the slope. It is awesome to see so many like-minded folks on snow in the fall. I am thankful for the opportunity Big Snow is giving those of us who are snow sports enthusiasts by being open all year round (COVID exceptions apply). And if you have indoor skiing on your bucket list, you should definitely go there. Let the fun begin! ☺

Finding the Line

By Jim Slavin

Alpine Level II and CS1

Jiminy Peak Resort, MA

When we teach a lesson, we often ask the students to "follow us" down the slope when practicing a new skill. We try to take our class on a path that will complement the new skill we are helping to develop. We pick the line.

How often do we teach our students how to find the "best" path down the hill? Do we explain that the slope may have two different pitches?

I must admit that except for advanced students or multi week school groups, I rarely teach this essential skill. During one 3 PM school group class when a lot of the snow had been skied off, one of my young students said we should try to "turn on the pillows and not on the sheets." That led to a discussion of finding the best way down the mountain. We talked about sliding across the sheets (ice and boilerplate) and turning on the pillows (piled up snow). Sounds like a great lesson for skiing and skiing bumps.

One of my favorite activities for younger students is a "slow race." The rules are simple: they must make short radius turns, they can't stop and the last one to the finish line wins. This exercise forces them to pick a good line to win and also works well in the bumps.

When instructors talk to each other, we often say something like "skiers left on 'Ace of Spades' has

the best snow." When we ski for fun or practice, we look for good snow, bumps, powder or even crud depending on what we want to ski. I think it is time to add this important knowledge to our lessons.

Let's ask our students to find the easiest way, the hardest way or the most fun way down the hill. If they pick the hardest way, let's also ask our students if they can find an easier way to get to safer terrain? I think this lesson will enhance our student's ability to have fun and stay safe. ☺

Member Spotlight: George Cretekos

Alpine Level III

Bristol Mountain Ski Resort, NY

George J Cretekos of Allegany County, NY was selected by a panel of judges, comprised of local Buffalo celebrities, as an ambassador to represent the Buffalo60Strong initiative. This program, sponsored by the Buffalo Medical Group, was seeking 12 individuals ages 60 to 69 from the 8 western New York counties, who have displayed and maintained a high degree of fitness along with strength in body, mind and spirit for the majority of their adult lives. In addition to their personal achievements, inspiring others was also a criterion for selection. Buffalo60Strong was developed to inspire all ages, in conjunction with promoting the launch of Senior Care Advantage ONE. George will have a feature page on the Buffalo60Strong 2021, 2022 and 2023 calendars. Proceeds from the calendar sales will benefit local charities.



At the age of 23, George contracted a rare organ inflammatory disease that could have prevented any active participation in the physical activities he now enjoys. Prescribed therapy, grit and determination allowed him to overcome this and lead a highly active lifestyle.

George, 67, is currently a full time Officer/Field Trainer with the Allegany County Sheriff's Office, a 25-year member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America who teaches at Bristol Mountain AND he's an Alpine Level III. For 52 years, George has spent 100's of hours of strength and mobility training annually and has remained dedicated to improving his technical knowledge/teaching skills. George credits his association in PSIA-AASI with giving him the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to become a better skier, listener, educator, communicator, leader, and student. Leading

by example has always been George's strongest attribute to inspire others.

Mr. Cretekos states, "I am extremely honored to have been selected for this opportunity to represent "the seniors" and to hopefully set an example for others to follow." Remember this: "aging is inevitable, growing old is optional." In addition, "Achieving any success, especially in sports, can be physically and mentally painful at times but the personal rewards received, the satisfaction of influencing others, along with witnessing their successes, is very gratifying." «

Neural Goat Paths

By John Petersen

*Alpine Level II, Children's Specialist 2
Windham Mountain Resort, NY*

Building new, more efficient movement patterns in our skiing, or any other physical or mental activity is not always a quick and easy process. Getting rid of old bad habits is a little harder still.

We love to do things that come naturally to us because, to quote a couple of Snow Ops terms, they are "easy fun," "challenging fun" or even "hard fun." Most of us like an occasional challenge and want to get better at whatever we are doing because it's more rewarding. With a little determination, not much holds us back, but we skiers and riders all have bad habits that take us away from the efficiency we need to get through a plateau. So how do we get better?

We may know that managing pressure from ski to ski while balancing along the length of the skis, managing edge angles and turning smoothly are important, but we all seem to have little things that get in the way of making them happen the way we conceptualize them. Does our performance match our understanding for instance? How do we know if it does? Clinics, training, events and feedback are a great place to start. If those are not readily available at your mountain, take some video with fellow instructors and review it either on the hill or later in the ski room (or for now, on Zoom). Check out PSIA's Matrix on their website, their presence on YouTube, and any other source of good skiing you can find. (For inspirational skiing on the internet, I love tuning in to Jonathan Ballou, Deb Armstrong, Skills Quest videos, or anything Miss Shiffrin is in.) Explore how you can wrap your head around a concept or assimilate something you have seen work well for others into your own skiing. If you're on the hill and what you are working on doesn't work right away, look at it several ways. If it's not really working, move on and try something different. One way to streamline this process is to be sure your initial source for an exercise or idea is valid. If the original experiment comes out of your own head, test it out with peers, your director, or someone who skis or

rides "great"! Most of all, make sure it's fun or leads to fun! In addition to contemporary skiing, I tend to enjoy traditional skiing sometimes and experiment with making things like step turns, cross under, surf wedel, jetting, pull back, check turns, etc., work in modern ways. (For me, it can be a fun challenge!) Though I may not "ski that way," I will throw a "jet" of the feet or a dolphin turn in to a section of moguls just to make myself smile.

We have been hearing for a while that "perfect practice makes perfect." Some of you have heard that it may take 10,000 hours of doing something to truly own it. I have also heard the mantra "Don't just do something until you get it right, do it until you cannot get it wrong!" Dan Coyle, author of *The Talent Code*, talks about the nuts and bolts of building neural pathways in the brain with clear and easy to understand language. It's definitely worth a read. My interpretation is that neural pathways store information regarding thoughts, ideas, concepts and, more importantly for those of us who are skiers, movement patterns. This is where good AND bad habits are stored and recalled. When we learn, we build upon or build new neural pathways. It is not always easy to learn new things which is why we may not be "good" at something right away.

Lanny Bassham, a gold medal winning Olympian in rifle competition learned that the mental game is a big part of owning new and better skills. Lanny would practice shooting without bullets until he felt his technique was perfect. He practiced until he could not get it wrong! By the time he added ammunition to the formula, the results were academic. Lanny talks about how the conscious mind can handle one idea at a time, while the sub-conscious mind can handle countless tasks. When we learn something new, it is with our conscious mind...the essential "one thing at a time" part of our brain that takes time to process. This helps explain why we get better with practice. We have all felt the positive effects of working an efficient exercise or movement pattern into our skiing. It eventually feels great.

My buddy, Dave Kaplan and I were talking about this in general terms the other day and he said that he wasn't sure of the technical terms but pictured our good habits and efficient skiing as if it were happening on a smooth highway. He said it felt easy, right, and like he is in the "zone." He went on to say, slightly tongue in cheek, that when things get difficult or challenging, or when trying something new, it feels like he is on a bumpy dirt road filled with potholes. Building neural pathways with new and

better (more efficient) movement patterns seems to start with the equivalent of barely visible goat paths. The more we use these goat paths, the wider and more visible they get. If the information stored along that goat path has good results when accessed, we continue to use it. Then the goat path turns into a dirt road, which with more use, gets smoother and nicer to use and so on and so on. The good and most useful highways of the brain are strong, fast and protected by a chemical called myelin. With continued use, the highway stays strong. The opposite happens when we don't use that highway continually...it very slowly withers and becomes less useful (aka, we get a little rusty or need time to remember how to ski again at the beginning of the year).

Dave has the benefit of being pretty smart, but that is not his only secret. He has taught skiing for over 70 years and has simplified just about everything into easy to understand kernels of wisdom. In his 93 years, he has seen it all come and go, come back again, and go again. Dave is a great example of a life-long learner, he's open minded and he's always working on his skiing. I saw improvement in his turn transition last year. It was smoother, cleaner and quite modern. He told me it only took him 70 years to learn something that should have taken 50 years! So, if you are frustrated at all about not learning something quickly, Dave probably feels that there is plenty of time to get really good at it. Once you are, you may forget why you wanted to do it in the first place. Such is life, eh?

The good news is the reward you get when you feel your skiing improving. For me it's certainly fun in the moment, yet has deeper meaning when reflecting on the experience. I certainly do love an "aha" moment or having a great run where everything is "just working!" It feels smoother on bumpy terrain, slower when going faster and takes far fewer reminders to stay in the "zone." In the big picture, it's all about the journey. With each destination, there is always more road to follow...

With improved skills you may want to tango with a trail that was once a nemesis, try an old favorite trail a new way, make 1000 turns on skier's right in the "good snow" you just found, ski a slow line really fast, or crank out some honkin GS turns. Whatever you do, dance with the mountain, learn from it every day and go out there and have a blast!

And from Master Oogway in *Kung Fu Panda*, "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That is why they call it the present." Enjoy the ride! «

*There is no such thing
as too much snow*

Have a great teaching story or testimonial?

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