



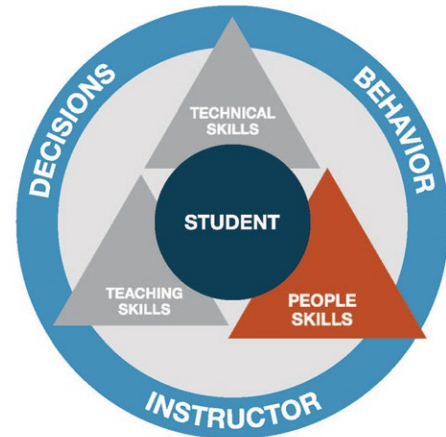
The Power of a Warm Welcome

By Peggy Hiller
PSIA-AASI Chief Executive Officer

“Welcome to PSIA-AASI.” That’s what I’ve been hearing – and feeling – since starting my role as PSIA-AASI’s CEO in mid-January. I have so appreciated the warm reception from members, staff, boards, and regional leaders across the country. This welcome has positively impacted my productivity, energy level, and outlook for future

contributions I can make to our association.

The act of welcoming and *being* welcomed has such a meaningful impact on us as humans and in how we relate to one another. The adage, “You never get a second chance to make a first impression” rings true. Taking on my new role in this remarkable association has reminded me how important a warm welcome is in building a strong foundation for relationships between people.



The tone, body language, and words we use within our first few seconds of meeting someone such as starting a lesson, a training session, an assessment clinic, or even a conversation can make all the difference in creating the connections that make our interactions as engaging as they are informative. As instructors, trainers, and assessors, it is up to us to set this welcoming tone. This directly correlates to the People Skills portion of PSIA-AASI’s Learning Connection. I’m excited

that our educational association puts so much emphasis on how our behaviors and actions can positively impact others – as represented by these people-skill fundamentals:

- 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.

I also think about how powerful our behaviors can be as we intentionally seek to bring more people from previously underrepresented populations into our sports and our membership. I ask myself, “How am I striving to meet people of all cultural backgrounds, genders, ages, abilities, and sexual orientation in a welcoming way?” “How could our organization be more intentional in doing the same?” Welcoming all individuals allows our organization to benefit from the richness of different experiences and backgrounds. Quite simply, we are a stronger organization when we welcome all.

I am so proud to be joining this vibrant and passionate community of members as we collectively focus our education on Teaching Skills, Technical Skills, and, of course, People Skills. I’m confident that using our People Skills to be more welcoming helps set a course for the very brightest future for PSIA-AASI and the snowsports we all love.

Thank *you* for welcoming *me*. ‹‹

Thank You Steve McGrath

Without much recognition, longtime Area Rep and former Division Clinic Leader Steve McGrath made significant contributions in support of children’s snowsports instruction. At Spring Rally, ACE Team members presented Steve with a special ski to thank him for his years of service as a member of the Children’s Committee (which has now been absorbed by the Education Committee) and for the countless hours he dedicated to collecting prizes and organizing raffles at children’s events over the years in support of the Terry Fund scholarship (for pros of all disciplines interested in furthering their knowledge and education in children’s instruction). Thanks to Steve for your enthusiasm and commitment. You made our organization better. ‹‹



Photo: Bonnie Kolber

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General Information

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view from the chair

PETER HOWARD

Board Chair Report

By Peter Howard

PSIA-E Examiner

Eastern Board Chair



It's that time of year when snowsports instructors sleep uneasily in the knowledge that winter has passed, and all our perseverance will not stop the melting. It's winter in the shade but spring in the sun. Our lives are bound to this

transition.

As I write this, the National Academy is being held at Big Sky in Montana. Many of our Eastern members will experience the high point of their winter at this event. While other members have just returned from Interski in Levi, Finland. We all talk about turn transition, but maybe the hardest transition to make is from these wonderful events and planet snow, back down to planet earth. Please, once in your life, go to one of these events.

One of the activities of your Eastern Board of Directors is to think strategically about our organization and the snowsports industry in general. There are things which PSIA-AASI has **direct** control of including assessment processes, educational events, and education materials. There are also things PSIA-AASI may **influence** like safety and etiquette on the slope, the value of membership, use of beneficial products, demographics of snowsports participants, and gender equity. And then, there are things that PSIA-AASI has **no control** of – for example, the weather, resort human resource policies, when areas open and close, their ticket policies, and more.

Since we have direct control of the assessment process, it is likely to become increasingly aligned across the country. In May, education leaders from across the Regions came together to propose adjusting aspects of the assessment process toward what we hope will be one nationwide model. Since there are three certification levels and multiple disciplines, this may take some doing, and we do not anticipate the process will be complete this season;

however, we believe this is an important move to increase the value of your membership.

Perhaps the more interesting topics are those that PSIA-AASI may only influence. However, they may have a significant effect on our members. As slopes get more congested due to demand, or limited snow conditions, etiquette – or the lack thereof – has a large effect on everyone's experience. As teachers, striving to manage a conducive learning environment, we and our students are the "canaries in the coal mine." Our snowsports area partners recognize there is need for a balance, and also realize the challenge this poses. Possibly there is a way we may work together to make a positive difference.

Other challenges relate to how we grow the industry and our membership. For example, while snowsports is enjoyed by all genders there remains a higher level of male participation. How do we attract people from different genders and ethnicities to choose to make snowsports a staple of their winter activities, versus a bucket list item they check off and move on? Are there things our organization does, or could do, that would encourage participation from a more diverse population, leading to more diversity in our instructors ranks, then PSIA-AASI membership, and ultimately our education staff?

These are just some areas where strategic thinking by your Eastern Board, in conjunction with Operation Leadership and the National CEO, may lead to beneficial change.

In other news, even though conditions in some areas of the Eastern region were challenging, overall, the region had a good season. More new members have joined this year than in the past twenty years we have been keeping records. We are over our target of 10,000 members for the first time since the 2016-17 season. Despite a number of event cancellations in the Mid-Atlantic due to the weather, more than 5,300 members participated in the 421 events we held this season, including more than 1,500 people who participated in a Level 1 assessment with an average pass rate of 94%.

So, best of luck with the coming transition. May the spring sunshine drive away your shadows of doubt. Even though it is a bittersweet time of year, your Eastern Board will take a couple shots of maple syrup and carry on.

At your service, Eastern Board Chairman Peter Howard. ☄



Looking for an event?

Check out the schedule at:

easternsnowpros.org/calendar/

Check in periodically for changes and additions.

kb's corner



By Kathy Brennan
Eastern Region CEO

As a certified member and part-time instructor, I have to earn my continuing education credits (CUEs) like many of you. For me, the opportunity to improve my skills and share ideas with other like-minded pros is a highlight of my membership. I relish the opportunity to travel to different resorts, meet people, learn new things, and challenge my beliefs. This season, the 'different resort' was a once in a lifetime vacation to Levi, Finland to attend Interski. I hope, by sharing a few highlights, you'll be inspired to seek out different opportunities to fulfill your CEU requirements.



In case you missed the social media barrage from the Interski Congress, you should know it is the world's largest exchange of snowsports methodologies and techniques between member nations from around the globe. The event is held every four years. I have been fortunate enough to be a delegate in St Anton, Austria in 2011, Pamporovo, Bulgaria in 2019, and this year in Levi. The theme for this year's congress was "The [Guest] Experience is Everything." The congress asked the tough question, "Are we capable of adjusting our services or our teaching plan to meet the needs and expectations of the varied guests?"

This year Interski included representatives from 34 countries, nearly 1,400 participants and over 300 events. Interski delegates are invited to participate in the on-snow and indoor workshops presented by members of the various national teams. Delegates also observe the technical and show runs performed by the teams. Any certified member may register for Interski, although very few spots are available to each country. This year 124 PSIA-AASI members, national teamers, and staff attended. The Eastern Region was well represented with 46 members, including our nine national team members, and eight people on our education staff. I'm looking forward to seeing the exciting insights and activities the participants bring back to the U.S. for next year's training and events.

As an organization that has professed a student-centered approach and the service model for decades, and more recently introduced the Learning Connection Model, the guest experience theme was right in our wheelhouse. Knowing I would get the opportunity to hear the U.S. message during events this coming winter, I focused my time seeing what other countries had to share, yet time and time again other delegates told me how engaging, inspiring and beneficial the PSIA-AASI programs were. My congratulations and thanks go out to our PSIA-AASI National Team for their expertise, dedication, and countless hours of volunteer service to prepare for and present at Interski. And also, thanks to the volunteer task force members and thought leaders across our membership who have helped to craft and refine the Learning Connection Model. Components of the model including the People and Teaching Skills and the Instructor Behavior and Decision-making process, highlight our focus on our students' learning.

When I attended the previous Interski events in Austria and Bulgaria, I was an alpine ed staff member and focused my participation on the alpine events. For this Interski, as the CEO of the Eastern Region, responsible for supporting members in all disciplines, my goal was to participate in programs in as many different disciplines as possible. I didn't get to all of them, but here are some key takeaways from my most memorable sessions.



Argentina Snowboarding Group

Argentina – Snowboard – Fear, Empathy and Snowboarding

The Argentine team members were a bit taken aback when I showed up for their session on my Alpine equipment, but I explained my role in our organization and my belief that we are more similar than different, and they welcomed me to join in. They used foam wedges and activities to put the snowboarders out of balance and remind them what it is like to feel like a beginner. Then they shared things we can do to recognize fear in our students and techniques for helping. In order to play along, I dropped my poles, one ski, and completely unbuckled my boots – trust me, I felt empathy!

Argentina seems to use their own take on the Fitts & Posner's Stages of Learning (cognitive, associative and autonomous). Their first stage - Exploration, is where it is common to see people looking down and using jerky movements, as they explore a new activity. When

you see these behaviors, allow ample time for practice in a safe environment until you see the students looking up and moving more fluidly. Next is Concentration. Like the associative phase, the student demonstrates skillfulness in particular situations or activities, but when variables are added, the student struggles. They may be working hard, using lots of effort, and may tire easily. You may need to dial back the terrain, revisit an earlier activity, and explain what they should feel and do. With time, students hopefully get to the Automatism stage, like our autonomous stage, where movements happen automatically and the skier/rider can easily adapt to many different variables.

Key Takeaways:

It is good to remind ourselves what it feels like to be out of our element, so we may have empathy with our students. No matter what you call the stages of learning, they exist, and every athlete is constantly moving through them as we continue to master our sport. As an instructor, when we see the signs that our student is in the Exploration or Concentration stages be sure to adapt the lesson to help them to be successful. Finally, the different disciplines ARE more similar than different, and when you approach a group with an open heart, eager mind, and a willingness to try, you will be welcome most anywhere.



Czechia XC sliding while alternating who flexes and extends

Czechia – XC – Skiing with Fun Classical Technique for Kids and Youth

For this session, I abandoned my alpine gear and showed up on rented XC equipment. I forgot a hat, so I donned my helmet until I warmed up. Fortunately, the Czechia program was fast moving and fun and it was no time before I was dropping layers, so I didn't look so silly in my helmet for long.

During their session, we played a number of different games all focused on getting us moving on our equipment, challenging our balance, and having fun. Many of the activities were different forms of freeze tag with one ski on, linked arms with a partner and different maneuvers to perform to unfreeze someone. For example, when you were frozen the person who tagged you designated what you were: rock, bridge or tree. If you were a rock, you bent down in a ball and to be unfrozen someone would ski over you. A tree, you stood tall with your arms outstretched and someone skied around you. A bridge,

continued on next page >>

you stood with legs wide apart and someone dove between your legs (which works on XC gear but could be challenging on Alpine gear). There were plenty of other variations. Use your imagination, or better yet, let your students come up with their own versions.

When we started sliding down a small slope there were several different passes with different challenges from stepping sideways over small cones, flexing and extending, and balancing on one foot, to Royal Christies. What I hadn't seen done before was having us all slide down together, hands linked, as some people were alternately pulled forward while others moved back, some alternately extended up while others flexed down, or my personal favorite as we executed a wave as we flexed and extended from one end of our group to the other.

Key Takeaways:

I am a novice XC skier at best, but in no time, the Czech's activities made sure I had forgotten all about what I didn't know, and I was focused on the task at hand – avoiding the person who was “it”. When I teach a beginner lesson, I spend plenty of time on the basics, but I had forgotten how much fun a good game of tag can be. Also, as I performed the various straight runs with my group, I could easily picture how much fun some of the groups I teach would have with these activities. The group leaders never explained how to stand on our skis in an athletic position; how to move our feet to propel ourselves; how to manage pressure foot to foot or along the length of the ski to keep from falling over; or to quickly turn our legs to escape being tagged or avoid stepping on our partner's equipment. We simply figured it out through trial and error with plenty of laughs along the way.



Adaptive Group

Australia – Adaptive APSI Technical Approach

I was excited to participate in Australia's adaptive program where they presented their technical approach. As has been said, every lesson is adaptive. I see so many opportunities in this area and I'm eager for new ideas. The session was presented by the same team member who presented their Alpine session on their APSI Technical Approach that I attended, but this time he was in a mono-ski for the entire session. PSIA-AASI's National Team Adaptive Coach - Geoff Krill, along with two other mono skiers from Finland also

participated. The opportunity to ski with four talented mono skiers was truly unique for me.

Key Takeaways:

I approached this session thinking I was going to learn how Australia adapts their technical approach for athletes who have impairments. It was interesting to see that it was basically the same presentation I had seen for the Alpine discipline. While at first I was disappointed, I quickly realized it aligns well with PSIA-AASI's focus on developing a clear understanding of the underlying discipline (Alpine or Snowboard) and then adapting to meet the unique needs of the guest. What made the session great was the opportunity to pair with one of Finland's mono skiers and to discuss what she had to do to achieve the desired ski performance. For example, I had never thought before how challenging it is for a mono skier to find the right blend of skills to make their ski skid. In fact, it is much more challenging than carving a turn.

Another key takeaway from this session, was the realization that while we, as an organization, and resorts in the United States, have more to do in order to effectively support our adaptive instructors and athletes, we are still ahead of other countries and I hope we continue to set a high standard. Levi, for example, had several new bubble lifts that included features to help keep guests in their seats but those attachments, and the molded seat designs, make it very challenging for mono-skiers to ride. In addition, in some countries they use instructors and equipment to manage a person as they slide on snow, versus using instructors and equipment to support the athlete as they ski or ride for themselves. This is important distinction that we must continue to support and develop in the U.S.

PSIA-AASI – Keynote – Increasing Gender Equity in Snowsports Instruction

National Team member, Ann Schorling, won the Best Keynote award for the Congress after an inspiring presentation on increasing gender equity. The presentation was based upon research she did at Big Sky Resort to complete her master's thesis. It included strategies to integrate diverse communities, understand the obstacles, and create more inclusive schools. Ann's presentation, [Gender Equity in Snowsports Instruction](#), may be viewed on YouTube.

Key Takeaways:

One challenge women may face in achieving higher levels of certification is they are often requested to teach young children, as a result, it may be hard to regularly spend time on more advanced terrain. In Ann's presentation, she shared that at Big Sky when a female instructor is requested, they tell the guest a female instructor cannot be guaranteed, but ask instead, for what qualities the ideal instructor should possess. Qualities like gentle, patient, playful, and caring exist in men and women, and when the question is framed around these qualities, and not gender, a match may be found that meets or exceeds the customer's expectations.

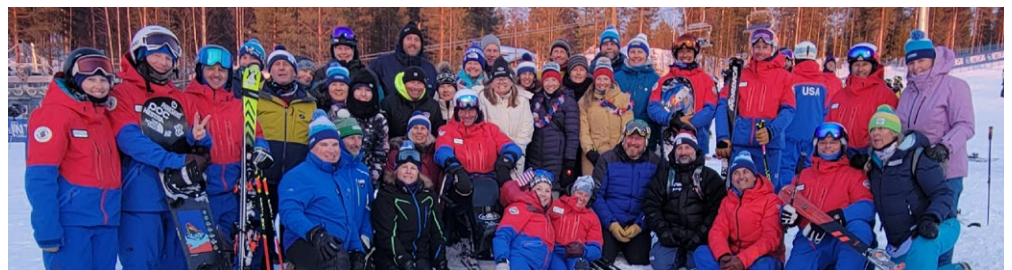
Another key takeaway from Ann's presentation was the theory of skewed groups that occur when the minority is less than 30% of the group. In this instance, the majority starts to assume the minority is like themselves. While on the other hand, people in the minority tend to keep opinions to themselves, adopt the opinions of the majority, and may underperform, disengage, or disrupt their relationships with others if they perceive a stereotype risk.

I can't possibly do Ann's presentation, or this topic, justice in a few short paragraphs. There is more work to be done as we continue to build a diverse community. I look forward to learning more about Ann's research and working with the leadership in the Eastern Region, and across this country, as we help our members grow and thrive.

In Closing:

In addition to the events highlighted here, I also participated in programs presented by the Austrians, Canadians, Germans, and Swiss. In addition, I engaged in thought-provoking conversations with delegates from many of the participating countries. As has been my experience with any educational event I attend, I always find information that aligns with my beliefs, ideas that challenge me to think or move differently, and concepts I'll choose to leave behind.

As I have taken advantage of opportunities to travel around the world to participate in different snowsports activities, one thing I've learned is wherever I go, I feel at home. Consider putting yourself out of your comfort zone and you will be amazed by the people you will meet, experiences you will share, and knowledge you'll bring home with you. I've never been disappointed by an investment I've made in my education. <<



Eastern Contingent – Eastern participants at Interski

Changing of the Guard

By Kathy Brennan
Eastern Division CEO

When the organization moved to a Policy Governance model of board leadership in 2020 the decision was made to restructure the Board to:

- Support greater diversity of age, gender, discipline etc. through the inclusion of more at-large representatives.
- Continue geographic diversity via the election zones.
- Recognize greater efficiencies in governance and costs due to the board's reduced size.
- Invite member participation in the nomination and selection process through a balance between member-elected board seats and at-large seats.

A schedule has been defined to transition the board to this new structure over a number of years. This year Zone 2 (Southern New England: CT, MA & RI – formerly region 3) elected Xusong (Terry) Xie, and Zone 4 (South: MD, DE, VA, WV & NC – formerly region 7) elected Landon Figg to be their board representative for the next three years.

Newly Elected



Xusong (Terry) Xie – Zone 2 (CT, MA & RI) Terry's passion for skiing began at Wachusett Mountain in Massachusetts, where he learned to ski and eventually became a ski and snowboard instructor in 2013. Through hard work and determination, Terry continued to improve his knowledge and skills, eventually earning a spot on the Eastern Region's Alpine Development Team in 2021. Terry is also a certified Snowboard L1, Children Specialist L2, and Freest Specialist L1. In addition, he plans to complete his USSA Alpine 200 Coach certification next season. Currently, Terry serves as an Alpine Staff Trainer at Okemo, leading mostly mid-week certification-prep clinics. He remains grounded by skiing at Wachusett, where his children train with the race team. Terry also serves as a NextCore mentor, guiding younger PSIA-AASI members to achieve their goals in Snowsports. Terry's background as a Chinese immigrant has given him a deep appreciation for the connections he has made with other minority skiers and snowboarders in the community. Along with teaching snowsports, he operates an outdoor specialty store in Littleton, MA. Looking ahead, Terry is excited to continue contributing to the Snowsports community and working collaboratively with others to tackle current and future challenges and opportunities.



Landon Figg – Zone 4 (MD, DE, VA, WV & NC) Landon began skiing at age 3 at The Homestead Resort under Sepp Kober and his Austrian staff. She skied actively with her family and began teaching at age 15. She taught throughout high school and college at Wintergreen. After graduation, she moved to Summit County to teach at Breckenridge. Living and working at Breckenridge was an invaluable experience, but times were tough as resort jobs weren't a viable year-round career option. As a result, she moved back east to Snowshoe, WV to teach. To make ends meet, she became a patroller and has been a card-carrying NSP member for almost 23 years. She currently serves on NSP's Southern Division Board and earned her Certified pin not too long ago. In addition, she is a USSA certified Alpine Race Coach and works with the Development Team at Wintergreen. As an Eastern Region Board Member, Landon plans to focus on increasing recruitment and retention of members, collaborating within the snow industry to share ideas and best practices, and further promote and support the members of Zone 4. Landon is passionate about sharing the wonder and joy of sliding on snow!

Stepping Down

As part of this transition several Board members will also be stepping down at the end of this fiscal year in June. We are grateful for their volunteer leadership and their many years of service.



Dave Beckwith Sr. – Zone 2 (formerly Region 3: CT, MA, RI) Dave has been a representative since 2011. He was the former Board Secretary and Scholarship Committee Chair, and a member of Eastern Region's CEO search committee. As he leaves the board, he will also be stepping down as the Eastern Governance Committee (EGC) chair. Dave is a Level III certified instructor and currently the Technical Director at Mt. Southington Snowsports School. He also served as Mt. Southington's Area Rep for more than a decade. According to Dave, it has been his privilege and pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors and represent Zone 2 (Region 3).



Ross Boisvert – Past Chair, Former Region 1 (NH) Ross has more than 20 years of service to the PSIA-AASI Eastern Region, first joining the Board in June 2002 as the Region 1 Director. He has served as the Chair of PSIA-AASI Eastern, Executive Committee Secretary, and Snowsports Management Committee member. Ross was formerly the Snowsports Director at McIntyre Ski Area in Manchester, NH. Currently, he is the Owner and General Manager of McIntyre and The Hill Bar and Grille.



Walter Jaeger – Zone 4 (MD, DE, VA, WV, NC) From 2010-2013, Walter served as Region 7 Representative with Paul Crenshaw as Director. Then again from 2016 to the present, he has represented Region 7 (now Zone 4) through the transition to Policy Governance. From 2013-2016 Walter served as the Chair of the Members Promotion Committee.

A skier since the age of 4, Walter earned his Alpine LIII certification in 2008 and is currently engaged by Massanutten Resort as the Alpine Coordinator charged with facilitating instructor teaching and training. He remains committed to the goal of marketing PSIA-AASI to the public in order to create awareness of the value of certified instructors. Walter shares that his time on the Board of the PSIA-AASI Eastern Region has been fruitful, educational, and engaging. He has never lost sight of the purpose of serving and he hopes the future will provide another opportunity to serve.



Ty Johnson – Zone 4 (MD, DE, VA, WV, NC) Ty was elected the Region 7 (all states south of the Mason Dixon line) Representative from 2012 to 2015, and then reelected as the Director from 2018 to 2023. During that time, he has served as a member of the Scholarship, Board Nominating, and Member Communications Committees. Ty has earned his Alpine Level III and CS2. He was formerly the Assistant Director of the Snowsports School and is currently a line instructor and the Alpine Training Director at Wintergreen Resort. Ty remains a very persistent and successful advocate for Zone 4 members and events.

During the June board meeting, our new Board Members, as well as the departing members will both participate to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

If you run into any of these people, please congratulate them and thank them for their service. <<

Region Update

By Kathy Brennan
Eastern Division CEO

PSIA-AASI Eastern Region News

Member Numbers and Finances

As I write this, we are working to finalize our numbers for the end of the year, but the stats are looking good. Our new member and total member numbers are up. Please refer to Peter Howard's View from the Chair article on page 2 for more details. Thanks to solid new member and retention numbers, as well as better than expected event turnout, dues and event revenues are over budget. Expenses were higher than budgeted, in part because we conducted more events than planned; however, expenses were also impacted by increased lodging and travel costs. Our staff training expenses also exceeded budget. I should have planned better for more people on our Development Teams who are participating in training and also overdue wage increases. Despite the expense increases, I fully expect our organization to finish the year with a positive Net Income and I will be reporting financial details to the Board of Directors during our June board meeting.

June Board of Directors Meeting

Speaking of the board meeting, since taking over as CEO, I have been committed to bringing our in-person board meetings to the resorts where our members work. Our host resorts so generously support our events throughout the year, and this is an opportunity for our Board of Directors to see their operations and meet with their leadership. The June 2022 meeting was held at Jiminy Peak in MA, the October 2022 meeting was at Windham in NY, and this June's meeting will be held at Liberty Mountain in PA.

During the board meeting, our board representatives take the time to meet with resort leaders to hear about their successes and challenges. It is also an opportunity to explore how PSIA-AASI may help them to achieve their goals with staff and guests.

For our June meeting, we are delighted that the new CEO of our national organization, Peggy Hiller, will be able to attend our meeting. Your board representatives are also looking forward to reviewing the finances and wins/learns from the 22-23 season and having generative conversations to think strategically about our future. Following the meeting, minutes and executive overviews will be available on our website for your review.

If your resort would be interested in hosting a future board meeting, please reach out to Kathy Brennan at the PSIA-AASI Eastern Office.

23-24 Event Planning

Each spring Snowsports Directors receive a Bid Request form where they may identify the events they would like to host at their resort. (NOTE: If you are a director and you did not receive a link to this form, please contact the Eastern office as soon as possible.) From that information, our Education and Programs staff painstakingly builds the calendar of events.

At this time, we are happy to report the Snow ProJam and Master's Academy will be returning to Killington, December 11-15, 2023. Registration will open Monday, September 18th, at 9am.

While we do not have dates or locations at this time, you may begin planning ahead for an Alpine Development Team tryout as well as an Advanced Children's Educator (ACE team) tryout. In addition, for anyone who was unable to attend this year's Eastern Team tryouts, we will have an early season, last-ditch, opportunity to earn the Eastern Region's endorsement that is required in order to participate in the National Team tryouts.

In addition, our Education Committee is working with our Eastern Team members to prepare some exciting online sessions for this summer. They are also working on some new additions to our calendar for the 23-24 season. Stay tuned to Facebook for more information.

Listening Tour

As reported in the Winter issue, in early January I briefly visited PA and NJ. Snow coverage was limited, but people were still optimistic for a great season

ahead; unfortunately, Winter did not deliver in the Mid-Atlantic this year, but we can look forward to a great season to come.

As planned, in early February I did a tour of New York including stops at Snow Ridge, Dry Hill, Buffalo Ski Center, Kissing Bridge, Peek'n Peak, Holimont, Holiday Valley, Bristol, Greek Peak, Song, and Belleayre. Recent snow meant great conditions and people were excited to be out and training. One of the most impressive programs I saw this winter was the Adventure Program at Buffalo Ski Club (BFC). Their program inspires 3 to 6-year-olds to learn and explore winter sports. Program Director Thom Slomka puts an enormous amount of work into making this program successful. Daily he sets up and maintains a course of skill-based activities. Not only does he make sure the markings are fresh for the afternoon session; the course/activities change based upon the conditions of the day and the skills to be developed. In addition, they have prepared comprehensive coach and parent guides. If you are looking for more information about this program, please reach out to Thom and he is happy to share his experience.

In March, I toured Maine to visit some of our most northeastern resorts, including Black Mountain in ME, Mount Abram, Pleasant Mountain, Lost Valley, Camden Snow Bowl, Big Rock, Saddleback and Sugarloaf. Along the way, I also made a quick detour into New Hampshire to visit the Jackson Ski Touring Center. I learned that Mars Hill, home of Big Rock ski area in northern Maine, is the first place in the continental United States the sun hits from late March to mid-September each year. Visiting these remote resorts reaffirmed my opinion that their instructors often feel as disconnected from PSIA-AASI as our members in the southernmost parts of our Region. As a result, we need to continue to explore ways we may help support these operations with their staff training.

One thing I discovered on my tour was, while cost is often a concern for members, the degree of concern seems to vary from resort to resort. At one resort all the feedback will be about the high price of dues and events. Yet, at another resort, I'm told the costs are more than reasonable for the value received. I have not been able to determine if the difference is a result of the demographics of the staff, leadership, culture, financial support from the resort, or some combination of all these factors, but it is interesting to note the differences.

This season most resorts found it a little easier to attract staff, but demand continues to outstrip availability and the staff on hand are working long days. Training, unfortunately, was a casualty of Covid at many resorts. Between avoiding groups, restricting indoor gatherings, staff shortages, and consumer demand, many of the once vibrant training cultures in our Region are now pale by comparison. Fortunately, Directors told me they recognize the need to make time for training, not only to ensure a positive experience for their guests, but also because exceptional training is a key to attracting and retaining staff.

What is the old saying about the shoemaker's daughter? She is the last one to get new shoes. Likewise, the last two years I have focused my Listening Tour on the outer reaches of our Region. For the 23-24 season, I look forward to visiting many of the resorts closer to home in NH, MA, CT and RI. If your resort would like a visit, please have your Area Rep contact me.



Eastern Member Value Survey

One of the goals of my Listening Tour is to identify ways our organization may increase our value to instructors, members, the resorts where we work, and the guests we serve. But I can only reach so many people on my tour. To help us gather more information that will aid our planning for the 23-24 season, we have developed an Eastern Member Value Survey. If you have not already, please take about 5-10 minutes to complete the survey. If you have already completed the survey, thank you! Your input helps us in our goal to meet your wants and needs.

easternsnowpros.org/survey/

Thank You

We don't say it often enough but Thank You! Thanks to your passion, generosity, and commitment to snowsports, our profession, and PSIA-AASI we have a dedicated and enthusiastic community. Thank you for inspiring all of us to continue to deliver the best programs and services to engage, educate and inspire you, and ultimately your guests. ‹‹



KB's Listening Tour Stops

Belleayre, NY
Big Rock, ME
Black Mountain, ME
Bristol Mountain, NY
Buffalo Ski Club, NY

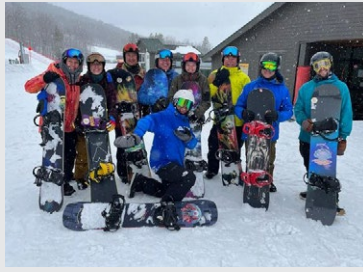
Camden Snow Bowl, ME
Camelback, PA
Dry Hill, NY
Elk Mountain, PA
Greek Peak, NY

Holiday Valley, NY
Holimont, NY
Jack Frost, PA
Jackson XC Center, NH
Killington, VT

Kissing Bridge, NY
Lost Valley, ME
Montage, PA
Mount Abram, ME
Mount Snow, VT

Peek'n Peak, NY
Pleasant Mountain, ME
Saddleback, ME
Ski Big Bear, PA
Snow Ridge, NY

Song, NY
Sugarloaf, ME
Waterville Valley, NH
Winter4Kids, NJ



Congratulations

Congratulations to the following members who earned their new Level I, Level II or Level III certification or their new Children's or Freestyle Specialist accreditation during this past season!

Alpine Level 3

Amanda Allen
Michael Breeden
James Burns
Brian Collins
Karen Dalury
Francesco Drake
Quinn Ferguson
Robert Greenawalt
Kurt Hutchison
Dmitri Kasyuk
Eric Kizak
Paul Long
Charles McNeeley
Finbarr O'Connor
Isa Orr-Tokle
Ian Riccelli
Richard Romano
Philip Schwartz
Norm Staunton
Charles Tasse

Alpine Level 2

Katie Adams
Elise Allen
Alison Ambrosecchio
Chandra Anderson
Jillian Anderson
Ethan Arrington
David Bell
Peter Bellek
Thomas Bingham
Jennifer Bo
Gerriane Breck
Emily Brooks
Katherine Brundage
Tom Buchok
James Burke
Ronald Burnheimer
Beth Buvarsky
Evonne Cho
Charles Clyne
Jeffrey Crane
Heather Eldridge
Bo Elfving
Israel Ellner
Ryan Flanagan
Kaitlin Flor
Kristen Flower
Courtney Ford
Hannah Forte
Joshua Gagliardi
Douglas Gallagher
William Gibson
Joseph Gorberg

Ian Hammer
Nancy Harm
Brayden Hascup
Carol Hauspurg
Donald Haworth
Diane Hoskins
Amanda Hughes
Shaun Hydock
Deborah Jenard
Daniel Jeske
Katie Johnson
Douglas Kennedy
Zachary Kirchner
Vicki Kirkpatrick
Jeffrey Koch
Andrea Kornbluh
Lukasz Lesniowski
Ryan Liscinski
Joe Lohre
Ann Low
Dali Ma
Reagan Masson
Timothy Mathisen
Nichole Mayhew
P.A. McLaughlin
Michael Morch
Erik Needleman
Jeffrey Nordmark
Glenna Oliver
Duane Oot
Kathy Pushkin
Amy Rautiola
Alan Recheteo Teixeira
Don Reed
Beatrice Rodrigues
George Ryan
Jenny Sage
Kelly Saux
Curt Schibli
Dongying Shen
Brett Shriver
Martin Smolka
Daniel Sullivan
Yousef Tehrani
Kathryn Theisen
Eugene Trivell, III
Pui Yee Tse
Karl Waizecker
Patricia Waters
Timothy Watson
Joanna Willott
Andrey Yunusov

Alpine Level 1

Bruno Acquistapace
José Tomás Acuña
Audrey Adamchak
Steven Alesevich
Heath Alexander
Jane Alexander
Marion Allen
Ashlynn Anderson
Emma Anderson
Anastasia Angelova
Jack Armstrong
Kevin Armstrong
Estelle Azurin
David Baer
Ciara Balanza
CJ Baldoni
Thomas Barden
Marsha Baretta
Kara Barker
Alexa Barnes
Juno Barnett
Gregg Barron
Becky Bartell
Dayna Bartoldson
John Bartow
Contessa Bausano
Sebastian Baxter
Wyatt Beidelman
Finnian Bellamy
David Bellemare
Alexandra Bellisario
Rachel Bender
Chase Benson
Ethan Benz
Aviva Beringhouse
Lindsay Berry
Courtney Berzolla
Adele Biasini
John Bien
Stephen Bieneman
William Bingham
Ashleigh Bishop
Kyree Blackwell
Robert Blackwell
Bill Blaiklock
Stephanie Blair
Tracey Blair
Morgan Blanchard
Sam Blumberg
Michael Bobrowiecki
John Boehrer
Dan Bogdan
Christine Bosco

Leigh Bost
Jason Boulanger
Edmond Boullianne
Michael Boutin
Henry Bower
Brett Bowers
Josh Bowers
Maikela Boyce
Megan Brakeley
Jess Brallier
James Branson
Ruthie Brawley
Annina Breen
Cam Breen
David Brenninkmeyer
Paul Brewer
Alton Brisport
Matthew Brooks
Riley Brown
Ryan Brueninghaus
Kendall Buck
Jared Buckman
Bryce Bukowicz
Michael Burton
Brian Busher
Colleen Byron
Aaron Cahill
Neil Cain
Jett Cairns
Samantha Calamari
Owen Calderwood
Yann Calderwood
Lawson Calhoon
Camilo Camuzzi Cagnolo
Austen Canova
Zhe Cao
Alexia Caraballo
Cooper Carlson
Bryan Carnahan
Makena Carpenter
Madeleine Carr
Zoe Carr
Renan Carvalho
Eloise Cassels
Jake Cataldo
Joseph Cataldo
Damian Catera
Christina Cerroni
Matthew Champagny
Joshua Champion-Marks
Michael Chan
Oscar Channer
Lorraine Chastant
Anna Chetnik

Taylor Choi
Mark Chotkowski
Jie Chou
Alex Clark
Gregg Clark
Sydney Clark
Bruce Clay
Gerald Coleman
Jesse Coleman
Doug Colosky
Christopher Connolly
Andre Contreras
Elizabeth Cook
Peter Corby
Jay Corcoran
Daniel Coronado
Josh Corriveau
Lily Coughlan
Kent Couling
Kyung Coultas
Jonathan Craig
Aiden Creller
Cayman Crim
Teo Crocetti
Courtney Crowley
Josh Culeton
Miranda Cully
Phoebe Cunningham
Maryann Curtin
Rachel Cutler
Blake Dagesse
Lingzhi Dai
Alicia Daly
Elizabeth Daly
Olivia Danise
Michael D'Arco
Philip Darragh
Joshua David
Kari Davidson
Peter Davidson
Gustavo Davila
Andrew Davis
Asa Davis
Dean Davis
Paige Davis
Connor Deignan
Matteo Del Poeta
Joshua Delaurier
Gerard Demanche
Lisette Deon
Emery Deutsch
Kurt Deutsch
Marissa Dewey
Rafael Diaz

Blake Dickerson
Elmore Dickstein
Mark Diehl
John Dillon
Arthur DiMarco
Robert Dinsmore
Daniel Dombrowski
Jack Donaghue
Jolene Donnelly
Emily Donovan
David Dorfman
Siyu Du
Charles Durr
Carroll Eastman
Mark Eckert
Jeff Edmonds
Sophie Edmunds
Elijah Edwards
Suzee Edwards
Zachary Ehmann
Geoffrey Ehrman
Lorelai Eidswick
Erin Elliott
Robert Elliott
Colleen Epler-Ruths
Jeff Erkelens
Terri Fainer
Isabella Falcone



Daisy Farquhar	Christopher Hoffman	Megan L'Esperance	Martina Nehybka	Matt Seney	Alan Vomacka
Maya Faughnan	Nicholas Hood	Caroline Lesser	Elisabeth Nelson	Hannah Seward	Bailey Voss
Gibson Fellows	Gary Horman	Rich Lester	Laura Nesta	Sherm Sewell	Amalia Vossoughian
Luba Ferencevych	Henry Hou	Oliver Levick	Shannon Neville	Bradley Shaffer	Sandra Wadsworth
Christopher Fertucci	Cameron Howe	Jaki Levy	Liam Nevins	Lily Shapiro	Megan Waldron
Josh Fields	Timothy Howe	William Lewis	David Newman	Rich Sharrett	Jocelyn Walker
Daniel Filkin	Melanie Hudson	William Lewis	Jacey Nieckarz	John Sheaffer	William Walsweer
Harrison Fish	Patrick Hughes	Feiran Li	Nicholas Nilsen	William Sheehan	Christopher Walters
Asa Fleischer	Bill Hummel	Liu Li	Yurui Niu	Edward Sheldon	Julia Walters
Gabriella Fontana	Gregory Hunter	Xiang Jessica Li	Ryan Nivus	Aspyn Shriver	Bowen Wang
Robbie Fontana	Geoffrey Hurley	Yafei Liang	Andrew Nolett	David Shulman	Ruohan Wang
Zoe Forster	Ryan Hurst	Patrick Libuda	Donald Nolett	Diane Siegart	Xu Wang
Elizabeth Fosnocht	William Hyde	Marcelo Liceda	Amanda Norris	Cat Siegel	Yu Wang
Terri Foster	Elena Ivanova	Sihyun Lim	Simone Norwick	Isaac Sievers	Zixuan Wang
Brent Fournier	Emma Ivory	Hongyuan Lin	Fletcher Oakes	Maureen Sigeti	Hailey Ward
Donna Frankel	Margo Jansen	Tianyu Lin	Nicole O'Dowd	Sam Simoneaux	Bella Wark
Remy Freda	Dominic Janssens	William Lindsey	Jacquelyn Olivera	Billy Sims	Isaac Weber
Rachael Freundlich	David Jarcho	Howard Lipman	Nils Olson	Greg Slack	Lauren Weeks
Jeffrey Friedman	Mike Jarriel	Heath Lisle	Gabriella O'Meara	Miriam Slate	Stanislaw Wegrzyn
Chad Friend	Dylan Jasulevicz	Kai Liu	Lucas Onetti	Maxwell Sleeper	Chris Weis
Marief Fulghum	Christine Jenne	Sam Liu	Lisa Onorato	Will Smart	Allison Weissensee
Maria Gahona	Jintao Jiang	Yang Liu	Malena Otegui	Autumn Smith	Robert Welch
Elijah Gamson	Bronwyn Johnson	Yangtao Liu	Willard Ozanne	Bradley Smith	Brian Wells
Linfeng Gao	Judith Johnson	Elizabeth Lobb	Laura Palazzo	Gabriella Smith	Graham Welsh
Allysa Garcia	Shane Johnson	Anthony Lomasney	Steven Parent	Jake Smith	Matthew Weppner
Bruce Gasco	John Johnson-Bartoli	Lauren Lopez	Dan Paulk	Todd Snell	Julie Westervelt
William Gavin	Barry Johnston	James Lopresti	Tatiana Pavlides	Samantha Speirs	Eloise Wheeler
Peter Gaviorno	Aaron Jones	Ryn Lord	Natalie Pearson	Scott Spencer	Grace Wherry
Peter Geier	Lee Jones	Katherine Lukitsch	Dominica Pechan	Douglas Spoehr	Kiara White
Guadalupe Gerbino	Owen Jones	Emily Lupinacci	Corey Perich	Douglas Stambaugh	Elise Whiteaker
John Gerig, Jr.	Matthew Josephs	Alan Lurty	Liliana Peron	Sally Stark	Nyssa Wilkinson
Mitchell Gill	Megan Juhola	Aaron Lutzker	Glenn Perry	Doran Stegura	Dan Williams Tett
Hugo Gillman	Jake Jump	Colleen Lynch	Maxwell Phillips	Nigel Stein	Connor Williams
Liam Gleason	Amir Kader	Sabrina Ma	Robert Phillips	William Steinharter	Edward Williams
Ricardo Gobbi	Miles Kahn	Joseph Macdonald	Mia Pietryka	Clara Stevens	Hailey Williams
Jesse Goldman	Tanner Kalisher	Anthony Makoski	Lydia Pinard	Jane Stewart	Justin Williams
Graham Good	Shannon Kamieneski	Sean Malone	Emily Pogozelski	Sabrina Stirling	Nancy Williams
Julia Gorenstein	Alec Kapps	Charles Marino	Marta Pomerantz	Mason Storer	Don Willmot
Sean Grant	Olivia Karas	Clayton Marshall	Catiana Porter	Peter Stover	Amy Wilson
Daniel Gray	Diane Keane	Benjamin Martin	Madelyn Powell	Grace Strauch	David Wilson
Iz Greenawalt	Nora Kearney	Zane Martin	Gretchen Pratt	Gerry Stryker	Kaitlynn Wiltraut
Hailee Greene	Lindsay Keller	Cas Marzzacco	Jessica Pratt	Mark Sullivan	Harrison Winger
Maria Grzeslak	Sara Kelley	Leah Masek	John Price	Senmiao Sun	Hunter Winslow
Paul Guarino	Barbara Kelly	Steven Masseur	Cole Priest	Sunny Sun	Brandon Wolfe
Emily Guerdan	Mavis Kelly	Caroline Mattise	Brian Pronitis	Emily Swan	McKenna Woody
Vicente Guevara	Tim Kelly	John Tyler Matusiak	Charles Ramos	Nathan Swanton	Andrew wrabel
Alanna Guilfoyle	David Kenna	Zane Mawhinney	Nora Randolph	Ian Swift	Michael Wright
Jason Gunn	George Kerr III	Kari Mayzel	Natalie Raymond	Taylor Syvertsen	Xueyan Wu
Josh Gustafson	Christopher Kickham	Noah Mayzel	Kate Read	Liam Ta	Yao Wu
John Hall	Annabel Kimball	James McAndrew	Andres Reda	Laura Takken	Melissa Wyrick
Stuart Hamer	Taylor Kirkpatrick	Steve McDonough	Jenny Rehkugler	Madeleine Tansley	Heidi Xie
Kayla Handy	Owen Kizak	Samantha McElwain	Isabella Renney	Charlene Tarsa	Jiechen Xu
William Hanover	Ella Klinsky	Jake McGrew	Amanda Resch	Ashley Taylor	Liyi Xu
Talan Harakal	Chris Knight	Siobhan McKone	Adam Reznikoff	Matthew Taylor	Ziyun Xu
Alec Harding	Tamara Kohmann	Eamon McMorrow	Madeleine Rhee	Walter Temnycky	Bailey Yager
Ryan Harmon	Robert Koning	Joseph McParland	James Riddle	James Tesesco	Glenn Yale
Mackenzie Harpster	Tasha Kovalik	Jeffrey Meade	Ellen Riley	Kathryn Theisen	Yan Yan
Larry Harris	Katherine Krishtopa	Andrea Mertz	William Roberts	Graham Theodore	Lijing Yao
Maxwell Harrison	Brian Kroll	Jonathan Meserve	John Robinson	Hunter Thomas	Duncan Yarworth
Sophie Hartevelde	Jean-Francois Labourdette	Jeff Miller	Isabel Robison	Meredith Thomas	Xirong Ye
Michael Hatzel	Xavier Labourdette	Keegan Miller	Steven Romanoff	Michael Thomas-Adam	Bryan Yeaton
Bruce Hawkins III	Cale Laduc	Steven Miska	Lee Rose	Aaron Thompson	Kamryn You Mak
Bruce Hawkins	Maeve Laffan	Allison Mohrman	Isaac Rosenthal	Colby Thompson	Jas Zendik
Qifan He	Kaitlyn Lafferty	John Moloney	Phil Rottner	Hailey Thompson	Jiemeng Zeng
Yi He	Erin Laffond	Dylan Montbach	David Ruccio	Ziyi Tian	Ke Zeng
Eadon Hecht	Valerie LaFreniere	Nicholas Moore	Dana Rudikoff	Theodosee Topaloff	Chunlan Zhai
Adam Heilemann	Susan Landry	Maria "Mia" Moran-Smith	Jonathan Rudin	Nicholas Travia	Jingjie Zhang
Mia Helweg	Adam Langbart	Donna Morin	Gale Rugh	Jason Travitz	Wentao Zhang
Stephen Hercka	Christina Lapoint	Charlie Morris	Alyssa Russo	Brian Trimby	Xiaosong Zhang
Stephanie Herfurth	Jessica LaPorte	Ethan Morrison	Reem Salha	Davis Trotter	Xu Zhang
Dennis Hertz	Noah Barbalestier	Logan Morrissey	Lisa Saltzman	Bruce Truax	Bowen Zhao
Nina Hewryk	Brian Larson	Johnathon Morvay	Maria Sanchez	Ryan Trudel	Yizhi Zheng
Aidan Hickey	Nick Latinski	Jennifer Mougeotte	Laura Sau	Fletcher Turner	Jian Zhu
Tommy Hickey	Moei Lau	Chris Mudge	Gideon Sayward	Jasper Turner	Yanlin Zhu
Randolph Hickman	Teri Lauritano	Bob Mullen	Hallie Scammell	Charlie Uberoi	Benjamin Ziomek
Lydia Hill	Matteo Lazar	Daniel Murphy	Will Scheuerman	Sara Usher	Emerson Zito
Nathan Hill	Hanna Leapaltd	Deirdre Murphy	Will Schuster	Fumi Usuki	Qianyun Zou
Craig Hinchcliffe	Kelly LeDrew	Josua Murphy	James Scott, Jr.	Charlie Uzdevinis	Leo Zynel
Chadd Hippensteel	Karli Leighton	Kevin Myers	Kyle Sedlock	Sasha Van Baars	
David Hissom	Jennifer Lema	Charles Najimy	Leora Segal	Martha Veselka	
Timothy Hoagland	Sandi LeMar	Ashleigh Nzedel	Vladimir Selec	Levi Vick	

Children's Specialist 2

Holly Andersen
Danielle Berg
Judi Bruns
Stephanie Dommer
Seth Farmer
Amy Harter
Tristan Isfeld
Dawn Jucker
Teresa Knox
Alexandra Lehn
Stephen Loquet
Ann Low
Matthew Macdonald
Daisy Mayer
Kevin McKiernan
Brian Mieczkowski
Jordan Nadel
Sharon Nelb
Wyatt Nowak
Mike Oleksinski
Harry Riggs
Christa Ross
Paul Rusen
George Ryan
Curt Schibli
Thor Simon
Jan Steckel
Ilya Stein
Miroslav Vytrisal
Jin Wang
Kurt Weeks
Igor Zoubarev

Children's Specialist 1

Ian Absalom
Jennifer Absalom
Jonathan Absalom
Paul Aherne
Steven Alesevich
Dawson Allwine
Jacob Anderholm
Diane Anderson
Ethan Arrington
Garrett Arrington
Homer Arrington
Arianna Asquini
Nancy Azzaretto
Charles Bailey
Austin Baird
Joseph Ballou
Ethan Bamkin
Steve Barbour
Marsha Baretta
Cynthia Barger
Jackson Barngrover
Amy Barton
Nathaniel Beam
Alyson Becker
David Bell
Finnian Bellamy
Scott Benack
Iddo Ben-Ari
Kim Bent
Mac Bentley
Mary Bergan
John Bien
Stephen Bieneman
Kayla Bildner
Madison Birnley
Ksawery Biskup
Walter Bixby
Robert Blinken
John Boburchuk
Thomas Borden
Rylee Both
Connor Boyd

Amy Breining
Emily Brooks
Tom Buchok
Shane Burke
Chris Burton
Brian Bush
Beth Buvarsky
Robin Calitri
Emma Carder
Taylor Champagne
Charlene Chase
Seth Chechile
Madeline Ciocci
Candice Coleman
John Collins
Devon Cortright
Emily Cox
Ned Crystal
Sandra Culver
Louise Cummings
Becara Dalton
Patrick Danahey
Margaux d'Arbeloff
Erik Day
Maurizio Del Poeta
Patricia DeMiglio
Lisa DeNardo
David Desrosiers
Gavin Donahue
Jennifer Dougan
Onna Downey
William Downs
Jeff Erkelens
Katherine Fisher
Mary Pingree Fisher
Lisa Flaherty
Felicia Fowler
Eileen Freedman
Ruben Freixenet
Kayla Galitello
Alicia Garza
Philip Giamportone
William Gibson
Jacob Anderholm
Samuel Gohl
Joseph Golderer
Rose Goldman
Eric Grant
Iz Greenawalt
Dan Greer
Sophie Guillemette
Heng Guo
Justin Hajek
Maria Haljun
Gregory Hammond
Claire Hanley
Christine Harrington
Stephen Harrington
Cody Heald
Erik Hegenbart
Kevin Hennessey
Jaiden Hepburn
Matthew Herbster
Kief Hess
David Hissom
Betsy Hoffmeister
Hailey Hopkins
Luke Hottenstein
Timothy Howe
Kimberly Hronec
Kiernan Huggins
Joe Hughes
Colin Hurlburt
Chad Janak
Darcy Jaskwich
Kurtis Johnson
Nigel Jones
Kevin Joyce
Alexandra Kaiser

Mark Kaufer
Jennifer Kelley
Susan Kelley
Jiseok Kim
Allen Kincaid
Ryan Kipp
David Kirk
Alexander (Sandy) Kish
Aaron Korzun
Alex Kreichman
Brian Kroll
Avela Krull
Emi Kubota
Jackson Kuncik
David Lanczynski
Jean Landry
Phillip Latinski
Santiago Latorre
Moei Lau
Meghan Laws
Rebecca Layton
David Leifer
Jeremy Leuch
Boyang Li
Jiening Li
Sven Lindholm
Robert Lindsey
Zachary Lindsey
Tom Little
Michael Lopez
Denise Lynch
Ken Lyons
Dave Maheux
Jillian Mahon
John Makdad
Roman Malachevsky
Haley Margulies
Alexander Marshall
Peter Martinez
Julian Martucci
Carla Maynard
Joey Maynard
Samantha McElwain
Mary McFaul
Alanna McGovern
Robert McGregor
Siobhan McKone
P.A. McLaughlin
Liz Mead
Victoria Mercado
Maryanne Merkel
Orion Metheny
Eric Miller
Mark Moody
Katherine Muise
Connor Mulligan
Kelly Myhan
Charles Nawoj
Allison Needham
Forrest Nelson
Chip Newman
Marc Nichitiu
Cody Nichols
Amelia Nick
Karl Oceppek
Edward O'Connell
Colin O'Hare
Katherine O'Neill
Maria Ordway
Matthew Pakos
Stephen Paquin
Robert Paradise
Manny Perry
Calvin Peters
Cole Pettengill
Paul Pien
Warren Pinder
Thomas Pokorny
Stephen Pound

Maureen Quinn
Christopher Radvanyi
Alicia Rainville
Tyler Rand
Jennifer Randolph
Sofia Rarden
Madeleine Rhee
Jared Rice
Christina Richette
William Rivard
Beatrice Rodrigues
Daniel Rodriguez
Rachel Rodriguez
Hanna Rohani-wilson
Jennifer Ross
Thom Roult
Sophia Sazavedra
Jocelyn Saltzman
Melinda Sanderson
Francesco Sarti
Paul Saulnier
Kevin Savino-Riker
Emily Scarbrough
Sarah Scarbrough
Ashley Scheichet
Margot Schroeder
Collin Schultz
Shauna Schussler
Carole Scovill
Renata Senatore
Matt Seney
Paul Shepherd
Brendan Shortt
JT Shupe
Eugenio Silva
Roman Simpson
Avi Snowise
Cecelia Soccia
John Soccia
Rosalie Sowers
Terry Spooner
Lisa Stanton
Michael Stark
Kathleen Starr
Gabriel Stegen
Robert Stiling
Fiona Stone
Todd Stoughton
Josie Strife
Gilbert Stringer
Elizabeth Styer
Yafan Su
Nick Summers
Nathan Swanton
David Tarsa
Yousef Tehrani
Kathryn Theisen
Graham Theodore
Byron Thompson
Amanda Timmerman
Noelle Tkacz
Travis Toole
Felipe Torres Pimiento
Glen Torres
Josh Trujillo
Peter VanSickler
Scott Vant
Milos Veljkovic
Joseph Ventimiglia
Amy Vickery
Rick Walker
Tanya Washington
Joseph Waterman
John Weeks
Irene Weimer
Erika Wentz
Jeffrey White
Martin Williams
Morgan Windram-Geddes

Pamela Winturi-Pitman
Jake Wlochowski
Di Xiao
Peter Yaverbaum
Dominic Yestranski
Andres Zeballos

Cross Country Level 2

Maggie Bassow
Steve Bruner

Cross Country Level 1

Heather Barger
Amanda Barnhart
Marguerite Birrell
Steve Bruner
Jen Culligan
Jackson Donnelly
Gabriela Formankova
Peter Hills
Deb Laufer
Thomas Miner
Leslie Moses
Alexandra Riedman
Marissa Saltzman
Sharon Smith-Bouchard
Dean Whalen
Sten Winborg

Freestyle Specialist 2

Ethan Arrington
Zechariah Barton
Riley Childs
Vincent Chisvette
Adam Delonais
Anthony Deperrio
Benjamin Marshall

Freestyle Specialist 1

Dawson Allwine
Marc Angelillo
Collin Astholz
Jeannette Baling
Taran Beebe
Jacobus Bentley
David Bertelli
Hannah Block
Steve Braig
Nathan Brant
Michael Breeden
Todd Buffington
Chris Burton
Justin Campbell
Zachary Case
Scott Cover
Nathaniel Curtisbrown
Charles Dagino
Margaux d'Arbeloff
Ian Davis
Christopher Dominici
Rhys Draper
Shane Draper
Stephen Eggly
William Eibach
Jacob Etherson
Nichole Foy
Stephanie Fritz
Todd Gant
Daniel Goldman
Colin Gully
Karen Hauda
Steven Hayre
Steven Hayre
Ryan Holden
Taylor Horton
Henry Hou
Rodney Huff
Joe Hughes

Colin Hurlburt
David Hyde
Elizabeth Hyde
Lee Ivory
Bryce James
Rosemarie Kaspersen
Sean Keefe
Craig Kennedy
Sharon King-Donohue
Zachary Kirchner
Paul Kotchey
David Lanczynski
Andrew Lehnerd
David Leslie
Nicole LoBiondo
John Lorenz
Elizabeth Lozinger
Rich Lucas
Mike Maher
Alexander Marshall
Hunter Marshall
Audrey Mazzaferr
Patrick McCord
Emily McCutcheon
Brian McHugh
Max Merryman
Crawford Miller
Deborah Moore
William Moore
Liam Mullin
Dameon Naylor
Erik Needleman
Kevin Olivera
Jeffrey Palm
Lindsay Paluck
Christian Passaro
Eric Phillips
Catiana Porter
Aaron Prince
Sarah Richards
Jeffrey Rinninger
Armen Rissmiller
Mitch Rotbert
Charles Roy
Galen Seerup
Bryan Sharp
Robert Smith
Martin Smolka
Adam Snyder
Chad Snyder
Rosalie Sowers
Emily Spiker
Savanah Stahl
Thomas Stewart
Jamie Thomas
David Underwood
Don Upright
Julian Videla
Steven Wanamaker-Hebebrand
Bing Wang
Jin Wang
Joseph Waterman
Robert Watkins
Kenneth Watson
Kent Waymire
Derek Wheeler
Roy Whitaker
Kurt Zwally

Snowboard Level 3

Tera Adams
Siyong Cheng
Nicole Erickson
Trevor Glenn
Austin Moody
Harrison Rice
Kevin Walters
Jackson West
Stefan Winnicki
Zhangxu Zhuo

Snowboard Level 2

Dawson Allwine
Kathryn Anderson
Collin Astholz
Evonne Cho
Erik Danvers
Paul Dennis
Brian Evins
Pinar Gnepp
Shane Govoni
Noah Granoff
David Harrsch
Kiernan Huggins
Jason Klevan
Alexander Lane
Ian LeBlanc
Shilong Li
Elizabeth Lozinger
Joe MacDonough
Emily McCutcheon
John Mitchell
Nicola Morales
Declan Myers-Brown
Catiana Porter
Xiangyu Qu
Ryan Sterling
Nick Summers
Jeffrey Thompson
Anna Vann
Bing Wang
Jake Wlochowski
Yuexi Zhang

Snowboard Level 1

Claire Adner
Kathryn Anderson
William Ardolino
Elizabeth Ashman
Dylan Aylward
Ethan Baldwin
Cameron Black
Chantelle Blair
Gavin Boardman
Alejandro Brown
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Education Committee Report Interski Reflections

By Angelo Ross

PSIA-E Examiner and ACE Team Member,
Eastern Education Committee Chair

I was privileged recently to attend Interski 2023 in Levi, Finland. From March 27-31, national teams from 32 countries demonstrated, through on-hill workshops, indoor sessions, and keynotes, their nations’ beliefs about the technical, teaching, and people skills aspects of snowsports instruction. All content was filtered through the theme of *The Guest Experience is Everything*, highlighting the reality that what we do on the hill is ultimately for naught without relevance to our students.

I learned very quickly that Interski congresses are very busy events, with far more offered than can be experienced. During the week, I attended about three events per day that ranged from on-hill demonstrations of technical performance to mostly outdoor and a few indoor workshop sessions, jaw-dropping high-speed/high tech synchronized performances, and brilliant lectures from some of the world’s most informed and thoughtful snowsports instructors. I realized very early in the week how direct the path is from Interski content to what happens on the hill with students as I attended these offerings side-by-side with national teamers from all over the world, including Team USA, all of whom were paying earnest attention, taking notes, asking questions, and having follow-up conversations about how we can all improve by working with and learning from each other.

My major takeaways from the event are as follows. In all the technical sessions I attended, a basic movement pattern from beginner to expert was presented. (In American alpine skiing, think wedge to christie to basic parallel to dynamic parallel.) That said, in each session, the presenters made the disclaimer that a different movement pattern is likely preferred situationally. For example, the basic Swiss alpine movement pattern involves extending the new outside leg at turn entry to move the center of mass inside the turn radius, then separation of upper and lower body occur. However, in some instances, flexing the new outside leg at turn entry is preferred. The Austrian presenters had us skiing drills on groomed with feet purposefully wider than in the bumps to explore movements and to promote versatility. In early stages of the Croatian alpine movement pattern, a very pronounced up move is taught that is gradually reduced as they incorporate more turns per second into their basic parallel to promote dynamic movements. The early upward move is brought back into play situationally in their high-end skiing, in cruddy, heavy snow or to unweight the skis and initiate a turn on steeps with consequences. The message I received is versatility in movement patterns is key, a belief that jibes with our American system. The more efficient movement patterns we and our students can access, the more versatile, competent, and safe we are.

My major takeaway regarding teaching was one of validation. The teaching-focused sessions I attended, regardless of nation presenting, could have been scripted by the same writer. In teaching that is focused on the guest experience and grounded in best practices, there just aren’t that many variations in general structure. In order to really

focus on those learning, it is necessary to collaborate with them to set goals, to manage the delivery of information in a calculated way, to create an environment that allows learning through experimentation, exploration, and play, to allow students time for thoughtful reflection, to be adaptable if the plan isn't working, to keep people physically safe, and to maintain an environment that respects their humanity. While some individual presenters were better at modeling this than others, the basic structure of the teaching systems I heard from the Australians and the Canadians – and that we emphasize in American teaching – was very similar which, I believe, means we are all headed in an effective direction to increase retention in our industry globally.

I did not anticipate having such a profound takeaway regarding people skills. However, throughout the week, I was very pleased to be able to attend workshops and indoor sessions about bringing mindfulness into teaching and technical performance. The German team's message of a holistic approach to snowsports instruction is an effort to promote snowsports as a lifestyle. The mission of their new curriculum series with the motto *Ski-Learn-Be* is to inspire lifelong passion built on a foundation of student goals. The curriculum was developed through careful analysis of what makes some instructors more successful than others, and its scope is broad, encompassing everything from marketing to teaching methodology to technical performance. On the hill with the German team, we tapped into the body's rhythms (heart rate, breathing cycle) to add accuracy to a morning full of very short, very high energy turns. The Czechs and the Lithuanians, in presentations I found especially interesting, are taking the concept of mindfulness one step farther as they exploit efficiencies in cognitive (learning) and social connections that develop through mimicry, copying, and mirroring, evolutionary abilities made available to us and other social animals (birds, mice, other apes) through the presence of mirror neurons.

I am very excited to attend the 2027 Interski Congress, location to be announced in December. If you're inclined to learn more, visit the National PSIA-AASI website and Instagram account; the Canadian team has also posted a rich catalogue of content from the event on their website and social accounts. In the meantime, PSIA-AASI National Academies and PSIA-AASI-East Pro Jam and Masters Academy provide direct access to our PSIA-AASI National Teamers who work tirelessly to develop our national curriculum and represent us – and in many ways lead the charge – to a global audience. ☞

we got next! NextCore News

NextCore is a dedicated group of young members age 16-39 who 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.

The Power of Now

By Matt Lyerly

NextCore Coordinator, Alpine Level 2, CS1, FS1
Massanutten Resort, VA

As I write this column, I am on an end-of-season trip to Colorado with a long-time friend. One night at dinner conversation shifted to finances and the power of compounding. In the financial world, compounding means growth upon growth. Essentially, you earn money and then invest some of it into an account that pays you back (such as interest). If you continue this practice with consistency over a long period of time, investing a small sum every chance you get, the amount you get paid back each time grows ever larger. The sooner you start, the more time for compounding to work to your advantage. As one of the members of our Alpine steering committee said, "Progress occurs when little differences stack up."

So, how does this apply to Snowsports? Glad you asked!

NextCore is the 16-to-39-year-old demographic in the Eastern Region. We are the young professionals moving up the ranks in PSIA-AASI. We have a long horizon in front of us and, like compound investing, the best time for us to invest in our snowsports careers is now. But how can a newer, younger snowsports professional invest in oneself, especially in an organization filled with talented, more experienced – and older – pros?

Here are some things I did. When I attained L2 Alpine, I submitted an article to the SnowPro detailing the experience and including a set of practices for L2 success. Later, I submitted a summary from a Movement Analysis 201 clinic. When the NextCore committee was formed in 2018, I had put myself out there and shown enough initiative to get invited to be a part of the team. Once I had a seat at the table, I continued to take initiative and took part in activities such as town hall zoom calls and traveling to Vermont to meet with then CEO Nick Herrin and the National Board of Directors. Later, I went on to become the committee chair. Another committee member is involved with the PSIA-AASI's national Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group. This involvement led her to be published in 32 Degrees and interviewed on the First Chair podcast. The takeaway: take the initiative, because you never know what opportunities might exist.

Another way I invested in my snowsports career was to take on more challenging but rewarding lessons and assignments at my home mountain. After teaching public lessons for most of eight years, I asked for a spot coaching the youth race team. I was given a coaching spot and remain there today. The takeaway: build your experience and ask your supervisors and managers for more advanced lesson assignments. Even if they don't immediately go well, the experience you gain will be invaluable.

Lastly, advance your education by taking advantage of the numerous online courses and on-snow clinics PSIA-AASI offers. These are great ways to build your knowledge base and ski or ride with other snow pros. When you are on snow with other pros, get their contact information and build your network. At Pro Jam in 2021 I met several pros from a nearby mountain and remain in touch with them today. The takeaway: PSIA-AASI offers numerous learning and networking opportunities.

The best time to start on yourself is now. Like compounding, a rewarding snowsports career grows by small bits at a time. The sooner you start, the more time for advancement!

Interested in learning more about NextCore? Drop me an email at mwlyerly@gmail.com. ☞



your turn

The Your Turn section is an opportunity for members' voices to be heard. Submissions are welcomed and are subject to editing (and in some cases the opportunity for the author to workshop a piece with editorial staff). Opinions expressed may not reflect the views of PSIA-AASI or all of its members.

A View from the Other Side

By Isa Orr-Tokle

Alpine Level III, Children's Specialist 2

Whitetail Resort, PA



Isa Orr-Tokle

I have been involved with PSIA-AASI for the past 7 years, since I was 16 and earning my Alpine Level I pin, but this year I participated in the organization in a whole new way, as a Member Services Associate. If you have ever called the Eastern Office, you have probably spoken with one of us. We assist members with questions and concerns, communicate with other staff, and help with any account issues. Through my time working 'behind the scenes' I have learned a lot that I want

to share about PSIA-AASI, our membership, and myself.

Whether you are a new member or a seasoned veteran, you probably don't know too much about what it takes to make events happen and to keep PSIA-AASI running. Before I started working at the office, my knowledge of the organization came from Ed Staff members I had met, official written publications, and other members. So, what did I learn about PSIA-AASI's Eastern Office while working there?

First, I saw how much the office and operational staff, and thus the organization, value learning, growth, and support. I observed firsthand how much time and effort goes into helping members, understanding their situations, and trying to arrive at the best possible solutions to their issues, just as snowsports instructors do with students. This means taking member concerns and feedback seriously and addressing them as a team in order to learn how to constantly improve the organization. In meetings we discussed member feedback, changes we could make to improve their experience, and the reasoning behind policies and procedures.

Second, my experience there was made great by the wonderful office staff. They truly care about all of us members and making PSIA-AASI the best it can be. They listen to every member's situation specifically. I have seen staff members talk to members for hours to help them find the perfect event, organize communication with ed staff to make sure single mothers or primary caretakers could make it to events, and even work last-minute to add extra groups to events so that people who wanted could attend. When I injured my knee last season at my level III exam and found out I needed surgery, a surprise call from Karen, our Director of Member Services, with concern and support for me to take an event next season when I could ski again was incredibly uplifting.

Next, what did I learn about our members? In my time at the office, I had the opportunity to speak with instructors from across the region. I learned how large our organization really is and how diverse our membership. I spoke with newly registered members, those getting 50-year pins, snowboarders, telemarkers, alpine skiers, cross country skiers, adaptive instructors, people from small mountains and large, and instructors with all kinds of backgrounds and life situations. While this may not be news for some, I saw how a love of snowsports brings us all together. I heard how people make time for it in their lives, whether that is going up to the mountain even with only one run open, completing online

courses if they can't make it on-snow, or spending time off from work or other responsibilities to go skiing or riding.

And finally, what did I learn about myself? I learned how similar working as a member services associate is to being an instructor. Whether you are working with someone to solve an issue, explaining a confusing concept, or providing advice and information, I needed to be supportive and understanding, positive and patient, and I had to build connections with the person I was helping. These skills enabled me to return from injury and pass my Alpine Level III Teaching Assessment.

A large part of my Level III group's success was due to our teamwork and support for each other throughout the day, which helped us to teach more effectively. By working in the office while pursuing a gold pin, I experienced the perspective of someone who understands the stress and difficulties of the assessment process while also gaining insight into the work, decision-making, organization, and standards behind it. This experience gave me an even greater appreciation of PSIA-AASI and its members, as well as our commitment to learning, improvement and supporting each other. So next time you are teaching, at an event or exam, or calling the office, remember we are all here to support each other! «

Learn Your Way: How to Customize Your PSIA-AASI Continuing Education Clinic

By Bev Abplanalp, MS Ed and MFA

Alpine Level II, Adaptive Level I, Children's Specialist 2

Bristol Mountain, NY

Dream it. Do it. Creating your very own, custom clinic is fun, easy, and totally worth your time. We did it! You can too.

Let me tell you how easy customizing your clinic can be. We worked with Melissa Skinner, the Eastern region's Education and Member Services Associate, to help organize our custom clinic at Bristol Mountain. We brought together an awesome group of ten outstanding women (alpine instructors, ski patrollers, and a cross country instructor) for a two-day alpine clinic (worth 12 CEUs). We focused on black terrain in changing weather conditions. A few of us already knew each other well, and everyone made new friends.

Beth DeFranco, Bristol Mountain Alpine instructor and veterans' adaptive program coordinator, collaborated with me to truly customize our clinic. We wanted to be able to include ski patrol members who might not be PSIA-AASI members and I reached out to Melissa to request including non-members. This was not a problem. In fact, opening your clinic to non-members could work out well in creating a welcoming way to outreach to prospective PSIA-AASI members. I really liked being able to do something special for our patrollers.

In our case, we knew we wanted to work with examiner extraordinaire, National Team alumna, and author Mermer Blakeslee as our clinician. I communicated with Mermer and Melissa to identify potential dates. The dates of any customized clinic will depend on your mountain's event schedule as well as clinician availability. Melissa will collaborate with you to assign someone who is a good match for your group's goals. [Please note: clinician availability may be limited and clinician travel costs may affect pricing.]

Melissa created a private registration link for our event. Beth and I emailed the details of our custom clinic and the private registration link to people we knew were interested. A custom Eastern event requires a minimum of six registrations and a maximum of ten for a single clinician. Recognizing that travel costs and overnight lodging are significant cost barriers of continuing education, you can see the advantages of creating a customized clinic at your home snowsports school. It's easily possible to have more participants than can be covered with one clinician, and the education and programs staff in the Eastern office may be able to assist in adding another clinician to your customized event.

I monitored our registration link to help us to decide whether and when to make the event public. About two weeks before the clinic, we had two open spaces left. Wanting to give others the opportunity to join us, we emailed nearby snowsports schools with the registration link. Then we asked Melissa to post the clinic on the event calendar. We were confident we would fill the roster, and we did.

Next, I emailed Melissa to get our registration list. Beth and I sent out an email detailing parking and where to meet (including photos!). We also asked questions about special needs for food or assistance with lodging. Our clinic's logistical needs went very smoothly.

Beth and Lori Sawchuck LaPier, another Bristol Alpine instructor, arranged our hospitality, coffee and sticky buns, snacks, and lunch set-up. Lori and Bristol Mountain Snowsports School Director Steve Howie helped to orchestrate our clinic dates and meeting space availability.

We also took a head count ahead of time to determine who needed lift tickets and, with Steve's assistance, we made arrangements to have two-day lift access cards ready to go upon arrival.

Everyone would love – drop everything – to do this again! Each of us experienced amazing happiness and accelerated, personalized learning in our clinic. We had several shared goals and many individual goals for skiing with Mermer. These broadly included seeking input for teaching our students and sharing some of our surprising student profiles. We were also interested in covering tactical approaches to ungroomed and changing snow surfaces.

We designed indoor and outdoor portions of our clinic. Mermer gave us a demo of what bare feet, ankles and lower legs do in specific moments within turns and transitions and their changing relationships to thighs, hip sockets, and upper body stability. Breaking the motion into parts, as though frame by frame, gave everyone takeaways appropriate for their students and for themselves.

Our on-snow learning, in widely changing snow conditions, exceeded all expectations. We were all smiles on Day One. We were still all smiles on Day Two

when our colorful rain visors came in handy! Magically our helmet swag ribbon curls flew all the way through our last run. Our ability to blend and diversify of our skillsets in changing weather and snow surfaces soared. It was totally awesome.

Scheduling our custom clinic in March, Women's History Month, gave us an opportunity to promote women-owned businesses in our Finger Lakes region who graciously supported us with items for our participant swag bags (including the beautiful Nancy Oakes Hall-designed neck gaiters which support Nancy's scholarship fund for women – supplied by a gracious anonymous donor).

My experience, collaborating to create our custom clinic, was positive, beyond expectations. I came away thinking about organizing future continuing education events, especially ones that encourage women's sense of belonging on the mountain. It was absolutely fulfilling to see our clinic group, spanning at least four decades, spin together a strong, synergetic web that became a powerful change catalyst.

So, isn't this your moment to dream? I whole heartedly encourage you to create a customized clinic at your mountain for Winter 2023-2024. <<



Member Customized Event (photo by Geri Hughes)



The whole crew (photo by Renee Thomas)

Know Your Audience

By Tony Bailey
AASI-E Examiner
Stratton, VT

One of the most important parts of a lesson is the introduction. The introduction sets the tone for the time you'll spend with your students and being successful takes more than a hearty handshake and an exchange of names.

Your introduction to your students starts before you're standing in front of them. As you walk up to students, look at their body language. Do they look

cold? Nervous? Excited? Is their posture open to you and anyone else in the group, or is it closed? Regardless of age, body language can tell you a lot about how students are feeling.

Now that you've taken a snapshot of your students and have a sense of what their body language might be telling you, back it up or prove it wrong by introducing yourself and talking with them. (Side note: be sure to carry yourself in the best way possible – smile, make eye contact, and be warm and friendly but not over the top.) Start to get to know your students. Ask why they decided to take a lesson and what they hope to get out of the lesson.

As you learn their motivations and goals, dig a little deeper: are they using positive language? Are they energetic or reserved? Are they staring at their feet? Are they so excited to start riding that they can't stand still?

Also, if you're teaching a group, make a mental note of who is interacting with whom. Does it seem like there are pre-existing friendships or relationships? Are some members of the group hitting it off and their conversation is free flowing? Is anyone left out?

For me, once I have a good amount of information on their body language, mindset, energy level, I'll start to draw conclusions about what type of learning environment might appeal to them. Then I'll start to mirror my tone, actions, and body language to match theirs. If they're quieter and more reserved, I'm not going to start the lesson at a 10-level; rather, I'll tone it down and speak in a softer tone. This isn't to say I'm going to stay at this level throughout the whole lesson, but it could. I'll put out little bits of enthusiasm, jokes, high fives. Based on how they respond to these things, I'll determine how much I can crank it up. If they respond with smiles, enthusiasm, or yells, I'll know that I can keep going. If it's met with a polite response but not much more, I'll know to keep it toned down.

Sometimes it can feel like you're not doing a good job if your students aren't high-fiving and laughing, but it's important to remember that individual students take in and process information differently. If they don't outwardly show that they're enjoying themselves, they still might be. In these instances, it's often good to reassess and ask additional questions to confirm that they're enjoying themselves.

In group situations, you may make quick changes as you go from student to student. Be energetic and over the top for those who like that style and know when to tone it down for the student who may be a little nervous or laid back.

As instructors, it's our job to not only provide our students with the information they need to reach their goals, but we also create amazing experiences that will make them want to take another lesson in the future. The best way to create an amazing experience is to provide your students with the type of learning environment that they like best. <<

zipperline

Switching Unsuccessful to Successful

By Chris Ericson

PSIA-E Alpine Examiner

PSIA-E Certification Chair

If you have attempted to advance your certification level within PSIA-AASI or attended a Team tryout, you most likely have encountered being *unsuccessful* at some point during your journey. Being “told” that you are not as good as the others, that you do not meet the standard or that you have “maintained” your current level of certification – honestly, it’s awful. The emotional gut-wrenching that happens, was once explained to me like being dumped by your girlfriend or boyfriend. The pain can be deep, sad, and personal, and it can make us wonder why we are even teaching. While some people take the “unsuccessfulness” better than others, we all have moments of reflection: “Why was I unsuccessful?”

First off, let’s back up and consider that PSIA-AASI is first and foremost an educational organization with this mission statement: “To promote and support our member Snowsports educators by providing excellence in educational programs, certification and member benefits. To provide opportunities for professional growth and recognition via promotion of our members, our brands and the value they bring to customers, resort management and the snow sports industry.” PSIA-AASI provides you with opportunities to get better at your craft without having to go through the certification/assessment process. We all know many instructors in snowsports schools that do not have the highest level of certification at the mountain, yet are some of the most requested and successful instructors at our resorts. They are great at what they

do and their repeat customers are a testament to that.

Looking just at the *Teaching Assessment* for Alpine Level II or III, you’ll notice it has the most assessment criteria of all the certification assessments – and this can make it a challenging part of the assessment process. In the Eastern Region, during our *Teaching Assessment* we evaluate the National Standards for technical understanding, Movement Analysis, People Skills and Teaching Skills.

Your assessment starts with watching each other ski a prescribed activity. Here are some tips for success at this assessment:

- Be efficient with your Movement Analysis (MA). You don’t have time to give a detailed analysis of everyone in the group. Pick similarities that most people in the group have. Every time the peers in your group ski, observe what they do and when they do it.
- Include in your MA what the *body is doing*, what the *skis are doing*. Also include when these movements happen at what parts of the turn and how terrain or conditions affect the movements.
- Observe and Describe Technical Fundamentals in all turn phases and be able to evaluate cause and effect relationships. For example, you may observe that when people in your group ski on steeper terrain, you see the shoulders tip at the end of the turn with body inclination into the hill (the cause), resulting in more weight or pressure being placed on the inside ski (an effect). You may also conclude that this tipping into the hill at the end of the turn results in the skier losing grip with their outside ski when they are on firmer snow conditions (another effect).
- Prescribe a specific change to achieve a more desirable outcome. The change must be related to multiple Technical Fundamentals.

Technical understanding is evaluated throughout the course of the day through individual and group conversations, but the MA portion showcases this knowledge. Candidates’ ability to describe the application of the Technical Fundamentals with respect

to biomechanics and how body parts move becomes evident during MA as does their knowledge of what body parts have to move in order to get the ski to react in a certain way in the snow.

A certification assessment is similar to a regular lesson with real people, each with unique needs.

Successful candidates, like all great coaches, do the following:

- Create individualized experiences. This could include the pacing, which may be different for everyone.
- Give people time to reflect on their experiences. Each candidate gets 30 minutes to coach the group. Candidates are often amazed how fast this time goes, so use the entire run and keep the group moving.
- Be creative, playful and explore learning through practice.
- Use terrain that is optimized for individuals. Some need to be challenged (variable terrain) others need time to reflect and not be distracted by outside influences (“keep me on the groomers”). This means that you may have to adapt the learning environment to align with the needs of the individuals.
- Communicate clearly with verbal and visual feedback and demonstrations. Feedback should be specific. “I liked how you controlled your speed by continually guiding your skis back up the hill through leg rotation.”
- Be aware that the group dynamics may change over time and that they may have to do something to positively impact experiences.
- Listen and give time to hear people’s needs and concerns. Encourage others in the group to engage in the conversation.

Ultimately, during your Teaching Assessment, accurate movement analysis, creating an environment where learning can occur, and clear communication that leads to potential changes in skiing performance, will help with changing your unsuccessful moments into successful moments. ☞

Mystery Solved: An Examiner’s POV

By Sue Kramer

PSIA-E Examiner Coach and ACE Team Member,

USSA Level 300 Coach

As I reflect on my experiences of the past season, some observations that jump out come from Level III Teaching Assessments, particularly when we assess movement analysis skills and technical understanding. Often identifying the underlying issue is like solving a mystery, and although I’m no sleuth, I liken the task to detective work. Level III candidates, grab your notepads and cameras, and let’s “solve the case.”

You’re a detective with a mystery to solve – in this instance, it’s on the side of a hill with your peers. Standing next to you are not one, but two, Inspector Generals (IGs). This may be a little disconcerting but think of it as oversight. The IGs are there to observe as you build the case, locate the clues, and solve the mystery. Sometimes, detectives report that nothing seems out of place. The IGs get antsy and ask for more information so they encourage you to look again.

“Is there anything that jumps out at you?” A flower vase tipped over or a half-consumed bowl of cereal. Or more pertinent to this case, skis tracks that show tail displacement or a heavy edge set at the bottom of the turn when the slope is rather gentle. You report your observations to the IGs, but are having trouble coming up with motivations and conclusions as to why things seem out of order. Dig deeper. What are the surroundings? What’s the snow like? What’s the slope like? What’s the skill level? What’s the equipment? What’s the intent of the skier? Is this a “one-off” or does this happen with every turn?

Again, I’m not a detective, but from what I’ve read there are *patterns* that may help with solving the case. In this on-snow mystery, every skier moves in predictable patterns. Sometimes they’re hard to see. Have you ever followed a snowflake as it’s falling? Yes, this is possible to do. Pick one and follow it. This is how you can begin to slow down the movements of another skier. Pick a moment in their turn and follow it. Look only at the turn transition or follow them from fall line to fall line. This is where you begin to see the pattern in order to determine the cause and effect. The “why did this happen” in our mystery. Why is there a heavy edge set at the bottom of the turn? And what

continued on next page ☞

happens as a result of it? Is the noticeable up-motion of the skier the cause of the edge set or the effect of it?

The Fundamentals are your guidebook. Like a code of conduct that helps us to understand how to function in society. The Fundamentals or “codes” identify what are normally present to function effectively on the slope. There’s nothing criminal about a less-than-ideal movement pattern. In our mystery, the skier’s movements are simply inefficient or incongruent with the situation or equipment. We assess the actions made and try to determine why they occur. In other words, we synthesize all of the data to formulate a solution to bring the movements “up to code,” with the Fundamentals as our reference points. We compare our “to code,” ideal movements with what’s in front of our eyes: the toppled-over vase, the half-eaten bowl of cereal, the heavy edge set at the bottom of the turn and the abrupt vertical movement of the skier that occurs right afterward. In great snow conditions, on moderate pitch, ideally the highest edge set would be in the fall line or ever-so slightly after, but not at the bottom, perpendicular to the fall line. Ideally, the vase would be upright, centered in the middle of the table. The bowl of cereal would be empty, rinsed and in the dishwasher.

Next step, why was the vase toppled over? Why was the bowl of cereal left half eaten? You work through the scenarios in your mind, comparing one possible explanation with another; if this were the cause then this would be the effect. You believe the heavy edge set with abrupt vertical movement happens because the skier is not centered over their feet, changing the pivot point on the skis. The result of so much pressure at the bottom of the turn tosses the skier vertically as the skis unbend. The “code” transgression is the skier being back of center and, therefore, unable to accurately (for the situation) control edge angles or manage the build-up of pressure. The IGs listen intently to your assessment of the mystery and your conclusions.

Next, the IGs ask if there’s anything else that may contribute to your observations. You look again. This time, you look at other parts of the turn. Something new

comes to view. There it is... with every turn the outside shoulder turns first and there’s no real shaping phase in the turn. Holy smokes! Is it true that what you thought was the problem really isn’t? You know the upper body may have a huge effect in creating rotary movements, and by the time the skier gets to the bottom of the turn, a heavy edge set is needed to stop the rotation. The “code” transgression now appears to be too much upper body rotation.

As it turns out, this is a complicated mystery. You go to your desk and lay out all the photos and notes and think. You look for the patterns. What comes first? Where does this all start? Then it comes to you. The heavy edge set isn’t the thing that needs to be fixed. The abrupt vertical movement can’t be lowered by telling the skier to stop “popping”. These harsh movements will even out when the skier is standing centered over the base of support, when they are more accurately able to flex, extend and rotate their legs in a *timely* and coordinated manner. What appeared to be a simply case of being aft, or lack of upper and lower body separation, turns out is a matter of fore/aft and lateral balance and the ability to create edge angles through turning, flexing and extending the lower body.

The “mystery” was not a matter of what occurred at the end of the turn but rather what occurred at the beginning. The upper body rotation caused a cascade of actions, resulting in the heavy edge set and unintentional vertical motion. Replace the movement at the top of the turn and the outcome is smoother edge engagement and release with energy flowing from turn to turn rather than being abrupt. Mystery solved! To comply with the “code” the skier should: incorporate accurate and well-timed lateral and fore/aft movements from ski to ski; progressively engage (tip) the skis edges at the turn initiation; and use progressive flexion of the inside leg to aid in maintaining lateral balance, while regulating pressure throughout the turn. J-turns, garlands, railroad tracks, and tuck turns come to mind as ways to help the skier develop these new movement patterns. Case closed. ☞

Frequently Asked Questions about Education Credits (CEUs)

If you are a Certified Member, you are required to earn a minimum of 6 CEUs (a 1-day event or the equivalent) every season or 12 CEUs (a 2-day event or the equivalent) every other season. Certified Lifetime, Alumni and Registered Members are exempt from CEU requirements.

What happens if I am behind on my CEUs?

If you were due for CEUs this season (2022-23) or a previous season and didn’t earn the required number:

- Your Membership Status changes to Certified Inactive.
- You’ll see a \$50 Education PrePayment Fee on your membership dues renewal statement. This will create a \$50 gift card which you can use toward an event next season.
- You’ll have to make up your missed education credits.

How do I determine if I need to do education credits?

If you go to members.thesnowpros.org and sign in, you can see how many CEUs you still need to do for the 2022-23 season. If you want to avoid paying the Education PrePayment Fee on your upcoming dues renewal invoice, make sure that you’ve earned the credits you need for this season. When you’ve earned the credits you need, your Member Profile will say: CEUs Still Needed for 22-23: 0

I attended a 2-day, 12-credit event this season, does that mean that I don’t have to take an event next season?

Maybe. However, if you were behind on your education credits when we started the 2022-23 season on July 1, 2022, then you must, first, make up your missed education credits before any “excess” credits can push forward to next season.

Your Member Profile will tell you how many credits you need to earn for next season (2023-24) as well.

My Member Profile says that I still need to earn CEUs this season; can I still do that before it’s too late?

There are many virtual options you can use to satisfy your education requirements. Check out these three links for some great virtual courses and recorded webinars that will help you earn your CEUs:

- lms.thesnowpros.org/
- easternsnowpros.org/ed/webinars/
- easternsnowpros.org/education/online-courses/

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email us at psia-e@psia-e.org or call the office at (518) 452-6095 – we are here to help! ☞

Thank You 2022-2023 Host Resorts!

We would like to take a moment and extend a big “Thank You” to the following area resorts who hosted, or offered to host, one or more of our events this past season. Their generous support continues to assist us in providing members with quality programs at the best possible value!

Adaptive Sports Foundation
Adirondack Lodge
Attitash Mountain Resort
Bart J. Ruggiere Adaptive Sports
Bear Creek Mountain Resort
Beech Mountain Resort
Belleayre Mountain
Berkshire East Mountain Resort
Big Snow American Dream
Blue Knob All Seasons Resort
Blue Mountain Ski Area
Bolton Valley Resort
Bousquet Mountain
Bretton Woods Mountain Resort
Bretton Woods XC
Bristol Mountain
Bromley Mountain
Buffalo Ski Club
Camelback Mountain Resort
Campgaw Mountain Ski Area
Cataloochee Ski Area
Catamount Mountain Resort
Cranmore Mountain Resort
Crotched Mountain
Dartmouth Ski Way
Dry Hill Ski Area
Elk Mountain

Garnet Hill Lodge & XC Ski Area
Gore Mountain
Gunstock Mountain Resort
Hermitage Club at Haystack
Holiday Valley Resort
HoliMont Ski Area
Hunter Mountain
Jack Frost Mountain
Jackson XC Ski Touring Center
Jay Peak Resort
Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort
Killington Resort
King Pine Ski Area
Kissing Bridge Resort
Labrador Mountain
Liberty Mountain Resort
Loon Mountain Resort
Lost Valley Ski Area
Lounsbury Adaptive Program
Mad River Glen
Magic Mountain
Maple Wind Farm
Massanutten Resort
McIntyre Ski Area
Mohawk Mountain Ski Area
Montage Mountain Resort
Mount Abram

Mount Peter Ski Area
Mount Pleasant Ski Area
Mount Snow Adaptive
Mount Snow Resort
Mount Southington Ski Area
Mount Sunapee Resort
Mount Van Hoevenberg
New England Disabled Sports at
Bretton Woods
Ober Gatlinburg
Okemo Mountain Resort
Peek'n Peak Resort
Pico Mountain
Plattekill Mountain
Powder Ridge Ski Area
Ragged Mountain Resort
Rikert Nordic Center
Roundtop Mountain Resort
Saddleback Mountain
Seven Springs Mountain Resort
Shawnee Mountain Ski Area
Ski Big Bear
Ski Butternut
Ski Sundown
Smugglers Notch Resort
Snowshoe Mountain Resort
Song Mountain

Stowe Mountain Resort
Stratton Mountain Ski Resort
STRIDE Adaptive Sports Program
Sugarbush Resort
Sugarloaf Mountain Resort
Sunday River Ski Resort
Thunder Ride Ski Area
Timberline Mountain
Trapp Family Lodge
Tussey Mountain
Vermont Adaptive at Bolton Valley
Vermont Adaptive at Pico
Vermont Adaptive at Sugarbush
Wachusett Mountain Ski Area
Waterville Valley Resort
West Mountain Ski Area
Whiteface Mountain
Whitetail Resort
Willard Mountain
Windham Mountain
Wintergreen Adaptive Sports
Wintergreen Resort
Winterplace Ski Resort
Wisp Mountain Resort
Yawgoo Valley

snowsports school management

Great Learning Opportunity for Managers

By Gail Setlock

PSIA-E Alpine Examiner

Snowsports Management Committee Chair

To kick off each new season, PSIA-AASI Eastern hosts an annual Snowsports Management Seminar (SMS). The SMS is an opportunity for directors, managers, supervisors and trainers to participate in on-snow sessions, indoor sessions, a Town Hall meeting, an evening banquet, and more. Topics covered at SMS include updates and changes within PSIA-AASI. Attendees can also develop their personal skiing and riding skills, increase their knowledge of teaching children, adults, or adaptive students, network with others in management, idea-share, and much more. The seminar is an opportunity to learn what other snowsports schools are doing and to gather ideas to take home and implement in their own schools.

The Snowsports Management Committee meets throughout the late Summer and early Fall to develop the menu of sessions for the upcoming SMS that December. The SMS Committee is comprised of eleven directors and managers from all over the Eastern region. Committee members represent a variety of snowsports schools – large schools, small schools,

adaptive schools, and schools from southern states all the way to northern Maine. In addition, SMS committee members also represent diversity as skiers and snowboarders, new to snowsports management and seasoned directors.

Back by popular demand each year, the SMS has offered Movement Analysis (MA) sessions for skiers. While presentations vary from year to year, the MA presentations typically consist of an indoor morning session with videos to watch and discuss, and afternoon on-snow sessions to practice what was learned in the morning. These sessions are always popular, and they give attendees more knowledge and insight into Movement Analysis. We are hoping to offer a similar program for snowboarders at next year's Snowsports Management Seminar.

At last winter's SMS, changes in assessment format and assessment forms were reviewed for both skiing and snowboarding, so managers could take this home to share with staff preparing for exams.

The Snowsports Management Seminar is a great opportunity for folks in snowsports management to get together, share ideas, compare experiences, and learn about the variety of things to share with staff to help them improve as teachers and coaches. We hope you'll join us next fall at the seminar to kick off your season. Our Snowsports Management Committee already met in early April while this season's experiences were still fresh in our minds, to talk about ideas for next Fall's Seminar – guaranteed to be the best ever. We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 2023-24 Snowsports Management Seminar. <<

Alpine Adaptive Standards Prove Their Value

By Ed Meltzer

PSIA-E Adaptive Examiner

Eastern Adaptive Coordinator

Alpine Adaptive 2022 standards have proven their value! As many of you know, the PSIA-AASI E Adaptive Steering Committee chose to adopt the 2022 Alpine Adaptive National standards for this season. The standards require an Alpine level one certification prior to entering our Adaptive certification process. Since there was so much overlap in the Alpine and Adaptive evaluation process, we created a Three-day combined exam. The exam involved an Alpine assessor and an Adaptive assessor. We were not sure how it would flow. I am pleased to report that we were very pleased with the results.

Observations

Here are some observations from the Alpine examiners I had the pleasure of working with:

Regarding the flow of the exam...

- “Good,” said Matt Heller, PSIA-E Alpine Examiner and trainer at Mount Snow, who observed that the three-day assessment was evenly split between one-and-a-half days of Alpine review and one-and-a-half days of adapting to cognitive development delay and visual impairment. “Worked pretty well in two separate combo exams.”
- “The exam flowed better than I thought it would, to be honest,” added PSIA-E Alpine Examiner Nate Mead, “I thought there would be more growing pains, but the two disciplines blended nicely.”

Regarding potential ways to improve the combined format's flow of content sharing and assessing candidate knowledge...

- Matt Heller suggested greater accountability for the prerequisite reading. “Also, revise the Adaptive Assessment Guide,” said Matt.
- Nate Mead wondered if covering Adaptive before Alpine would be better. “It could give the candidates a chance to settle into the flow of the exam better,” he said.

Regarding how the combined format affected people personally...

- “Mike Ma’s assertion that ‘every lesson is an adaptive lesson’ rings even more true after doing the combi exam,” said Matt.
- “More than I thought it would!” said Nate, who reported taking home a number of tricks for his own lessons. “An alpine instructor could learn a lot from the adaptive side – especially in the Teaching and People fundamentals,” he added. “I would recommend anyone going for a Level III pin to do an Adaptive Level I. You’d be surprised how much you’d pick up for your bag of tricks.”

Participants seemed to appreciate the combined format also. “The combined exam was seamless, and I think it is a great step forward in raising the bar for adaptive instruction by fully integrating the technical skills into the adaptive discipline,” said Adam Heilemann, a successful Adaptive Level I candidate from the Bart J. Ruggiere Adaptive Sports Center at Bromley, VT who attended the

Adaptive assessment at Bretton Woods. “The preparation for this exam and format of the exam greatly helps in the use of common language and application of the skiing fundamentals in advancing my adaptive instruction.”

Overall, people seemed to feel the combined event was a strong start. “I was impressed with adaptive instructors during the entire 3-day assessment,” said Nate. “The candidates were knowledgeable in all three of the fundamentals, but the one that stuck out the most to me was the People skills. It was remarkable to see these professionals at work.” He noted the understanding Adaptive pros must have in order to work with their particular demographic, and the fact that Adaptive pros really build a rapport with returning guests. He noted one candidate describing a recurring student with Down’s Syndrome. “The candidate explained the tendencies of the student from the amount of energy she has in the morning, to how many turns she will do, to how much she eats for lunch,” said Nate.

Matt concurred that candidates he observed were exceptionally strong in their People and Teaching skills. If there was an area that could stand improvement, it was their Technical skills.

From my perspective, the amount of learning because of the expanded content and group sharing added a depth of knowledge that significantly surpassed the traditional Two-Day exam prior to requiring Level One Alpine. The combination of subject matter was a fine example of the cliché ‘the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.’

The Numbers

Emerging from the restrictions of the pandemic, Adaptive had impressive attendance numbers. Fifty-two candidates attended seven three-day combined exams. Thanks to our host resorts: Wintergreen, Wachusett, Snowshoe, Bretton Woods, Mt. Snow, Holiday Valley, and Gore.

Specialist assessments towards level 2 and level 3 Adaptive certification:

- Visual Impairment (4 participants)
- Cognitive (3 participants)
- 3 Track (4 participants)
- 4 Track (3 participants)
- Mono-Ski (2 participants)
- Bi-Ski (2 participants)

Forty-eight participants attended In-House trainings and CEU workshops around the region, while ten Adaptive pros attended Pro Jam and sixteen attended Spring Rally.

My key takeaway from this season is the reinforcement of what we have been saying for years: “Skiing is skiing is skiing” and “Riding is riding is riding.”

The future looks very promising for our Adaptive ski and ride schools! As PSIA-AASI Adaptive National Standards require your discipline to be the foundation from which we adapt, ski and ride, school training should also reflect that change. Now, a certified Level I Adaptive instructor will be much more aware of the Alpine foundation and be a better instructor as a result. The new certification process is richer and more worthwhile to participants.

Are we heading in the right direction? I think we would agree that the answer is a solid YES! <<



CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Enter our T-shirt design contest!

Design the Eastern Region t-shirt for the 2023-2024 season. Proceeds will go to support Eastern Team candidates for the National Team Tryout in the Spring of 2024.

**Submission deadline is August 31, 2023 at 11pm.
Voting Sept 1st to Sept 15th.**

The winning t-shirt design, as selected by our members, will be printed and shirts will be on sale beginning at the Snowsports Management Seminar in 2023.

- ◆ All artwork submissions will become the property of the PSIA-AASI Eastern Region. Artists may submit multiple designs. Designs may be in a single color or multiple colors; however, the more complex the design, the more the t-shirts may cost. The design should be created to fit on the front or back of an adult t-shirt.
- ◆ Designs must be submitted in a .jpg format for voting; however, for production of the winning design vector files such as AI, PDF, EPS, SVG, and CDR may be required. (Bitmap/Raster files such as PSD, TIFF, PNG, and JPEG of a high-resolution of 300 dpi or higher and look good at 100% view may be acceptable).
- ◆ Votes will be gathered in a Formsite form where all designs will be displayed.
- ◆ The winning artist will be announced on September 18th.
- ◆ The winner will receive two free shirts and a free admission to a two-day event during the 2023-2024 season.
- ◆ Submit your artwork at: fs9.formsite.com/PSIA-AASI-E/tshirtcomp/index

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SNOW Pro

Upcoming *SnowPro* Copy Deadlines

If you are submitting articles, information or ads for the *SnowPro*

**September 30, 2023 is the deadline
for the fall issue.**

Writing Guidelines

General member submissions should not exceed 1,000 words and should be e-mailed to psia-e@psia-e.org as a MS Word document. Please see additional guidelines on page 2 of this issue under General Information.

Thank you! <<

In Memoriam



Cynthia Powell

Cynthia Coffey Powell passed away on October 19, 2022, at her home in Waterville Valley, NH surrounded by family. While her prolonged battle with cancer has cut her life short, her choice to commit herself to helping others overwhelmed, and continues to inspire those who knew her. Cindy's experiences as a therapeutic horseback riding instructor, service animal advocate, and adaptive snow-sports executive director are testaments to her selflessness. Her husband, Bill, children, Charlie, Will, Casey, and Elizabeth, their partners Katherine, Erin, Colin, and William, and granddaughters, Caroline and Logan are the beneficiaries of her compassion, enjoyment of the outdoors, and boundless love.

Her favorite things were hiking the White Mountains, pastel painting, her companionship of animals – both large and small, and laughing with her joyful family.

Please consider making a donation to one of the following charities in honor of our Cindy.

NEADS World Class Service Dogs
neads.org/get-involved/donate/

Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program
iatspayments.com/IATS/AURAPreview.aspx?PaymentboxID=PAFE28507ADE8C6610

Waterville Valley Adaptive Sports
watervilleadaptive.com/donate.html

For more, visit mayhewfuneralhomes.com Mayhew Funeral Home ☞



Alan Skelley

Alan F. Skelley (1933-2023) passed away on March 16, 2023, and PSIA lost one of the early pioneers of ski instruction and early promoters of the sport of skiing. Alan was an Army veteran and stationed in West Germany during the Korean conflict. While in Germany, he learned to ski in the Austrian Alps and brought this passion for the sport back to New England where he taught skiing at Boston Hill in North Andover, MA.

In 1966 Alan received his teaching certification from the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association (USEASA). One interesting story was that Alan failed to pass in 1965 due to his unfamiliarity with skiing red, blue, and yellow gates for the exam. Additionally, in the early 1970's USEASA merged with PSIA to create the current PSIA-E. This was necessary to eliminate the amateur status and create a professional organization. While at Boston Hill, Alan began instructing with the popular Boston Globe Ski Clinician program and introduced the sport of skiing to thousands of children and adults during the 1960s and 1970s. Later, Alan moved to New Hampshire and became a lead instructor and part owner of Mount Whittier Ski Area in Ossipee, NH. There he continued to grow the sport by focusing on teaching the sport to children.

In the 1980s, Alan transitioned to working for Penny Pitou Travel Inc. and their "Ski the Alps" program where he would work with adult skiers at some of the finest ski resorts in the world. Furthermore, Alan gained his certification into the International Ski Instructors Association (ISIA). Finally, Alan Skelley's contributions to PSIA included earning the prestigious 50-year Gold Pin and a passion for teaching that inspired three of his children, Rick Skelley (PSIA-E Alpine Examiner), Dave Skelley (Alpine Level II), and Doug Skelley (Alpine Level I). ☞



George N. Wilson

George N. Wilson, 64, of West Wardsboro, VT passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Albany Medical Center in New York. He was born July 30, 1958, in Lawton, Oklahoma, son of Norman and Mary Wilson.

An avid skier, George followed his passion and began his career in the ski industry in 1973. At 15 years old, he joined the National Ski Patrol System (NSPS) and began his career at Powder Ridge in Middlefield, CT., where he spent the next 28 years as a NSP senior patroller, ski instructor, and ski school supervisor. In 1997, he furthered his career and became a lead alpine staff ski trainer at Mount Snow. Although he would describe his love for skiing as "the best job in the world," Mount Snow was more than a job to him – it was home. His co-workers and friends quickly became family, and the town of West Wardsboro became his permanent residence. While his career as a licensed electrician began in 1980, it wasn't until 2013 that he became the proud owner/operator of Low Voltage Services LLC.

Driven and ambitious, George's work ethic was truly unmatched. In 1992, he joined the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and was a devoted member for 31 years. His most cherished and valued accomplishment of his career is when he obtained PSIA level III certification in 2002. When he wasn't on the slopes, you could find him at the golf course, cooking something delicious, gardening, kayaking, or spending downtime with his two cats, Marker and Volk.

George was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Debra Poplawski Wilson. After meeting in 2015, the couple immediately knew they were soulmates and married in 2016. Almost one year later, they received devastating news that Deb had glioblastoma brain cancer. Their unconditional love for one another allowed them to share 43 wonderful and adventurous months together. Less than 28 months after losing the love of his life, George was reunited with his beautiful bride.

In addition to his loving parents, he is survived by his children: Shannon Wilson, Danny Wilson, and Jason Wilson of Connecticut; his brother Harry "Hank" Wilson of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

Our family would like to thank the entire Valley family of Vermont. We have treasured all of your love, kindness, and support.

George will be sorely missed and forever remembered. No formal funeral service is being planned. Instead, we will honor him with a celebration of life held in Vermont at a later date. We invite anyone who knew George to attend and remember his wonderful life. The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to the American Cancer Society – donate.cancer.org ☞

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


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freestyle

Freestyle is for Everyone

By Peter Novom

PSIA-E Alpine Examiner, Eastern Team Member

Who can learn freestyle?

Everyone. That's a verifiable fact. Not that anyone was counting, but I ran a Freestyle Specialist I accreditation where the average age was 62.7 years old! I'm not a math major, but I'm pretty sure that means there were several in the group much older than that. Add to that: most of the folks had never really tried any freestyle before!

How did it go? Well... it went superbly. By the end of two days, everyone was having a blast learning butters (a flat spin in the snow with a nose or tail press) sliding boxes sideways, moving around in the air, and completely obliterating their perception of what was their comfort zone.

Is there a difference between freestyle skiing or snowboarding and riding all-mountain? This may surprise you, but the answer is No! The fundamentals are the fundamentals regardless of the surface you are sliding on. In addition, participants left with some really cool takeaways.

Freestyle takeaways:

- **Failure is harder to achieve than we think.**

This is super interesting, but if you ask someone how far forward they can lean toward the tip of their equipment (or the tail), they usually move a couple of inches. But where is the actual failure point? As the group learned through exploration, you probably have to move your body a couple of feet to fall over. Also, you won't know this until you actually try... and fall over. Once you know where things go splat, then you realize that you have all that room to play in between!

- **Problem-solving is a great way to learn.** I'll give you an example: if you are perpendicular to the feature you are on, or about to be on, you will likely be successful! For example, visualize a patch of ice where you are sliding sideways. What do you need to do in order not to eat it? You will have to match your body in motion (perpendicular) to the slope, and just keep sliding. You'll be fine – I promise! And, after playing on park features, many of the group started looking for – instead of avoiding – slippery surfaces!

- **Anticipation makes everything possible.** This is good advice for any skiing or riding: you can't focus on what's happening now. Really, that's already in the past. Any success you have right now is a result of something you did before. On a groomed slope we have all the room and time to make the wrong move and then fix it. On a box or a jump (or ice) if you anticipate the challenge and move to the future confidently, you will land with a smile.

I started exploring freestyle because I grew up on a really small mountain. Eventually, someone would build a kicker (jump) or find something to slide on. This came out of a desire to make a small mountain more exciting, but it became a social meeting point. Everyone would laugh and support each other. Some people hung out and never hit the jump, and we didn't care. And everyone bonded around doing something a little bit crazy together. And the next week, we found another spot to jump off, and the next week another.

I'll see you all at the next jump – hopefully in a PSIA-AASI event! <<



Who can learn freestyle? Everyone.



How far can you go?



The FS1 with an average age of 62.7

Freestyle Specialist Wrap-up

By Greg Fatigate

AASI-E Examiner and ACE Team Member,
AASI-E Steering Committee Chair

As the 2022-2023 season wraps up, you may have noticed more of your school's instructors participating in – and attaining – the Freestyle Specialist 1 (FS1) or Freestyle Specialist 2 (FS2) credential. The data supports your observation; we had a 50% increase in participation in FS1 events compared to last season. This season we say congrats to 95 new FS1s and 7 new FS2s. There were no new FS3s this season.

The FS2 was held at Killington and had participation from a solid multi-discipline group. Remember the storm that dumped over three feet of snow in some areas of the East? The FS2 at Killington was held during that storm. Killington got less than three feet, but a significant snowfall made the days' warmup laps memorable, and the park laps soft. The group demonstrated a collective ability to adapt to the days' conditions.



Successful FS2's at snowy Killington



Multi-discipline Halfpipe Event at Okemo

In addition to the FS events, there were several AASI park-specific events throughout the East. These events are a great way to receive coaching on your personal snowboard freestyle-specific skills. Also, on March 25th, a multi-discipline halfpipe day was held at Okemo (Thanks Okemo!) with examiners Tom Mulligan, Peter Novom, and Shaun

Cattanach. It was a pleasure to participate in this awesome multi-discipline session. And getting to take laps with Terry Barbour is always a great bonus!

Are you interested in the Freestyle Specialist track? If so, be sure to check out the updated Freestyle Specialist National Standard. The National Freestyle Taskforce has been hard at work updating standards and performance guide for all three FS levels. They are found at:

thesnowpros.org/certification/national-certification-standards/

Congratulations again to all Freestyle Specialist participants and those who attained a new accreditation. Your effort and dedication to the sport unquestionably inspire those looking to progress with spinning, jumping, or jibbing. Stay active and stay inspired! <<

kids, kids, kids

Tricks are for Kids

By Bonnie Kolber

AASI-E Examiner and ACE Team Coach,
Eastern Team Member

In both skiing and snowboarding lessons, we are often challenged to engage and keep the attention of young children. Introducing freestyle maneuvers from the beginning makes learning to ski and ride fun and creates intrinsic motivation to keep them wanting to learn and do more.

“Ground School” freestyle can be a playful way to introduce movements and is also a useful tool for assessing students’ balance, flexibility, and motivations. Introducing basic movements can be linked to freestyle maneuvers and made into games. For example, getting tall and small, then seeing if they can get tall and small in the air. “Now we’re jumping!” you can say. “Can we land softly so we don’t wake the elves that live in the mountain? Even softer?” And suddenly your students are absorbing with leg flexion to land quietly. Can you think of another time you might want them to flex their legs? Remind them not to “wake the elves,” or better yet, come up with your own story or terminology, when you want them to use this move again.



How high can you jump?



How softly can you land?

We can create similar games with fore-aft movements or edge angles to create presses and tripods, hop from edge(s) to flat base(s) or even edge-to-edge. How far can they go? How long can they balance? Can they hop like bunnies? Can they ollie like skaters? You can keep the freestyle thread going through the whole lesson, using the same language you built around pressing the nose of the board or tips of the skis to keep them in a proactive stance when sliding downhill or in navigating the lift exit ramp.

What about rotational moves? Start with isolating the head, head and shoulders, hips, then legs. Then start with the upper body and let the legs follow; then see if they can go all the way around; how far can they go at once? 180? 360? Further? Try going the other direction (watching out for neighbors – safety first!) Play with winding

up & spinning to find out how much upper-lower body separation they are capable of. Understanding the difference between moving as a unit and moving upper and lower body separately or in opposition will be helpful as they learn to ski and ride, and later when they become more dynamic skiers and riders.

Now that you’ve introduced some new tricks with your kiddos, let them get creative and play with combining some of these maneuvers. Maybe they can make up their own trick & name it!

Some considerations when working with very young children (3-6 year olds):

- **Directionality.** They may have difficulty translating your left and right to their own left and right, so stand next to them to demonstrate movements side-by-side or be clear that you are a mirror for them. You can also let them do movements whichever way they want as long as it is not confusing or leading to undesired outcomes.

- **Boots first.** These activities can be performed as boot games to build vocabulary and assess abilities before putting equipment on, then repeated to build coordination with gear on feet.
- **Real and Ideal.** Their level of physical development may affect how they accomplish these movements. Coach to the “ideal”; understand and accept the “real.”
- **Start on flat ground and keep it fun and safe!** Make the magic carpet your playground!

Other ideas for freestyle drills and adventures in the beginner zone:

- **Intro to Jumps:** Use snowballs, sticks, leaves, mittens, bamboo, or other soft things to jump over. Find a pile of snow or bump or small roller to jump or ollie off of. Look around and use the terrain!
- **Intro to Rails & Boxes:** You can use straight runs as an introduction to boxes and rails. Make a line in the snow, draw a “snow box,” or use a piece of bamboo to keep their skis or board straight and flat. If you have access to a jib tray or small, low-consequence box, practice on the snow next to the feature then take it onto the feature when they are ready.
- **Intro to Spins:** Explore flat-ground 360s (aka “Whirlybirds”). Start with switch skiing and riding, play with flat spins or hopped 180s. Follow the Leader (the leader could be you or them if they are old and responsible enough) is a great way to practice spins and switch skiing and riding.
- **Intro to Grabs:** Try some static grabs – “Simon Says” is a fun way to introduce these – and then try them in traverses. Play “Call Your Grab” – that is, find a specific spot on the trail or carpet to catch air and introduce different ways to grab their skis/boards. Students can use flexion/extension to simulate jumping if not comfortable in air. Watch for leg flexion (ideal) vs. bending at waist (real) to get the grab.



Simon says “Grab!”

- **Intro to Jibbing:** Play with presses in a traverse, introduce nose and tail taps (or tip taps for skiers). Find snow chunks, sticks, or stumps to tap/jib/bonk. Take some of the combo tricks from the ground school session and try them while sliding! With older kids, you could have the group come up with a new trick name, then break into pairs to make up their version of what the trick is to share with the rest of the group.

Harnessing the power of freestyle to engage and retain children’s attention in ski and snowboard lessons is a fun way to get them invested in their own learning

allows instructors to present information and introduce movements in an exciting and exploratory way. Think about each of the discipline fundamentals and how they relate to the tricks listed above, or elaborate and improvise to come up with your own freestyle maneuvers to develop effective movements in the beginner zone. Be safe, get creative, and use freestyle to put the FUN in fundamentals! ⚡



Prepping for CS (And Other Children's Topics)

By Bonnie Kolber

AASI-E Examiner and ACE

Team Coach, Eastern Team Member

Are you an experienced children's instructor looking for accreditation? Or are you interested in learning about teaching children to ski and snowboard? The Advanced Children's Educators (ACE) Team will offer a number of Children's Specialist (CS) Prep and Children's Focus topics next season for a variety of interests and objectives.

If you are wondering what a Children's Specialist event is all about, the CS Prep will help prepare you for what to expect. It is an excellent opportunity to dive into aspects of the Learning Connection model like People Skills needed to communicate with students and parents and manage behavior, Teaching Skills that enable children's instructors to plan and present learning segments based on movement analysis and real and ideal movements,

and Technical Skills based on fundamental movements and stages of development (the CAP Model). These CS Prep events are designed to help aspiring CS candidates achieve their goals and are led by the same ACE Team members who administer the assessment events. It is highly recommended to take one of these events prior to attending an assessment to have the opportunity to engage in guided practice with assessment activities that you may encounter at Children's Specialist accreditation events, and to receive personal feedback that will help you prepare to take the CS1 or CS2.

But wait – there's more! Do you want to learn more about teaching children snowsports but aren't looking to be assessed? Check out a Children's Focus event! These are fun and educational events that will focus on the creative side of teaching, exploring the fundamentals and how to make building skills fun for kids. The Children's Focus events are led by the same ACE Team members who lead the CS and CS Prep events, and will cover topics like movement analysis and what to look for at different ages and stages, how to keep our youngest students engaged

and motivated, and how to create skill-building activities to add to your bag of tricks.

If you are starting the journey toward Children's Specialist 1 or 2, it isn't too early to start a summer reading list and review some resources. The newest *PSIA-AASI Teaching Children Snowsports Manual*, written by Mark Aiken, Kevin Jordan, and an amazing supporting collection of children's icons, is an engaging read chock-full of great information. The Children's Specialist Standards can be found at thesnowpros.org/certification/national-certification-standards/. Did you know we also have a detailed CS Performance Guide, complete with examples of successful and unsuccessful performance? This can also be found at the same link under "Performance Guides" along with the CS Assessment Forms. Take note of what areas on the form you feel are your strengths and weaknesses, and cross-reference with the Performance Guide to get some ideas of how to build skills. The best homework of all: hang out with kids, and see if you can identify and apply aspects of the CAP model in your observations and interactions. Have fun and see you when the snow flies! <<

CALLING ALL FUTURE PROS

The *SnowPro* publication is featuring pictures of our Future Snow Pros.

What did their first day sliding on snow look like?

Share their adventure!



Luke Gunnar Mawhinney
(Age: 25 months - Front yard, PA)

Submit your child or grandchild's image here:

<https://fs9.formsite.com/PSIA-AASI-E/FuturePro/index.html>

Future Snow Pros

What did these future Snow Pros look like on the first day they slid on snow?!



Natalie Del Sole
3 years
Vail



Cody DeMello
1 year
Jay Peak



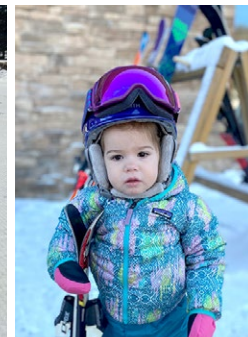
Luna Forte
6 months
Blue Mountain



Aurora LeBlanc
6 years
Okemo



Henry Lorraine
1 year
Greek Peak



Mia Ottolini
2 years
Bear Creek



William Thall
3 years
Big Boulder

Introducing... Eastern Region Examiners

Regardless of discipline, if you have attempted to become a certified snowsports professional, you have encountered a PSIA-AASI examiner. Examiners interact with, lead, and score candidates at assessment events. They also lead educational events and clinics. But who are these examiners? And what certifies them to lead clinics and assessments?

Examiners are active PSIA-AASI members who pay membership dues like all members. Examiners have achieved Level III in their discipline – which means they too went through the process of preparing for assessments. Ultimately, they were successful (and sometimes along the way they failed exams and had to retake them).

After achieving Level III, the process of becoming an examiner requires a candidate to try out for – and be selected to join – a Development (Dev) team. The Dev teams are discipline-specific and tryouts occur every two years. Dev team members then attend trainings and understudy educational clinics and Level I assessments during a four-year term. At the conclusion of the term, members can be elevated to

examiner status and become eligible to lead certain events and assessments.

Likewise, ACE (that is, Advanced Children's Educator) Examiners attend an ACE-specific selection event (held every two years). Like Dev team members, ACEs understudy events until they are deemed ready to lead Children's Specialist assessments and other children's clinics.

In order to expand the scope of events one can lead, an examiner works with the Director of Education and the Examiner Head Coach to establish a training plan that includes more understudies in order to lead higher level assessments and even team tryouts (like Dev and ACE team tryouts).

To maintain examiner status, examiners are required to attend annual multi-day training sessions during which they study assessment updates, assessment tasks, and any number of approaches to leading great assessment and educational events. The annual training programming includes on-and-off-snow sessions. Examiners are also required to make themselves available to lead a minimum number of on-snow events for members, keeping

them in practice and fresh. Examiners continually hone their skills through training and working, which is critical for the fairness, consistency, and objectivity of our certification process.

After 25 years and hundreds of events, an examiner may achieve Emeritus status. These are the most experienced and knowledgeable examiners in our region.

Examiners are like the professors in our organization. They begin as registered members, work their ways through the certification process and beyond, and are knowledgeable and passionate snowsports professionals. They take their roles seriously, continually self-improve and practice, and work every year to stay current. The Eastern Region's Education staff – the Dev team members and Examiners of all disciplines – are knowledgeable, committed, and dedicated members in our organization who work to pass along knowledge and experience to the membership and assess members' knowledge, competency, and proficiency through the certification process. «

Tom Vickery Awarded Lifetime Achievement



Prior to 1986, Tom Vickery was a young skier, having participated in various Vermont school programs. And then things changed: "During the era of hair bands, spandex, and shoulder pads, I was learning to snowboard," Tom says. "When PSIA snowboarding was in its infancy, I was there."

That's because Tom's instructing career predates AASI, which began as a PSIA affiliate organization in 1997.

This spring, Tom received the PSIA-AASI Lifetime Achievement Award which honors exceptional members who developed and implemented programs, projects, and procedures affecting the association on a national level while demonstrating dedication, devotion, and self-sacrifice. Tom served as an instructor at Stowe, VT, snowboard director at Gore and Whiteface Mountains in New York, and staff trainer at Smugglers' Notch, VT. He was a terrain park designer and consultant at many resorts; he founded and directed the USASA Northern New York Series (he is also a USASA Level 3 coach); and he introduced competitive snowboarding to the New York Ski Educational Foundation, serving as snowboard director and head coach for that organization.

Within PSIA-AASI, Tom has been an Examiner since 1990, and he served on a PSIA National Education Team that predated snowboarders being included on the National Demo Team (now known as the PSIA-AASI National Team). He has since served as a selector at several National Team tryouts. He has served AASI-E as Development Team head coach, a Steering Committee member, Examiner head coach, and Eastern Team head coach. Through his many roles, he influenced snowboard instruction within the Eastern region and nationally.

On paper, these are impressive credentials and accomplishments. However, it's outside with Tom that you truly experience his immense talents, knowledge, and energy. One gets the sense that he never taught a lesson or led a clinic where he too didn't learn something. Congratulations to Tom Vickery on this well-deserved national recognition. «



New Arrival

Eastern Region Alpine Examiners
Keri Reid and Peter Novom
welcomed the birth of
their second child, daughter
Evan Caroline, in April, 2023.
Congratulations Pete and Keri! «

Alpine Eastern Team Tryout

By Don Haringa

PSIA-AASI Eastern Director of Education and Programs

The Alpine Eastern Team tryout was held at Killington, VT on March 15-16, 2023. From that tryout eight members were selected to the team. Additionally, two alternates were selected, in case any team members are not able to fulfill their responsibility to the team.

You may wonder, what is the Eastern team? The Eastern Team is a group of members who specifically prepare and train to participate in the PSIA-AASI National Team selection. In addition to the Alpine Team, the Eastern Team consists of members from almost all of our disciplines. Last year an Eastern Snowboard Team was selected, and this year members from Adaptive, Snowboard, and Telemark were chosen to represent the Eastern Region at the National team Selection. That intensive selection is scheduled to take place in Big Sky, Montana on April 21-26, 2024. Between now and the National team tryout, the Eastern Team will work to develop and hone their teaching skills, their people skills, their public speaking skills, as well as their movement analysis and technical understanding of this great sport. They will, of course, continue to improve their skiing and riding skills!

The tryout was spectacular! It was held during one of the largest snowfalls of the season, with well over a foot of new snow greeting us each day. Twenty of the east's top ski instructors spent the first day skiing difficult tasks on some of Killington's most challenging trails. At the end of the day the scores were tallied. The plan was to make a cut, and to bring only the top dozen or so to the second day. Simply, scorers witnessed such amazing and inspirational skiing that they decided to bring all of the candidates back for the second day. After scoring a task on a steep, bumped up trail, one of the selectors commented, "The Eastern members would be very proud of the skiers we just watched." We saw some really great skiing!

In the end, eight team members and two alternates were chosen. We have the makings of a really great team, and I can't wait to see their progress as they train for the National Team Selection.

The coolest thing, in my opinion, is that in addition to the candidates who made the team, we also got to see a whole group of talented members, who while not named to this team, will likely be named to the next Eastern Team. Congratulations to all, and special congratulations to the 2023 Alpine Eastern Team members. They are: Peter Novom, Frank Cartwright, Evan Vomacka, Tyler Sullivan, Luke Martin, Charlie Roy, Ezequiel Usle, Nate Gardner, Josh Haagen and Ben DeBenedictis. Joining them as Alpine Eastern Team members are our current Alpine National Team members, Troy Walsh, and Brian Smith.

Congratulations also go out to the Adaptive, Telemark, and Snowboard Eastern Team Members:

Tera Adams and Mike Ma – Adaptive

Keith Rodney – Telemark

Todd Ainsworth, Loren Dailey, Bonnie Kolber, Tom Mulligan as well as current National Team members Amy Bailey and Brian Donovan – Snowboard <<



(l-r) Peter Novom, Frank Cartwright, Evan Vomacka, Tyler Sullivan, Luke Martin, Charlie Roy, Ezequiel Usle, Nate Gardner, Josh Haagen and Ben DeBenedictis



PSIA-AASI Eastern Region CEO Kathy Brennan and Director of Education and Programs Don Haringa receiving a "National Certificate of Appreciation" on behalf of PSIA-AASI E from Orest Ohar, Director of the Eastern Division National Ski Patrol Ski School. Education Staff members of PSIA-AASI E have provided technical direction with the goal of helping NSP develop and improve its on-snow training.



AASI Update End of Season Review

By Brian Donovan

PSIA-AASI Snowboard National Team Member, AASI-E Examiner, AASI-E Coordinator

Greetings AASI East Community! I'm going to be honest: I hate this time of year more than any other season. It signifies snowboarding season coming to an end, rain and mud replacing fresh snow storms, and not getting to see all my winter friends for a bunch of months. And while this winter never really seemed to be able to make up its mind between warm temperatures, rain, or powder storms for many of us, winter will always remain my favorite season because of the opportunity to teach snowboarding and sliding on snow. As summer looms, I want to reflect on some highlights from this past season and give you some things to focus on as we make the seasonal transition.

- Did you hear that we have two new AASI Eastern Region Education Staff members? At the Development Team tryout at Killington in March, all candidates put themselves through a tough process that included off-snow activities, homework assignments, on-snow riding, and teaching assessments. All candidates represented themselves exceptionally well, and two candidates rose to the top of the pack. We're excited to announce Clayton Ayers from Blue Mountain, PA and Tobin Twelves from Mount Snow, VT, new AASI-E Education Staff members as part of the Development Team! The next time you see either of these individuals, make sure to high-five and congratulate them.



New AASI-E Education Staff Development Team members (L-R): Clayton Ayers and Tobin Twelves



Excited new AASI Level III Instructors from the Killington Assessment (L-R): Nicole Erickson, Jackson West, Tera Adams, Austin Moody, and Harrison Rice

- Speaking of excitement, it was one of the busiest years for certification assessments all over the Eastern Region. We hosted 50 Level 1 Certification Assessment groups, 4 Level 2 Assessments, and for the first time in 20 years we were able to host 2 separate Level 3 Assessments this winter. Many instructors earned new levels of certification this year. Be sure to celebrate this huge accomplishment, and wear your pins proudly! The best thing that can happen is for a resort guest to ask you what your pin stands for and give you the opportunity to explain all the hard work and energy you've put in to meet the AASI National Certification Standards and provide them with a better lesson experience.



Proud new AASI Level II Instructors from the Hunter Mountain Riding Retake Assessment (L-R): Anna Vann and Anthony Germinario

- Make sure to **pay your PSIA-AASI dues on time!** If you are enrolled in the quarterly auto-pay option for your dues, nice job and feel free to ignore this reminder. But if you pay your dues annually like me, make sure to pay them before the June 30th deadline. Every year, I talk to dozens of AASI members that miss the deadline and end up paying late fees. Don't waste your hard-earned money paying late fees. Pay your dues on time so that you're all set for next season and beyond!
- **Record your highlights** from the season you just had. Whether electronically or the old-fashioned way, write down your highlights from this past season (your favorite lessons and why, a cool new

progression, a breakthrough you had in your riding, an AASI event or training session at your home mountain that helped something click for you, or simply some other highlight that might be lost forever if you don't write it down and revisit it heading into next winter). I do this every year, and highly recommend it! It helps me launch into each winter season without all the mental and physical rust holding me back.

- **Stay active** this summer! Don't become a couch potato. Get outside, enjoy the long days and sunshine, and be active so that you'll be in shape and healthy when next winter arrives.
 - **Try out new sports and hobbies.** Nothing reconnects us with what a beginner feels like better than putting ourselves in situations where we learn new things. The AASI community is full of people that are experts in things other than snowboarding. Connect with a fellow pro and explore a new sport or hobby with them.
 - **Explore E-Learning opportunities** available on thesnowpros.org (another good reason to pay your dues on time!). I challenge you to participate in a few of the free or paid E-Learning opportunities available to you through our national website. They are offered in both live sessions and recorded video sessions, so check them out!
 - **Stay connected and engaged.** We're in the process of creating some opportunities for the AASI East community to stay engaged with each other this summer. We're looking into some opportunities to create AASI East community get-togethers riding mountain bikes, skateboarding, golfing, surfing on a FlowRider, or possibly making some turns and doing some park laps together at Big Snow this summer. Keep your eyes peeled for posts in the AASI East Facebook group or some emails from the Eastern Region office as details and dates get finalized. We're always seeking some new venues and locations to create summer meetups, so get a hold of me and let me know if you have a great idea or location in mind.
- Lastly, I simply want to say **THANK YOU!** Thank you for teaching snowboarding. Thank you for being part of the PSIA-AASI organization and community! Thank you for spending time sharing your passion for snowboarding with all your students! Thank you for another great year together. And thank you for continuing to push yourself to improve! You are why I love this organization. Have a great summer and I'll see you soon! ☺

xx-ploring

Nordic Season Review

By Mickey Stone

PSIA-E Nordic Coordinator,

PSIA-E Nordic Examiner and ACE Team Member

I am writing this article during the superb ending of the Levi Finland Interski extravaganza. What an inspiring event! Amazing to see our own Eric Sheckleton at the head of Interski, all the Regional and National administrators participating, plus all the American teams. It brings back memories of the Norwegian Interski in 1999 which I took part in. We cannot wait for the tam and others to bring back their stories, performances, and maybe some new traditions at our events. Congrats to all spectators and participants – especially our own Keith Rodney.

Back home during the season we struggled a bit in the beginning with snowfall. For two months, we relied mostly on machine-made snow. Finally, after President's week, we started to receive those western storms moving East and then cycling back as Nor'easters. We were fortunate to receive about five of them through March. It pays to schedule off-piste and bump events after the vacation week.



Bradley Browne, Kee Gillen and Bonnie Kolber examine their snow pit. Congratulations to Bonnie and Bradley for finishing all three Backcountry courses.

these events. Check out these snow pits in the Green Mountains.

Our early season Cross country event at Rikert in Middlebury VT and the XC ITC (Instructor Training Course) at Bretton Woods both had 13 participants – a great turnout on little snow. Our event at Waterville Valley turned out to be in a snowstorm so we had ample coverage which made everyone happy. A bit cold but great snow.



Great snow at Waterville Valley!



Chip Zeigler rips up the pow

This season we certified two participants at our Level II XC Exam. Congratulations to Steve Brunner and Maggie Bassow!

Our Telemark discipline had a busy season with 24 total events and 191 participants. Per usual, our Pro Jam, Southern Hoedown, Spring Fling, Spring Rally and an in-house Level I at Mt Snow had double-digit participation. Some of our best snow happened for

our off-piste events. Our Mad River Glen and Jay Peak participants received over a foot of snow!

Our Telemark exam started out well on Friday the day before St Patrick's Day, but it drizzled a bit then froze on Saturday morning. A tough way to start your assessment process, but it warmed and softened up by Sunday. Congratulations to all who participated and gave it their all. Big thanks to assessors Ali Pirnar, Keith Rodney and Kurt Byrnes. Successful Level II candidates were Tanner Jacobs, Paul Rainey, Gary Summerton and Nicholas Zygmot. Our successful Level III candidate was Jake Crawford.



New Telemark Dev Team member Liz Stefany

Welcome and congratulations to Liz Stefany of Sugarloaf, Maine, our new Development Team Member. Here is an introduction to PSIA-E Telemark Squad by Liz: "Hey all! I'm Liz Stefany, and when I was in my early 20s I thought I'd teach skiing for ONE winter. That didn't work out as planned, so since then I've spent 19 seasons at Sugarloaf doing all sorts of things – fixing (most) of my self-taught alpine habits, learning to telemark and snowboard, and teaching all of those as well as cross country at least a handful of times. I love teaching, but I love learning more, and it's truly amazing to share in the joy of learning with my students. I hope I get to meet, teach and learn from many of you in the years to come."

Thank you Liz and welcome aboard.

Cross country Examiner Mike Innes made the following observations on his Waterville Valley event: "With crystalline snowflakes falling on the trails of Waterville Valley Nordic, we had the perfect setting for the class Cross Country Level I Skiing and Teaching Upgrade. The timing of the snowfall couldn't have been better as the storm coated a base of ice, bringing the trails back to life in short order. We had six participants from across the New England region coming to improve their skill sets for their own skiing and teaching of others.

"Every course ends up having its own distinct experience, as we all bring different levels of experience, athleticism, technique, knowledge, and expectations. This Level I group had a common theme of crossing over from an alpine-oriented teaching and/or skiing background to Nordic. Our attendees brought a deep familiarity with the student-centered teaching model, but were pivoting to applying these skills for cross country. We spent much of the class focusing on teaching progressions for both classic and skate-skiing. We focused on laying a strong foundation for teaching others, but we always get the added benefit of improving our own core skill sets. We drilled on skiing uphill more efficiently and transitions on varying terrain.

"Probably the best bonus of our class was that we were quick to create personal connections with our fellow skiers. Nordic is known for being welcoming and collaborative, and we lived up to that hype.

Thank-you so much Mike Innes Bretton Woods Cross country Director and Cross country Examiner



Mike Innes, Jen Culligan, Elizabeth Hodgdon, Laura Mammarelli, Jamie Mills, Theresa Mills and Marissa Salizman

Another season gone by, enjoyed, organized, and many more new relationships made. Thank you to all who participated in events, to all on-snow staff for a job well done, and to our great office on whose support we rely. It is on to Breckenridge in May for National Education requirements and updating our new educational and assessment process.

Enjoy your summer and see you when the snow flies. ☄



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