



KB's CORNER

Diary of an Assessment Candidate

By Kathy Brennan
Eastern Region CEO



Kathy Brennan Level II, Angelo
Ross Level III Telemark

As CEO of the Eastern Region, I believe in the importance of connecting with and understanding our members across all disciplines. With that in mind, I've made a conscious effort to expand my skillset, which was heavily skewed towards Alpine.

Since taking on my role as CEO, I've spent more time classic cross-country skiing than I have in years – and I've enjoyed every mile. A skate skiing lesson made it clear I have plenty of room for improvement (can you say V1 and V2 pole timing?), and I can't wait to learn more.

Since earning my Telemark Level I certification in 2019, I've talked a pretty good game about working toward Level II. But this season, it was time to walk the walk - or should I say, ski the ski? Many of us set personal goals at the beginning of each season. For the 24-25 season, I committed to achieving Level II and embracing the challenge.

Preparation: A Necessary Reality Check

The first step was an honest assessment of my circumstances: I'm not getting any younger; I'm



Telemark Level II and III candidates,
Killington, VT March 2025.



Telemark Level II Group: Assessors: Mickey
Stone & Shannon Belt, Candidates: Den
Kenerson, Iddo Ben-Ari, Justin Brown, JD
Herlihy, Kathy Brennan (missing)

spending more time at my desk than ever; and Telemark skiing is generally more physically demanding than Alpine skiing. Summer and fall preparation would be critical. I carved out time to focus on fitness, forging time for increased walking, hill climbing and jump roping. Was it enough? Probably not, but it was an improvement and a conscious effort toward my goal.

Next, I ensured my availability for the assessment. Unlike the Alpine and Snowboard disciplines, the Eastern Region holds just one Telemark Level II

assessment per season. If I didn't lock in those dates, I'd inevitably be double-booked. As soon as the Eastern event schedule was published (see easternsnowpros.org/calendar), I blocked those dates and set a reminder for a month in advance to complete the Professional Knowledge Exam and register early for "First Chair" pricing.

Tackling the Professional Knowledge Exam

The Professional Knowledge Exam – UGH! Taking tests has never come easy for me. Thankfully, the test is now completed online in advance - far better than the old in-person written exams in noisy base lodges on the first morning of assessments. Still, it required preparation. As fall rolled into winter, I refreshed with the Teaching Snowsports Manual, then took a deep dive into the Telemark Technical Manual. My background in Alpine instruction gave me confidence in the Teaching and People skills portions, but the limited demand for Telemark lessons meant a lot of solo study and visualization.

Training... and a Bit of Procrastination

Despite my commitment, my plan to practice regularly on my Telemark gear evaporated as quickly as the time until my assessment. I used every excuse in the book – fatigue, cold weather, time constraints, and my perceived need to prioritize my Alpine skiing. By the time the holiday season wrapped up, I finally motivated myself to hit the hill, even just for a few runs. My training focus included:

- Practicing assessment-specific skiing tasks
- Building confidence in bumps and trees
- Refining teaching techniques
- Honing movement analysis (MA) skills.

With limited tele skiers around, I turned to YouTube for MA practice, comparing skier movements to the Visual Cues of Effective Skiing in the Technical Manual. This helped me to predict where to look for effective and ineffective actions within turn shape, ski performance, and body movement.

Finding Confidence When It Counts

As assessment day approached, snow conditions continued to disrupt my plans for bumps and tree skiing. The weekend before, I struggled so much I nearly backed out. I dreaded the possibility of failing – and even more so, the perception that I might pass simply because I'm the CEO. I wanted to show up well prepared and confident I was at or above the standard.

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General Information

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All submitted material is subject to editing and, possibly, a writing process. Its use, whether solicited or not, is at the discretion of the editorial staff. All published material becomes the property of PSIA-E/EF. Articles are accepted on the condition that they may be released for publication in all National and Regional publications.

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AROUND THE EAST

Eastern Award Winners

Your Eastern Board of Directors has been identifying and honoring members who have made important contributions to our organization and to our industry. Do you know a special person who has made significant contributions to snowsports instruction, the snowsports industry, or to PSIA-AASI and the Eastern Region? Please use this link to submit a nomination: <https://fs9.formsite.com/PSIA-AASI-E/Member-Award-Nomination/index>.

The following deserving individuals have been selected for awards in the 2024-2025 season.



National Lifetime Membership

Mickey Sullivan
Hunt Hollow, NY

Mickey, a dedicated 49-year, Alpine Level III, CS2 certified member, has significantly contributed to PSIA-AASI Eastern Region for over 28 years as a member of the Alpine Education staff. Additionally, he served as the Director of Education and Programs in the Eastern Office for 7 years. In his role, Mickey consistently collaborated with the National office to enhance our educational initiatives. Although the National Alignment project was not active during his tenure, Mickey played a pivotal role in fostering examiner exchanges and promoting inter-regional collaboration. His efforts were instrumental in advancing a more consistent and improved assessment process.

One of Mickey's key accomplishments was his instrumental role in developing a program to increase the representation of Eastern members on the National Team. His vision and support were crucial in achieving this goal, leading to a greater impact on the Eastern staff and members throughout the country. These members have further extended their influence internationally through their efforts at Interski, showcasing Mickey's lasting legacy in the snow sports community.



Eastern Lifetime Membership

Dave Beckwith Sr.
Mount Southington, CT

Dave, a 37-year Alpine Level III member, had also dedicated many years to the Eastern Region's Board of Directors, actively serving as the Governance and Scholarship Committee chairs. A nominator from Mount Southington shared, "Ask anybody who works at that mountain, and they all respect him. They will all have their own stories about how he has helped them, taught them something, or put them in a position to succeed at one point or another. He goes out of his way to be kind, generous, and giving to all the people around him even at the expense to himself. He celebrated his 50th year there last year." The nominator also shared that "David was the single reason I was able to continue teaching skiing for the past three years and the reason that I joined the PSIA." The Eastern Board highlighted his unwavering support for PSIA-AASI and its members through his active involvement on the Board of Directors, as well as his advocacy at his home hill and throughout the region.



Community Service

Joe Valley
Pats Peak, NH

Joe is a 15-year member, with his Snowboard Level III, Freestyle Specialist 1, and CS1 credentials. As the Snowboard and Park Manager at Pats Peak, he has been inspiring the regional snowboard community. Joe received several nominations highlighting his dedication to fostering a strong riding community through his weekly clinics, which are open to all instructors from any mountain. These clinics not only emphasize teaching and learning but also building relationships and promoting a positive, growth mindset. Joe's tireless efforts have created a culture with strong roots, supporting riders and helping them achieve their goals. Joe's impact goes beyond just teaching; he has brought countless riders into the AASI fold and supported many through the ranks of accreditation. His ability to coach the coaches and provide hands-on feedback is invaluable. Joe's humility and continuous drive to challenge himself and those around him make him a true leader and an inspiration to all. <<



Laurent LaFontaine (on the right)
receives the Advanced Educator
Certificate



**Monica Plante receiving the
Advanced Educator Certificate at the
Spring Rally**

New Advanced Educators

The Advanced Educator program is a certificate-based track that consists of several on-snow, indoor and eLearning courses. The Advanced Educator Program is open to all certified members wishing to improve their teaching skills while pursuing certification and accreditation. This program requires commitment, as well as a sense of purpose for developing professionally. The next time you see these members, give them a big high-five for their hard work and success!

Sharon Beilinson

Jiminy Peak Snowsports School

Paul Bellamy

Loon Mountain Ski & Snowboard School

Laurent LaFontaine

Blue Hills Ski Area Snowsports Learning Center

Bryan Marshall

Snowshoe Ski & Snowboard School

Monica Plante

Cannon Mountain Snowsports School

Shawn Watkins

Sunday River Ski & Snowboard School <<



Ralf Riehl Honored with 3C's Award

Ralf Riehl, an Alpine Level III and Snowboard Level I instructor who commutes to Mount Snow, VT from Connecticut received the 3C's award at National Academy at Big Sky, MT this spring. The 3C's award recognizes members who demonstrate positive leadership within their snowsports school or region through consistent collaboration, communication, and cooperation with peers and guests and for serving as role models for others.



Ralf Riehl (center)
accepts the 3C's Award
from Eliza Kuntz and
Robin May

Several of Riehl's colleagues at Mount Snow nominated him for this award. Riehl loves connecting with others, whether they are colleagues or students. He recounts experiences where he introduced new instructors whom he only recently met with veterans in the locker room and times when he strived to make one-time students feel comfortable enough to return.

"I just love teaching. I love helping people. And I love helping them understand how things work," he said, noting that sometimes he's motivated by selfish reasons: "I want my world to be pleasant, and nice, happy, and fun," he says. "So, if I put that out there, it comes back. I'm selfish in my drive to be like that because I want to live in a world like that."

Congratulations to Ralf Riehl on this recognition. Check out thesnowpros.org/for-members/awards-and-recognition to learn more about national awards and how to nominate a deserving colleague. <<

CALLING ALL ARTISTS Enter our T-shirt design contest!

**Design the Eastern Region T-shirt for the 2025-2026 season.
Proceeds to support the Eastern Region Education Foundation.**

**Submission deadline is August 31, 2025, 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 2025.

- ◆ 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 2025-2026 season.

Submit your artwork at: <https://fs9.formsite.com/PSIA-AASI-E/tshirtcomp/index>

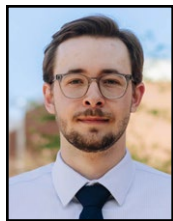


Fresh Tracks in Leadership

By Katie Brinton

Eastern Region Vice Chair & Alpine Education Staff

After vetting a strong pool of applicants, the board selected Stephen Gover and Marc Angelillo for the open at-large board positions. Stephen and Marc were selected based on their industry experience, professional skills, and strong alignment with the board's strategic goals:



Stephen Gover (returning board member) is an Alpine Level III, Snowboard Level II, Children's Specialist 1, and Freestyle Specialist 1 instructor based in Vermont. Stephen brings valuable resort leadership experience from managing snowsports schools at both Tussey Mountain in Pennsylvania and Okemo Mountain in Vermont, giving him broad insight into

both regional and national snowsports operations. He holds a degree in Recreation Management from Penn State. His understanding of the diverse challenges across our wide geographic region adds important perspective to Board discussions. Stephen's return to the Board ensures continuity on our leadership team and allows us to benefit from his continued thoughtful, analytical decision-making.



Marc Angelillo (new board member) is an Alpine Level III, Snowboard Level I, Children's Specialist 2, and Freestyle Specialist 1 instructor who lives in Massachusetts. He is affiliated with the ski and ride schools at both Sugarbush and Stowe in Vermont and is currently a full-time instructor and Eastern Region Area Representative. A 23-year PSIA-AASI member,

Marc also brings a strong background in the ski and snowboard hard goods industry, having worked for decades as a leading sales representative and advisory board member. He also has significant nonprofit experience in the wider recreation industry. Marc's frontline teaching and Area Rep work give him valuable insight into our members' needs and the realities of resort life, supporting the Board's efforts to strengthen member engagement and increase the value of PSIA-AASI membership.

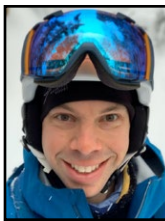
Their three-year terms will begin on day two of the June Board of Directors Meeting – June 23, 2025.

We thank all members who expressed interest in serving. Your dedication is vital to the strength and future of our organization.

Members who are eligible to affirm or decline the at-large nominees were sent an email to submit their vote. If you did not receive this email, please contact the office at psia-e@psia-e.org. The voting period ends May 31, 2025.

Newly Elected

In January, Eastern Members elected Ben DeBenedictis as the new Zone 1 (ME, NH, VT) Board Representative. Ben will serve a three-year term beginning during the June Board meeting.



Ben DeBenedictis is a member of our Alpine Education Staff and Alpine Level III and Children's Specialist 2 certified instructor who lives in Vermont. He is affiliated with the ski and ride school at Stowe in Vermont, where he is a full-time employee, managing staff training, the race department, and seasonal programs. Ben's experience with Vail Resorts, which

owns Stowe Mountain Resort, has helped develop his strong financial management and human resource skills. During his tenure on the board, he hopes to focus on supporting the newest members of our organization for our long-term viability and exploring opportunities to increase access to our educational materials.

Thank You for Your Service

This June Tera Adams will finish her term as the Zone 1 Board Representative when Ben DeBenedictis assumes the role at the board meeting. We are extremely grateful for her volunteer leadership and years of service.



Tera Adams is a member of our Adaptive Education Staff, and our Snowboard Development Team. She holds Adaptive Snowboard Level III, Snowboard Level III, Adaptive Alpine Level II, Alpine Level I, Telemark Level I, CS2 and FS1 certifications and credentials. Tera has served on the board of directors since June of 2022.

Over that time, she participated on several committees, including the Awards and Nominations committee, which she helped form to recognize the contributions our members have made to their local communities, the Eastern region, and at the national level. It has been a privilege to work with Tera, and our organization was lucky to have her input as the board set our strategic direction.

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

Board Governance

The Eastern Region board is comprised of the board chair, the immediate past board chair, four at-large representatives, and four member-elected representatives from one of each of four election zones:

- Zone 1 (Northern New England including NH, ME and VT)
- Zone 2 (Southern New England including CT, MA and RI)
- Zone 3 (Mid-Atlantic including NJ, NY and PA)
- Zone 4 (South including DE, MD, NC, VA, WV and other states south of NJ and PA)

As defined in our bylaws, an individual must be a certified Level I, II or III member in their fourth year of continuous membership to be qualified to serve on the board of directors. No full-time, year-round employee of the association may hold a position on the board of directors.

In addition, the maximum representation of Education Staff on the board is 50% of the total seats. Board members, with the exception of the board chair, may serve a maximum of two three-year terms (6 years).

To support these term limits and ensure continuity on the board, a schedule has been defined to stagger the board member's terms. Newly elected or affirmed candidates begin their three-year term during the annual fiscal-year end board of directors meeting.

In January of 2026, the membership will be electing new board representatives for Zone 2 and Zone 4. If you are interested in applying, please look for emails, articles, and social media posts with more information in the fall. <<



NATIONAL REPORT

National Report

By Eric Jordan

PSIA – E Examiner

National Board Representative



Other Nature treated us to a great season in the East! We had sustained cold weather and plenty of snow, especially in our Northern regions which surpassed 400 inches of snow! It is not too often that our friends from the West are jealous of our conditions but that was the norm this winter.

The National Board and the National Office in Lakewood have been very busy working on your behalf. As you know, we hired Jeff Lifgren as our new CEO in January and the onboarding process has been very smooth. Jeff has been working closely with our Transition Committee and the National Board to make sure he has all the resources and support he needs to guide us into the future. Jeff is quickly getting up to speed and has already developed strong relationships with all our stakeholders across the country.

I wanted to recognize Michael Mendrick, our past CEO of the Eastern Region who served as Interim CEO at National while we performed our search for a new CEO. Michael did an amazing job in his interim role and provided us with the stability and professionalism needed during the transition phase.

We have many large projects on our plate at National, and it is sure to be a busy off-season. We continue to invest in our IT department and infrastructure to improve the member experience and make it easier and more efficient for our regional partners to operate their businesses. Hopefully everyone has seen the new National website this season. The feedback from the membership was very positive and everyone felt like the new site was a huge improvement! A big thanks goes out to Katherine Fuller and her entire team in the Marketing and Communications department for all their hard work on this project.

Speaking of large projects, Interski 2027 is on the horizon and our team is very busy with their preparations. Hosting Interski is a massive undertaking, and we could not be prouder of all the hard work that is going on behind the scenes to make this the best Interski ever. We hosted an Interski General Assembly meeting in Vail this spring that was attended by a multitude of Nations. The event was a massive success, and all Nations were very impressed by the venue and our planning to date. So much so, that many Nations are trying to find the budget to bring more attendees to Interski 2027 in Vail. This will be a can't miss event for our members and it will be a great opportunity to close out the 2027 season in style.

That's all for now. As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at eric@mymicrofridge.com.

Best wishes for a great summer! ❄️

» KB'S CORNER, *continued*

But I took a deep breath and reminded myself why I was here. I believed in my abilities, I had prepared the best I could, and I owed it to myself to try. If nothing else, it would make a great article for the *SnowPro*!

Assessment Day: Harnessing the Butterflies

On the big day, my nerves were in a frenzy. Long-time Education Staff member Pam Greene's advice rang in my ears: *Just need the butterflies flying in formation*. Fortunately, adrenaline has often helped me to rise to the occasion. This assessment was no exception: I didn't notice being tired or sore, I was able to concentrate on the tasks at hand, answer questions, and remained present to support and encourage my fellow candidates.

On Day Two, our focus was on our 30-minute teaching segment. My examiner, Mickey Stone, jokingly noted that I was the first to volunteer – *big surprise*. I suspect having a last name starting with "B", I've been programmed my whole life to be at the start of the line. Waiting is agony for me, and going first allowed me to settle my nerves while supporting the group.

Given my prior experiences earning my Alpine Level III and undergoing other tryouts, I like to think I possess solid teaching skills. By going first, I hoped to give other candidates a chance to collect their thoughts, calm their nerves, and observe a model – whether it was a *what to do* or a *what not to do* demonstration!

The Final Push

To no one's surprise, as the afternoon wore on, the adrenaline ebbed, fatigue set in, and staying engaged required a conscious effort. When the time came to await results, I wasn't sure if I had attained my certification – but I knew I did the best I could and I was proud of my efforts.

A Huge Thank You

I would be remiss if I didn't thank my team. Examiners, Mickey Stone and Shannon Belt, created a productive and positive assessment environment while adhering to our national standards and our goals to move toward a consistent process across the country. I also want to thank my fellow candidates - Dan, Iddo, Justin and JD. Your skiing, teaching, and people skills were inspirational, helped to elevate everyone's performance, and certainly contributed to my success. I'm proud to have earned my Telemark Level II Certification.

What's Next?

While I don't instruct at Waterville Valley as much as I used to, I still pride myself on being an active, front-line instructor. Continuing education is essential, and branching out to explore other disciplines has deepened my understanding of our members, the industry, and the art of sliding on snow.

If you're new to our organization, I hope this diary illustrates the commitment required to earn certifications. If you're a seasoned member, I hope it inspires you to step outside your comfort zone and try something new. Exploring other disciplines sharpens your skills, builds connections, fosters empathy, and – above all – makes for an incredible adventure!

What's next, you ask? *Snowboarders, look out!* I've dabbled in teaching snowboarding, but it's been a while. Time to get back at it. This summer, I'll be practicing my duck-and-roll technique (getting up off the ground is half the battle!). Then, we'll see where next winter takes me!

#NeverStopLearning ❄️



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 III

Campbell Andersen
Matthew P. Annis
Craig W. Baum
Stephen A. Bowman
Claudia M. Fetterman
Daniel Goldman
Stephen G. Gover
Jeffrey J. Hopkins
Lawrence Howard
Nancy S. Kearney
Alexandra E. Lehnese
Thomas A. Positano
Daniel Shields
Maxwell Sleeper
Roy Whitaker
Ian E. Will
Eric Winter

Alpine Level II

Emma Adelman
Katie Ahern
Darryl A. Arbesman
Joseph F. Ballou
David C. Baud
John Bien
Rhoda E. Boettcher
Joseph Cetola
Yewon Cheon
Michael Collie
William Cruikshank
Matteo Del Poeta
Mike DiProspero
Seamus Fagan
Kirsten L. Ford
Len Fromzel
Matthew Gates
Mitchell Gill
Ryan C. Hart
Jeffrey Heanue
Matthew E. Holquist
Nicholas Holsing
Brittany J. Hudson
Simon Ince
Darcy Jaskwich
Kurtis W. Johnson
Nora Kearney
Sabrina Kennedy
Rowan Kidder
Andrew W. Kimpton
Brian Kroll
Andrew C. Lebeis

Katherine R. Lukes

Peter Martinez

Audrey Mazzaferro

Liz McDonnell

Orion Metheny

Sean Meyer

William B. Moore

Richard A. Moro

Erin R. Morrisseau

Kevin Oakes

Jesselynn Opie

Marshall Pest

Dan Petersen

Isabella M. Renney

William J. Roberts

Daniel J. Rosenthal

Allan Rotman

Vladimir Selec

JT Shupe

Eugenio Silva

Samuel Sjostrom

Casey S. Small

Jason Travitz

Robert W. Watkins

Lauren Weeks

William Whitcher

Jeffrey White

Tina Wu

Zhaoyang Yang

Lijing Yao

Duncan Yarworth

Alpine Level I
Nathan Abdelmalek
David Adams
Estefano Adco Churata
Emma Adelman
Paul Aherne
Jaimie Alessi
Naryha Alvarez Principe
Al Alvine
Ariane Amsz
Jacob Anderholm
Cleo Andersen-Green
Jeff Anderson
Greg Appleton
Christopher Argo
Mora Arroyo
Julia Atkins
Angela Avolio
William Babincsak
Stephanie Baer

Shawn Baillio

Natalia Baker

Kajsa Banks

Tennison Banks

Daniela Bard

Suzanne Barth

Elizabeth Baughman

Gary Beck

Lila Beckwith

Lawrence Behnken

Diana Bildner

Noah Binkowski

Jacqueline V. Bjork

Gary Lane Black

Nicole Blum

John Bolotin

Lucia Bonilla Fridlyand

Howard Bonk

Doug Boothroyd

Christopher Bowler

Sebastian Bravo

Theresa Brayman

Nicole Breton

Fletcher Brightman

Devon Brooks

Jesse Bruno

Duncan Bryant-Carty

Matthew Buffone

Talia Bukalov

Richard Burch

Sam Burke

Stuart Burke

Doug Burns

Emily Burns

Robert Burns

Eli Burrell

Janine Burt

Ashley Bushong

Manuel Camargo

Rich Campbell

Amelia Canetto

Christine Carlson

Servando Carrasco

Alexis Chaize

Grace Chamberlin

Carola Cherro

Ann Chikowski

Catherine Chow

Jonathan Churchill

Maya Ciaffaglione

Davern Cigarran

Gage Cimino

Dylan Ciolfi

Brendan Clarke

Honora Clarke

Edward Clausen

Bruce Clendenning

Travis Cloud

Kelly Colvin

Grant Cone

Xinyu Cong

Luke Connelly

Molly Connor

Maggie Coolidge

Pedro Corradi

Shane Coverdale

Conrad L. Cowan

Jamila Cowan

Maia Crichlow

Anthony Cuocco

Michelle Curry

Natalie Custer

Craig D'Cruz

James Dahlke

Julia David

Jack Davidson

Evan S. Davies

George Davison

Nicholas Dawes

Thayna de Paula

Sophia DeLeo

Robert Dell'Amore

Benjamin DelSesto

Grant DeNies

Sarah DeSerres

Lily Desgroseilliers

Danna Diaz Benavides

Lisa Dickson

Bob Dillon

Ryan Dillon

Brianny Dorf

Lillian Downey

Aaron Dries

Alyssa DuBois

Audrey Dueweke

Marbella Duricko

Deidre Dutcher

Jeffrey Dutter

Madeline Edwards

Onduwune Ekoja

Tania Eliseeva

Jenny Elliot

Michael Engerran

Juana Erasun

Jose Ignacio Estrada

Aiden Evanitsky

Andrew Evanitsky

Grace Evanitsky

Clarence W. Evans

Seamus Fagan

Brandon Farhat

William Felder

Helena Ferebauer

Asher Finch

William Fink

Haiden Fiore

Brian K. Firstbrook

Galen Fisher

Elizabeth Flexer

Daniel Flores

Clara Floyd

Eileen Fontana

Benjamin Forshey

Kent Foss

Luke Fowler

Frances Foy

Coltrane Fracalossi-Lail

Collette Fratangelo

Matias Esteban Furesz

Anthony Fusco

Diana Gamser

Alexander Geissler

Brandon George

Lydia George

Isha Ghiya

Lauren Gianni

Linda Gil

Elise Gilbert

Jim Giller

Sophie Gillman

David Gingold

Adam Ginsberg

Lewis Gipe

Trevor J. Glenn

Corey Goldberg

Howard Goldman

Jazzlynn Goldstein

Ariana Gomez Sanchez

Emilie Goodrich

Judy A. Gorberg

Alexandra Gourlay

William Grant

Jeremy Greengas

Melissa Griffie

Jonathan Gryckiewicz

Hao Guo

Xiaotong Guo

Coral Gutierrez

Cythia Hall

Jessica Hall

Craig Hansen

Hailey Hansen

Khurram Haroon

Reuben Harris

Isabelle Harrison

Bregman

Yuxiu He

Sarah Headley

Missy Hebert

Anna Hennigan

Alison Hernandez

Dotty Heyming

Emma Hobson

William Hogan

Colden Hollingsworth

Arlene Holtzman

Megan Hoogmoed

Marion Horan

Adrian Houston

Ethan Howard

Zach Howard

CareyAnne Howlett

Yu Huang

Yufan Huang

Clark Hubeny

Elizabeth Indorato

Hailey Ivey

MacKenzie Jack

Kristian Jackson

Sheila Jacob

Tanner K. Jacobs

Lindsey Jakiel

Bob Jenkins

Johnny Jesson

Jason Johnson

Tony Johnson

Hugh Johnson III

Brady Jones

Brynne Jordan

Jeffrey W. Kahn

Nathan Kanish

Andrew Kapitula

Brigid Karl

Riley Karl

Jeff Karluk	Abram Marr	Iliana Paidas	Stuart Saffer	Ryan Vanasse	Children's Specialist II
Meredith Karluk	Landon Marshall	Peter Pantelis	Dylan Sanford	Brandon VanDuser	Chandra Anderson
Jack Kaul	Henry Martin	Martin Pascuucio	Ann Marie Satterfield	Elizabeth Vatis	Shannon M. Astholz
Brian Kearns	Gregory Mastroianni	Melissa Patterson-Meador	Elsie Scerbo	Isabel Vavrinek	Gina R. Basiliere
Paige Keenan	Ian Matusiak	Hannah Pauker	Mia Schwab	Joaquin Vazquez	Nathaniel Beam
Jacquelyn Kelley	Sophia Maurer	Scott Peddicord	Steven Scoons	Michael Vulpis	Edward H. Bedrossian
Emily Kelly	Heidi Maxwell	Daisy Pelszynski	John Scott	Andrew Waine	James H3. Billingslea
Piper Kelly	Catherine McClellan	Heidi Pempek	Jeff Sears	William Wales	Dennis T. Blair
Chris Kennelly	Marc McClure	Carlos Perea	Christopher Selena	Greg Walker	Morgan L. Bremer
Devon Kenny	Susan McCracken	Rocio Pereyra	Bob Sengstacken	Grace Wall	Kristen C. Butler
Diana Kholvinska	Mitch McCune	Landon Perez	Reagan Sowards	Beth Wang	Timothy Chen
Garrett Kieffer	Miles McDonald	Madeline Perfetti	Elena Shelton-Krippa	Steven Wang	Lindsay Donahue
Ezekiel King	Meaghan McEnroe	Laurie Pessah	Elizabeth Shipp	Zhexuan Wang	Rina Drake
Matt Kinkad	Joseph McGinn	Niemann Pest	Finn Shookenhuff	Jordan Ward-Clayton	Ariana R. Farr
Zach Kleinman	Andrew McGinnis	Finn Pierce-Scher	Desi Sico	Martin Watson	Quinn Ferguson
Thomas Klim	Michael McGowan	Catherine Pittman	Rob Siegel	Colson Weber	Landon Figg
Stewart Koenig	Antje McKee-Courcy	Anna Pivrotto	Creighton Sillars	Marc Wegener	Stephanie Fritz
Riley Kogut	Liam McKim	Rosemary Plane	Caleb Singer	Zishen Wei	Chuck Graziano
Alexander Kohmann	Alexander McLeod	Ransom Plybon	Nathan A. Smith	Zach Weicken	Steven D. Hayre
Ryan J. Kolaskie	William McMinn	Elizabeth Pogue	Rosalie Smith	Pete Welter	Corinne Hirai
Samuel Korff	Collin McNeal	Guy Poirier	Amelia Snyder	Elise Welterlen	Deborah Jenard
Krystian Kozlowski	Gervasio Mendez	Jamie Poole	Erin Snyder-Arnold	Megan Wenzel	Laura Jenks
Harry Krafstur	Casario	Sarah Popescu	Deying Song	Dillon West	Pamela A. Krieger
Ryan Kresge	Michael Meroski	Ryan Potter	David Sorkin	Peter White	Andrew D. Laforge
Alexa Kushner	Stephen Messinger	David Powers	Philip Sproger	Gavin Wightman	Heather C. Lansing
Malika Labossiere	Kurt Michel	Daniel Price	Kelly Statton	Eli Williams	Reagan E. Masson
Annetta LaCroix	Eamon Miller	Santiago Prieto	Christopher Staub	Sophie Williams	Ian R. Morris
David Lafond	Henry Miller	Alex Prior	Thomas Stellato	Erin Wilsey	Glenna S. Oliver
Thomas Lail	Joseph Milteer	Will Putney	Eliza Sternberg	Eric Wilson	Alan Rechetele Teixeira
Evelyn Lane	Jamie Milward	Bree Quimby	Abbie Stevens	Fu-Xin Wilson-Rupprecht	Dylan Sanford
Shane Langan	Andy Moawad	Julie Quinn	Karen Stevens	Phil Winn	Kelly L. Saux
Sabrina Lanza	Molly Montague	Abbie Ramos	Riley Stevens	Emily Wirth	Amy Slutzky
Pauline Law	Macey Montgomery	Vedasto Ramos	Jacqueline Stocker	Sara Witherington	Erika Wentz
Chad R. Leder	Valarie Moore	James Redden	Brian Storm	Amos Wu	Children's Specialist I
Annette Lee	David Morgan	Richard Redmond	Stacie Street	Yutong Wu	David Adams
Ruixue Lei	Elliot Morse	Ryan Reed	Nicholas Strong	Rich Wuerthele	Emma Adelman
Daniel Leinweber	Elizabeth Mosley	William Reese	Max Stwertka	Annabelle Wyman	Karol Nicole Guadalupe
Eric Leshchinskiy	Thomas Moxon	Frederick Reeser	John Sullivan	Jiaze Xia	Alcala Meza
Mark Levine	Henry Mui	Elizabeth Roberts	Gage Suscietto	Ping Xiao	Riley Alesevich
Michael Levine	Katherine Muller	Mia Roberts	John Switzer	Sichao Xu	Kolton Almany
Jinyang Li	Keith Murphy	Heather Robertson	Judson Syracuse	Munan Xue	Arthur Ambler
Jinyun Li	Grace Murray	Shannon Robins	Audrey Tabayoyong	Scott Yager	Tao Ao
Ruhan Li	Kenneth Murray	Tenzin Robisch	Caitlin Tam	Hongmei Yang	Greg Appleton
Wentong Li	Zachary Nailon	Adrian Rodriguez	Norihide Tanabe	Reuben Yang	Charles Bateman
Hongbo Lin	Adam Nettina	Max Ronkos	Veronica Tang	Leiming Yu	Gregory Beaudet
Sean Lindemann	Ellie Newman	Harris Rosenblatt	Eloise Tanini	Jesse Yuan	Gordon Bennett
Mateo Listello	Carl Nicklas	Phillip Roshak	Gregory Taylor	Thomas Zanger	Brooke Bezoza
Mariia Lohush	Sofia Nystrom	Ella Rossi	Tess Taylor	Milad Zarrin	Claire Boell
Dante Lombardi	Isabella O'Brien	Mollie Roth	Jason Thomas	Holly Zatkovic	Dan Bogdan
Theodore Longworth	Toby Oddy	Ian L. Roulut	Corey Thompson	Nick Zelfhof	Andre P. Boily
Ursula Lovell	Ellen O'Hare	Aiden Roulleux	Steve Thompson	Qingyun Zeng	Kevin Borden
Harrison Lundy	Brendan Omicoli	Kent Royer	Alexandra Thornton	Haiyan Zhang	Christopher Brantley
Lori Lybolt	Jack Opie	Robert Rozicki	Jed T. Tonkin	Ling Zhang	Roger B. Breeding
Daniela Macia	Edwin "Michael"	Larry Rubin	Gregory Townsend	Naram Ziady	Bryan R. Bremer
Michael Maguire	Ordonez	Haley Rugb	Raphael Tripaldi	Dawn Zimmer	Thomas Brooks
Jane Mallach	Max Ostergren	Jess Rumburg	Jeff Turner	Emma Zinberg	Brock Brown
Paloma Manzur	Sarah Osullivan	Madeline Runyen	Andrew Underkoffler	Michael Zoesch	Patrick Brown
Vincent Marcello	Jayden Ouellette	Mark Russell	Nicolas Ureta		Joshua Buckley
Gail Marchetto	Rob Ozburn	Behnam Saberi	Gretchen Valentino		

Congratulations, continued

Karen Bukowski	Charles S. Graham	Heidi Maxwell	Genine Regante	Charles J. Walters	Patrick Daley
Clyde Burns	Jennifer Gura	Bradford May	William J. Roberts	Lauren J. Waltz	Omar Diaz
Nora Butler	James M. Halliday	Barbara A. McAdoo	Kathryn Roemer	Isaac Weber	Ian Dick
Ruben Caldwell	Scott Hammond	Marc McClure	Phillip Roshak	York Whitaker	Stephen E. Dushenko
Bob Campbell	Sarah Hardy	John McDonald	Jonathan F. Ross	Bruce White	Jeffrey Dutter
Austen Canova	Sharon C. Harper	Timothy McKenna	Chuck Roy	Andera Wilcox	Erik Fenton
Keith E. Cassidy	Ella Haslett	Joseph McParland	Haley Rugh	Edward B. Williams	Elliot Fineman
Glenn Cassis	Yi He	Mary McSally	Romana Savay	Hunter Winslow	Hans Fraunfelter
Valentina Castro	Eadon Hecht	Juniper Meier	Hallie Scammell	Elijah Wipf	Samuel Gohl
Forradellas	Janice Hobba-Glose	Joseph Milteer	Patricia W. Schaus	William Wood	Finnegan Gormley
Marie-Claude Ceppi	Elizabeth Hodgdon	Edward Minson	Andrew Schiefer	Annabelle Wyman	Trevor Graham
Leah Chapman	Robert Hofbauer	Lucy Misarski	Elizabeth Schiefer	Sichao Xu	David P. Harrsch
Lorraine Chastant	Dwight Holland	Gabriel Mitchell	Matthew Schmitt	Grishm Yagielski	Ryan Hathaway
Yewon Cheon	Frances Horrigan	Paul Mitts	Kathrin Schumacher	Charlie Yang	Donald Haworth
Ann Chikowski	Yu Huang	Chad Mollica	Will Schuster	Duncan Yarworth	Gavin Hay
Joseph Cignoli	Simon Ince	Rudolph Montgomery	Kyle Sedlock	Chujun Yin	Isaac Henry
Trent Clay	Michael Isko	Rick Moore	Joseph Shannon	Pavel Zagadailov	Ophelia Hill
Hannah Cline	Tanner K. Jacobs	Maria "Mia"	Michael Sheinkman	James K. Zensky	Corinne Hirai
Jay Cohen	Margo Jansen	Moran-Smith	Edward Sheldon	Ashley Zhang	Quinn Hopkins
Daniel Compatangelo	Dylan Jasulevicz	Donna Morin	Xuechan Shen	Limin Zhang	Forest Jade
Katie Conlon	Christopher Jensen	Madelaine Murphy	Reagan Shepherd	Junhan Zhao	Nicholas Johnson
Roger Cooney	Grace Jessiman	Robert A. Murphy	Cat Siegel	Zhiqian Zhou	Taylor Jones
John Cromie	Brendan Kantscheidt	Laura Nesta	Dov Simons	Cross Country Level III	Harry Krafur
Sean Cronin	Olivia Karas	Liam Nester	Caleb Singer	Matthew F. Pearsall	William Lewis
William Cruikshank	Nathan Karol	Ellie Newman	Nathan Sirois	Michele Pearsall	Dustin Lipman
Kevin Cyr	Larry Keba	Magdalena Newton	Helene M. Sisti	Cross Country Level II	Claire S. Mcivor
Sharon Cyr	Mavis Kelly	Eban Noble	Greg Slack	Jackson Donnelly	Paul Mitts
Macey Darr	Chris Kennelly	Sarah J. Norback	Harold Smith	Sten Winborg	Jacob Morrow
Joshua David	Joshua Keough	Kevin Oakes	Boyang Song	Cross Country Level I	Mikhail Mouravski
Asa Davis	Rodney Kidder	Dan O'Brien	William P. Spencer	Louise Belensz	James Noel
Thayna de Paula	Haree Kim	Richard R. O'Donnell	Philip Sproger	Kristen Burdett	Kelly A. Nugent
Sophia DeLeo	Zach Kleinman	Julio Olimpio	Brooke Stafford	Martin Lamoureux	Dolan L. Patrick
Rachel Dent	Henryk Kosmala	Melissa Oliver	Margaret Starr	Lotta Lampela	David Price
Scott Doner	Corinna Kraemer	Richard Orlicki	Ke Steiger	Heidi O. Levins	Greg Prior
David Dorfman	Harry Krafur	Sarah Osullivan	Alan Steinberg	Rich Lucas	Elizabeth Record
Tucker DuPaul	Dave LaMay	Elizabeth Palmer	Gerry Stryker	Aidan Rose Palmer	Annan Riordan
Marbella Duricko	Brian C. Larson	Paul Palmgren	Carolynn P. Sullivan	Frances Rucker	Liam Rooney
Kiyoshi Dustin	Kenneth Lavelle	Gerald Panuczak	Kellen Sullivan	James N. Rucker	Hallie Scammell
Jeffrey Dutter	Venin Lavelle	Tatiana Pavlides	Mark Sullivan	Marti Townley	Wren Smith
Carroll Eastman	Jane Lee	Brian Pearson	Tracy Sweeney	Freestyle Specialist II	Wyatt Stambaugh
Mark Eckert	Ty Lefebvre	Wenbo Pei	Adam Swift	Benjamin Calik	Doug A. Stewart
Aubrey Elder	Whitney LeMay	Madeline Perfetti	Kathleen A. Tarbell	Michael P. Kane	Brandon Taylor
Tania Eliseeva	William Lewis	Corey Perich	Brandon Taylor	Jonathan F. Ross	Greg Walker
Nicole C. Erickson	Jill Lillis	Mark Pest	Jessica A. Teesdale	Freestyle Specialist I	Erika Wentz
Seamus Fagan	Angel Llera	Marshall Pest	Sean Thomas	Nicole Atkins	Eric Winter
Jessica Fey	Tia Loftin	Thomas Peterman	Anthony Tingle	Clayton J. Ayers	Elijah Wipf
Ramona Filipi	Alexis Long	Finn Pierce-Scher	Leonard J. Tocci	Mark T. Baechle	Corey Wolf
Brian K. Firstbrook	Jamie Loyst	Michael Pittman	Bruce Truax	Andrew Bouffard	Gavin Woodward
James Foley	Nicholas Lucarelli	Jane Pittsley	Emme Underwood	Sofia Chavez	Xiaotong Zhang
Avery Forsyth	Tonilee Lucchino	Anna Pivrotto	Sasha Van Baars	Andrew Cimino	
Elizabeth Fosnocht	Mike Lyman	Samuel Polcaro	Tierney M. VanDeusen	Aaron Cornell	
Ryan Galligan	Chase M. Manning	Hunter Post	Nicholas VanDuser	John T. Crankshaw	
Leandra Giguere	Ed J. Mariani	Greg Prior	Stephen J. Vorstadt	Rob Crites	
Lauren Giove	John Mariconti	Brian Pronitis	Steve Vrana	William Cruikshank	
Alexandra Gonzalez	Curtis Martin	Dean Pryor	Wesley Wade	Anthony Cuocco	
Finnegan Gormley	Kenneth J. Mason	Mary Rauscher	Greg Walker		
Alexandra Gourlay	Lanie Masset	Jennifer Reenders	Seth Wall		

Snowboard Level III

Timothy Chen
Justin W. Whalen

Snowboard Level II

Kim S. Bent
Nicholas DeMaio
Riley Dinn
Shane Johner
Ben Landau
Lu Miao
Patrick Orloff
Zhengbiao Qian
Jessie Riess
Ryan Semke
David Tarsa
Dawei Wang
Jeff Wojtkiewicz
Changle Yu
Darrin J. Zignoli

Snowboard Level I

Aaron Ackley
Ayden Allen-Cordon
Alison M. Ambrosecchio
Kennedy Anderson
Marc Angelillo
Robert Armstrong
Cory Baclawski
Josephine Bahny
Logan Bailey
William Balderson
Isla Bartholomew
Nicholas Bautista
Colin Bayer
Maddox Beason
Peter Bellek
Cassidy Bennett
Travis Benson
Sydney Berard
Carter Berkoben
Alan Bibalo
Fisher Boeckmann
Jessica Borger
Marsena Bowers
Devon Brandl
Jared Briggs
Taylor Briggs
Fletcher Brightman
Jermaine Brown
Bruce Bryant
Nicholas Burgos
Gilbert J. Butler
Abigail Byrd
Jess Canty
Deidre Cargile
Thomas Carroll
Sorachat Chavavechakul

Jennifer Chen
Qiang Chen
Derek Chesler
Mason Clark
Benjamin Clarke
Foster Cole-Wetmore
Ben Collard
Emma Comer
April Comstock
David Conklin
Erin Connors
Jeff Coron
Addison Craven
Sean Cronin
James Crosby
Tyler Dank
Robert Davenport
Nicholas Davi
Jacob David
Benjamin Davies
Evan S. Davies
Riley Delano
Zhenhong Deng
Christian Diaz
Jarrod Dillard
Shelby Dofka
Tyler Drisko
Hailun Fang
Jaret Farhat
Angelina Fernandez
Eva Finkel
Eileen Fontana
Colby Forcum
Jacob Fosco
Jared Fournier
Jared Francis
Kristin Frey
Liam Frisina
Lucas Frisina
Tyler Gabrielson
Jingyu Gan
Isaiah K. Gaskell
Matthew Gerton
Allaith Ghaibah
Connor Gierloff
Zach Goforth
Will Goldberg
Ariana Gomez Sanchez
Alexander Goodrich
Finnegan Gormley
Noah Goroski
Christina N. Grant
Jason Grate
Julia Gros
Zheng Guan
Meredith Hall
Michael Hall

Kaila Hanover
Eli Harrington
Madelyn Hart
Gabriel Harter
Ella Haslett
Kendra Hastings
Gavin Hay
Cole Hazeltine
Lanziye He
Xiao He
Tyler Hobbs-Panko
Michael Hogan
Leah Holmes
Quinn Hopkins
Adrian Houston
Gengyu Hu
Sara Hughes
Reid Inge
Shannon Irwin
Nikki Jabour
Griffin Jackson
Zachary Jakub
Alexander Jeleniewski
Ru Jia
Peiran Jiang
Jiawei Jin
Taylor Jones
Austin Karnish
Mahlik Khayyam
Sean Kim
Angus King
Nuala Kinsella
Jonathan Kislin
Hayden Kolb
Elijah Kovar
Thomas Kuncheria
Ian Lagunowich
Ganyuanqing Lai
Kenneth Lavelle
Chenxuan Li
Wei Li
Guanlun Liang
Jinquan Lin
Zoey Lin
Zekai Liu
Jessica Longo
Haley Lowman
Yuzhe Lu
Mariah Lyon
Qianou Ma
Jacob Maddox
Kauan Marques
Saige Martin
Andrew Matisz
Jay Matula
Eliza Maxwell
Robin Mayers

Ben McCain
Sean McKenna
Michael McMahon
Ryan McManus
Shannon McPheeters
Yun Miao
Isie Miller
Amber Moir
Martijn Mollet
Elias Mulcahy
Dylan Mulligan
Ryan Nascimento
Shannon Neville
David Nielsen
Brad Nottingham
Aiden Nystrom
Kelsey O'Connell
Kelvin Olivo
Luke Olmstead
Ryan O'Neill
Sam Orseno
Matt Panko
Kaleb Parkhurst
Brennan Parr
Ioannis Pavlides
Brennan Pearson
Lydia Pettit
David Phair
Nam Phan
Jane Pittsley
Danny Powers
Jackson Price
Jianzhou Qi
Annabelle Recierdo
Joseph Regan
Miles Rice
Elizabeth Roberts
James Robinson
Kathryn Roemer
Matthew Romanovsky
Matt Sabellico
Sara Saidman
Pedro Salomone
Grace Saunders
Lee Saunders
Mary Schleck
Gavin Seddon
Ashlyn Sellers
Zachary Shambo
Qingzhou Shen
Thomas Shimpoe
Cole Sickafuse
Calvin Smith
Bowen Song
Dongchang Song
William P. Spencer
Julie Spinelli

Arturo Stanig
Katherine Story
Lily Stover
Meadow Straw
Richard Stryker
Mingyuan Sun
Brandon Taylor
Jimi Taylor
Vanessa Tessier
Rebeka Thorgerson
Christopher Tietz
Emily Turner
Brandon Valley
Vanessa Van Dyne
Tierney M. VanDeusen
Ryan Vermack
Luke Violante
Yang Wan
Zhe Wang
Zijian Wang
Olivia Watson
Liam Weiler
Kamarin Whalen
Tausey Wolfe
James Workman
Winter Worthington
Rick Wright
Cooper Wyrick
Yan Yan
Heran Yang
Jiajie Yang
Michael Yue
Xiaotong Zhang
Zilong Zhang
Junhan Zhao
Haiyu Zheng
Kangnan Zheng
Lingxi Zhou
Emily Zhu
Julie Zhu
Qinglu Zhu
Susan Zipkin

Telemark Level III

Donald E. Duthaler
Paul J. Rainey
Angelo J. Ross
Timothy F. Watson
Nicholas A. Zygmunt

Telemark Level II

Kathleen A. Brennan
Justin Brown
John-David Herlihy
Danforth Kenerson

Telemark Level I

Cory G. Ash
David Brainard
Maxwell Carroll
Susan J. French
Todd Gundersen
John-David Herlihy
Shane L. Johnson
Danforth Kenerson
Isaac Knox
Ryan Nivus
Kinley Tener

Adaptive Level III

Christopher J. Ujvagi

Adaptive Level II

Andrew W. Kimpton

Adaptive Level I

Martina Buckley
Jessica R. Burns
Rich Campbell
Sydney Farbotnik
Isha Ghiya
Corey Goldberg
Brent P. Hazzard
Susan M. Hunt-LaKose
Dean E. Jenard
John W. Keegan
Megan L'Esperance
Michael McGowan
Orion Metheny
Jane E. Moyer
David Neubardt
Dan OBrien
Carlos Perea
Hunter Post
Francis Raggazino
Carol M. Redline
Max Ronkos
Peter J. Sobchak
Michael Vulpis
Victoria Weber

Adaptive Snowboard Level III

Yuri Czmola

Adaptive Snowboard Level I

Mark Diehl
Shane Johner
Jessica Knisely
Jasmine Rochon
Theresa L. Smith

In Memoriam



Donn Gulick

Donn Gulick, a Great Barrington, Massachusetts resident for over 60 years, passed peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, April 13th. Donn will be remembered by many as both a racer and a passionate and energetic coach at Ski Butternut, BCD, Berkshire School, Monument Mountain, among others. A 40-plus year member of PSIA and USSA, and Level III coach, he mentored hundreds of young racers. He will be forever in the hearts of his family: wife Claire; daughter Danielle, her husband Josh Gamsby and their children, Nathan, Elizabeth, and Emily; daughter Heather and his son-in-law and caregiver, Patrick Currier. He is survived by his younger brothers, Robert and Jeff Gulick. A celebration of life will be open to all on May 31st, at 1:00 in the Upper Lodge at Ski Butternut. <<



John R. Nedzel

John R. Nedzel, ski Instructor at Roundtop Mountain Resorts for over 25 years, passed away on February 12, 2025. His lifelong passion for skiing began at an early age spending over 40 years skiing. A long-time member of PSIA, John attained his Alpine Level I in 1997. This was the beginning of his journey to attaining his Alpine Level III Certification which he achieved in 2015. His certifications also included Telemark Level I and Children's Specialist 2. John was a member of Roundtop Mountain Resort's training staff serving as trainer and co-lead Alpine Trainer. When John wasn't assigned a lesson or running instructor clinics, he could often be found on the mountain helping guests who had ventured onto terrain beyond their ability levels.

John Robert Nedzel was born in Baltimore, MD, on April 4, 1963, to Patricia and Robert Nedzel. In 1968, the family moved to Hanover, PA, where John grew up alongside his siblings, Ray, Mark, and Janine, on their small family farm. John was a multi-sport, multi-year varsity athlete at South Western High School and studied at Penn State York.

John was, in various ways, a renaissance man – a jack (or rather, a John) of all trades. He worked in construction as an estimator, surveyor, inspector, builder, finisher, and salesperson. He spent his weekends helping countless friends and family complete various home improvement projects. He rode a motorcycle, was a baseball coach, mountain biker, swimmer, body-surfer, and whitewater kayaker.

John is survived by his son, Zachary Tyler (Nikki); daughter, Ashleigh Snow; granddaughter, Ayla; and former spouses Cindy and Jaime. <<



Jon Lamb

Jon Lamb was born Sept 26, 1961, in Montreal, Canada. He would tell you that he was the product of one bad turn, because his father had broken both his legs skiing at Jay Peak and he convinced his then-girlfriend Lillian Ball to marry him, because she felt sorry for him. One bad turn on skis brought him to us, and another bad turn on skis took him away.

As a young boy, Jon moved to Michigan with his family where he fell in love with gravity driven adventure. Jon became an adrenaline junkie early, skiing and biking on the tiny hills of Michigan. Jon got his varsity letter in skiing from Waterford Township High School. That jacket still hangs in his closet, because he was a packrat (you should see his rock, sorry fossil, collection).

Testing the waters of college, he lasted two semesters before realizing he was destined for a life of outdoor adventure and headed to the big mountains of Vermont in 1979. Jon spent many years adventuring in the Green Mountains. Whether it was catching last chair on Ramshead to head out to Pins Only or crushing it to the top of Killington on the Tuesday night ride, when you were with Jon it was always full send. There he met his first wife Cindy and together they raised their daughters, Carli and Kelly.

On April 21st, 2009, he met his second wife, Careen Little, on the Superstar lift line, and Jon loved to joke that they met "online... The lift line that is." Skiing spring laps and giving advice, being his normal charismatic, enthusiastic self, Careen fell in love, and they became the best adventure buddies ever, even though she skied better than him. Just kidding, but not really. Their love was obvious and persistent and in 2017 they made the move across the country to Big Sky, MT.

This move was the biggest adventure of their life. They found a place that both recognized and celebrated this enthusiastic couple. Their adventures took them from teaching skiing at Big Sky resort, up to Whitefish, and back again. Jon continued to share his passion and enthusiasm with everyone who crossed his path as an outdoor guide at Montage Big Sky. Jon's enthusiasm was infectious and to know Jon was to remember Jon. Whether on a mountain bike, his quiver of skis, snowshoes, a fishing pole in hand, or hunting petrified wood to share, Jon carried himself in a way you couldn't help but gravitate towards.

Careen and Jon created a lifestyle that was full of happiness, love, and adventure. Whether tearing up the mountain, or stalking trout in Yellowstone National Park camping in the teardrop camper, Jon had it dialed in. There is comfort knowing that Jon died at the top of his game, and in his boots, doing what he loved.

Jon is survived by his partner and darling wife of 16 years, Careen Little, his two daughters, Kelly Bittner and Carli Drexler, his two stepchildren, Cavan and Delaney Little, his beloved hound, Lucy Little-Lamb, his sister, Heidi Lamb, and three grandchildren, Cooper and Lydia Bittner and Rory Drexler. He is predeceased by his mother Lillian Ferguson, his father Graeme Lamb, and his brother, Stephen Lamb.

In the words of his sister, Heidi, Jon instilled a love for skiing, mountain biking, and the great outdoors in everyone who came into contact with him. Even as a kid, his passion for skiing shaped the lives of those around him. On the hills of his childhood mountain, Alpine Valley, Jon began his illustrious career of sharing his love of skiing, shaping Heidi's life as she continues to carry on his legacy as a Lamb ski instructor.

There will be a celebration of life in Vermont on September 26th... Jon's 64th birthday. More details to follow. Please start to think of Jon stories to share. <<



Nathan Waterhouse

Nathan Paul Waterhouse was born on March 31st, 1975, to Janie and Stuart Waterhouse. He was the second of their four children and their only son. He was a calm baby who grew into a sweet and funny boy. He loved to play but was always safe-minded. He would even grab a Tupperware bowl and place it on his head as a helmet before racing around the house on his Big Wheels trike. He was a smart kid and a fine student, but he never found his passion in a classroom. Nate developed a sharp sense of humor with a wit far quicker than most – a wit he employed many times to charm his way out of the trouble he often created for himself. Nate was just special from the get-go and a fast favorite amongst all his circles. He could make everyone in his family, from his great-grandparents down to his sisters, laugh at the drop of a hat. He was a great storyteller, a skill which only grew as he did. Nate was a physical kid who loved to spend most of his time outside. He enjoyed riding his bike, playing baseball and soccer, swimming whenever he could, and ice skating in the winter. While growing up, he played on many sports teams. Always a kind and supportive teammate, he often had as much fun playing when they lost as when they won. It was the experience and the camaraderie that mattered the most to him.

At the age of four, Nathan was watching the Winter Olympics when he saw downhill skiing for the first time. He was transfixed. He told his parents that he just had to try it. Nate received his first skis that next Christmas from his maternal grandparents, a tiny, wooden pair no longer than two feet with leather straps to hold his feet. He skied on the hill, really a glorified bump, in his front yard and fell in

In Memoriam

Nathan Waterhouse, continued

love. He had found his passion. From the plastic skis on the hill to the Rochester Recreation Department ski program at Gunstock to skiing every chance he got with his friends in high school, he grew to love skiing more and more with each run. When he was about to graduate high school, whenever asked what he was going to do when he grew up, he would answer, "I am going to ski." No one was ever sure how he could turn that into a career, but he was certain he would find a way.

After graduating from high school, Nate decided to take a gap year to teach skiing at Gunstock Mountain Resort. That one year became a career, leading to more than thirty years in the ski industry. In February 1995, he became a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America and earned his Alpine Level I. Over the next several years, Nate rose through the ranks, achieving Alpine Level III.

In 2001, Nate was named to Ski Magazine's Top 100 Ski Instructors in the country. In 2003, Nate joined the PSIA-Eastern Educational Staff as a Development Team Member, a position he held until 2007, when he stepped back to focus on his growing career in ski area management. Nearly two decades later, in 2024, Nate returned to the PSIA-Eastern Education Staff, once again earning a place among their elite educators as a Development Team Member. He was very proud of this accomplishment.

Nate began his teaching career at Gunstock, working with children's programs for two years before moving to the Mount Washington Valley to join Attitash Mountain Resort. There, he started as a ski instructor and children's center trainer. After two years, he became the Children's Programs Manager, a role he held for five years before being promoted to Director of the entire Ski and Snowboard School. After about a decade in that role, he expanded his leadership to oversee both the Attitash and Wildcat Mountain Ski and Snowboard Schools. Over time, Nate also took on additional responsibilities across departments, ultimately serving as the Senior Manager of Skier Services for both resorts.

Nate was widely respected as a strong and inspiring leader who led by example. He was a gifted ski instructor and trainer, always maintaining a high level of performance in both skiing and teaching while advancing his management career. His staff deeply admired him – not only for his skill and professionalism, but also for his creativity, humor, and the joyful spirit he brought to the slopes. Skiing and snowboarding with Nate was always a highlight for his staff, and he will be fondly remembered for the energy and passion he shared with everyone around him.

Nate met the love of his life, Shannon Jeffrey, at Attitash. They spent 17 years together, creating a beautiful family with their two amazing children, Topher and Lily. The dedication and care Nathan showed to his work was nothing in comparison to that which he felt for his family. A natural coach, he took on coaching soccer and basketball for Topher's teams for many years. He didn't let his lack of basketball knowledge stand in his way; he bought Basketball for Dummies and got to work. If there was something his family needed, he always found a way to do it. Nate loved sharing his knowledge and watching kids fall in love with sports. His latest coaching endeavor was facilitating a mountain biking club for the Bartlett Recreation Department to instruct and foster the love of biking in Lily's cohorts in town. Lily started riding with her dad as soon as her feet could reach the pedals and loved it. Mountain biking was his second lifelong passion. He bought his first very expensive mountain bike after graduating high school, before he even had a car (a fact that made his dad's head spin). He prioritized the things he loved most and always made it work.

Nate was loved by his community, coworkers, friends, and most of all his family. He is survived by his loving wife, Shannon, son, Topher, and daughter, Lily; his mother, Janie, his sister, Sarah-the Royal Biznanzas Queen -(Edward), their children, Noah and Lilah; his sister, Hannah (Josh), their sons, Eli and Jake; his sister, Melissa (Rory), they just have a cat; and many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased by his father, Stuart Waterhouse. ❧



Richard "Dick" Healy Whiston

Richard "Dick" Healy Whiston, of Castleton, NY, beloved husband, father, brother, teacher, and friend, passed away peacefully on April 20, 2025, after living with Alzheimer's for many years.

Born in Kingston, New York, on September 27, 1942, Dick was the son of Richard and Marion (Healy) Whiston. He grew up in Kingston and graduated from Kingston High School and SUNY New Paltz, laying the foundation for a lifetime dedicated to learning and teaching.

Dick served as an Associate Professor at Hudson Valley Community College, where he taught statistics, money and banking, and business math. His love of teaching extended well beyond the classroom. After retiring from HVCC, he followed his lifelong passion for skiing to Vail, Colorado, where he taught skiing full-time and spent summers driving the Town of Vail bus.

Skiing was woven into the fabric of Dick's life. His love for the sport began in high school at Highmount and led to over 60 years of teaching at Belleayre, Windham, Highmount, and Vail. In February of 1965 Dick became a Certified Teacher of the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association (pre-cursor to PSIA) alongside his father-in-law, Corrado "Skeech" Goffredi. His leadership helped shape the future of ski instruction through his roles as a PSIA Eastern Division board treasurer, as an examiner and board member of ASIA, and as a mentor and trainer to many aspiring instructors. He was very honored to be able to work with Gwen Allard, to help her establish the Eastern Education Foundation, ensuring access to ski education for generations to come. Dick's passion for teaching skiing reached students and instructors across the country, from the Catskills to the Victor Constant Ski Area at West Point to small ski areas in the Poconos and West Virginia to big resorts in the Rocky Mountains.

Beyond teaching, Dick had a deep love for cars and enjoyed driving and telling stories of all his cars over the years – including his Saab Monte Carlo, multiple VWs, BMW 2002, Corvette, Triumph TR3, and his yellow Miata. He loved tinkering in the garage and attending races with his daughter, Jenifer, including the Grand Prix in Denver and the Indianapolis 500.

Dick found peace in nature – camping with his family in Acadia National Park, the islands of Lake George, and Cape Cod, canoeing with his brother-in-law Kevin on the Fulton Lake Chain, hiking up and skiing down Tuckerman Ravine with his friend Ned, and backpacking the Adirondacks with his father. At home, he worked on many house projects and renovations that he took great pride in. Music was another constant in his life, and he could often be found in the evenings relaxing by playing folk music on his guitar, with a glass of scotch or red wine.

Above all, Dick treasured time with his family. He is survived by his loving wife, Cathy (Goffredi) Whiston; his daughter, Jenifer Whiston; his brother, Robert "Bob" (Judy) Whiston; his brothers- and sisters-in-law, Gary and Sally (Goffredi) Mulligan, Kevin and Terry (Goffredi) Kumanga, and Robert and Frosty (Goffredi) Blakeslee; and his dog, Belle, along with his grand-dogs Cooper, and Bugaboo.

Dick lived a life full of curiosity, kindness, and a passion for teaching – both on the slopes and off. He will be remembered for his generous spirit, his devotion to his family and students, and his boundless enthusiasm for every adventure.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A gathering was held in his memory on Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 1 to 4 pm at the Albany Curling Club, 117 West McKown Rd, Albany, NY.

Interment will be at St. Mary's Cemetery in Kingston, NY with family at a later date.

The family requests that no flowers be sent. Instead, please share a memory, listen to music, take a hike, go on a bike ride, take a dog for a walk, or do something that makes you think of him. If you would like to make a donation in his memory, here are a few suggestions, or select the charity of your choice:

Walk to End Alzheimer's – <http://act.alz.org/goto/teamwhiston>

PSIA Eastern Education Foundation – <https://easternsnowpros.org/donate/>

Peppertree Rescue (in memory of his first dog Cocoa) –

<https://peppertree.org/donate/>

Mountain Rottie Rescue (in honor of his grand-dogs) –

<https://mountainrottierescue.net/home/donations/> ❧

Thank You 2024-2025 Host Resorts!

We would like to 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 at Mount Snow
Adaptive Sports Foundation (ASF)
at Windham
Attitash Mountain
BART Center at Bromley
Bear Creek
Beech Mountain
Belleayre Mountain
Berkshire East
Big Bear
Big Snow American Dream
Big Rock Mountain
Blue Hills
Blue Knob
Blue Mountain
Bolton Valley
Bousquet
Bretton Woods
Bretton Woods XC
Bristol Mountain
Bromley
Bryce Resort
Burke Mountain
Camden Snow Bowl
Camelback
Canaan Valley Resort
Cannon Mountain
Cataloochee
Catamount
Cranmore
Crotched Mountain

Dartmouth Skiway
Dry Hill Ski Area
Eastman XC
Elk Mountain
Garnet Hill XC
Gore Mountain
Greek Peak
Gunstock
Gunstock XC
Hermitage Club
Hidden Valley
Holiday Mountain
Holiday Valley
HoliMont
Hunt Hollow
Hunter Mountain
Inside Ski Training Center
Jack Frost
Jackson XC
Jay Peak
Jiminy Peak
Killington
King Pine Ski Area
Kissing Bridge
Liberty Mountain
Loon Mountain
Lost Valley
Lounsbury at Holiday Valley
Mad River Glen
Maple Ski Ridge
Maple Wind Farm

Massanutten
McIntyre
Mohawk Mountain
Montage Mountain
Mount Abram
Mount Peter
Mount Pleasant
Mount Snow
Mount Southington
Mount Sunapee
Mountain Creek
Mountain Sports Lab
Notchview XC
Oak Mountain
Ober Gatlinburg
Okemo
Pats Peak
Peek'n Peak
Pico Mountain
Plattekill
Powder Ridge
Ragged Mountain
Rikert Nordic Center
Roundtop Mountain
Royal Mountain
Saddleback
Seven Springs
Shawnee Mountain
Ski Big Bear
Ski Butternut
Ski Sundown

Smugglers Notch
Snowshoe Mountain
Song Mountain
Stowe
Stratton
Stratton Nordic Center
STRIDE at Jiminy Peak
STRIDE SHARE Community
Center
Sugarbush
Sugarloaf
Summit Adaptive Sports
Sunday River
Thunder Ridge
Timberline (WV)
Tussey Mountain
Trapp Family Lodge
Wachusett
Waterville Valley
West Mountain
West Point/Victor Constant
Weston Ski Track XC
Whaleback Mountain
Whiteface
Whitetail
Windham Mountain
Wintergreen
Wintergreen Adaptive
Winterplace
Wisp
Woodstock Inn XC

SAVE THE DATES!

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
Eastern and Summit Academies December 15 - 19, 2025 Killington, Vermont Registration Opens Monday, September 15, 2025						

SKIDA®

Skida is offering a special 15% discount to Eastern members with a code. Founded in 2008 in Vermont, Skida started with hand-made, colorful hats and has since grown into a brand known for its high-quality, functional gear designed for the slopes and beyond. Whether you're preparing for the season or adding a pop of color to your gear, Skida has you covered!

Head over to [Skida.com](https://www.skida.com) and use the code **EASTERN15 at checkout to take advantage of this exclusive offer!**

NOTE: This offer is available only to Eastern members, so don't miss out!



CALLING ALL FUTURE PROS

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

What did their very first day sliding on snow look like?

Share their adventure!



Riley & big bro Hunter Czelada, 2 years
Mount Snow, VT

Share your child's or grandchild's very first day on snow, submit their image:

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



Amelia Draper
4 years
Killington, VT



Valsie Fiero
3 years
Unknown



Toren Foley
2 years
Sugarbush, VT



Avery Gutleber
18 months
Big Sky Montana



Austin Semke
20 months
Mount Snow, VT



Brady Vega
5 years
Mt. Southington, CT

Thank you to everyone who submitted a picture;
we love seeing your future snowsports enthusiasts enjoying their first day.



Donations are easy through your member portal!

To give online, go to your member portal at members.thesnowpros.org, and it's as easy as 1-2-3!

To make a donation, click on Make a Gift at the top right of the screen or add a donation when you renew your dues!



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AASI Season Wrap Up

By Brian Donovan

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

Greetings AASI East Community!

As winter winds down, and we put the 2024–25 season in the rearview mirror, this update is bittersweet. While we celebrate another incredible season together, it's also time to put storage wax on our snowboards and look ahead to warm-weather adventures. Whether you're swapping out your snowboard for a skateboard, mountain bike, beach chair, or hiking boots, let's reflect on and celebrate everything we accomplished together this winter.

Assessments: A Season of Success

This winter was a strong one for snowboard assessments across the region! We hosted:

- 6 Level I Preps
- Over 45 Level I Assessments
- 2 Three-Day Level II Assessments
- 6 Level III Assessment Module Days

That's right – we officially rolled out the new modular Level III Assessment format this season! These included separate module days for:

- 1-Day Movement Analysis & Technical Understanding (MA/TU) Assessment
- 1-Day Teaching Assessment
- 1-Day Riding Assessment

It was fantastic to see the excitement, success, and participation we saw in this new structure this season. These were some of the largest Level III groups we've had in years. This new format allows candidates to focus on individual parts of the Level III Assessment and allows successful candidates to bank individual modules that they pass.

Congratulations to recently certified members who you can find listed on page 9 of this issue – including Justin Whalen, our new Level III Snowboard pro.



(L-R): Examiner Brian Donovan, newly certified Level III Justin Whalen, Examiner Greg Fatigate, and Examiner Tom Vickery.

But assessments were only part of the story. This season, AASI East hosted **over 130 snowboard events** including:

- Assessment Preps
- Freestyle Specialist Accreditations
- Teaching, Riding, and Movement Analysis Improvement Clinics
- Women's Camps, Trees and Steeps Clinics, and Freestyle Camps

Thank you to everyone who participated, coached, mentored, and made these events possible!

Ed Staff Development Team Tryouts

In March, we held an AASI Eastern Region Ed Staff Tryout at Killington, VT. Eleven incredibly talented Level III members stepped up to the challenge, showcasing their talents and all of them represented themselves and their resorts extremely well!

We're excited to welcome four new members to the AASI-E Ed Staff Development Team:

- **Tera Adams** (Mount Snow, VT)
- **Nicole Erickson** (Wachusett, MA)
- **Trevor Glenn** (Killington, VT)
- **Mike Ma** (Mount Snow, VT)

You'll be seeing them at events across the Region next winter!



(L-R): Tera Adams, Trevor Glenn, Mike Ma, Coach Todd Ainsworth, and Nicole Erickson.

National Freestyle Academy

Did you know that we hosted the National Freestyle Academy in March? National Freestyle Academy is an event that travels to a different PSIA-AASI region every season and is aimed at bringing members from all over the country together for a week focused on freestyle progression camps and Freestyle Specialist preps and accreditations. Over 45 members participated in events during the National Freestyle Academy and had both Eastern Examiners and members of the PSIA-AASI Alpine and Snowboard National Teams leading groups.

Looking Ahead to Summer

Just because the snow is melting doesn't mean the stoke has to! Here are a few ways to stay connected this summer:

- *Summer Events at Big Snow, NJ.* We're working with Big Snow to host events like Level I Assessments, Freestyle Camps, and Carving Clinics. Keep an eye on your email inbox for dates and details!
- *Pay Your Dues by June 30th.* Take advantage of the First Chair dues rates and stay connected by renewing your membership on time. It's quick, easy, and will save you money by renewing at the best rate.
- *Updated Assessment Guides.* Have you seen our updated AASI Eastern Region Assessment Guides? Check them out this summer so you're prepared to help others working on their certification journey or to help yourself prepare for certification assessments.
- Level I [Assessment Guide](#)
- Level II [Assessment Guide](#)
- Level III [Assessment Guide](#)
- *E-Learning Opportunities.* Visit <https://lms.thesnowpros.org> for a mix of free and paid online learning options and earn continuing education credits (CEUs) – both live and on-demand.
- *Join the AASI East Facebook Group.* Stay connected all year long! The unofficial AASI East Facebook group is a virtual hub for conversation, pics and video sharing, nerding out on snowboard conversations, event invites, and even off-season meetups like BBQs and mountain bike rides.

A Heartfelt Thank You

As we wrap up this season, I want to sincerely say THANK YOU. Your dedication, energy, and love for snowboarding make AASI East the amazing community that it is.

Thank you for teaching.

Thank you for riding.

Thank you for inspiring others with your passion for snowboarding.

I hope you have an amazing summer, and I can't wait to see you back on snow next season! ❄️

Get your shirt and support the Eastern Education Foundation!



Do you want to support a good cause and get a great T-shirt, sweatshirt or hoodie? Eastern designs from the last three seasons are available in several different options. A portion of each sale goes to support scholarships through our Eastern Education Foundation (EF).

Calling all artists! – Check out page 3 for details on your chance to submit your design for the 25-26 season!

Check out all the great designs at Bonfire!

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/psia-aasi-eastern/>

Thanks to Christa Ross for this great 24-25 season design!

Dick Whiston Awarded 60-Year Pin



In Loving Memory
RICHARD H. WHISTON
 September 27, 1943 · April 20, 2025

Dick Whiston was posthumously awarded his PSIA-AASI 60-year pin during a celebration of life held in mid-May. The honor was presented to his wife Cathy, by Eastern Education Staff member Ned Crossley – a friend, colleague, and one of the many instructors Dick mentored, coached, and inspired throughout his career.

Dick was a dedicated member of the snowsports community, serving as an examiner and board member for the Amateur Ski Instructors Association (ASIA), as well as a Regional Clinic Leader (RCL and DCL) and board member for PSIA-AASI Eastern.

Rest in peace, Coach Whiston.
 Your impact endures.





Paul Crenshaw presents a 50-year service pin to Peter Stransky, long-time Eastern Examiner.





Nordic Reflections on 2024-2025 Season

By Mickey Stone

Nordic Coordinator

PSIA-E Nordic Examiner and ACE Team Member

If last season was the rainy and wet snow year for New England, this season was the COLD and WINDY one. What will next season bring? Fortunately, we mostly received ample amounts of snowfall throughout the season though it was a bit slow to arrive in November and December. Our discipline is very fortunate to have an educator like Bruce Hennessey with his experiential background and outdoor leadership skills for our seven-part Backcountry Dryland series that kicks off the Backcountry Accreditation program. Topics include aspect, map-reading, route-finding, map-and-compass, gear lists, avalanche equipment, utilizing and reading the snow, and technical gear like clothing and equipment. A wealth of information and depth of knowledge runs deep in each of these categories. With over thirty participants a year for the last five years, you can see the popularity of this course.

Next season we will repeat the dryland CEU credits and modify the two two-day events to be a combined one two-day event or 12 CEU credits. Also, we will host this at a resort that has sidecountry geography for us to dig pits, route-find, and practice beacon rescue scenarios. Hopefully, this will ensure we won't have to cancel if there is no snow in the backcountry.

Our Mini and Eastern Academies did not disappoint this year. This seven day stretch captures 15-30 telemarkers each season. Early conditions at Killington make it a great way to start the season. Lots of personal skiing improvement coupled with mountain guiding and of course a well-paced event so we can all ski till Friday. John Deddens of Wintergreen VA, a National Ski Patrol and PSIA-E member who is also Alpine LII and Tele LI, received our Telemark Award this season for his passion and dedication to spreading the telemark love. Congrats John.



John Deddens receives Eastern Academy Telemark Award

At telemark training we braved 10-degree temperatures and 40-70 mph wind gusts for three days with two lifts open. I am not sure why this is a highlight, but being together with like-minded people dedicated to an educational cause and delivery of our programs builds some of the strongest bonds. Our team changes a bit each season. We would like to congratulate John Doan a 15-plus year examiner with a degree in education and Libby Doan (yes, husband and wife) for her 10 plus years as a member of our education staff. We toasted, played music, and

had a special Norwegian snack and our first "Tin Man" aquavit cocktails (courtesy of Dev Team member Liz Stefany). We will miss you John and Libby and the skills and talents you brought to our group. Tele on!



(L-R) Matt Charles, John Doan, Shawn Riggle, Don Sensenig

Our Southern and Northern Hoedowns incorporate all of our Nordic Disciplines in one three-day event. Cross country skiing, backcountry skiing, and lift service telemark skiing are great ways to utilize all our skills, turn types, and traveling ways to enjoy the beautiful West Virginia and Gore Range in New York. Two events you should experience in your lifetime.



Southern Hoedown Timberline, WV



Northern Hoedown Garnet Hill, NY

The western New York areas of Holimont, Holiday Valley, Kissing Bridge events down to Seven Springs, PA service a large part of our Nordic membership and are home mountains for our telemark examiner team. Yearly events happen at these resorts, plus each one has a telemark festival each season. Big shout out to Adele Wellman, examiner at Holimont who spearheads many of these events. Did you know she has 703 consecutive days riding her mountain bike at the time of this writing?

Our Nordic group started the first off-piste, steep-and-trees adventures before any other discipline – nearly 25 years ago. This is the reason why telemark skiers can travel very easily by diagonal striding, skating, and skinning to get to where untracked snow is. These events are examples of performance-model and adventure-model education. They allow one to grow within themselves as they experience unique environments and conditions. You build stamina, fitness, skills and teams traveling together. They are some of the finest events ever. Our Spring Fling and Spring Rally also fit into these adventure categories. These events rotate each season through areas like Smugglers Notch, VT, Mad River Glen, VT, Sugarbush, VT, Stowe, VT, Jay Peak, VT, Gore Mtn, NY, Whiteface, NY, Saddleback, ME, Mt Washington, NH and Sugarloaf, ME.



Mickey Stone circa 1990 Tuckermans Ravine

Finally, our Telemark Level II and Level III assessments and Development Team selection always round out our year, and we see your development compared to a standard. This season we implemented the new nationally unified approach that every region will be adopting. There were three sections. First, Skiing tasks: nine tasks from the applied, blended and highlighted tasks. Next, a Technical and Movement Analysis section. Finally, a Teaching section where candidates are scored on two 30-minute teaches which include a detailed lesson plan and delivery to change skiing performance. This year, five LII's, eight LIII's and two Development Team folks tried out for these certified standards. Congrats to all for preparing and sharing. Though all were not successful, all had a fun and educational time. Check out our newly certified pros on page 9. Thank you to all for the great season. ☦



Successful Cross country candidates!

Congratulations on these New Arrivals



Congratulations to Eastern Region Alpine Examiner, **Allie Cessna** and her husband **Jordan** who welcomed the birth of their first child, **Livia Helen** in February 2025!



Clayton Ayers, Eastern Region Snowboard Development Team member and his wife **Dana Henninger** welcomed the birth of their second child, daughter **Ella** in August 2024. Congratulations, Clayton and Dana!



PSIA-AASI Eastern Office Summer Hours

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Monday – Thursday
May 19 to Labor Day

Eastern Cross Country Highlights

By Mike Innes

Cross Country Examiner

Cross Country Assistant Coordinator

Despite a rocky start to the winter with hit or miss early season snow, the Eastern Division Nordic Cross Country team pulled off a fantastic season filled with growth, camaraderie, and excellent sliding. Our calendar was packed with engaging events across New England that were met with great enthusiasm.

In early December, Cross Country was represented for the first time at the Snowsports Management Seminar at Mount Snow, VT. It was a huge success! We look forward to attending future Snow Sports Management Seminars. Twenty Cross Country members attended the Early Season Primer at Rikert Nordic Center – our largest attendance in many years. While snow conditions were a challenge at times, these events still delivered meaningful learning and professional development opportunities.

Mid- and late-season brought a stretch of beautiful snow starting in early January that lasted through early March – perfect timing for clinics at Woodstock, VT, Waterville Valley, NH, and Jackson, NH, where participants enjoyed ideal snow conditions and strong group energy. Clinics focused on refining teaching skills, technical knowledge, movement analysis, and personal skiing improvement, all within an atmosphere of collaboration, support, and fun.

A major highlight of the season was our well-attended Level II/III assessment at the von Trapp Lodge and Resort in Stowe, VT. Huge congratulations to the members who earned Level II or III certification (please see their names on page 8). Well done to all on this significant accomplishment!

As we wrap up the 2024-25 season, we're grateful for the dedication and energy of our members, and the momentum we've built together. Happy Spring to all – and we can't wait to slide into another amazing season with you next winter! ⚡



Cross Country Video Ski Improvement at Jackson XC Center. (l-r) Jon Bannish, Steven Bell, Kristen Bell, Ron Lessard, Mary Fox, Mike Innes

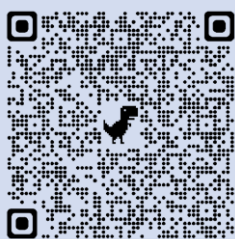


Cross Country Ski/Teaching Improvement at Waterville Valley. (l-r) Laura Mammarelli, Rudolph Pavlesich, Dave Bedia, Jamie Mills, Jack Mills, Kay Hanson, Emilie Phillips, Theresa Mills



Cross Country Level II/III Assessment at Von Trapp Family Lodge (l-r) Mike Innes, Examiner; Jackson Donnelly, LII; Dave Bedia, LIII; Michele Pearsall, LIII; Sten Winborg, LII; and Matt Pearsall, LIII

Welcome Webinar and Office Hours



PSIA-AASI Eastern Region, as well as the National organization based in Lakewood, CO, provide many great resources – *when you know where to look*. **To help you maximize the value of your membership, I'm inviting you to join me, Kathy Brennan, CEO of PSIA-AASI Eastern Region, for a free, one-hour Welcome Webinar and Office Hours. Here is your chance for members to connect with the CEO if you have questions or concerns.**

Please take this opportunity to learn how to use our websites, register for amazing educational and credentialing events, find resources, get great deals on equipment and participate in our wonderful community of diverse professionals. Invites are sent to all members who joined in the previous month; however, everyone (including prospective members and long-time members) is welcome to participate in these webinars.

The webinars run on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM EDT. There is no registration; participants do not earn CEUs. The call-in information remains the same each month. The next call is May 28th.

Welcome Webinar Zoom Info

May 28, 2025, at 7 PM EDT

Zoom Meeting ID: 890 4571 7732

Passcode: 666130

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89045717732?pwd=NjludTFFUHBqQmpKT0YvL2tuSFh2Zz09>

Or Dial in – 646 558 8656



Small Sparks, Big Impacts

By Justin Whalen

NextCore Chair

Snowboard Level II, Freestyle Specialist 1

The lifts might've stopped spinning, but the momentum hasn't. Even with the gear packed away and goggles gathering dust, this is when I look back and think about what really stuck – and this season, NextCore had some moments that hit home.

I visited a bunch of resorts and spent time in a lot of instructor locker rooms. Each spot had its own vibe, but the energy was the same: forward motion. This year didn't feel like a giant leap – it felt like a steady climb. Little sparks across the East. Group chats lighting up. Locker room conversations. Someone helping a newer instructor figure out their next step. That's the kind of stuff that makes a real difference.

One common challenge that came up was retaining staff after high school – once instructors graduate, many head off to college and don't return. A few resorts are tackling that head-on with youth training programs for ages 12–15. These programs run alongside other seasonal offerings and focus on developing skills early while building a clear path forward. The goal? Have those kids ready to step into a team role as soon as they're of age. It's a smart move that keeps the stoke alive and the pipeline strong.

Another big takeaway? You don't have to run a big clinic or host an event to make an impact. The reps who stood out were just consistent – sharing info, pointing out scholarship deadlines, talking about their own certification journey, or just being someone others could lean on.

We also noticed that “real” always beats “polished.” A quick story about someone's certification or a few photos from a local event got way more traction than anything formal. It's a good reminder – this whole thing is about people, not perfection.

There's still work ahead. A lot of instructors still don't know what's out there in terms of support or growth. But that just means there's room to keep building. And those small efforts? They add up.

Big thanks to everyone who kept showing up this season. Whether you're officially repping or just the person lifting up the crew around you, you're part of this. Let's keep the momentum going.

If your school is looking to get more involved or wants to grow instructor connection and development, I'd love to chat. ☞

We Crush Winter Wednesday Webinar Series



Looking for a little off-season inspiration? Participate in our FREE We Crush Winter Webinar Series. This series is designed to inform and inspire our membership, and while the series centers on the voices of women, it's open to all and aims to support a wide range of perspectives in our community.

Kathy Brennan, CEO of the Eastern Region, is joined by expert co-hosts who share their knowledge and experience in a casual, online conversation. Participants are encouraged to ask questions to ensure you get the most benefit from the series.

The tentative schedule is 7:00 – 8:00pm EST on the third Wednesday of every month: 6/18, 7/16, 8/20, 9/17, 10/15 and 11/19.

We are finalizing the schedule, but likely topics include:

- **Advanced Instruction Techniques:** Offer insights into advanced teaching methods to help instructors improve their skills and better support their students.
- **Health and Wellness:** Focus on physical and mental health, including injury prevention, fitness routines, and mental resilience.
- **Technology in Snowsports:** Explore the latest technology in snowsports, and how they can be integrated into instruction.
- **Inspirational Stories:** Share your journey, experiences, and advice.
- **Committing to Success:** Highlight keys to successfully preparing for an assessment, tryout, or other leadership opportunities.

Get ready to crush winter with us!!!!

Registration links will be made available in June.

#NeverStopLearning... Summer Events!

This year, April showers seem determined to extend into May! Honestly, I'd rather it was snow - but rain or shine, we've got our sights set on the next season. Get ready to make the most of summer with exciting events designed to keep you sharp and inspired!

- **Skate-to-Ski** events in partnership with Rollerblade.
Sunday, June 15 at Okemo, VT (AM & PM Sessions)
Sunday, July 13 at Powder Ridge, CT (AM & PM Sessions)
- **Ski Simulator** events in partnership with the Mountain Sports Lab.
Sunday, August 17 at North Conway, NH (AM & PM Sessions)
- **We Crush Winter** webinar series. This FREE series is one Wednesday per month from June to November.

We are also planning our fall indoor courses and collaborating with Big SNOW to bring on-snow events for skiers and riders. Stay tuned!

Stay in the loop! Check our Events Calendar at easternsnowpros.org/calendar for details and registration. New events are added regularly, so keep checking!





VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

End-of-Term Reflections

By Peter Howard
PSIA-E Examiner
Eastern Board Chair

Another Eastern winter has drawn to a close and so has my time as Board Chair. It has been an interesting four years that seem to have gone by in a blink of an eye. In some ways not much has happened, and sometimes the best things that happen are the ones that don't. Kathy Brennan, our CEO, has been a steady hand so drama and mismanagement were absent during my term. (Thanks Kathy!)

However, during the last four years the National CEO position has changed hands three times. National alignment has transformed the assessment process, which has prompted collaboration between Regional CEOs in several visible and invisible ways. This has been done to provide members with a more consistent experience across the country and to increase the credibility of assessments for Snowsports industry partners. The Eastern Board of Directors has seen its makeup change from a somewhat male-centric and older group to a closer representation of the membership. The Board was downsized from 16 to 10 members and the management philosophy of Policy Governance was instituted.

While my frustrations are trivial, my disappointments are more substantial. Apps, Doodle polls, Zoom calls, town meetings... all this stuff is not my thing and like many others my age we didn't want our world run by a Star Trek communicator. My odds of getting on a Zoom call in one try are still about the same as my unloading a chairlift on a snowboard (50-50 at best). It is said that when you are over 65 you should be able to speak your mind so here goes.

My primary disappointments are the inability

of our organization to influence our area partners to step up slope safety management. I know this is a "heavy lift" for areas. It's hard enough to find bus drivers, lift operators, parking attendants, and other staff. Finding mature, trained individuals to manage reckless behavior is a reach but it really seems a necessity these days. I expect most operators would agree that a comfortable environment for customers and employees who don't feel threatened as they do their work is the ideal. I see the solution as an industry-wide program that becomes the accepted standard of care. I know too many people whose lives have been changed by the "accidents" of others. I will continue to advocate for slope safety.

Another area that deserves attention is the decline in pass rates at our assessments. The Eastern Alpine Level II and III results come to mind. The cause of this is likely multifaceted.

The situation is that many members see few advanced zone customers. As winter snow conditions in the East trend to less natural, more man-made, and more groomed, the variety of conditions diminishes and so does the tactical knowledge necessary to coach at higher levels. Many members are part-time due to the demands of a modern life. Their exposure to the conditions, the customers, the lifestyle, and time on the task are limited. The internet with all its videos and now AI can search for the books we used to study but it can't replace the attention span needed to truly learn.

The assessment process is reasonable. It examines the skills to teach anywhere across the country at Levels I, II, and III. However, it requires ownership of skills that are at a level that is not that necessary for people to accomplish their job. Would they deliver a better product if they had a higher level of skills? Sure, but keeping people safe on acceptable terrain, on right-sized equipment, a bit of basic instruction, and having a

good time, is all that's needed for most kids and adults to figure it out. What's good enough for the customers is not what is expected at a nationally recognized assessment. The impact for our Eastern Region is the pass rate we presently see.

The behavior of all parties needs to change to reverse this assessment trend. Candidates should treat assessments with focus and preparation. They need to have qualified advisors and then listen to them about their state of readiness. Areas and our organization need to educate customers that parallel turns are just the beginning of the sport not the end. Les Otten had it right when he said, "The better you get, the better it gets." PSIA-AASI needs to promote the literature of people who write technically well about snowsports. It is not always us. Course conductors should be fit, knowledgeable, and role models of professionalism. Increasing prerequisites to improve success is well-intentioned but a burden for some members. Thankfully, we free people can make choices, and the doors we walk through in life open others and shut some behind. Certification may require life-changing focus. Areas should hire and reward competent employees. Showing up does not a certified professional make.

Someone once said, "Power is like manure: when it is concentrated in one place over a period of time it rots and smells, and when it is spread around things grow." I am happy to vacate the Chair to Kathryn Brinton. Her writing skills, knowledge of Board procedure, and presence of mind are enviable. I am also looking forward to welcoming newly appointed at large Board member Marc Angelillo. Stephen Gover was also appointed to an at large seat, so he will be returning to the Board. Finally, Ben Debeneditis is our newly elected Zone 1 representative. It has been an honor and an education to serve this region and its members. ☞

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EASTERN REGION
Professional Ski Instructors of America
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Board Report, Zone 3

By Aleks Smith

Zone 3 Representative

Hello Zone 3 members!

As I write this, the snow is quickly disappearing from my yard, and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on this past season. We finally experienced a significant amount of snowfall in the East this year, and it was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the snow. Despite a few freeze-thaw cycles, the weather generally allowed for great snowmaking, and Mother Nature blessed us with a few good snow events, including one perfectly timed during Presidents' Holiday week here in Upstate New York.

As we all know, the landscape of our management changes from time to time at various resorts in our region. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our current, new, and departing Snowsports School Directors for your continued support of PSIA-ASSI Eastern Region. Your dedication to the PSIA-AASI educational programs has a huge impact on the success of our region and the association nationally.

Thank you all who came to the Zone 3 meeting we held at Gore Mountain on March 4, 2025. It was great to see Level I exam participants and CS1 participants receive their certificates and pins at the meeting. It's always great to hear from members and share ideas. Thank you to Kathy Brennan for all the great swag giveaways that made the evening exciting! I would like to be able to do another meeting next season in another area of our zone. Let me know where you all would like to meet up. Perhaps we could put out a poll to see where we could get the largest attendance.

Another highlight of the season for Zone 3 was the Golden Learniversary event hosted by Belleayre Mountain. This event celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first Alpine assessment event held under the PSIA shield. Belleayre originally hosted the event, and it was wonderful to see several people from the region who were participants at the event 50 years ago.

In all, Zone 3 hosted 48 events (assessments and educational) across all disciplines.

I am always available to collaborate with our members in our Zone and Region to work towards common goals and address the needs of member schools. Have a great summer and see you all next season! ☕

Board Report, Zone 4

By Landon Figg

Zone 4 Representative

Hello, Zone 4! Most of you have put the summer tune on your quiver by this point and are enjoying rollerblading and biking in this beautiful spring in the south. I wanted to thank you, each of you, for your time and dedication to teaching your craft. Your effort, experience and enthusiasm are apparent in every student who learns from you in one way or another. Whether expanding their terrain options or introducing a first-timer to the industry, your commitment is palpable.

Mother Nature did her part as well! Not only did we have a cold and snowy winter, man-made or natural, we also had an incredible number of events and participants this season. Also, thank you to those who attended one of our two Zone 4 meetings this past season. From seeing old friends and making new ones, to learning about opportunities and future growth, and eating fantastic catering (thank you Massanutten and Cataloochee!), the snowsports community in Zone 4 is special.

In total, Zone 4 hosted 71 Events with 386 participants, including the Southern Nordic Hoedown, with its 26 participants. I have heard many great things about the Southern Hoedown event, so if you're into any form of free-heeling, check out this offering next season!

Now is the time to reflect, reset, and refocus as we close out the 2024-25 season and look towards the next event, assessment or possibly Eastern Academy.

I highly encourage you to listen to the First Chair podcast. Informative and often funny, it's an excellent way to stay connected during the off-season. I often listen in the car as they are typically less than 30 minutes and full of useful information. I hope you have a wonderful summer, full of fun and connection! ☕

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ADAPTIVE AIRTIME

Tying Up the Adaptive Season with a Bow

By Ed Meltzer

*Eastern Adaptive Coordinator, PSIA-E Adaptive Examiner
Alpine Level III, Children's Specialist 2*

The PSIA-E Adaptive community wrapped up an action-packed season with 143 members participating in workshops and assessments. One particularly exciting highlight was the increased participation in Level II and Level III assessments: 37 members attended these events, a significant jump from the past two seasons. This encouraging growth reflects the “seeds you plant” philosophy, showing how our ongoing efforts are bearing fruit.

Our team also showcased its strength in event delivery this season. From Beech Mountain in the South to HoliMont and Holiday Valley in the West, we brought Adaptive education across a wide geographic area. This is especially meaningful now that we have three Development Team staff members based south of Washington, D.C. These individuals are continuing to develop their skills while working toward becoming members of our Education Staff. Previously, it required extensive and costly travel to reach members in these areas – now we’re building a stronger, more accessible network of high-quality Adaptive education throughout the region. As part of national unification, our Eastern examiners can run assessments outside of our region. Several of our examiners traveled to the Central region to run assessments as well as workshops.

National Unification Efforts

The Eastern region remains at the forefront of implementing the national unification standards, aiming for full alignment by May 2026. One key area of focus has been refining our participant-to-educator ratios for assessments to ensure the best possible learning outcomes. With the transition to one-day assessments, we’ve adjusted ratios to reflect the needs of each discipline, ranging from 4:1 to 6:1. For example, sit-ski assessments require more time and attention, so we maintain a 4:1 ratio for those events.

Looking Ahead

As this season concludes, our work continues. At the National Task Force level, we’ll remain focused on refining our processes to align with guidance from PSIA-AASI Executive Leadership. Together, we’re building a stronger, more unified, and more inclusive Adaptive community – one season at a time. <<



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ZIPPERLINE

Training on Easier Terrain All Year Long

By Chris Ericson

Alpine Examiner

Eastern Alpine Certification Chairperson

Like most Eastern region members, I am a “line-up instructor.” Several times a day I report to my designated location to get my assignment and most of the time, these are novice zone or intermediate level lessons. Most lessons are in this zone, and clients looking for high-end bump lessons are rare. At my home mountain, Belleayre, NY, we have fantastic, long, and varied novice terrain that has flats, short pitches and turns. This varied and playful terrain is an amazing coach that keeps students engaged. I sometimes spend entire weekends on this terrain doing wedge turns and basic parallel all day long, repeating the same message: “Release the skis and guide them through the turn to maintain speed control.”

We can, however, challenge ourselves, grow, and learn on this very same terrain. Between lessons, I may have 30 minutes of free time, and I often find myself on this easy terrain trying new things, in various combinations that I have never done before. Experts would refer to this as *random* practice compared to *blocked* practice. In learning a new skill, blocked practice involves repeatedly practicing a single skill before moving to the next, while random practice interweaves the practice of multiple skills in a mixed order within a session. Blocked practice can lead to faster initial learning but may hinder long-term retention and transfer to new situations, whereas random practice often results in slower initial learning but stronger long-term retention. Even when I am with fellow instructors, taking a free run, I may say something like: “what I am about to do, I have never tried before in this particular order, so let’s give it a try.” It is these moments, at slow speed and easy terrain, where some of my best personal learning has occurred.

Here are a few random practice activities you can try indoors this summer or next winter on a between-lessons green run.

Combination #1: *Wedge turns, stem/step turns, outside-ski-to-outside ski, javelin turns.* On easier terrain try four turns of each, blending one activity into another (note: when you do the outside-ski-to-outside-ski, guide the ski, don’t carve it). Remember to maintain speed control and turn size through all four activities. This activity becomes challenging on flatter terrain and at low speed. It requires you to really “dial in” and be accurate with your movements which will mean not moving too much to the inside of the turn, since the forces to support you are not there. I use the combination of activities to focus on moving from ski to ski and balancing on the outside ski sooner in the turn. I also feel that it gets me to enhance the small body part movements that are necessary for accuracy. If you’re looking to add even more challenge to this, or when you believe you have mastered it, hold your poles halfway or even pass them around your back as you do each activity. If you want to enhance the feeling of turning your legs more under a stable upper body, emphasize the ski skidding in the snow and not carving. Doing these activities with a skidded ski adds more challenge than carving a ski.

Combination #2: *Pivot slips, hop-to-short (sometimes referred to as hop-to-shape), parallel hop turns.* For something slightly more challenging and on steeper terrain, try four turns of each, blending one activity into another in about half a groomer width. Focus on consistency; turn the skis primarily through leg rotation separate from the upper body and rotate the ski from the center (not the tip or the tail) of the ski. Try doing these activities in various orders which will require you to actively engage some skills and fundamentals more than others. By themselves, none of these activities are particularly challenging. But we get clear feedback about our strengths and weaknesses when we add variations and combinations of rotary, pressure management and edging, when we blend these skills, and when we implement them through our fundamental mechanics.

So... are you ready to head to South America or to a Western glacier to practice? Those used to be the only options for summer skiing. These days, however, there’s another alternative: Big SNOW. This 1000-foot indoor trail with 160 vertical feet is located inside the Mall of America in Hoboken, NJ. The “off-season” is an important time to continue with improving your endurance training which may include running, biking and of course rollerblading. At one time, this was the most we could hope for until the fall, when we all got back on that highly anticipated skinny white ribbon of human-made snow up north. Today, we have some more options, and although you may not get the best views from a top of the 160-foot elevation in the Meadowlands, the terrain gives us a training environment that may be just enough to keep you engaged until the crisp autumn air arrives once again. «

Eastern Academy and Summit Academy Registration

By Keri Reid

Eastern Director of Education and Programs

Get excited – **Eastern Academy is back at Killington** this December! We’re thrilled to announce that both Eastern and Summit Academies will run December 15-19, 2025, with Mini Academies happening the weekend prior, December 13-14.

Here’s what you need to know:

Registration Launch Details

Mark your calendars – spots go fast!

Registration opens Monday, September 15 at the following times:

- **9:00 AM** – Alpine and Snowboard Summit Academies (Level III Certified Members)
- **1:00 PM** – Eastern Academy (All Groups) & Mini Academy

Last season, these events filled within hours – don’t miss out!

Sessions Offered at Eastern Academy

We’ve built a wide range of options to fit your goals and passions:

- General Skiing
- General Riding
- General Telemark
- Children’s Focus
- Alpine Level II Prep
- Alpine Level III Prep
- Alpine Level II Teach College
- Alpine Level I College
- Snowboard Level I College
- Children’s Specialist 1 College
- Children’s Specialist 2 College
- Alpine All Women
- Alpine Seniors

A Quick Note on Alpine Level II Skiing College

You’ll notice we are not offering the **Level II Skiing College** at the Eastern Academy this year.

Why? Simple: Early season is all about building a strong foundation – not rushing into performance assessments before our bodies (and minds) are fully tuned for winter. We want you set up for success!

If you’re aiming for Alpine Level II certification this season, we highly recommend signing up for the Alpine Level II Prep sessions – they’re designed to give you targeted feedback and the best path toward your assessment goals. «

Progress, Growth, and What's Ahead

By Keri Reid

Eastern Director of Education and Programs

As the snow melts and we all grab a breath, I want to thank each of you for sliding, learning, and growing with us this season. Whether you were getting certified, diving into training, or just connecting with peers, your commitment to professional development is what drives our community forward.

Strategic Alignment: What's New and What's Next

This season marked a significant step in our Strategic Alignment journey – a shared mission across all Regions to deliver unified assessment processes and pathways that are consistent and recognizable, no matter where you choose to complete them. We piloted three-part modular assessments (*Skiing/Riding, Technical Understanding & Movement Assessment, and Teaching & People*) for Alpine Level III at Waterville Valley and Snowboard Level III at Killington. These modules – focused, flexible, and bankable – allow members to tackle goals on their own timeline.

Looking ahead, all Alpine and Snowboard Level III assessments will transition to this three-part modular format next season, with Snowboard Level II joining the movement. Representatives from across the Regions and from every discipline will gather in May to continue this work. We're proud to be leading the way here in the East – more to come!

Certification Trends and Takeaways

We observed some shifts in Level I outcomes this season. Alpine Level I saw a slight decrease in successful pass rates compared to last year, while Snowboard Level I experienced a modest improvement. These changes reflect natural fluctuations and provide valuable insight as we continue to refine our assessment processes, in tandem with the Strategic Alignment Initiative.

For Alpine, candidates are finding the transition to formal Movement Analysis challenging. The standard hasn't changed – but the assessment process has, and it's shining a light on some training gaps for candidates. To help bridge those, we've leaned into developing resources like Beginner MA webinars (both live and recorded). We're also going to continue communicating with our members and Member Schools about the standards and how they're being evaluated.

On the Snowboard side, targeted Level I Preps are paying off. The result? Stronger performance and more confident candidates. We'll continue building on what's working, including our *Introduction to Level I* webinars we offer once a month during the winter for both Alpine and Snowboard.

Let's Clear Something Up: No Quotas Here

We've heard questions this season about pass rate "caps" or quotas – particularly the idea that only a set number of candidates can pass a given assessment. Let's be clear: that's simply not true.

There are no quotas, and no target pass rates for certification or certificate-based assessments (like Freestyle or Children's Specialist). That said, we do monitor pass rates carefully – not to limit success, but to inform how we train, support, and adjust our programming.

Success takes time, mentorship, and practice. Our role is to support your journey, not to narrow the path.

Welcome to the Team!

We're excited to welcome four new members to the Snowboard Development Team:

- Tera Adams (Mount Snow)
- Trevor Glenn (Killington)
- Mike Ma (Mount Snow)
- Nicole Erickson (Wachusett)

As active Adaptive Examiners, Tera and Mike also bring a variety of expertise to the table – great news for future cross-discipline growth. Huge thanks to our selectors – Todd Ainsworth, Amy Bailey, and Brian Donovan – for their time and thoughtful work.

New Snowboard Examiner

Also, a shout out to Tim Shannon, recently elevated to Snowboard Examiner. Many of you know Tim through the ACE Team – now you'll see him leading Snowboarding assessments too. Be sure to give him a high five when you see him out there.

Education Committee: Spring Work Ahead

Our Education Committee is back in action, with a few key projects underway:

- *Instructor Training Outlines*. Flexible, scalable resources designed to support schools of all sizes
- *Event Description Refresh*. We're continuing to update descriptions, so participants have a clearer picture of what to expect
- *Curriculum Planning*. Based on recent event trends, we're identifying gaps and working to create more offerings that focus on teaching tools and student connection

Summer Preview

We've got a stacked summer lineup to help you stay sharp:

- Alpine & Snowboard Freestyle at Big SNOW
- Snowboard Carving at Big SNOW
- Alpine Bumps at Big SNOW
- Skate-to-Ski clinics
- Alpine Simulator sessions

Add in our online options (like the *We Crush Winter* webinar series), and there's plenty to keep your skills fresh.

Wishing you all a well-earned break and a fun, active off-season! ☞





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.

Pro Athletes

By Louisa Hayes
Alpine Level I
Stowe, VT

Sometimes I think of myself as a professional athlete.

According to lawinsider.com, a resource of legal terminology and definitions, the definition of “professional athlete” is as follows: An athlete who performs services in a professional athletic event for wages or other remuneration.

So, am I far off? I’m not in top physical form or participating in a competitive event. I don’t receive sponsorships (although I sometimes hear colleagues talk about being “sponsored”), and I’m not famous. I do receive wages for participating in an athletic capacity. I definitely act professional in my roles. And perhaps my most compelling argument: The “P” in PSIA does stand for professional.

It must come down to the “event” – which is really what I want to talk about anyway, and I hope that some of you reading this can relate.

As a preteen, I was a gymnast. I aspired to be an elite gymnast. Like many young girls, I dreamt about going to the Olympics. Unfortunately, I lacked the physical ability, the financial stability and the emotional support required to progress much beyond the regional level. In high school, I was a three-sport varsity athlete. In college I lacked direction and, in my world, a career in sports wasn’t encouraged. I love being active. I love competition. So, as I aged and raised a family, I have naturally gravitated toward physical activity. We always skied as a family, I participated in triathlons in my thirties and I began playing hockey in my forties. I started teaching swimming and finally, after moving to Vermont at age 50, I started teaching skiing.

Like many of my fellow instructors, I enjoy the physicality of the work. I get a lot of satisfaction out of a successful lesson. I enjoy meeting people from different places and adapting lessons to a wide variety of abilities.

What I don’t love is being assessed! PSIA assessment events stress me beyond reason. I lose sleep leading up to the event. I cry the whole way there. I cry when I’m not successful. I lose sleep in the days following thinking about the shoulda, coulda, woulda.

What should I have done differently? What could I have done instead? What would have happened if...? It is enough to make me want to give up and never try again.

Shortly before my second Level II assessment attempt, I happened to watch Season 3 Episode 2 of Mikaela Shiffrin’s *Moving Right Along* podcast. She discusses the mental aspects of coping with the trauma following her crash at Killington in November 2024.

Can the feelings I experienced following successive unsuccessful assessment attempts be considered PTSD? I felt like I shared and could relate to some of the feelings Mikaela described in the podcast. (There I go comparing myself to greatness again.)

All the time on snow watching and attending clinics. So much time studying videos on the Matrix and YouTube. The financial commitment of fees, travel and accommodations. It all feels wasted when you aren’t successful.

The examiners recognize and point out that it is hard to put yourself out there. They thank you for putting in the effort. They acknowledge that it’s hard, and I appreciate that they have a hard job as well. They should not be passing people willy-nilly, and the assessment criteria, I believe, is going in the right direction in terms of being streamlined and clear. But the fact remains: the disappointment is painful and poignant when you are unsuccessful.

Another challenging element of the process has to do with my age. It is difficult to watch younger, less experienced applicants, seemingly breeze through. I recognize that this is my perception. (How do I know that 23-year-old didn’t take the assessment three times?) Perhaps they have worked just as hard.

I also recognize that only I can control my attitude towards assessments. Once my emotions settle down and I have the benefit of a little distance between the event and my ability to process everything, I see that everything I’ve put myself through only benefits me in the long run. I learn from my mistakes. And not only do I learn from my mistakes, my clients benefit from that learning as well.

“You can’t start something you can’t finish,” Shiffrin says in her podcast. In the episode, she’s

referring to singing the National Anthem. But I agree with the tenet. I started this quest. I need to see it through.

By the ripe old age of 60, I am beginning to recognize that learning takes time, effort and – sometimes – humiliation. Nothing worthwhile comes easily. We must work to succeed. The easier way out would be to not try at all.

So I’ll keep trying. I’ll stay physically fit, and I will continue to prepare for the next assessment. I will continue to consider myself a professional athlete, and, as such, I will strive to learn and improve and – in so doing – I know I’ll be as prepared as I can be and, hopefully, I’ll be successful too. ☞

Build a Season of Fun... And They Will Come

By Jenni Hogan
Alpine Development Team Member,
ACE Team Member
Windham Mountain Club, Windham
Mountain Kids Manager

While we all work at different mountains, we have something in common: nearly every ski/ride school has seasonal programs. Those pesky kids that come all winter. They dip in and out of the trees, act oblivious to lift lines, and may even drive instructors up the wall. How do we harness their passion and energy to create productive outcomes while still embracing their enthusiasm?

At Windham, a team of supervisors, trainers and instructors started with the question – how do we develop skills on appropriate terrain rather than have them power wedge all over the mountain? The team created a season-long weekly plan guide based on the Learning Connection Model. An engaging and challenging weekly focus encouraged seasonal program groups to use teamwork to accomplish goals and motivate students and instructors to improve their skiing and riding. The plan focused on skill-based outcomes that still allowed young skiers and riders to explore the mountain.

Week One is about getting to know each other. Teams spend a lot of time together, so creating a bond enhances everyone’s experience. The Windham Guide gave concrete and fun ways for the group to develop *relationships based on trust and engage in meaningful, two-way communication*. What do they like to do when they’re not skiing? Do they have a pet? Do they have siblings? Instructors should share information about themselves too to discover any commonalities. By the end of the weekend every group had created a

continued on next page ☞

team name and bonded. If Week One coincides with the holidays, invite all the teams to dress in their best holiday outfits. Wear a reindeer onesie or decorate helmets with ornaments or Hanukkah gelt. Week One is also a great time for assessing the groups' skiing or riding skills and to *collaborate on long-term goals and short-term objectives* – share the idea of the weekly focus and the season end target. For example, skiing parallel on blue terrain!

The guide flexes between fundamental-based weeks (with a technical fundamental like control the relationship of the center of mass to the base of support to direct pressure along the length of their equipment) and outcome-based weeks (like a freestyle competition or race). Create the connection between fundamentals and the application of fun in the park or on a race course. For example, use hopping to help students control the relationship of the center of mass to the base of support to direct pressure along their equipment. The guide and training encouraged instructors to spend a weekend exploring hopping – they hopped quietly, up the hill, over a bump, and before the turn. One activity paired students and had them watch what part of their equipment came off the ground when they hopped. Begin to help instructors and students understand that when they watch high-performing athletes in the park or on a race-course, these athletes didn't just get there by chance. Instead, they needed to spend time exploring and playing with solid skills to become better at skiing and riding. This is what your teammates need to accomplish their goals. How can they ride a box or hit a jump if they're in the backseat? It's not going to end well! This gives kids the practical understanding and immediate feedback about why it's *necessary* to be centered, not just that they're *supposed* to be centered. Planned events in a park or on a course don't have to be a big deal either. A couple of small jumps in the beginner area and a flat box are a great way to start for wedge-turning park rats. And of course, you need to hop onto the box!

Because all the season long groups were working on the same fundamental each weekend, students got it from multiple directions. It was happening all over the mountain. Even from the chairlift, teams saw other teams working the same skills. For example: "Look at that hopping on the berm; we should do that!" Or one group challenges another to a "hop-off." The weekly challenges evolved into season-long goals for all teams.

You might wonder how we got instructors to buy in to our plan? We included them in them in the process. We empowered them to help develop the

guide and gave them the opportunity to see that the same skill and tools can help them to succeed! Add short weekly trainings, even just a single run on the following week's topic sets instructors up for success in the upcoming session. Instead of having instructors teach "in their silos," we put them together with a trainer. They discussed how to modify activities for different levels and to work with students on specific goals (instead of "skiing around" aimlessly). For us, this training was integral to our overall success and students weren't the sole beneficiaries. For instructors, it translated into success at certification exams, as they developed actual teaching skills and comprehension, rather than regurgitation.

The coolest part of all of this? The pride and sense of accomplishment on the kids' faces when they showed parents not just *where* they skied or rode, but *how* they ripped it! Kids become eager to show off new skills to anyone who watches – parents, coaches, supervisors, their weekend visitors, or even their annoying big brother. And they helped each other accomplish goals as well – working together to help their teammates learn a trick, get faster, or get more parallel. The accomplishments showed on the instructors too, as they took these experiences from programs into other lessons. They helped their private clients get a flat board to slide on a box, or they engaged in a group lesson students with different abilities by modifying activities.

It's great to see and hear the kids talking to their families about all the cool new stuff they can do on their skis or boards, switching the focus from terrain to task. The added side benefits -- the teamwork, fun, and adventure – were icing on the cake. All it took was a little thoughtful planning and preparation to make for productive, fun, seasonal programs. Your mountain team can build a plan to create skill-based outcomes that still allow young skiers and riders to explore the mountain. ☞

Post-Assessment Reflections

By Bobby Kyle Monacella

Sitting in the Manchester, NH airport, I'm reflecting on the past week and my experience in the first-in-the-nation test of the new three-day PSIA Level III assessment format. While I didn't pass this time, the experience was invaluable. I learned so much that will make me a better teacher next season and prepare me for my next attempt. Skiing with, and receiving feedback from, National Team members and examiners helped me grow as a skier, teacher, and movement analyst.

I'm grateful for the support and encouragement I received from my wonderful Whitetail family, the Women of Whitetail group, my incredible mentor Emily Spiker, and Mermer Blakeslee and my ProJam Eastern Academy group – especially Deanna, who advised, "You never know what tomorrow brings, just do it while you can." It echoed Warren Miller's famous quote: "If you don't do it this year, you'll be a year older when you do." So I went for it.

Being part of this first cohort in the new exam format was special. I saw firsthand how hard PSIA-AASI is working to establish a national standard that upholds excellence and serves all members. This benefits us as instructors and, more importantly, the guests who trust us to help them enhance their love for the sport.

The Level III process is intense – three days on snow giving it everything you have. I'm not gonna lie: going through the whole thing and not "attaining" was a little demoralizing. I knew that it would be and was prepared to manage that on the other end, but it's still sucky. That said, there's no question about it, the benefits far outweigh that downside. And we did manage to have a ton of fun in between!

To any L2s – especially women – who are hesitant to put themselves out there: Go for it. You won't regret it, no matter the outcome. If you have questions or want to hear more, please feel free to reach out!

I am also grateful to three Facebook groups: [Women of Psia-Aasi](#), [PSIA - AASI Eastern Region](#), and [PSIA-AASI](#). All of these are cyberspace homes away from home for me. ☞

The Trick to Basic Parallel

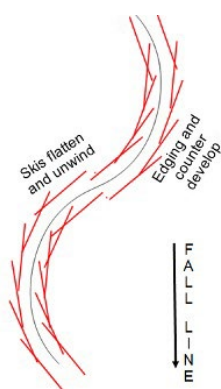
By Jonathan Miner

*PSIA Level III, Adaptive Level I
Pats Peak, NH*

At Pats Peak, and likely everywhere around the region, we're approaching exam season. The focus of our clinics is starting to turn to the assessment tasks. I was out with Eric, another Level III instructor, and Mike, a Level II candidate, and the topic of basic parallel came up. From the Alpine Assessment Guide, we know "skis are guided through a skidded arc, with the feet staying the same distance apart." Mike had a race coaching background; his movement pattern made it difficult to get off his edges, resulting in a more carved turn. We discussed "buttering the toast" and "sliding the truck around a snowy corner."

I had an idea. What if we thought about the start of a basic parallel turn as if it was a whirly-bird, a

flat 360-degree spin on the snow, except that the skier would only execute a 90-degree spin? I stopped the group, and verbalized the idea, then skied off demonstrating a half dozen turns on flat terrain. From my perspective, it felt right, both feet pivoting and the skis skidding through the arc. Eric skied down first and remarked, “Dude, those were the best basic parallel turns I’ve ever seen”. Mike skied down next with a much flatter ski than we’d seen in the past.



Why does it work? Let’s compare the two tasks:

A whirly-bird requires a flat ski; basic parallel requires flat skis at initiation and edging develops through the turn.

A whirly-bird requires the skis be pivoted; basic parallel requires the skis be pivoted, but as edging develops, the turn is shaped.

In both tasks, the skier needs to be centered along the length of the ski to pivot both tips and tails equally

The tasks differ in the use of counter; in a whirly-bird the skier may wind up the upper-body to initiate. With basic parallel, the skier skis into a countered position at the end of the prior turn

Give it a try on your own. Find some flat terrain without any surprises and ski a couple whirly-birds. Feel what it takes to set up on a flat ski and pivot the ski through 180 or 360 degrees. Then back off, and only pivot your feet through 90 degrees, turning your legs, keeping your upper body aligned with the fall line. Good luck with your next basic parallel demo! <<

Message from a Grateful Member

By Jocelyn Goldberg-Schaible
Alpine Level II
Bristol Mountain, NY



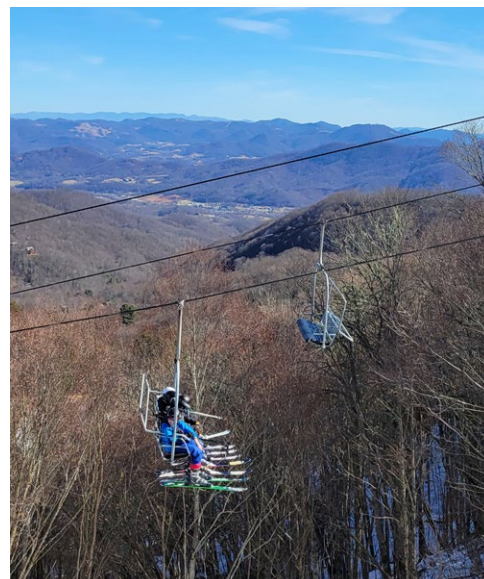
The “Spicy” group

For me, PSIA clinics are a privilege not a burden. They offer, each winter, the only opportunity to focus entirely on my own skiing instead of the skiing of those I instruct. This may sound self-centered and narcissistic, but I feel it is well-deserved. Having received my 40-year PSIA certification pin a few years back, I’ve experienced all manner of PSIA clinics over the years, and they never disappoint. Each is different, and I always come away with something learned and something to keep working on.

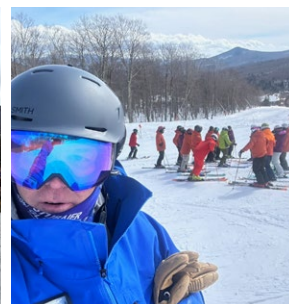
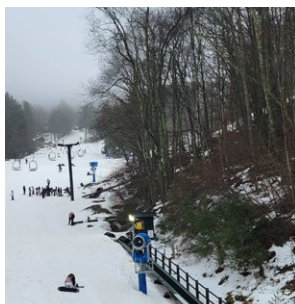
I just completed a two-day “Dynamic Blues” clinic at Blue Mountain in PA and wanted to share my enthusiasm and gratitude for that experience. Mike Logsdon was my clinic leader, and he and his counterpart, Tina Buckley, split our large group into “mild” and “spicy.” We were allowed to self-select, and I chose “spicy.” I was glad to have made that choice, because constantly being pushed beyond my comfort zone for two days was the learning environment I needed.

Mike gave each of us plenty of individualized feedback without ever talking too much. We all know what a challenge it is to achieve that balance in our own teaching.

This PSIA on-snow event was made even sweeter because the tuition was partially offset by an Education Fund scholarship. For that, and for a great educational experience, my sincerest thanks to PSIA-Eastern. <<









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