



KB's CORNER

One More Run

By Kathy Brennan
Eastern Region CEO

A few days ago, I came across an article about a pilot study being conducted by the Aspen Elevation Institute exploring the effects skiing and snowboarding may have on the brain. One statement in particular stayed with me:

"Skiing and snowboarding are not just outdoor activities — they are multisensory, high-engagement, neurobiologically active therapeutic environments. No other sport places a participant in a dynamic, cold-weather, gravity-driven, rhythm-based flow state that simultaneously activates trauma recovery mechanisms across the brain, body, and social system."

That's quite a description of what most of us simply call skiing and riding.

Then I went golfing, and par for the course (haha, excuse my golf pun) amidst plenty of frustrating shots, I hit the ball just right. If you golf, you know the feeling. You know it's good before you even see where it lands. It doesn't matter what my scorecard says; that one swing will bring me back again. But on this day, that moment did something else. It reminded me of the Aspen Elevation Institute quote — the "rhythm-based flow state" — and immediately my thoughts turned to winter.

Ahh — winter. The snow, the clean, crisp air, the deep blue skies. The bitter cold temps, freezing rain, wind, flat light and Mother Nature conspiring to tell us to go inside. Yet, we continue to go up the mountain and come back down — turn right, turn left, turn right, get on the lift, repeat as necessary. When you look at it this way, it seems a little ridiculous, and yet we'll do it all day. When most reasonable people would be headed inside, someone says, "One more?" And off we go. Why?

Well, for me, just like golf, every once in a while, I make a series of turns that feels just right. Everything comes together — the ski bends or the board responds; your body is where it needs to be; gravity isn't something you're fighting; it's something you're using. You aren't consciously telling yourself what to do next, you just do it — you're in that "gravity-driven, rhythm-based flow state." And what makes it particularly compelling is the simultaneous combination of movement, gravity, rhythm, concentration, challenge, the outdoors and other people.

continued on page 2 »

Congratulating our Area Reps

By Pat Doherty
Area Rep Program Coordinator

More than 70 members have been recognized for longtime service as an Area Representative since we began the award program in 2017. This year the PSIA-AASI Eastern Region Area Rep program proudly recognizes four Area Reps with a 10-year certificate for their service in our program.

- Frederick Fitz
Ski Sundown Learning Center, CT
- Erik Posner
Maple Ski Ridge Snowsports School, NY
- Kenwyn Saunders
Campgaw Mountain Snowsports School, NJ
- Herbert Wollowick
Mohawk Mountain Discovery Center, CT



The presentation of certificates will take place during the Snowsports School Management Seminar Banquet on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at Mount Snow.

Some of the names on our roster change from year to year but our numbers continue to be strong. Currently, 139 Area Reps serve 121 member schools, and 13 schools have two Area Reps. Since inception during the 1998-1999 season, the program strives to promote the benefits of membership. We're frequently able to provide information or direct members to the appropriate person or place (PSIA-AASI Eastern or National) thus improving the lines of communication.

Please check with your Snowsports School Director to be sure that your area does have an Area Representative. If your school does not, or only has one, please speak with your Snowsports School Director. It's a fun way to serve! ☞



inside

View from the Chair	3
Absolutely AASI	6
Adaptive Airtime	9
Kids. Kids, Kids	10
XX-Ploring	12
Around the East	25
Zipperline	26

Volume 52, Number 3
Kathy Brennan, Managing Editor
Karen Haringa, Assistant Editor
Mark Aiken, Assistant Editor

The official publication of the Professional Ski Instructors of America-Eastern Education Foundation

5 Columbia Circle

Albany, NY 12203

Phone 518-452-6095

Fax 518-452-6099

easternsnowpros.org

General Information

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

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.

The *SnowPro* is published three times per year by the Professional Ski Instructors of America-Eastern Education Foundation. Permission is hereby given to all National and Regional publications to copy original material from this newsletter providing credit is given to PSIA-E/EF and the author, and the material is not altered. Articles that contain specific copyright notices may not be reprinted without written permission from the author.

Note: Material published in the SnowPro which has been provided by persons not writing in an official capacity, and for official purposes, is the responsibility of the author, and is not necessarily endorsed by the Association. PSIA-E/EF reserves the right to refuse or edit all advertising



» KB's CORNER, continued

We know what it feels like when those things come together. I think that's part of what keeps us going. So, that brings me to a question I think is particularly relevant as we head into another winter.

How do we help our students experience THAT?

Every season, we introduce thousands of people to skiing and snowboarding. We invest time and energy into thinking about how to teach them well. We study movements. We develop progressions. We think about terrain selection, communication, safety and technique. All of that matters but does that make them come back?

For a first-time skier or rider, their “perfect turn” probably isn't our perfect turn. They don't need to understand edge angles or pressure management to experience the feeling that makes this sport special.

Maybe it's the first time they glide and realize they aren't afraid.

Maybe it's stopping exactly where they intended.

Maybe it's linking their first few turns.

Maybe it's keeping up with their kids.

Maybe it's laughing with others after doing something they weren't sure they could do.

Or maybe it's just a few seconds when they stop thinking about everything else going on in their lives because staying balanced on two skis or one snowboard requires all of their attention.

They're outside. They're moving. They're learning. They're connected to the people around

them. Gravity is pulling them downhill, and instead of resisting it, they are beginning to work with it. And then, perhaps for just a moment, they feel it — flow.

And we see it, and that's our opportunity to cement it. One of our Teaching Skills Fundamentals is to “*facilitate the learner's ability to reflect upon experiences and sensations.*” What better time than when a student has just experienced one of those moments? Give them a chance to take it in. *Did you feel that? Think about what you just did.* Maybe an hour ago they weren't sure they could slide down the hill, and now they're turning, stopping, and choosing where they want to go.

Rather than immediately moving on to what comes next, we can help them pause, reflect, and celebrate what they just accomplished — and how it felt. As snowsports instructors, our job isn't simply to teach someone how to turn right and left. Part of our job is helping them discover why they want to keep sliding on snow.

I believe that's worth thinking about as we pull our equipment out of storage, put on our boots and head back onto snow. We know why we keep coming back — or at least we know how it feels.

This season, when we have the opportunity to introduce someone new to skiing or riding, perhaps success isn't only whether they learned to turn and stop.

Maybe success is whether, when they reach the bottom, they look back up the hill and say:

“One more?” <<





VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Eastern Board Update

By Katie Brinton

Eastern Board Chair

Your Eastern Board gathered in June at Mountain Creek in New Jersey for its annual Ends and Limitations monitoring, reviewing the CEO's performance relative to the policies that guide our strategic direction and executive decision-making. We also met with a cross-discipline panel of Education Staff, who shared candid insights about organizational culture, member interactions, and their hopes for the organization's future.

The board continued to meet monthly throughout the summer to stay current on association business.

Mid-summer brought changes at the national level, including a restructuring of the National education department. Those changes raised understandable questions among Eastern members and staff, and your board has been working to understand what they mean for our Region.

What we know is that National is reorganizing its education department around two areas of work: Standards, Credentialing and Quality Assurance, and Learning Systems and Professional Development. Eastern leadership has raised concerns about the timing of the changes, but we have been assured that immediate alignment work, including Unified Training, will continue as planned.

That work is important because PSIA-AASI is, structurally, more complicated than it may appear. Our eight Regions and National are separate but affiliated organizations working together toward a more consistent member experience. For years, volunteers and staff across the country have invested considerable time in aligning certification standards, assessments and training. This winter marks another important step in that work as we continue toward greater consistency in alpine and snowboard assessments nationwide.

In October, the board will gather at Cranmore Mountain Resort in New Hampshire for a budget update, a triannual financial limitations review, and strategic discussions around membership growth, development, and governance.

As the leaves change up and down the Eastern seaboard and thoughts turn toward winter, I hope you're looking forward to the season ahead. Whether you're pursuing certification, joining us on the snow or online for an education event, or simply sliding with your peers, there's never a bad time—or bad snow—in which to deepen your understanding and love of snowsports education.

As always, if you want to reach out to your board, we welcome your input. Email us at board@easternsnowpros.org. See you out there. ❄️

At-Large Report

By Emily Spiker

Alpine Level III, At-Large Board Member

Whitetail, PA

Winter is coming. Are you ready? There's a certain feeling that comes with the first cool mornings of fall. Maybe it's the smell of the leaves, the first frost on the windshield, or simply seeing snowsports gear start to appear in stores again. Whatever it is, something changes. We start thinking about snow.

Fall is when we begin the transition back to skiing and riding. If we've been keeping up with our workouts all summer, great! If not, now is the time to get moving. We start pulling out our teaching and technical manuals, catching up on videos we may have missed, and perhaps signing up for a "Waiting for Winter" class or two. As the temperatures drop, we gradually shift our mindset from summer to ski season.

And then there's the gear.

It's time to open the ski bag and see what happened last season. Are your skis ready for that first day? How about your boots, poles, helmet, goggles, and clothing? Fall is a lot less stressful when you discover that missing glove or worn-out boot liner now rather than on the morning of your first clinic!

But getting ready for winter isn't just about our legs, our gear, and our skiing. It's also a good time to think about what we want from the season ahead. What clinics are you hoping to attend? Is there a skill you've been wanting to improve? Are you ready to challenge yourself with a new certification or educational opportunity? Maybe this is the year you finally take that clinic you've been talking about for the last few seasons.

If clinics are part of your plans, don't forget to look into **scholarship opportunities**. Scholarship applications are due **November 1**, so don't wait until the snow starts falling to start the process. Take a few minutes now to see what is available and consider whether a scholarship could help you reach one of your goals this season.

You can find the scholarship information at easternsnowpros.org/membership/current-members/scholarships.

Fall is also a time to look beyond our own goals and recognize the people who make our ski schools and our organization special.

Think about the people you work with. Who is always willing to lend a hand? Who gives their time to help others? Who has made a lasting contribution to your ski school, our division, or the snowsports community?

Maybe it's time to nominate that person for the **Community Service Award** or the **Eastern Lifetime Membership Award**. We all know people who quietly make a difference, and sometimes the greatest recognition we can give them is simply saying, "We see what you do, and it matters."

Nomination information and forms can be found here: easternsnowpros.org/eastern-members-award-winners-and-information.

So, as the days get shorter and the temperatures begin to drop, take a little time to get ready. Get your body ready. Get your gear ready. Get your teaching skills ready. Set a goal—or two—for the season.

And while you're at it, take a look around and recognize the people who help make our ski community what it is.

Because before we know it, the lifts will be turning, the hill will be covered in white, and someone will be standing at the top of the trail looking at us and saying, "Okay, what are we doing next?"

Let's make sure we're ready for them ❄️.

Zone 1 Report

By Ben DeBenedictis
Alpine Examiner, CS2,
Zone 1 Representative

After my first year as your Zone 1 representative, I'm still honored by your support and excited to serve our PSIA-AASI East community. After some time in the role I have learned much about board governance. The rest of the board and I have been hard at work moving the governance of our organization forward. With the ongoing evolution of national alignment and the upcoming Interski, much governance has occurred! For the upcoming season keep an eye on the event calendar for "Intensive" Level II and Level III prep clinics, featuring webinars, on-snow video capture, and indoor analysis. As always our Academy events bring something for everyone.

Now's the perfect time to set your goals for the season. A great way to stay motivated is to team up with a fellow snow pro who shares your goals. Find an event that aligns with your aspirations, bring a friend, and get after it. I hope to see many of you around Zone 1 (and elsewhere in the East) this winter. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you and taking a run! ☞



Zone 2 Report

By Julianna Collins
AASI Level II, Zone 2 Representative
Wachusett Mountain, Westminister, MA

I am honored to represent Zone 2 as your newly elected board representative. I know I have big shoes to fill following Terry Xie's example, and I'd like to take a quick moment to thank him for representing us well! It is my hope to provide the same level of grace, professionalism, and expertise in this role.

I have loved this organization for a long time and am honored to be able to serve this group. To me, this organization has been more than just instructing; it's been a professional and social network of individuals that understand winter is a playground, it's been the catalyst for meeting my best friends, and it's the reason why my riding and teaching continually get pushed year after year. I look forward to continued growth as a member within the organization but also as your Zone 2 representative.

With that in mind, I encourage all of you to please reach out, say hi, introduce yourselves. I would love to hear your reasons "why." Why is this organization important to you? Why do you come back year after year? My "why" may not be the same as yours and I'd love to explore them through all of you.

Until then, stay cool, stay awesome and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I possibly can during my tenure. ☞

Zone 3 Report

By Aleks Smith
Alpine Examiner, CS2, FS1, Zone 3 Representative
Whiteface, NY

Start your season strong. Winter is approaching, so now is the time to check your equipment, plan your season, and review the PSIA-AASI member benefits available to you.

Visit www.thesnowpros.org under "Membership" and "Pro offers." Also, make sure your profile and member school information are up to date at <https://members.thesnowpros.org/account/edit>.

Plan Your Learning

Review the winter event schedule and consider attending an event outside your home mountain. New terrain, new connections, and a fresh challenge can help you grow as the season begins.

These events are also a chance to reconnect with our professional community, exchange ideas, and support one another as we head into the season together.

If certification is on your list, start early with the resources at www.thesnowpros.org/get-certified or <https://easternsnowpros.org/education/>.

Reconnect Before the Snow Flies

Now is also a good time to check in with your Snowsports Director, reconnect with locker room mentors, and reach out to past guests. Those early conversations can help strengthen relationships and build momentum for the season.

Register early, invite a colleague to join you, and choose one event that will help you reach a personal goal this season.

Let's make this a season of learning, connection, and great skiing and riding. I look forward to seeing you at Zone 3 events and out on the hill. ☞



Mentorship Program Continues Importance in Eastern Region

By Matt Lyerly
Alpine Level II, CS1, FS1
Massanutten Resort, VA

PSI-AASI's 'Next Steps' Mentorship Program is a unique program that directly benefits the membership in the Eastern Region. The Next Steps program was an initiative of NextCore, which focused on the experiences of the 16-39 year old population in the Eastern Region. When the program was created in 2021, the goal was twofold. First, give the young members a way to connect with folks on the Ed Staff to receive support and guidance on their snowsports journey. Second, build community in the Eastern Region.

Fast forward to now. We have had the following mentee numbers over the previous five snow seasons:

- 2021-2022: 25
- 2022-2023: 34
- 2023-2024: 52
- 2024-2025: 47
- 2025-2026: 68

The mentorship program expanded to include all ages in 2023-2024 (which contributed to our increased numbers). Some folks have also returned as mentees for multiple seasons. One takeaway is how impressive it is that so many members took steps to advance their snowsports. Bravo and kudos for investing in yourselves. In addition to the number of mentee participants, we have also had 106 different Ed Staff participate as mentors.

The program is successful according to the sheer numbers. But what about the program's quality? Consider the following post-season survey results from our 2025-2026 program, which gets completed by both mentors and mentees. Each question/statement was scored 1-5 with 1 meaning "I disagree strongly" and 5 meaning "I agree strongly". We received 46 responses in our end-of-season survey, good for 38% of the total participation:

- This program met my expectations: 4.1/5
- My mentor/mentee was punctual and respectful of my time: 4.35/5
- This program was beneficial/rewarding to my career: 4.1/5
- I would recommend this program to my peers in the organization: 4.65/5
- Approximately how many nights per month did you communicate: 2.85
- I was able to meet with my mentor/mentee on snow: 28/46 survey answers
- I intend to stay in contact with my mentor/mentee: 39/46 survey answers indicated 'yes' which is fantastic.

The program continues to grow but do folks get what they want out of it? Participants – mentors or mentees – see the value in participating in a rewarding partnership. The most important answers we score are "This program was beneficial/rewarding to my career." and "I would recommend this program to my peers in the organization." Both statements received scores greater than four and we are very pleased with those numbers.

Back to the question – do participants get what they want out of a partnership? For the most part, yes. That said, how could we do better? The pairing process continues to have a 'potluck' element to it. Because of how we pair mentors with mentees (i.e. blindly, based on survey data and geographical location and without prior person-person interaction), there is still a risk that pairs won't work. Indeed, even as the program continues to evolve and grow, there are still pairings that just haven't worked. To improve, we are considering ways for mentors and mentees to have some exposure to each other, prior to the pairing process, and then giving each side options for who they would like to work with. A Zoom networking call, perhaps?

The Next Steps Mentorship Program is an important program for the Eastern Region. As new programs and ideas come and go, the thing that unites us all is a love for sliding on snow. We all want to do it better, so why not find someone who can help you fast track your development? A good mentoring partner may be able to do just that! ❄️

In Memoriam

Ronald Lee "Ron" Kubicki



Ronald Lee "Ron" Kubicki, 77, died September 1, 2026, in Cincinnati after a long illness.

Born November 4, 1948, in Colden, New York, Ron

spent most of his life in the Buffalo region. He was a hardy outdoorsman and a deeply hardworking man who took immense pride in doing a job well. His formidable mind was shaped by life experience and an endless appetite for books.

Ron was one of the last of the true cowboy truck drivers. Driving through the 1970s and '80s, he believed truckers should be stewards of the road and a source of safety for other motorists.

Ron could connect with almost anyone, and he had a special warmth for children. He loved teaching them to ski and, later, greeting them as a school bus driver. Over 26 years at Holiday Valley Resort, including serving as Snowsports School Director beginning in 1999, Ron helped thousands of children and adults learn to ski, ride, and enjoy winter. A devoted advocate for his instructors, he earned the respect, admiration, and lasting loyalty of his staff.

His influence extended throughout the snowsports industry. Ron served for 15 years on the Eastern Division Board of Directors of PSIA-AASI, including terms as secretary, vice president, president, and immediate past president. He worked to strengthen cooperation across the organization's regions and was granted Eastern Lifetime Membership in 2018 in recognition of his exceptional service. His example later helped inspire the Eastern Region's Snowsports Leader of the Year Award.

More than anywhere else, Ron was happiest outdoors. Whether skiing, riding his Harley, or wearing his cowboy hat, boots, and duster, he felt most himself beneath an open sky. Even on his final day, he was still reaching for that connection to the outdoors.

Ron moved to the Cincinnati area three years ago as illness overtook his body. He is survived by his sons, Jason and Josh Kubicki, and his grandchildren, Jack, Joseph, Jillian, and Blake. ❄️





AASI Eastern Region Events Update

By Greg Fatigate

AASI-E Coordinator and Examiner

Greetings AASI-E! This letter marks my first as your AASI-E Coordinator. Brian Donovan has stepped down from the position after 10 seasons. Please join me in a heartfelt thanks for Brian! He leaves big shoes to fill, and I am going to work my feet to grow into them over the upcoming seasons.

I look forward to working with and for you! A little bit about me: I joined AASI in 1998 as a first-year instructor at Mohawk Mountain in Connecticut. In 1999, I moved to Vermont, transferring to Johnson State College, and joining Smugglers' Notch as a snowboard instructor. At Smugglers', I've worn many hats, including competition coach, terrain park builder, outdoor facilities manager, and, since 2012, the school's training manager. I've been a member of the AASI Education Staff since 2007. Over that time, I've served the membership and staff as the Development Team coach, Examiner coach, steering committee member, and snowsports management committee member.

Through all of this, there's one element that always keeps AASI special, and that is all of you collectively and as individuals. There's nothing I enjoy more than reconnecting with instructors I've known over the years at Trees and Steeps, Corduroy and Carving, Snowsports Management seminars, and Eastern Academy, just to name a few.

Additionally, watching instructors over the seasons achieve the long-term goal of a certification is truly one of the most inspiring elements of my experience. There is such great joy in working with an instructor to achieve a goal and being in the audience when their name is announced.

The long and short of it is—thank you for making AASI-E what it is! None of this is possible without an inspired and motivated membership that then brings that energy to the students you all teach. With all that said, please see a few notes below on the upcoming season.

AASI Turns 30 Celebration, Feb 4-5 at Stratton

That's right! For our part, we are holding a celebration event at Stratton on February 4-5 for those who have been a part of it since the beginning. Stratton was the first snowboard school in the country, host of the US Open, and the testing grounds for Jake Carpenter's boards, making it the perfect choice to celebrate this milestone.

If you are an AASI member without 30 years of membership and would like to be a part of the larger celebration, Stratton is also hosting events at the same time: Intro to Trees, Freestyle Specialist 1, and a Level I Assessment Prep. Over the two days of the celebration, there will truly be something for any member who would like to participate.

Eastern Team Tryout, January 20-21 at Killington

If for any life reason you were not able to attend last year's tryout, this is Round 2. What is the PSIA-AASI National Team? Check out the details here: <https://thesnowpros.org/about/national-team/>. The Eastern Team will train together for 2 years in preparation for the PSIA-AASI National Team tryouts in 2028. This is a competitive tryout that will seek to identify the most talented riders and coaches in the Eastern Division. To be eligible, you must be:

- AASI Level III certified
- A passionate rider, educator, communicator, and athlete
- Skilled in training, assessing, and inspiring others

Development Team Tryout, March 10-11 at Stowe

The Development Team tryout is your first step toward joining the PSIA-AASI Eastern Education Staff. Through this rigorous, on-snow interview, selectors evaluate your readiness for the Development Team—an up to four-year training program where talented instructors refine their skills and prepare for Education Staff service.

This event functions as both a professional interview and an on-snow evaluation of skills. Participants demonstrate their ability to apply the Learning Connection Model—integrating people skills, teaching skills, and technical skills—while modeling the highest levels of professionalism, communication, and self-awareness.

A Plug for Educational Events

Some of the most impactful moments of the season happen at our educational events. Have you considered attending an event to get coaching for YOU? We offer Trees & Steeps, Freestyle Camp, Corduroy and Carving, Riding Improvement, Teaching Improvement, and Halfpipe Camp. If you are thinking about doing one of these, consider attending one at a nearby resort that is not part of your pass collective. That is, in my opinion, the best way to pull the most value out of your experience.

Assessment Preparation 2026-2027

If you are preparing for assessment modules this season, you will notice two main types: Ride & MA/Tech, and Teaching & People Skills. These are offered in this fashion for you to be able to focus your preparation as best as possible.

Know Someone Who is a New Member?

Encourage new instructors to join early. Too often, new instructors wait until they register for their Level I to become PSIA-AASI members. Let's change that culture. Here's why it's better for them to join early:

- *Eases the financial step:* Paying membership dues ahead of time reduces the one-time financial hit when later registering for the Level I Assessment.
- *Immediate perks:* New members get immediate access to benefits like 32 Degrees, SnowPro, digital manuals, pro-offers, and more. Becoming a member early will increase the value they receive during their very first season.

Level I Assessments are coming to a resort near you!

We work hard to make Level I Assessments geographically accessible – our goal is to have one within roughly two hours of every member school. Please help new-to-AASI instructors in your Ski & Ride School find a Level I that works for them.

Didn't see your resort on the Event Schedule this year?

Don't worry... we rotate locations season to season to give members opportunities to experience different schools and mountains. If your resort isn't hosting an event this season, it might be a great opportunity for you to participate in an event at a new mountain this winter, and hopefully, your resort will reappear on an event schedule again in the next few seasons.

Weekend events

You keep asking, and we keep increasing the amount and types of weekend events on the snowboard schedule. Keep in mind that not every resort can host us on weekends. Thanks for understanding as we work with our member schools to balance demand and availability.

continued on next page

Register early

Signing up in advance secures your spot, helps us assign Examiners appropriately, and reduces the risk of an event being canceled due to low registration. Visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar, sign up, and encourage your friends to join you!

Scholarships

Have you applied yet? PSIA-AASI provides thousands of dollars in scholarships each year to support event and assessment participation. If you are a long-time member of a school, please help to promote these excellent opportunities.

- *Eastern Region opportunities:* easternsnowpros.org/membership/current-members/scholarships
- *National opportunities:* thesnowpros.org/for-members/scholarships

Spread the word – scholarships are there to support you and your fellow instructors in your professional development. Apply today!

National Alignment and Assessment Updates

For the past several seasons, all regions nationwide have been laser-focused on National alignment. This is a massive effort, involving thousands of volunteer hours over several years. The alignment initiatives have one core focus: ensuring that the certification training process creates great instructors.

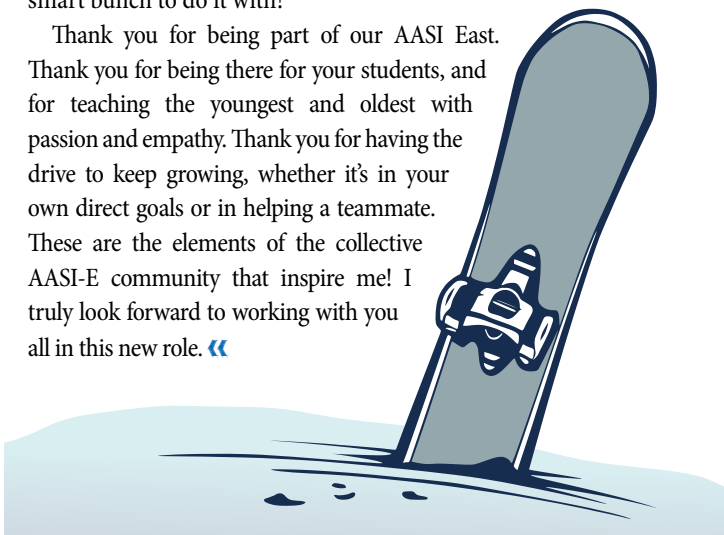
This effort ensures consistent, fair assessments across the country, strengthens the recognition of our credentials worldwide, and creates more opportunities for members to attend events in different regions.

For the 2026-2027 season, AASI-E snowboard enters our first season without any assessment changes. All Level II & Level III assessments are modular, just like last season. This allows you to focus on specific topical areas: Movement Analysis & Technical Understanding, Teaching & People Skills, and Riding. The Level I assessment also remains the same as the past few seasons.

Connect on Facebook

If you're not already part of the AASI East Facebook Group, join today! Moderated by AASI Level III members Brandon Cook and Dave Hirschberg, it's a great place to ask questions, coordinate for events, and connect with fellow instructors. Search for the AASI East group and request to join. Whether you are a top commenter or contributor, or whether you want to lurk in the shadows and just see what your fellow Eastern snowboard snow pros are up to, this is a super welcoming and smart bunch to do it with!

Thank you for being part of our AASI East. Thank you for being there for your students, and for teaching the youngest and oldest with passion and empathy. Thank you for having the drive to keep growing, whether it's in your own direct goals or in helping a teammate. These are the elements of the collective AASI-E community that inspire me! I truly look forward to working with you all in this new role. «



SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

Getting Ready for Another Season

By Eric Kelley

*Snowsports Management Committee Chair
Killington Resort and Pico Mountain, Vermont*

As we get ready for another winter, I am also stepping into a new role as Chair of the PSIA-AASI Eastern Snowsports Management Committee. I am excited about the opportunity and look forward to working with the committee and leaders from across the Eastern Region.

For those I have not met, I am the Director of Mountain Sports School at Killington Resort and Pico Mountain. My background includes training, operations, and management. Like many of you, I spend the winter balancing staffing, employee development, lesson quality, guest expectations, and the financial needs of the business.

The annual Snowsports Management Seminar gives us a chance to step away from the daily operation, learn from each other, and prepare for the season ahead. This year's seminar will take place November 30 through December 2.

We will kick things off Monday evening with Damaris Patterson-Price's keynote, "Operational Belonging: Building Teams Where People Can Thrive and Perform."

I am especially excited to have Damaris join us because her work connects directly to the challenges snowsports leaders face as snowsports leaders. Building strong teams is about more than hiring talented people; it is about creating an environment where employees feel respected, included, and empowered to do their best work. Her perspective will give us practical ways to strengthen our teams, improve communication, and help seasonal employees feel a greater sense of connection and purpose.

Damaris will talk about how our everyday communication, decisions, expectations, and leadership practices affect whether employees feel connected, valued, and accountable. This is an important topic for snowsports schools, where we lead large and diverse seasonal teams. She will continue the conversation Tuesday with smaller sessions focused on putting operational belonging into practice.

The seminar will also include indoor and on-snow sessions covering safety and risk management, staff education and certification pathways, Movement Analysis, inclusive lessons, children's instruction, senior adults, and freestyle in everyday lessons.

We will hold a Snowsports School Leadership Roundtable to discuss some of the current challenges facing our schools, including Level I readiness, assessment trends, and changes to the Alpine Level II process. There will also be time to connect during the Town Hall, banquet, and opportunities to ski or ride with members of the Eastern Region Education Staff.

My goal is simple: everyone should leave with at least one useful idea and a few new connections they can bring back to their mountain.

I hope you will join us November 30 through December 2 as we learn from each other and get the winter started. «



EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS

The PSIA-E Education Foundation expresses its sincere appreciation to the following members who have contributed at least \$25.00 to the Eastern Education Foundation through the annual dues "add-on" program and standalone donations from May 1, 2026, to September 12, 2026. Since no dues or program fees go to the EF, contributions are the primary source of support for the Foundation and its scholarships. Thank you! <<

Education Foundation Donors

William Allen	John Esteban	Stacy Malecki
Christina Anderson	Dennis Fahey	Jared Manville
Jason Audette	Doug Forbes	Richard Marron
Robert Bacon	Craig Frey	Michael McCabe
F Michael Bannon	William Fusco	Patricia McCowan
Terrence Barbour	Mark Gemmiti	Stephen McGrath
Jay Barranger	Steven Gevarter	Stephen Moore
David Baud	Katherine Giannini	Donald O'Connor
Craig Baum	Elise Gilbert	George Paras
Bruce Bennett	Cody Gossard	Joanne Penn
David Berger	David Greenleaf	George Phalen
Marc Berube	Russell Greway	Kimberly Phillips
Birdie Blue	Richard Gunnell	Stephen Pomeroy
Ross Boisvert	Thomas Haas	John Randall
Kathleen Brennan	William Haight	Belle Reeder
Charles Brown	Douglas Hammond	Keri Reid
Paul Buccheri	Don Haringa	Stephen Robertshaw
Robin Calitri	Karen Haringa	Merrill Rollins
Stephen Canter	Raymond Harwood	Peter Roth
Linda Carabis	Joseph Hill	Richard Scarpignato
John Carey	John Ineson	Etai Scharf
Thomas Chase	Paul Javor	Thor Simon
Pete Ciarrocca	Kurtis Johnson	Joseph Smith
Daniel Cole	Lynn Johnson	Linda Steinle
Robbin Comiski	Murray Johnson	Garry Tank
Peter Comiski	Kirk Jordan	E. Scott Tezak
Connecticut Ski Council	Michael Kahn	Gregory Thall
Eugene Connell	John Kennedy	Christopher Tierney
Kathryn Cowdery	Helen Knapp	Seth Tower
Ralph Currey	Richard Knight	Brooks Tuttle
Sandra Deitch	Randy Krull	Ric Vargoshe
Robert Del Boca	Christopher Lauricella	Andrew VonDeak
Barbara DeLuca	Jeff Lavin	Matthew Walters
Robert Deutsch	Keith Lawrence	Chris Wasileski
Richard Downing	Michael Lees	Shawn Watkins
Chris Dushenko	Susan Lehnese	Paul Werner
Dan Earley	Roger Lichtman	Teryn Wernick
Karen Earley	Mark Lindberg	Herbert Wollowick
David England	Eric Lipton	
Christopher Eseppe	Sam Lotto	



**Get the PSIA-AASI Rate
when you book with
Choice Hotels®.**



**Book at ChoiceHotels.com or call 800.258.2847
and ask for Special Rate ID#00224550**



**CHOICE HOTELS
INTERNATIONAL®**

Must be a PSIA-AASI member to receive discount. Advance reservations required. Discount subject to availability and cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Valid at participating Choice hotels.
© 2012 Choice Hotels International, Inc.



ADAPTIVE AIRTIME

New Adaptive Workshops

By Ed Meltzer

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

Adaptive education continues to evolve as instructors seek new ways to help athletes move with greater independence, confidence, and performance.

This season, two new two-day workshops offer adaptive instructors an opportunity to take their technical and teaching skills to the next level.

- Adaptive Advanced Tethering
- Adaptive Mono and Bi-Skiing—Personal Performance.

Below are the course descriptions.

Adaptive Advanced Tethering

Tethering is a powerful adaptive teaching tool, but effective tethering requires much more than simply controlling a skier's speed and direction. The goal of advanced tethering is to create a relationship between instructor, equipment, terrain, and the student which promotes safety while allowing the athlete to develop greater independence.

Adaptive Advanced Tethering is designed for experienced tetherers working with both stand-up skiers and sit-skiers. The workshop explores how Alpine and Snowboard technical fundamentals can be applied while tethering, with an emphasis on an efficient blend of edging and rotary movements.

Participants examine how instructor movements can either enable or restrict an athlete's performance. They will also explore progressive release strategies designed to reduce tether dependence and encourage athletes to make more decisions for themselves.

Equipment and setup are another important part of the workshop. Participants will compare tethering setup options, including fixed and handheld bi-ski systems, sliders, tip tethers, and harnesses, while considering how equipment choices affect both instructor movement and athlete performance.

Video analysis and peer feedback will help participants connect what they feel while tethering with what the athlete is experiencing. Using the six-point assessment scale, instructors will develop a clearer understanding of their own technical and teaching performance.

Adaptive Mono and Bi-Skiing Personal Improvement Clinic

For many adaptive instructors, improving their own sit-skiing is one of the most effective ways to improve their ability to teach and support athletes. The Adaptive Independent Mono- and Bi-Skiing Personal Performance provides a focused environment for instructors to develop their technical skills.

The clinic is strongly recommended for instructors pursuing Alpine and Snowboard certification in the Mono-Ski and Bi-Ski disciplines, but it is also appropriate for experienced adaptive instructors who want to refine their independent sit-skiing.

Participants will work on the technical fundamentals of independent mono- and bi-skiing, with an emphasis on skill blending and the ability to adapt technique to changing terrain and performance goals. Video review and clinician feedback will help participants identify strengths, recognize opportunities for improvement, and better understand how their skiing aligns with assessment criteria.

The clinic also addresses the equipment side of sit-ski performance. Participants can work with equipment adjustments, rigger setup, bucket alignment, and shock tuning while considering how these factors influence skiing performance.

Peer feedback using the six-point assessment scale will further develop participants' ability to observe, describe, and analyze movement using cause-and-effect relationships—a skill that directly supports stronger adaptive teaching.

Why these topics?

Over the past several years, Adaptive staff conducting assessments have identified two areas where candidates are not reaching their full potential: developing the technical skills and confidence needed to be effective tetherers, and developing ownership of the body movements required to independently turn a sit-ski.

These clinics are designed to directly address those needs. Through focused instruction, video analysis, peer feedback, and clinician coaching, participants will have the opportunity to refine their skills, build confidence, and gain a deeper understanding of the techniques that support successful adaptive instruction.

Both workshops are designed for instructors who already have experience in adaptive skiing and riding and are ready to take their skills to the next level through intentional, hands-on practice and individualized feedback. Participants are recommended to have an Adaptive Level I certification in a sit-ski specialty.

Attendance at these two clinics can be a game changer—helping instructors become more capable, confident, and independent in their own skiing while ultimately creating better experiences and outcomes for the athletes they serve.

Two Workshops, One Common Goal

Although the workshops approach adaptive skiing from different perspectives, they share a common objective: helping instructors create opportunities for athletes to become more independent while improving the instructor's own technical and teaching performance.

Advanced tethering asks instructors to consider when and how much support an athlete truly needs. Independent sit-ski training challenges instructors to refine the skills required to teach students whose goal is to ski independently. Together, the workshops reinforce an important principle of adaptive instruction: effective support is not simply about doing more for the athlete. It is about developing technical understanding, tactical awareness, and teaching skills necessary to provide the right support at the right time.

Both workshops are structured as two-day, 12-CEU learning experiences. Sessions will be adapted to the needs of participants and the environmental conditions, with a combination of on-snow practice, technical exploration, movement analysis, video review, peer feedback, and clinician coaching.

For instructors looking to deepen their adaptive expertise, these workshops provide an opportunity to move beyond the basics and investigate the details that make a difference—whether that means refining a tethering relationship, improving independent sit-ski performance, or learning to recognize the movements and tactics that allow an athlete to take the next step toward autonomy.

These new workshops are an invitation to keep exploring, keep refining, and keep finding better ways to help adaptive athletes succeed on-snow. ☑



Thinking CAP for All Seasons: Lessons from Mountain Bike Camp

By Bonnie Kolber

Head Coach Eastern ACE Team, Snowboard Examiner Member, PSIA-AASI National Children's Task Force

When it comes to working with children, CAP concepts remain the same regardless of discipline - or activity! After another fulfilling summer running Mountain Bike Adventure Camps for 8-14 year-olds at Burke Mountain and the surrounding Kingdom Trails in Vermont, I am struck by the parallels between coaching mountain biking and teaching children on snow, especially when viewed through the lens of the CAP Model.

Cognitive

Most kids come to camp excited to ride, and the best way to keep their attention is with short, clear explanations and plenty of practice. The PMBIA model of Introduce-Drill-Explore-Apply aligns closely with the PSIA-AASI Children's Teaching Model of Play-Drill-Adventure-Summary. We introduce a concept, refine it with practice, then get them out on the trail to see how much they've learned.

One skill-building moment that stands out was when a camper got frustrated because she couldn't get over roots on an uphill climb. When I asked if she had thought about line choice and riding around the roots, she shot back: "Well I can't, the roots go all the way across!" I mentioned that roots usually have a high side and a low side, and that she could choose where to put her front tire. I had her follow me, and we also watched some of the more experienced campers flow up, over, and around the roots. With practice, this camper surprised herself by climbing up a steep rooty section that wove narrowly between the trees. Watching other riders, analyzing terrain, and exploring line choices are cognitive tools that can be taken to other trails or features, whether on bikes or on snow.

Affective

Confidence and motivation are crucial to the learning process. One of my favorite moments was with a timid young rider who was terrified of steep downhill trails. He knew he could walk through a short steep section but WANTED to ride it. Knowing this, we broke the hill into three parts separated by short, flat water bars where we could stop and restart if necessary, and I reminded him of the ideal body position and braking control. This camper managed his fear, flowed right through the first flat with speed control, and then right through the second... all the way to the bottom of the steep hill! This newfound confidence transferred to other steep sections, and all the way to the bike park where he could ride trails he would not have considered (and with good reason) earlier in the week.

Affective learning also shows up in how we cultivate group culture. The first morning of camp, we collaborate with the kids to share how we want to be treated and treat others, how to make safe choices, and what everyone hopes to get out of camp. We keep this list visible and reference it as needed throughout the week to check in on behavior and progress towards personal goals. Giving kids ownership of their experience by allowing them to contribute to planning and rule-setting builds a sense of community and accountability, both on-snow and off.

Group dynamics are also part of the affective realm. One week we had mostly teenagers. They were reticent to talk, and when we tried to engage the group, they all looked over their shoulders and down at their shoes. Rather than forcing conversations, we gave them choices about where and for how long they wanted to ride and stepped away. In order to keep biking, which was what they all wanted, they had to come to consensus. Once they began talking to each other, they didn't stop all week. Their quiet nature developed into a running joke of "blink twice if you can hear me" which evolved into a non-verbal vocabulary for all situations. Counselors took time to connect with each camper individually to learn more about them and their mountain biking goals, and by the end of the week we were thick as thieves. In this case, trust with these teens wasn't built through contrived icebreakers, but through authentic one-on-one interactions, space to develop peer relationships, shared control over decisions, and gentle humor.

Physical

Most kids would rather ride bikes than talk about riding bikes, just like they would rather slide on snow when they come to our resorts. Keeping drills playful and game-like lets them experiment and explore new skills through movement without overthinking or getting bored. While skills checks are necessary to choose appropriate terrain and set a safe pace from the start, they work best with a quick explanation, a demo with a clear focus on what to watch for, and plenty of time to practice, get feedback, and practice some more!

Physical progress often comes from breaking big movements into smaller chunks. On steep descents, riders practiced braking control and body position section by section until it felt comfortable. On climbs, they learned how tire placement, anticipation, and momentum helped them manage tricky roots. Sessioning specific trail features gave benchmarks for improvement. Applying the ATML model on drops and jumps helped campers progress safely. Just like on snow, once a skill was learned in one place, students could transfer it to a new trail or feature with confidence.

Same Model, Different Seasons

All summer, parallels between mountain biking and snowsports instruction emerged. When viewed through the CAP Model, the *Cognitive* domain showed up in how we introduced concepts as well as in decision-making and problem-solving on the trails, the *Affective* domain guided how we built trust, confidence, and group dynamics with campers, and the *Physical* domain was constant, as all of our adventures were rooted in movement, play, and progression.

Mountain bike camp reinforced how children's needs don't really change. Whether on wheels in summer or sliding in winter, they thrive with the same balance of Cognitive, Affective, and Physical support. Hopefully this article inspires you to keep your thinking CAP on whether you're hanging with kids on snow or in the off-season! <<



Coach's Update

By Bonnie Kolber

Head Coach Eastern ACE Team, Snowboard Examiner
Member, PSIA-AASI National Children's Task Force



PSIA-AASI Eastern Region Children's Staff

It's getting colder at night, and the first leaves are starting to turn. Kids and teachers are back in school, and the garden is bursting with veggies. There's a pile of wood in my yard that needs stacking, and I've had my first dream about snowboarding. Winter is coming!

Important Dates:

- Dec.12-13, 2026. Children's Focus Mini-Academy at Killington
- Dec. 14-18, 2026. Children's Focus Eastern Academy at Killington
- Jan. 8, 2027. Freddie's Friday - Children's Focus at Smuggler's Notch
- March 8-9. Children's Staff Development Team Tryout at Stowe
- April 3-4, 2027. Children's Instructor Spring Rally at Whiteface

Additionally, look for Children's Updates, CS Preps, Children's Specialist 1 and 2 accreditations, and Ski the Field Guide events around the region this winter; we'd love to see you there!

Information about Development Team Tryout:

If you have a Level III certification in any discipline, a CS2 credential, and are passionate about teaching children and sharing expertise with other instructors, consider coming out for the Children's Staff (formerly known as ACE) Development Team. The tryout will be held at Stowe Mountain Resort in Vermont on March 8th and 9th, 2027.

Pro Tip: Knowledge of other disciplines is beneficial, as teaching children applies universal concepts across different equipment on snow.

At the tryout, candidates should be prepared to ski or ride all open trails and terrain and will be expected to perform at and beyond the Level III standard. Candidates should expect to lead clinics and coach peers in a variety of situations related to teaching children such as movement analysis, technical fundamentals, CAP concepts, parent and child communication, and social-emotional challenges.

Pro Tip: Make a plan to get in front of peers early in the season and lead children's instructor training clinics at your home resort in preparation for this experience.

Development Team members will serve up to a four-year term and must attend two days of annual education staff training and complete a series of recommended understudies, which involves both shadowing and leading groups while under the supervision of a Children's Examiner. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of the Children's Education Staff, this is the first step!

One way or another, the snowflakes will be flying soon, and I can't wait to see you out there! ❄️

CALLING ALL FUTURE PROS

What do future Snow Pros look like on the very first day they slid on snow?!



Rafi Kreniske, 21.5 months
Whitetail, PA

Share your child's or grandchild's very first day they ever slid on snow, submit their image:
<https://fs9.formsite.com/PSIA-AASI-E/FuturePro/index>

Thank you to everyone who submitted a picture, we love seeing your future snowsports enthusiasts enjoying the very first day they have slid on snow.



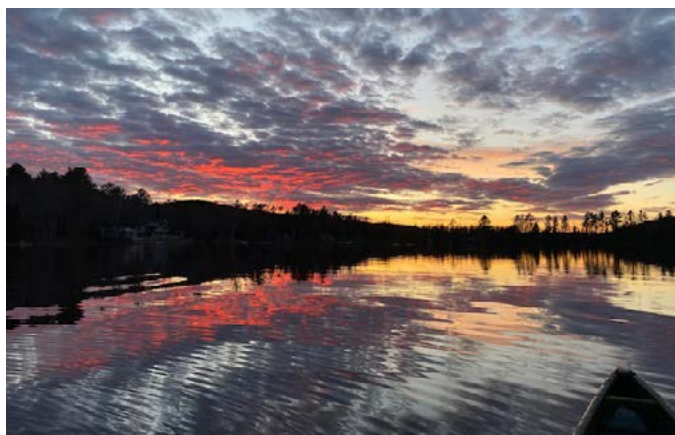
SnowPro Unpacked with Chaos and Company

Check out SnowPro Unpacked with Dave Capron and Angelo Ross of Chaos and Company as they break down everything in recent issues of SnowPro Eastern newsletter – plus the insight and perspective you need before the season starts.

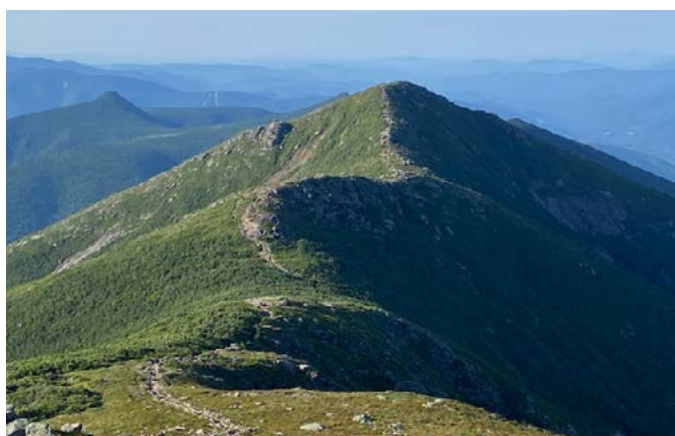
Watch on YouTube or listen on Spotify.

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJ3-wEs9i_8&list=PL_58saYVoksmgSrioleP9oRigwlTYmRkk&index=1

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/4FdKlxDdCpetcXwyAb48bg?si=INSicDxrRD-qepM0tf-zbw&nd=1&dlsi=e4b54741f4574c82>



Making the most of fall: Sunset Paddle on Mirror Lake, NH



Making the most of fall: Hiking Franconia Ridge



Making the most of fall: Hiking in the Whites, looking down on Lake of the Clouds

Looking Ahead to Another Nordic Season

By Mike Innes

Cross Country Examiner

Cross Country Assistant Coordinator

It's hard to think about snow during summer, late summer, and fall – but for those of us who love Nordic skiing, the next season is never too far from our thoughts.

Summer and fall are great times to prepare. Hiking, cycling, paddling, and roller skiing all provide opportunities to stay active, build endurance, work on balance and coordination, and simply enjoy being outside. Whether it's a hike in the mountains, singletrack riding, a paddle across a mountain lake, or an evening on roller skis, the fitness we build now can make those first days back on snow even more enjoyable.

But preparation for a new season is about more than fitness. Fall is also a time to start thinking about what we want from our skiing this winter.

Maybe this is the season you want to become a more efficient classic skier. Perhaps you want to improve your skate technique, explore some backcountry terrain, become a better instructor, or challenge yourself by pursuing your next level of certification. Or maybe your goal is simply to spend more time on skis with other people who share your enthusiasm for Nordic skiing.

Whatever your goal, the Eastern Region Cross Country schedule for 2026–27 is shaping up to provide plenty of opportunities.

Something for every Nordic skier

Our calendar begins in December and continues into March, with events planned throughout the Eastern Region. This season's schedule includes classic and skate ski improvement, video analysis, ski/teach upgrades, Level I, II, and III assessments, instructor training, and backcountry opportunities.

We'll be traveling to some terrific Nordic destinations, including Garnet Hill and Mount Van Hoevenberg in New York; von Trapp Family Lodge and Resort, Woodstock, Stratton, and Stowe in Vermont; Notchview in Massachusetts; and Gunstock, Jackson, Waterville Valley, and Bretton Woods in New Hampshire.

One of the things I enjoy most about our Nordic events is the variety of people who attend. Some members arrive with a certification goal in mind. Others are looking for new teaching ideas or want to refine their skiing. Some simply want to spend a couple of days skiing with other instructors and come away reenergized.

What would make the 2026–27 season a successful one for you?

As another season approaches, this is a great time to think beyond simply getting the skis waxed and equipment ready.

Think about trying something new. Attend an event that you have never attended before. Ski at a Nordic center you've always wanted to visit. Work toward your next certification level. Improve a technique that has challenged you. Meet other instructors from around the region and bring some new ideas back to your home snowsports school.

Most importantly, keep learning. That's really what our Eastern Nordic events are about—creating opportunities to ski, teach, learn from one another, and continue developing as instructors and skiers.

For now, enjoy what's left of fall. Hike, ride, paddle, roller ski, or find whatever keeps you active and outside. Before long, we'll be trading summer trails for freshly groomed tracks. We look forward to seeing you on the snow in 2026–27!

Watch for the official PSIA-AASI Eastern 2026–27 event schedule and registration information. «



Three Lessons from Telemark Skiing

By Angelo Ross

*Alpine Examiner, Children's Examiner,
Telemark Development Team*

Seven Springs, in southwestern Pennsylvania, has had a robust telemark culture for decades. I remember chairlift rides in the 1990s when, as I focused on advancing my alpine skiing, I marveled at the elegant telemark skiers below who absorbed moguls and seemed to slither effortlessly through the gnarliest bump lines. I couldn't fathom how their legs could tolerate what appeared to be continuous squats and leg calisthenics under duress and at speed. Everything about telemark skiing—the aesthetic, the technique, the subculture, the heritage—intrigued me. I knew that, someday, when I got the chance, I would learn how.

Fast forward about thirty years, and I've learned how to telemark ski. Last spring, I also earned a spot on the PSIA-AASI Eastern Region Telemark Development Team. Along the way, I've gained a deeper appreciation for the sport and the people who practice it. Below, I briefly share three key takeaways related to culture, technical understanding and performance, and teaching.

Culture

It is no secret that telemark is a subculture within the larger snowsports community. Telemark skiing superseded all sliding disciplines chronologically and historically except for cross country skiing, to which it is closely related (downhill cross country skiing). While alpine skiing and snowboarding get the shine (read budget line items and advertising dollars), the telemark community is essentially a grassroots network of diehards who share contact information, plan and host meetups (usually with a learn-how component), and maintain privately owned caches of loaner gear for the tele-curious. It is probably that loaner gear, shared largely by word of mouth, that cements telemark relationships early and securely. Meeting a friend of a friend an hour early to try on boots, get a primer on the bindings, and borrow skis begins the process of forming relationships much differently—and, I suspect, much more deeply—than walking into a rental shop. Those early interactions simply pave the way for the friendships and community that develop on snow.

Technical Understanding and Performance

Telemark skiing is fascinating to understand and perform. One general problem in gravity-fed skiing—whether alpine or telemark—is the inside leg. It is in the way. Alpine skiers solve the inside leg problem by flexing the joints of the inside leg and bringing the inside thigh toward the inside armpit while simultaneously flexing the outside core muscles to move the center of mass down the hill. Done well, the alpine skier manages edge angles and grip effectively. Done inefficiently, the alpine skier must either move up and over an overly long inside leg (a pop) or out and around a stiff inside leg (a stem).

Telemark skiers solve the inside leg problem differently. Rather than flexing to pull the inside leg up, they extend it back and behind. This gets the inside leg out of the way and allows the core to travel smoothly down the fall line, unencumbered by athletic inefficiencies. The difference between the inside leg problem in alpine and telemark skiing comes down largely to the number of hinge points in the equipment: telemark adds two more through the free heel and the bellows in the boots. Telemark equipment also allows several lead-change options. Compared to telemark skiing, lead change in alpine skiing is slight and more of an effect than a cause. By contrast, a telemark skier can pull the inside leg back faster than the outside leg moves forward for shorter, pivoted turns in trees, bumps, and the fall line; push the



Angelo Ross at 2025 National Academy

outside leg forward faster than the inside leg is pulled back for larger carved turns; or move both legs past one another at nearly the same rate somewhere in between. As an alpine skier learning to telemark effectively, my brain (technical understanding) and my body (technical performance) had to learn an entirely new language. In the process, my understanding and performance in both disciplines improved.

Incidentally, regarding the leg fatigue mentioned above, after initial strengthening on and off the ski hill to reach a level of stamina and endurance with which I was satisfied, I find a day of telemark skiing to be less stressful on my knees—both of which are reconstructed—than a day of alpine skiing. I believe it is due to decreased torque on my knees, due to the added fore-aft mobility in the telemark bindings and boots. I am not a medical professional but if concern about knee strain has kept you from pursuing telemark, my experience has been very different from that.

Teaching

Closely related to those technical gains has been the impact telemark has had on my teaching. I recall passing my Telemark Level II and realizing that I still wasn't comfortable talking about telemark technique—especially with people who knew more and skied better than I did. Telemark skiers talk about lead change a lot, something I wasn't accustomed to as a primarily alpine skier. Recognizing that gap in my understanding helped me gauge where I was in my own development. As I gradually figured it out, new pathways emerged for helping students understand the same concepts. It was a healthy dose of humility and a reminder to be patient—especially for someone who is very comfortable teaching and discussing alpine ski technique at any level.

Telemark skiing introduced me to a community built on generosity and shared passion, challenged me to deepen both my technical understanding and technical performance by learning movement through a different lens, and reminded me that effective teaching begins with humility and deep understanding of the subject. Every time we become beginners again, we gain empathy for our students and sharpen our ability to recognize, understand, and solve movement problems. In that sense, learning to telemark didn't just make me a better telemark skier—it made me a better skier, a better teacher, and a more complete member of the snowsports community. If you are interested in reaping similar benefits pursuing telemark skiing, I encourage you to start now, make a plan, buy a book, watch a video, talk to some tele skiers, and see where it takes you. «

Telemark Happenings

By Mickey Stone

Nordic Coordinator

PSIA-E Nordic Examiner and ACE

Team Member

Like most of you, the telemark squad sure wishes we booked a trip to Chile or Argentina this year – at least after they reopened after briefly shutting down due to *too much snow!* Lets' hope the East and the West have similar issues this winter. Hopefully everyone is getting outside and in shape participating in your favorite summer activities. The summer of 2026 had great weather for recreation. In addition to mountain and road biking, SUP-ing, fishing, and hiking, I added stronger components in the stretching, yoga, and Tai chi areas preparing for the winter. Specifically, I was trying to get a longer range of motion and better flexibility to move more laterally and diagonally into the turn.

Exercises.



Photo 1

In Photo 1, I start rolling my inside foot and lower leg, so I am on the inside of my foot as shown above. Start out with 10 reps of three sets to each side and slowly add more each week. I found that in the beginning I was not very flexible and could not roll my foot up too high. After a couple weeks I got much better. I also put some weight on the inside by lengthening my outside leg and moving my center mass over it. I hope this will strengthen my inside half and foot to bend that rear trailing ski as I move from one telemark turn to the next.



Photo 2

My next added strengthening exercise for my angulated stance is moving into a static stance

that allows me to really stretch my entire lower body half to the inside of the turn. I do not expect to ski like this on snow. I am hoping for more looseness in my body and the ability to move to the inside from turn to turn more fluidly and in my direction of travel. You can start with a chair or table and as you progress you can make the stationary arm and hand go even lower with a block of some sort. Explore doing this from a higher platform to a lower platform. You will be able to feel the muscles and body areas that are not flexible and these will be the areas you can concentrate on to become more flexible.

Give them a try and include them in your stretching routine from now until winter. You will not believe the difference.

Level I Assessments. The 2026-2027 season will debut our first stand-alone Level I assessments. The content is the same as the past, but the format is more structured to concentrate on key areas a telemark instructor needs to teach great lessons. We will be assessing skiing activities for the beginner/novice zone, movement analysis at that level, creating teaching programs for group, private, and lengthier lessons, the candidate's delivery, and connection to people and overall people skills. These Level I assessments will be assessments as opposed to "Learn How To Do It" clinics. Some overall group feedback will be given at times along with ski demonstrations. Clinicians will also share examples of movement analysis, and a sample lesson so the candidates see a good example of what they should try to produce when it is their turn to share in each area.

We are positioning these Level I events at our bigger events where we have normally multiple groups and clinicians. Telepolooza at Seven Springs, PA, Southern Hoedown at Timberline, WV, World Telemark Day at Berkshire East, MA, at Holiday Valley, NY for a night clinic, and at Waterville Valley.

Both the XC and Telemark disciplines will provide a white paper list of what to expect in a Level I assessment so new candidates know the agenda and what is expected of them when they arrive. To further prepare new candidates, we are making a short video to download from the PSIA-E website. It will showcase examples of skiing, movement analysis, and teaching activities by someone on our team as a guide or benchmark of what you need to accomplish those. Our telemark team feels these actions will give our new candidates the best chance to pass the assessment. If you have any ideas, feel free to pass it along to us.

Crossover Events. To bring alpine crossovers to our discipline, we are hosting an Alpine-Tele event at Gunstock, NH and an Alpine-XC event at Waterville Valley, NH to introduce the Nordic sports to beginners with an alpine background. Check the 2026-27 schedule of events for dates and times.

Diverse Events. The telemark event schedule offers diverse events for our members. Women-specific clinics at Pico, VT and a Freddie Friday at Killington, VT, side country events at Mad River Glen, VT, Jay Peak, VT, and Black Mountain, ME. There will be a sidecountry introduction at Bretton Woods, NH. For the first time, we will be at Camelback Mountain, PA where last year they made so much snow that they were open almost until June.

We will hold assessment preps in February at Killington, VT. Our Level II and III assessment will be at Killington VT in March. Then we will wrap up the season with the Spring Rally at Statton in March.

Enjoy Fall and add the two lateral stretching moves to your workout. And check our event schedule out for participation with the telemark crew this season. «



Congratulations to our 26-27

Eastern T-shirt Design Contest winner,
Peter Knapp!

The T-shirt will be on sale at the Eastern Academy at Killington in December, and it will be available for purchase online as well. Be sure to grab yours when it's available!



FREESTYLE

Freestyle Update

By Peter Novom

National Team Member, Eastern Region Freestyle Head Coach

If anyone is considering a freestyle assessment or wants to stay informed about freestyle events, this article is for you! Read on for updates on national alignment work, regional freestyle clinic, and assessment updates.

Why Participate in Freestyle Events or Assessments?

In general, freestyle specialists make up just a small percentage of certifications and accreditations across our membership. For the past 20 years, however, a growing portion of resort guests wants to go in terrain parks.

You should consider both educational events (Pipe Camp, Introduction, or Advanced) and assessments (Freestyle Specialist 1, 2, and 3) to ensure that you can help meet the expectations of guests and create even more teaching opportunities. The cherry on top is that you get to take students somewhere exciting, rewarding, and challenging once you have the skills needed to help students play in terrain parks. And ski area managers and operators love that your skills have been vetted with a national standard including risk management and decision-making along with teaching and coaching in terrain parks.

New for 2026-2027

The National Freestyle Task Force has been hard at work looking at how the Freestyle Specialist track is assessed and what support exists to prepare members. These updates come out of the hard work of that group:

- **New Event.** 1-Day Freestyle Specialist Preps. These are not required, but they are highly suggested for anyone training for an FS1 or FS2.
- **Updates to Teaching and Technical Assessment Criteria (ACs).** ACs are the statements on which each candidate is scored for each section in an assessment. In the past, Freestyle Specialist candidates were assessed during their teaching using the exact same ACs as an Alpine or Snowboard Level I, II, or III. For the past several years, we have been looking closely at this to ensure what actually needs to be reassessed or modified to be relevant in the freestyle environment.

The goal in FS1, FS2, and FS3 is to ensure that the assessments capture the actual skills necessary to safely and effectively teach in terrain parks. While there is a lot of similarity still to an Alpine or Snowboard certification assessment, the teaching criteria, for example, have been updated to include more fear and risk management specifics. And the candidates will be expected to tap a little deeper into the motivations and emotions of the learner. This is critical to ensuring that freestyle instructors and coaches guide their students to make the best decisions and gain autonomy in the park. Eventually, every student uses features on their own, and teachers need to ensure they are set up for success.

- **Updates to Freestyle Performance Guides.** Trick Lists were updated for FS1, FS2 & FS3. This is to ensure that the required tricks are clear and that they scale from FS1 to FS3, each building on the other without repetition. In addition, the risk level to candidates was re-assessed at FS2 & FS3 to ensure that it was reasonable for our membership while ensuring that with each respective pin, successful candidates can teach and demonstrate in small (FS1), medium (FS2), and large (FS3) terrain parks. Also, the Performance Guide now includes successful and unsuccessful contributors for all of the updates listed above.

All of these changes will be published before the start of the season. The freestyle elves (that is, members of the National Freestyle Task Force and others) are hard at work on these projects.

We hope to see you at events this winter! Come out and play! ❄️

NOMINATE A MEMBER

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? Do you want to nominate a fellow member for Eastern or National Lifetime Membership?

**Eastern or National Lifetime Membership
Community Recognition
Honorary Membership**

For more information and to submit a nomination visit our website at:

<https://easternsnowpros.org/eastern-members-award-winners-and-information/>

The deadline is Sunday, February 28, 2027.
Awards will be presented in the Fall of 2027.



NOMINATE YOUR LEADER

Double Diamond Award

For an emerging leader in our industry for demonstrating innovation, growth, leadership, and exceptional contributions to their snowsports school.

Snowsports Leader of the Year Award

For an outstanding snowsports school director/manager to acknowledge a career spent maintaining the highest standards in snowsports school management, outstanding dedication to their instructors, commitment to their school, contributions to our organization (both regionally and nationally), and impact on the snowsports industry.

Submit your nomination online at <https://easternsnowpros.org/new-eastern-snowsports-management-awards/>

Deadline is Sunday, October 25, 2026.
Awards will be presented at the
Snowsports Management Seminar Banquet,
December 1, 2026 at Mount Snow, VT



PSIA-AASI EASTERN — 2026–27 EDUCATION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Education & Prep Event details only — for the complete schedule, including Assessments and any updates, scan the QR code or visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar

Scan for Assessments &
the full, up-to-date calendar
easternsnowpros.org/calendar



MULTI-DISCIPLINE

Learniversary Specialty Event ★ FEATURED

Jan 13–14 '27 • Stowe, VT

Telemark/Alpine Crossover

Jan 27–28 '27 • Gunstock, NH

Backcountry Series: Tactical Terrain Integration - Rentals Available

Jan 30–31 '27 • Bolton Valley, VT

Alpine & Cross-Country Ski Experience (Crossover)

Feb 10–11 '27 • Stratton Nordic Center, VT

Eastern Snowsports Management Roundup - 1 Day

Mar 19 '27 • Camelback, PA

Eastern Snowsports Management Roundup - 1 Day ★ FEATURED

Apr 9 '27 • Killington, VT

SENIOR

Alpine Senior Skills

Jan 20–21 '27 • Greek Peak, NY

Alpine Senior Skills

Jan 21–22 '27 • Bear Creek, PA

Alpine Senior Skills

Feb 1–2 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Senior Skills

Feb 10–11 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine Senior Skills

Feb 22–23 '27 • Stratton, VT

Alpine Senior Skills

Feb 25–26 '27 • Bryce, VA

Alpine Senior Moguls

Mar 4–5 '27 • Belleayre Mountain, NY

Alpine Senior Skills

Mar 4–5 '27 • Cranmore, NH

Alpine Senior Moguls

Mar 16–17 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Senior Moguls

Mar 18–19 '27 • Waterville Valley, NH

TEACHING SENIOR ADULTS

Teaching Senior Adults from PSIA-AASI Eastern involves understanding the physical, psychological, and physiological changes that come with the natural aging process.

Teaching Senior

Adults ★ HIGHLIGHTED

Jan 12–13 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Teaching Senior

Adults ★ HIGHLIGHTED

Feb 4–5 '27 • Blue Mountain, PA

CHILDREN'S

Children's Focus Mini Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Children's Focus Eastern Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Children's Specialist Prep

Jan 4–5 '27 • Okemo, VT

Freddie's Friday - Children's Focus ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Smugglers Notch, VT

Children's Specialist Prep

Jan 21–22 '27 • Bear Creek, PA

Children's Update Clinic

Feb 3–4 '27 • Blue Knob, PA

Children's Update Clinic

Feb 10–11 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Children's Update Clinic

Feb 11–12 '27 • Ski Roundtop, PA

Children's Update Clinic

Feb 22–23 '27 • Stratton, VT

Children's Update Clinic

Feb 25–26 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Children's Update Clinic

Mar 4–5 '27 • Big Bear, PA

Children's Update Clinic

Mar 4–5 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Children's Update Clinic

Mar 17–18 '27 • Crotched Mountain, NH

Children's Instructor Spring Rally ★ FEATURED

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

★ FREDDIE'S FRIDAYS

honoring Freddie Anderson • every Friday in January

Freddie's Fridays are one-day special events held every Friday in January at locations across the Region, honoring longtime PSIA-AASI Eastern member Freddie Anderson — a portion of proceeds supports [PSIA-AASI Eastern](https://psia-aasi.org/eastern) scholarships for women.

What & when: One-day events in Alpine, Adaptive, and Snowboard, Fridays throughout January across the [PSIA-AASI Eastern Region](https://psia-aasi.org/eastern).

Fundraising: A portion of every registration funds women's snowsports scholarships, celebrating Freddie's 60-year PSIA-AASI Eastern legacy.

All Freddie's Fridays are listed with a ★ FEATURED tag throughout this listing.

PSIA-AASI EASTERN — 2026–27 EDUCATION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Education & Prep Event details only — for the complete schedule, including Assessments and any updates, scan the QR code or visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar

Scan for Assessments &
the full, up-to-date calendar
easternsnowpros.org/calendar



★ FEATURED THIS SEASON

the season's can't-miss picks

★ MINI ACADEMIES

Killington, VT • Dec 12–13

Children's Focus Mini Academy

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Adaptive Mini Academy

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Alpine Mini Academy

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Mini Academy

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Telemark Mini Academy

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

★ EASTERN & SUMMIT ACADEMIES

Killington, VT • Dec 14–18

Children's Focus Eastern Academy

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Adaptive Eastern Academy

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Alpine Eastern Academy

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Alpine Summit Academy

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Eastern Academy

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Summit Academy

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Telemark Eastern Academy

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

★ LEARNIVERSARY & SHREDUCATION REUNION

Learniversary Specialty Event

Jan 13–14 '27 • Stowe, VT

Snowboard 30 Year Celebration - Shreducation Reunion

Feb 4–5 '27 • Stratton, VT
Come celebrate our history, reconnect with old friends, and celebrate long-term members.

★ WAITING FOR WINTER WEBINARS

live/online • 1–2 CEUs — see [full series details](#)



The Hidden Work of Great Teaching w/ Angelo Ross

Oct 8 '26 • Online

Telemark Beginner MA w/ Keith Rodney

Oct 22 '26 • Online

Cross Country Equipment & Basic Biomechanics w/ Justin Arndt

Oct 29 '26 • Online

★ INTRO TO LEVEL I WEBINARS

online • 1 CEU — see [full series details](#)



Snowboard Intro to Level I Webinar (1 CEU)

Dec 10 '26 • Online

Alpine Intro to Level I Webinar (1 CEU)

Dec 10 '26 • Online

Snowboard Intro to Level I Webinar (1 CEU)

Jan 14 '27 • Online

Alpine Intro to Level I Webinar (1 CEU)

Jan 14 '27 • Online

Snowboard Intro to Level I Webinar (1 CEU)

Feb 11 '27 • Online

Alpine Intro to Level I Webinar (1 CEU)

Feb 11 '27 • Online

★ DEV TEAM TRYOUTS

see easternsnowpros.org/tryouts for more details



Eastern Team Tryout - All Disciplines

Jan 20–21 '27 • Killington, VT

Cross Country Development Team Tryout

Mar 6–7 '27 • Bretton Woods XC, NH

Children's Staff Development Team Tryout

Mar 8–9 '27 • Stowe, VT

Snowboard Development Team Tryout

Mar 10–11 '27 • Stowe, VT

Telemark Development Team Tryout

Mar 10–11 '27 • Killington, VT

★ SPRING RALLY

Whiteface, NY • Apr 1–4

Alpine Spring Academy

Apr 1–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Children's Instructor Spring Rally

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Adaptive Spring Rally

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Alpine Spring Rally

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Snowboard Spring Rally

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Telemark Spring Rally

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

★ LAST LAPS & CHATS FOR THE SEASON

Killington & Sugarloaf • Apr 9–18

Eastern Snowsports Management Roundup - 1 Day

Apr 9 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Intermediate/Advanced Trees & Steeps - 1 Day

Apr 9 '27 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Steeps Camp - 1 Day

Apr 9 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Last Laps

Apr 10–11 '27 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Last Laps

Apr 10–11 '27 • Killington, VT

Telemark Last Laps

Apr 10–11 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Ski Beach Bonanza

Apr 17–18 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

PSIA-AASI EASTERN — 2026–27 EDUCATION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Education & Prep Event details only — for the complete schedule, including Assessments and any updates, scan the QR code or visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar

Scan for Assessments &
the full, up-to-date calendar
easternsnowpros.org/calendar



ADAPTIVE

Adaptive Mini Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Adaptive Eastern Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Adaptive Snowboard Techniques

Jan 6 '27 • Ski Sundown, CT

Freddie's Friday - Adaptive ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Freddie's Friday - Adaptive ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Pico Mountain, VT

Adaptive Level I Prep - VII/Cog

Jan 9–10 '27 • Pico Mountain, VT

Adaptive FUNdamentals of Instructing Neurodiverse Athletes

Jan 13–14 '27 • STRIDE at Jiminy Peak, MA

Freddie's Friday - Adaptive ★ FEATURED

Jan 15 '27 • STRIDE at Jiminy Peak, MA

Adaptive FUNdamentals of Instructing Neurodiverse Athletes

Jan 20–21 '27 • Mount Snow Adaptive, VT

Adaptive Alpine Level II Prep

Jan 25–26 '27 • HoliMont, NY

Adaptive Advanced Tethering (Holiday Valley and HoliMont)

Jan 28–29 '27 • Lounsbury at Holiday Valley, NY

Freddie's Friday - Adaptive ★ FEATURED

Jan 29 '27 • Wachusett, MA

Adaptive Training Strategies for Instructor Success - 1 Day

Jan 30 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

All Lessons are Adaptive

Feb 2–3 '27 • King Pine, NH

Adaptive Training Strategies for Instructor Success

Feb 2 '27 • Liberty Mountain, PA

Adaptive Advanced Tethering

Feb 4–5 '27 • Mount Sunapee, NH

Adaptive Level I Prep

Feb 8–9 '27 • Tussey Mountain, PA

All Lessons are Adaptive

Feb 10–11 '27 • Blue Mountain, PA

Adaptive Training Strategies for Instructor Success - 1 Day

Feb 12 '27 • Dry Hill, NY

Adaptive Mono & Bi-Skiing - Personal Performance

Feb 22–23 '27 • Snowshoe Mountain, WV

Adaptive FUNdamentals of Instructing Neurodiverse Athletes

Mar 1–2 '27 • Adaptive Sports Foundation (ASF) at Windham, NY

Adaptive Mono & Bi-Skiing - Personal Performance

Mar 9–10 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Adaptive Advanced Tethering

Mar 16–17 '27 • Maine Adaptive @ Sunday River, ME

Adaptive Spring Rally ★ FEATURED

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country Skiing / Teaching Improvement

Dec 12–13 '26 • Garnet Hill XC, NY

Cross Country Instructor Training Course

Dec 19–20 '26 • Bretton Woods XC, NH

Cross Country Classic / Skating Improvement

Jan 23–24 '27 • Woodstock Inn XC, VT

Cross Country Classic Only Ski Improvement

Jan 27–28 '27 • Notchview XC, MA

Cross Country Video Ski Improvement

Feb 6–7 '27 • Jackson XC, NH

Cross Country Ski/Teach Improvement

Feb 25–26 '27 • Mount Van Hoevenberg, NY

Cross Country Personal Skate Improvement

Feb 27–28 '27 • Waterville Valley Nordic Center, NH

Cross Country Lite Backcountry Tour

Mar 3–4 '27 • Stowe, VT

FREESTYLE

Alpine Intro to Freestyle - 1 Day

Jan 15 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Alpine Intro to Freestyle - 1 Day

Jan 21 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Freestyle Specialist Prep - 1-Day

Jan 21 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Snowboard Women's Freestyle Camp

Feb 1–2 '27 • Loon Mountain, NH

Alpine Intro to Freestyle - 1 Day

Feb 3 '27 • Cranmore, NH

Alpine Intro to Freestyle - 1 Day

Feb 11 '27 • Killington, VT

Freestyle Specialist Prep - 1-Day

Feb 11 '27 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Women's Camp

Feb 24–25 '27 • Jay Peak, VT

Alpine Half Pipe Camp

Mar 1–2 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Intro to Freestyle - 1 Day

Mar 1 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Snowboard Freestyle Camp

Mar 16–17 '27 • Killington, VT

PSIA-AASI EASTERN — 2026–27 EDUCATION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Education & Prep Event details only — for the complete schedule, including Assessments and any updates, scan the QR code or visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar

Scan for Assessments &
the full, up-to-date calendar
easternsnowpros.org/calendar



ALPINE

Alpine Mini Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Alpine Eastern Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Alpine Summit Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Alpine Coaching High End Skiing

Jan 4–5 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Alpine Dev Team Tryout Prep

Jan 4–5 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Alpine Level II Intensive Prep - Skiing

Jan 4–5 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Level II Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 4–5 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

Alpine Level III Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 4–5 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

Alpine Level I Prep - 2-Day

Jan 6–7 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Alpine Level III Prep - Teaching & People Skills

Jan 6–7 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Jan 6–7 '27 • Liberty Mountain, PA

Alpine Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 6–7 '27 • Liberty Mountain, PA

Alpine Movement Analysis 101

Jan 6–7 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Level II Intensive Prep - Teaching/Tech MA

Jan 6–7 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Movement Analysis 201

Jan 6–7 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Level III Prep Series

Jan 8–22 '27 • Cannon Mountain, NH

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Alpine Level III Prep Series

Jan 8–22 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Level III Prep Series

Jan 8–22 '27 • Laurel Mountain, PA

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Ragged Mountain, NH

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Stowe, VT

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Stratton, VT

Alpine Level I Prep - 2-Day

Jan 11–12 '27 • Gunstock, NH

Alpine Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 11–12 '27 • Gunstock, NH

Alpine Dev Team Tryout Prep

Jan 11–12 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Level II Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 11–12 '27 • Massanutten, VA

Alpine Level I Prep - 2-Day

Jan 11–12 '27 • National Winter Activity Center, NJ

Alpine Level II Intensive Prep - Skiing

Jan 11–12 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Jan 12–13 '27 • Beech Mountain, NC

Alpine Level II Prep - Teaching & People Skills

Jan 12–13 '27 • Beech Mountain, NC

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Jan 13–14 '27 • Liberty Mountain, PA

Alpine Coaching High End Skiing

Jan 13–14 '27 • Liberty Mountain, PA

Alpine Alumni Staff Training

Jan 13–14 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 13–14 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine Level II Intensive Prep - Teaching/Tech MA

Jan 13–14 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Alpine Level II Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 13–14 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Alpine Level III Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 13–14 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 15 '27 • Greek Peak, NY

Alpine Race Clinic

Jan 19–20 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Alpine Movement Analysis 101

Jan 19–20 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Alpine Teaching Through Exploration

Jan 19–20 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Alpine Movement Analysis 201

Jan 19–20 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Alpine Level III Intensive Prep - Skiing

Jan 19–20 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Alpine Level I Prep - 2-Day

Jan 19–20 '27 • Wisp, MD

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Jan 20–21 '27 • Dartmouth Skiway, NH

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Jan 21 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Alpine Teaching Through Exploration

Jan 21–22 '27 • Smugglers Notch, VT

Alpine Level III Intensive Prep - Teaching/Tech MA

Jan 21–22 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Jan 21–22 '27 • Wintergreen, VA

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 22 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 25–26 '27 • Attitash Mountain, NH

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Jan 25–26 '27 • HoliMont, NY

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Jan 25–26 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Alpine Level II Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 25–26 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Alpine Dynamic Diamonds

Jan 25–27 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Jan 25–26 '27 • Wachusett, MA

Alpine Level I Prep - 2-Day

Jan 25–26 '27 • Wachusett, MA

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Jan 25–26 '27 • Windham Mountain, NY

Alpine Intensive Stance & Alignment

Jan 25–26 '27 • Windham Mountain, NY

Alpine Level II Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 25–26 '27 • Windham Mountain, NY

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Jan 26 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Alpine Level III Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 27–28 '27 • Cannon Mountain, NH

Alpine Skiing Mechanics

Jan 27–28 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Jan 27–28 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

PSIA-AASI EASTERN — 2026–27 EDUCATION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Education & Prep Event details only — for the complete schedule, including Assessments and any updates, scan the QR code or visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar

Scan for Assessments & the full, up-to-date calendar
easternsnowpros.org/calendar



ALPINE (continued)

Alpine Level I Prep - 2-Day

Jan 27–28 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Jan 27 '27 • Wachusett, MA

Alpine Skiing for Women Instructors

Jan 27–28 '27 • Windham Mountain, NY

Alpine Skiing Mechanics

Jan 27–28 '27 • Windham Mountain, NY

Alpine Movement Analysis 101

Jan 28–29 '27 • Catamount, NY

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Jan 28–29 '27 • Powder Ridge, CT

Alpine Level I Prep - 2-Day

Jan 28–29 '27 • Powder Ridge, CT

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 29 '27 • Blue Mountain, PA

Freddie's Friday - Alpine ★ FEATURED

Jan 29 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 1 '27 • Bretton Woods, NH

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 1–2 '27 • Elk Mountain, PA

Alpine Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Feb 1–2 '27 • Elk Mountain, PA

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Feb 1–2 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Level II Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Feb 1–2 '27 • Jiminy Peak, MA

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 2–3 '27 • Bretton Woods, NH

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 3 '27 • Belleayre Mountain, NY

Alpine Skiing Mechanics

Feb 3–4 '27 • Blue Knob, PA

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Feb 3–4 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Teaching Through Exploration

Feb 3–4 '27 • Jiminy Peak, MA

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 3–4 '27 • Jiminy Peak, MA

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 3–4 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

Alpine Coaching High End Skiing

Feb 3–4 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

Alpine Eastern Trainer Academy

Feb 4–5 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Feb 4–5 '27 • Waterville Valley, NH

Alpine Level II Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Feb 4–5 '27 • Waterville Valley, NH

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Feb 4–5 '27 • Winterplace, WV

Alpine Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Feb 4–5 '27 • Winterplace, WV

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 5 '27 • Mount Southington, CT

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 5 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 5 '27 • Wintergreen, VA

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Feb 8–9 '27 • Mount Sunapee, NH

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Feb 8–9 '27 • Mount Sunapee, NH

Alpine Race Clinic

Feb 8–9 '27 • Mount Sunapee, NH

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 8 '27 • Ski Roundtop, PA

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Feb 8–9 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine Coaching High End Skiing

Feb 8–9 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine Level III Orientation - 1 Day

Feb 8 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Feb 8–9 '27 • Bristol Mountain, NY

Alpine Movement Analysis 101

Feb 9–10 '27 • Ski Roundtop, PA

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Feb 9–10 '27 • Ski Roundtop, PA

Alpine Movement Analysis 201

Feb 9–10 '27 • Ski Roundtop, PA

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 10–11 '27 • Holiday Valley, NY

Alpine Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Feb 10–11 '27 • Holiday Valley, NY

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Feb 10–11 '27 • McIntyre, NH

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus - 1 Day

Feb 10 '27 • Ski Sundown, CT

Alpine Intermediate/Advanced Trees & Steeps - 1 Day

Feb 10 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine Dev Team Tryout Prep

Feb 11–12 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Race Slalom & Giant Slalom

Feb 11–12 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 12 '27 • Holiday Valley, NY

Alpine Level I Prep - 3-Day

Feb 22–24 '27 • Belleayre Mountain, NY

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 22 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Dynamic Diamonds

Feb 22–24 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 22–23 '27 • Timberline, WV

Alpine Coaching High End Skiing

Feb 22–23 '27 • Timberline, WV

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Feb 23–24 '27 • Catamount, NY

Alpine Movement Analysis 101

Feb 23–24 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Movement Analysis 201

Feb 23–24 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Teaching Through Exploration

Feb 23–24 '27 • King Pine, NH

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 23–24 '27 • King Pine, NH

Alpine Dynamic Diamonds

Feb 24–26 '27 • Cannon Mountain, NH

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 24 '27 • Cataloochee, NC

Alpine Advanced Moguls

Feb 24–25 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine Level III Prep - Skiing & Tech/MA Skills

Feb 24–25 '27 • Stowe, VT

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Feb 24 '27 • Timberline, WV

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 25–26 '27 • Bryce, VA

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Feb 25–26 '27 • Cataloochee, NC

PSIA-AASI EASTERN — 2026–27 EDUCATION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Education & Prep Event details only — for the complete schedule, including Assessments and any updates, scan the QR code or visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar

Scan for Assessments &
the full, up-to-date calendar
easternsnowpros.org/calendar



ALPINE (continued)

Alpine Intermediate/Advanced Trees & Steeps - 2-Day

Feb 25–26 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Intro to Trees & Steeps

Feb 25–26 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Alpine Basic Stance & Alignment

Feb 25–26 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Alpine Dynamic Diamonds

Mar 1–3 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Alpine Intensive Stance & Alignment

Mar 1–2 '27 • Windham Mountain, NY

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Mar 2–3 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Mar 2–3 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Mar 2–3 '27 • Windham Mountain, NY

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Mar 3 '27 • Cannon Mountain, NH

Alpine Alpine Intro to Moguls

Mar 4–5 '27 • Belleayre Mountain, NY

Alpine Intermediate Moguls

Mar 4–5 '27 • Belleayre Mountain, NY

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Mar 4–5 '27 • Big Bear, PA

Alpine Intermediate/Advanced Trees & Steeps - 2-Day

Mar 4–5 '27 • Mad River Glen, VT

Alpine Intro to Trees & Steeps

Mar 4–5 '27 • Mad River Glen, VT

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Mar 4–5 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Mar 5 '27 • Ski Butternut, MA

Alpine Skiing for Women Instructors

Mar 8–9 '27 • Burke Mountain, VT

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Mar 8–9 '27 • Burke Mountain, VT

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Mar 8–9 '27 • Camelback, PA

Alpine Skiing Mechanics

Mar 8–9 '27 • Gunstock, NH

Alpine Level III Orientation - 1 Day

Mar 8 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Alpine Movement Analysis 101

Mar 10–11 '27 • Gunstock, NH

Alpine Movement Analysis 201

Mar 10–11 '27 • Gunstock, NH

Alpine Coaching High End Skiing

Mar 10–11 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Mar 10–11 '27 • Song Mountain, NY

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Mar 12 '27 • Camelback, PA

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Mar 12 '27 • Gunstock, NH

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Mar 12 '27 • Song Mountain, NY

Alpine One Day Fun Day

Mar 15 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Mar 15–16 '27 • Ski Butternut, MA

Alpine Intro to Moguls

Mar 16–17 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Intermediate Moguls

Mar 16–17 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Update: Skiing & Technical Skills Focus

Mar 17–18 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Alpine Dynamic Blues

Mar 18–19 '27 • Jay Peak, VT

Alpine Intermediate/Advanced Trees & Steeps - 2-Day

Mar 18–19 '27 • Jay Peak, VT

Alpine Intro to Trees & Steeps

Mar 18–19 '27 • Jay Peak, VT

Alpine Update: Teaching Skills Focus

Mar 18–19 '27 • Okemo, VT

Alpine Intro to Moguls

Mar 18–19 '27 • Waterville Valley, NH

Alpine Advanced Moguls

Mar 18–19 '27 • Waterville Valley, NH

Alpine Intermediate Moguls

Mar 18–19 '27 • Waterville Valley, NH

Alpine Level III Orientation - 1 Day

Mar 22 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Spring Academy ★ FEATURED

Apr 1–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Alpine Spring Rally ★ FEATURED

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Alpine Intermediate/Advanced Trees & Steeps - 1 Day ★ FEATURED

Apr 9 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Last Laps ★ FEATURED

Apr 10–11 '27 • Killington, VT

Alpine Ski Beach Bonanza ★ FEATURED

Apr 17–18 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

★ CERTIFICATION INFORMATION & CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS

Including Freestyle & Children's Specialist, PSIA-AASI Eastern also outlines certification pathways for Adaptive, Alpine, Cross Country, Snowboard, and Telemark at easternsnowpros.org/education.



PSIA-AASI EASTERN — 2026–27 EDUCATION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Education & Prep Event details only — for the complete schedule, including Assessments and any updates, scan the QR code or visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar

Scan for Assessments &
the full, up-to-date calendar
easternsnowpros.org/calendar



SNOWBOARD

Snowboard Mini Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Level I Prep - 3 Day

Dec 14–16 '26 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Eastern Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Summit Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 1 Day

Jan 2 '27 • Bromley, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 1 Day

Jan 3 '27 • Powder Ridge, CT

Snowboard Level I Prep - 3 Day

Jan 4–6 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 4–5 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 4–5 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 5–6 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 5–6 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 7–8 '27 • Blue Mountain, PA

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 7–8 '27 • Blue Mountain, PA

Snowboard 40+ Update Clinic

Jan 7–8 '27 • Hunter Mountain, NY

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 1 Day

Jan 8 '27 • Wachusett, MA

Snowboard 40+ Update Clinic

Jan 11–12 '27 • Seven Springs, PA

Snowboard Level I Prep - 2-Day

Jan 12–13 '27 • Berkshire East, MA

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 12–13 '27 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 12–13 '27 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Level III Prep - Ride & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 12–13 '27 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Level III Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 12–13 '27 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Dev Team Tryout Prep

Jan 13–14 '27 • Stowe, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 1 Day

Jan 15 '27 • Gunstock, NH

Snowboard Movement Analysis/Technical Understanding Improvement

Jan 19–20 '27 • Ski Roundtop, PA

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 19–20 '27 • Snowshoe Mountain, WV

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 19–20 '27 • Snowshoe Mountain, WV

Snowboard Teaching Improvement

Jan 19–20 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 20–21 '27 • Greek Peak, NY

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 20–21 '27 • Greek Peak, NY

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 2-Day

Jan 21–22 '27 • Sugarloaf, ME

Snowboard Trees and Steeps Camp

Jan 25–26 '27 • Stowe, VT

Snowboard Level III Prep - Ride & Tech/MA Skills

Jan 25–26 '27 • Stowe, VT

Snowboard Level III Prep - Teach/People Skills

Jan 25–26 '27 • Stowe, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 1 Day

Jan 26 '27 • Greek Peak, NY

Freddie's Friday - Snowboard ★ FEATURED

Jan 29 '27 • Jay Peak, VT

Snowboard Intro to Trees

Feb 4–5 '27 • Stratton, VT

Snowboard Level I Prep - 2-Day

Feb 4–5 '27 • Stratton, VT

Snowboard 30 Year Celebration - Shreducation Reunion ★ FEATURED

Feb 4–5 '27 • Stratton, VT

Snowboard Trees and Steeps Camp

Feb 6–7 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Snowboard Level I Assessment Prep

Feb 8–9 '27 • Liberty Mountain, PA

Snowboard Movement Analysis and Technical Understanding

Feb 8–9 '27 • Liberty Mountain, PA

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Feb 11–12 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Feb 11–12 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Snowboard Level III Prep - Ride & Tech/MA Skills

Feb 11–12 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Snowboard Level III Prep - Teach/People Skills

Feb 11–12 '27 • Mount Snow, VT

Snowboard Level I Prep - 3 Day

Feb 22–24 '27 • Belleayre Mountain, NY

Snowboard Trees and Steeps Camp

Feb 22–23 '27 • Jay Peak, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 2-Day

Feb 25–26 '27 • Cataloochee, NC

Snowboard 40+ Update Clinic

Feb 25–26 '27 • Peek n Peak, NY

Snowboard Half Pipe Camp

Mar 1–2 '27 • Okemo, VT

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Mar 4–5 '27 • Loon Mountain, NH

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Mar 4–5 '27 • Loon Mountain, NH

Snowboard Level III Prep - Ride & Tech/MA Skills

Mar 4–5 '27 • Loon Mountain, NH

Snowboard Level III Prep - Teach/People Skills

Mar 4–5 '27 • Loon Mountain, NH

Snowboard Trees and Steeps Camp

Mar 4–5 '27 • Smugglers Notch, VT

Snowboard Level I Prep - 2-Day

Mar 8–9 '27 • Stowe, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 1 Day

Mar 9 '27 • Stowe, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 1 Day

Mar 10 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Snowboard Corduroy and Carving

Mar 11–12 '27 • Hermitage Club, VT

Snowboard Splitboard Camp

Mar 11–12 '27 • Hermitage Club, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 1 Day

Mar 12 '27 • Kissing Bridge, NY

PSIA-AASI EASTERN — 2026–27 EDUCATION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Education & Prep Event details only — for the complete schedule, including Assessments and any updates, scan the QR code or visit easternsnowpros.org/calendar

Scan for Assessments & the full, up-to-date calendar
easternsnowpros.org/calendar



SNOWBOARD (continued)

Snowboard Advanced Trees and Steeps

Mar 15–16 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Snowboard Level II Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Mar 16–17 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Snowboard Level II Prep - Teach/People Skills

Mar 16–17 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Snowboard Level III Prep - Riding & Tech/MA Skills

Mar 16–17 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Snowboard Level III Prep - Teach/People Skills

Mar 16–17 '27 • Sugarbush, VT

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 2-Day

Mar 29–30 '27 • Attitash Mountain, NH

Snowboard Level I Assessment

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Snowboard Spring Rally ★ FEATURED

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Snowboard Riding Improvement - 2-Day

Apr 5–6 '27 • Sunday River, ME

Snowboard Steeps Camp - 1 Day ★ FEATURED

Apr 9 '27 • Killington, VT

Snowboard Last Laps ★ FEATURED

Apr 10–11 '27 • Killington, VT

TELEMARK

Telemark Mini Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 12–13 '26 • Killington, VT

Telemark Early Season Primer

Dec 14–15 '26 • Loon Mountain, NH

Telemark Eastern Academy ★ FEATURED

Dec 14–18 '26 • Killington, VT

Telemark Early Season Primer - Rentals Available

Dec 19–20 '26 • Seven Springs, PA

Freddie's Friday - Telemark ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • HoliMont, NY

Freddie's Friday - Telemark ★ FEATURED

Jan 8 '27 • Killington, VT

Telemark Intermediate/Advanced Trees & Steeps

Jan 21–22 '27 • Laurel Mountain, PA

Telemark Skiing Improvement

Jan 27–28 '27 • Camden Snow Bowl, ME

Telemark Free Heel Women

Jan 31–Feb 1 '27 • Pico Mountain, VT

Telemark Southern Nordic Hoedown ★ HIGHLIGHTED

Feb 1–3 '27 • Timberline, WV

Telemark Level I & II Assessment Prep

Feb 8–9 '27 • Killington, VT

Telemark Level III & Dev Team Assessment Prep

Feb 8–9 '27 • Killington, VT

Telemark Trees & Steeps

Feb 11–12 '27 • Black Mountain Of Maine, ME

Telemark Skiing Improvement

Feb 22–23 '27 • Camelback, PA

Telemark Intro to Tele - PM Event

Feb 22–23 '27 • Wachusett, MA

Telemark Carving Clinic

Feb 23–24 '27 • Okemo, VT

Telemark Video Ski Improvement

Feb 24–25 '27 • HoliMont, NY

Telemark Off Piste and Steeps

Feb 25–26 '27 • Mad River Glen, VT

Telemark Intro to Bumps and Trees

Mar 1–2 '27 • Bretton Woods, NH

Telemark Interm/Adv Trees & Steeps

Mar 4–5 '27 • Jay Peak, VT

Telemark Northern Nordic Hoedown ★ HIGHLIGHTED

Mar 16–18 '27 • Gore Mountain, NY

Telemark Spring Rally ★ FEATURED

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Telemark Level I Assessment

Apr 3–4 '27 • Whiteface, NY

Telemark Last Laps ★ FEATURED

Apr 10–11 '27 • Killington, VT

★ FREESTYLE SPECIALIST

FS1 → FS2 → FS3 • specialist certificate program

FS1

Level I+ • beginner/novice zone • XS–S park features • e-learning course prerequisite

FS2

Level II+ • intermediate/advanced zone • XS–M features • e-learning course prerequisite

FS3

Level II+ • advanced zone • all park features

★ CHILDREN'S SPECIALIST

CS1 → CS2 • specialist certificate program

CS1

Level I+ • e-learning course prerequisite • on-snow evaluation

CS2

Level II+ • workbook & quiz prerequisite • on-snow roundtable • on-snow evaluation

OFFICIAL NOTICE

PSIA-AASI Eastern Region Annual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 4:30PM

Grand Summit Hotel - Northstar Room
Killington, Vermont

During this meeting, hear about the state of our organization and future plans from CEO Kathy Brennan and representatives from the Board of Directors. Also, take this opportunity to ask a question or make a suggestion. Following the meeting, minutes will be made available on the [Easternsnowpros.org](https://easternsnowpros.org) website.

For members unable to attend this meeting, a virtual membership meeting is planned for February 10th at 7pm.

Save the Date!

More details on the Virtual Membership meeting in February to come soon.

Scholarship Application Period Open Until November 1

The Eastern Region has scholarship money available to support members who want to develop personally and professionally by participating in events. The list of scholarships (and there are plenty of them!) include two that were introduced last year – the A. Dale Schaefer Scholarship Fund and the Matt Erickson Memorial Scholarship.

Some scholarships have eligibility stipulations or guidelines about what they can be used for, while others – like the Membership Scholarship – are open to any member to be used for any event on the calendar. Check out all of the Eastern scholarships – and the scholarship application – at <https://easternsnowpros.org/scholarships/>.

The opportunity to apply is open. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2026. Apply for a scholarship today!



Get your shirt and support the Eastern Education Foundation!



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

Check out all the great designs at Bonfire!

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



AROUND THE EAST

Member Awards

By Kathy Brennan
Eastern Region CEO

Honoring Outstanding Members: 2026 Eastern Region Award Recipients

Each year, the Eastern Region recognizes members whose contributions extend well beyond their own skiing or riding. They teach, mentor, volunteer, build programs, and strengthen the communities around them. This year, our Board of Directors selected five deserving members for recognition: one recipient of Eastern Lifetime Membership and four recipients of the Community Recognition Award.



Eastern Lifetime Membership
Robin Calitri - Cranmore Mountain Resort

Robin has spent more than five decades teaching, training, and developing others through snowsports. A PSIA member since 1977 and Alpine Level III instructor, his career has included leadership roles with numerous ski organizations, decades of instructor training, service as one of the Eastern Region's inaugural Area Representatives, and the creation of school programs that introduced generations of young people to the sport. Now a 50-year Eastern member, Robin continues to participate in our educational community. His lifetime of teaching, leadership, mentorship, and service exemplifies the commitment Eastern Lifetime Membership was created to recognize.



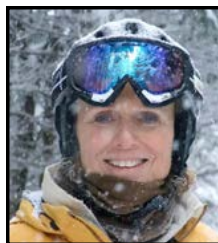
Community Recognition Awards
Beth DeFranco - Bristol Mountain / OASIS Adaptive Sports

For nearly two decades, Beth has been a driving force behind OASIS Adaptive Sports and its work providing outdoor recreation opportunities to military veterans with disabilities. As a volunteer, instructor, board member, and eventually president, Beth has helped recruit and train volunteers, secure adaptive equipment, raise funds, and create a welcoming environment where veterans can experience the joy of skiing and other outdoor activities.



Roberto "Robbie" Fontana - Hunter Mountain

Robbie proves you don't need decades of membership to make a difference. After learning at age 14 that some local children lacked adequate winter clothing, he began asking friends and family for donations. That simple idea grew into a multi-year effort through which Robbie has collected, cleaned, and distributed more than 500 pieces of winter clothing to children and families in the Hunter-Tannersville community. Now 19 and an Alpine Level I instructor, Robbie is an inspiring example of seeing a need and taking action.



Shelly Gambino - Ski Sundown / Summit Adaptive Sports

Nearly 20 years ago, Shelly helped establish an adaptive snowsports program at Ski Sundown and has been instrumental in its growth ever since. She developed a strong volunteer coach-training structure and continues to serve as Lead Trainer, mentoring the instructors and coaches who will carry the program forward. Her service has also included leadership with Summit Adaptive Sports and volunteering with adaptive kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking, and fundraising programs.



Bonnie Kolber - Eastern Children's Education Staff Coach

As a Snowboard Level III instructor, Examiner, Eastern Children's Staff Coach and Chair of the Eastern Snowboard Steering Committee, Bonnie has invested countless hours in helping other instructors grow. At the heart of her work is mentorship — helping members understand certification standards, connecting them with educational resources and trainers, and encouraging them to seek different perspectives. Her philosophy that "no one person has all the answers" reflects the collaborative approach she brings to developing the next generation of snowsports professionals.

Distinguished Service Awards

This year, PSIA-AASI Eastern is also recognizing three longtime members with Distinguished Service Awards, honoring exceptional and sustained contributions to Eastern and its members.



Brian Donovan

As Eastern AASI Coordinator, educator, coach and mentor, Brian has been a steady presence for Eastern snowboard instructors for years. His influence has also extended nationally through service on the National Team and as Chair of the National Snowboard Task Force. Throughout those roles, Brian has remained deeply committed to our members, education staff, and the quality of the programs we provide. His longstanding leadership and willingness to step forward whenever Eastern needs him exemplify distinguished service.



Victor "Vic" Antonelli

Vic's contributions to Eastern span more than five decades as an educator, examiner, mentor and organizational leader. During Eastern's formative years, he served on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer, taking significant hands-on responsibility for the young organization's finances. At the same time, he continued developing generations of instructors throughout Western New York. Colleagues remember Vic as a steady, thoughtful leader whose influence has strengthened both the Eastern Region and the people he has taught and mentored.



A. Dale Schaefer

For more than five decades, Dale has invested in the success of other Eastern members. His service has included Eastern's Marketing Committee and years of training and coaching certification candidates at Kissing Bridge. He personally established scholarship support for instructors in Western New York and, more recently, has continued that commitment through generous support of the PSIA-AASI Eastern Education Foundation. The way Dale gives back has changed over the years, but the purpose has remained remarkably consistent: helping other members learn, grow, and succeed.

Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating Robin, Beth, Robbie, Shelly, Bonnie, Brian, Vic, and Dale — and thanking them for the many different ways they strengthen our Eastern Region community.

These short profiles only begin to tell their stories. To learn more about our 2026 recipients, read about previous winners, or nominate a deserving Eastern member for future recognition, visit our Eastern Membership Awards page.





National Alignment in Action

By Keri Reid

Eastern Director of Education and Programs

May 29, 2026 marked an important milestone for PSIA-AASI: our National Alignment target. After years of volunteer task forces and collaboration across regions and disciplines, members will increasingly experience certification assessments delivered in a consistent, recognizable format across the country.

The result is a more consistent experience for members. Whether you pursue a certification in a different discipline or attend an assessment in another region, you'll increasingly encounter familiar formats, common terminology, and shared performance expectations.

But alignment is about more than making assessments look and feel consistent. It strengthens the value and portability of the credentials our members work hard to earn, providing greater confidence that a certification represents the same nationally recognized standard regardless of where it was earned. The alignment process has also created opportunities to identify and share best practices in assessment, strengthen consistency in Education Staff training, and provide instructors with clearer pathways for developing their skills.

Ultimately, the goal isn't simply to create better-prepared assessment candidates. It's to help develop better instructors—professionals who are more prepared to engage, support, and retain the skiers and riders they serve. When alignment works well, consistency in certification becomes a foundation for stronger education and better guest experiences across the country.

Despite the years-long effort and focus on the target date, reaching national alignment was never the finish line. Rather, it provides a common foundation from which we can continue to learn, refine, and improve. Our responsibility now is to evaluate what's working, identify opportunities, and continue strengthening the educational experiences we provide our members.

The Recap

Eastern has been among the Regions leading the phased implementation of these assessment formats over the past three seasons. This deliberate approach allowed our Task Force representatives to contribute meaningful feedback throughout development, helping shape the nationally aligned formats members will now experience across the country. Throughout that process, our focus remained constant: delivering fair, consistent, and high-quality assessments for every candidate.

Over the past three seasons, Eastern has gradually implemented the nationally aligned assessment formats. The Alpine and Snowboard Level I assessments transitioned first, followed by the Snowboard Level III modular format. Last season, Snowboard Level II and Alpine Level III adopted their new modular structures, while Telemark and Cross Country began offering standalone Level I assessments.

New This Year

Historically, the Eastern Alpine Level II certification consisted of two assessment days:

- A combined *Teach* day (Teaching & People and Technical Understanding & Movement Analysis)
- A *Ski* day

This season, Eastern will fully align with the national format, separating those components into three distinct day-long modules:

- Skiing Module
- Teach/People Module
- Technical/Movement Analysis Module

This change completes Eastern's transition to the nationally aligned modular assessment structure across Alpine certification.

With this final transition, Alpine and Snowboard certification assessments at every level are now offered in the nationally aligned format. This milestone reflects years of collaboration among the regions and marks the completion of Eastern's implementation of the national assessment framework for those two disciplines.

Telemark and Cross Country Level I certifications will now be offered exclusively as standalone assessment events, rather than through select educational events. Like Alpine and Snowboard, this distinction reinforces the separate purposes of education and assessment, allowing each to better support member development.

Adjustments to the Teach/People and Technical/Movement Analysis Modules

As we've gathered feedback from candidates, examiners, and regions across the country, we've identified opportunities to further streamline the flow of both the Teach/People and Technical/Movement Analysis modules. Members can expect some minor format adjustments this season intended to improve the assessment experience while maintaining the same performance standards and outcomes.

More to Come

National alignment remains an ongoing effort, with additional work underway across several discipline and specialist areas. Freestyle, Children's, and Adaptive National Task Forces are actively developing future changes that we anticipate beginning to implement in Eastern during the 2027–28 season.

We're also looking ahead to updates to certification prerequisites. Based on feedback from members and member schools, these changes are intended to encourage greater versatility across lesson and guest types while continuing our commitment to a consistent national certification experience. For the 2026–27 season, Eastern's current certification pathways will remain unchanged and can be found in the *Education* section of our Eastern Region website.

None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary commitment of the volunteers and education leaders across PSIA-AASI. Countless hours of collaboration have gone into developing, validating, refining, and implementing these changes. Here in Eastern, our Discipline Coordinators, Coaches, and Education Staff have worked tirelessly to prepare for this next chapter. Their dedication reflects what makes our organization so special, and I am deeply grateful for all they have contributed. “

Live like there's
SNOW
tomorrow.



More Ways to Learn, Grow & Connect

By Keri Reid

Eastern Director of Education and Programs

We've been busy behind the scenes building another season of opportunities to learn, grow, and connect, and I'm excited to share what's ahead. From new course offerings to thoughtful updates to member favorites, there's plenty to explore in the 2026-2027 lineup.

Learning & Development

Here are some of the things we have added.

- *Adaptive Track to the Eastern Trainer Academy.* The Adaptive track joins existing tracks for Alpine, Children's and Snowboard. Running concurrently with the Snowsports Management Seminar, the Academy is designed for Level II certified members who are already leading staff training at their resort—or looking to step into that role. Participants will explore how the National Standards, Learning Connection Model, and discipline-specific Fundamentals connect to first-tier assessments, while developing practical strategies for helping instructors build the skills and understanding they need for success. With four distinct tracks, the Academy creates space to dig into the unique needs of each area while strengthening the trainers who bring that learning back to their home resorts.
- *Continually evolving Alpine and Snowboard Assessments Preps.* As our Alpine and Snowboard assessment formats continue to evolve, so does the way we help certification candidates prepare for them. Level I and II colleges have been retired in favor of more focused prep offerings that more clearly separate education from assessment. For Level I candidates, we will continue to offer the two-day Prep events that have traditionally supported this first step in certification, while adding select three-day options for members who want additional time for guided practice and skill development. At Levels II and III, Prep offerings are better aligned with our new modular assessment formats, allowing candidates to target the areas where they want the most focused coaching: Skiing/Riding, Technical Understanding and Movement Analysis Skills, or Teaching and People Skills. Across all levels, these events are designed to give candidates meaningful opportunities to develop skills, receive actionable feedback, and then take the time to practice and consolidate their learning before stepping into an assessment. We believe the strongest certification outcomes come from meaningful preparation and practice over time, and this approach gives members clearer opportunities to identify where they need to grow and build those skills before assessment day.
- *Alpine Teaching Through Exploration.* This updated teaching improvement event is designed for instructors looking to strengthen their teaching skills or prepare for a future Level II assessment. The interactive, on-snow course focuses on creating purposeful, student-centered learning experiences. Through guided practice, peer teaching, discussion, and feedback, participants will explore strategies for better understanding their students, adapting lessons to changing needs, and using guided discovery, exploration, play, and other learner-centered approaches to promote meaningful learning and lasting performance changes.

- *Freestyle Specialist Prep.* Freestyle Specialist hopefuls will have a new opportunity to prepare this season with our one-day Freestyle Specialist Prep event. Open to both Alpine and Snowboard instructors working toward Freestyle Specialist 1 or 2, the event creates dedicated space to practice, receive individualized feedback, and better understand the current Freestyle Specialist Standards and assessment expectations. Depending on registration, Alpine and Snowboard participants may spend some of the day training together around shared teaching concepts and freestyle fundamentals, while still having opportunities for discipline-specific technical development. The goal is for participants to leave with a clearer picture of where they are in their preparation and actionable next steps for continuing to build toward their credential.

Coming Together

Two events celebrate anniversaries.

- *AASI Celebrates 30 Years.* This season, AASI will be celebrating 30 years of supporting snowboard instructors across the country, and Eastern will be marking the occasion with a special edition of our traditional AASI 20 Year Member event, with tiered pricing intended to recognize and thank our longtime members. We'll gather at Stratton, VT, a fitting location given its important place in snowboarding history as an early home to the sport, snowboard instruction, and competition. We're looking forward to bringing generations of Eastern snowboard educators together to celebrate this milestone and the members who have helped shape AASI along the way.
- *Eastern Region Learniversary.* We'll continue celebrating membership milestones with the third edition of our Eastern Region Learniversary, taking place at Stowe, VT, January 13-14. Each year, we look to host Learniversary at a location where Eastern members were gathering for assessments 50 years ago, connecting our history with the members carrying it forward today. This year, that tradition brings us to Stowe, where we'll recognize members celebrating milestones—including some with more than 50 years in our organization. By scheduling select Level I assessments alongside the celebration, some of our newest members have the opportunity to rub shoulders with those who have been part of our community for decades. Steeped in its own snowsports history, Stowe makes a fitting backdrop for celebrating where we've been, where we are, and the community that connects the two.
- *Snowsports Management Round-Up.* After a successful inaugural Snowsports Management Round-Up at Stratton last spring, we're expanding the opportunity with two events this season at Camelback, PA, and Killington, VT. Designed as a follow-up to the Snowsports Management Seminar, the Round-Up creates space for snowsports leaders to reconnect near the end of the season, reflect together, and strengthen the community that supports this work. The day pairs some relaxed time together on snow with an afternoon roundtable where participants can share experiences, exchange ideas and best practices, and talk through what worked—or didn't—during the season. Rather than a formal leadership development event, the Round-Up is facilitated by an Educational Staff member and is an opportunity to spend time with peers, learn from one another, and head into the off-season with fresh perspective and stronger connections across the Eastern Region.

continued on next page »

- *Spring Rally.* Set for the first weekend in April, we're pleased to announce Whiteface as this year's Spring Rally host. With education options for most disciplines and a wide range of certification and specialist opportunities, this event will continue to be a fun capstone to the season.

Pathways to Joining the Eastern Education Staff

Level III certified and ready to give back to our organization? Tryouts can be the gateway to new roles with the Eastern Region and the National Team.

- *Development Team Tryouts.* Development Team Tryouts are scheduled this season for Snowboard, Children's, Telemark, and Cross Country. This is the entry point to becoming an Ed Staff member. If selected, Development Team members have up to four years to train and understudy at Eastern events with the goal of elevation to an Examiner role. Alpine and Snowboard hopefuls can consider preparing by attending Development Team Prep events or by being nominated by their Snowsports School leader for a Futures Camp.
- *Eastern Team Tryout.* We are holding a second Eastern Team Tryout for this cycle, set for

January 20-21, 2027. Our goal is to closely mirror the National Tryout environment, and this second opportunity gives members who were unable to attend the Spring 2026 event another chance to try out. Selected team members benefit from structured training and support ahead of the 2028 National Team Tryout. Selection to the Eastern Team is also a prerequisite for receiving Eastern Region endorsement for the 2028 National Team Selection.

Our Eastern Region office team and education leaders have poured themselves into preparing for the 2026-27 season, and we're excited to see these opportunities come to life. Whether your goals this year include building new skills, preparing for an assessment, stepping into leadership, or simply reconnecting with this community, we hope you'll find something in the calendar that moves you forward. Thank you to all of our members who continue to invest in their own learning while creating great experiences for the skiers and riders they serve. We're looking forward to another season of learning, growing, and sliding together.❄️



Year-End Charitable Giving

If you would like to support our mission with a gift that does not affect your cash flow, consider making a gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have increased in value. Usually, a cash gift and a gift of stocks of equal value generate the same income tax charitable deduction. However, if you make a stock gift, you also receive an important additional tax benefit. By transferring instead of selling your stock, the IRS allows you to avoid all the associated capital gains tax on any increase in value. Donating stock is a win-win. It's a wonderful way to support our mission while generating some useful tax benefits in the process. Please contact us if you would like more information.

For other donation options, please go to easternsnowpros.org/donate.

PSIA-E Education Foundation & PSIA-AASI Eastern

Board of Directors

Board Chair

Katie Brinton

Vice Chair

Stephen Gover

Treasurer & Audit/Investment Chair

Shannon Rucker

Secretary

Landon Figg

Members

Marc Angelillo

Julianna Collins

Ben DeBenedictis

Aleks Smith

Emily Spiker

Past Chair & PSIA-AASI Board Rep

Peter Howard

CEO

Kathy Brennan

Committee Chairs & Coordinators

AASI Coordinator

Greg Fatigate

Adaptive Coordinator

Ed Meltzer

Alpine Certification Committee Chair

Chris Ericson

Area Rep Coordinator

Pat Doherty

Education Committee

Keri Reid

Mentorship Coordinator

Matt Lyerly

Nordic Coordinator

Mickey Stone

XC Assistant Coordinator

Mike Innes

*Snowsports School
Management Committee*

Eric Kelley



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.

Be a Better Teacher by Being a Better Student

By Jess Anthony

Alpine Development Team Member, CS2
Hunter Mountain, NY

The best coaches are the ones who continue investing in their own education. Even highly respected and experienced coaches recognize there is always more to learn. One example that has stuck with me was seeing a high-level examiner at my mountain attend a clinic alongside some of the staff. If someone with that much knowledge and experience is still willing to put himself in the role of being a student, there is something for all of us to learn from that example.

For me, every time I improve an aspect of my skiing, it leads to more rounded communication, stronger movement analysis, and ultimately better teaching as a coach. Here are three ways you can work on your skiing or riding to help you become a better coach.

Ski or ride with people who are better than you

One of the most valuable things you can do is surround yourself with strong skiers or riders and experienced coaches. More importantly, find a mentor who can provide honest feedback and help guide your development.

Having someone you can ask questions, discuss skiing or riding with, or lean on throughout your coaching journey is extremely valuable. Watching their skiing or riding can sharpen your movement analysis skills, and simply moving alongside them naturally pushes you to elevate your own performance by studying and emulating their movements. Not only does this develop your personal skiing or riding, but it also enhances your teaching. Maybe you notice the smooth finish of your mentor's turns or how efficiently they manage pressure along the length of the ski. Suddenly, you're not just skiing better, but you're gaining new concepts and visuals that can help your students better understand the movement as well.

I was lucky enough to have a mentor through my certification process. Like most coaches during the winter, our schedules were packed, and on-snow time together wasn't always easy to

coordinate. One day, I asked my husband to video me performing several Level III tasks and sent the videos to my mentor afterward for feedback. Even without skiing together in person, I still received valuable insight that helped my progression.

Use video analysis on your own skiing

As coaches, video review is one of the best tools we have. I primarily work with U14 athletes, and I constantly video athletes doing drills, freeskipping, and running gates. Often, I don't even need to say much. Once athletes see themselves on video, they immediately recognize what's happening. Many athletes don't feel when they aren't achieving success in fundamentals, but seeing it is another story.

The same applies to coaches.

Have you ever felt like you were laying down incredible turns, getting huge edge angles, maybe even dragging your hip on the snow, only to watch the video and realize it looked completely different than it felt? Most of us have experienced that disconnect. What we feel isn't always what we're actually doing.

That's why video is such a powerful learning tool. It creates awareness and gives immediate, objective feedback.

Video analysis is also an excellent way to refine movement analysis skills for certification exams as well. Slow-motion playback allows you to break movements down in detail and better understand what's really happening in the turn.

Put yourself out there and have co-workers, family or friends video you. Video is a great tool to practice MA and even help you self-coach.

Practice what challenges you

It's easy to spend time working on the things we already do well. Real growth happens when we intentionally practice the areas that make us uncomfortable.

I come from a race background, so carving clean turns feels natural. Put me in bumps, however, and I'm immediately outside my comfort zone. That's exactly why I seek them out whenever I can. If I come across berms, uneven terrain, or moguls, I make a point to ski them. I also try to put myself in situations where I have to work on my weaknesses in clinics or even teaching proper technique to my athletes.

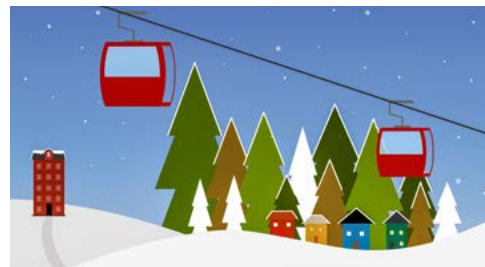
The best way to become a versatile skier or rider is to ski or ride all of it, even the areas that make you the most uncomfortable. Strengthening a skill firsthand gives you a better understanding of how to teach it more effectively.

Ways to continue improving

Professional development doesn't always have to mean a major commitment or expensive trip. There are many ways to continue learning and growing as a coach:

- Apply for scholarships and educational opportunities. I recently received the Nancy Oakes Hall Scholarship to attend National Academy, and it ended up being one of the best PSIA events I've ever attended. I had the opportunity to ski and learn from multiple national team members throughout the week.
- Take part in your in-house ski school clinics. Even if it's not a topic you may be interested in, try it out anyway. You may surprise yourself and learn something. Ski schools often have guest coaches come as well. I know if you work for an EPIC mountain, you can participate in any Vail in-house clinic at any mountain. Some Eastern Region mountains have former or current National Team members, Eastern Team members and examiners.
- Join the PSIA mentorship program. If you don't have a mentor already, PSIA offers the Next Steps mentorship program that you can sign up for. They try to coordinate by geographic area to make it easier to meet, but Zoom and phone calls are easy to coordinate.
- Attend events like Summit/Eastern Academy or Mini Academy in Killington. These are great opportunities to start the season with a clear focus for growth.
- Take advantage of PSIA's two-day clinics if longer events are difficult to fit into your schedule. Alpine updates now have a ski or teach focus.
- Listen to ski-focused podcasts to stay engaged with new ideas and perspectives.

The best coaches never stop learning. The more you challenge yourself as a skier or rider, the stronger you become as a teacher, mentor, and leader for your students. «



Beyond the “Learning Styles” Trap

Towards a Nuanced View of Using Multiple Teaching Modalities

By Rob Greenawalt
Alpine Level III, CS2, FS1
Belleayre Mountain, NY

Last winter, a colleague asked me what type of learner I was – thinker, doer, feeler, or watcher? I was aware of the hypothesis that different learners respond differently to different modes of instruction, but I felt that I could be any one of those depending on the subject and perhaps my mood at the time. Was I studying a legal principle? Learning a new rugby play? Figuring out how to perform pivot slip? Or preparing to ski a technical line? My favored “learning style” depends on what I am trying to do. But what about the idea that the learner’s preferred learning style should dictate the focus of one’s instruction? Isn’t that the heart of student-centered coaching? Maybe not.

It is a commonly held belief in many educational settings (not just coaching snowsports) that tailoring instruction to a student’s preferred learning style results in a better learning outcome. Instructors adapt their mix of teaching modalities to the particular learning style of their student or students in order maximize educational outcomes. This seemingly common-sense idea is derived in part from Howard Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences and its eight core intelligences: Verbal-Linguistic, Logical-Mathematical, Musical, Spatial-Visual, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal and Naturalistic.

Gardner’s theory critiques the idea that there is one kind of intelligence (I.Q.) and supports the idea that educators should recognize and support student achievements in each of these areas. I have had the good fortune to teach a season-long coaches-in-training program at my home mountain. Recognizing and encouraging the application and development of the different skills and attributes that each skier brings to our group has made for a much more enjoyable teaching and (I hope) learning experience than I would have had seeking to have my students conform to a cookie-cutter model of what it is to be a skier (or instructor).

It does not seem a big step from the concept of these multiple kinds of intelligence to conclude that we should tailor our instruction to the specific learning styles of individual students. Thus, a visual learner will be best served by demonstrations, an auditory learner by

explanation, and a kinesthetic learner through movement. However, while the idea of tailoring lessons to learning styles is widespread, that idea has not been supported by the science. Over the years, multiple studies have sought to determine whether there is a correlation between tailoring instructional modalities to self-expressed learning styles and improved education results.

None of these studies found support for the hypothesis that adjusting teaching style to self-professed learning style results in improved educational results. To the contrary, according to a 2020 *Journal of Educational Psychology* article “Maybe They’re Born With It, or Maybe It’s Experience: Toward a Deeper Understanding of the Learning Style Myth,” by Shaylene Nancekevell and others, the current view is that focusing instruction towards a preferred learning style actually hinders learning. In short, while ski instructors – especially in adaptive lessons – will continue to accommodate students differing abilities (such as visual or auditory impairment) the current science suggests that tailoring instruction to a student’s preferred learning method is a self-defeating exercise that limits rather than enhances learning.

But if the myth of tailoring our instruction to specific learning styles is self-defeating, where does that leave us as ski instructors? Should we just adopt a standard lesson progression, hone it to perfection and use it universally? Of course not. Discarding the “learning style” myth still brings us back to the student-centered approach of the PSIA/AASI Learning Cycle where every lesson we teach will have a mix of teaching modalities. In PSIA/AASI, we have adapted our VAK model from the more broadly used VARK model (Visual, Auditory, Reading, Kinesthetic). It is hard to imagine a ski lesson that does not include some combination of visual, auditory and kinesthetic activities, hopefully with each modality supporting and reinforcing the other. A mix of those teaching modalities are an essential part of any ski lesson with some adjustments based on the interests or abilities of the individual student, including but not limited to adaptive lessons. Even saying “Follow me and do what I do” implicates a mix of visual, kinesthetic and auditory learning, especially as we provide feedback to our students.

As instructors, we learn from and about our students. We should not limit ourselves to a single learning style. As we teach our students, we need to *see* what they are doing, *hear* what they are saying, and (sometimes) figure out through

movements how to help our students get from where they are to where they want to be as skiers. And we should work on developing and improving the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic modalities with our student-centered learning approach. As we mix, match, and switch between those modalities, we can hope to achieve a lesson where change is effected in our students’ skiing, they recognize that change, and they gain understanding of what *they* did to accomplish that change. That requires all three modalities, and asks us to be visual, auditory *and* kinesthetic, in our teaching and in our learning. What we show our students should match what we are telling our students and should be reflected in our *movements*. As I head into this upcoming ski season, I will strive to increase the precision of my demos and explanations and strive to be an active listener and observer of my students. And, in response to my colleague’s question, I am a Thinker, Feeler, Watcher, and Doer. As we all should be. «

By the Book

By David Marceau
Snowboard Level I
Whiteface, NY

It was cold and sunny the day I began one of my most rewarding challenges as an instructor. I sat on a bench, eye-to-eye with my new student, a second grader from New Jersey. His dad explained he could turn on his heel-side but not his toe-side. He wanted him to ride with the rest of the family on the whole mountain (without doing the “Turbo Leaf”).

This was right up my alley. My greatest joy as an instructor is helping riders who *kind of* get it but who are missing something. Like, maybe they can make it down a blue trail, but it ain’t pretty. They need a hand from a qualified expert and are smart and courageous enough to admit it – or Mom or Dad is.

I was certain I’d have this kid bombing down diamonds in no time. My confidence was quickly shattered.

Typically, I’ll begin these lessons by asking about their experience and goals and making a run or two to warm up and analyze their movements. In those few turns I’m able to see exactly what they do well and where they could use improvement. Then I know what to focus on first.

There are exceptions to every rule. This student was smart, fairly experienced, athletic, and eager to try whatever I threw at him. Still, after spending

continued on next page »

half the day together I could not get him to turn completely on his toe-side. I felt defeated. But I had hit it off with him, we'd had a lot of fun, and he requested me three more times.

In each lesson I tried every trick in the book, digging deep into every clinic I had attended, all my certification training, and the experience from thousands of previous students I had taught. Flexion, extension, tilt, pivot, twist, etc. Still, teaching "by the book" was not working. No matter what, he would start the turn but not fully commit. I felt bad for the kid because he shared with me how important it was for him to achieve his dad's goal of riding with the family.

After four private lessons I also felt for the dad, having invested time and money with little to show for it. On the plus side, I had gotten the student to greatly improve his overall ability. He was making beautiful, controlled turns and stops on the heel edge, employing all the lessons on board performance and movement we had worked on. Then, watching him come to a stop, a lightbulb went on. I envisioned something I had never seen in a clinic or a manual and never heard anyone talk about.

I knew my student could ride a bike, so I asked him to take off his board and show me how to stop a bike without using the brakes. He demonstrated the same movement he had done to stop with the board on, dragging his heel forward. I praised him and told him, "OK, now do it in the opposite direction." He swiped his toes backwards. I cheered and told him this was exactly what I wanted him to do with his back foot after initiating his toe-side turn with his front foot, to bring the back of the board all the way around.

We rode back up and then took off our boards again to go through the full progression, turn your head, pivot, and initiate with the front foot like we had worked on over and over, before swiping the back toes. We did this several times on flat terrain without our boards. Then we strapped in.

He got it on the first try! We rode all the way down, connecting turns the whole way without stopping once.

My student was beaming, exclaiming how happy his dad would be. I felt it too. My heart was pounding, in part because I had finally succeeded, but much more so on the part of this happy kid.

We did another run focusing on controlling the shape and size of turns. Finally, as a reward, I told him Last Run could be something he had repeatedly asked to do in each lesson. He wanted to hit the

terrain park. We had ridden through to check it out previously, but I would not let him try any features until he could speed-check and stop on either edge. Well, now he could do it, so I relented.

First, he hit the fun box, rode off the end of it without falling, and kept going. He rode up the first kicker checking his speed on both edges as he went. He didn't make it over the top and had to go around. On the second kicker he went a little faster and (barely) made it all the way over. On the third, he actually caught a little air and landed it! A switch had been flipped, and he suddenly went from a kid who could barely make it down greens to an intermediate rider in the course of two runs. Weeks of lessons all just clicked at once.

Apparently, we were being watched; as we exited the park my student's entire family was rallying there, taking video of his first hits, and whooping it up. I explained to his dad that I had improvised and taught his son something *which we might need to smooth out later in a future lesson* but for now it was clearly working beautifully.

I'd barely had time to finish this update (and accept my tip) before they were all on the lift on their way back up to the park, riding together as a family. ☙

Who Did You Ride With Today?

By Jamie Wells

Snowboard Level II, Alpine Level I, CS1 Mount Snow, VT and Greek Peak, NY

Last season I attended a Saturday evening tech talk. Our training manager asked: "Who did you ride with today?" One pro described how many people had been in their group, where they had ridden that day, their guests' riding styles, the skills the guests owned, where the guests needed improvement, and how everyone had handled the day's conditions. Then it was my turn. "Well," I replied, "I rode with Harry, Oliver, Joanne, and Franny today." (Names changed to protect the innocent.) "Harry has the memory of a goldfish and asks TWICE on every single lift ride when our next break will be because they're super motivated by mac and cheese. I have to give Joanne a challenge or some responsibility, or they'll check out completely and literally ride past our stopping point and back to the lift. Oliver doesn't like being put on the spot in front of the group, but they're so smart and will totally talk to me off to the side. And Franny wants me to measure how much air they get on every side hit."

My answer that night was very different than it would've been a few years ago. I used to give

answers that were highly skills or outcome focused. What changed? When I started working at a new resort and meeting new colleagues and winter family, I was reminded of the importance of curiosity and of something I model and share as a trainer to new coaches – the idea that meeting your guests is great but getting to know them is better.

So, when I reflected on the group I taught for the tech talk, I surprised myself with the detail I had about each student. Sure, I had descriptions of terrain, movements, tactics, and so forth. But what seemed most important were the details about each student that helped me engage each of them more effectively and give them a little bit more as a result. Harry was going to require instructions to be repeated a couple of times to make them stick. Joanne was (silently) enlisted to help herd and lead the crew. I would need to check with Oliver privately during lift rides to gauge our next steps. And Franny got that extra bit of float and distance when we talked about pulling the board up to us in the air.

I realized last season that there were elements of the People Skills model which I had stopped consciously practicing. Building trust and engaging in meaningful two-way communication are easily observable and demonstrable during trainings, clinics, and events. I find those are the fundamentals which are easiest to coach and receive feedback. With Harry, Oliver, Joanne, and Franny, I paid closer attention to the non-snow-sliding aspects. That required flexing those empathy muscles again and identifying my own resulting emotional state. I paid more attention to the interactions within the group (not just between me and the group) which shed light on their motivations. That gave me an "in" with each of them to connect more meaningfully. Now I had a more complete picture of who I was riding with. That led to stronger relationships and the sense of community I forged with this crew of four.

You're a pro. You're literally reading this in a pro newsletter. I'm not telling you anything you don't already know. Like so much else in our collective, on-going refinement of who we are as coaches, instructors, trainers, and humans, this is really just a reminder. Take a moment and ask yourself: Who did I ride with today? ☙





Professional Ski Instructors of America
Eastern/Education Foundation

5 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203
Phone: 518-452-6095

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit No. 249

Time Valued Material

"Looking to stay up to date on snowsports activities this winter?"

**Check out our "member-to-member" Facebook groups and join in on the conversations with
more than 3,900 of your friends and snowsports colleagues at**

facebook.com/groups/PSIAEast/ [and facebook.com/groups/AASIEast/](https://facebook.com/groups/AASIEast/)

