



NORTHERN INTERMOUNTAIN DIVISION
Professional Ski Instructors of America
American Association of Snowboard Instructors

SPRING NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2021

President's Letter

June 1, 2021

Greetings fellow PSIA-AASI members and snowsports educators!

I'd like to take an opportunity to help you understand a little more about how the "sausage is made" in this membership association.

The following is a quick run-down of information, found on our website: <https://www.psia-ni.org/download/PSIA-AASI-NI-Board-Governing-Policies-Manual-May-2020-.pdf>

Your PSIA-AASI Northern Intermountain Board of Directors is composed of 9 members. Directors are selected by majority vote in the spring of every year to sit for 3-year terms. There is no member school affiliation requirement; all active members of NI, in good standing, are eligible.

In June, your Board selects officers for 2-year terms from its 9 directors to assist in meeting our charge of stewarding the organization; those are the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

We have found great success in borrowing from our national affiliated partner, and utilizing a similar 6-committee structure. In this form, we engage our directors, who contribute their skills and strengths. I'll list the committees and their charges below:

1. Governance & Leadership Development Committee. Objectives: As directed by the Board or requested by the President, preparation and/or review of proposed policy/bylaws revisions and implications for Board consideration. Thorough orientation and training of new Board members. Recommendations for Board consideration regarding additional Board training opportunities to enhance the Board's governance skills and capabilities. Recommendations for Board consideration regarding Board and leadership development opportunities that would be of mutual value for PSIA-AASI and the Divisions. Composition: Vice President as Chairperson, Board Secretary and one additional Board member appointed by the Board at the Spring Board meeting; one member of the Administrative Staff in resource capacity.

2. Finance Committee. Objectives: Confirmation of auditor's independence and recommendation to Board for engagement of

auditor by no later than end of February each year. Annual specification of audit scope, consistent with Board monitoring schedule, including approval of any permitted non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditor. Assurance that the auditor has unfettered access to organizational management and records. Review with the independent auditor any problems encountered performing the audit, the audited financial statements, and any management letter provided by the auditor. Ensure annual filing(s) of relevant tax forms for the Non-Profit are completed by the auditors, (i.e., form 990 Non-Profit.). Recommendations for Board consideration regarding revisions to the Board's fiscal policies. "Direct Inspection" (internal audit) monitoring of compliance with the Board's fiscal policies (Financial Condition, Asset Protection, Budget, Compensation and Benefits), as directed/scheduled by the Board per Board Monetary Policy Monitoring Chief of Administration Performance. Oversight/Management of Investment Portfolio, per investment Policy. Assistance to the Administrative Staff in meeting budget needs. Composition: Treasurer as Chairperson, plus two or more Board members appointed by the Board each year at Spring Board meeting; one member of the Administrative Staff.

3. Membership Linkage Committee. Objectives: Ensure the Board is informed about values and perspectives of current membership, member schools and future membership. Ensure the membership is informed about the work of the Board. Composition: President as Chairperson, one board member, a representative from the Administrative Staff, no fewer than three Member School Management representatives and approximately four at-large members in good standing, appointed by the Board President each year at the Spring Board meeting.

4. Awards and Recognition Committee. Objectives: Review of Award/Recognition Selection Criteria and Process, and recommendations for revisions for Board consideration to update this policy. Fulfillment of the Awards consideration and determination process, as set forth in the Board's Awards and Recognition Criteria and Procedures Policy. Composition: Three board members (a Chairperson plus at least two additional Board members) and approximately four PSIA-AASI-NI members in good standing. The board members shall be appointed by the Board each year at the Spring Board meeting for one-year terms. The Board President shall appoint one of the Board members to serve as the committee chair. When feasible, the at-large members should be from different areas than the board members and from each other. The at-large members will be appointed by the Board President at the Spring Board meeting for 2-year terms.

PSIA-AASI NI

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Directors

Mason Frederickson
Cortney Bayuk
Jim Stevens
Jessica Wojack Kluth

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5. Education Foundation Advisory Committee. Objectives: Develop, update and work with staff to implement a fundraising plan for the Education Foundation that includes grants, donations, and strengthening scholarship programs. Acts as a review and selection committee for active grant and scholarship opportunities set up through the EF and/or creates subcommittees to meet the need of grant and scholarship distributions. Committee is also responsible to review EF Financials provided by the staff and suggest possible management of funds to the organization. Composition: The Treasurer, two additional Board members, and approximately two to six at large Members (all of whom need not necessarily be PSIA-AASI-NI members), all appointed by the Board at the Spring Board meeting. The at-large members shall serve two-year terms and may be re-appointed for a second two-year term. The Board President shall appoint one of the Board members to serve as the committee chair.

6. Executive Compensation Committee. Objectives: Recommendations for Board consideration regarding adjustments to the CoA's compensation and benefits package. To be presented to the Board in a timely manner to allow final action to be taken by the Spring Board meeting each year. Accompanying the recommendations, data as to comparable compensation for similarly qualified persons in comparable positions. Contemporaneous documentation and record-keeping with respect to the deliberations and decisions regarding CoA compensation. If directed by the Board, may commission a review by an independent consulting firm to evaluate PSIA-AASI-NI key executive compensation program against the competitive market. Composition: Board President as Chairperson, Treasurer, two to three Board members chosen by the Board at the Spring Board meeting.

These committees meet regularly and the Board holds a call on the fourth Monday of every month to keep updated and vote on proposals brought forth by committee work. The Board also holds two larger/longer meetings (open to all!) in the Fall/Winter and Spring. Board meetings and calls have four major categories into which our activities fit: generative discussion, strategy, finance, operations update.

As a member of NI, **YOU** select the Board, and the Board selects the Executive Director. The Executive Director is charged with ensuring your certification and education, and all the business that goes into making that happen.

The Board works closely with the administrative staff to look up and out at the horizon of what this association can and ought to be. We strive to look after your interests and help you get value out of your membership.

The Board is busy and we volunteer our time to this work because we have received from this organization both personal and professional benefits, and we wish to ensure your gains as well. I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

**Warm regards and chilly mornings,
Christian Luening, PSIA-AASI-NI President, Bogus Basin Resort**



Mastering the terrain, all moments great and small...

NI News Cont'd

Hello Northern Intermountain Division

That was quite a season! The challenges of connecting with our students while maintaining Covid-19 safety compliance were a grind at times. The reward of helping create fun and engaging outdoor experiences for people whose daily lives have been defined by quarantines, online school, and so many other challenges was truly magical. The value of the work you do out on the snow has seldom been clearer than it was over the past season. Thank you for doing what you do! We are proud to be associated with you.

I wrote most of those words for a member email that went out in mid-May and they capture a lot of what was special about the past year. The magic of skiing and riding and the value and importance of instruction as part of that process was evident in so many ways this year. Some of you had the busiest season you've ever had, while others opted to take the season off from teaching to enjoy time on snow with friends and colleagues. From my perspective it often seemed as though the joy of skiing, riding, and teaching as well as the challenges and frustrations of teaching and working on snow were magnified. It was wild ride.

Our PSIA-AASI Northern Intermountain Division owes so much to our individual members, our member schools, and our area partners. We had many long conversations with school managers about what could and could not take place in terms of education and certification events and then more discussion as those parameters changed. I'm grateful for the support of our host schools and areas and their willingness to work collaboratively to help us host education and certification events over the course of the season. I'm grateful to our individual members for their willingness to both communicate their needs as well as their willingness to be flexible. Our event calendar was a moving target and it was often frustrating to wonder when, where and if an event would be offered.

Looking ahead, we are working to build on the successes of the past season and address the weaknesses. Here are some initiatives for the 2021-22 season:

- *Continue to develop and improve our collaboration with member schools and area operators.*
- *Event calendar developed and communicated well in advance of the season, with a continued focus on keeping our rate of cancelled events as low as possible.*
- *Refinement of the custom request clinic process to ensure that members and schools have access to the education they need, when they need it.*
- *Education and certification events offered in all PSIA-AASI discipline areas (Adaptive, Snowboard, Alpine Skiing, Cross Country, Telemark, Children's, Freestyle, and Seniors).*
- *Alignment with updated assessment standards for Alpine, Snowboard, and Children's credentials.*
- *Improved access to certification training resources.*
- *Enhanced education and certification staff training as well as trainers' training and the development of a pipeline for those seeking to become trainers and division educators.*
- *Specialty education clinics (Video, race, etc.).*
- *Increased access to scholarship opportunities.*
- *Enhanced member communication and outreach.*

In addition to these initiatives, we will be returning to hosting a fall symposium event and will be holding our 50th anniversary symposium and celebration at Pomerelle April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of 2022.

We have a busy summer and fall ahead completing the planning and development work required to fulfill these initiatives. Feedback from you is encouraged and appreciated. If you're happy and excited about the way things are going, let us know what you like, so we can continue that focus. If you're frustrated and unhappy with what we have going on, let us know so we can better understand and address your frustrations.

I'm looking forward to the 2021-22 season and everything it has in store. Thank you for being you.

Sincerely,
Ben Roberts, PSIA-AASI-NI Executive Director, Bogus Basin Resort

PSIA-AASI NI

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Snowboard Certification/Freestyle:
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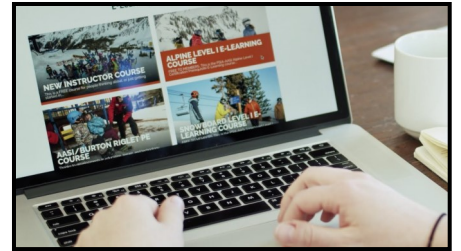
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Notes on CEUs

PSIA-AASI Certified members are required to earn 6 Continuing Education Units each year to maintain their certification. Many of you have been able to meet this requirement, but quite a few of our members have not. Covid-19 has presented a variety of challenges and we want to work with those of you who have not yet earned your 6 CEU's for the 2020-21 season.

We will be reaching out directly to those of you who have not yet earned 6 CEU's to be sure that our records are accurate and that you have the information you need. If you have not yet earned 6 CEU's here are some options:



- Earn them before June 30th with e-learning and webinars! Check the events calendar on www.psia-ni.org for a special Northern Intermountain webinar summer series.*
- You can also check for other online events offered by visiting www.thesnowpros.org and selecting "Events Calendar" from the "Events" dropdown menu at the top of the page. You can also check out webinars and e-learning content at www.lms.thesnowpros.org.*
- Did you take part in continuing education or professional development with another organization, high school, college, or take part in one of the member school clinics that occurred in many of our member schools? You can take advantage of our outside CEU process to have that learning apply towards your PSIA-AASI CEU's. There is a \$35 fee for 6 CEU's. Email Ben Roberts broberts@psia-ni.org or Nick Treat ntreat@thesnowpros.org for more information about this option.*
- Prefer to wait until next season? No problem! There is a \$15 CEU deferment fee,; pay this fee and simply earn your 6 2020-21 CEU's next season. This fee is assessed in the member billing process and you may see it on your renewal billing invoice. If you earn those CEU's before June 30th, the \$15 will be refunded to you.*
- Want to pay a little extra to make this go away? As a one-time Covid-19 exception, pay \$100 to have 6 CEU's applied to your 2020-21 education history. Email Ben or Nick (emails above) for more information about this option.*

Thank you for your service as Education Chair, Eric Zimmerman!

We thank Eric Zimmerman for 10 years of service as Alpine Education VP. Eric has been a valuable member of our volunteer leadership team. We are excited that he plans to continue as a member of the division's Education and Certification staff. Give Eric a high five when you see him.



Welcome to the Board, Jessica Wojack Kluth!

As the newest member of the Northern Intermountain Board of Directors, I would like to introduce myself and in return, hope to learn more about each of you as time passes. I was raised in Minnesota where my parents were HS Racers then Ski Instructors for Blizzard, a travelling ski school. Following in their footsteps, I also instructed for various smaller, Midwest areas in the late 70's until relocating to Idaho in 1993 for what was to be 3 years...now pushing 30. Working and travelling in the Chemical Field, Finance and then starting a family upon moving to Idaho removed me from instructing for a bit. My girls picked up on my love for skiing, which eventually got me started again at Magic Mountain about 12 years ago thanks to the Miller Family. As their Snowsports Director, I still instruct every possible chance I can and learn something new every lesson/day. It's been a climb, but with a group of amazing instructors and the support of Gary & Suzette Miller, Magic Mountain is now a PSIA/AASI Member School with several of us certified.

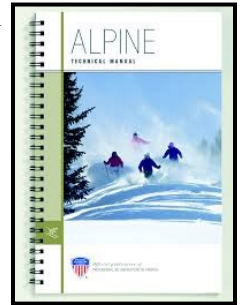
The certification process is so different now with the technology available compared to the big books, tons of paper and scribbled notes from way back when. Also, a world wide community available and willing to help at the stroke of a key almost instantly! One of my passions is working with youth, so the doors are always open with kids coming and going, working on their various 4-H projects, hanging out or catching a meal with us. In the winter, they are often catching rides to the "Mountain" with me. Please do not hesitate to contact me with ideas, concerns or just to "chat." We are all so fortunate to be involved in the Snowsports Industry! If this past year is any indication of the future, WOW, what a resurgence and opportunity we all have ahead of us!

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Alpine Update

We are working to fill the Alpine Education & Certification Chair role by early summer. This role will take on many of the responsibilities that Eric Zimmerman and Ben Roberts have been managing. We anticipate having this position filled by the time you are reading this newsletter; however, there will likely be opportunities to serve as a member of the Alpine committee. Please reach out to Ben at broberts@psia-ni.org for more information.

Looking ahead to the 2021-22 season and the updated Alpine Certification Standards, we anticipate some changes to our alpine certification processes. The Level 2 and 3 modules will remain similar, however, we anticipate that there are some technical knowledge and movement analysis that will be assessed during the skiing assessment day. All changes will be communicated clearly as far in advance as possible and we are planning to dedicate additional resources to our division's staff training as well as to training and communicating these changes with member school trainers.



PSIA-AASI National Team Selection took place in April at Breckenridge, CO and we would like to congratulate Matt Larson on being named as a Snowboard member of the National Team. We are proud of Weylin Barrett and Ben Roberts who represented us on the Alpine side and Charlie Phelan who represented us in Adaptive. Although Weylin, Ben, and Charlie were not named to the team, they represented the PSIA-AASI Northern Intermountain at the highest level of our profession and we are proud of their efforts.

PSIA-AASI-NI 2021 Award Winners—Congratulations to this year's award recipients!

Every year, the Northern Intermountain division recognizes members who have exceeded the mark in different ways as members, instructors and often mentors. The nominations come from fellow instructors, trainers or ski school directors and are presented to your PSIA-AASI-NI Board of Directors for consideration. While we still have not been able to formally recognize last season and this season's recipients, we do plan to at the next Spring Symposium Awards Banquet at Pomerelle in April 2022.



Lifetime Membership AND Lex Kunau Legends Divisional Awards: Tom Koto, formerly Bogus Basin.

In recognition of his many years of volunteer service to PSIA-AASI at both divisional and national levels, the PSIA-AASI national board of directors approved Tom's recognition during its Winter Board Meeting in January. Additionally, Tom was nominated by his peers to the Awards & Recognition

Committee and voted on the Board for the Lex Kunau Legends award.

Tom has served PSIA-AASI-NI as a member, instructor, chair, director of the board, President and as Interim Executive Director. Tom also served as a member and leader of the PSIA-AASI President's Council, working hard and with unwavering commitment for the advancement of our organization. In his NI roles, Tom was known to go above and beyond to communicate, collaborate and move things forward behind the scenes. Tom's work ethic and commitment to the industry adorns him as the man to "get the job done" with the utmost professionalism and

his infectious smile. A true learner and teacher at heart, Tom accomplished numerous certifications and accreditations. Tom is also known nationally as always pushing things forward in a positive manner, regardless of contention and challenges faced, and was recognized at the National Board Meeting in 2018 for his long-time commitment to PSIA-AASI. It is a great honor to present these awards to Tom. Thank you for your incredible service, and happy turns, Tom!

What does receiving the Lifetime Membership and Lex Kunau Legends award mean to you? I am honored and grateful for the nominations by fellow members, and approval by the NI and National Board of Directors. These awards are a true reflection of members, staff and leaders, who, over time, worked together in support and trust of what we as leaders worked to accomplish. These awards should not be about one person, but the collective efforts of many, at all levels from new instructors beginning their journey, seasoned instructors, educators and leaders of our organizations. The Lifetime Membership will allow me to contribute towards Division and National scholarships. I have so much respect for Lex Kunau, as he educated and guided my approach to member service and the Division's financial stability. I considered Lex my NI Father and mentor. Any award with his name is a worthy accomplishment!

Where and how did it all start for you? And over the years, as you have accomplished multi-discipline certifications and accreditations, what inspired this track? I was recruited to work for Recreation Unlimited (now Boise Adaptive Sports Education BASE) in 1984 and volunteered for 10 years, earning a Level II Adaptive Certification, eventually serving as Director my last 3 years. Then, I moved to the Bogus Basin Ski and Board School, where I earned my Level III Alpine and Telemark Certifications. I have also earned the CS1 and Senior Specialist II (Western Division). Education and continuing education is

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critical to maintaining certification/accreditation and keeping relevant in an evolving sport.

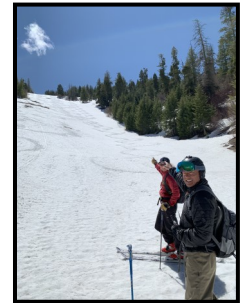
How do you feel your years of teaching, levels of certification, and overall commitment on so many levels with PSIA-AASI have evolved? I have been fortunate to have volunteered my entire professional career both in sports medicine and in the snowsports industry. Marcus Anderson pushed me to serve on the Northern Intermountain Board of Directors, because I was integral after attending a Board meeting. Serving on the NI Board, as a member and President, the PSIA-AASI President's Council and Chair gave me the opportunity to work with leaders and top educators and affiliates of our Division and National association and profession. These roles helped to validate Northern Intermountain's leadership, educational and certification/accreditation staff as well.

What advice would you extend to others on their PSIA-AASI journeys...self-improvement, certification, etc? I am excited to see new and younger member participation in education, certification/accreditation. Also, seeing that same interest in joining the Education/Certification Staff and more seasoned members trying out for National Team positions. We need to continue to develop pathways for success for these individuals.

What is next for you? Retirement has been good in spite of Covid. I've had an incredible 20-21 season, mainly Telemark

skiing with my old (and new) Tele-buds, along with trying to keep up with my Alpine friends. I do miss teaching, but not on powder days... I've taken a break and now am focused on volunteering and working with Reclaim Idaho, working towards citizen initiatives and funding for education.

Do you feel mentorship was a key element to your success? I can't stress enough how mentors have played an important role in my education and development in PSIA-AASI. Mentors like Doug Sato (Recreation Unlimited), Miguel Bilbao and Marcus Anderson (Bogus Basin), Lex Kuna, Weylin Barrett (Sun Valley) who on our way to a Fall Conference years ago helped me and the NI Board with his words of wisdom, "Every decision we make, should be made with the member in mind." As an individual, I am constantly observing: in meetings, on the snow, in social settings...I believe listening to and soaking in information is critical to help shape myself and help make decisions in all aspects in life.



**Instructor of the Season, Divisional Award:
Loren Livermore, Tamarack Resort**

I met Loren before moving to McCall while skiing at Brundage. We stayed in touch and began a friendship and mentorship I am grateful for. In the past six years I have been instructing and skiing with Loren at Tamarack, and he has graciously given me any time he had available to train for certification and a weekly movement analysis group. He has seen me through failed exams and successes and helped me gain perspective on the feedback I receive. Loren has also mentored me as part of the Tamarack training staff and helped me become effective as a trainer.

Loren's example of training, mentoring and leadership gives me goals I believe I can attain, especially with his guidance. Thanks, and well done, Loren!

What does receiving the Instructor of the Season award mean to you? To be a co-recipient of the Instructor of the Season Award is humbling. To be nominated is an honor and I appreciate being chosen. It means that the work put in was noticed and appreciated by my colleagues, I thank you for the honor.

What do you think makes a great instructor...how do you work with your clients to deliver your best lesson? To me a

great instructor must keep up with the latest available information and techniques. A great instructor must want to improve by being willing to learn from their client and other instructors. Honesty is a must along with empathy for what their clients and trainees are going through. I personally treat each lesson or clinic as an opportunity to make a new friend. Even in a group environment, I try to give each person a "private" lesson.

What advice would you extend to others on their instruction journeys...self-improvement, certification, etc.? Be tenacious! Demand more from yourself than you do of others. HIT THE BOOKS and learn what is needed for each phase. Do not expect to be spoon-fed the information. Practice, practice, practice your discipline and the teaching of that discipline. Above all, be willing to dump preconceived notions of your own ability and be open-minded to the fact you may have to start over and learn do things differently. Have the self-discipline to be prepared and practice, practice, practice no matter if you are working on self-improvement or certification. To put it simpler terms, "you can't ski bumps unless you ski bumps!"

How do you feel your years of teaching, level of certification, experiences have evolved and how does that show in your teaching? Over the years I have become more educated in both teaching and skiing skills. This has allowed me to realize I don't have to teach everything I know to every student I have. Learning that people, no matter how talented they are,) can only absorb so much information at one time was a major lesson for me. Except for beginners, I try now to limit (cont'd page 7)

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the amount of information I teach to one, or possibly two, skills per lesson.

Do you have further goals you'd like to achieve as a ski instructor that you would be willing to share? My personal goals are to stay healthy and keep teaching skiing for many more years and stay modern in my skiing and technical knowledge. My goal on a divisional level is to help finish the Resort Trainers Program (pathway to the Division Ed Staff).

Do you feel mentorship was a key element to your success? I do believe in mentorship. This doesn't necessarily mean a for-

mal program. When I started during the 93-94 season, there were certain folks you could go to for help. For me, the people were Martha Caballero, Miguel Bilbao, Wayne Washam and Tom Moxham. They were always willing to explain things, demonstrate skills, give pep talks, and occasionally, let me know I wasn't as good as I thought I was. I often seek out answers from these folks and other friends I've made along the way. So yes, mentorship is vitally important in our business. If an instructor is lucky enough to have a mentorship program available great; if not seek out the veteran instructors and ask for help.



Instructor of the Season, Divisional Award: Colleen Morishita, Brundage Mountain

In the words of her peers, Colleen's passion for snowsports seems endless. She not only has repeat guests from the fantastic experience she provides on the snow, but also has built an excellent training program at her home mountain with many successes. Colleen has been the primary trainer at Brundage for the last three seasons. She is always exuberant to pass on PSIA knowledge and inspire new instructors to become certified. Not only is she an inspirational skier, coach, and trainer, but she also serves as Brundage's Assistant Director, and serves on the NI Board of Directors as the Vice Presi-

dent and Educational Foundation Chair and on the National School Director Task Force as representative for NI. Colleen is a true force in the snowsports industry. Congratulations, and thank you for all that you do for us, Colleen!

Rookie of the Season, Divisional Award: Trysta Ledgerwood, Brundage Mountain

Hats off to a true rising star. Thank you for a great season, and congratulations, Trysta!

What does receiving the Rookie of the Season award mean to you? Winning rookie of the year to me means that I did my job right. I do appreciate this award a lot, but the award that is worth having is seeing your students rip down a hard run. That is honestly the best feeling in the world; knowing that you helped that person do that. Or even just seeing your student improve over the lesson. Even though they may have a small improvement you just get so excited and they get super excited because you are excited. I do appreciate the award, but the award is nothing compared to that feeling of knowing you helped that person ski.

What was your favorite lesson and why? One of my favorite lessons of this year was actually one of my first lessons. The kid that I was teaching was so enthusiastic about learning how to ski. He was excited to be skiing, excited to be somewhere other than his house and just excited about life. He talked to me the whole lesson about anything and everything. It was my favorite lesson because it was a reminder of what we are all at the mountain for, to have fun. It was nice to see someone that excited about skiing and life. He actually requested me for the next lesson which proved to me that I was doing my job right.

Do you have further goals you'd like to achieve as a ski instructor that you would be willing to share? Some goals down the road for ski instructing that I have are getting Level 2 certified in skiing and getting my Level 1 in snowboarding. I would also just like to continue to grow as an instructor as the ski seasons go by whether that means getting a certification or not.

Do you feel mentorship was a key element to your success and are you considering mentoring others? I feel that mentorship was a key to my success. All of the instructors at Brundage had an impact on me whether they knew it or not. They all improved not only my instructing skills, but also my skiing skills. Every one of them had a positive impact on me, whether it was something about my instructing, skiing, attitude or even just a trick to use in my lessons.

What did you learn/how did you learn that gave you the best level of comfort teaching? When I took up snowboarding halfway through the season it made me feel empathy for my students. I had sympathy for my students before but never empathy. When I started snowboarding it opened my eyes to how scary, hard and frustrating learning a snow sport was. It really improved my ski instructing because I knew exactly how they felt and could find the right things to say easier than before. (Cont'd page 8)



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Congratulations to our award-winning instructors for jobs well done and their much-deserved recognition! In the Northern Inter-mountain division, we are blessed with some great instructors and human beings. Be thinking of who inspires you that you would like to see receive these awards this coming season!

**Cheers all,
Deann Miller, PSIA-AASI-NI Awards & Recognition Committee Chair, Tamarack Resort**

PSIA-AASI National Team Selection Event 2021 Report Excerpts

A huge thank you to the NI BOD and EF Advisory Committee for the support in attending the PSIA-AASI National Team Selection Event in Breckenridge, CO (April 18 - 22, 2021).

Congratulations to Matt Larson on being named to the 2021-2024 Team, and to Ben Roberts, Weylin Barret, and Charley Phelan for conducting themselves professionally throughout a challenging process.

Deann Miller and I were able to shoot video during the event and I hope to have that posted to YouTube, as I posted videos of the 2016 Selection Event. Other members of NI were also in attendance for portions of the process: Krista Clayton, Irv Bier, and Jeff Miller!

This being my second event to witness, it was interesting to draw out similarities and differences. There are differences, as I understand it, in process from term to term, for various reasons and as we develop more support for our membership in preparing them for this type of process, I believe we should explore a variety of rigorous assessments.

There was an obvious focus on Interski in the sync skiing that was done on Thursday, as our place on the international stage is one where a disciplined image has been questioned in the past.

I am excited by some of the talent I saw in Breckenridge and left ultimately wondering what the “special sauce” is in making the National Team. I look forward to following up with Rogan, the Boyds, and Shuilling, and perhaps some other selectors in the coming weeks and months to help add a layer of context to what I saw, and what goes into forming the National Team.

Check out the following links for more information:

Recap Video: <https://youtu.be/UVk4Pr9ZYBQ>

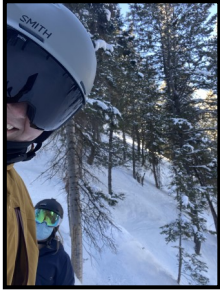
Here's a link with a full run down from PSIA-AASI https://thesnowpros.org/2021/04/22/psia-aasi-names-members-of-the-2021-2024-national-team/?fbclid=IwAR3_4o9XOJcq43sln_okOrkPwQ4FQAFE0onFg9pwqcqY4ZVN_EmuFX5zLc

**Written by,
Christian Luening, PSIA-AASI-NI President, Bogus Basin Resort**



“Meet Matthew Larson! A goofy-footed snowboarder who loves his Lucky Charms!”
<https://www.thesnowpros.org/2021/06/04/2021-24-national-team-meet-matthew-larson/>

NI Articles



“The Time is Always Right to Fix What’s Wrong”

One of my favorite students this year would sing his favorite songs on the chairlift. It turns out all the bands and songs that he liked were the songs that I liked and listened to on my daily commute to the mountain. I eventually started a playlist of all the songs he talked about or sang.

That’s when Spotify suggested a band to me based on the music that I was listening to, Half•Alive. Most of Half•Alive’s songs are themed by the issue of people overworking themselves and not finding time to enjoy or rest at all. If and when they do find some time to enjoy life, something comes up and they have to start overworking again. Their newest song, “What’s Wrong,” is a break to this cycle. It’s about realizing that you have to be the one to work towards change if you want it.

“The time is always right to fix what’s wrong” has become my new moto. Part of this phrase is knowing that you can’t fix everything at once because nothing gets done trying to do that. However, it also means, nothing will get done if you don’t start somewhere. So why not start somewhere?

Experiencing the Magic...Magic Mountain Ski Resort

The first time I visited Magic Mountain was in the fall of ’18 for a high school NICA mountain bike race that my son was participating in. Magic was hosting the event. A few miles southeast of Twin Falls, we turned onto the long, winding Rock Creek Road. 45 minutes later, we felt that surely we were on the wrong road, as there were no signs of mountain bikers, cars, camping or an event that would be hosting upwards of 600 racers, parents and event coordinators. “One last corner,” I said. And, magically, around the next bend, the hills opened into a scene of a quaint little ski area full of the bustling organized chaos of the mountain bike event. Scanning the single lift, old time lodge, rope tow and slopes cut into the hill, I thought, “I have got to get back here in the winter to ski!”

This past March I finally had the opportunity to visit as a guest clinician for a children’s clinic. I met Jessica Wojack Kluth, Magic’s Snowsports Director (and new NI board member) in Kimberly, and we drove down (Magic is south of the interstate, quite near the Nevada border actually) the bending road, and I received a first-hand history tour of the ski area, which made the drive seem short this time. After a light year of snow, the hills were mostly dry and I wondered how much snow we’d be skiing. Once again, the last bend did not disappoint as the hills opened into now a magical setting of a snow-covered pocket of paradise.

Owned by Gary and Suzette Miller, the little resort embodies the eclectic old-time family-operated ski area where not only does everybody know your name, but they all pitch in to make this 120-acre winter wonderland run smoothly for their local ski and ride guests. As we booted up in the little lodge, discussing the desired outcomes of the day, I heard the old diesel engine that runs the 2-person chairlift chug to life, sputtering and

I started my ski season with no expectations going in except for one goal, to just improve. That was my “starting somewhere.” I eventually decided that I could easily go for my Alpine Level 1 and CS1, and I did just that. I didn’t really know if I wanted to go for my Level 2 this year or not. I decided to sign up for clinics anyway just because I had a lot of fun doing them last year when I was going for my Level 1, plus it was an opportunity to improve, which was, remember, my one goal for the season. It wasn’t until the third week when I felt confident enough that I could go for it. It was the supportive environment that everyone helped foster that pushed me to do better. Having a supportive environment not just in ski school but anywhere I have interacted with people has been a key to my personal success.

If we all stepped up and stepped out to create change we could easily change what we want for the better. Even though the change we want is this colossal goal, we have to take small steps to reach it. Our goals can’t be reached in a day. “The time is always right to fix what’s wrong,” so go out and start fixing what’s wrong.

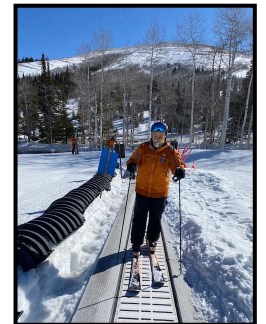
Written by,
Jacobi Seacord, Alpine Level 1 & CS1, Bogus Basin Resort

coughing in the cold morning air. While my day there was about what I could bring to this amazingly compassionate and invested group of instructors who were eager to learn and gain knowledge from *my* clinic, I knew that *my* day was also about the magical experience I was immersed in.

As a first-timer, I received an all-mountain tour, from the flat slope where it all starts for the first-time skier and rider, to the slightly steep and double fall line magic carpet and onto the lumbering chair. The freshly groomed slopes glistened under the warming sun. “Groomer Freddy” performed his tasks admirably on this beautiful morning and making fresh tracks on corduroy were pure delight. As the day warmed, we explored off-groomed in pockets of trees, moguls and corn snow.

Many of us spend our days teaching and exploring at well-known and well-equipped resorts. My trip to Magic Mountain served as a reminder that the experiences we have as skiers and riders, and the experiences we deliver to our students, are as much about the way a place “feels,” and not just the vertical drop and number of lifts. Thank you Magic Mountain for staying true to your roots and offering first-class experiences to all of your guests, including me!

Written by,
Martina Vala, Alpine DCL & Newsletter Chair, Sun Valley



NI Season Moments

In this white world that reaches the sky I've found a future for me.
Just standing there on a high mountainside I'm ruler of all that I see.
The snow is my lover, the sun is her kiss, the wind sings a love song to me.
With the wind and the sun and a vast snowy run, then just like an eagle I'm free.
For the skis are the things that give me my wings and make me an eagle on high.
If you see a track in the powder white snow etching a trail 'neath the sky,
Then look for a skier whose heart's in the clouds and the song in his heart tells you why.
He soars through the spaces and flies through the trees, he races the wind rushing by.
For here is a man with his spirit fulfilled, an eagle who must ever fly.
For his skis are the things that give him his wings and make him an eagle on high.

Author unknown

I have had this since I was in high school. I still have the original piece of paper that I wrote it down on. I am not sure where it came from and the author was unknown but I have always loved it. ~ Jani Sutherland, NI Children's Chair, Sun Valley



Just a few Season Moments: '20-21



Share an epic moment, teaching highlight, goal accomplishment, mentor/mentee story, or simply a photo and caption with us. We want to hear from you, Membership!

Please email submissions and/or questions to Martina: media@psia-ni.org.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to all who achieved and exceeded their season goals. In a year of extraordinary circumstances, it was another year of outstanding results. Northern Intermountain would like to thank you for your continued commitment to your personal and professional goals despite the extreme challenges this season. NI is proud to serve you and all your skiing/riding and teaching endeavors!

Children's Accreditation

Gerard Downey	CS2
Tucker J. Marcus	CS2
Theo Martin	CS2
Kim Dewit	CS1
Khile Klock	CS1
Daniel Ridgeway	CS1
Jacobi Seacord	CS1
Glen Stein	CS1

Snowboard Certification

Daniel Ridgeway	S3
Nicole E. Armstrong	S2
Brady Belvoir	S1
Maya Davis	S1
Tyson Edmondson	S1
Ryan Giacomino	S1
Tucker Hyatt	S1
Lyric Kemper	S1
Christian F. Luening	S1
Nicholas Teresko	S1
Amy Williams	S1
Holly Williams	S1
Gavin Wood	S1

Adaptive Certification

John Cotner	H2
Logan Gregory	H2
Wayne Huang	H2
Mike Legoffe	H2
Tony Beitia	H1
Quinn Coffey	H1
Tiffany Coffey	H1
Jon Fishback	H1
Kaitlin Lubetkin	H1
Deb Mcarty	H1
Kristen Mitchell	H1
Nicole Norden	H1
Robert Walters	H1
Melanie Yakemovic	H1

Alpine DCL Tryouts

Krista Clayton	DCLT
Tucker J. Marcus	DCLT
Theo Martin	DCLT

National Team

Matthew Larson	NT
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Alpine Certification

Erin Cremer	A2
James E. Cutler	A2
Nathaniel De Marcus	A2
Kenneth R. Enochs	A2
Philip Irons	A2
Christopher Maze	A2
James Macpherson	A2
Jeffrey Michael	A2
Holly Willims	A2
Mason Alexander	A1
Morgan Baker	A1
Ryan Beal	A1
Emily Cadman	A1
Erik Christiansen	A1
Brian Figura	A1
Emery Flake	A1
Megan Ford	A1
Max Fuller	A1
Lochlan Govier	A1
Giselle Groeger	A1
Trysta Ledgerwood	A1
Taylor Ledgerwood	A1
Camille Lenz	A1
Ava Matus-Enochs	A1
Dylan McDermott	A1
Tashi Miller	A1
Ray Mocki	A1
Joel Moore	A1
Susan Randle	A1
Tucker Ray	A1
Sarah Strickland	A1
Jane Van De Grift	A1
Jessica Vance	A1
Al Wheaton	A1
Gavin Wood	A1
Jackson Young	A1

Carve' Diem

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