

PSIA



AASI

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

SPRING NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2022

Celebrating 50 Years



President's Letter

June 1, 2022

*Spring Symposium 2022
Pomerelle Mountain Resort*

Greetings fellow PSIA-AASI members and snowsports educators!

I would like to thank you for your membership in the pursuit of creating lifelong adventures through education.

Your Directors of the Board are thrilled at the increased engagement we have noted by many of you during this season. This is exciting as it indicates a truly vested interest in our association!

We had massive participation in board elections, and I'm pleased that so many of you have taken the time to support your leaders and decision makers. I would like to thank all those members who raised a hand to volunteer their time, energy and experience this cycle and welcome back to further service Colleen Morishita (VP), Walt Coiner and Tom Koto.

I would also like to extend my warmest gratitude to Deann Miller (Secretary) for her years of care as an energetic and forward-thinking member of the Board, an integral driver of our scholarship efforts through her work with our Symposium fundraising events, and in facilitating the stoke as Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee.

To the best of our abilities we lead with open and honest communication to you, our members. In that effort, we will be launching some exciting new initiatives thanks in large part to Jim Stevens, Chair of the Membership Linkage Committee. Keep your eyes and ears open (you will notice some new items in this newsletter!).

As part of the open communications, I'd also like to share or remind you that visitors are welcome to our board meetings; we hold calls on the 4th Monday, at 6pm MST of every month, except for the months that we meet in person. Please feel free to contact me directly for more information, or if you would like to attend.

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I cannot go without thanking the remainder of our leaders: Fernando Veloz (Treasurer), Cortney Bayuk, Krista Clayton, Jess Kluth, and Ben Roberts (Executive Director) and his staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this community. The Board dedicates itself to making the community more valuable to you and your pursuits.

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

PSIA-AASI NI

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NI News

Executive Director Update—Spring 2022

Strengths to build on and opportunities to improve: Looking back on the 2021-22 winter season and ahead to the 2022-23 year, I have to categorize my reflections into our strengths and successes that can be built on and the areas where there are clear opportunities to improve. We are in a good position to do both as we move into the 2022-23 annual cycle. The level of engagement of our members, schools, and other stakeholders is high. We have many resources and partnerships available to support our efforts. We have good information and much clearer business practices to utilize as we move forward.

The classic snowsports instructor feedback model is that of the poop sandwich—say something positive, identify something negative, and finish with another positive statement. “You have great turn shape, and you’re pretty far in the backseat, but your pole plants are brilliant!” This model can be effective, but it isn’t my favorite. Let’s start with opportunities for growth and improvement as an organization.

Timing and communication: This year’s event calendar was late and came together in fits and starts. There are reasons for this, but this is not what our members expect or need. Our communication about events was sporadic at times and left some of you wondering if you had all the information you needed, when you needed it. On the back end, some of our communication with member school managers around scheduling events and lift tickets was similarly mixed. We made significant changes to our price structure this season and did not communicate these changes clearly.

To address these issues, we are working to have the bulk of our event calendar in final draft form by Labor Day weekend and in final form by early October. We have identified gaps in our internal work and communications flow and are developing clearer checklists to ensure that our communication is more consistent and our timing better. Finally, to ensure clear communication and greater accountability, we will be having regular video conference townhall meetings to ensure that members have the opportunities they need to have their questions answered.

Event offerings: This season’s event offerings were very certification-oriented and overall, there was a lack of dimension. There were not enough Snowboard, Children’s, or Telemark events. We plan to broaden our base here with more education opportunities that are targeted to members training for certification, but that are not strictly speaking “prep clinics.” Adding more freestyle, children’s, and telemark events to the mix is a high priority.

Strengths and successes to build on: Staff training was a major initiative for us over the past season. With updated certification standards and processes and the need to defer training during the 2020-21 season due to Covid there was a clear need for more staff training. There was greater collaboration with other divisions as well. We will continue this momentum into the next season and will be working to better integrate our amazing education staff into the process of event communication.

PSIA-AASI as a collective organization, driven by the national organization, has been creating and implementing a number of different administrative database and management systems. This process hasn’t always been easy, but there has been a clear need for it. The 2021-22 season brought us some successes with online assessment forms and event staff and roster management systems. Because these systems were coming online in December, the success wasn’t unilateral. Moving forward the systems will be evolving and improving. We will be integrating their use more fully into our staff training and I am excited for the enhancements this will bring.

Access and energy: One of the best things about being a smaller region in PSIA-AASI is that we have easier access to our leaders and more comprehensive access to each other. We have some great energy going right now in Nordic, Telemark, and Adaptive, and I am excited to take this momentum into the next cycle. The excitement and energy around the Spring Symposium event at Pomerelle, and the commitment of so many members to each other and to the organization is amazing. (*cont’d pg 3*)

NI News Cont'd

Gratitude: The people who make up Northern Intermountain are inspiring. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has helped make things happen. To Barry and Sheryl Whiting for extending such a warm welcome at Pomerelle this spring. To Jim Stevens and Jessica Kluth for their hard work behind the scenes to make Spring Symposium a success. To Taylor Caballero for stepping up and keeping things moving with our events, and particularly to those who have chosen to move on from their leadership roles this year. Martina Vala, our newsletter editor, and Jani Sutherland, our children's Chair. Your hard work and commitment to excellence in snowsports education is deeply appreciated.

Thank you for everything you do, for your commitment to our profession and our organization. I am excited for what the future holds!

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



Board of Directors Transparency Section

Presented by Jim Stevens your Linkage Committee Chair

Current Financials:

As of May 19, 2022 Total Assets \$219,252.18
 Within 1 month of ending our Fiscal year, we are on Budget target.

Featured Members: The committee will periodically select a member of NI to get insight into their lessons, teaching styles, love of the sport and hear their stories. This feature is on the NI website under the "Info" tab.

NI Check-In—new offering: Monthly, during the Snowsports season and periodically during the off-season, the Board will offer NI members the opportunity to call in via Google-Meet (for 10 minute segments during a 1 hour meeting) to ask questions, give suggestions, etc. Ben Roberts, Taylor Caballero and Jim Stevens will host. From time to time, we will have a special host.

NI Mentoring Initiative—new offering: Following a great conversation with Jim Stevens at the Symposium, Stuart Pennington is now on the Linkage Committee and will lead the NI Mentoring Initiative. From Tamarack, Stuart has a pronounced passion for snowsports instructor mentoring or being mentored, with a robust focus on *Professionalism*. We wish him success!

NI Currently Seeking the Following Chair Positions:

Children's Chair—The PSIA-AASI-NI Children's Chair position will manage the scheduling and development and oversight of Children's events for the NI Division, including children's education and the Children's Specialist (CS) assessment-based certificate program. Additionally, the Children's Chair will oversee NI's team of Children's Discipline Education and Certification Leaders (CDCLs). The applicant must have a CS2 and CDCL status, or equivalent, as a children's clinic leader and examiner. And must also have invested interest and experience teaching Children's Snowsports Education.

Newsletter Chair—The PSIA-AASI-NI Newsletter Chair position will manage the thrice-yearly production of the newsletter. Qualifications include a background in editing and basic graphic designing, proficient knowledge and ability to use Microsoft Publisher, great communication and organization skills, and ability to meet deadlines. The applicant must be a current NI member and actively teaching in an NI member school. This position is a great opportunity to give back to the NI division and keep the NI Board, the member schools and members of the division connected three times yearly.

For full description of qualifications and essential duties and responsibilities of either position, please contact Executive Director Ben Roberts, broberts@psia-ni.org. **Deadline for applications/resumes, July 30th, 2022.**

PSIA-AASI NI

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NI News Cont'd

Welcome New NI Chair Members and Board of Directors!



Lisa Ostermiller—Cross Country Chair

I've never known a winter without skiing. I hope I never will. As a child, my family owned a small "Mom and Pop" ski hill in the Midwest. It no longer exists, but it is huge in my memory. Since then, there have always been skis in my possession, cross country *and* alpine! Brundage Mountain and the Payette Lakes Ski Club have fostered my love of skiing since we moved to McCall 37 years ago. After working as an alpine instructor at Brundage Mountain, I took on management of The Little Ski Hill, organized the After School Program and initiated the high school instructor program. As a Level 2 Alpine and then Cross Country Level 2 instructor, my personal mission has always been to share the love of skiing with others. As a PSIA member for over 35 years, I can assure you I will bring my best to this role. Cross country skiing is growing more and more popular as people look for ways to get outdoors to exercise and be in nature in the winter. I hope to grow our cross country membership in the Northern Intermountain Division and I look forward to working with our members to help them get the education they want and the opportunity to certify at the level they need. Feel free to reach out to me with ideas, I'm always ready to talk skiing!



Randy Wall—Telemark Chair

Hello members of PSIA-AASI-NI! It's my honor to be appointed Telemark Chair, and am looking forward to working with Lisa Ostermiller, our new Cross Country Chair, on some great Nordic education and events. Having just received my 40-year pin, my experience and service to PSIA-AASI is broad and deep, including Nordic Chairman, Clinician, and Examiner for PSIA-AASI-W, Nordic Education Staff, Clinician, Examiner, and Board Member for PSIA-AASI-NRM. Dedication to the organization and helping to accomplish the organization's mission is an essential aspect of my life and skiing practice. I am excited about being in services to the success of the NI Division, and more importantly, improve the quality of the events and education for the members NI.



Tom Koto—Board of Directors

Tom Koto returns to the Northern Intermountain Division Board of Directors. He has spent time on the Board, which lead to serving as President of the Division and PSIA-AASI President's Council nationally. Koto chaired the President's Council, serving on the PSIA-AASI National Board, as well. All this has helped enrich his understanding of the profession and other divisions and how they operate and how we operate together. Serving as Interim Executive Director of Northern Intermountain Division, he provides background and experience for our members, staff, schools and industry partners. His goal is to keep focus on each and every decision with the members at the forefront.



CONGRATULATIONS PSIA-AASI Lifetime Achievement Award

This award recognizes exceptional members who developed and implemented programs, projects, and procedures affecting the association on a national level while demonstrating dedication, devotion, and self-sacrifice serving in their role. Lifetime membership will be awarded to recipients of the Lifetime Achievement award.

And the award goes to our very own: **Jani Sutherland!** Jani dedicated herself specifically to children and children's programs in various capacities for 48 years. Jani is a top-notch instructor and children's ski program advocate and trainer who undoubtedly left her signature on numerous programs, children's teaching manuals and snowsports schools both regionally and nationally. Inspired to ski by her mother as a young girl, Jani was determined to be a "ski bum" according to her sister, by the time she was seven years old. At sixteen years old, Jani became a National Ski Patrol member for Squaw Valley, patrolling throughout college. She soon realized patrolling was not the calling she was striving for, which turned her in a new direction: teaching children how to ski.

In 2009, Jani moved to Sun Valley and became Northern Intermountain's first Children's Chair, developing NI's Children's Specialist Program which the National Children's Taskforce had been working on for a number of years. Thanks to Jani, the program has grown exponentially, with educational events and assessments and a Children's Program specific CDCL team. After 48 years of passion, forward thinking, and progressive development of children's programs and education in PSIA-AASI, Jani is an example of perseverance, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the children's snowsports industry. And if you happen to be on Baldy's slopes on a perfect groomer morning, you'll spy Jani linking precise c-shape turns with the same "ski bum" determination of her childhood! Congratulations, Jani!



NI News Cont'd

PSIA-AASI-NI 2022 Award Winners—Congratulations to this year's award recipients!

Every year, the Northern Intermountain division recognize members who have exceeded the mark in different ways as members, instructors and often mentors. The nominations come from fellow instructors, trainers or snowsports school directors and are presented to your PSIA-AASI-NI Awards & Recognition Committee and Board of Directors for consideration. This year we were happy to be able to recognize award recipients for the last three seasons at our Pomerelle 50th Anniversary Symposium! As follows is a recap and interviews with the 2021-22 season's award recipients.



Walt Coiner Distinguished Service Award: Weylin Barrett, Sun Valley Resort

If anyone was ever deserving of an award that honors long-term commitment and dedication to educational support and contri-

butions to the snowsports industry it is Weylin! His dedication at a snowsports school level, divisional level and national level as instructor, trainer, DECL and examiner exemplifies professional and positive leadership that encourages professional and personal growth in both his colleagues and mentees. Weylin strives to keep learning and has stepped forward and generously passed his experience on to membership when our division was in need of filling positions. Thank you, and well done, Weylin!

What does receiving the Walt Coiner Distinguished Service Award mean to you? I am really thankful for the acknowledgment. Most of my career has been dedicated to the development of other instructors, and this award is a reminder that even though some hard work has been done, there is always more to do. My hope is this will continue to motivate me to participate in the evolution of others.

Where did it all start for you? And what inspired you to make this a fulltime profession? This journey really started off in high school when I knew that a career in the outdoor industry was where I belonged. I was always the kid that was staring out the window and dreaming of the next adventure. My first industry job was a ski patroller. I quickly learned that this wasn't the ski job I envisioned it to be. It was mostly just labor. I then set my sights on guiding and ski mountaineering, but this also fell

apart when I couldn't afford the cost of the school in Canada, with no work visa. Instruction was kinda all that was left. Sometimes your last choice just turns out to be the best choice of your life.

How do you feel your years of teaching, levels of certification, and overall commitment on so many levels with PSIA-AASI have evolved? Currently, the guiding principle I operate under is that creativity is paramount. With the education I have pursued, experiences I have had and the support I have been given, I have found it possible to really explore, verify and question many of the tenets of the *ATS*. Through this process I have developed a deeper understanding and have unlocked the creativity that I try and bring to the snow every day.

What advice would you extend to others on their PSIA-AASI journeys...self-improvement, certification, etc? The advice I would offer up to others on their journey is to simply do the things that make you happy. A journey without happiness is a journey not worth taking. This isn't to say that there won't be suffering along the way, quite the opposite. For me, overcoming great personal challenges creates some of the greatest highs.

Do you feel mentorship was a key element to your success? Who is someone who helped you on your instructional journey? Mentorship definitely played a strong role in getting me to where I am. For me, the key here is that one must find their mentor. This journey helped me better understand myself, helped me better understand the kind of people I needed to mentor me and ultimately created a stronger relationship with them. I have had so many great mentors along the way that I can't choose one. I have hunted for coaches that would help me get what I needed. They all had a few things that they were masterful at. It was those things I went after. Oddly (or not), many of these people were also people I was mentoring. We all had stuff that was good, just none of us had it all.

If this award came with a prize of one day of skiing anywhere in the world (it doesn't, sorry!), where would you go? I am anxiously awaiting for NI to send me my plane ticket to Gulmarg, India and my gondola pass to ski Apharwat Peak! I really want to thank all the people, you know who you are, that made this possible. I also want to thank the members of PSIA-AASI-NI for the chance to have done something. Honestly, above all else, it was you that made this journey possible. I would not have made any impact if it wasn't for each one of you being part of this. Thank you. Weylin.



Lex Kunau Legends Divisional Award: Bonnie Wetmore, Sun Valley Resort

Bonnie has been a lifelong snowsports professional and enthusiast since 1969 as an instructor, trainer, supervisor, board of director and education chair. She has contributed in these various facets at numerous ski resorts as a true technician of skiing, tech-

nical connoisseur, educator and scholar within the industry throughout her tenure. Working closely with Lex Kunau, who became one of Bonnie's greatest mentors, it is only fitting that she be a recipient of his honorary award. Bonnie's unwavering passion for skiing, teaching and learning has been, and continues to be, a model and inspiration for many skiers, instructors and fellow colleagues over the years to the snowsports industry at large. Congratulations, Bonnie! (cont'd pg 6)

NI News Cont'd

What does receiving the Lex Kunau Legends award mean to you? Lex Kunau captured my admiration from the get-go. His devotion to NI and PSIA Education was unwavering. His highly regarded knowledge and skills as the NI Treasury Board Secretary proved most successful providing board members and chairs with intended, functional direction and financial stability that continues to benefit the divisional membership today. It is very much an honor to be recognized as a Lex Kunau Legend. His example was part of my career. I will always treasure his curiosity and belief in me.

Where and how did it all start for you? And what inspired you to stay in the ski teaching profession for over 50 years? It all started in my youthful years in Minnesota, particularly during the famously phenomenal Midwestern winters. Hilly terrain with an abundance of snow and "toys" such as toboggans, sleds, cardboard boxes, innertubes, and slippery onesie ski suits all contributed to the joy of snow, gravity and sliding fast. Skis eventually entered the scene and I slowly but surely acquired the hand-me-downs, being the fourth sibling. I got hooked! The White Mts, Green Mts, Rocky Mts and great skiers, mentors and coaches inspired and motivated me to pursue skiing and teaching as a possible career. PSIA has been my everlasting foundation. Education has been the key. Teaching has been the means to remain involved and expand the people skills needed to secure returning guests and build lasting friendships. Destination resorts and fortunate living environments have made this possible. 50+ years does not seem real and it's all been an incredible ride!

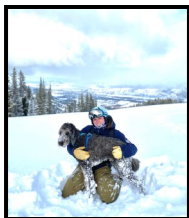
How do you feel your years of teaching, levels of certification, and overall commitment on so many levels with PSIA-AASI have evolved? A drive and willingness to keep learning, focusing and understanding. PSIA-AASI has provided the means and the focus. Moving up through the levels was a given pursuit and provided realistic goals. The DCL accomplishment brought out the best in me over time. Commitment is both beneficial and necessary. One challenging endeavor continued to lead naturally into another. Now the building blocks are getting

knocked down a bit with my retirement. Less structure, more freedom. Skiing nonstops and miles is "freeing." The difference now is being less controlled, feeling more spontaneous and efficient, looking forward to flowing turns and fun rhythm changes. My personal skiing is evolving in simplicity via little thought and more intended immediate action. PSIA has given me all the resources and the ability to accomplish this full interesting circle! (Movement Analysis of top skiers on Baldy keeps me excited and eager to keep learning and trying.)

What advice would you extend to others on their PSIA-AASI journeys...self-improvement, certification, etc? Whatever one is curious about in Level 1, pursue it as it relates to your own skiing. Understanding and skills should grow throughout the experience and the Standards laid out by PSIA-AASI will take on further meaning and hopefully create better teaching directions as well. L2 & L3 are the carrots. Question your motivations in learning and how you learn, and then go after it! Watch skiers of all abilities and constantly practice the well-defined MA. Take time, connect with others who have the same interest, observe and listen without judging. Experienced PSIA-AASI mentors are the best.

What is next for you? My lifetime pass (minimum 25 full-time years teaching for SV) makes it easy to ski, ski, ski, on Baldy. That's a given and how pleasurable it's been so far! My goal is to explore smaller ski areas, primarily in Idaho. I've recently taken on the "Roto Rippers" at Rotarun a couple of afternoons per week. The south valley kids are fully taken care of by the SVSEF. Nothing but fun and a pleasure! Also, I am determined to maintain my fitness and health because I wish to ski for many more years.

Do you feel mentorship was a key element to your success? Mentorship has definitely been important to learning. I am still skiing with a few mentors that I respect and continue to look up to. They are the best ski buddies ever and so fun to watch, share and receive requested feedback.



Instructor of the Season, Divisional Award: Taylor Caballero, Jackson Hole Mt Resort

Taylor is the NI Certification and Education Chair. In this capacity she has worked tirelessly to ensure all staff members are fully trained and ready to assist the membership with training and assessments in accordance with the new National Standards. She took on the job of scheduling events and assessments. Members may feel free to contact her with questions or needed adjustments to the schedule and can be assured those needs are met instantly. Her clinics are fun and professional, she meets the Learning Outcomes every time. On a personal note, in our Level 3 Assessment clinics, Taylor showed mastery at guiding several of the candidates into skiing breakthroughs and did so with simplicity and effectiveness. Her

assistance and guidance were invaluable as well as helping bring the National Standards focus into our division! Thanks, and well done, Taylor!

What does receiving the Instructor of the Season award mean to you? I am very honored to receive this award. It was quite unexpected! I enjoy contributing to both my home school and Northern Intermountain in whatever way I can. It has been my pleasure to work with our membership in evolving capacities over the years. To me, this is an unexpected acknowledgment that the effort I enjoy putting into my job is having a positive impact on those around me and I am excited to continue contributing to our community in whatever way I can.

What do you think makes a great instructor...how do you work with your clients to deliver your best lesson? A great instructor is adaptable and patient. I work with a (cont'd pg 7)

NI News Cont'd

wide variety of students (both instructors and clients) of all ages, and have found the outcomes I am most proud of came from times when I was willing to listen. It can be easy to get attached to our favorite teaching methods and topics, but the most enjoyable lesson is one where I get to work with a student to solve the puzzle they bring to the table. This often means breaking away from what I *want* to teach and figuring out what I *need* to teach.

What advice would you extend to others on their instruction journeys...self-improvement, certification, etc.? First and foremost, remember to have fun! It can be very easy to get attached to the external rewards; the shiny new pin, the pay raise, the acceptance from colleagues. Ultimately, our certification and development pathways should increase the value we feel internally; be that through the knowledge gained, the ability to ski a larger variety of terrain, or the rush you get from being able to use your knowledge to help a student achieve a goal. Secondly, don't be afraid to seek out information from the people around you. You'll find that many people have the desire to mentor or partner and just need someone to do so with. Your peers and colleagues are your greatest ally when it comes to gaining new experiences and knowledge.

How do you feel your years of teaching, level of certification, and experiences have evolved and how does that show in



Rookie of the Season, Divisional Award: Nathan Fletcher, Bogus Basin Resort

As a first-year instructor, Nathan was a stellar addition to the Bogus Basin Ski & Snowboard School. Nathan was always excited to be on the hill and work with guests. Much of Nathan's time was spent working in the Children's Center teaching ski lessons to young children despite being hired as a snowboard instructor. Nathan cross-trained in ski instruction and achieved both his Level 1 in snowboard and alpine. Congratulations, Nathan!

What does receiving the Rookie of the Season award mean to you? Receiving the Rookie of the Season Award was not something I expected but I am very thankful for. What it means to me is that I was able to stand out from the crowd by just giving the season all I had. When I saw how much mentorship Bogus Basin had to offer my first weekend on the mountain, I was ecstatic. I gave each lesson all I had to offer, using the tools given to me and pushing to learn as much as I could with the experience and training that was given to me. I think these are the reasons I received the award.

What was your favorite lesson and why? That's a really hard one, but I would have to say teaching 4-year-old skiing twin brothers over the course of four weeks every Saturday would have to have been my favorite. These brothers fed off of one another's stoke and were always pushing each other and also myself to go faster, turn harder and get better. Through skiing different types of terrain and using turn shape and size to control speed it clicked for them and on week four, we skied blue terrain for their first time. They were stoked, the parents were stoked...

your teaching? My favorite word to describe what has grown in my teaching is my adaptability. This is something I am still working to improve, but I have found the more experience and knowledge I gain, the more comfortable I am changing my game plan while in action. I try to make the lessons and clinics I lead less about myself and more about the outcomes I am able to help my students achieve.

Do you have further goals you'd like to achieve as a ski instructor that you would be willing to share? My goal is to find more ways to give back to the ski community. Whether that be through clinics, divisional positions, or continuing to work with National task forces, I am excited to explore opportunities to work with colleagues at all levels.

Do you feel mentorship was a key element to your success? Mentorship has been and continues to be a huge part of my success. I once thought that mentors would appear in your life, but am learning that those you look up to are frequently willing to offer advice when asked. Utilizing the knowledge and experience of those around me has helped me make choices that have been beneficial to my career and personal learning experience. At the end of the day, we are all teachers and want to share what we know with the people around us, whether they be students or peers.

We were all STOKED! This was my favorite lesson because it showed me I needed to get out of my comfort zone to help them get better. I think the lessons taught me as much as it taught them.

Do you have further goals you'd like to achieve as a ski instructor that you would be willing to share? I have many goals that I would like to achieve as a ski instructor. I have my sights set high. This season I was able to obtain my Level 1 Snowboard cert and with this being my second season skiing I was able to get my Level 1 Ski cert as well. Next season I hope to earn my L2 Ski, L2 Snowboard, and Freestyle 1 and 2 accreditations. I may not have as much time this winter to work with the whole adulting process but I will do my best.

Do you feel mentorship was a key element to your success and are you considering mentoring others? Mentorship was absolutely a key to my success this season. Dan Ridgeway helped me tremendously with my snowboarding technique and definitely changed my teaching style for the better. Dan taught me much more than he realized talking with him at the end of the season. Christian Luening took me out to show me the ropes on how to ski and teach skiing and I was amazed at his ability to turn my shaky skiing into parallel turns with seamless and simple instruction. Martha Caballero took what Christian taught me and perfected it in my Level 1 Ski Assessment. These three instructors along with others absolutely amazed me this winter with their knowledge, ability, and love for sliding on snow. Their love for teaching others has truly inspired me. I will absolutely be mentoring others with any chance I get. What's the point in having something great if you're not going to share it? (cont'd pg 8)

NI News Cont'd

What did you learn/how did you learn that gave you the best level of comfort teaching? Hmm...I would have to say that nobody can learn to ski or snowboard without doing it. This gave me comfort to say less and ride more with my students. Another thing that helped me a lot was from one of PSIA-AASI books: "Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care." These two things definitely took my teaching style from babbling ski bum using technical terms that make no sense to professional instructor who wants you to succeed and can now simplify the words so that a couple sentences will do, and then we slide!

Congratulations to our award-winning instructors for jobs well done and their much-deserved recognition! In the Northern Intermountain 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!



Thank you, Deann, for your service!

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



To Attend NI Spring Symposium or Not.....That is the Question....???

When I suggested attending Spring Symposium to my team at Magic Mountain, they responded with mixed enthusiasm. I won't dwell on what concerns were raised but any concerns were quickly erased due to the welcoming atmosphere!

As first-time attendees we were able to meet many and learn so much. The social on Friday night allowed everyone a chance to meet and greet. It was heartwarming to observe long-time members reach out to new members and vice-versa in a relaxed atmosphere, sharing their love of doing what we do. The clinics served a wide variety of needs and the clinicians presenting them were amazing! Aside from strengthening skills, the clinicians that we worked with were great at pulling participants together and creating non-threatening environments where everyone was comfortable sharing their ideas and experiences. New friends were made from across our division and more tricks added to bags.

A lot of smiles and laughter covered the slopes at Pomerelle. We owe a huge thank you to Pomerelle for great food and for allowing us to "take over" your mountain for a couple of days with stellar spring conditions. A special thanks to Board Member Jim Stevens for leading the charge and being the liaison with his home area.

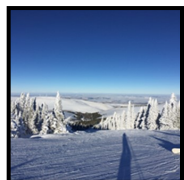
The smiles and laughter continued at the banquet as once again we were able to mingle with others, bid on great silent auction items, enjoy amazing food and watch as several members were honored for various contributions to our organization. Milestone length of service pins were also presented. All these members truly serve as an inspiration to us all! Reach out to congratulate these members and maybe even pick their brains a wee bit!

Our crew rented a house which enabled us to spend more time together, share on experiences this past season, and begin strategizing for next season. We shared what we learned in our clinics and how we could incorporate our new skills into our program(s). The list is long and has us all bursting with excitement! Laughter was abundant as we played cards, more cards and lost track of time...by Sunday we may have been a wee bit blurry-eyed due to limited shut eye.

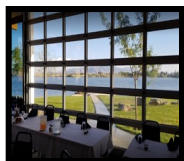
I personally CHALLENGE each of you that attended to encourage at least 1 additional member to come next year! *Stay tuned for the 2023 NM Spring Symposium location announcement!* If you are nervous about attending for ANY reason next year, please feel free to reach out with any concerns. Trust me, EVERYONE is welcome and will enjoy the time spent together! In answer to the question above, our team responds with a...HECK YA!!!!

**Written by,
Jessica Wojack Kluth, Board of Directors, Magic Mountain Ski Resort**

Highlights from Spring Symposium 2022



This year's Symposium was held at Pomerelle Mountain Resort as we celebrated the Northern Intermountain's 50th Anniversary. The weather was great as clinics were spread out on the mountain with 67 members earning end of the year CEUs.



The banquet venue was outstanding at Morey's Steakhouse. We had 89 members and guests for our dinner celebration. Positive comments came in all day Sunday! A member texted Sunday evening "Jim, you can't imagine how many compliments I had about the symposium!"



Our silent auction was an immense success. Every item was sold but one. We raised \$3297.00 from the auction and our Pink Bunny (Kristen Pesman) who sold \$503.00 in raffle tickets!



Thank you, Barry and Sheryl and Pomerelle for helping make the 50th Anniversary and 2022 Spring Symposium an immense success!

**Yours truly,
NI Board, Member Schools and Members**

NI Articles



The Senior Specialist is alive and well in the NI Division

We were able to hold two Senior Specialists events this past season. The first event was at Bogus Basin Resort, and the second was held at Brundage Mountain

Resort. Within our division, we were able to award 10 Senior Specialists Level 1 Accreditations for skiing, and one for snowboarding!

The Event: The Senior Specialist is a two-day event. There is some required educational reading material specific to working with senior clients and a workbook that needs to be completed prior to the event. As part of the event there is both a skiing component and a teaching component. The skiing assessment is on day one, and the teaching assessment is on the second day. The atmosphere is relaxed, and a sharing of ideas is encouraged.

The Agenda: The focus on day one is to improve our own skiing using the senior skiing model: a tall and relaxed athletic stance, guiding the skis through the turn, and using smooth progressive movements. We explore what good skiing looks like. Good skiing has many qualities, starting with a functional, balanced stance, enhanced by the five skiing fundamentals, and the three skills. We also work on speed management tactics and skills. All these movements help to promote balance while in motion. Having the ability to do what you want when you want starts with a functional stance, both standing on a slope, and through the phases of the turn. A tall and relaxed athletic stance is encouraged to allow for better muscular, and skeletal efficiency. We encourage balancing on the whole foot (neither heel or toe bias) as well as both feet. The arm carriage is wide with the elbows in front of the torso (stabilizers). The shins are in contact with the tongue of the boots. The head is up and looking towards the direction of the next turn (apex). The upper body is relatively stable and quiet, the guiding of the skis comes from the feet and legs.



The Skills: Rotary movements are more effective and efficient if the rotary movements of the legs enhance the actions of each other. The rotary movements are used to support an active guidance of the skis throughout the turn, and to compliment pressure and edging movements.

The edge control movements are more effective and efficient if the edge control movements start from the feet and are supported by the upper

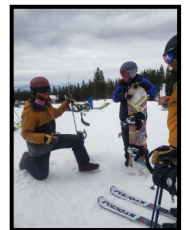
body. Fine tuning adjustments are made with the ankles, knees, and upper body. The skis are guided onto their edges, and edge adjustments are used to assist in achieving the desired turn shape. Pressure control movements are more effective and efficient if, as the turn develops, the shift of pressure to the inside edge(s) is smooth and progressive. Flexion extension, fore-aft, and lateral movements compliment other actions in the control of the turn shape, acting with and reacting to terrain variations contribute to these movements. Note, in all of the above skill guidelines, the words TALL athletic relaxed stance, GUIDE the skis through the turn, and the PROGRESSIVE movements (blending the skills) are smooth and relaxed. Even someone who has never participat-

ed in the sport of skiing can see a difference in someone who has more refined movement and a skier who is not as skilled in their movements.

The Teaching: Take some time to get to know the person you are working with. Ask them what they want to get out of your time together, what their expectations are for the lesson. Ask about past skiing experience. Ask about any past injuries, medical conditions that you should be made aware of. Observe and ask about their fitness level. Many senior skiers have some issues that can affect performance. If you can gain that information prior to skiing, it can help you with your lesson pacing your technical and tactical plan and can also help you with your terrain selection. Teaching beginning seniors requires a slightly different approach as well. They may be fearful of falling and getting hurt. Start slow, ski backwards holding their hands at arm's length. You are their security blanket. Speak reassuringly and softly as you ski down together on first few beginning runs. As they become more confident and relaxed sliding on snow you can feel the tension coming out of their hands and body. You can then ease up and let them do more as you do less. Build their confidence slowly. Take some rest and water breaks. Teaching seniors is very rewarding and takes a little different skill set gained through education and experience. Giving someone the gift of skiing or the skill set to explore more of the mountain is one of the best gifts that you as a Senior Specialists ski instructor can give.

The Equipment: The proper fitting equipment is a huge part of the performance and skiing enjoyment equation. Boots that are too stiff or too soft can affect their athletic stance, and fore-aft balance. If they are having difficulty flexing their ankles (bending the boot) it may be that the boot is too stiff for them. You can try unbuckling the top buckle to see if that allows them to flex. They may over flex in a boot that is too soft.

Recommend a local shop with a good boot fitter. Have them try some demos or rental skis that would be more appropriate for them than skis that are too wide, narrow, long, short, or outdated. Poles can also make a difference. Recommend a light pole with a nice swing weight. I ski with adjustable poles, so I can have them try mine for a few runs to feel the difference. Also consider hands and feet that may get cold and recommend heated gloves and heated socks or heated boot insoles. Most seniors have some disposal income and do not mind equipment upgrades to enhance their enjoyment of the sport. They just need to know what to buy.



The Closing: If you are interested in attending a Senior Specialists Accreditation event or a clinic specific to working with senior skiers or snowboarders, all the information can be found on our Northern Intermountain website: Seniors. If you have any questions, you can contact me via phone 208-634-9846 or email erlebachmike@gmail.com. I want to congratulate those who participated in the Senior Specialists events we had this year!

Written by,
Mike Erlebach, Senior Specialist Chair, Brundage Mt Resort

NI Articles



Have You Ever Thought about how to Add Balance into the Off Season?

Spring has arrived and most chairlifts have stopped turning. I have just finished summer waxing my quiver of skis, washing ski socks and sweaters, and have packed everything into my Rossi backpack. I take a breath to remember the “good moments” of the past winter season. I begin to remember the moments along my winter journey, and the path I chose. Then, a smile grows as I start to think “What’s next?” To determine the answer, I can only think of one word: **balance**.

We are all encouraged to lead a well-balanced life, yet at times, it is easier said than done. Our lives are generally stable, yet we know how quickly they can become unstable. I think of moments when my skis catch, and the split seconds before my body takes recovery action. Balanced living means giving consideration to all aspects of your life: relationships, work, fitness and health, and emotional well-being. We all get bogged down with work or family responsibilities from time to time, but making time for yourself is necessary so that you can keep up with all your responsibilities.

Working in snowsports schools, we are all engaged in different balancing acts. The one that comes to my mind first is teaching skiing and skiing with family, and how we balance both on a weekend throughout the winter season. Spouses often reel us in or ask for more of our time on the hill sliding together. Friends are inviting us to join them on their favorite run, and we are being pulled to our part time, seasonal, job as an instructor. Balance is having the right amount—not too much or too little—of any quality, which leads to harmony or evenness. You might admire the balance someone has achieved between working hard and having

fun. I interpret this as balance working as a dynamic equilibrium and not a static relationship.

One of my favorite balances is between PSIA-AASI training, working and instructing. This is often a season-long balancing act. I get to ski, train with mentors, and make less money, or work the private lesson and bring home revenue. This balancing act takes planning, commitment and flexibility of my time. Our sense of balance comes from spending our time in a way that allows us to express most or all of our core values. Balance involves making the time for the things that matter most to us and minimizing those that distract from our highest goals.

My final balancing act is that of sliding on the snow. We are constantly changing, adapting and managing three things:

- The direction of the skis (Rotational Control)
- The angle of the skis to the snow (Edge Control)
- The pressure created through turning & terrain (Pressure Control)

Together these skills serve as a way of inventorying all that we can do to affect these simple outcomes of the skis or, the ‘skills’ of skiing. This is our balancing act when we are out on the hill.

So, what’s next for me? How will I balance the off season with my intentions for the upcoming winter season? First, I will take inventory of the ability to balance life, skiing, fitness and health, and of course family. I will give myself the liberty to rest, time for my feet to recover and cherish moments with my daughters. I will start to build a list of my next intentions. I will enjoy the off season and count the days until I will ski again. What will you do?

Written by,
Krista Clayton, NI Board of Directors, Snowbasin Resort

ISSA Recap

After attending the Intermountain Ski Areas Association (ISAA) Convention in Sun Valley, I would like to share a few things with you. First, there are many projects currently in the works for area upgrades and cool new features at many resorts! Summer activities, new lifts, added terrain...the list goes on! Some are truly mind blowing! Keep an eye out for these additions and thanks for being a part of the success of our industry! As instructors, we definitely are often the FACE of the mountain! Keep up with your professionalism and keep those smiles flashing!

Risk Management is a HUGE issue for all of us. Please do your part in keeping guests, fellow employees and yourself SAFE! That being said, the industry is currently revamping “YOUR RESPONSIBILITY CODE.” Revisions should be finalized and sent out by the end of June. If you are putting together printed material or online information and plan to include “The Code,” please hold off until this is completed.

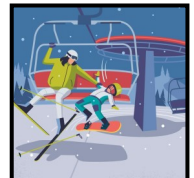
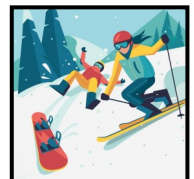
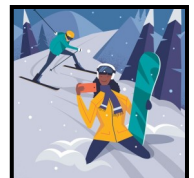
Wording for the code will be more specific/clear and a couple of new codes will be added. Basically, the new codes will cover:

Not using lifts while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Remaining at the scene if you are involved or witness an accident and sharing contact information.

Again, this is NOT the final verbiage, but gives you an indication of what is coming. Let’s not forget to educate ourselves and guests regarding personal safety responsibilities as Snowsports enthusiasts! Continue working as a team at your respective areas and make 2022/23 another fantastic season! We as instructors ARE APPRECIATED!

Written by,
Jessica Wojack Kluth, NI Board of Directors, Magic Mountain Ski Resort



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to all who achieved and exceeded their season goals. It has been a year of great accomplishments with great results! Northern Inter-mountain would like to thank you for your continued commitment to your personal and professional goals. NI is proud to serve you and all your skiing/riding and teaching endeavors!

Adaptive Certification

Tucker Anderson	H1
Sara Bayer	H1
Catie Bennett	H1
Harry Borcharding	H1
Mason Cox	H1
Pierce Franklin	H1
Lydia Godinho	H1
Nancy Huff	H1
Andrew Michaels	H1
Joe Mortensen	H1
Lori Wright	H1

Senior Specialist Accreditation

Louis Beaudry	SS1
John Connors	SS1
Ted Dedden	SS1
Kimberly Dewit	SS1
Bonnie Goold	SS1
Chris Kantarian	SS1
James Macpherson	SS1
Paul Overton	SS1
William Shearer	SS1
Glen Stein	SS1
Holly Williams	SS1

Snowboard Certification

Andrew Anderson	S1
Ayden Banning	S1
Brant Baugh	S1
Max Bender	S1
Savvy Blake	S1
Coty Clore	S1
Mose Duchano	S1
Nathan Fletcher	S1
Demi Harris	S1
Christine Miller	S1
Whitney Nield	S1
Kenton Schroeder	S1
Claire Temes	S1
Conner Thorsen	S1

Cross Country Certification

Mike Cooley	CC1
Gregg Gibboney	CC1
Andrew Kemp	CC1
Anna Nyman	CC1
Daniel Ostermiller	CC1

Freestyle Accreditation

Ayden Banning	FS1
Sebastian Chao	FS1
Daniel Ridgeway	FS1



Alpine Certification

Sebastian Chao	A3
Laura Delaney	A3
Christopher Maze	A3
Deann Miller	A3
Colleen Morishita	A3
Dustin Alger	A2
Delanie Edmunds	A2
Gregg Gibboney	A2
Jacobi Seacord	A2
Charles Alexander	A1
Dustin Alger	A1
Bel Clayton	A1
James Cutler	A1
Josh Davis	A1
Sam Englar	A1
Eden Flake	A1
Nathan Fletcher	A1
Chris Gardner	A1
Dimitry Gurevich	A1
Henry Harper	A1
Art Heimbach	A1
Douglas Hodson	A1
Wayne Huang	A1
Emily Hyatt	A1
Kelsey Hyatt	A1
William Roberts	A1
Lynn Sebold	A1
Jack Staufer	A1
Daniela Stokes	A1
Eric Storch	A1
Jerod Taylor	A1
Lynne Wieland	A1
Nancy Beth Wilson	A1

Carve' Diem

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