

FALL NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2019

President's Letter

NI Moving Forward

Every year at this time, I try and anticipate what the new ski season will offer and how the season will go for me. It's hard to judge just exactly how things will progress. But I always have the prior year to serve as a reference. In looking back at the prior season, I think about all the accomplishments we have achieved as a division. Sure, we have our challenges of development and continuity. However, I think about the three C's and how they have helped shape our division. *Collaboration, Communication and Consolidation.* As President of the Northern Intermountain Division of PSIA-AASI, I feel the obligation to each and every member to shape the division and provide the resources through education and personnel that will help gratify us and ensure our success as instructors. We have a great Board of Directors, representing the different resorts within the division, that facilitates our future requirements and can communicate the members' needs. In addition, we have a great Interim Operations Director, Tom Koto, who has taken it upon himself to ensure the division needs are met. He has

been working diligently with our National staff and Division personnel to plan the coming year and to identify any deficits that we may have to address our current needs.

Each season brings about a new crop of needs in addition to the ongoing ones. We have many challenges and as a division the Northern Intermountain Board and Operations staff needs to be diligent in reaching out to the ski schools and community that we serve to understand these individual needs. We in turn as a board have goals that we need to achieve to ensure our community needs are addressed and resorts can be confident in knowing we are there for them. We are aligning more this year with National in our collaboration efforts to operate with more efficiency. National will work with us to help provide the continued member resources and education information to offer our certification pathways and events.

This brings me to the point of the instructor community and our need to keep our continuing education current. We have a well-rounded staff of Division Chairs that represent the specific disciplines, and if you've ever taken a clinic or pursued certification, our team administers are keeping pace with National standards for clinics and prep/exam settings. I know for a fact that the team of dedicated clinicians and examiners will make every effort to help us succeed in meeting our clinic and exam requirements. They have a special knowledge achieved through

advanced training and education and I offer my sincere gratitude to each and every Education Team member.

Lastly, I am confident the Board of Directors and Operations staff will serve as your leader in the division to accomplish the future goals and re-define our position within the scheme of the PSIA-AASI divisions to emerge as a leader. We will continue to increase our membership count to produce another fruitful year as a division. I look to each and every instructor and community member to reach out to us and have the confidence in the team to guide you through our future to emerge as a leader of the Division and industry profession and community. Thank you!

"I choose to live by choice, not by chance: to make changes, not excuses."
—Anonymous

Sincerely,
Fernando Veloz
President PSIA-AASI Northern Intermountain, Bogus Basin Resort

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NI News

Fall Conference Update

By the time of this publication, Fall Conference and the meeting of operational leaders from all 8 Divisions and National at Breckenridge will have been completed (see highlights from Weylin Barrett). The operational leaders will spend the majority of the meeting training with the new member database system, which should prove to have more capacities to grow and change with the needs of our organization. We will be working off the old CRM and new AMS systems as the conversion continues to progress. That should not have any direct impact on you as a member, but it's wise to log in and check on your education credits and credentials from time to time. Prior to our meeting, Nick Herrin, PSIA-AASI CEO, informed me Northern Intermountain Division will be one of two Divisions who will completely switch to the new AMS this season. That's exciting news, and I will be looking for feedback on your experience with the new system.

I will be discussing (with our team at the National office) our microsite and how we can improve content, navigation, etc. Currently, we are tied to the National website, but the relationship with the 3rd party that manages the website (and our microsite), will be ending next year, and we are looking into other options.

Many of you responded to the survey sent from National earlier this year. The Board has spent considerable time reviewing the responses. With the changes in Bylaws and new Policies and Procedures, you will see a restructuring of our organization. The Board of Directors will be tasked with Governance and strategic planning. My role as Interim Executive Director will be to work with our Discipline and Committee Team to streamline operations. That will be a significant change this season and you should see the impact throughout the season. You will see a rollout of events online and schedules in your locker rooms this season. We are putting in place strategies so more events "go" this season.

Also new at Fall Conference this year is a "Train the Trainer" event. In addition to our Discipline Chairs participation for each Discipline Task Force, another group of clinicians will be on snow and in class, bringing back the most current news from Education Leaders Council (ELC) and work with Penn State. We will be meeting with trainers from member schools so they have this information as they train their staff and members prepare for exams and accreditations.

I am excited for this season and what we will be able to do for you and our member schools. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and questions.

Cheers!
Tom Koto
Interim Executive Director PSIA-AASI
Northern Intermountain, Bogus Basin Resort



NI Masterminds at Fall Conference!

NI News Cont'd

Education on the Rise

Every fall, as the leaves begin to change and Old Man Winter begins to show his face, representatives from all of the divisions, National Office Personnel and National Team Members come together in Colorado to conduct project work for our future and to prepare for the roll out of new materials. This season is no exception.

Let me start with a little historical information to bring everyone up to speed on where we are, so we all can better understand where we are going. Over the last several years the Discipline Chairs of Northern Intermountain have been working with their partners on PSIA-AASI's Strategic Alignment Goals. Specifically, they have been working on Strategic Goal 3, which is to "complete the transition in consolidation, consistency and cooperation regarding education and certification."

The intent behind this project is to make sure that all divisional certification and educational events align with the respective standards documents, that duplication of effort is minimized and that the nine organizations are accountable to our partners. This effort has led to a partnership with Penn State University.

PSU and PSIA-AASI have agreed that together there would be a development of collegiate curriculum, that there would be a quality assurance initiative, that research on snowsports education would take place and this would all lead to the development of a degree pathway and a Snowsports Institute in this country.

The discipline task forces have been using a framework that was brought to them by Dr. Pete Allison, of PSU, which was initially developed by the British Association of Snowsport Instructors in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. Through this framework PSIA-AASI is evaluating and aligning the educational and certification content across the country.

So, what does 2019 have in store for our hard working Chairpeople? This year the task forces are going to be working to complete the drafting of all of the Technical Outcomes that are associated with each discipline and creating a corresponding Performance Guide. There will also be newly formed task forces working on finalizing the development of learning outcomes for the multi-discipline Teaching Fundamentals and People Skills. For more information on either of these check out the video presentations from Interski 2019: <https://www.thesnowpros.org/events/interski>.

Running concurrently with this year's project work is a new addition to the Fall Conference event. Divisional Education and Certification staff members will be present to gain some training in an effort to continue the improvement of the alignment initiatives and create a better vehicle for the dissemination of valuable information to the membership. Your Chairpeople this year will be receiving training on all spheres of the Learning Connection Model (see page 8 of the *New Instructor Guide* located at [thesnowpros.org](https://www.thesnowpros.org)), Assessment Criteria and scoring during exams, as well as technical information on the differences between what differentiates a great instructor from a great trainer.

This last bit will have immediate rollout in 2019 within NI as these Staff members travel from resort to resort working with the in-house training teams and helping them develop their own skill sets. This year promises to be exciting with all these new opportunities for both the Education Teams of NI; more importantly these opportunities will have a great impact on the Member Schools and the general membership.

As you look to diversify your professional development this model will make many skills more transferable and there will be greater consistency in language.

For the most up to date information on Fall Conference 2019, follow the First Chair Podcast: <https://www.thesnowpros.org/podcast>.

See you out there!

Weylin Barrett

**Professional Development VP PSIA-AASI
Northern Intermountain, Sun Valley Resort**



PSIA-AASI NI

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NI News Cont'd

Welcome New Board Members!

Cortney Bayuk

Hello, I am Cortney Bayuk, the newest NI Board member. I am honored and excited to be put in this position, and can't wait to see how I can benefit the division. I grew up in San Diego, California and have been involved with skiing and snowboarding almost my whole life. Every winter my family would travel to Brundage to visit my Grandmother and get some skiing in. When I decided I wanted to become a ski instructor, it was an easy choice for me to choose Brundage because that is where I grew up and learned to ski. Last year was my first season as a ski instructor so I'm excited to go in this season with more knowledge as I continue to learn teaching methods and advance my skiing. I was able to attend Spring Symposium last year and that experience was what whetted my appetite for wanting to be more of a part of the Northern Intermountain Division; understanding the organization, helping provide recommendations, and doing what I can to help the division be successful.

Thank you for this opportunity, I can't wait to get started!



Mason Fredrickson



I was born and raised in Coeur d'Alene, ID, and skiing was one of the winter activities that our family enjoyed as I was growing up. I was introduced to PSIA-AASI Northern Intermountain at a young age because my grandfather, Lex Kunau, was very involved in the division for many decades. When I would visit him in Burley, I would sometimes help him at his office by labeling, stuffing, and licking envelopes being sent to NI division members. We would also spend time skiing at Pomerelle, and every once in a while, at Sun Valley. During my late teen years, I stopped skiing as much for whatever silly reason.

Upon graduating from the University of Idaho in 2011, I moved to Ketchum for work. It was a dream come true that allowed me to dive back into skiing. I was lucky to have a few friends who were members of PSIA-AASI-NI and they were very helpful in shaking the rust off, showing me pointers, and reigniting my passion for the sport. They inspired me to get involved with the Sun Valley SnowSports School and eventually PSIA-AASI-NI. I received my Alpine Level 1 Certification last season and this will be my fifth season with Sun Valley SnowSports where I have primarily worked with children's programs. I was honored and excited to join the Board of Northern Intermountain Division last spring. I align with PSIA-AASI's mission statement to "Create Lifelong Adventures Through Education" and look forward to helping people experience that, continuing to experience it myself, and serving the organization.

2019-20 Scholarship Opportunities

The Scholarship Committee is excited for this upcoming season. Last season we were able to help fund ten members from our division with their professional development goals through funding their clinics and exams. We have made some changes in how we will be awarding scholarships and hope these changes will be able to help more members. Members will be notified of these changes and the application process through email and hopefully we will be able to get information posted in all the member snowsports schools. We will start accepting applications December 1st. Please let me know if you have any questions about the scholarships or the application process.

Thank you,

Angela Jarvis
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(Subject: PSIA-AASI-NI Scholarship Questions)

Submit Scholarship Applications to:
PSIA-NI Attn: Education Foundation
P.O. Box 8628
Boise, Id 83707



National News

New from the PSIA-AASI Website



More benefits await you from thesnowpros.org webpage. There are new E-Learning courses offering for everyone regardless of age and experience in snow instruction. The pre-season snows are upon us so is the opportunity to work on preventing injury with a fitness routine from the new 'Fitness for Skiing and Snowboarding Manual' is a great way to prepare for the season. Online CEU's are also available upon completion of the 'ACL Strong' E-Learning course.

Brush up on new teaching ideas available direct from the National Team members. They are back from the world congress at Interski and are full of ways to help you. Deliver the best 'Beginner Experience' with free E-Learning courses in Alpine, Snowboard and Cross Country. Introduce snowsports instruction to your friends with the 'Guide to New Instructors.' Hone your teaching skills with the new 'Alpine Movement Analysis' course. Work on your guest's and your skiing skills with the 'Alpine Skiing Fundamentals' course. You will earn CEU credits for both these E-Learning courses.

As we are all kid's instructors, download the new progress card toolkit supporting children's lesson progressions and outcome-based skill development. Burton has teamed up with AASI to offer an E-Learning course on kids and physical education.

For Certified members and those pursuing Certification, PSIA-AASI has new on-line E-Learning courses for 'Alpine 1 and Snowboard 1, Written Knowledge Exams' along with 'Children's' and 'Senior Specialist Workbooks' from NI and all Divisions.

'The Matrix' is your one-stop shop for all ski and snowboard educational video content. Watch videos on all disciplines, including adaptive, alpine, cross country, telemark, and snowboard. Maximize your learning time by sorting the videos you want to watch by conditions, terrain, and level.

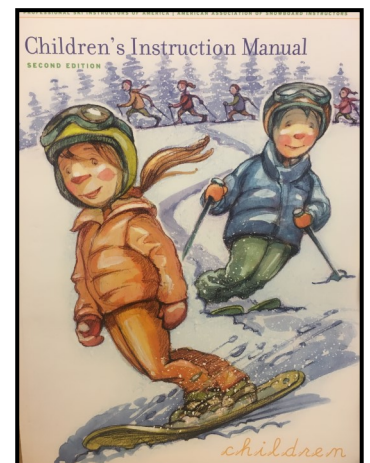
This is a good time to get rid of those worn out winter gloves and replace them with a pair from our pro equipment partners or the accessory catalog. Or, throw a pair of new spring gloves in 'Your Cart.'

While you are watching snow levels descend on the Rockies, fire up your computer, go online and visit the PSIA-AASI webpage. Old ideas, current techniques, lateral learning plus much more all await you at thesnowpros.org.

News from the Children's World

The Children's Specialist 1 Workbook will be replaced with an E-Learning course starting this season. It will be available online in November. The CS1 Workbook will still be available online to use as a study guide. CS2 will continue to use the online workbook this season.

Last season new CS1 and CS2 scorecards were used in NI. All divisions and all disciplines are working to create consistent evaluation of assessment criteria in exams. Scoring will also be consistent within disciplines using a 1-6 scale. The goal of this year's Fall Conference is to finalize the Learning Outcomes and Performance Guides for all discipline standards and to implement the new scoring system.



NI Articles

“I’m going to Breckenridge in April. You should too!”

The next PSIA-AASI National Team will be formed in Breckenridge, CO during a selection event from April 12-16, 2020. Members, leaders and representatives from all divisions and every discipline will showcase their talents during this event and “One Team” will be realized to help move our organization forward in fulfilling its vision, to “create lifelong adventures through education.” These inspirational educators and athletes, identified as lifelong learners, will be tasked with the mission of supporting our membership and member schools, as part of the snowsports industry, to develop personally and professionally, create and nurture positive learning experiences and grow enthusiasm and excitement for our profession.

I had the great pleasure to be in Breckenridge during the 2016 National Team Selection and I am excited to be in Summit County in April to support Northern Intermountain representatives, Ben Roberts and Weylin Barrett (and possibly, hopefully others!).

This event is mind-bogglingly stimulating for a variety of reasons, not least of which is the access afforded to supporters and the general public to a slope-side, front row seat to some of the best skiing and teaching in the country. These folks are really good at standing on the side of a run and talking about people sliding on snow. Like...REALLY GOOD! All kidding aside, while the indoor presentations and group work—used in large part to gauge not only technical skills, but also teaching and people skills—are not open to spectators, there is more than enough out in the open, to get a great sense of who these folks are and how these leaders do what they do.

A personal highlight from the last event was during the afternoon of Day 1, when skier and snowboard candidates gathered in three different pods at the top of Horseshoe Bowl on

Peak 8. Conditions were cold, with 8+ inches of fresh in the last 48 hours. Selectors and supporters were funneled at the bottom, with the bowl opened up like an amphitheater of powder. One after another, candidates ripped down three different “lanes” performing three different tasks (like no poles in the off-piste, or rhythm maintenance despite what bumped or dropped in front of them). The energy from the crowd and candidates was invigorating and the performances were worthy of being called the “best in the nation.”

It’s been a great pleasure to build relationships with some current and past team members and candidates and I wish all of them the best of fortunes in the coming selection process.

If you have the interest, check out the team selection announcement here (<https://www.thesnowpros.org/teamselection>) and consider joining me in support of members from around the country, and right in our backyard, who are snowsports leaders of today and tomorrow.

**By Christian Luening
Vice President Northern Intermountain,
Bogus Basin**



Good luck, Ben!



Good luck, Weylin!

“Make Your Mark” Initiative...Tamarack’s Rally Cry for Doing Right

Tamarack Mountain Resort began its “Make Your Mark” program last August with the aim towards helping people and our part of the world. With the limited opportunities to recycle plastic and glass in the area, the resort began the process of eliminating all single use straws, plastic bottles, utensils and greatly reduced glass product use.

In place of these, Tamarack began using “infinitely refillable aluminum” and metal flatware, and when not possible to completely eliminate plastic, plant-based plastics that decompose within months.

This season Tamarack has announced it has further reduced its carbon footprint by purchasing 1,761 Renewable Energy Certificates to match its non-hydro electricity in conjunction with Idaho Power and 3Degrees to operate the resort on 100% clean energy.

What is the impact of these efforts? Eliminating single use plastic at Tamarack has to date kept 134,000 individual pieces of plastic out of the landfill. The Renewable Energy Certificates have an environmental impact similar to growing 20,755 tree seedlings for ten years or taking 264 cars off the road for a year. Wow!

Tamarack is proud to be doing the right thing, no matter how small to help keep our part of the world the beautiful playground it is. The challenge is out there to other resorts and instructors...how are you making your mark?

Share what your resort is doing!



NI Articles Cont'd

More than Just a Pin: Part 2

As the weather starts to turn cooler, leaves change and some snow has even dropped on the top of Mt. Harrison, I start to feel the energy and excitement of a new ski season approaching. It never fails—this time of year my mind likes to wander back to how much fun I have as a ski instructor at Pomerelle Mountain. I'll be kicking off my sixth teaching season at Pomerelle (AKA Pomy) this year and couldn't be more excited!

I consider last year to be one of personal growth. I committed and pushed myself to pass my Level 2 Alpine Certification in the spring of 2018. It was a huge learning experience and one I will always be grateful for. Some of you may remember that story ended with me passing my skiing exam, yet failing my teaching exam. If you'd like to catch up on that experience, you can find it in the PSIA-NI Winter Newsletter, February 2019. Find it online here: <https://community.thesnowpros.org/northernintermountaindivision/resources/newsletter>

It's a huge decision and commitment to decide to go for your Level 2 Certification. In the journey to pass Level 2 you will be expected to pass a written online exam, take exam prep clinics for skiing and teaching, and build your knowledge of the five fundamentals of skiing and how they relate to the basic skills of skiing. You will need to develop your understanding of movement analysis so you can better correct possible bad habits your clients may have developed, through a series of tasks and drills. The Matrix video portal on the PSIA-AASI website is a great place to find videos and tutorials on some tasks you can use. All the information on Level 2 Certification is also at: www.thesnowpros.org.

The cost to go for your Level 2 (or any certification) can get pretty pricey, though scholarships are available. I was lucky enough to receive a scholarship to cover the cost of my exams back in 2018. I also received an additional scholarship this year to cover the cost of the teaching exam I took a second time this spring. You miss out on 100% of the scholarships you don't apply for, so take the initiative to ask what's available. I want to thank the scholarship selection committee for believing in me and my snowsports education goals. Receiving those scholarships helped take some of the stress off of my goal to pass the certification. When you don't have to worry about covering the cost, you can focus more on training and preparing for the exams. You can find all the information on how to apply for a scholarship at www.psia-ni.org.

I'd like to share a story of the ski instructor who refused to quit. I refused to give up on myself and my goal of becoming a Level 2 Certified Instructor. I believe that the only way you truly fail is if you quit, but it's also okay to fail from time to time. It's okay to take more time to achieve a goal than you think it should. It's okay to keep practicing, hustling and working to reach your goal. I always feel like the joy is in the journey. What you gain from the experience is almost better than the end result. Sure, we have an end result in mind, but focus on where you are now and what you have to do to get where you want to go. And, as always, don't forget to go easy on yourself when you mess up. We are all here to learn, grow and get better.

Back in 2018 after the shock and sadness of not passing my teaching exam wore off, I knew I needed to step up my game. Goals have to be accomplished in steps. We can't set a goal, and then expect to make the jump to the end result. You have to have a plan, and then execute the plan to the best of your ability.

I jumped head first into preparing to retake my teaching exam as soon as the 2018-2019 season started. I bought my own copies of the PSIA Alpine Technical Manual and Teaching Snow Sports Manual so I could highlight, make notes, and mark up the pages as I studied. Up until then I had only borrowed the manuals from other instructors. If you're serious about becoming certified, buy the books. It's an investment you won't regret. (You can find them for sale in the PSIA-AASI Catalog or at www.thesnowpros.org.)

I printed the clinic and exam schedule off the website and started making a plan. I highlighted the clinics I wanted to take and the places I wanted to ski. There were multiple Level 2 exams taking place at Sun Valley and Tamarack. Because I had never skied Tamarack, I decided that was where it was all going to go down in March of 2019 since some of the fun in the exam process is being able to ski at new resorts and meet new people.

I studied constantly. I memorized the five fundamentals and basic skills of skiing and worked day in and day out on the mountain with my fellow instructors to perfect my progressions, tasks and speech so I knew the correct terminology to use. I visualized the end result I wanted every day. I also made sure I was having fun in the process. Why do we do anything unless it's fun? The certification process is supposed to be fun, and about learning, growing and becoming better.

I committed and took the Level 2 Teaching Prep Clinic at Tamarack where I gained more knowledge of how the exam process works, and what the examiners will be looking for. If there is one thing I have learned in this journey, it's that your examiners and division clinic leaders want to see you do well. They want to help you succeed. I never felt like anyone was out to fail me on purpose. I always felt supported, encouraged and believed in. If they had criticism to give, it was always positive, constructive and encouraging — and I took it as such and used it to make myself better.

The teaching exam I had signed up for was set for Sunday, March 10, 2019, at Tamarack. As I made the two-hour drive that morning from my brother's house in Boise, up the windy canyons to Tamarack, once again, I visualized the outcome I wanted. I felt the joy of holding that sweet little silver pin in my hand and I saw the way it would look on my Pomerelle SnowSports School Coat. The sun was just beginning to rise as I drove into Donnelly, bathing the trails on Tamarack in a soft and sweet pink glow, and I knew it was going to be a good day.

I went into the exam day with a clear head and confidence in my heart. I knew I had done the work. I had prepared for that



NI Articles Cont'd

More than Just a Pin: Part 2 (Cont'd)

day more than I had prepared for anything in my life. I knew that no matter what the outcome was, I was going to be okay. It was that knowledge that helped ease the nerves that always seem to surface.

I was once again blessed with the best examiners I could ask for. I was lucky enough to have skied with both of them in the past in clinics in 2018. They were patient, supportive and encouraging. Thank you, John Straka and Loren Livermore for all the help and support. I am grateful for both of you. When we wrapped up on our exams and the examiners released us so they could write up our score cards, I was filled once again with a sense of accomplishment and pride in myself. I had done the very best I could. And that was enough for me.

Getting handed an envelope with a little extra weight in it is seriously one of the best feelings in the world. I knew I had passed by the looks on the faces of my examiners, who I also considered my friends. I had put in the work, skied and taught with confidence and visualized the outcome I wanted. It was everything I imagined and more.

Looking back, I know now that I wasn't supposed to pass the

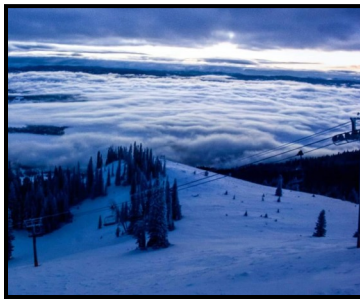
first time around. I know now that I had so much more to learn and, in the end, it made me a better skier, teacher, and person. I chose not to quit. I chose to keep going. And I chose to take full responsibility for my failure the first time.

If you're serious about a career in snowsports instructing, make the decision to get certified. It will be one of the most rewarding, yet challenging, things you will ever do for yourself. The process can be as awesome or as terrible as you decide to let it be. Check your ego at the door. Be open to learning, stay humble, and joyful though out the process. They say the only difference between a good experience and a bad one is your attitude. You have the power to make or break your experience. You can choose to be upset when you don't pass, or you can rise back up and figure out how to do and be better.

It may just be a little shiny silver pin to some, but to me, it's a symbol of strength and making the decision not to quit.

What's next for this Level 2 instructor? I'm kind of thinking a sliver pin looks pretty good, but a GOLD one, will look even better. Go get one for yourself!

By Amanda Dilworth
Pomerelle Ski Area, Level 2



IT'S BACK...Wildwood Chair at Tamarack

For those that remember when Tamarack opened, Wildwood Chair terrain was epic and, IT'S BACK!

This fall Tamarack Resort has been working hard on completing the installation of an improved one mile long, detachable high-speed quad. The new Wildwood Chair will be located where the previous chair was. The lift rises 1,646 vertical feet and is a 5 minute and 36 second ride that can service 1,800 skiers per hour. Can you say never a lift line?!

Crews are working hard on preparing the terrain, which will provide access to 200 additional acres of the resort's most consistently pitched intermediate and expert trails, along with gladed tree skiing. The resort now boasts 1,100 lift serviced skiable acres with a vertical of 2,800 feet!

Those of us lucky enough to work at Tamarack couldn't be more happy, proud and excited for the big changes underway at Tamarack...getting this terrain back is icing on the cake, or powder on the hill!

Come check it out this season...Tamarack would be happy to ski you!



Peer Mentoring

You are reading this newsletter, which means you are already a very accomplished skier or rider. That's why you are getting paid to help the public become better skiers and riders! But there is always room for improvement, right? And while we are all going to participate in clinics and work to improve our skill set, one thing that many instructors overlook is a very simple relationship that is sitting right here, right in front of all of us. My challenge to each and every one of us this year is to create a MENTOR RELATIONSHIP with an instructor at your resort.

What defines a mentorship? Very simply, it is when an experienced person provides guidance, education, and support to a less experienced person. Within each of our resorts and programs, this creates an endless amount of possibilities for instructors to forge impactful relationships on the snow, all in the name of ensuring better experiences for our clients.

What does a Mentorship "look like"? I've seen successful mentorships between first year instructors and instructors in their 3rd decade. I've seen successful mentorships between Level 1 instructors and Ed Team members. I've seen successful mentorships between a younger mentor and an older mentee. In other words, the only parameter, really, is that both the mentor and the mentee feel comfortable in their relationship, and both partners (because it really is a partnership) feel like they are benefiting from the relationship. So, find yourself a mentor this season, or be a mentor to a fellow instructor. These relationships can be lifelong, and life changing in more ways than just sliding on snow! **By Martina Vala, Sun Valley, NI DCL**

NI Articles Cont'd

Get Ready for Exams This Coming Season



Take the challenge! What challenge? you might ask. The challenge to be 100% responsible for preparing for your certification exams. Give yourself permission to be prepared to take the exam successfully. This is not as easy as it sounds. While getting ready, a person can easily fill his or her head with a tremendous amount of information about a given snowsport discipline. Make a concerted effort to *simplify* this season. Find out what is required of you for the certification you seek and prepare for that. Study and practice pertinent material and performance for what is required.

Get started by opening the division certification guide to the section pertaining to the level of exam you wish to take. The certification guide will refer you to the national standards and other reference material such as the discipline technical manual, the snowsports teaching manual, as well as other relevant documents. Be sure to have access to the most current issues of these documents. Your ed staff examiner will be up-to-date and have the most current information available.

There will be required performance tasks during the ski/ride module as well as teaching tasks and technical knowledge checks during the teaching module. Develop an overview of what is expected and prepare yourself to master the knowledge and performance required. Though there are two distinct modules for performance and technical knowledge, realize the two go hand in hand. For example, if a Level 2 candidate bends over the new outside ski to demonstrate the initiation of a wedge turn, instead of lengthening the new outside leg to pressure that ski, it is apparent to the examiner the candidate lacks understanding of the fundamental skills in this demonstration.

For Level 1 candidates, the process of becoming a snowsports instructor and taking that first exam is like wrapping one's lips around a fire hose and then turning the water on full blast! There seems to be so much to learn and so little time to learn it. Certainly, time is the biggest factor; it is the beginning of the season and clients are coming! We must be ready—it is the nature of a seasonal business. Because of the time crunch the Level 1 exam is often administered in a clinic format. Candidates are afforded the opportunity to teach and demonstrate what they have learned on their own and because of the format, they can grow their ability and knowledge throughout the day.

Level 2 and 3 candidates are expected to be more experienced and seasoned so their exams will be harder. Preparing for Level 2 and 3 exams can be exhausting so start getting in shape early. Performance practice can take hours. Harold Harb has a good saying: "You have to ski bumps to be able to ski bumps." Much practice will be needed to be done when you are not with clients. However, you may also practice while you are teaching.

Practice and perfect your demos while demonstrating to you clients. The same applies to all other areas of skiing/riding. It is extremely important to incorporate what you have learned from study sessions, discussions, clinics and even from your clients during lessons into your everyday skiing/riding.

Practice teaching can also take hours. This is especially true if you are uncomfortable talking to peers or if you are not thoroughly versed on the fundamentals of your snowsport discipline. Hit the books now, practice talking to your mirror, so you know you don't have, as Seth Jacobson might say, "booger pirates on the nose ship!" Form study groups and/or have a training buddy. Ask each other questions. Learn from the answers. Learn and know, for example, when asked about turning one's skis with feet and legs and the corresponding fundamental or skill; 99 times out 100 the question relates to rotary and turning the feet and legs under a stable upper body. You are, generally, not being asked about edge control or changing your balance from one outside foot to the other. Focus on the questions and answer the question you are asked. During lessons or exams, one of the most important aspects of teaching is movement analysis. Translate the technical knowledge you acquire during your studies into giving accurate, timely and individual feedback.

When exam day rolls around, get a good night's sleep and then have a good breakfast. Get to the exam site with time to collect your thoughts and be ready to go. Looking professional and being on time presents a good first impression to the examiners. You are one of your snowsports school's most valuable assets, so take the opportunity during the exam to "represent!" A great approach in taking an exam is to treat other candidates as you would your clients. Engage the group, show enthusiasm for what you are presenting and be efficient. Engaging the group is the cornerstone for a successful exam experience. Look the group in the eye and smile, listen to questions the group might have and develop a plan to meet their needs just as you would a client during a lesson. Present your topic and lesson with enthusiasm. Let the group feel they are part of the lesson and that you are happy to be sharing the experience with them. Let your passion rub off on the group. Be efficient in your presentation. Allow time for your introduction, ski/ride PRACTICE and feedback, and a summary of the lesson. A good rule of thumb to divvy up the allotted time is to allow one third for the introduction, lesson content and summary, and two thirds of the time for ski/ride PRACTICE and feedback.

We as a division hope you have successful exam experiences this season. Preparation and practice are the keys to success. Rely on your study group or training buddy during the preparation process. Help one another stay positive. Above all, remember, you are responsible for your own success. No one can take the exam for you, so prepare and be ready.

By Loren Livermore
Tamarack Resort, NI DCL



Thank You

Congratulations Barry Whiting for Receiving the *Lifetime Membership Award!*



Thank you to PSIA-AASI Northern Intermountain for the great honor you gave me at last spring's Symposium. This meant very much to me. I can think of a lot of members who are much more deserving of this than me. Thank you so much.

Barry Whiting
Pomerelle Ski Area

In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts that we start our winter season at Pomerelle, due to the passing of resort owner and CEO Woody Anderson. Following is a complete obituary of Woody:

Woody Anderson, June 7, 1932 – October 6, 2019

Our loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother and skiing guru/friend, A. W. Woody Anderson left us, peacefully, Sunday, October 6, 2019, while at home.

He was born on a sunny June morning in 1932 to Helen and Alexander Anderson, in Salt Lake City, UT. Woody joined his two older sisters, Bonnie and Barbara. Later, Judy and Linda rounded out the wonderful Anderson family.

Woody completed all his schooling in Salt Lake. After serving two years in the US Army (stationed in Germany and skiing competitively for the military), he graduated from the University of Utah with a BS in Chemistry/Biological Sciences.

Professionally, Woody was a ski racer, ski instructor, ski school director, ski area manager, ski shop owner, and ski area owner/operator. He was one of the founders of the Intermountain Ski Instructors Association, serving as national certification chairman for Professional Ski Instructors of America, as well as other ski industry, Idaho state, and community affairs.

He was a charismatic, wonderful man who loved his family, friends, and the ski industry. We will forever remember and miss his intelligence, smiling kindness, quick wit, limericks and twinkling eyes.

Woody is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sandy. His children, Jody (John), Chris (Georgia), Gretchen (Buster), and Nathan (Cynthia). His stepchildren, Mike (Janay), Lisa (Jeff), and Kevin (Krien). His grandchildren Whitney, Zachary (Lindsey), Kali (Michael), Alex, Hannah, Maci (Brandon), Erika, Woody, Sarah, Maggie, Joshua, William and his great-grandson, Kanner. His former wife, Ginny. His sisters, Barbara, Judy (Jack), Lunda, and many, many nieces, nephews, and dear loved ones.

Woody was preceded in death by his parents and his oldest sister, Bonnie.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to: Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation's "Education Fund" for youth skiing purposes at PO Box 980187, Park City, Utah 84098.

He was a family man most of all but dedicated much of his life to the love of skiing. Enough cannot be said about this great man. Woody and his wife Sandy made it very possible for thousands upon thousands of people to learn how to ski or at least experience the mountains in the winter.

Woody was a great mentor to many of us. He knew the ski business inside and out and shared his knowledge and love of the sport to all who ever worked or skied with him.

A lady ski patroller wrote a tribute to Woody and I think her last paragraph says it best, "I hope there is snow in Heaven and they issue you an eternal pass. That their runs go on forever and you never run out of gas."

Rest in Peace.
Barry Whiting



Looking Ahead to the 2019-20 Season

2019-20 Northern Intermountain Winter Events

A Full Calendar of Events will be posted on NI Division website, mid-November.

Move to Perform: Saturday, November 16th, 8:30-3:30 St Luke's Wood River Medical Center 100 Hospital Drive, Ketchum. All disciplines welcome. 6 CEUs. Wear comfortable clothes to work out in. Bring food and drink as there is no food onsite. The clinic will be conducted by 2 certified physical therapists from St Luke's. This clinic is a physical assessment to help us screen and measure movement patterns, and how they relate to skiing. This clinic will help identify functional limitations, asymmetries, and movement deficiencies that may lead to injury or poor ski performance. The goal of this clinic is to identify these ineffective movement patterns in ourselves and our guest, and give us a prescription for change to help prevent injury and improve our skiing and our guests. For questions contact John Straka at 208-720-3061.

Northern Intermountain Spring Symposium: April 4th and 5th, Resort to be announced.

National Awards

PSIA-AASI's Award Program recognizes its members' achievements as instructors, leaders, and collaborators in the industry. Nominations are due by December 31 for the **Distinguished Service, Educational Excellence**, and the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Submit nominations to: <http://www.thesnowpros.org/awardsandrecognition>.

Distinguished Service Award: This award recognizes those who've made important contributions that have added to the success of PSIA-AASI. These candidates have displayed long-term commitment and dedication by providing educational programming support, or by contributing to group and/or PSIA-AASI National Team efforts that involve important national initiatives. Other examples of distinguished service may include demonstrating positive leadership skills, fostering connections with and between members, or having a willingness to mentor peers – both young and experienced. Members and non-members, including staff, vendors and industry partners, are eligible to receive this award.

Educational Excellence Award: This award recognizes those exceptional few members who authored PSIA-AASI educational materials over the years. They have added significantly to, and possibly even changed, the educational direction of PSIA-AASI. They have exhibited dedication, devotion and self-sacrifice contributing to the PSIA-AASI educational system, with ten years or more sustained outstanding service.

Lifetime Achievement Award: This award recognizes exceptional members who have designed and implemented programs, projects and procedures affecting the association on a national level. They have exhibited dedication, devotion, and self-sacrifice serving in national level leadership position.

NI Awards

Instructor of the Season

Eligibility: Any active member of PSIA-AASI-NI, in good standing.

Criteria: A member who has made an exceptional contribution to PSIA-AASI-NI as a teacher, coach or leader and has been an extraordinary role model as a professional.

Award: Plaque, Membership Dues (National and Divisional) for 1 year.

Rookie of the Season

Eligibility: Any active member in their first year as a snowsports instructor.

Criteria: A member who has made an exceptional contribution and impression in their first season with PSIA-AASI-NI as a teacher, coach or leader. This award goes to someone who has demonstrated superior ability, aptitude and inspiration to snowsports education in their first season as an instructor. It's a great way to recognize a rising superstar.

Award: Plaque, Membership Dues (Divisional) for 1 year.

Northern Intermountain Hall of Fame: Lex Kunau Legends Award

Eligibility: Any member of PSIA-AASI-NI - active, or alumni, with more than 25 years in the Association. The award may be given posthumously.

Criteria: This award recognizes those senior members in good standing who give a life long commitment to the development and/or history of snowsports including instructing, service on the board of directors, writing technical or feature articles for publications, etc.

Award: Plaque.

Carve' Diem

Please e-mail articles, photos, ads, etc. for publication to:

media@psia-ni.org

Subject: Newsletter submission

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