

NAA SnowSports Instructor

Inspiring lifelong passion for the mountain experience



Spring 2008

ISSUE 4 07/08 SEASON PNSIA-EF



Event Line Up

Summer Events

With the incredible snowfall the Northwest has received this season it is sure to be an incredible summer on the Palmer snowfield at Timberline. Come see what makes the Northwest special in the summer, skiing on a glacier at 8,000 feet in the middle of July.



Summer Professional Development Series Camp

**JULY 11TH-13TH OR
JULY 18TH-20TH
EVENT \$180
LIFT TICKETS \$147**



Included in this camp
Daily video
Personal coaching and on-hill training
Small group size
Professional knowledge
Skiing the skills concepts

Have you ever skied in the summer? What do you do to keep your skills fresh and challenged in the 'off-season'? You will ski on the summer schedule from 8am-1pm with the rest of your day free to golf, bike, swim, shop, hike, windsurf or just relax. Come explore and challenge your skiing and training on a glacial snowfield in the summer and solidify and/or create your goals for the upcoming season.

Cost - \$190
Lift tickets must be pre-paid
\$49/day = \$147 for the three days
This is an alpine only event

Summer Ski Camp

**JULY 11TH-13TH
JULY 18TH-20TH
EVENT \$250
LIFT TICKETS \$147**

1ST SESSION
FULL



Included in this camp
Daily video
Souvenir DVD of your runs
Phenomenal coaching
Private Lane reserved for PSIA-NW
On-hill Snacks
Rafting available Friday afternoon for \$45-see website for details

As the quote continues, pristine blue skies, mountain air, amazing views and a glacier and a huge snow base! You will experience all these things and be skiing in the middle of the summer. Come join our Technical Team and other talented coaches for this three day camp to get comfortable in the gates, understand line, look at tactics to better run a course and tips and tricks to help you become a better coach and skier in the gates. Come experience what all your friends are envious of, skiing in the summer at Timberline.

Cost - \$250
Lift tickets must be pre-paid
\$49/day = \$147 for the three days
Optional extra activities planned - updates at psia-nw.org
This is an alpine only event



PSIA AASI

N O R T H W E S T



Summer Ski Application

11206 Des Moines Memorial Dr., Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98168
 Phone: (206) 244-8541 Fax: (206) 241-2885 e-mail: office@psia-nw.org

Please fill out all applicable lines for your event

FOR OFFICE USE

Northwest Membership # _____ Cert Level _____

Snowsports School: _____

Name: _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street/Box City State Zip

Check here if ANY information has changed

Cell Phone: (____) _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Discipline: Alpine

For your registration to be complete, we must receive this application with payment and the signed Timberline release

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer PDS Camp #1 <input type="checkbox"/> Summer PDS Camp#2 Timberline Timberline 11-13 July 2008 18-20 July 2008 Fri, Sat & Sun Fri, Sat & Sun Fee for PDS: \$190 + \$147 Lift Tickets (\$49/day)	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Ski Camp Session #2 Timberline 18-20 July 2008 Fri, Sat & Sun Fee: \$250 + \$147 Lift Tickets (\$49/day)
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LIABILITY RELEASE FORM (you must sign this release before attending any PSIA-NW event):
 Recognizing that skiing/boarding can be a hazardous sport, I hereby **RELEASE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE** PSIA-NW, PNSIA-EF, the host area and agents and employees of each from liability for any and all injuries of whatever nature arising during or in connection with the conduction of the event for which this application is made. Applicant hereby relinquishes and assigns to PSIA-NW and PNSIA-EF all rights to the use of Applicant's name and likeness or pictorial representation in photographs, motion pictures or other representations concerning Applicant's participation in said Event.

Signature _____ Date _____

TO AVOID A LATE FEE, registration is required 14 days prior to an event. If space is available, you will be assessed a \$10 per day late fee. If you are injured and are unable to attend your event, we will deduct \$10 per day cancellation fee from your refund. REFUNDS REQUIRE A NOTE FROM YOUR MEDICAL PROVIDER.

PDS Fee Paid: \$190.00 + \$147.00 (pre-paid lift tickets) = **\$337.00** Cash/Check Visa/MC
Ski Camp Fee Paid: \$250.00 + \$147.00 (pre-paid lift tickets) = **\$397.00**

Visa/MC # _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____

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NORTHWEST
SnowSports Instructor

**Professional Snowsports Instructors
of America-Northwest Division
PNSIA Education Foundation**

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Submission Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Summer/Fall	July 15
Early Winter	Oct 1
Winter	Jan 1
Spring	March 10

Guide for Contributors

The Northwest SnowSports Instructor is published four times a year. This newsletter will accept articles from anyone willing to contribute. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all submissions. Submit items as attachments via email or contact the editor for other options. Articles should include the author's name and a quick bio. Photos can be submitted via email or as prints. Please contact the editor for any additional information.

All published material becomes the property of PSIA-NW. Articles are accepted for publication on the condition that they may be released for publication in all PSIA National and Divisional publications. Material published in this newsletter is the responsibility of the author and is not necessarily endorsed by PSIA-NW.

PSIA AASI
N O R T H W E S T

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Diana Suzuki..... **Financial VP**
Lance Young..... **Member School VP**
Ed Younglove**PSIA Rep**
Staff
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Barb Darrow.....**Office Manager**

Advertising Rates

Classified Ads: Classifieds are line type ads that may vary in size. Rates will be reflective of the number of words in the ad.

Rates:

20 words or less	\$10
20-40 words	\$20
40+	\$1 per word

Display Ads: Display ads will be available in a variety of sizes and will be boxed or otherwise set off from the surrounding text.

Rates:

Size	Rate
2.5 x 3	\$50
5 x 4.5 (1/4 page)	\$100
7.5 x 4.5 (1/2 page)	\$150
7.5 x 9 (full page)	\$200

There is a 10% discount available for running the same ad in consecutive multiple issues.

Website Ads: Newsletter Classified and Display ads will be posted at no additional charge on www.psia-nw.org. Postings will run by mutual agreement or until the newsletter following the issue containing the print ads is published.

Payments are made to:

PSIA -NW
11206 DesMoines Mem. Dr #106
Seattle, WA 98168

Cover: What are they looking at and why are they smiling? (Divisonal Academy 08, Whistler/Blackcomb)

Looking Back, Looking Forward

by John Eisenhauer, Communications VP

Spring is the time of year when we look back on the past season. And what a season it was! Record (or near record) snowfalls, amazing conditions, busy resorts and some of the busiest (and now richest) Department of Transportation workers you'd ever hope to see who made it possible for us to get there from here. Skiing at Alpentel Memorial Day weekend. Say what?

That being said, we're also the type of people who start looking forward to next season almost immediately. Let's face it, we really can't get enough of what we do and as good as summer is, it sometimes seems like an interruption. That is unless you take advantage of some of our local summer season at Mt. Hood. Check out our July events in this issue.

In this issue we also take a look way back to the origin of PSIA with a reprint of a contemporary report on the meeting that took place in May of 1961 at Big Mountain when it was decided to break away from the regional amateur racing associations and form an organization just for professional ski instructors. I found the cover graphic to be amazingly modern, especially if we open up that stance a bit. Of the 20 Montana Ski "Courses" or areas, only three had Chair lifts. One each at Big Mountain, Grizzly Peak (Red Lodge) and Lionhead near West Yellowstone. My how times have changed except that proofing mistakes, despite our best efforts, still happen. Take another look at the "Ski" and "Boot" brands in the ad for Ski and Binding packages. Oops.

From this past season, we look back on our Service Award winners and the passing of three long time members who each in their own way made major

contributions to PSIA-NW. This was a year of tryouts. Lots of them. We have results from the NW DCL tryouts as well as the National Team tryouts. Congratulations to everyone who tried out and congratulations to all of our new Level II's and III's! Exam results are in this issue. We also note the resignation of long time Certification VP Chris Kastner who will still remain active as a member of the National Education Advisory Council and Director of Skiing at Mt. Hood Meadows.

Looking forward, the Certification program will continue to be in good hands with new Cert VP Chris Thompson. We report on progress with the new Association Management Software that will allow the office to continue to maintain our records. The board continues to work on a plan for the office to ensure we maintain the customer service that has been so important through the years. The Alpentel Leadership Program is an exciting approach to meeting current client needs while developing new members and our Rookie of the Year is really about our future.

Finally, two articles, one by Dane Frisbie and one by David Lawrence sum up what Looking Back, Looking Forward are all about. All the hard work and preparation are directed to a goal. Whether we're reaching for a new level or end up achieving that goal, our noses poke up over a new horizon. Every end is really a new beginning and it really is all about the journey.

Enjoy your summer. Next season will be here before you know it. ●

Spring Board Meeting Preview

by Jack Burns, President

Chris Kastner Resigns As Certification VP

With deep regret, I accepted the resignation of Chris Kastner as Certification Vice President. Since moving to Mt. Hood Meadows and taking on the responsibilities of Director of Skiing & Snowboarding, Chris found it difficult to lead our examiner group as effectively as he wanted. "I have not been able to guide the examining staff to the next level due to the lack of time to develop training, organize exams, evaluate the exam process and develop new strategies." Chris felt that his resignation should be done now in order to allow the certification program to grow in the immediate future. A special election will be held at the Spring Board meeting to name his replacement.

Chris served as our Certification Vice President for several years. He served two terms on the PSIA National Demonstration Team. In addition, he served on the National Certification Committee where he was one of the prime authors of the National Alpine Certification Standards. Chris will still remain active with his roles on the EAC (Education Advisory Council) and Certification Unity group and he looks forward to having new challenges brought to him to help support PSIA-NW.

Thanks Chris!



Transition Task Force Report

The Office Transition Task Force was created in the fall of 2006. Its members include, Mark Schinman (Chair), Jack Burns, Barb Darrow, Molly Fitch, Kirsten Huotte, Ed Kane, Laurie Stack, and Diana Suzuki. The Task Force was created to prepare for Barb's retirement and a possible office restructure. At about the same time, PSIA National began development and implementation of a new Association Management Software system and financial accounting package that will allow PSIA to offer a wide range of services to the Divisions such as accounting, billing, database management and related office and administrative functions. The Task Force was asked to take a look at how we do business, how we staff our office and what we might do differently, including outsourcing to PSIA or other third party vendors.

At our May 17, 2008 Board meeting, the Task Force will be presenting their report. In the report, the Task Force proposes three (3) options for structuring the way we do business. Ultimately, it recommends an option that provides for a single Executive reporting to the Board through the President. The Executive budgets for and hires appropriate staff, including a person responsible for the current Education Program Director responsibilities. Full and part time staff is used by the Executive to manage and operate the office and perform other required duties. The Executive is to use outsourcing as appropriate, for example with PSIA.

Because of the long term ramifications of this decision, the Board will devote a substantial portion of its meeting to a full discussion of the pros and cons of each

of the options. Whether a final decision is made at this meeting will depend upon whether a consensus develops early enough in the discussion so that we can formulate an action proposal.

Whatever path the Board chooses to follow, you can rest assured that we will attempt to maintain, as best we can, the level of member service you have come to expect and enjoyed during Barb's stewardship of the office.

Trying Something New

This spring's Board meeting will be followed by a full day meeting of the Executive Committee. The goal is to proactively plan for next season. The agenda includes updating the ETC Policies and Procedures, as well as revising them to include how the Education and Programs Director coordinates with the programs. Other items we will be discussing include modifications and additions to the Senior Accreditation Program, appointing a committee to implement the Transition Task Force plan, reviewing and developing a budget for the transition and developing a budget to purchase new equipment necessary to integrate with National's AMS and financial software. These topics, as well as others on the agenda, will provide grist for my next report to you.

For those of you who have not done so in the past, now is a good time to think about including one of PSIA-NW's on-snow educational offerings at Mt. Hood in your summer plans. The clinicians are great, the weather usually cooperates and there is no better place to muscle memory those new movement patterns you are working on. ●

Membership Made Easy

by Diana Suzuki, Financial VP

Hi Snow Sports Fans! As you read this article, the National Office of ASEA (PSIA-AASI to us!) is busy implementing a new Association Management Software (iAMSi) package to make your life easier. With the very busy lives we all lead today access to information in a quick and efficient manner is a key objective for our membership.

The initial priorities for the upcoming implementation are:

- Accuracy of Membership profile
- Product Sales (to provide quality for the best price)
- Education and Certification Management
- Meeting Scheduling and Registration
- Communications with Committees
- Subscription
- Advertising and Promotion

There is a tremendous amount of data to manage for over 25,000 members in 9 divisions, so having a good product available to you is very important to the association.

The implementation of the new AMS product will be done over the next year bringing each Division onto AMS as they are ready. Our office has actively participated in the implementation planning and we expect to be one of the earlier implementations.

So, stay tuned. You will be hearing more soon! See you on the slopes. ●

So you want a Subaru

by John Weston, Stevens Pass Board Representative

As you are probably well aware, one of the benefits of being a member of the Association is being able to buy the Subaru of your choice at a high discount. Our partnership with Subaru dates back a number of years, and annually, we account for on average, 700 sales a year for Subaru by our members.

In the last several years there has been some confusion, mainly stemming from working with various local dealers throughout the nation. However, in

working with Andy Hawk, our Marketing Director, and Mark Dorsey, our Executive Director, as well as Subaru of America, I think we have simplified the program to the point where members will know exactly what they are getting when they walk into any dealership.

The deal you will receive is 2% under dealer invoice which has been pre-negotiated with Subaru of America and which the dealers will automatically honor.

The following are the steps you must take if you wish to buy a Subaru under the program.

1. Log in to your PSIA/AASI profile - www.psia.org (link on the www.psia-nw.org home page, just click on the PSIA or AASI logos)
2. Click on "Promotional Offers" on the left side of the profile page
3. Click on the Subaru logo in the upper left corner of the promotional offers page
4. Fill out the required information for the DVA (Dealer Visit Authorization) form
5. You will receive an email from Subaru
6. The local dealer will receive an email from Subaru
7. Head to the dealer, find the new car of your dreams
8. Our VIP program provides us with a pre-negotiated 2% under dealer invoice

These steps take the guess work out of the process for our members and for the dealers. You should expect to find dealers that are excited about the PSIA program. Some have even assigned a particular sales agent to handle the program for us at their dealership. Please feel free to call me (425.712.7111) if you have any questions regarding the program. ●



Your Subaru will come without the colorful wrap!

Season Long Memories



DIVISIONAL ACADEMY 2008-WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

Alpental Leadership Program

by Allan Tencer and Barak Rosenbloom

The Alpental Leadership Program (ALP) is a program offered by the Summit Learning Center of the Summit at Snoqualmie. Its goal is to provide a comprehensive season long training program for teenagers, age 13-17, who would like to teach in the ski or snowboard programs. It includes training for the Level I certification in alpine skiing or snowboarding. The following is a short description of the content and our experience with the program.

The program merged from two separate sources. Over many years, a program to teach a limited number of 3 year olds to ski had developed with a detailed curriculum. An informal apprentice program had existed as well, with kids too old for the ski school classes, but too young to teach, shadowing classes and aiding instructors. It was felt that the apprentices would gain considerable experience by teaching a 3 year old, under supervision, and then having the afternoon for more formal training.

The program's daily content is shown in Table 1. It is integrated with our limited access 3 year old *Alpentykes* program. Participants are called ALPys for short. Each ALPy is assigned a 3 year old and becomes his or her "ski buddy". The ALPy greets the child, helps him/her get ready, plays in the snow and teaches him/her to ski. Because of the one-to-one contact and the better rapport with the APLys, who appear more like big brothers or sisters than adults, the great majority of the 3 year olds are skiing by the second session and going up the beginner chair by week three or four. ALPys may also be assigned as assistants to instructors teaching classes. The photos show typical ALPys with their ski buddies. They stay out for an hour, 9:30-10:30, then have a 1 hour break

when the ALPy can free ski, eat or just rest and then a second skiing session follows from 11:30-12:30. Because there is no 3 year old snowboard program, ALPy snowboarders are assigned as class assistants.

The afternoon session, which lasts 3 hours, consists in part of improving their skiing in the challenging conditions of Alpental's upper mountain, including bumps, steeps, chutes and deep snow. Practice teaching sessions are included and are designed to address problems they may have in their own teaching. Topics might include how to prepare a lesson plan, the ski teaching progression, practice teaching of the group, selecting terrain, easy routes in more difficult terrain and movement analysis problems. Leadership exercises are designed to help them discover their own leadership styles and to relate to themselves as leaders. We have found that by giving an ALPy a very challenging situation—such as being told to lead the group down the mountain, after having told the other ALPys to pretend they don't speak English and are terrified of the terrain—gives them a chance to struggle, fail, learn from their failure and succeed with no pressure from adults. They have a tremendous amount of fun in the learning process. Through the leadership exercises and lots of one-on-one conversations on the lifts, many of the kids begin to see who they are at their cores, and what leadership and teaching styles are most natural for them.

Another major goal of the afternoon session is to expose them to other aspects of the operation of the mountain. For example, during the program they will have a clinic with our ski school director. In a session with the ski patrol, they learn a bit about avalanche control, first aid and rescue, and the danger of

tree wells. They have a session with a professional boot fitter who can assess the performance of their ski boots and give them some insight into ski boot design. These sessions (usually less than 30 minutes long) are meant to give them a broader understanding of different aspects of skiing or snowboarding which also are relevant to their own performance. Finally, the last hour is devoted to practicing PSIA/AASI Level I ski or snowboard tasks. There is also an indoor session during one of the afternoons devoted to preparation for the Level I written exam. Since there is significant content to the program, it runs over a 10 week period followed by the Level I written test and on-snow exam.

Even though there is a lot of content, the emphasis is definitely on having fun with lots of skiing on Alpental's challenging terrain. Taking the Level I test is optional, but for the great majority, attaining their Level I certification and becoming an instructor is a definite goal within the group. Over the years, the program has evolved from being specifically centered on the Level I ski tasks to encompass more leadership exercises and teaching practice, so they become more well rounded instructors since the Level I exam does not have a teaching module. The success of the program is measurable by its continued popularity along with the significant number of new instructor graduates from the program who join the Summit Learning Center the following year, estimated to be 50-60% of the previous year's group.

"Leadership" continued on p 24

Service Awards

2007-2008 Service Awards

by Wayne Nagai, Awards & Recognition Committee Chair

Four members received Northwest Service Awards this season.

The first, the Larry Linnane Skiing Legends Award, was presented at the Seattle Fall Seminar to **Chet Murakami**. This award recognizes the life long commitment of senior members who have been certified and who have taught the longest. (Please see the separate article on Chet in this issue)

The Ken Syverson Instructor of the Year Award was presented to **Chris Saario** at the Spring Symposium in Bend. This award recognizes Chris as a positive role model and for her continued active teaching excellence after many years of service as a clinician, examiner, board member and officer.

Glenda Schuh is this year's Art Audett Outstanding Service Award winner. This award honors members who have a sustained history of distinguished service of lasting benefit to PSIA-NW, their school or the community. Fulfilling those requirements, Glenda teaches at White Pass and holds both the ACE I and II accreditations from PSIA-NW and has her Senior Accreditation. In her spare time, Glenda is a nurse and volunteers many hours with the Girl Scouts of America.

The Rookie of the Year recognizes the accomplishments of a new member. In order to be eligible for the award, the nominee must be a first year teacher, show a caring attitude and enthusiasm for snowsports, demonstrate technical knowledge,

teaching ability and skiing/riding skills that exceed normal expectations for a first year instructor, and be a member of PSIA-NW when the award is presented. This year's winner, **Allysia Helton** (pictured below) was nominated by her training coordinator, James Rousell for her outstanding performance for the Summit Learning Center located at Snoqualmie Summit, Washington. In his nomination, James describes Allysia as always offering a friendly smile with a guest centered attitude. She possesses a high technical ability, is dependable and reliable. James describes her as "the future of the ski school". ●



Congratulations Chet, Chris, Glenda and Allysia!

Editors note: please look for more on Chris and Glenda in future newsletters.

Shawn Smith, Educational Excellence Award

by John Weston, Stevens Pass Board Representative

Shawn Smith has been awarded the Educational Excellence Award by the American Snow Sports Education Association (ASEA) Board of Directors (PSIA - AASI). The award was presented to him at the 2008 National Academy in Snowbird, UT. Shawn who is currently the Director of Resort Services at Stevens Pass, received this award as a result of his tireless contributions to the organization, including, but not limited to over 20 years of participation on

the National Team. Even though this is a prestigious award and one that is handed out sparingly to honor those who have made immeasurable contributions to our association, we can never fully thank Shawn for his time, effort and lasting educational contributions to the organization over the last 25 years. Congratulations, Shawn! This award is well deserved. ●



Symposium Raffle/Auction a Huge Success

by Mary Germeau, Executive VP

Our sixth annual fundraiser for the PNSIA Education Foundation Scholarship Fund was held at the April Symposium banquet at the Seventh Mountain Resort in Bend Oregon. Anticipation was high as the attendees entered the banquet room and had a chance to look at the more than 50 items available in the raffle. This eye-catching display was the work of Judy Thompson and Melody Younglove. I appreciated their help and artful technique. All of the items donated this year came from PSIA members, ski school directors, members of the NW Board of the Directors (B.O.D.), Technical Team members and DCL's. A list of the contributors is located at the end of this article.

The total proceeds from the fundraiser also included the monies from the nine auction items put up for bid at the banquet. Each item was offered by a different auctioneer. These brave volunteers did their best to add to the total earnings for the fund. Included in the auction were:

A Titanium Golf Driver from Takashi Tsukamaki, B.O.D. - auctioneer Rob Croston, B.O.D.

A day of motorcycle riding and lunch in George, Washington with Calvin Yamamoto, DCL - auctioneer Larry Murdoch

An Estate Plan Package from Ed Younglove, B.O.D. - auctioneer Sean Bold, DCL

A Handwoven and Handmade wool and silk women's jacket from Jim Field, B.O.D.- auctioneer Mary Germeau. B.O.D.

A choice of three bike trips with Glen and Linda Cowan, Technical Team - auctioneer Larry Murdoch

A framed, signed Matt Hasselbeck Seahawks Jersey from Raelissa Smith, Stevens Pass Ski and Snowboard School and Mary Germeau - Auctioneer, Nick McDonald, assistance from Jeremy Riss, Technical Team

A weekend at a private cabin in Cle Elum from Kari Schoessler, Fiorini Ski School - auctioneer, Karen Moldstad. B.O.D.

An all day ski for 1 to 5 people with film and a DVD from Tyler Barnes, Technical Team - auctioneer, Nick McDonald, Technical Team

A fabulous wine tasting and Crystal Mountain items basket from Bob Allen, Crystal Mt. Snow Sports Center - auctioneer Rick Lyons, Technical Team.

The auction is always an entertaining and exciting event. With a different auctioneer for every item, one never

knows what methods this person will use to try to get as much "green" as possible for the audience. It is generally conceded, that Nick McDonald is still the most creative of the auctioneers (you have to be there to believe it), but Rick Lyons pulled out the most money for a single item, the Crystal Mt. Basket for \$800.00. We appreciate every donation and volunteer auctioneer who brought money to the organization through this activity.

I was pleased that the members who attended Symposium this year were so willing to purchase their raffle tickets when the opportunity was presented to them. I imagine that after six years, it has become a tradition to purchase, at least, **ten** chances to win a raffle prize. There are so many great items donated that the odds are in the purchaser's favor. I also must give a huge thank-you to B.O.D. member Takashi Tsukamaki and DCL Kim Petram for helping me to sell raffle tickets each evening.

Since this raffle/auction seems to have become a tradition, look for my e-mails in February and pleas in the NW Snowsport Instructor next winter and you too will have an opportunity to donate a raffle or auction item to next year's event. Remember that these funds are available for scholarships for events, exams and books from the bookstore. If you are a member in good standing, just look for applications and information on the website. Click on *Membership Benefits*, then *Scholarships* at www.psia-nw.org



See page 25 for a list of contributors to this years raffle....

Chester Murakami receives Legends Award

by Bill Kawahara

The Skiing Legends Award of the PSIA-NW recognizes those distinguished instructors who have made a significant life-long contribution to skiing. We at the Rokka Ski School would like to nominate Chet Murakami to be inducted into the highly esteemed group of senior members of the Skiing Legends.

For the past sixty years skiing has been a large and important part of Chet's life. In about 1947 Chet's first ski experience was in borrowed boots and skis, when his friends took him to Stevens Pass. Despite not having any lessons he thoroughly enjoyed the day, but decided that if he wanted to ski like his friends, he needed some instruction. After taking lessons from Nobi Kano and becoming an avid skier, Chet, along with Nobi, and several others resurrected the Rokka Ski Club in 1950. At that time it was an organization comprised mainly of Japanese Americans, all of whom enjoyed the sport of skiing. It was through the club that he met his future wife, Marty, who had also taken up skiing in the late 1940's.

Rokka became a ski school in the late 1950's, and Chet has been involved in the ski school as an active instructor first, then later as an administrator. Through his devotion to Rokka Ski School, Chet has been an outstanding teacher, technician, and an inspiration to countless younger students and instructors. In 1963 Chet passed the examination for Full Certification (now known as Level 3), and his certification number is 708. For Rokka Ski School he has led a number of instructor clinics, has helped numerous instructors prepare for their certification examinations, and served as co-director of the ski school for over thirty years. He currently serves as an advisor to the ski school. Even now at the age of 84, Chet goes up to the mountain, and assists in the organization and activities of the ski school.

Skiing has been and remains an important activity in the Murakami family. While the three children were growing up, the entire family went skiing on the weekends, and all three eventually taught for Rokka Ski School.

His son, Rich, is a Level 3 instructor, and is Rokka's current Training Director. His daughter, Lynn, is also a certified instructor. Even today, Chet and his wife of 54 years, Marty, go skiing at least twice a week during the winter.

Chet helped to shape one of the guiding principles for the Rokka Ski School, which is to promote the enjoyment of skiing in a safe manner. He has led by example, and has inspired numerous young people not only to become better instructors, but to appreciate the joys and beauty of the mountain, and in particular, skiing. For this, we are grateful, and appreciative of the countless hours Chet has spent in living and spreading his belief.

Thank you, Chet. ●

Editors note: this article was originally submitted to the Awards and Recognition Committee to nominate Chet for this award. Chet received his award on October 21, 2007 at the Seattle Fall Seminar. Bill Kawahara is a past Director of the Rokka Ski School.



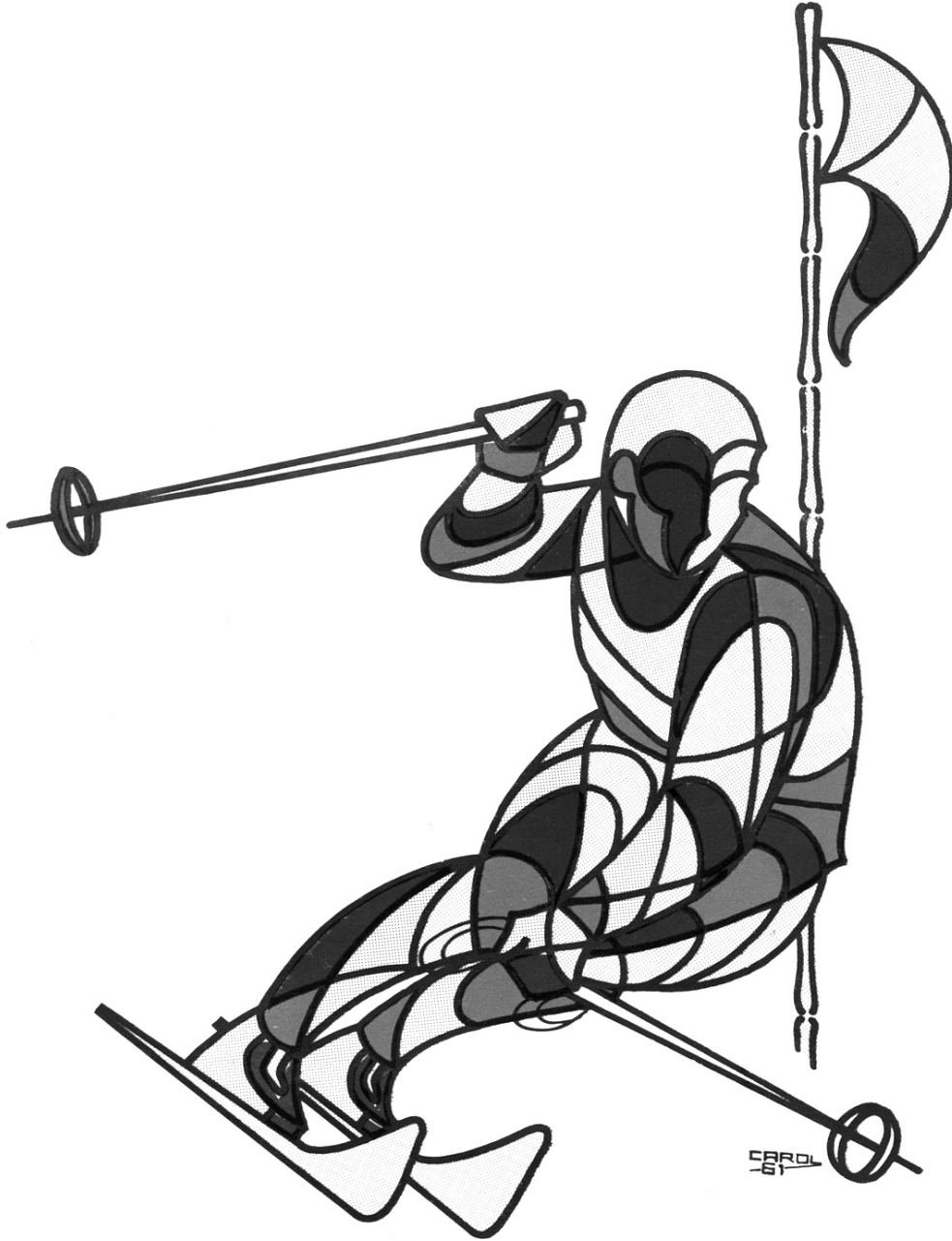
DIVISIONAL ACADEMY 2008-WHISTLER BLACKCOMB



WINTER BLAST 2008-STEVENS PASS

Montana **SPORTS**
OUTDOORS

35 CENTS



PORCUPINE PACIFIERS

FIELD TRIAL vs HUNTING DOGS

WILDERNESS UPROAR

SKIING PHOTO FEATURE

SKIING DEVELOPMENTS

YELLOWSTONE ELK



NEW PRO GROUP GETS OFF THE GROUND

Mid-May of last spring saw the close of the Big Mountain ski season with an event that is destined to have a pronounced influence on the American ski scene.

Eighty-five top professional ski instructors and ski school directors from every section of the United States gathered at Big Mountain. They were meeting to make comparisons on teaching techniques and ski school operations. But the more obvious ski slope sessions ended abruptly when Salt Lake City's Bill Lash announced the intended formation of the Professional Ski Instructors of America.

This organization, explained Lash, would be the first professionally-oriented organization ever formed by ski instructors, who up to that moment, were recognized only through their affiliation with the amateur skiing ranks.

Lash's proposed professional organization broke away from amateur affiliation completely. As Lash explained it, "we're professionals and we need an organization that will help our business grow!" Based strictly on individual membership of certified instructors, the organization would attempt to put skiing on a professional basis through the establishment of a na-

SKIING



tional certification program and a unified American ski technique.

A national certification program would insure the public of better qualified instructors. A constant bone of contention among ski pros has been the standards and authority for certification of instructors. At the present these standards and vested authority lie with regional ski instructors' associations and their alliances with the National Ski Association.

A more standardized American ski technique would help eliminate some of the confusion caused by the various techniques a student is taught as he travels from ski school to ski school.

Before the Big Mountain session was over, the PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors Association of America) was an established fact.

To date widely scattered U.S. ski pros have suffered in their roles of amateur skier turned instructor while their old country counterparts, notably in Switzerland and France have had national pro organizations which have effectively raised standards of instruction and certification. If successful, the founders of the PSIA should revolutionize the American professional ski instruction.



Photo by SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Racing instructor Christian Pravda, left, and Franz Gabl, head of the Mount Baker ski school pose with trophy winners of the Summer Ski Racing School and Training Camp. Pravda, oldest, and williest of the Austrian contingent, World Champion, Olympic Medalist, and ten-times Austrian Champion was on hand for the Mount Baker, Washington Summer Ski School, held in June and July.

Beside Pravda is Lennie Ligon of Traverse City, Michigan. Awarded fastest time in Men's Camp Race, he was second in the Junior Nationals at Vermont in 1961. Ligon will be eligible for the Junior Nationals at Big Mountain in March.

Dorothy Chatfield, Denver, Colorado, third from the left, was selected as most important woman skier at the camp and is also eligible for the 1962 Junior Nationals. Next to Austrian Olympic Champion, Franz Gabl, is Lynn Johnson, Iron Mountain, Michigan. Winner of the Heather Cup Giant Slalom, the fabulous Miss Johnson had the fastest women's camp time and placed second in the Vermont Junior Nationals.

Undoubtedly one of Montana's most improved, if not persistent skiers is Chuck Dalich, Great Falls, right. Chuck was voted most improved skier at the Mount Baker Summer School. Son of Tony Dalich, well-known athletic events coach, referee and umpire, Chuck has managed to ski 11 out of the past 12 months.



JANUARY .

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MONTANA SPORTS OUTDOORS is published monthly by Reco Publications, Inc., in Missoula, Montana. Yearly subscription rates in the U.S. and Canada, \$3.50; 2 years, \$6.00. Single copies 35 cents. All rights reserved. Entered as second class matter at Missoula, Montana, under the Act of June 6, 1909. Offices at 736 S. Higgins Ave., Missoula, Montana. Post Office Drawer 1344, M. W. Ostrowski, Editor; R.W. Edgerton, Publisher; Eric Hood, Business Manager; Jack Lajoie, Circulation; R.D. Robinson, Executive Editor. Copyright 1961 by Reco Publications, Inc. Subscribers must notify us of change of address three weeks in advance. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs are welcomed. All submitted material should deal with Montana subjects. Such material will be handled with care, but the publisher cannot be responsible for loss or damage. Send all material to MSO, P.O. Drawer 1344, Missoula, Montana.



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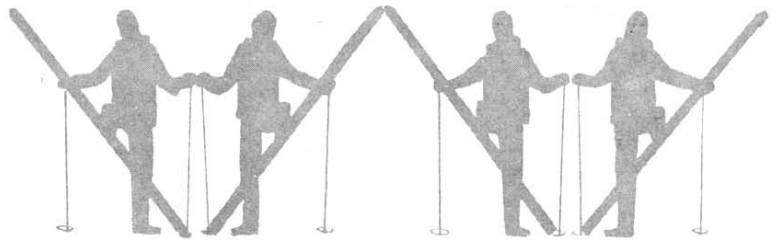
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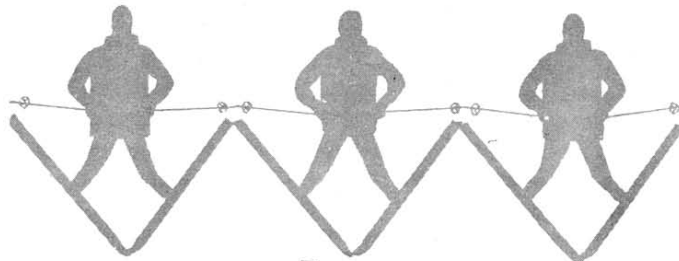
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Rolling Over and Getting Up

by Dane Frisbie, Timberline Snowboard & Ski School

Twice now, I have failed the Alpine II Skiing exam. I now face a decision. Do I get up and try again or do I resign myself to level I membership? I believe the ability to get up and try again is what distinguishes the successful skier from the unsuccessful. Everyone falls, but if you can't get up afterwards, you can't continue. As instructors, we tell our students that they can only be successful if they push through this difficulty. I now face the same situation. Will I listen to my own advice?

Skiing examinations are stressful events. We practice and train to imprint efficient movement patterns into our muscles and subconscious minds. When we stiffen up, bad habits can leak out during the examination. Over-thinking the motions leads us to perform movements a split-second too late. The stress of exams will never be eliminated, but perhaps some of the stress could be lessened by reducing many of the uncertainties surrounding the PSIA standards.

One barrier I have confronted in my attempts to achieve a higher certification is a confusion over the discrepancies between national and divisional standards. I also have difficulty understanding how written standards translate into performance. The interpretation of these standards seems to be subjective, in spite of attempts to create a quantifiable objective standard for efficient skiing. Skiing may involve basic physical forces, but it is not a purely mechanical process. Efficient movement patterns do exist, but the personal interpretation of these movements is what creates the beautiful art form that we all enjoy.

Skiing, at its core, is defined by basic physical forces. Gravity pulls us toward the center of the earth. Friction between

the snow and the skis or the air and our bodies creates resistance to motion. The snow compresses and pushes up on our skis. We strive to constantly balance these forces. We are always falling. We manage this descent using the four basic skills: rotary movements, balancing movements, edging movements and pressure control movements. We all lose control and fall, sometimes less gracefully than others. We must face the choice to get up and try again, or to quit.

At this point in time, I believe that I will continue to seek Level II Alpine certification. I also believe that the process needs some improvement. I believe the experience for test takers could be improved with a few simple changes to the post-exam debriefing.

I understand the need for critical comments on the examination forms, but they should also include a constructive element. When developing lesson plans for our students, we analyze the student's movements with regards to what they want to accomplish and what they are capable of doing and then formulate a plan with exercise progressions and explorations to accomplish these goals. I feel the post-exam debriefing should contain an additional element. We are given information about which movements we are making inefficiently.

What we need is the addition of efficient movements we can use to replace our inefficient movements and exercises that will help us make the muscular movements subconsciously repeatable. It can be difficult to find a starting point to begin future development within this stressful environment. The creation of a training outline would result in a less emotionally charged and stressful encounter at the

end of the exam process and provide future direction for both passing and failing examinees.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the PSIA Northwest board, the office staff of PSIA Northwest and the members of PSIA Northwest for providing me with the scholarship that enabled me to take the 2008 Crystal Mountain Alpine Level II Skiing Exam. I would also like to thank the employees and staff of Timberline Snowboard and Ski School, where I work, train and play, as well as the employees and staff of Crystal Mountain for their generosity and hospitality. I would also like to thank PSIA Northwest's crew of examiners. They perform a difficult task in evaluating our skills. I hope that this article can provide consolation for those who have also failed an exam, inspiration for those who would attempt an exam, and a few ideas that will improve the examination process. ●

Some great Resources for Exam Candidates

Certification Guides available in PDF form to download

Clinics, Clinics, Clinics
Check out where and when the next great learning experience will happen by checking the Calendar of Events on-line

Member School Clinics
Encourage your Director to bring in a clinician and address specific issues that you and your peers are interested in covering

Books and Manuals available through psia-nw.org

You Thought an Exam was Stressful

by David Lawrence,

Nordic DCL, Track Examiner and new PSIA National Nordic Team Member

The thin air and radiant sunshine at Mammoth Mountain bounced a thousand kilowatts off the Sierra snowpack. Fifteen Nordics from around the country, from east coast to west coast, from Alaska to the Rocky Mountains coalesced on the high slopes of the Sierra Nevada's to test their Telemark skills on the steeps, bumps, off piste and on piste, and their track skills on perfect corduroy and late day mush at Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort.

I was there, a cross country ski instructor from the Methow Valley in Washington State starring down the steepest slopes I had ever looked down in my life with big plastic boots and alpine like tele boards strapped to my feet. My stomach was full of butterflies. All four evaluators looked from below, pencils and tally sheets in hand. Their last words echoed through my head before they skied down, "Don't do anything you're not comfortable with or that might get you hurt."

For this trail skier, the National Nordic Team Tryouts have loomed over my life for many years. Once I heard about the team, I knew eventually I would find myself at the tryouts. I have enjoyed the privilege of working for Don Portman, a past team member and Bret Alumbaugh, another long time Nordic guru who had his sights set on the team in 2000, but an unfortunate knee injury kept him from the tryout. Both Don and Bret contributed to the reason I found myself starring down a pitch steep enough you could pick your teeth with. Three of the candidates skied beautiful, expressive steep mountain turns pass. The stress was so high for me, I didn't want to wait anymore. I pushed off the near vertical drop.

The National Team tryouts for PSIA are a quadrennial event, where the best of the best arrive every four years to prove to the team selectors that they have the stuff to drive the sport and organization into the future, keep PSIA relevant for our members and make PSIA attractive to our future members.

Team "tryouts" are an intensive, five day job interview.

Four disciplines comprise the four National teams: Nordic, Alpine, Snowboard and Adaptive. All four disciplines tryout at the same time, on the same mountain. On every ride up the chair lift or Gondola, every slope is covered in skiers, riders, telemarkers and sit-skiers that ate big California Mountains for breakfast. It was a show of talent that would make any exhibitionist blush. I was there hoping not to embarrass myself on the Tele days and prove to myself and the evaluators that I belonged at the tryouts on the merit of my cross country skiing.

The days are long and the requirements intense. The competition is tough and everyone's nerves are shaky. But the groups of candidates are bonded together in the same experience. As proof to this statement, I arrived five days before the tryouts to acclimatize to the high elevation and get comfortable with Mammoth's big steeps and endless terrain. Arriving alone, I knew no one, but by the end of the first day, I had already skied with Patti Banks and Charlie MacArthur from the Rocky Mountain

division, two of the skiers I had been watching on one of the best instructional Tele DVD's to come out in recent years, the Rocky Mountain's "Fresh In Tele Gence." I had to pinch myself, here I was skiing with the same people I had been trying to learn from in a DVD!

Team "tryouts" are an intensive, five day job interview. The first day, candidates Telemark ski on all terrain, performing graded tasks in every condition the mountain could throw at us. After a full day on the mountain, the second day we spent cross country skiing. During the morning we skated, performing a variety of tasks, including two high intensity, lung burning relays. Tuesday night, tired and fatigued, we met for the first team cuts. The alpine team had already taken their losses earlier in the day since high winds shut down the lifts and forced the alpine candidates indoors.

There were fifteen Nordic candidates at the tryouts, and all of us had bonded as a team. Thanks to an open and mostly transparent crew of evaluators who created an environment of support and encouragement among us, I never remember feeling like I was competing against the other skiers. We were all there competing against ourselves, trying to ski our best for the "pencil markers" and hoping to leave our best tracks behind in the snow. With the looming sickle over our heads on Tuesday night, all of our hopes were to beat the first cut. After a few thanks and lots of encouragement from the evaluators, the coaches posted the first cuts. If your name was on the sheet, you went on, if your name wasn't on the sheet, you went home. As we read the sheet, we slowly understood that the Nordic squad would remain intact, with no cuts, until Wednesday night.

Wednesday we ramped down the physical intensity and focused on teaching and movement analysis on the track. By Wednesday I had been skiing hard for seven days, four days of training, three days of tryouts, and I was exhausted. I was so worn by the sun, the intense skiing, the wind and the lack of oxygen, that even my organs felt tired. We taught and observed our teammates all day, took a small break for a few hours before reconvening that evening for the second cut. We all knew that by the end of the day, the proverbial blood would be shed and some of us would have to wait another four years to get this chance again.

To say there was apprehension in the air would be like saying the Titanic had a minor leak before breaking in two and sinking. Waiting for that list to be posted was like waiting for the ship to split. Out of fifteen, nine went on. A few tears and lots of disappointment were felt by all. We had shared so much in our short time together, that even those lucky enough to continue were not immune to the pangs of loss. After the announcement, they separated us quickly, and in a room by ourselves, the evaluators let us know just how hard it was going to get.

Over the next two days, before the final cut, we skied the steeps, the bumps, the half-pipe, the groomers and the “chicken heads.” We skied it all and then we taught, and we taught, and we taught. We cycled through rounds of movement analysis on the slopes, we interviewed one on one with the top echelons of PSIA, we ran through an intense 13 station round-robin of questions, tasks, role playing and interviews, we produced and starred in a one minute video tech tip, and we had to lay down one final run

on the steepest pitch the team coach, Scotty McGee could find.

On the final day, here I stood above that run. With shaky nerves and an uncertain outcome, I chased down my dream to be a National Nordic Team Member. I stayed upright and didn't vomit, both of which surprised me.

To say there was apprehension in the air would be like saying the Titanic had a minor leak ...

That night, before the final team announcement, we met the evaluators for a little Nordic tradition, Aquavit, the National drink of Norway. With warm stomachs from the well traveled Aquavit, we waited for several hours until 8pm.

In a room with all of the National Team candidates from all four disciplines, the National Teams manager Katie Fry went alphabetically from A to Z naming the new National Team Members. The heart hurt for those whose names weren't called and surprise from those whose names were called. I was fortunate to hear my name on the roster for the new National Nordic Team.

The road to the national tryout is not easy. For me the training and the tryouts are expensive; I spent around \$6,000 just to show up. The sacrifice to go to the tryouts is phenomenal, but to actually show-up at the tryouts, put your best stuff on the chopping block, wake up every day with a smile and an attitude that you're going to make the team, to

push through the nerves and sunburn, is a testament to the character and fortitude of everyone who tried out.

The tryouts are more than making the team; it's a rite of passage as a professional ski instructor. The experience feels monastic, as every candidate becomes completely engrossed and engulfed by the magnitude and intensity of the moment. Every wrecked nerve and dollar spent is worth the journey for all those skiers and riders who sacrificed a whole year to tryout.

Once you make the team and have your first few meetings, you realize something very important: no matter how much effort and work went into the tryouts, once you make the team, that's when the real work starts.

By bringing back the Nordic National Team status to the Northwest, I follow the footsteps of some of the area's greatest skiers, including Steve Hindman the Northwest's most recent National Team Member. As a member of the National Team, I'll be traveling and teaching with the backing of the national PSIA office. In that regard, I look forward to hearing from the divisional ski schools and clinicing with you and your instructors over the next four years. Please contact the Northwest office and we can go ski! ●

David Lawrence is a current PSLA National Nordic Team member and full time cross country ski instructor for the Methow Valley Ski School in Winthrop, Washington. He is now certified level III in Nordic track and level II in Telemark. David is a Nordic Clinic Leader and one of three Track examiners for the Northwest. He and his wife own and operate Pangaea River Rafting near Missoula, Montana.

Team Selections: National and PSIA-NW

PSIA-AASI Announce National Education Teams

The sun was shining and the winds relatively calm for the final day of PSIA-AASI's National Team Selection on Friday, May 2.

A total of 139 candidates came out to Mammoth Mountain, California for the week long tryouts, where they had to contend with variable and challenging conditions, including frozen "coral" in the off piste reaches, high winds, and deep slush on southeastern-facing slopes. Nonetheless, candidates for all four teams—alpine, snowboard, nordic, and the first-ever adaptive team—used the opportunity to showcase the top level of expertise that characterizes *all* of this year's contenders as truly the best-of-the-best in snowsports instruction.

The week started with snow sliding tasks on and off piste and in the terrain park before two cuts narrowed the field to 51 people for the final two days of the selection process. On Thursday and Friday, the remaining candidates took part in teaching and learning activities, an in-depth interview process, and group project assessments.

Friday's selection determines who will represent PSIA-AASI as National Team members for the next four years. Under the accomplished direction of Teams Manager Katie Fry and coaches Rob Sogard (alpine), Lane Clegg (snowboard), Scotty McGee (nordic), and Bill Bowness (adaptive), the National Team members will be instrumental in charting the course of snowsports instruction in the United States. Chief among their duties will be working with sports schools throughout the country, conducting clinics, and representing PSIA-AASI as the public face of the organization. PSIA-AASI is proud to announce the 2008–2012 National Teams:

National Teams Selection

Adaptive Team:

Bill Bowness (coach), Geoff Krill (alternate to team)

Alpine Team:

Rob Sogard (coach), Robin Barnes, Matt Boyd, Jeb Boyd, Mike Hafer, Nick Herrin, Eric Lipton, Dave Lundberg, Dave Lyon, Bobby Murphy, David A. Oliver (freestyle specialist), Doug Pierini, Michael Rogan (alpine team captain), Jim Schanzenbaker, Jennifer Simpson

Nordic Team:

J. Scott McGee (coach), David Lawrence, Charlie MacArthur, Tom Marshall, Ross Matlock

Snowboard Team:

Lane Clegg (coach), Scott Anfang, Greg Davis, Dave Lynch, Tom Morsch, Eric Rolls, Josh Spoelstra

PSIA-NW Selections

Alpine DCL new members

Nils Riise (Stevens Pass), John May and Charlie Wolff (both from Mt. Hood Meadows)

Snowboard DCL new members

Nate Peck (Stevens Pass), Rick Brown (49° North) and Luke Mason (Mt. Bachelor)

Technical Team Tryout

Rick Lyons, Terry McLeod, Karin Harjo all returning members and Dave Lucas – new team member.

For a complete list of Divisional Clinic Leaders and Technical Team members, please check out the website, www.psia-nw.org.

Congratulations!

2007-08 Exam Results! Congratulations....

Alpine Level II

Alcalde, Armando	Mt Bachelor
Allen, Eliza	Crystal
Binkhuysen, Claudia	SLC
Blaine, Rachel	Fiorini
Brown, Stephanie	Lookout Pass
Caditz, Asa	Ski Masters
Calder, Irene	Timberline
Carr, Julia	Mt Bachelor
Chase, Gregory	Timberline
Couch, Courtney	Mt Spokane
Craig, Stuart	Snowperformance
Dyer, Bernie	Mt Spokane
Eliason, John	Mini Mountain
Gallucci, Doug	SLC
Gratton, Steve	Crystal
Halvorson, Paul	SLC
He, Bohr	Ullr
Healzer-Garski, Anne	S.K.I.
Henry, Bill	Mt Hood Meadows
Henry, Dan	SPAC
Heuett, Richard	Stevens Pass
Jewett, Toby	Mt Hood Meadows
Karlin, Rachael	Mt Bachelor
Katka, Colin	Mt Bachelor
Martinsen, Norine	Fiorini
Mayer, Alex	Whitefish Mtn Resort
Merriam, Tim	Stevens Pass
Miller, David A	Ski Masters
Mobley, Brandon	Fiorini
Poor, Jarad	Mt Baker
Quayle, LaWana	SLC
Reher, Mark	Timberline
Roberts, Charles	Lookout Pass
Robinson, Jessica	Mt Hood Meadows
Smith, Dan	Olympic
Smith, Kevin	Crystal
Stanaway, Tate	Mt Hood Meadows
Stewart, Ericka	Whitefish Mtn Resort
Tollefson, Paul	Mt Hood Meadows
Waverek, Jordan	Whitefish Mtn Resort
Wilson, Jackie	Mt Bachelor

Alpine Level III

Bechtold, Jim	Crystal
Bronsdon, Ed	Outdoorsforall
Christofferson, Ryan	Fiorini
Cook, Michael	Ski Masters
Hunt, Martha	Whitefish Mt Resort
Jacobson, Brad	Mt Bachelor
Jull, Burrell	Stevens Pass
Kitano, Diane	Rokka
Lee, Bob	Crystal
Martin, Fred	Skibacs
Pierce, Julie	Crystal
Ryerse, Bryan	Crystal
Stanaway, Skip	Mt Hood Meadows
Will, Kenneth	Lyon

Snowboard Level II

Berg, Isabella	Crested Butte
Biedak, Jacob	Mt Ashland
Blankinship, Matthew	Stevens Pass
Coyle, Sean	Mt Ashland
du Nann, Kia	Mt Spokane
Finnerty, Maggie	Mt Hood Meadows
Fister, Joanne	Silver Mtn
Fotouhi, Gareth	Husky Winter Sports
Hagie, Colin	Mt Ashland
Hayes, Emily	Mt Hood Meadows
Jorek, Ryan	Mt Hood Meadows
Kiest, Karl	Mt Ashland
Nishimoto, Marissa	Lyon
Norton, Patrick	Mt Spokane
Ott, Christy	Timberline
Parker, Rachel	Crystal
Phillips, Charles	Skibacs
Qualin, Sara	Mt Baker
Roberts, Kristine	Mt Spokane
Roberts, Nick	Mt Ashland
Semb, Stephanie	Mt Spokane
Smith, Nathan	Mt Hood Meadows
Taiaroa-Smithies, Tama	Crystal
Witherspoon, Chris	Mt Ashland

Snowboard Level III

Carver, Jim	Silver Mtn
Fletcher, George	SLC
Hafferman, Nathan	Whitefish Mtn Resort
Medler, Kelly	Mt Hood Meadows
Myers, Ryan	Crystal
Peck, Jesse	49° North
Watts, Jason	Mt Hood Meadows

Nordic Level II

Dominguez, Ed	The Mountaineers
Grant, John	

Telemark Level II

Lawrence, David	Methow Valley
Simon, Jennifer	Mt Bachelor

Telemark Level III

Ohran, Amy	Mt Bachelor
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SYMPOSIUM 2008 -MT. BACHELOR



Level I results will be printed in the Summer/Fall issue.
But you can check them out online sooner!

Ernie Marinig

by Jim Smith Jr.

A long time ago there were a few pioneers that paved the way in the snow sports industry. As a snow sports school we were fortunate enough to have had those pioneers establish what we know today as Snow Sports Northwest. They had a vision, and did what was necessary to make this vision a reality. They established an instructor staff, found a student base, built a beautiful lodge and supported this effort for decades. Jim Smith Sr., Bill Hancock, Alan Oakley, Bill Clarke, Grant Maurer and Ernie Marinig. They have brought enjoyment to the masses by introducing people to the Winter experience. Unfortunately Mother Time has caught up with some of them. A few years ago we lost Grant Maurer and sadly enough we lost Ernie Marinig this past March.

He lost his battle with cancer that slowly took his body, but never took his passion for life and his desire to give. I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that we have not only lost a great pioneer, but a special friend. Ernie lived a full and wonderful life. We were fortunate enough to see Ernie just before he passed and present him with a Life Time Achievement Award for his dedication and commitment to the Snow Sports Industry. It was one of his proudest moments. A final farewell for Ernie was held on March 27, 2008 at St. Louise in Bellevue. I want to take this time to thank Ernie and his family for all they have done. ●

Jim Smith Jr. is the director of Snow Sports Northwest at Snoqualmie

Sharon Arwine

by Mike Peters

Sharon Arwine died February 6, 2008 after a courageous fight against ovarian cancer. Sharon and her husband of 47 years, Gordy, were the directors of Star Skiers Ski School at Crystal Mountain.

Sharon was born on August 27, 1935 and grew up in Bellevue. Her father was a long time Husky Football fan and took Sharon to many games. Sharon and Gordy continued to enjoy going to games throughout their marriage, rarely missing a home game.



Sharon and Gordy met while both were on Ski Patrol at Stevens Pass. Sharon taught First Aid and was the Ski Patrol Regional First Aid advisor, where she earned her National Ski Patrol ranking.

When Crystal Mt. opened in 1962 they joined the Jack Nagel

Ski School and taught for many years. In 1979 they purchased the school from Jack. In 1980 they changed the name to Star Skiers. They ran the school for 25 years and in 2004 sold the school to Crystal Mountain.

Sharon was a talented organizer and administrator of the ski school. She implemented many personal touches to make the school one of the best in the northwest. She created unique programs for kids that are still being taught. Sharon

and Gordy put in a tremendous amount of extra effort to build the reputation of Star Skiers. They were inducted into the Crystal Mountain Founders Club Hall of Fame in 2005.

Sharon was also an avid lover of the water. She and Gordy boated frequently and eventually built a house on Harstine Island overlooking the sound. Her Harstine Island home was meticulously designed and reflected her sense of decoration and her personality. Unfortunately, Sharon was only able to enjoy her new home for a short time.

Sharon's memorial was held at the Seabeck Conference Center where she and Gordy have been members for 30 years. They spent many memorable weeks there with their family and Seabeck friends. The memorial was also a chance for friends, family and former instructors to come back together. A tree was planted on the Seabeck grounds in her memory.

Family members also include three daughters, Dana Brienza (Danny) of Taos, New Mexico, Laurel Hansen of Shelton, and Noel Arwine of Kirkland. Grandchildren include Jamy and Justin Johnson, Stephanie Hansen and a great granddaughter, Meagan Johnson. ●



Mike Peters is the Ski School Director at Spout Springs. He taught for Jack Nagel and Star Skiers for 22 years.

Ski area's Landsmann dies

by Bill Kettler, of the Mail Tribune, originally printed on 2/27/08

Gene Landsmann, a popular figure on the slopes of the Mount Ashland ski area for three decades, has died. He was 65.

"He had a natural charm and wit about him," said Rick Saul, who succeeded Landsmann as the mountain's marketing director. "He was so endearing people followed him around."

Saul said Landsmann's body was found in his home in Hornbrook, Calif., Monday. He appeared to have died Friday. Officials had not determined the cause of death Tuesday, but he had been diagnosed recently with cancer.

Landsmann learned to ski in his native Austria, and he was a ski instructor in Sun Valley, Idaho, before coming to Southern Oregon in 1974. The mountains here were modest compared to many he had skied, but he soon became attached to Mount Ashland and the little town with the same name.

He took over the Mount Ashland ski school, bringing a touch of Europe to Southern Oregon and a sense of professionalism to a sleepy little backwater ski area.

"I learned everything I know about technical skiing, and teaching skiing, and acting professionally from him," said Joan Thorndike of Ashland, who worked three seasons for him in the mid-1980s.

"Gene loved the mountain," Thorndike said. "He spent his summers planting grass plugs and tending the place all by himself."

Landsmann played a critical role in designing the Mount Ashland expansion project that was introduced in 1997.

"He was the first one to tell me we needed a bigger mountain," Thorndike said.

He earned a degree in geology at the University of Michigan, and he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the natural history of the Siskiyou with students who enrolled in Mount Ashland's summer service program. He liked to talk about building a tunnel through the Siskiyou for Interstate 5, like the mountain tunnels in Europe, to eliminate the frequent severe weather closures.

He ran the ski school until 1988, when he became marketing director. His Austrian accent and European charm made him a favorite on the mountain, said Glenn Menzie, who worked with him for 22 years.

"He was a consummate gentleman," said Menzie, "and he had such passion for skiing."

That fervor still showed last year, when Landsmann served as "forerunner"

for the state high school championship races, skiing the course before the competitors to set the line. His time was better than all but a few of the high school competitors, Thorndike said.

"He always made it look effortless," said Mike Dadaos,

the mountain's special events manager. "I skied with him a year ago, and I was going as fast as I possibly could, but he was pulling away from me on every turn.

Landsmann retired from the Mt. Ashland Ski & Snowboarding Resort 2003, and moved to Hornbrook. He did some part-time work for the Mount Shasta Board & Ski Park, and taught himself Web design.

His sense of humor was legendary. He never married, but when asked once whether he had any children, he quipped "I don't think so."

"He was our ambassador," Menzie said. "He was what Mount Ashland was all about in the '70s, '80s and early '90s.

"If you count friends as wealth," Menzie said, "he died a rich man." ●

This article is being reprinted with permission from the Mail Tribune in Medford, Oregon.

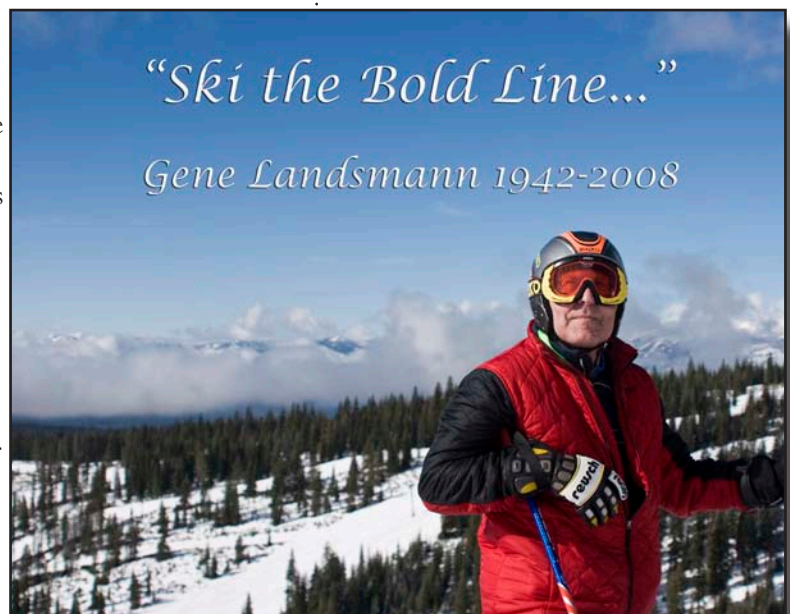


Table 1 - Daily schedule for the Alpentel Leadership Program

8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Sign in at the Mini-Hut. In the morning you will have two hours of practical teaching experience with either Alpentikes, Mini-Mites or Mighty-Mites. You'll have time to take breaks and free-ski.

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Meet at the Mama Bear on the Main Plaza. In the first half of the afternoon, we will explore what it means to be a leader; practice teaching; explore the mountain; learn from special clinicians; meet with leaders from around the mountain and more. The specifics each week will be based on conditions and guest availability.

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

In the second half of the afternoon, we will prepare for the PSIA Level I on-snow exam. Some of you may choose to be in the regular instructor clinics that run from 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm instead.



The ALPy is learning to teach, under the supervision of adult instructors, and monitors the 3 year old for “proper” ski technique. They teach them to turn their skis by “point your toes” references and keeping their weight over their skis by either standing next to them or skiing backwards in front of them. They (ALPy) are taught to always make sure they are holding the magic wand at a level appropriate to the correct hand height for the 3 year old to properly balance over their skis (not up high and not pushing them back).

Allan Tencer is a Level III Alpine instructor who has taught at Alpentel for 19 years. He is a trainer for the Alpentel Leadership Program. Allan is also a professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine and the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Washington.

Barak Rosenbloom is the Snow Sports Coordinator at the Summit Learning Center and the program lead for the Alpentel Leadership Program. He has taught at the Summit for 13 years. His professional background is in personal and organizational transformation, with many years experience in leadership development.

The program has significant benefit to the ALPy because he/she can leave the program with a nationally recognized certification as well as a year of teaching experience. Most also gain a significant sense of accomplishment by experiencing their 3 year old “ski buddy” actually learning to ski. We have found that the kids respond very positively to our message of *no pressure, happiness counts*. Many of them don't get that these days. We want the ALP to be an opportunity for 21st century kids to learn that they don't have to be stressed all the time, that learning and work can be fun and playful and their lives can really be about being happy. In fact, we tell them that they have two fundamental jobs: don't lose your 3 year old, and be happy.

From the viewpoint of the Learning Center, the program provides a significant number of quality instructors every year who are already well known to the Learning Center supervisors. We believe that this “farm team” approach will improve the quality of new ski instructors, especially young ones, coming into a ski school. Over the next several years, we will be refining the ALP curriculum, developing new approaches to all aspects of the program and expanding the numbers so it becomes a major source of our instructor base. ●

(The input of Dave Beckwith, Lloyd Bauer, Sue Bauer, LaWana Quayle and Drue Larson to this article is appreciated).

Special Thanks

to the 2008 Symposium Raffle item contributors

Chris Kastner, Director of Skiing, Mt. Hood Meadows - 3 hour private ski lesson
Jack Burns, B.O.D. - Starbucks coffee maker
Steve Henrikson, B.O.D. - All-day raft trip
Nancy Kitano, Rokka Ski School - 2 nights at Crystal Rokka Lodge, Sushi Gift basket
Andy Laird, Willamette Pass - Super Light Bulb Pack
Betsy Baker, DCL - 3 gift bags from Olympic Physical Therapy
Chris and Judy Thompson, Tech Team - Schweitzer wine tote
Takashi Tsukamaki, B.O.D.- Ping golf bag and 2 ping blankets, a \$90 Puetz gift certificate and a round of golf at Auburn Golf Course
Kim Petram, DCL - Gift Basket
Mark Schinman, B.O.D. - \$50 Best Buy gift card
John Quickstad, ULLR Ski School - Intro to Golf lessons
Rick Lyons, Tech Team - 3 pr. Native sunglasses
Rob Croston, B.O.D. - 2 Boot Dryers
Wayne Nagai, B.O.D. - Fischer ski bag and deerskin gloves
Georgianne Fiorini, Fiorini Ski School - Season Lesson package-2009
Ed Kane, B.O.D. - 4 goggles, 2 pairs of gloves
Mike Foley, Crystal Mt. Snow Sports Center - Fischer deerskin gloves
Gavin Kerr-Hunter, Snowperformance Snowsports School - Hat and hoodie
John Gifford, Stevens Pass GM - 3 Stevens Pass sweatshirts
Sharon and Ronne Linnane, Ski Klases Ski School - Wine basket
Karen Moldstad, B.O.D. - 2 car blankets
Kay Stoneberg, B.O.D. - 2 gift baskets from Anthony Lakes
Molly Fitch, B.O.D. - Organizer's dream basket
Sally Brawley, B.O.D. - 1 pr. Native Sunglasses and cap
Valerie Otter, Olympic Ski School - Condiment basket
Chris Saario, Ski Masters Ski School - 2 hand knit scarves
John Eisenhauer, B.O.D.- Child's knit sweater and hat
Nick McDonald, Tech Team - 4 gift packs of smoked salmon
Pam Humble, Olympic Ski School - Hand knit scarf
John Winterscheid, B.O.D. - Wind chime
Susan LaMadrid, Crystal Mt. Snow Sports Center - 2 packs of hand painted cards

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Steve Frink

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- It took Scott Macartney (Crystal Mountain, WA) less than five months to go from lying in a hospital bed with a severe head trauma to clicking into his bindings for an on-snow training camp with the men's U.S. Alpine Ski Team at Mammoth Mountain ski area in California, illustrating better than anything the passion Macartney has for skiing.

- A lawsuit was filed in the British Columbia Supreme Court on Wednesday on behalf of several individual elite female ski jumpers seeking the same accessibility to Olympic ski jumping as their male counterparts, according to spokesperson and Women's Ski Jumping-USA (WSJ-USA) President Deedee Corradini.

- Bob Bernard of Tahoe City, one of the pioneers of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association's (USSA) alpine masters ski racing program, passed away May 20 after a long illness.

For the rest of the story, go to www.firsttracksonline.com

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