

PSIAASI

NORTHWEST

Issue #1

2016/17 Season

PNSIA-EF

NW snowsports instructor

FALL 2016

This on-line version has clickable links to the PSIA-NW.ORG website and others URLs. When browsing the pages online your cursor will change to a finger if there is a clickable hot spot on the page.

Fall Seminar

The Season Opener - page 8

Season Guide

Get Event Details - page 12

Embracing the Kaizen of Teaching Skills

page 20

Getting Our Tuck On

with USSA

page 26

Learn, Teach, Inspire™





CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN RESORT



Scan this QR code for a video that encapsulates the Crystal Mountain snowsports experience.

"The Place To Be For Professional Development"

By Duane Stutzman, Crystal Mountain Snowsports School Director

"The number one goal of Crystal Mountain Snowsports School is to elevate the guest experience, grow skier and rider visits while sharing our passion for the mountain lifestyle."

As one of our Snowsports Pros you serve as the most integral component in achieving that goal. Our success hinges on the ability of our Pros to provide quality instruction by providing a true learning partnership, balancing people skills, technical skills and teaching skills.

To achieve this, Crystal Mountain is committed to providing you the necessary resources to guide you in your professional development path to meet these objectives.

IT COMES FROM THE TOP!

Our General Manager John Kircher feels so strongly about the importance of PSIA-AASI membership and the value of having a staff of certified PSIA-AASI Snowsports Professionals that he is leading the way by attaining his Level 1 Certification this season. In a collaborative project with the PSIA-AASI National organization and Crystal Mountain, John's progress will be tracked on a weekly basis and shared with PSIA-AASI's 32,000 plus members via the PSIA-AASI E-Blast Newsletter and 32 Degrees Journal. Our goal is to highlight both organizations, elevating awareness of the value of certification and professional development. Through higher certification we can offer a better lesson experience while enjoying all of what Crystal has to offer.

LET US INVEST IN YOUR CAREER

As a Crystal Mountain Snowsports Professional your PSIA-NW exams fees, upon successful completion and passing, will be reimbursed upon your return to us the following season, and you will receive an immediate wage increase with your new certification level.

When it comes to compensation, Crystal has the highest wages available in the Pacific Northwest. Our Full Time Level 1 Pros start at \$15.00/HR, Level 2 at \$20.00/HR and Level 3 at \$30.00/HR. Instructors who finish the season commitment, are eligible for an end of season bonus.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Crystal Mountain Training Model focuses on professional development as the outcome, rather than obtaining that certain certification. Our comprehensive progressive training focuses on "The Learning Connection" and instructor development in the areas of technical, teaching and people skills.

I encourage each of our Pros to align their passion with what they want to be, engage in the process and to not shy away from the more difficult path. We want you to be successful in your professional goals and snowsports career while you are here at Crystal. To insure that success, our trainers have gone through an extensive application and training process. This season our trainers are spending two days of intensive training with the PSIA-AASI Alpine Team receiving the most current training information and techniques available in order to share and give you additional tools for your toolbox.

Along with a full season's schedule of all-day training opportunities for certification and professional development, we have arranged for monthly clinics with the PSIA-AASI National Team and alumni. New this year we have the Australian National Alpine Team making a visit to Crystal for two days of training introducing its teaching model.

DON'T FORGET THE MOUNTAIN

Crystal Mountain is Washington's largest ski resort, receiving over 500 inches of snow last season! We have over 2600 acres of terrain, challenging even the most hardcore skier and rider. Our lift system is one of the most current in the US and disburse skiers rapidly over our mountain, limiting long lift lines even on the busiest of days. With a major expansion of the Quicksilver Lift and terrain we have added great teaching options for the beginner skier and rider to build their skills. With ten lifts and 3,100 feet of vertical, Crystal is the perfect teaching playground.

I know how much our Pros mean to the enjoyment and growth of our sport. I'm proud to be the Snowsports Director at Crystal Mountain and welcome you to join our team to work with an awesome group of dedicated professionals. I look forward to having the chance to meet you and welcome you aboard to the Crystal Mountain Team!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Duane Stutzman
dstutzman@skicrystal.com
360-663-3032



Crystal Mountain Resort
33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd.
Crystal Mountain, WA 98022
www.crystallmountainresort.com

features

contributions

- 4** President's Report
by Molly Fitch, President

Call for Candidates
by Mary Germeau, Executive VP

- 5** Mission Statement Refresher
by Kim Petram, Education VP

2015-16 PNSIA-EF Donors and
On-line or Off-line Giving Details

- 6** Where Are You Going?
by Mike Phillips, Certification VP

Scholarship Funds Available - Apply by Dec 15th

- 7** Dot Com Report
by Tyler Barnes, Communications VP

Technical Team Update
by Rick Lyons, Technical Team Coach

- 11** News Ticker
Latest happenings in the NW

- 12** As the Bullwheel Turns
by Kirsten Huotte, Executive Director

- 18** What Makes Him Tick? An Interview with Nick
by Burrell Jull

- 23** They Dwell Among Us
Awards reminder by John Eisenhower

- 25** 20, 30, 40, & 50 Year Members
Salute these long-time members

Core Belief: Fun!
by Kyle Skutch

- 30** Nordic Fall College
Early Season Event Details



08

FALL SEMINAR
with keynote speaker
Nicholas Herrin,
PSIA-AASI CEO



12

2016-17
SEASON GUIDE
Event Information
for the Season



20

EMBRACING
THE KAIZEN OF
TEACHING SKILLS
by Dave Rowe



26

GETTING OUR TUCK
ON WITH USSA
by Katie Feucht



ON THE COVER

NW Snowboard DCL Kyle Skutch is always "all smiles" when on his board and especially when riding powder.

Photo credit Grant Myrdal
grantmyrdal.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Molly Fitch, PSIA-NW President



Greetings PSIA-NW Members,

I am excited and honored to be the President of our association, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve our members. I want to thank Bill King, for his service over the past three years as our President.

Bill has given our Association countless hours of his time. Thank you Bill! We appreciate your dedication and continuing support.

One of the Board activities begun under Bill's leadership is the ongoing work of the Strategic Planning Committee. At the Spring Board meeting in May, 2015, a Strategic Planning Committee was formed to review our strategic plan, adopted in 2010.

Our charter was to revise and update the strategic plan, where relevant, and make any changes we felt were needed to address our current business operations. An updated strategic plan was presented and adopted at the May 2016 Board meeting. To review the strategic plan, please go to psia-nw.org, look in the "who we are" menu, then choose the "strategic plan" menu item.

The Board of Directors authorized the Strategic Planning Committee to explore ways and methods of implementing updates to the revised strategic plan. The Committee designed a request for proposal (RFP), and distributed the RFP to a number of consultants specializing in working with non-profit organizations, and specifically in strategy planning and implementation.

We have two experienced well suited consultants to interview and choose from, and we will be starting this process during the month of August and September. More to come on this subject after the Fall Board of Directors meeting which will be held on September 17, 2016.

Along with our local fall activities, Kirsten Huotte, PSIA-NW Executive Director, and I will be participating in a Leadership Summit that will be held from November 3 – 6, 2016 in Frisco, Colorado. Along with the National Board, this Summit will include the division presidents and their executive directors. This Leadership Summit has been an area of focus for Bill King, and as President of the President's Council, he has pushed hard to make this summit a reality.

In the meantime, enjoy your summertime, and feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns. ❄️

Molly is a 39 year member of PSIA, Alpine Level III certified instructor for Snoqualmie and past DCL, Examiner, Education VP and Certification VP. She can be reached at mollyfitch@comcast.net

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

by Mary Germeau, Executive VP



BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

Northwest members are encouraged to get involved and run for any position on the Board of Directors in their region that is up for election.

In order to run, you need to complete and submit an Announcement of Candidacy to the PSIA-NW office via fax, email or mail to be received on or before 4p.m. December 31st.

Board positions are three year terms and require attendance at two board meetings per year plus other events and committee work, as needed. As usual, one third of our Directors come up for election each season. The statements for re-election submitted with the Announcement of Candidacy will be published in their entirety on the website.

Positions to be re-elected this winter for seating for a 2017-20 board position are:

Region	Position	Incumbent
Snoqualmie	1	Jack Burns
Snoqualmie	2	Molly Fitch
Snoqualmie	3	Ed Kane
Stevens Pass	2	John Keil
Crystal Mt.	1	John Eisenhauer
Mt. Hood	1	Tyler Barnes
Bend	1	Charlie Cornish
Mt. Baker	1	Burrell Jull
Blue Mountains	1	Kay Stoneberg

The seats are open to all who are interested in running; incumbents may choose to run again.

All candidates (including incumbents) must submit an Announcement of Candidacy in order to be considered an eligible candidate. This announcement should contain the following information: Full Name, Region, Position, Snowsports School, Title

or Position at the school, Off-snow occupation (if any), PSIA-NW Involvement, Reasons for wanting to serve, and your contact details. Candidates may download an Announcement of Candidacy form from the PSIA-NW.org website: www.psia-nw.org/who-we-are/board-of-directors/candidates/

The Announcement of Candidacy will be used in communications in the General Election so the members in the region for which the candidate is running may read a statement about them and their reasons for wanting to serve. If there is a contested election, regional representatives are elected by the voting members in the region for which they are running. For more information about additional requirements contact your Regional Board Representative or the PSIA-NW office.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Regional Directorships are also up for election each year on a rotating basis. A school director wishing to run for one of these positions must be a Certified Level II or Level III and a School Director in the Region in which he/she wants to run. There are 4 regions in PSIA-NW.

One Regional Directorship is up for election this year. It is the Director for Region 1 (Western Washington) where the current Director for this position is Mary Germeau. A position as a Regional Director is a three year term. The school directors in the region elect the representative for their region by electronic or mail-in ballot.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL CANDIDATES

All Candidates for either type of Directorship (including incumbents) must submit an Announcement of Candidacy in order to be considered an eligible candidate.

Candidates may download an Announcement of Candidacy Form from the PSIA-NW.ORG website at: www.psia-nw.org/who-we-are/board-of-directors/candidates/. The Announcement will work for both type of positions – just check the correct box. There is also an electronic Announcement of Candidacy Form available on the website.

This Announcement of Candidacy will be used in communications for board elections so that the members in the region for which the candidate is running may read a statement about each person and their reason for wanting to serve. Regional directors are elected by the school directors in the region in which they wish to serve.

For more information about additional requirements contact the PSIA-NW office. ❄️

Mary Germeau is co-owner and operator of Olympic Ski School at Stevens Pass. You can reach her by email at maryolympic@hotmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT REFRESHER

by Kim Petram, Education VP



Hello instructors, I hope you have enjoyed a great summer and that you are already looking forward to the upcoming season!

Over the course of these past few years, in various ways, I've been asking you all to consider your role in assuming responsibility as a learner in this sport. As well as your role in assuring new staff and novice instructors are adequately introduced and immersed in the educational opportunities this division offers. These two 'asks' are really intricately linked together.

I'd like to take a moment and offer up a refresher of this division's mission statement – the mission of our organization is to provide high quality educational resources and well defined standards to aid members in improving their teaching skills to better satisfy the needs and expectations of their customer in the enjoyment of snowsports. That's a long statement. What does it mean at the most basic and rudimentary level? How can each of us take this mission and make it personal and meaningful to ourselves?

I've brought this up before and will repeat it now, 57% of your peers do not belong to this organization. At risk of sounding like a broken record, this really is just an incredible fact. I'm curious why this doesn't generate more conversation and concern? A lot of time is being spent trying to figure out how to attract new student participation in this sport. I'm not sure an equal amount of time is being spent nurturing and engaging new instructor participation in this sport.

What I mean by this is that I believe it's hard to label or title someone as an instructor if they have no alliance with a professional organization to back this statement up. I'm an RN, I can call myself an RN as I have a license to back this up. I would like to call myself a Master Gardener and I could, in fact, reference myself as a "master gardener". However, as much as I would like it to be true, it's not true. To be a Master Gardener means I have an acknowledged standard behind that title. It gives meaning to others who may want to hire a Master Gardener as they have a baseline expectation of what to expect from that hire.

This is a very complex and challenging conversation and expectation, and I am not trying to minimize the person who is a non-member operating under the title of instructor. There are multiple layers of intricacies and barriers to this predicament we are in. However, we must do something to move us

forward as a division. A division of strength is one that has a strength in numbers. Not just a number to boost our stats or increase revenue but numbers that mean value-added contributors. Immediate membership for all new staff facilitates the process of engagement and starts the assumption of responsibility to be a learner.

I've stated before that the long term future and engagement as a professional instructor starts at the point of hire. Not at the point of Level I certification. New Hire = New Member. New Member = immediate and continuous exposure to all vetted educational resources, training and standards of practice. The mission of our organization is, "To provide high quality educational resources and well defined standards to aid members in improving their teaching skills to better satisfy the needs and expectations of their customer in the enjoyment of snowsports."

How are you going to take this mission and make it personal and meaningful to you and engage each of your fellow peers standing next to you with a name tag that states "Instructor"? ❄️

Kim Petram is the Education Vice President, Alpine Examiner and Children's and Senior Specialist Committee Chairperson. Email: kim@petram.org



MAKE AN ON-LINE DONATION TO THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION!

We typically seek donations at dues renewal time or Spring Symposium, but you can donate any time! Call the office with a credit card over the phone, send a check by mail - OR -

go on-line to **PSIA-NW.ORG/DONATE**

All donation to the PNSIA-EF are 100% tax deductible - check with your tax consultant on how to apply this to your taxes. EIN# 23-7130806

THANK YOU PNSIA-EF DONORS

The Pacific Northwest Snowsports Instructors Association Education Foundation (PNSIA-EF) is a charitable not-for-profit organization 501(c)(3) designation which provides support to PSIA-NW in many ways including Scholarships for needy members. Thank you to the following members for making donations.

\$100 and up:

Patrick Bettin, Sean Bold, Thomas Chasse, Brian Feucht, Kirsten Huotte, John I. May, Neil R. McCleary, and Gene Pierson.

Up to \$99:

Gordon Arwine, Tyler Barnes, Jean Christ, Kim Clark, P. Michael Drake, Joan Elvin, David Gehring, Philip R. Knight, Frank Koster Lylian Merkley, Bob Mosteller, Sarah Richardson, Chad F. Rosenstine, Kay Stoneberg, and SNOWPRO PORTAL.

Up to \$25:

John Allen, Mary B. Balogh, Catherine Bath, Christopher Bettin, David Bissonnette, Chris Colleran, Andrew Constantine, Michael L. Drake, Joseph G. Draper, E Tom Evans II, Paul R. Gissing, Russell C. Hart, Elizabeth Hillis, Terry Johnson, David C. King, Dan M. Kruger, Cathy A. Laetz, Kim Larsen, Mark I. Little, Rick Lyons, Patrick Malone, Mike Malveaux, Gregory McKeag, Ryan McNelley, Anne Meixner, Lana B. Miller, Garrick Mishaga, Doru Nica, Gary Parkert, Nanci Peterson-Vivian, Kim Petram, Glenda Schuh, Jeffrey Sleicher, Nancy L. Slye, Nicholas Spika, David Stephenson, Jodi E. Taggart, Joe Turner, Sean Vetter, Michael "Rudy" VonWald and Tami Wakasugi.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

by Mike Phillips, Certification VP



"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else."
— Yogi Berra

As summer, fall activities wind down and winter approaches, many of you may already be thinking about your skiing/riding and teaching goals for this upcoming season. Some of you may be trying out for the Technical Team, pursuing a Specialist education discipline credential, or a certification pin in one of the many disciplines.

No matter what you pursue, before you can begin your endeavor it is important to familiarize yourself with the procedures, the day's format, the event's criteria for evaluation and any new changes and updates that have occurred.

New for this season, the Alpine certification guide is being updated and will be posted on the website for download and review, it might already be there as you read this.

In an attempt to stay relevant, show a correlation in the exam environment and what we teach in our everyday lessons, look for changes to the Level II assigned teaching topics. We have omitted some teaching topics, reworked some existing topics and added a couple new ones.

Depending on the skiing and teaching zone you are being evaluated, we have highlighted the skiing activities, skills and fundamentals common to what you would be looking for in your student's development. For the Level I, II and III skiing, the national standards categories of environment, speed and accuracy is the criteria and categories you will be evaluated on.

We have updated the skiing descriptions and parameters to help provide you with more opportunities to showcase your skiing skills based on the national standards and what is needed in terms of tactical and technique choices. In addition, a couple skiing activities have been omitted and a new Skills and Fundamental activity to the Level III skiing day has been added.

As it states in the certification manuals, "If you choose not to question and research the information, you will probably end up with a less than accurate perspective on the certification process. This perspective is bound to influence the outcome. Be accountable for your success."

As always, look to your mentors, trainers, divisional staff, fellow instructors, the lessons that you teach and other resources to help you prepare for your journey. Once you have an idea of what is too be expected of you, now you can apply your practical knowledge on the hill to gain ownership of the material. Have a great season! ❄️

Mike Phillips is the PSIA-NW Certification Vice President, Technical Team Member, Alpine Examiner and an instructor/trainer at Mt. Bachelor. He is also the owner and operator of Slackline Flyfishing LLC. - www.slacklineflyfishing.com. Email him: 1wintershope@gmail.com



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR 2016-17 SEASON

The PNSIA-EF Scholarship Program will again be available this season where there is nearly \$5,000 to approve for scholarships for events or books and manuals available from PSIA-NW.

The \$5000 amount is due to a great showing at our annual fundraiser at Symposium. Please let all the instructors in your schools know that their applications must be completed and received in the office by December 15.

We are hoping to help a lot of people attend a PSIA-NW event this season. Any questions about the scholarship process, please contact the office, scholarship committee member Mary Weston or board member Mary Germeau.

Get all the details about the scholarship application process on the PSIA-NW website. Look in the Membership menu, then choose Scholarship Application.

**Scholarship
Application Deadline
is December 15**

NW snowsports instructor

Professional Snowsports Instructors of America-Northwest, Pacific Northwest Snowsports Instructors Association – Education Foundation
338 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington 98801

PSIA-NW Member Services

Email: info@psia-nw.org

Phone: (206) 244-8541 Fax: (206) 241-2885

Web: www.psia-nw.org

Kirsten Huotte, Executive Director
kirsten@psia-nw.org

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO

Kirsten Huotte, Executive Director
kirsten@psia-nw.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

For more info go to psia-nw.org/newsletter

Fall Issue (Sep - Nov)

Ads & Articles by August 1

Winter Issue (Dec - Feb)

Ads & Articles by November 1

Spring Issue (Mar - May)

Ad & Articles by February 1

CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES

NW Snowsports Instructor is published three times per year. We accept articles from anyone willing to contribute. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all submissions including advertising. Articles should include the author's name, mini-bio and portrait image suitable for publishing (if available). Please submit all content, articles and photos as attachments via email or contact the editor for other options. 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-NW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Molly Fitch, President

mollyfitch@comcast.net

Mary Germeau, Executive V.P.

maryolympic@hotmail.com

Mark Schinman, Secretary & Second V.P.

mark@schinman.com

Diana Suzuki, Financial V.P.

diana.suzuki@astronics.com

Tyler Barnes, Communications V.P.

tyler@psia-nwtechtteam.org

Kim Petram, Education V.P.

kim@petram.org

Mike Phillips, Certification V.P.

1wintershope@gmail.com

David Burton, Member School V.P.

david@skimasters.net

John May, NW National Representative

john@creekstonedesigns.com

DOT COM REPORT

by Tyler Barnes, Communications VP



Here we go again with another season of skiing, riding and sharing our passion with our students and friends! This is the first issue of the NW Snowsports Instructor newsletter for the 2016-17 season, and the Fall issue always contains the "Season Guide" which essentially is most of the relevant information pertaining to events for the season – like multi-day events, indoor events, exams and specialist program offerings, plus camps and more.

As you may know, the NW Snowsports Instructor is published three times per season and mailed to all current members - this issue is sent to current members and to those who have forgotten to pay their 2016-17 dues. There are some great articles in this issue including an interview with Nick McDonald, the release of the "Skills Concept" for teaching aka EUA, and a great article about the experience of taking the USSA Level 100 coaches certification and how this compares to PSIA-AASI content – very cool. The Winter issue typically has pro tips submitted by fellow members and lots of details about Spring Symposium which is taking place at our "home town resort", Mission Ridge, in April 2017.

When you review the Season Guide keep in mind that one-day clinics will be added to the event calendar on the website as their details and specifics are confirmed - like meeting place, whether lift tickets are provided, etc. There is a lot of information in the pages ahead ... but there is even more information on-line at PSIA-NW.ORG. You should always go to the website the most current and up-to-the-minute information about event venues, details, etc.

In early August, I migrated the website to a new server with better performance, newer operating system and solid state hard drives. This was not due to any equipment failure but rather standard best practices in providing improved security and performance. In an effort to insure zero down time, we maintained the old server and new server concurrently in case of any DNS caching that some computers and networks may use. I'm sharing this with you so you know some of the back of the house things that are handled at little or no cost to the division, by leveraging the skills of our volunteer board members when and where practical.

You will likely notice in the coming months that all web pages of the PSIA-NW.ORG website are now fully served over HTTPS - look for the green lock in the address bar of your browser. This step insures

that all content, whether sensitive or not, is encrypted to and from the website to your computer. Speaking of websites, a year ago I mentioned that the national website, THESNOWPROS.ORG, would be updated by their web team sometime last Fall. That update/upgrade is finally happening in the coming days (at time of this writing), which should improve your experience signing up for events on-line, accessing Pro Deals, as well as a mobile-friendly version of the website - which will be a significant improvement considering more than 50% of all web traffic to the NW website is on a mobile device, be it a phone or tablet. I am optimistic that the national website redesign will be an improvement and I am looking forward to using it.

Finally, I want to remind all members that you can make your manual, handbook and other NW accessory purchases at PSIA-NW.ORG/SHOP – the NW's own on-line store – or by calling the NW office. By making your purchases right here in the NW you directly support your local division.

Thank you for allowing me to serve PSIA-NW as your Communications VP and as a Mt. Hood Region Representative. Elections will be held this Winter for the Mt. Hood Region 1 Seat, as mentioned in Mary's article, which I currently hold. I'd appreciate your continued support. ❄️

Tyler Barnes is the PSIA-NW Technical Team Assistant Coach, an Alpine examiner as well as the Ski & Snowboard School Training Manager at Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort. He is an entrepreneur and creator of the SNOWPRO PORTAL™
Email him: tyler@



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS PUBLICATION? WE WANT TO KNOW!

If it were possible to receive this publication in this format or another, how would you like to receive it?

- ☐ By US Mail Only
- ☐ By Email Only
- ☐ By US Mail and Email
- ☐ Do Not Send

Please let us know by going to www.psia-nw.org/poll or send an email to: info@psia-nw.org with your response.

TECHNICAL TEAM UPDATE

by Rick Lyons,
Technical Team Head Coach



This Fall the PSIA-NW Technical Team members will meet again for our annual Fall team training, which is a two-day indoor session where team members review the previous season and plan how we can be effective at delivering clinic and event content to meet the needs of the education and certification programs. Most team members are involved in a specialist program be it Children, Seniors or Freestyle. Many team members are also examiners, but this is not a requirement.

In the off-season, team members work in smaller focus groups often comprised of team members, DCLs, examiners and/or committee members, with specific regard to skiing performance, movement analysis, teaching, certification and school training programs. One of the fruits of this effort on the teaching realm has been the development of a "skills concept" for teaching. The teaching group is made up of team members and DCLs who are passionate about teaching and sharing their time to help uncover "best practices" for teaching.

I'd like to recognize the following people who have been very involved in the process of helping create this model, many of whom are professional teachers in their off-snow lives: Linda Cowan, Andy Rubesch, Jaime Clarke, Natalie Grummer, Dave Rowe, John May, Regina Eilertson, Terry McLeod, David Lawrence, and myself. Later in this issue you will find an article written by team member Dave Rowe, which is our first public release of this material to the wider membership audience.

Finally, it's a team tryout year. If you are thinking about trying out for the PSIA-NW Technical Team, this is your year to do it! Every two years half the team positions are made available for anyone interested in being on the team. Details about how to apply and venue will be made available in December so you can plan accordingly.

We truly are seeking involvement in this tryout process by inviting anyone who meets the minimum requirements, is willing to make the time commitment and take on the role, to apply. ❄️

Rick Lyons is the Technical Team Head Coach, Alpine Examiner and trainer at Whitefish Mountain Resort. Email him: rick@psia-nwtechteam.org

FALL SEMINAR

SPOKANE - OCT. 22



PORTLAND - OCT. 29

Portland venue is different than last season



SEATTLE - OCT. 30



**\$75 on or before October 13
\$90 after October 13**

All venues have lunch options for an additional fee – see this page for details, select on event application.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nicholas Herrin

Nick comes to PSIA-AASI from Crested Butte Mountain, Colo., where he has been assistant general manager since 2014. His first taste of the snowsports industry was in the Northwest at the John Mohan Ski and Ride school located at Snoqualmie, Wash. From there he got the skiing bug and traveled to Bozeman, Montana where he graduated in 2001 from Montana State University with a degree in history and a secondary teaching endorsement.

While going to school Nick continued to teach skiing at Big Sky Resort, as well as had the opportunity to run the ski school training program and work in the sales and marketing departments. In 2006 he became assistant director of Telluride's ski and snowboard school, and in 2008 became director of the ski/ride school where he had the opportunity to grow into the director of resort services at Crested Butte before taking on the role of assistant GM. Nick has also served three terms (2004-16) as a member of the PSIA Alpine Team.

Nick looks forward to coming back, connecting with you and presenting during Fall Seminar. During his keynote presentation, Nick will share insight about the organization's current membership make-up and talk about the impact instructors have on the guest experience. He'll also discuss



Nick Herrin, PSIA-AASI CEO and Northwest original!

and review how PSIA-AASI can and will continue to provide and elevate the services it provides to resorts, schools and members, all of which elevates the student's experience.

We'll learn why PSIA-AASI continues to remain relevant and be a key driver for the snowsports industry. Finally, Nick will explain how, by working together, we can continue to grow this industry and help PSIA-AASI support successful experiences to snowsports enthusiasts, no matter if it's their first time trying the sport or their 20th season enjoying the mountain environment.

DAILY SCHEDULE

8:00 am
8:30 am
10:30 am
10:45 am
Noon
1:00 pm
3:00 pm

Refreshments
Morning Course
Break
Keynote Speaker
Lunch Hour
Afternoon Course
Adjourn For The Day

Fall Seminar will be offered in three locations, making this season-opener event more accessible for everyone to attend. Whether you are a Fall Seminar regular or a new participant, it is our goal to help you kick off your season with the latest and greatest information.

We are continuing to offer Fall Seminar to non-members. Please feel free to invite a non-member from your school to join you or someone who is interested in teaching this season and see why Fall Seminar is such a great pre-season educational event. Like regular members, non-members will need to register and pay the event fee to participate.

Conveniently sign up on-line by going to the PSIA-NW.ORG website. Additional "paper" applications are available for download or by contacting the PSIA-NW office at 206.244.8541. There is also an application on the following pages of this newsletter, too. When completing the application please choose from the morning and afternoon topic choices and indicate your choices on the application.

LUNCH OPTIONS

Spokane - \$16

TWISTED TURKEY WRAP

Roast turkey with cranberry sauce, bistro sauce, baby spinach & tomato wrapped in a flax seed & herb crusted whole grain tortilla.

PORTOBELLO RUSTICO

Roasted balsamic portobello with fresh mozzarella, roasted tomato salsa, baby spinach and tomato on a multigrain roll.

ROAST BEEF and CHEDDAR

Roast beef and cheddar on a ciabatta roll with horseradish cream spread.

All box lunches include choice of pasta salad, bag of chips, brownie, and bottled water.

Portland - \$12

DELI SANDWICHES

Choice of turkey, roast beef or vegetarian sandwich with lettuce and cheese. Each box lunch is served with whole fruit, bagged chips, cookie and canned soda or bottled water.

Seattle - \$21.50

SMOKED TURKEY & BRIE CROISSANT

Thinly shaved smoked turkey, creamy Brie, fresh spinach, tomato, caramelized onion, and honey mustard on a flaky croissant.

PARMESAN BEEF SANDWICH

Thinly shaved roast beef, horseradish mayonnaise, grilled red onions, leaf lettuce and tomato on a parmesan-crusted roll.

PORTOBELLO RUSTICO

Roasted balsamic Portobello mushroom, fresh mozzarella and basil, roasted tomato salsa and baby spinach on a multi-grain roll.

Each lunch includes a bag of chips, pasta salad, and a large cookie, plus a bottled water included.

Note About Lunches

If you are signing up for the lunch option be sure to mark the correct lunch on the application. Due to the timing of pre-ordering lunches we cannot accept late or same day lunch orders.

MORNING COURSE OFFERINGS: 8:30AM

Autism Spectrum in Snowsports

Regina Eilertson. Tips and strategies for how creating the right environment for learning with youth who are on the autism spectrum. Learn how to identify signs and traits of autism and gain specific tools for how to best help kids on the spectrum of autism learn a performance-based sport.

From Hello to the Snow

Maas, Priest, Stevenson. An interactive clinic that will explore the ins and outs of assessments, equipment choice, set up and fitting. We will cover stand, sit down and visual impairment as they relate to downhill and snowboard. All levels of experience welcome; sliding on snow is sliding on snow.

Foundational Movement Analysis

RJ Nichoalds. Movement analysis still have you scratching your head? Feel like you are looking for Waldo at times? During this session we will solve the itch and get down to basic biomechanics and body movements and how they relate to the Skills Concept/Ski Snow Interaction. This interactive, video intense session will establish a foundation to identify good skiing movements by watching and studying skiers in action.

Renewing Vows: A Focus on the Fundamentals

Dave Rowe. PSIA and USSA continue to partner to define great skiing and in 2014, both organizations renewed their vows to focus on the fundamentals. More specifically, PSIA updated its National Standards and defined "Five Skiing Fundamentals". Similarly, USSA rolled out a "recalibration" of slalom technique grounded in a foundation of fundamentals. This session will compare and contrast these models to give instructors of all abilities an expanded view of the skills concept as well as how the skills concept relates to desired outcomes.

Seniors: What's All the Fuss About?

Michael Birch-Jones. As one of the growing population groups Seniors present a dilemma; how to introduce them to or even just keep them doing snow sports longer. With the use of movement analysis come see how we can look at the aging process on skis in a lower impact way. This will benefit you and your students!

Teaching with No Props

Gavin Kerr-Hunter. How to improvise using what's available in your surroundings to support knowledge and skill development on and off snow.

Three Dimensional Balance in Motion

Marc Schanfarber. Staying in balance as we move is a big key to our sports. We'll delve into the planes of motion and share how we move in three dimensions in everything we do, but often see pictures or representations that are two dimensional. How can we maintain balance as we slide, paying attention to how movement in one plane affects the others? Photos, video clips, and physical interaction will help us gain understanding of this critical component of snowsports.

Toys and Us!

Michael Drake. Bringing an experiential approach of combining Tasks, Terrain and Toys into your children's lesson planning. This session combines some background of 'Play' styles and theory and brings that into setting up experiential activities for your kids' classes. Yep, toys and props totally have a place accelerating learning and development in a fun, playful manner. Come prepared for a little background, some examples and some interactive teaming on how to create your own scenarios on snow!

What Makes a Great-Good-Poor Nordic Exercise or Progression

Mike Browder. Come and experience some track specific drills and discuss what are the advantages/disadvantages of each and what makes a great (effective), versus good versus poor (ineffective) drill. The basic thrust is let the drill do the teaching, this is what makes for a great drill.

AFTERNOON COURSE OFFERINGS: 1:00PM

Brain Games for Instructors

Regina Eilertson. Learn about how the brain learns new information, how the brain "sees" and "hears" and how to apply this to your teaching this winter.

Children's MA Analysis: How Good is Your Eye?

Michael Birch-Jones. We spend a lot of time deciding what kids can and cannot do at certain ages but what is really good skiing at different stages of development? And would you be able to recognize it? How good is your eye? Join us for some great kid's video clips and plan to participate in a hands on movement analysis session.

Deeper Digging into Movement Analysis

RJ Nichoalds. Ready to dig a little deeper into movement analysis? We will review video of inspirational skiers in bumps, powder, groomers, variable conditions, race courses, etc., to identify what they are doing right to make their skiing inspiring. Through the interactive coaching session, you will learn to identify what a good skier needs to do (and WHY) to become a great skier, it's not always about what is being done incorrectly.

Equipment Set Up and the Five Fundamentals

Michael Drake. The new PSIA Alpine Manual updates and reframes the skills concepts, and with it, you may have been hearing and reading about the five fundamentals of good skiing. In this session, we'll review these fundamentals, in a context and focus on how our boot and binding set up, our "foundation", affects our successful execution of the skills. How, when and which muscles and joints to use, to achieve our desired outcomes, keys off what our boot and ski set up may allow...are your boots enhancing...or limiting your movements? This is not an individual boot fitting session, but is oriented towards issues that develop with too much...or too little...of the basic boot set up parameters. Bringing your boots is optional.

Evolution of Skate and Classic Ski Technique Over the Last 30+ Years

Mike Browder. Come back in time to see how Nordic technique has changed and evolved through the years. We will look at video of World Cup skiers, look at biomechanics, break down the movements and discuss what we see.

Hands On

Maas, Priest, Stevenson. Get up close and personal with the equipment. We will have available a variety of adaptive gear that you will have a chance to actually try on. Practice tethering several of the pieces of equipment that you will find in a typical adaptive lesson. Learn the basic skills required for guiding skiers and snowboarders with visual impairments. New to adaptive? You know more than you think!

Learning Distinguishes Good Teaching

Dave Rowe. Ever had a situation where one or more of your students check out, aren't getting it or are practicing halfheartedly? If you're interested in taking your teaching to the next level or preparing for your Teaching exam, this interactive session will frame these challenges as learning opportunities and help you identify and prioritize what teaching skills are necessary to get the lesson back on track!

What Does that Word Really Mean?

Marc Schanfarber. When I say bank, do you hear incline? What is Ski Performance? Does dynamic = high energy? We throw around terms so often without a strong understanding of what they mean. We'll explore common themes, words, and phrases that are often overused and misunderstood by first defining together what we believe is the meaning, then go through still shots, video, and physically interactive movements to represent the concept and deepen our understanding.

What Does Your Guest Really Want

Gavin Kerr-Hunter. During this session we will look at the major changes in the needs and wants of our guests over the past 15 plus years and how to best design your product (aka lesson) to suit them. Gearing around their needs and desires will help you in getting more returning clients from beginner through expert.

ARE YOU A TRAINER OR DCL WHO PLANS TO ATTEND FALL SEMINAR?

Then please take note: This is the first event of the Tech Series program. Approved trainers will be notified to go on-line to sign up for the program and pay the program fee. Once this step is completed all trainers will be able to sign up to attend Tech Series events on-line.

For Trainer, DCL and Tech Series information go to: PSIA-NW.ORG/Tech-Zone



2016 Fall Seminar Event Application

☐ check this box if there are any changes to your contact info from last season

Name _____ Email Address _____ Cert Level _____ Member # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone # _____ Alt Phone (please indicate type) ☐ Home ☐ Work

PLEASE CHECK ONE LOCATION

☐ **Spokane 10/22**


Lunch Options: TWISTED TURKEY WRAP, PORTOBELLO RUSTICO or ROAST BEEF and CHEDDAR. All box lunches include choice of pasta salad, bag of chips, brownie, and bottled water.....\$16

☐ **Portland 10/29**


Lunch Options: TURKEY, ROAST BEEF OR VEGETARIAN sandwich with lettuce and cheese served with whole fruit, bagged chips, cookie and canned soda or bottled water.....\$12

☐ **Seattle 10/30**


Lunch Option: SMOKED TURKEY & BRIE CROISSANT, PARMESAN BEEF SANDWICH or PORTOBELLO RUSTICO. Each lunch includes a bag of chips, pasta salad, and a large cookie, plus a bottled water included.....\$21.50

PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR MORNING AND AFTERNOON TOPICS

Morning Topic (8:30 - 10:30am)

First Choice _____

Second Choice _____

Afternoon Topic (1:00 - 3:00 pm)

First Choice _____

Second Choice _____

Course placement is based on your selections and space available. Some sessions may not be offered due to minimum number of signups.

PAYMENT DETAILS - PRICES ARE PER PERSON

☐ \$75 early bird price on or before October 13

☐ \$90 after October 13

☐ \$ _____ Lunch Option (see price above)

Choice: ☐ Turkey ☐ Beef ☐ Veggie

\$ _____ Your Total

MAIL WITH CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFO TO PSIA-NW:
338 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801
FAX WITH CREDIT CARD INFO TO:
206.241.2885
EMAIL US: INFO@PSIA-NW.ORG

Applications received after deadline will be accepted pending space availability only. No refunds or cancellations unless injured and unable to participate in an indoor session per doctor's note; a \$25 processing fee will be applied to approved refunds.

**SAVE TIME!
REGISTER
ON-LINE @
PSIA-NW.ORG**

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 their agents and employees and contractors from liability for any and all injuries of whatever nature arising during or in connection with the conduct 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.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

sign here

Credit Card Payments

PLEASE READ LATE FEE AND CANCELLATION POLICY ABOVE IN PAYMENT DETAILS BOX.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

CREDIT CARD TYPE ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DIS

3 or 4 Digit
CVC Code

EXP. DATE
(MM/YY)

X

YOUR SIGNATURE

WHAT'S THE LATEST SCOOP?

WELCOME NICK

Hometown local, Nick Herrin has been hired as the new Executive Director and CEO of PSIA-AASI. His first taste of the snowsports industry was in here in the Northwest when he started teaching with the Mohan Ski and Ride School at Snoqualmie. Nick also served three terms (2004-16) as a member of the PSIA Alpine Team.

THANK YOU TOM

From roughly a year (July 2015-July 2016), Tom Spiess was the interim CEO for PSIA-AASI as the organization looked to fill the vacated CEO position. He did an outstanding job managing the organization during this time. His commitment to the organization and to the divisions is commendable. Luckily he isn't going anywhere, moving back into his role as the CFO for PSIA-AASI. Thank Tom for doing an exceptional job as interim CEO.

MEADOWS GETS CHILL

Burton Snowboards Vice President of Global Resorts and Chill Board Member, Jeff Boliba, presented this year's annual Chill Host Mountain Award to Mt. Hood Meadows during the Annual NSAA Conference. Each year, Chill recognizes one of its host mountains for the high level of on-snow instruction it gives to Chill participants as well as other support of Chill throughout the season. Congrats team!

MISSION AND STEVENS FINALISTS

Mission Ridge and Stevens Pass were two out of the three finalists this past spring for the NSAA Conversion Cup Award. The goal of the conversion cup award is to create a friendly competition for resorts throughout the nation to see each season what programs were successful in turning beginner skiers and riders into repeat customers, and ultimately lifelong enthusiasts of the sport. Being in the top three from around the nation is saying something, it was a close call but Wachusett Mountain won for 2016. Way to represent the Northwest Mission and Stevens! #bestinthewest

LOOKOUT PASS FOR SALE

Lookout Pass is for sale, with longtime President and CEO Phil Edholm looking to retire.

DON CHAPMAN AT MT. SPOKANE

Don Chapman has been hired as the Snowsports School Director at Mt. Spokane.

SPOUT SPRINGS STILL FOR SALE

That's right, you still have the opportunity to have a ski hill be your own backyard. For just a cool \$1.25mil, you could slide the 800 vertical anytime you feel like it.

STEVENS PASS MOVING SOME DIRT

Stevens Pass is putting in a parking lot on the North side of Highway 2 this summer.

49° NORTH BREAKS GROUND

49 has started Phase 1 of its 3 phase plan of its real estate development project at the bottom of Chair 5 in Sunrise Basin. They are anticipating some units being completed late 2016.

MT. BACHELOR CEO

Bachelor welcomes John McLeod as its new President and CEO. John previously held the CFO position.

CHASSE NAMED TO NSAA BOARD

During the May 2016 annual National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) convention held this past May in Nashville, Tennessee, Tom Chasse President and CEO of Schweitzer Mountain Resort and long-time PSIA member, was elected to serve a 3-year term on the NSAA Board of Directors. Chasse joins other board members from the Northwest, Jeff Kohnstamm from Timberline and Kevin McCarthy from White Pass.

CLOUDCHASER AT MT. BACHELOR

Bachelor is installing a new east side Doppelmayr chairlift, named Cloudchaser, in time for the 2016 season. The high-speed detachable quad chairlift provides greater protection from the elements during storm cycles and adds 635 acres to lift served terrain, making Bachelor the 5th largest ski area in the United States.

SUMMIT LODGE AT WHITEFISH

Phase two of the two phase Summit House remodel is nearing its end. It includes the enlargement of the kitchen and food court area which will include a new layout improving customer flow, expanded food stations, new tile work and additional equipment. Phase two is expected to be finished in time for the 2016-17 winter season.

SUMMIT LODGE AT SCHWEITZER

Schweitzer is in its second summer completing the 360° views for you to enjoy at the top of the hill. The lodge is planned to open for the 2016-17 winter season.

BIGGEST LESSON EVER

Ski & snowboard resorts nationwide participated last Friday, January 8th in the first U.S. attempt to set a Guinness record for the World's Largest Ski and Snowboard Lesson. There were more than 160 host locations stretching from the East coast to Alaska and around 6,000 participants. The record will try and be beat again this coming season on Friday the 6th of January. For more information on how your school is able to participate visit learn-toskiandsnowboard.org.

FANCY EATS

Since its \$20 million dollar renovation in 1989, Sun Mountain has been awarded the AAA Four Diamond Award for its dining. That's almost 30 years of exceptional food. Only 2.3% of 28,000 restaurants are awarded this distinction. Time to take a drive?

SCHWEITZER NAMES NEW DIRECTOR

Schweitzer has named longtime instructor and assistant director Nikol Hampton to the position of Snowsports School Director following previous director Terry McLeod's decision to step down and put his energy into being a full time instructor at Schweitzer. Congrats Nikol and Terry – make sure and purchase that box of hand warmers.

WANT TO STAY IN THE LOOP?

Like the PSIA-NW Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/psianw

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/psia_nw

Follow us on Instagram www.instagram.com/psianw



Get RSS Feeds: Don't know what an RSS feed means? Go to the website address below with your web browser or add either of these URLs to your email program's subscriptions.

News feed: <http://www.psia-nw.org/feed/>

Events feed: <http://www.psia-nw.org/events/> then click the little "subscribe" button on the bottom right of the screen.

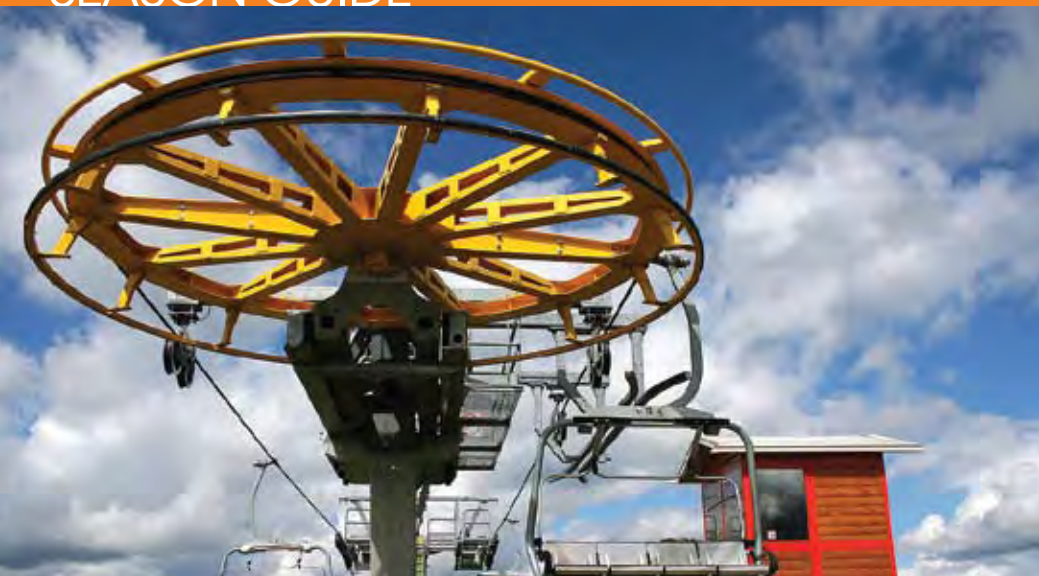
GOT A NEWS ITEM OR PRO TIP?

If you have something newsworthy to share or a pro tip please send a brief summary of the news item or a 350 word (or less) pro tip with any supporting photos to: info@psia-nw.org. We'll likely share it in the next newsletter, website or social media outlets.



I WANT YOU

TO SEND IN A SNOW PRO TIP OR NEWS ITEM



AS THE BULLWHEEL TURNS



by Kirsten Huotte
PSIA-NW Executive Director

As the Bullwheel Turns
Can't believe another season is already before us. Thank you for being a part of it. Not hardly possible to say it enough, without you there is no us. The organi-

zation is here for a purpose, to provide its members (you) exceptional opportunities for continuing growth as a snowsports instructor. Whether you just can't get enough or map out your one day a season each year, it's our goal each and every time to share with you the love of the sport and the opportunities teaching it to others brings.

This summer we have continued our work on topics that resonate with you. Committees have been reviewing their notes and are working to put the final touches on updates. The specialist program clinicians have been working on the information presented in the programs, taking another look at what the key points are, how to better highlight them to best ensure the educational value presented in the programs is at the highest level it can be. An alpine group has been reviewing written test questions weeding out any that might have been confusing or re-writing them for clarity of intent. Another group has continued its work on a learning model that will better help you guide your instructional choices based on an understanding and realization if learning is occurring with your students – an article about it is in this issue as well as an option at fall seminar.

We have also looked at the process of how our new members join. Currently it's manually, with a pen and paper, filling out forms and mailing or faxing them in. Conversations came up about making the process easier and more streamlined, involving the member in setting up their member information and membership occurring in more real time, rather than waiting on the mail. In the next month, we are excited to roll out an online new registered membership joining process, just waiting for the completion of national's new website. We're sure a couple trees thank us.



After having weathered two consecutive seasons of not so great weather – okay it was downright depressing, we continued to proactively manage our funds and have remained fiscally sound throughout these uncertain seasons. At the start of last season, we saved where we could in the chance the season all of a sudden decided to take a left turn. As we experienced, the season stayed on the straight and narrow and we even had snow for the holidays.



Thankfully we saw a return to more of a normal weather pattern in the Northwest last season and looking at next season, well, let's just keep our fingers crossed that what they are saying is true, Northwest is going to have snow! Unofficial Networks and AccuWeather report: <http://bit.ly/2cNifJc>

This past January your school may have participated in the initiative to break the Guinness World Record for the largest lesson. The number that participated last January was around 6,000. And this season it is going to be given another try on Friday the 6th of January. Check in with your school to see if you will be participating. You can learn more about this by going to learntoskiandsnowboard.org, the logos below have been created around the initiative, you've probably seen them around.



We continue to be fortunate with area operators and their support of the organization and its mission to provide quality education to members, as they see the value in an outcome of a higher base of educated professional instructors. By continuing to increase your knowledge and skills you better inspire your clients by ensuring you are working in concert with them in their learning, aka the learning partnership. Through this partnership and building relationships you're converting those never-ers into lifelong snowsport enthusiasts. And that is pretty inspiring. Looking forward to this season, seeing all it will bring and continuing with you in our journey together. See you on the snow! ❄️

Kirsten Huotte is the Executive Director of PSIA-NW, and is certified Snowboard Level 3, Alpine Level 2 and is a CS2. Email her: kirsten@psia-nw.org

Learn, Teach, Inspire™

Signing Up for Events On-line or Email/Fax PDF

All the events listed in this Season Guide have the full details available at PSIA-NW.ORG/EVENTS. From an event detail page you can get the full event description, click to sign up on-line or download a printable/fax-able event application. It's so easy.

Printed applications may be faxed or emailed to the office for processing (please do NOT email credit card information to the office) - call to pay for event by credit card over the phone. Before the event, you will receive a confirmation email with details specific to your event.

Events and exams must have a minimum number of sign ups to occur. The best way to insure an event or exam will happen is to sign up early - tell your friends and get a group together that all plan

to attend. If a minimum number of sign ups have not been submitted the event may not run.

TO AVOID A LATE FEE, SIGN UP EARLY.

Registration less than 14 days prior, is on space-available basis, and will be assessed a \$15 late fee for one-day events and a \$40 late fee for two-day events.

CANCELLATION INFORMATION.

More than 4 weeks prior: Full Refund; 2 to 4 weeks prior: Refund less \$25 administrative fee; Less than 2 weeks prior: No Refund except noted as follows: If you are unable to attend an event due to injury or medical reason, providing a signed note from your medical provider, your registration fee will be refunded LESS a \$25 administrative fee.

Let's Get Started! Indoor Events...

We offer four different venues for your Continuing Education Credit at indoor venues: Fall Seminar in Spokane, Portland and Seattle in the Fall; and Spring Fling in the Seattle area in the Spring. These are great opportunities to meet and mingle with other pros and take in several shorter two-hour indoor sessions on various topics. Check the website for specific details about topics and how to sign up.

Fall Seminar

OCTOBER

22

OCTOBER

29

OCTOBER

30

INDOOR SEASON- OPENER EVENT

A "not to miss" kickoff to the season, Fall Seminar, is the place to be to learn about it for the first time or to hear it again in preparing for the season. This indoor, all day (8:00-3:00) seminar offers many topics for the new instructor or the seasoned pro.

Each year a keynote speaker is brought in for a large group presentation to help inspire you. Offered in three locations around the Northwest, more information is available online.

All disciplines welcome as well as non-PSIA members. See pages 8-10 for details.

1-day event, 1-season credit, cost: \$75

Spring Fling

APRIL

22

SEATTLE METRO AREA SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Tailored after its bigger cousin, Fall Seminar, Spring Fling is designed for your end-of-season wrap up to solidify topics you have been working on during the season or to give you ideas/information to ponder over the summer.

Either way, you won't be disappointed. This indoor session runs from 9-2 with an 8:30am registration time. Topics and more information will be posted on-line at the psia-nw.org website. Offered in the Seattle area. All disciplines welcome as well as non-PSIA members.

1-day event, 1-season credit, cost: \$65

dear NW



Ed Younglove
Member since 1992

In representing PSIA-AASI as national chairman, I've been lucky to travel near and far and meet so many great people - at Interski in Ushuaia, Argentina (Fin del Mundo) and at National Academy and Team Selection at Breckenridge, Colorado. But I also look forward to coming home, right here to the incomparable Northwest. I love taking in the view of Mt. Rainier outside my weekend "office" at Crystal Mountain, ripping down the great terrain the mountain is known for, and basking in the energy of exuberant youngsters in snowsports classes. That said, nothing gives me greater pleasure each season than working with and on behalf of all of you! The opportunity to slide, teach, clinic, and learn with (and from) PSIA-AASI NW members - and, frankly, just hang out with so many of you who have become good friends - makes me really happy. It feels like home!

Sincerely,

*Ed Younglove,
PSIA-AASI Chairman,
PSIA-AASI NW Member*



Nordic Fall College

DECEMBER
10-11

SUN MOUNTAIN

Ready for lots of skiing and general Nord fun as usual? You'll be exploring the Methow Valley trails again this year led by the top Nordic gurus in the Northwest. What more could you ask for? The clinic topics are broad enough to accommodate your goals and desires: ski improvement concepts and teaching concepts, in both Classic and Skate. And you're welcome to attend either one day or both. Nordic specific. More information as well as the event application can be found on-line at the psia-nw.org website.

2-day event, 2-season credit, Cost: \$140 or
1-day event, 1-season credit, Cost: \$70



"Train in December; Ski the Skills All Season Long. Nordic Fall College is a great opportunity to ski some of the varied trails in the Methow Valley. Tune up and advance your classic

and skate skills right as the winter is getting underway; use your takeaways the full winter ahead. Last year, I left with a passel of notes, ideas and feedback that informed the rest of my season. The mix of offerings will meet members' various interests. Add an end-of-day talk session and the friendly nordic group, and you have the nordic event of the season. With luck, you will come away with a few bon mots from Don Portman, too." – Howard Child (A3, TM2, CC1)



Immersion

JANUARY

6-9

FEBRUARY

9-10

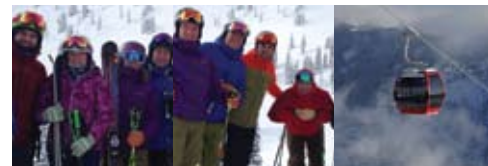


the evening before the first on-snow day. The on-snow days include indoor evening sessions as well. Supported by Mission Ridge. Full 3-day Immersion or 2-day condensed version. Alpine specific.

First event is a 3-day on-snow + evening event, 2-season credit, cost: \$325
Second event is a 2-day on-snow + evening event, 2-season credit, cost: \$225



"The three Immersion clinics I've completed since 2013 are among the best experiences I've had with PSIA offerings. Each clinic is different, and the coaching is exceptional."
– Allen Safer (A1, CS1)



Winter Blast

FEBRUARY

27-29



who are excited to come share their passion of skiing with you. Improve your alpine or telemark skiing with PSIA National Alpine Team Members at Crystal Mountain. You'll be treated to breakfast each morning, an après ski with clinicians Monday afternoon and lunch with the group on Tuesday. Small group sizes guaranteed. Supported by Crystal Mountain. Alpine and Telemark specific.


2-day event, 2-season credit, cost: \$335
3-day event, 2-season credit, cost: \$450



"Winter Blast is a hidden gem! Gives you an opportunity to ski with and get input from those setting our standards in the U.S. You get to choose who you want to work with for an intense two-day period and observe teaching techniques of grand masters often handling a group of very diverse students. The social times are great fun too!" – Ellen Bierman (A3, CS1, SS2)



Note About Lift Tickets

PSIA-NW is grateful for the generous support of our certification and educational programs by the host resorts. Events denoted with a  indicate that lift tickets are provided to non-pass holders by the host area. Where an event is supported by the host area it is denoted in the event description.

Many resorts are able to fully support our educational event offerings, while some are not. Details can be found on the psia-nw.org website regarding specific individual event lift ticket information

PSIA AASI
NORTHWEST

ON-LINE STORE



PINS, MANUALS & DVDS
at PSIA-NW.ORG/shop



Divisional Academy

MARCH

10-12



MT. HOOD MEADOWS

Divisional Academy is headed to Mt. Hood Meadows for the first time in more than 10 years for this event. Join us for a spectacular three-day event led by current and past Northwest Technical Team Members and other talented Divisional staff who will be at your disposal

for personal improvement. You will group up with others who have similar goals while you work (and play) for the next three days. Open to any member in good standing. Thank you Mt. Hood Meadows for supporting this event with complimentary lift tickets. Alpine and Snowboard specific.

3-day event, 2-season credit, cost: \$335

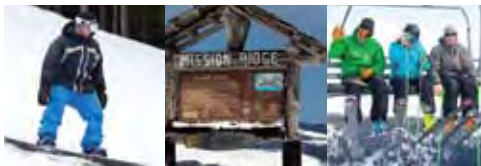


"Divisional Academy directly assessed my riding in a way that I had not understood before and took all of the snowboarders in our group's needs into account. I also

learned how to give feedback

to big classes of students. I was taught using visual aids, verbal explain action, demos, games, video feedback... We even did some fun extra hard exercises like learning the beginning of flips using handplants and building on that. As a new member prepping for my level 1 exam I can say I was empowered, excited, and high fived a lot. Most especially we even laughed together and I really became close with the people in my group." – Jamie Randell (S1)

Editor's note: Jamie participated in Divisional Academy in preparation for her Level 1 exam.



Spring Symposium

APRIL

8-10



MISSION RIDGE

Start planing now for an awesome time at Mission! With another season wrapped up it will be time to celebrate with the rest of the division in saying, "that's a wrap." We're ready to ski and ride into summer with this end-of-the-season bash that has been a

Northwest tradition for almost 50 years! This two-day event (three if you participate in Free Clinic Friday) showcases our talented clinicians in a myriad of clinic choices, ranging from everything under the sun, pun intended. Lift tickets are \$39/day for members and \$49/day for family. For lodging information go to PSIA-NW.ORG.

2-day event, 2-season credit, cost: \$200

1-day event option, 1-season credit, cost \$100



"As an instructor for SKIBACS, our individual programs involve weekly clinics, however forms of extracurricular training are highly encouraged. I've been fortunate to

have taken this advice and participated in many of the recent Spring Symposiums. I'm often one of the younger instructors at these sessions yet I still manage to fit in. The sport of skiing has been consistently evolving since its conception with new ideas coming to light. I see my participation as part of that of evolution and my input is encouraged and well received." – Christine McManigal (A1)



Spring GS Camp

APRIL

21-23

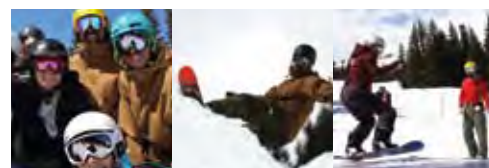


MT BACHELOR

Spring at Mt. Bachelor, video and review, great coaching and friends – where else do you want to be in late April? Come see why Mt. Bachelor is known for its 300 days of sunshine, high speed groomers and, when combined with gates,

makes for an awesome GS camp! Thank you Mt. Bachelor for your support. All alpine abilities welcome.

3-day event, 2-season credit, Cost: \$300



Freestyle Camp

APRIL

28-30

VENUE TBA

How often do you get three days of training specific to the park and pipe? Great way to better your own skills as well as increasing your freestyle teaching bag of tricks. Ski and

Snowboard specific and helmets recommended.

3-day event, 2-season credit, Cost: \$240

Technical Team Tryout

APRIL

28-30

VENUE TBA

It's a team tryout year. If you are thinking about trying out for the PSIA-NW Technical Team, this is your year to do it! Every two years half the team positions are made available for anyone interested in being on the team. Details about how to apply and event location will be made available in December so you can plan accordingly.

3-day event, 2-season credit, Cost: \$210





2017 Exams

Alpine

Level 2 and 3

Mission Ridge – January 26-27
Schweitzer – March 25-26
Stevens #1 – April 1-2
Stevens #2 – April 3-4
Mt. Bachelor – April 15-16

Snowboard

Level 2

Mission Ridge – January 26-27
Schweitzer – March 25-26
Stevens – April 1-2
Mt. Bachelor – April 15-16

Level 3

Stevens – April 1-2

Telemark

Level 2 and 3

Stevens – April 1-2

Nordic

Level 2 and 3

Stevens Pass Nordic Center
March 5

Adaptive

Cog/VI

Stevens Pass – April 1
Mt. Bachelor – April 15

Mono/Bi

Stevens Pass – April 2
3 Track/4 Track
Mt. Bachelor – April 16

Certification Training

JANUARY

17

WEST #1

**CENTRAL OREGON
(SOUTH), SEATTLE
(WEST #1 & #2),
SPOKANE (EAST)**

JANUARY

18

SOUTH

Combination of indoors and on-snow sessions with start dates as noted to the left. The indoor component is an essential tool for helping you prepare for your Level II or Level III exams. Indoor session covers movement analysis, technical knowledge plus a whole lot more. On-snow sessions build on the indoor content.

JANUARY

18

EAST

**Multi-day event with indoor and on-snow sessions,
2-season credit, cost: varies by area - please see website for details about locations. Start dates are indicated above by region.**

JANUARY

21

WEST #2

Discipline Specific Mock Exams

MULTIPLE DATES AND LOCATIONS

This mock exam serves as checkpoint on your certification journey. It will cover both skiing or riding skill assessment and teaching and give feedback relative to where you are on your pathway for your upcoming exam. Alpine, snowboard or telemark. Open to Level I or II members only.

1-day event, 1-season credit, Cost: \$70

Written Exams

ONLINE, ANYTIME.

All discipline written exams are available online, anytime. For details about written exams for your discipline please check the PSIA-NW.ORG website event calendar. When signing up there is a delay in being able to access and start the exam. Please allow from 24 to 72 hours for access, depending on sign up day.

Alpine & Snowboard Exam Modules

MULTIPLE DATES AND LOCATIONS: SEE

DATES TO THE LEFT. Level II & III skiing or riding module one day and/or teaching/professional knowledge the other day. The exam is split up into two modules/components – take the entire exam in one weekend or season or split it up and spread it out. Alpine and/or snowboard specific exam modules. Please refer to the Alpine and/or Snowboard Certification Guide(s) for pre-requisites to taking these exams. Note the Snowboard Level III exam is offered at Stevens Pass only.

**1-day per module, 1-season credit,
Cost: \$115 per module**

Telemark Exam L2 & L3

APRIL

1-2

STEVENS PASS

Skiing and teaching over the course of two days. Level II and Level III. Exam checkpoint clinic is optional but encouraged for preparation for the exam.

**2-day exam, 2-season credit,
Cost: \$230**



Nordic Exam L2 & L3

MARCH

5

STEVENS PASS

NORDIC CENTER

Skiing and teaching are assessed in a day-long process. Level II or Level III. Pre-exam clinic attendance is mandatory before taking the exam.

**1-day event, 1-season credit,
Cost: \$115**



What is Specialist Training?

Boost your teaching with one of these multi-day educational events giving you the Specialist Training you need. This is not your general clinic; these events require your undivided attention, some prerequisites and in return you will earn in-depth details and methodologies for teaching in these specialized areas: Children, Freestyle or Seniors.

Specialist programs have prerequisites and workbooks that must be completed prior to the on-snow session. Please see the back cover or the PSIA-NW.ORG website for event dates. Successful completion results in a corresponding credential.

Children's Specialist

Children's Specialist 1 & 2

Want to be a better, more effective children's teacher? Want to learn about multiple intelligences and more in-depth learning styles? Need some tips and tricks to connect with kids of all ages and help them to love skiing and riding like you do? The Children's Specialist 1 & 2 are great resources for upping your teaching game and are a lot of fun, too.

Freestyle Specialist

Freestyle Specialist 1, 2 & 3

These are two-day courses available with some prerequisites. During these educational events you will learn both what to teach and how to teach it specific to your discipline and freestyle focus.

Senior Specialist

Senior Specialist 1 & 2

These are two-day courses available to members who are seeking specific training in "low impact" skiing techniques to facilitate enjoyment of snowsports well into the "golden years." These techniques are also well suited to instructors who teach clients during rehabilitation or who may have injuries that require special consideration for technique and stamina allowing these students to enjoy more.

NOTE: ALL SPECIALIST PROGRAMS HAVE A WORKBOOK COMPONENT THAT MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE 14 DAYS BEFORE THE ON-SNOW PORTION

Specialist Dates

Below are the current dates and venues for calendar specialist events. Be sure to check the website for any late breaking offerings.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIST	
DATE	EVENT / LOCATION
Dec 10-11	CS1 @ Snoqualmie West
Dec 10-11	CS1 @ Whitefish
Dec 17-18	CS1 @ Snoqualmie Central
Jan 22-23	CS1 @ Crystal Mountain
Mar 11-12	CS1 @ Stevens Pass
Mar 25-26	CS1 @ Schweitzer
Apr 15-16	CS1 @ Mt. Hood Meadows
Apr 1-2	CS2 @ Stevens Pass
Apr 15-16	CS2 @ Mt. Bachelor
FREESTYLE SPECIALIST	
DATE	EVENT / LOCATION
Dec 17-18	FS1 @ Snoqualmie Central
Apr 22-23	FS1 @ TBA due to park
Apr 22-23	FS2 @ TBA due to park
SENIOR SPECIALIST	
DATE	EVENT / LOCATION
Dec 10-11	SS1@ Snoqualmie West
Dec 17-18	SS1@ Crystal Mountain
Mar 11-12	SS2 @ Schweitzer
Apr 1-2	SS2 @ Stevens Pass



Tech Series Calendar for Trainers & DCLs

If you are a school trainer for your snow sports school who has completed the Tech Series Program Application process, including paying the seasonal program event fee then you are eligible to attend any of the Tech Series events. All trainers who are participating in the Tech Series Program and all Divisional Staff (DCLs) are eligible to attend any Tech Series event, however an application for the Tech Series event must also be received at the office on-time to both attend the event, and avoid a late fee charge of \$25. For a complete list and Tech Series Program and Event Applications please log onto the PSIA-NW website and head over to the Tech Zone area for your trainer information and applications.

TECH SERIES CALENDAR	
DATE	EVENT / LOCATION
Oct 22	Fall Seminar @ Spokane
Oct 29	Fall Seminar @ Portland
Oct 30	Fall Seminar @ Seattle
Nov 12-13	Tech Series Fall Training @ Wenatchee
Dec 9-11	Nordic Trainer, DCL and Examiner Training @ Sun Mountain
Dec 13	Tech Series @ Meadows
Dec 13	Tech Series @ Summit West
Dec 15	Tech Series @ Schweitzer
Jan 17	Tech Series @ Meadows
Jan 17	Tech Series @ Summit West
Jan 19	Tech Series @ Schweitzer
Jan 26-27	Exam Shadow* @ Mission
Feb 7	Tech Series @ Meadows
Feb 7	Tech Series @ Summit West
Feb 9	Tech Series @ Schweitzer
Mar 3-5	Tech Series Winter Training @ Stevens Pass
Mar 25-26	Exam Shadow* @ Schweitzer
Apr 1-4	Exam Shadow* @ Stevens Pass
Apr 7-9	Tech Series Spring Training @ Symposium - Mission Ridge
Apr 15-16	Exam Shadow* @ Mt Bachelor

(†) Clinic Leader Training is for Level II or III staff trainers who are not official school trainers - see Tech Series Event application for costs and details. (*) Trainers who wish to shadow exams must have attended two days of Tech Series Training in the current season to be eligible to participate; space is limited and determined on a first-come, first-filled basis.

WHAT MAKES HIM TICK? AN INTERVIEW WITH NICK MCDONALD

by Burrell Jull



Nick at the helm in the wheel house of The Point Lavinia.
Photo credit Pamela Jull.

I had an idea and set forth to interview new and long-time members to find out how and where they got started and why they do it. I thought I'd start with Nick McDonald as he's been "in it" a long time from teaching at the Wenatchee Valley College with specific studies in skiing and ski resort operations to being the PSIA-NW Technical Team Head Coach from 1996-2015. If you've attended Divisional Academy, then you've likely seen one of his notable tricks and eaten wild Alaskan Salmon he brought back on The Point Lavinia aka "The Big Black Boat."

We all have a story about where we got started, who inspired us to take the plunge and become a snow sports instructor. Here is the first story I have documented on this season long project.

How, and where did you get started teaching?

I got started teaching in at Mission Ridge when I was in junior high. They had a cadet program there. And a friend of mine was into skiing and his dad was a ski instructor as well as the president of PSIA. Although it was PNSIA at the time. Which I know nothing about but he was my ride to the hill every weekend.

What has kept you in the industry so long?

Skiing with other people and getting them excited about getting better. Skiing is a great sport and it's a great bunch of people. I've met the most incredible people doing this.

What's the biggest takeaway from being both a candidate and selector at a National DEMO Team tryout?

I'm going to just put them both in a bucket here. It's an incredibly fair assessment. It's a long and arduous process and that's that what makes it a great experience. You really get to see what their base abilities and tendencies are. They're doing things over and over and you get to see where people crack. I love that competitive environment and yet you just don't lose. It helps you gauge where you are and gives you something to shoot for.

How long have you had that beard?

Since my late twenties. I kind of have to look the part when I'm in Alaska. People don't take you seriously if you don't look like you just got out of jail. I used to shave but I have very coarse hair and shaving really irritates it.

What will your divisional role be this season and beyond?

I tell this to the team and I guess I'll tell everybody. I've been on the team and got to do a lot of good things there. Became assistant coach and then head coach. I told the guys when I stepped down that we need to look at the turnover. The succession of the team. I told them to stay on and accomplish great things and then look towards the people that might succeed you. My role will be to mentor the Team, Staff and Membership. Rick (Lyons. TT head coach) and I have talked about how he would use me. He bounces ideas off me and I'm not at all offended if he doesn't take my advice. Calvin (Yamamoto) was that way and Chris (Thompson) is that way. Chris had stayed really involved. He's been a Technical VP. Certification VP. TT coach. He's done a lot of things in the division when it's been needed. He has really stepped up when needed over the years.

Will you continue to examine?

Yes. I will also continue to mentor new examiners. I just finished up with Michael Drake and I believe Dave Rowe is my next victim.

What has your biggest impact on the division been?

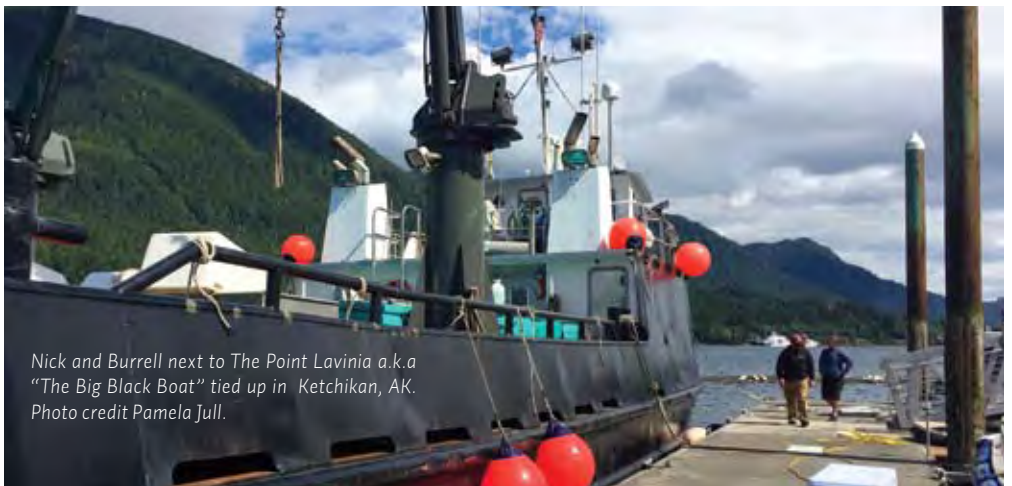
I really liked it when I started to coach the team. I was just continuing what Calvin and Chris had created. I just came in and managed the store for a while. As for as impact I would say Divisional Academy. I was in the foundation of that and it has become a popular event. Particularly since Kirsten has gotten in there. She's totally bumped it up to another level.

Who was your mentor when you started in the industry?

Calvin Yamamoto. If you don't know him, it's your loss. He was the Assistant Director at Mission Ridge and then he became the director. Also the Tech Team coach. He was the one that pushed me towards PSIA. He's from Royal City. A farmer from a farm community. He's got the great American work ethic. Get up early and get to work. He wouldn't let you get away with anything. There was a short period of time where I was trying to decide if I was going to teach skiing and I remember one day he said, "Hey Nick, decide what you're going to do, or take a hike."

With whom is the the most famous person you've skied?

Marilu Henner. Although I didn't exactly ski with her. I was working in a boot shop in Aspen and she came in with her instructor Sean McDermott. They had shot some video and asked me to watch it



Nick and Burrell next to The Point Lavinia a.k.a
"The Big Black Boat" tied up in Ketchikan, AK.
Photo credit Pamela Jull.

and determine if they should address the boot fit or her movements. I remembering her being noticeably poised.

What's your most memorable teaching experience?

When I was teaching at Mission Ridge, there is an 8-week program and we would often get the kids from the basin. Farm kids from farm areas. This group of kids were probably eight or nine. Never evers. We started from nothing and now we had come to the end of the eight weeks. We got off chair 4 and skied halfway down. I stopped the group to say "Hey you guys, this is our last day and just wanted to say how great you did" And one of the little girls burst into tears. Overcome with sadness because, I hoped, she was going to miss the skiing. At that moment I thought to myself "Wow! You've really made a big impact in these lives"

What question do you wish people would stop asking you?

What are we doing?

Do you have a favorite a-ha moment that you dust off regularly with a variety of student ability levels?

I have a few of them. One of them was when I finally learned what the teaching cycle was and that there was a program to it. As long as I stick to the formula of having an introduction and a summary the stuff in the middle goes ok. It sounds simple I know but it shows people that there is a holistic view to what we are doing.

As an examiner on the skiing day, what's the first movement that you look for in the skier?

I look for that ability to balance over the base of support. How well they do that in a series of turns. To me, the hierarchy is that they balance themselves from tip to tail and from side to side. How they flex their joints so they can stay in the middle of the ski. If they're not centered enough you'll start to see some stemming, or their ski won't pivot enough if it's that kind of a task. The tip and tail won't move at the same time. You might see the tail move out, or the tip come out, depending on how and where they are oriented over their ski.

What's the biggest mistake that ultimately taught you the greatest lesson?

My biggest mistakes have been not paying enough attention to the people I was working with. I have thought a few clinics that I thought were totally awesome. Everything was laid out in the right order and got done thinking "I nailed it." And then I went back to talk to the folks or read the feedback forms and realize that I was missing the connection. I said the right stuff but didn't make sure they heard the right stuff. That's what I like about the EAU concept we are working with as a division. ❄️

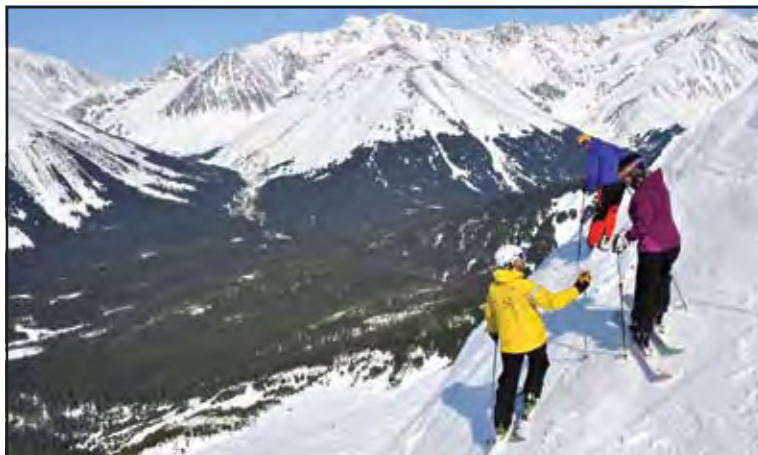
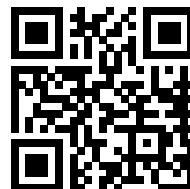
Burrell is a PSIA-NW Alpine DCL, Mt. Board Region Representative and Trainer at Mt. Baker. Email him: burrelljull@gmail.com

Editor's Note: The interview continues and a few questions were edited from this printed version for space considerations. But you are



Nick and Burrell. Photo credit Pamela Jull.

in luck! Burrell shot a video of the entire interview during his trip to Ketchikan, AK to meet up with Nick on The Point Lavinia – it's awesome – well done Burrell! You can view the entire video and a special surprise at the end at the URL below or scan the QR code.
PSIA-NW.ORG/NICK



MAKE WORK AN ADVENTURE

Seeking experienced, certified
Ski & Snowboard Instructors for
the 2016/17 season

APPLY ONLINE, OR CONTACT:
Garth McPhie, Mountain Learning Center Director
907-754-2539 or gmcphie@alYESkaresort.com



800-880-3880 ❄️ AlYESkaResort.com

Embracing the Kaizen of Teaching Skills

Learning Distinguishes Good Teaching

改善

by Dave Rowe

TTrue professionals undergo extensive training to hone their craft and earn credibility. Through licensing, board examinations or other certifications, professionals must demonstrate a standard of competency and, in many cases, must also pursue continuing education to maintain or advance their level of competency. As snow sport education professionals, we are no different.

Working in a skills-based profession, our competencies are often grounded in mastering the fundamentals. Further, just our competencies evolve over time, the way fundamentals are portrayed also evolve. One example within the alpine skiing discipline pertains to how the five fundamentals, introduced in 2014, help to define how the application of the skills concept enables us to achieve desired outcomes in a variety of scenarios. Viewed through this lens, the five fundamentals complements and distills the skills concept.

kai • zen - noun
1. a Japanese business philosophy of continuous improvement of working practices, personal efficiency, etc.

The other side of our profession relates to teaching. What distinguishes a lesson that's "flat" from one that's "electric"? What's happening and how do we know? Can we rinse and repeat? Do we have a similar skills concept and set of fundamentals that pertain to teaching?

Members of the PSIA-NW Technical Team and Divisional Clinic Leaders, including professional educators, formed a Teaching Group in the Summer of 2015 to address these questions.

Teaching Skills - Guiding Principles

- ✳ **Simplicity – a teaching skills concept should be easy to keep front of mind**
- ✳ **Student Centric – success is evidenced by what the student does and learns**
- ✳ **Competency based – teaching skills, as well as cause and effect relationships, are observable**
- ✳ **Complimentary – teaching skills should complement and/or distill existing PSIA materials**

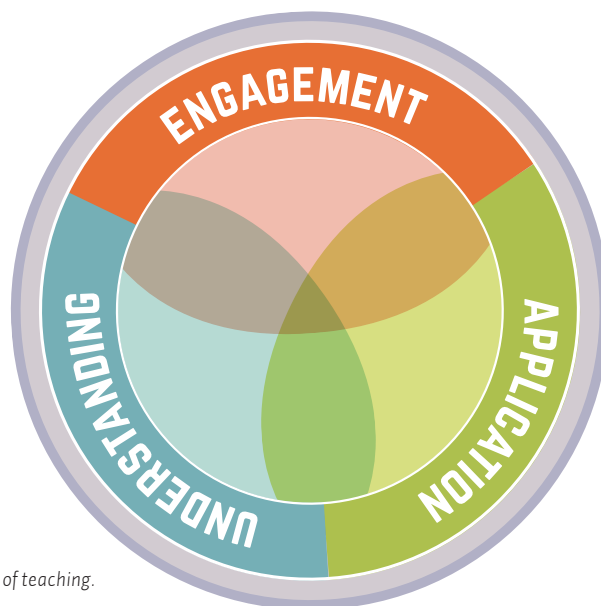
As a member of the PSIA-NW Technical Team I have been involved in an on-going, off-season teaching focus group – Rick Lyons mentioned this in his Technical Team update earlier in this publication. The "Teaching Group" consists of an all volunteer member group who are passionate about teaching best practices. This group consists of the follow-

ing people, some of whom are professional educators in their off-snow lives: Linda Cowan, Andy Rubesch, Jaime Clarke, Natalie Grummer, Rick Lyons, John May, Regina Eilertson, Terry McLeod, David Lawrence, and myself. It has been an incredible experience collaborating with these passionate and knowledgeable individuals in the creation of this material thus far.

The Teaching Group concluded that, above all else, "Learning distinguishes good teaching" with the following:

1. Learning is evidenced by what the student does ("Student Observables") in response to the skillful actions of the teacher ("Teaching Skills").
2. Teaching Skills are informed by Student Observables.
3. Learning occurs when students Engage, Understand and Apply lesson content to develop ownership.

Teaching Skills can therefore be classified or grouped by actions and approaches that foster



The "Skills Concept" of teaching.

student Engagement (E), Understanding (U) and Application (A) or any combination, thereof (EUA).

Intuitively, these “lenses” may seem obvious and this should come as no surprise. After all, we’ve been using a number of PSIA-AASI core concepts and other tools for years to engage our students, cultivate understanding and expand application. For example:

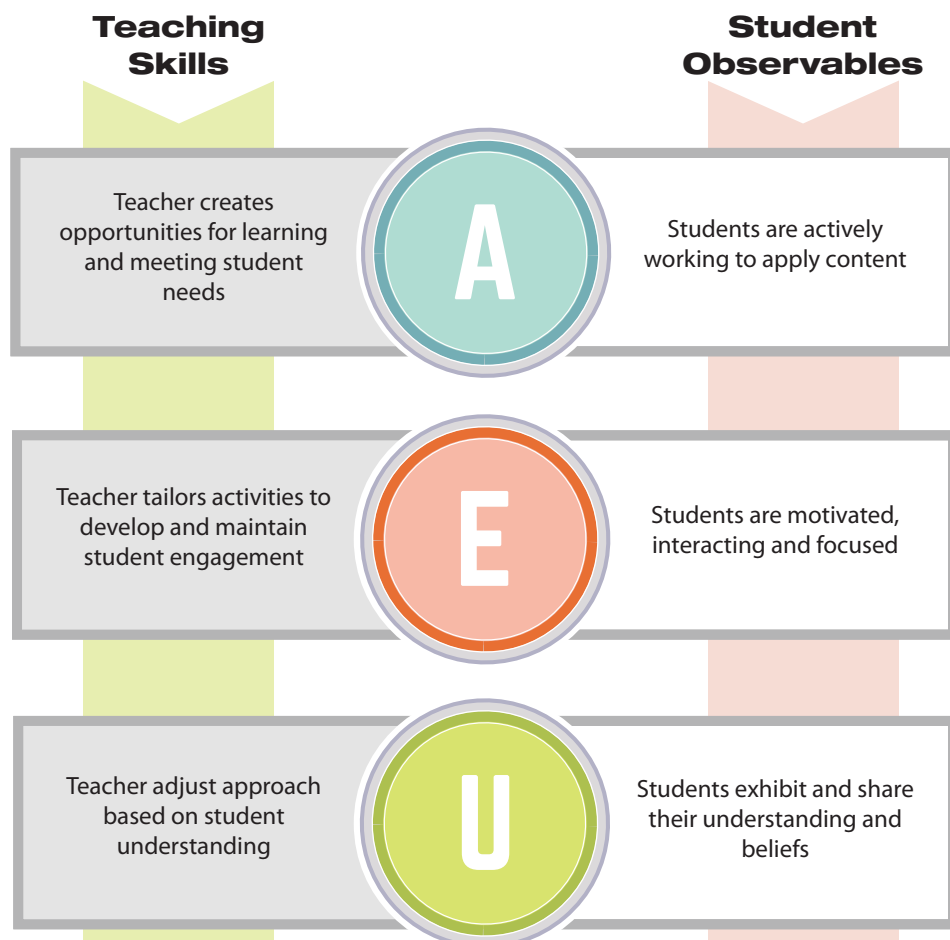
1. **Engagement:** With children, we often employ games and challenges to infuse “play” into the learning environment. Play can be viewed as an engagement strategy. With Seniors, we might engage interest by introducing skills and tactics that conserve energy and improve stamina. What engagement strategies have you used with Millennials, Gen Y, Gen X and Boomers?
2. **Understanding:** If engagement captivates attention, understanding often connects cause and effect relationships between skill development and desired outcomes. For example, with senior clientele, we might explore different edge angles to better understand how to reduce joint stress. Is reducing stress on aging joints an engagement strategy or a way to improve understanding? Can developing understanding sustain engagement? Younger students may be motivated to win speed-related challenges. By revealing cause and effect relationships between joint flexion (i.e.,

ankles, knees, hips, spine and shoulder/arm carriages) and speed control while gliding, we instill confidence and motivation through experiential cause and effect learning (i.e., “when I _____, I am able to _____”).

3. **Application:** What if we applied different edge angles in a variety of terrain? By shaping turns on groomed and bumped terrain, we help students explore their understanding of new information and experience the application of skills in variety of scenarios. While the motivations and desired outcomes may be different from student to student -- survive the bumps, rip the zipper line or reduce stress on joints – a cause and effect understanding of the skills concept, applied in a variety of ways, has the potential to deliver the “grand prize” that engaged the student at the onset of the teaching segment!

Another insight drawn from the EUA Teaching Skills concept is how it can organize and/or put into context the vast body of knowledge contained in the Core Concepts manual and other materials produced by PSIA-AASI. While certain Core Concepts may relate to a specific lens, many, if not most, overlap multiple lenses. Consider, for example, the well-known teaching Core Concepts within our division and PSIA in the table on the following page.

(continued on next page)



Focusing on how the students respond (student observables) informs the teacher what to do next (teaching skills) in any of the areas of E, U or A.



SNOW STRONG

Pre-Season Conditioning
@ FUELhouse

Cross-training for strength, skill refinement & injury prevention. Includes 10 weeks of classes, discounts at evo, kick-off party, tech-talks & more.

Sept 12 – Nov 28
Earlybird price \$337 (\$650 value!)

SIGN UP NOW!
fuelhousegym.com





Core Concept	Purpose	Student Observables	E	U	A
CAP Model¹	A developmental model to aid in the understanding and anticipation of the student profile.	The student's profile and observed behaviors inform our teaching skills to foster...	✓	✓	
Teaching Cycle	A logical sequence of steps to developing trust, assessing movements, building a learning environment, using learning activities, providing feedback and debriefing.	The student's behaviors inform our sequential or non-sequential application of the Teaching Cycle to foster...	✓	✓	✓
Feedback Model	A communications framework to connect cause and effect relationships between body-movement patterns and tool-snow interaction in order to achieve a desired outcome.	The student's beliefs, movements and ability to achieve a desired outcome collectively inform our teaching skills to foster...	✓	✓	✓

By understanding the developing Cognitive, Affective, and Physical (CAP) attributes of the student, we can tailor our teaching skills to suit their needs, preferences and motivations.

(continued from previous page)

The interpretation of these Core Concepts suggests that Engagement, Understanding and Application rarely occur in isolation. Rather, they operate inter-dependently like a three-legged stool. If any of the legs are missing the stool falls over and learning is diminished.

That said, we've all had situations where people check out, aren't getting it or are practicing half-heartedly. These Student Observables present opportunities to identify and prioritize which leg(s) of the stool is/are in need of reinforcement:

- Are students checked out because they've lost sight of the goal? Is the goal relevant? Are we talking too much and practicing too little?
- Are students not getting it because they want to do what we're asking them to do but lack the specifics of how to do it? Could we improve understanding by explaining concepts in simple terms or in a way that better anticipates the cognitive or physical abilities of our students?
- What's the root cause of a half-hearted effort? Is it a lack of breakfast, safety, comfort, confidence, understanding, engagement or other basic needs?

These Student Observables are by no means exhaustive and additional observations, both positive and constructive, will be revealed. By being observant and taking a scientific approach, we increase our awareness of the EUA learning "lenses" and seek evidence that suggests students are responding positively from our skillful actions.

While skiing and riding are typically viewed as individual sports, learning is a team sport. The EUA model represents an interpretation of the "Learning Partnership" comprised of cause and effect behaviors between Student Observables and Teaching Skills.

The success of the Learning Partnership is evidenced by the degree to which students are engaged, expanding their understanding and applying new information in a variety of ways. In doing so, learning distinguishes good teaching. ❄️



Dave Rowe is an Alpine and Telemark Clinician, Technical Team member, Examiner in Training and coach for the Stevens Pass Alpine Club. He can be reached at (425) 931-8058 or by email: drowe@hcadv.com or airdavid@comcast.net

Editor's Note & Credits:

Dave mentioned the contributing authors and developers of this material however to further give credit and share with their diverse backgrounds, see the following:

Jaime Clarke – Project Director at Clackamas Community College, Master of Arts (M.A.); Communication and Leadership Studies, Gonzaga University; Bachelor of Science (BS), Environmental Science, University of Denver; PSIA-NW Alpine DCL.

Linda Cowan – Northshore School District, Elementary Induction Specialist TOSA; OSPI Mentor Academy facilitator for Washington state; International and PSIA-AASI National Academy presenter; PSIA-NW Technical Team member, Alpine Examiner; PSIA-AASI National Team selector 2016.

Regina Eilertson – Walla Walla College, Master's Degree, Counseling Psychology; LMHC at Living Solutions Counseling; former Technical Director at Ski Bluewood; PSIA-NW Alpine DCL.

Natalie Grummer – California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo, bARCH, Architecture, Sustainable Environments; founding family of Seattle Classical Christian School; PSIA-NW Alpine DCL.

David Lawrence – Snow Sports School Director, Lookout Pass; President, Pangaea River Rafting; Head Coach, PSIA-AASI Nordic Team; PSIA-NW Nordic DCL, Nordic Examiner.

Rick Lyons – Systems Engineering Manager at ViZn Energy in Whitefish, Montana; Montana State University, Bachelor of Science (BS), Electrical and Electronics Engineering; Head Coach, PSIA-NW Technical Team, Alpine Examiner.

John May – Owner, Creekstone Designs; Andersen Consulting/Accenture, process redesign and change management implementation; Saint John's University, B.A. Economics; PSIA-NW Technical Team; PSIA-AASI National Board Member.

Terry McLeod – Walla Walla College, A.S. Business, A.S. Construction Technology; Former Schweitzer Mountain Snowsports School Director; Former adjunct instructor at North Idaho College (NIC); Current PSIA-NW Technical Team Member, Alpine Examiner.

Dave Rowe – Senior Investment Consultant (recovering actuary), Highland Capital Advisors, LLC; former President and Vice-President of several NW not-for-profits; University of Washington, B.A., Mathematics; PSIA-NW Technical Team Member, Alpine Examiner in-Training.

Andy Rubesch – 17 years as a Teacher at Bellevue School District, Music Department; Bellevue Education Association President; PSIA-NW Alpine DCL.

THEY DWELL AMONG US

by John Eisenhower



No, it's not science fiction, just fellow members of our Northwest Snowsports family who you can help recognize for their outstanding accomplishments and service. All it takes is to realize how special someone you know is and then take the next step and nominate them for one of the PSIA-NW Awards. Perhaps even enlist friends and your snowport school in this rewarding effort

In the Spring 2016 issue we showcased last season's award recipients: Kim Gunnerson and Brian Beardsley received the Ken Syverson Instructor of the year Award; Kim Petram was awarded the Jen Lyon Service to Youth Award; and Kellie Standish was awarded the Rookie of the Year Award. Awards are given each year if nominations are received for the awards.

Details and nomination form are on the website: <http://www.psia-nw.org/membership/awards/>

Nominations are due by March 15th, then reviewed by the Awards Committee and are presented to the award recipients (if they are present) at the Spring Symposium Awards Banquet. Ideally, if you are planning to nominate someone, try to encourage them to attend the Spring Symposium event, as the award presentation is a very special part of receiving an award and is extremely memorable. ❄️

John Eisenhower is the Awards Committee Chairperson, Crystal Mountain Regional Board Member and an Alpine Level 3 instructor at Crystal Mountain. Questions about awards? Email him: eistra2j@comcast.net

**MAKE MT. HOOD MEADOWS
YOUR MOUNTAIN HOME!
JOIN THE BEST IN THE WEST**



**Now hiring fulltime and
part time instructors.**

**Learn More at:
SkiHood.com/Jobs**



**VERY FEW CAREERS INCLUDE
AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME.**



REACH YOUR PEAK

Apply for a Career at Vail Resorts

VAILRESORTSCAREERS.COM | 1.866.681.5455



PARK CITY

TEACHING
the way it was
MEANT TO BE.

Now Hiring: Certified ski & snowboard instructors and supervisors for the 2016-2017 season! Join us at the largest ski resort in the United States.

Apply at www.vailresortscareers.com
Keyword 120731

Contact Tom Pettigrew
tapettigrew@vailresorts.com or 435.647.5404

VAIL RESORTS®

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME™

Vail Resorts is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, protected veteran status or any other status protected by applicable law.

Share your passion and enthusiasm, while enjoying the Greatest Snow on Earth®!

Solitude Mountain Resort in Utah is hiring Ski and Snowboard Instructors for the 2016 - 2017 winter season.

- Seeking staff who can commit to working weekends and holidays
- Apprentice instructors needed, will train
- PSIA/AASI certified instructors needed who can demonstrate and teach contemporary ski/ride methods on all terrain, in all conditions to both children and adults
- Children's Program Supervisor and Trainer position available

We Offer:

- Competitive wage and benefit package
- Training to enhance your skills and credentials
- Free UTA Bus Pass
- Great teaching terrain and an average of 500 annual inches of snowfall!



Join our dedicated, fun loving team at Solitude Mountain Resort.

Please apply online at skisolitude.com/employment or contact
Tim Wolfgram at **801-536-5731**, t.wolfgram@skisolitude.com or
12000 Big Cottonwood Canyon, Solitude, Utah 84121.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

These members will be recognized during the awards banquet at Spring Symposium held at Mission Ridge in April 2017. Pins and certificates are mailed to members throughout the season. Come celebrate at the end of the season party and with the PSIA-NW Service Award recipients! Check the event calendar and website for all the details. The following members have reached an anniversary milestone. Be sure to congratulate these long-time members on their years of service to snowsports education!



50 year members:

G. Kirk David, Shelley Sperr Hakanson, Scott Keesling, Stephen McIntyre, Tim McKee, Peter O'Connor, Judith Perry, Donald R. Swanson and Ken Ward.

40 year members:

Vivian Darst, Linda L. Paul, Tim Ray, Paul Rossman, Russ VanOrman, Kenneth E. Wear and Carol S. York.

30 year members:

Chris Andrus, Betsy G. Baker-Bold, Rick Burke, Deborah A. Chalfant, Sam J. Cordi, William F. Davis, Laurence D. Filley, Geoffrey Griffin, Marla Hamilton-Lucas, Pam Humble, Douglas E. Johnson, Bobbie Ann Kipp, Sherman Knight, Steve D. Lisac, Harry McCartney, Neil R. McCleary, Garrick Mishaga,

Brad Nelson, Cary Oshima, James Owens, Ann G. Stern, Gregg Terhaar and Don Woodhouse.

20 year members:

Mike Aho, Amanda Brown, James Carver, Kristina Corliss, Kirstin R. Curtis, Mircea Draghicescu, Vicki Fale, Terry W. Glaze, Peter W. Grube, Mary R. Haltiner, Andrea Hansen, John High, Andy Hill, Myra J. Hoane, Jennifer Jerabek, Joe Jereczek, Kathy H. Jubitz, Dan P. Kelly, Amanda Knoop, Paul W. Lawrence, Laura E. LeBlanc, Judy Linscott, Andy Lowrey, Tami Lyon, Ed Nebendahl, Lisa Noreen, Rebecca Norlander, Bart Piernicki, Josquin Poirot, Jeffrey P. Puchalski, Michael Rosenberger, Karla Simon, Nicole Stutte-Hughes, Kevin van Bueren, Bruce VanDeventer, Lori Vranizan, David R. Watt, Heather Williams, Fritz Wollett, Gordon Wong, Cheryl Wynn and Reggie Yaplee.

CORE BELIEF: FUN!

by Kyle Skutch

The whole reason that I started snowboarding in the first place was ... to have fun. I have, to this day, continued snowboarding and teaching because I truly enjoy it. I think my biggest core belief is that snowboarding should be fun.

In any aspect of snowboarding if you are not having fun, then you are doing something wrong. This is an approach that I take into my lessons every day. I want to make things light-hearted and enjoyable. I think the main reason people start to come to the mountain is to enjoy the overall experience.

I believe that if you are having a great time, this is also a solid opportunity for learning. If someone is bored or if something is really scary or uncomfortable, it's probably going to be much more difficult for them to absorb any new skills. Even something as simple as joking around with a person can make a huge difference. The tension they may be feeling from learning something new can dissolve in an instant with a little laughter.

While leading instructor clinics, I also use this same value. Training for exams can be stressful. I always tell clinic participants that going in to the exam with the main goal being, "To have fun," will greatly improve their chances of passing. If you are having fun worry tends to fade and your best will shine through. I will snowboard and teach for as long as possible with this belief in mind.

I'll always remember that I started doing this because of the great experiences that I had, and I want to share those experiences with anyone I can ... by having fun. ❄️



Kyle Skutch is a PSIA-NW Snowboard DCL, Freestyle Specialist 3 and staff trainer at Mt. Hood Meadows. Email him: kyleskutch@gmail.com

The platform for
snowsports
professionals.
Launch a site in 60
seconds flat.



Tyler Barnes is the creator of the SNOWPRO PORTAL™

Individual Pro Site \$49/year*

You're a pro on the hill and it shows. Now look like one on-line too. Create a turnkey individual instructor website complete with you need to be an effective on-line snowsports professional. Use code "PSIANW50"

Schools Starter Plan is just \$399/year

Does your school need a on-line resource to train new and returning instructors? Or a place to post your training calendar or take season schedule submissions on-line? A single place to communicate with your staff? Look no further – SNOWPRO PORTAL™ is a turnkey platform for your snowsports school.

Trusted by these and more resorts:



Start a FREE 14-day trial now



snowproportal.com

(*) denotes coupon code savings. Coupon quantities are limited.

GETTING OUR TUCK ON WITH USSA

photos and text by Katie Feucht



Practicing tucks "that won't kill you".

What do you get when you have 11 PSIA-NW instructors, the USSA Alpine Sport Education Manager, and two dogs?

"Tucks good enough that they wouldn't kill you!" says Ron Kipp, USSA Alpine Sport Education Manager (and home grown Northwest member).

AN IDEA

What started as a pie in the sky conversation between training partners at Mt. Hood Meadows in December turned into reality this July. Thanks to the support of USSA and the generosity of Ron Kipp, 11 PSIA-NW instructors joined USSA and successfully completed the USSA Level 100 clinic during the July 4th weekend at Timberline.

From a strict accounting level, the requirements for the USSA Level 100 Certification are:

- Be a current USSA coach member
- Complete Level 100 on-snow clinic and pass a skiing assessment
- Pass the Alpine Ski Fundamentals Exam
- Have a current First Aid and CPR certification*

**This is not provided by USSA, but available from various local groups.*

For our training group, this clinic was about a lot more than adding another pin to our individual collections. While we all had slightly different goals, every one of us was interested in learning about USSA values, education, and coaching methodology. We wanted to expand how we look at the sport of skiing and become better instructors, trainers, clinicians, and athletes.

OVERVIEW

USSA Level 100 Clinic Overview: The clinic group spent two full days on snow at Timberline working through the USSA Level 100 curriculum. We learned how to tuck (as well as could be expected) and how to kick start to gain immediate speed into the first turn (also with mixed results). In addition to the on snow time, we spent 5 hours Saturday evening in a classroom session fully steeped in USSA culture and educational values under Ron Kipp's guidance.

We absorbed the ins and outs of USSA's Alpine Training System (ATS), a long-term athlete development framework that focuses on tailoring training to maximize the development phases of athletes during their entire ski careers. The ATS is not just focused on skill development but covers sev-

eral domains of sport participation including conditioning, technical and tactical skills, equipment, performance psychology, and competition.

While it is also called ATS, the USSA ATS should not be confused with PSIA's American Teaching System (ATS). It is worthwhile to note the difference in the two acronyms when talking with USSA members, racers, and parents.

It was interesting to learn that USSA also differentiates between a skier's biological age and training age. Biological age refers to the physiological rate of development, which may vary by as much as five years, particularly around puberty. Training age refers to the amount of time the athlete has spent actively participating in alpine skiing. A coach must take both of these into account to design a successful training and competition program for the skier athlete. This approach is similar to PSIA's use of the CAP Model to take into consideration the cognitive, affective, and physical state of our students throughout the entire teaching cycle.

To quote the L100 Alpine Teaching Manual, "The philosophy of the U.S. Ski Team is to create good skiers first, then great racers. Alpine ski racing at all levels is measured by the clock, yet the elements that are needed to compete well under the clock are not all objective. The U.S. Ski Team believes that the ski fundamentals are the first step in developing an athlete."



Classroom and BBQ time at Jeff Good's house.

Foundation Stage		Pre & Post Puberty			World Class Performance: Full Maturation
PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5	PHASE 6
Biological Age Pre Puberty Age 2-6 years old Play Age 1-4 years in sport Participation Ski around 1 day a week 20 days a year At least 95% free skiing Play many other sports - gymnastics or balance-based sports	Biological Age Pre Puberty Age 6-10 years old Training Age 1-4 years in sport Participation Ski 2-3 days a week 50 days a year At least 90% free skiing Fun races Play many other sports	Biological Age Pre Puberty (Before Growth Spurt) Age Girls: 10-13: J4 (J5-J3) Boys: 11-14: J4 (J4-J3) Training Age 4-8 years in sport Participation Ski 3-4 days a week 70 days/year At least 60% free skiing Competition Period: (Jan-April) Number of race starts: 10-15 Ratio 1:6 (race:training) Play complementary sports	Biological Age Puberty (Growth Spurt) Age Girls: 11-14: J3 (J4-J2) Boys: 12-15: J3 (J4-J2) Training Age 5-9 years in sport Participation Ski 4-5 days a week 100 days/year At least 30-50% free-skiing Competition Period: (Dec-April) Number of race starts: 15-30 Ratio 1:5 (race:training) Play complementary sports	Biological Age Post Puberty (After Growth Spurt) Age Girls: 12-16: J3 (J4-J2) Boys: 14-17: J2 (J3-J1) Training Age 6-11 years in sport Participation Ski 4-5 days a week 120-140 days/year At least 15% free skiing Competition Period: (Nov-April) Number of race starts: 25-max 45 Ratio 1:4 (race:training) Play complementary sports	Biological Age Full Maturation Age Female: 16+ J2-J1 Male: 17+ J1 Training Age Minimum 10+ years in sport Participation Ski 4-5 days a week 130-150+ days/year At least 10% free-skiing Competition Period: (Feb-April) Number of race starts: 50+ Ratio 1:3 (race:training) *Based on the number of disciplines

TAKEAWAYS

"Ah-Hah!" moments were frequent over the course of the weekend as participants drew parallels between USSA topics and PSIA-AASI core tenets. Many of us also walked away with new realizations about our own skiing, learning process, and mental models.

Jeff Good – Mt. Hood Meadows

There is a great deal of overlap between USSA and PSIA when it comes to the core technical beliefs as to what actually constitutes good skiing. The technical packaging and jargon may vary somewhat between the two organizations, but the real philosophical difference between the two lies in the development pathways. Much like a well-defined race course, USSA provides a very structured development arc while PSIA, as in freeskiing, a somewhat more amorphous one which is more apt to be tailored to any given individual client. USSA's stated goal is the long term development of athletes from a young age to some that will ultimately compete at the World Cup level. In PSIA, we are more apt to deal with variable client ability levels, fitness, and snow conditions, typically taking place over a much shorter term thus requiring a more improvisational/ experiential approach.

Marc Schanfarber – 49 Degrees North

Coming into this event, I was trying to be as cognizant as possible about what similarities exist between USSA and PSIA-AASI, what fundamental ideas are shared and how to use this compare and contrast activity to bridge the gaps that exist between members of both organizations, be they real or perceived. The biggest takeaway from these two days is that we all slide on the same kind of equipment on a similar surface (snow), but with a different desired outcome. Hearing that there are a lot of racers in the world and that there a lot of skiers in the world, but not many ski racers in the world. Being a really good skier and a really good racer is what makes a great ski racer. Finding aspects of both parts of that profile that make me a better teacher and coach will be my goal going forward because I strongly believe there are very valuable

concepts from both worlds that should be shared, promoted, and encouraged. Cross-pollination is a very good thing, makes for a stronger end result.

Richard Mario – Mt. Hood Meadows

For my own skiing I was reminded that my internal forces are used to balance against the external forces from the snow. My arms have little to do with this. My hands even less.

My goal in the two day on snow and classroom clinic was to garner information on race related children training and development that I could use to provide a more complete experience to our kids. I want to provide to them experiences in free ride, free style and race. The USSA Level 100 coaching manual is now an important part of my skiing library. The Alpine Training System (ATS) teaches that the acquisition of basic skill is the foundation of the competitive skier. If the kids are good skiers, they can become good ski racers. The basic skills are best acquired from ages 2 to 10 years old. The best ages for motor skill development are from 8 to 12 years old.

Brian Feucht – Mt. Hood Meadows

The emphasis on developing rounded athletes versus winning athletes. My core belief of "good racers are good skiers" has become "good racers are good skiers are good athletes". Young athletes should be focused on developing motor skills and habits across as many disciplines as possible. Skiing being only be a small part of that to start is not

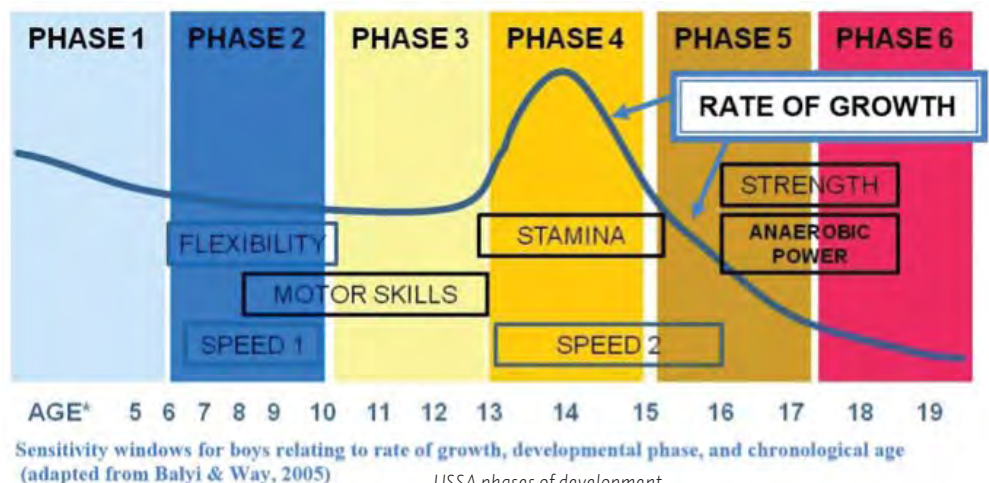
only OK, but actually beneficial/desired long term. Only once that base is developed can we add on great skiing and then into racing.

From a personal skiing improvement perspective, the entire weekend was a great reminder of how easy it is to get caught up in a pathway to a desired outcome. Repetition is a required part of practice and mastery of a skill, but looking outside of our ski instructor box allows us to gain a greater understanding of the skill and the sport. Doing the white pass turn entries as a way to experiment with directing pressure to the outside ski seemed completely backwards to my ski instructor mental model. It was exciting to experience outcomes I am seeking in my skiing via a stepping stone I would have never taken myself. At the very least doing this will make me a better instructor and coach, but I'm almost certain it will help me acquire skills in less time with a higher proficiency.

Rob Bell – Summit at Snoqualmie – Alpentel

We learned that dealing with the parent can be the most challenging component. Can I provide a better experience when teaching children by being more cognizant of the parent's role in a successful lesson (or series of lessons)? If teaching a group of children in a multi-week program, meet with the parents and share group goals and expectations. Provide time for parents to ask questions to ensure everyone is in unison.

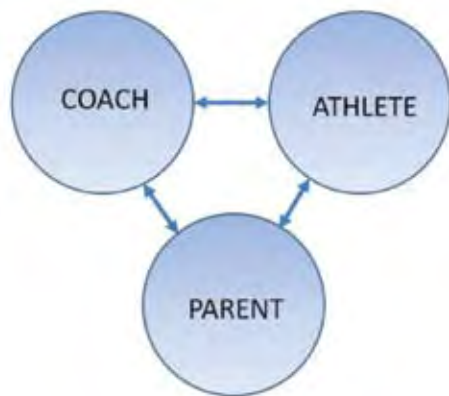
(continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Some of the expectations we can set out for the parents include:

- always being supportive and encouraging to their child
- respect that the coach has a plan and that he/she is working to meet team goals in addition to individual goals.
- be on time
- have the child prepared i.e. clothing, food, etc.



USSA Communication Avenues

Katie Feucht – Mt. Hood Meadows

In my own training, I keep the same focus for an entire season, sometimes maybe two. I've always searched for a way to measure my level of ownership of a skill and typically used film and feedback as my gauge. During the clinic, we did several drills to highlight the stages of motor learning. In one example, we held out our left arm like a checkbook and signed our name with our right ski pole while skiing short radius turns. While performing both activities, I couldn't think about what I wanted my feet and legs to do, they just did it. To a degree, the old movement patterns I'd been trying to break came back. While I had a blast doing these drills, they were great for showing me that I still needed to devote more time to what I was working on to make it autonomous.



USSA pins and schwag!

I also learned that PSIA and USSA share a common belief system and focus on the skills - rotary, edging, and pressure. The main differences are in terms of priority and goals. In PSIA the definition of success varies based on the goals of a particular client, in USSA it is measured by time.

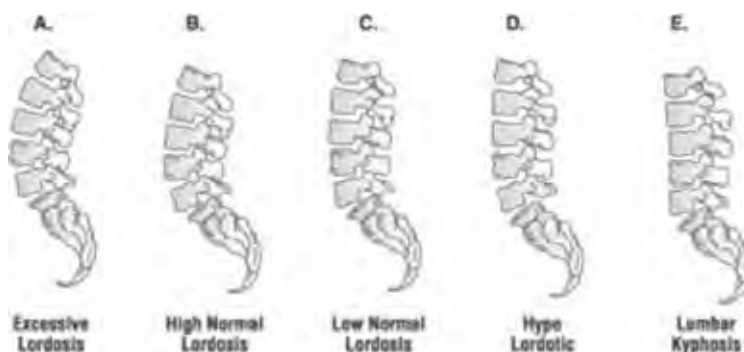
Jenn Lockwood – Mt. Hood Meadows

As previously mentioned, the USSA philosophy "... create good skiers first, then great racers". Great validation for my personal core belief: "ALL sports, including skiing, have their fundamental movements that must be learned independently before they can be efficiently blended into skillful skiing with precision, efficiency, accuracy. The concept of fundamental movements is central to all sports". This is supported by the objective of the Skills Quest skiing skills assessment to promote skills as a basis of technique by providing a resource where fundamental skills can be taught, measured and tracked over time with a rewards system that motivates young athletes to improve their skills. Skills Quest would be a great tool for all PSIA instructors to become familiar with and incorporate portions of it with their own students to assess which skills and movements need further development and/or refinement. Important that we emphasize the development of edge-control, pressure-control, and rotary movements, first, and then begin to blend and refine these movements as the skier/racer develops. Skills Quest is available for download on the USSA website at <http://ussa.org/alpine-programs/athletes/development/skillsquest>.

Shelley Kovacs – 49 Degrees North

During the indoor session, I liked that Ron Kipp mentioned USSA's awareness of male and female anatomical differences, especially pertaining to the lower back and pelvis. The arch in the small of your lower back, also known as the "lumbar lordosis", is different between women and men.

The female spine possesses an additional wedge-shaped vertebra, which substantially increases the lordotic curvature - 3 wedge-shaped lumbar vertebrae in women, 2 in men. The female pelvis is not as high and is proportionally wider than that of a male. The sacrum of the female is wider, the pelvic ring in women is also wider and more circular. All of this makes the visual image of most women different than that of men. In general, there are differences in the visual images between women and men.



Lumbar lordosis or spinal curvatures - (B) represents a more typical female; (C) represents a more typical male.



Matt Richardson – Summit Snow Sport School

I loved to see the similarities between the technical focus of USSA and PSIA in terms of skills. The new Alpine Technical Manual shows the collaboration between the two organizations. Having a common language and skill set will assist our students and instructors who wish to move to a racing focus. Same skills and movements, different outcomes.

One element that I really want to develop in my teaching and training is the focus on long term development. Many of my private lesson clients and PSIA certification candidates are looking for the quick fix. I occasionally fall into the same trap, though I know better. The USSA athlete development framework provides some great structure and could be adapted to adults as well. I'll be using it as a model for setting long term training/discovery plans for my students and certification candidates.

Justin Olson – Mt. Hood Meadows

My main take away was "first becoming a good skier and then become a good racer and then become a good ski racer" combined with the importance of "limb independence". One of my core beliefs in making good skiers is that versatility is key, and in my mind limb independence is one of the greatest tools to achieving that outcome. So often we drill to one skill or fundamental, not realizing without developing the other supporting skills we become stagnate in our growth. I like to think of each of the fundamentals as a pillar supporting our skill level and the ball of "being well rounded" or versatility will roll off if we aren't in balance with all the skills. Limb independence can help us manipulate our center of mass to effect change in all our fundamentals simultaneously.

A lively discussion and demo on rotary movements.



FINAL THOUGHTS

It was refreshing to see the parallels between PSIA and USSA, but to hear the same topics discussed with a slightly different terminology and a different goal - "ski faster". USSA's emphasis on incorporating fun into athlete development is a good reminder to keep our lessons and clinics "student centered" and something we should continue to focus on in our own daily interactions on the hill.

As stated in the USSA Level 100 manual, "After safety, perhaps the most important consideration in the development of any athlete is that they have FUN! The length of an athlete's career in the sport can arguably be in direct relation to their enjoyment."

As many of us work to become better at what we do - teach riding to the masses, build training programs, and become better skiers/riders ourselves it is important to continue to learn and think outside of what we know and are comfortable with. The more we can push ourselves to have an open mind and learn about skiing/riding from other points of view, the better we will be at building the next generation of instructors and snowsport enthusiasts and growing the overall community. ❄️

The newly minted USSA Level 100 Coaches!



Katie is Alpine Level 3 Certified, Children's Specialist 1 (CS1), Freestyle Specialist 1 (FS1), Senior Specialist 1 (SS1), a PSIA-NW Alpine Level 1 Examiner, Mt. Hood Meadows Instructor Trainer ... and now a USSA Level 100 Certified Coach. Email her: ktfuecht@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Look for Ron Kipp at Squaw Valley USA in his new role as Coaches Education and Development Manager!

Strike the perfect balance between work and play

Join a nationally acclaimed school - 2016 NSAA Conversion Cup Finalist - and a regional leader in employee compensation, progressive teaching and guest experience

Enjoy over 460" average snowfall, night operations, the largest terrain park and some of the steepest pitches and gladed runs in the state

STEVENS
PASS



INSTRUCTORS: Comprehensive training programs to meet your goals, minimum commitments from just 6 days a season, a highly competitive pay scale and our new Full Timer Incentive Program.

TRAINERS: Want to make a real difference? Our Training and Lead Team goes beyond just delivering clinics and offers experienced coaches a fresh challenge and unique leadership opportunities.

BRANCH OUT, GROW: Seasonal management, support and administrative positions also available

Learn more at <https://spss.snowproportal.com> or contact us: snowsports@stevenspass.com

NORDIC FALL COLLEGE

Ready for lots of skiing and general Nord fun as usual? You'll be exploring the Methow Valley trails again this year led by the top Nordic gurus in the Northwest. What more could you ask for? The clinic topics are broad enough to accommodate your goals and desires: ski improvement concepts and teaching concepts, in both Classic and Skate. And you're welcome to attend either one day or both. More information including the topic descriptions and the event application can be found on-line at the psia-nw.org web-site – you can even sign up for the event online.

SUN MOUNTAIN LODGE *a resort for all seasons* LODGING INFO

Sun Mountain Lodge will offer special room rates for PSIA-NW members at \$99 plus tax in the lodge. Reservations and additional pricing details available by calling the reservation line at 800-572-0493 and be sure to mention you are with PSIA. Details about Sun Mountain can be found by going to: sunmountainlodge.com

FRIDAY - DEC. 9

9am-4pm
DCL, Examiner and Trainer Training

SATURDAY - DEC. 10

Morning - 9am to 11:30am

- * Level 1 exam
- * Adjusting Skating Technique (S)
- * Tips for Teaching Classic Skiing (C)
- * Great-Good-Poor Drills (S)

Afternoon - 12:30 to 3:00pm

- * Great-Good-Poor Drills (S)
- * Tips for Teaching Skate Skiing (S)
- * Adjusting Classic Technique (C)

Open to All - 4:00 to 5:00pm

- * Ski prep, waxing, the latest trends in gear

SUNDAY - DEC. 11

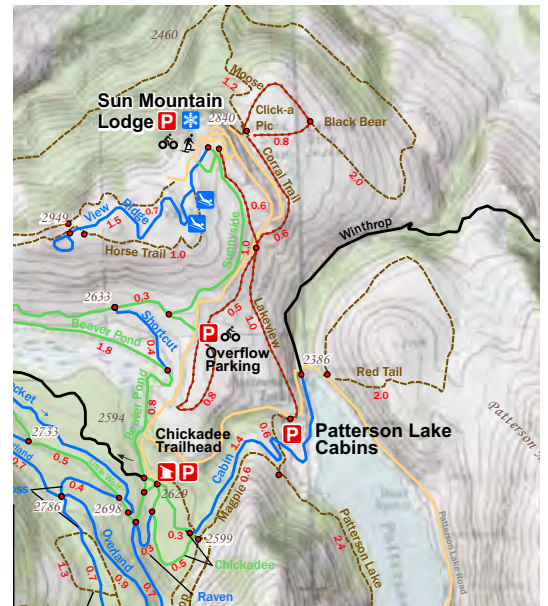
Morning - 9am to 11:30am

- * Ripping It Up on Altai Hoks
- * Personal Ski Improvement (S)
- * Keys to Teaching Efficient Classic Skiing (C)

Afternoon - 12:30 to 3:00pm

- * Keys to Teaching V2 (S)
- * Personal Ski Improvement (C)

We have Skate (S) and Classic (C) sessions plus an evening session on waxing on Saturday evening.



Pro Pricing for your ski and snowboard gear

Are you a current member of PSIA-NW and actively teaching?

- ❄ Bring in your PSIA Card for Pro Pricing ❄
- ❄ Custom Boot Fitting ❄
- ❄ Professional Ski & Snowboard Tuning ❄
- ❄ Season Ski & Snowboard Rentals ❄

Join Westra Sports September 24 for our Pre Season La Nina Sale

WESTRA SPORTS is a ski, snowboard and full tennis shop in Everett, WA owned and operated by long time ski instructors and ex-ski racers.



**12 SW Everett Mall Way
Everett, WA 98204**



**(425) 212-9539
www.westrasports.com**



DEER VALLEY
RESORT



JOIN OUR FAMILY AND TEACH AT A TOP-RATED RESORT.

Now hiring ski instructors.

Share your passion for skiing at a resort that's not only one of the best in the world, it feels a lot like home (last year, over 1,100 staff members celebrated their fifth season or more at Deer Valley). Competitive wage and benefits package. Progressive ski programs with small class sizes. PSIA-accredited ski school. Apply now at deervalley.com/jobs or call 435-645-6635 for more information.

Learn, Teach, Inspire™

2016-17 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Check the event calendar at PSIA-NW.ORG/EVENTS for full details.

multi-day events

exam modules

specialists



NORDIC FALL COLLEGE SUN MOUNTAIN - DEC 10-11

IMMERSION 1 & 2
MISSION RIDGE - JAN 6-9
MISSION RIDGE - FEB 9-10

WINTER BLAST
NEW 2 & 3-DAY OPTIONS
CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN -
FEB 27-28, +29

DIVISIONAL ACADEMY
MT HOOD MEADOWS - MAR 10-12

SPRING SYMPOSIUM
MISSION RIDGE - APR 7-9

EXAM DATES & LOCATIONS

MISSION RIDGE - JAN 26-27 (A,S)
STEVENS PASS NORDIC - MAR 5 (N)
SCHWEITZER - MAR 25-26 (A,S)
STEVENS PASS #1 - APR 1-2 (AD,A,S,T)
STEVENS PASS #2 - APR 3-4 (A)
MT BACHELOR - APR 15-16 (AD,A,S)

Note that the Level III Snowboard exam is offered at Stevens Pass only.

For all exams details please check inside or the PSIA-NW website for the most current information. AD=Adaptive, A=Alpine, N=Nordic, S=Snowboard, T=Telemark

SPECIALISTS BY DATE

CS1 ON DEC 10-11 @ SNOQUALMIE WEST
CS1 ON DEC 10-11 @ WHITEFISH
SS1 ON DEC 10-11 @ SNOQUALMIE WEST
FS1 ON DEC 17-18 @ SNOQUALMIE CENTRAL
CS1 ON DEC 17-18 @ SNOQUALMIE CENTRAL
SS1 ON DEC 17-18 @ CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN
CS1 ON JAN 22-23 @ CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN
SS2 ON MAR 11-12 @ SCHWEITZER
CS1 ON MAR 11-12 @ STEVENS PASS
CS1 ON MAR 25-26 @ SCHWEITZER
SS2 ON APR 1-2 @ STEVENS PASS
CS2 ON APR 1-2 @ STEVENS PASS
CS1 ON APR 15-16 @ MT HOOD MEADOWS
CS2 ON APR 15-16 @ MT BACHELOR
FS1 & FS2 ON APR 22-23 @ TBA



UH OH ... DID YOU FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES? IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

This newsletter issue is sent to all current and non-renewed members. If you did not renew your membership in June it's not too late. You can still pay your dues on-line or call Member Services at (206) 244-8541 to maintain your current membership status and continue to receive all member benefits.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS PUBLICATION?

We want to know! If it were possible to receive this publication in this format or another, how would you like to receive it? By mail, by email, send both or don't send it to me at all. Please let us know at www.psia-nw.org/poll or send email to info@psia-nw.org with answer.