

THE INSTRUCTORS EDGE

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The Professional Ski Instructors of America
The American Association of Snowboard Instructors
Intermountain

Discovering and Developing a Youthful Talent

Some thoughts on responding as instructors when we come across talented children.

By Roger Seaborn

I am sure the experiences and perspectives reported here will be familiar to many PSIA Intermountain colleagues. Certainly, many more opportunities exist here in the USA than “downunder” to develop talented kids.

In the best sense all kids are talented, but exceptional talent usually stands out when, rarely and excitingly, we meet it. During 16 Australian seasons in the '80s and '90s coaching for Interschools racing up to Australian state and national levels, I watched many talented competitors develop. Many aspired and a few went on to represent Australia in World Cup and Olympic competition. Most successful was Zali Stegall, a quietly spoken, diligent and intelligent girl from the Sydney beachside suburb of Manly.

Zali attended a school neighbour-



Courtesy Roger Seaborn

Six-year-old Krystle Yin demonstrates her natural talent in a GS course. Where does that talent come from and what is your responsibility as her teacher?

ing the school where I worked as a math teacher and ski sports coach. She completed her schooling by correspondence whilst training in the Australian Alps and in Europe. Her talent was evident to all and was exceptional from the age of around 12-13, when I first saw her competing junior GS. Zali consistently prevailed over other talented age group peers in FIS racing during and after her school years.

She had determination, family support and financial backing (rare in Australia) to train with European elite racers and trainers. She reached World Cup and became a rare national skiing identity and role model for aspiring

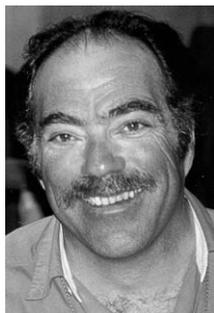
youngsters and a well-spoken ambassador for Australian alpine skiing. At her peak, Zali won and podiumed in World Cup Slalom, won Bronze in the Nagano Olympics and Gold in the world Championships at Vail the following year, just before shaped skis and Janicia Kostelic irreversibly swept away the '90s identity of slalom racing for which Zali had developed her skills and specialized.

During those years in Interschools coaching, I came across four talented youngsters whom I saw as exceptional. In due course Scott McKinnon and

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President's Message

By Carl Boyer, PSIA-I/AASI-I President

This season has shaped up to be a banner year. Although our southern region started slowly, snowpack is now building and enthusiasm abounds. Things have definitely turned around for our northern members.

Looking forward to events, we are pleased The Canyons will host our Spring Clinic this year April 7-9. Although the resort has hosted many divisional events through the years, this will be the first Spring Clinic at the area. One of my first season passes (1974!) in Utah was at Park West, I look forward to investigating the changes from their recent growth.

As you plan ahead, be sure to keep your eyes out for the Board of Directors election ballot. Be sure to review the profiled candidates from your region (if applicable) as well as those 'at large'. Be sure to follow the instructions carefully; vote for those candidates for whom you are allowed, sign the ballot envelope, and indicate your snowsports school affiliation – or as non-affiliated if you are not currently employed by a member school. Return before the deadline – March 15. These steps will ensure your ballot can be properly considered.

The Board of Directors has approved the appointment of Nathan Emerson as Programs Administrator. 'Nato' has long experience as an Alpine DECL and is a former Board member representing our northernmost region. We look forward to his addition to our education leadership team.

I look forward to sliding with as many of you as I am able, and welcome your observations and feedback regarding your association. —Carl Boyer

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Nick Fisher were able to develop to become National Interschools Champions in GS and Moguls respectively. In addition, many in the program became national teams' champions inspired by their outstanding team-mates. Scott developed to race Europa Cup in the 90s as did Peter Farrell. Nick Fisher this February has just achieved twelfth in Olympic Moguls in Torino. The fourth, Sophie Cape, became a highly qualified instructor in Canada and a competitive racer before she had a demoralising injury racing Downhill.

We used a variety of dry land and on-snow coaching techniques, and employed the best occasional professional coaches our program could find.

We tried to persuade parents of the most able kids to commit to race club membership. This could be a considerable financial and logistical sacrifice for families living six hours away from the resorts. Nevertheless, most enjoyed the involvement, networking with each other for driving and serving as on-course FIS and Interschools officials. Their sons and daughters gained much fun, skill and team camaraderie through alpine racing. Diversifying interests and, in one case, a family tragedy ultimately limited potential ski sport careers. However, character and joy was developed in these youth while potential was explored through responsible training programs.

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The Instructors EDGE

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National Board Report

A Unity Model for the Snowsports Instructors Profession

By Jerry Warren

At the last National Board Meeting in Colorado, the Presidents Council (made up of the presidents from each division of which Carl Boyer, our president, attended) was asked to review existing documents on the roles of national and divisional relationships. Two national role items highlighted were the president's support for the examiners college and support of division marketing efforts. Presidents will encourage their divisions to develop a marketing plan with a separate line item in their budgets for this effort.

As the presidents presented these and other tweaks, it became powerfully apparent to me that we can gain great ground in our member relationships by more clearly defining our various roles with National and the nine divisions.

In an effort to reduce disconnects in the relationship and expectations, I suggested that the Ski/Snowboard or Snowsports Schools at the member areas be a third part of the roles list. A three-leg stool is more sturdy than a two-leg stool and we need to be more sturdy in how we perceive the various roles. Therefore, I have suggested bringing a new model forward that at this point I will call a "Unity Model."

This model is an attempt to outline how National, Divisional and Area/Resorts interact within the snowsports industry by identifying some areas that could, and should, be "Common Ground," in addition to some initiatives that maybe should remain specific to either national, the division or the resort/snowsports school.

It is hoped that the implementation of this model will be a basis for establishing more common ground and stimulate greater unity. In addition to adding the Area/Resort section to the list, you will note that Member Growth and Retention is a part of each section as well.

With this model I have attempted to shift some paradigms. Duplication seems to be one of the strong areas of concern from national to divisions to resorts and back through the division to national. Passionate and committed people will strive to do good things by creating programs and materials that they feel are needed, regardless of what has been produced or will be produced by others. That being said, we must create a "belonging vehicle" to honor and respect the diversity of talent and good ideas while at the same time, maintaining a strength of consistency and the power of the unchanging.

I have taken the good work of past committees and the current president's council and have attempted to modify the view. This change could mean much in the way we do business with each other. It is time to challenge these things in an effort to broaden the talent base, simplify processes and bring greater unity to the reality of the vastness of our Snowsports nation.

This draft model is presented to the members of the Intermountain Division to invite you in on the dialog, thereby giving you voice in the potential outcomes. I would ask the snowsports schools in particular to offer

Alpine DVD

The PSIA-Intermountain Alpine Demo DVD is available through the Division office. Whether for your personal development or as a holiday gift, you can pick up your copy now. A donation of \$20 goes to the PSIA Education Foundation to promote educational development in Intermountain. ■

strength to that section of this model. Much is left undone by design, thereby leaving the door open for your valued guidance. Comments and suggestions regarding this model are welcome and encouraged and should be directed to our divisional office.

National Roles: (a vision of the key responsibilities and indicators)

- ◆ Common Ground: Dig in and establish the present and future common ground.
 1. Find, Maintain, Encourage and Guide the nine-division "Common Ground" related to Technique, Teaching Methods, Certification Processes, Organizational Structure and Governance, and Communication Needs. In this study toward implementation, all research and development will honor the intent of "Common Ground" or to strengthen the individual division projects move to unity.
 2. Communicate projects and upcoming products to division executives, presidents and committee chairs and solicit feedback from divisions and individual areas. This must be done in a way that honors the "Common Ground" concept. A division and an individual resort will have needs specific to them. However, effort to be on the same page in key indicators of growth and retention for our members should always be strongly considered.
- ◆ Manage task forces: Greater effort will be given to notify division members of task force needs and openings.
- ◆ Transparency of business practices with National, Divisions and Areas
- ◆ National Teams
- ◆ Development and Maintenance of Industry Partnerships: With the

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Wax On, Wax Off!?! It's Spring Clinic Time!

This has been a great season in the Intermountain Division. Ample snow throughout the region has left everyone raving about another great year of riding the frozen wave.

As the 2005-06 season comes to a close, let's plan on getting together to celebrate by sharing some snow, sun and suds at The Canyons on April 7-9. With great conditions expected on the hill and lots of night life available on and around Main Street in Park City, this promises to be another great opportunity to hone your skills in both venues! It will be a great opportunity for all of our members to become acquainted with one of the "Premier Resorts" in North America as this is the FIRST EVER Spring Clinic at The Canyons.

The Canyons boasts incredible terrain across eight peaks accessing over 3,500 acres of Utah powder. Sixteen lifts provide access to 42 percent most difficult, 44 percent intermediate and 14 percent beginner runs. PLUS, some of the finest skier amenities to be found. Catch up with old friends and say hello to new friends while sharing the sport we all love.

Cost for the event is \$150, which includes two days of clinics and one free day of skiing or riding. The cost of the banquet is included in your fee. Single day clinics are \$50 per day. Extra banquet tickets can be purchased for \$35.

Our banquet, April 8, will be held in the Kokopelli Grand Ballroom located in The Canyons Grand Summit Hotel.



A no-host social hour will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., with the buffet dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. The silent auction that was held at last year's Spring Clinic was such a huge success that we will be doing that again. Please bring your checkbooks and credit cards – lots of great items to be bid on!

The Canyons will be offering studio and hotel king units for Spring Clinic at \$109/night at the Grand Summit Hotel.

Also, at the Sundial Lodge, they have standard rooms for \$95/night. Please call resort at 1-888-CANYONS and specify that you are inquiring about the PSIA rates.

Park for day use at bottom of Cabriolet Lift. You will need to park in the underground parking at the resort for a discounted price of \$4 for the evening of the Banquet. Also, the far southern parking area by the Sundial Lodge is available at no charge; however, it will be a short 3-minute walk to the Grand Summit Hotel, location of the banquet.

Spring Clinic Spouse Tour

The Canyons Resort has so graciously offered a short two-hour tour of their mountain for spouse's of members attending Spring Clinic on Saturday, the 8th and/or Sunday, the 9th. Attendees will meet at the Red Pine Ski School Adult Meeting Area at 9:45 a.m. and will tour from 10 to Noon.

Alpine Topics

FRIDAY

Tour D'Canyons

Tour with a DECL – you might even pick up a tip or two!

SATURDAY

Tour D'Canyons

Ski Improvement

Join a group of similar skiing ability to work out the kinks in your technique

"Old Dog, New Tricks"

You've been at this game for a long time, but here's a chance to explore and share what these new sticks can do!

Women's Ski Clinic

Race Clinic

Run some gates and get some personal coaching (conditions permitting)

Ski Meister

Tackle whatever the mountain has to offer that day

SUNDAY

Advanced Ski Teaching

DECL will facilitate a round table style of communication for the exchange of ideas and techniques concerning ski teaching. Learn from and share with your peers. A great way to expand your already considerable Bag O' Tricks!

Ski Improvement

Join a group of similar skiing ability to work out the kinks in your technique

"Old Dog, New Tricks"

You've been at this game for a long time, but here's a chance to explore and share what these new sticks can do!

Bag O'Tricks

Have you ever wondered why some games, exercises and drills work from some age groups, but not others? Explore, how kids learn, act and move at different ages and add to your bag of tricks.

Women's Ski Clinic

Race Clinic

Run some gates and get some personal coaching (conditions permitting)

Ski Meister

Tackle whatever the mountain has to offer that day

Snowboard Topics

FRIDAY

FREERIDE FRIDAY!

Explore the terrain that The Canyons has to offer – come play with us!

SATURDAY

BAG O' TRICKS

Have you ever wondered why some games, exercises and drills work for some age groups, but not others? Explore how kids learn act and move at different ages and add to your bag of games and tricks.

RIDER IMPROVEMENT - for Intermediate and Advanced Riders
We'll ride all terrain available, from groomers to off piste moguls and trees. Steep stuff, too!

SUNDAY

SPIN TO WIN!

Spin to Win! Working on 180's, 360's and beyond - This clinic will help in getting past the fear of spinning! Whether or not you are a novice or a pro, you will be dizzy at the end of the day!

TURN TO THE "DARK SIDE!"

Why use two sticks when one will do?? Feed your inner desire to learn how to snowboard. All you need is a snowboard, snowboard boots and a good attitude! Be prepared to feel the power of the Dark Side!

Adaptive Topics

SATURDAY

Three and Four Track Skiing

Clinic emphasis will be on rigger usage in various terrain from beginner through advance.

Nordic Topics

FRIDAY

Backcountry Tour

Day one, Level 2/3 Tele Assessment

SATURDAY

Tele Ski with a DECL

Day Two, Level 2/3 Tele Assessment

Backcountry Accreditation Day Four

SUNDAY

Level One Tele Assessment

Tele Ski Improvement Clinic

Kid Specific Topics

Have you ever wondered why some games, exercises, and drills work for some age groups, but not others? Explore how kids learn, act, and move at different ages, and add to your bag of games and tricks. You do not have to be ACE-accredited to attend either clinic, all members welcome!

Saturday

Kids - "Bag O' Tricks" - Specifically For Riders.

Sunday

Kids - "Bag O' Tricks" - All Disciplines



Ed. College participants commiserate on the virtues of teaching children. Photo courtesy Chip Herron



Krystle Yin, 6, demonstrates her penchant for skiing while catching some air in a bump contest. Photo courtesy Roger Seaborn.

Vote!

Election ballots for Board of Directors of PSIA/AASI Intermountain should be in your hands. This is your opportunity to become involved and provide guidance for the Division. The Division serves the membership best when the membership serves the Division. Your participation is vital to help keep our organization healthy. Complete your ballot today.

New DECLs Endure Tough Audition

By: Ron Kipp and Guillermo Avila Paz

Nine new DECLs have been added to the PSIA-Intermountain Alpine DECL squad. The audition/tryouts were conducted over three days starting January 10 and ending January 27.



Collin Bywaters



Corby Egan



Jill Evans



André Heiber



Jason Hunter

Twenty-three applicants started the process at The Canyons. The first day the 23 aspiring candidates had to endure 10 tense filled skiing scenarios in front of Rob Sogard, PSIA's Alpine Team Coach, and former Demo Team members Scott Mathers and Joe Wagner along with six other seasoned veteran examiners. Yeah, that will relax ya!

The final scored run was a nonstop free ski run down Silverado Bowl in sun baked crunchy snow with flat light. The task was to show fun and excitement in their skiing. The only caveat was that it had to end in ten short radius turns... of course when the legs were on fire. The group of 23 was cut to 16 after the first day.

Day two started early at Snowbasin with the 16 showing more skiing and starting movement analysis, prescription, short teaching and then a technical grilling to explain everything from "why did you do that?," "what type of learning style did you assume?," to "how does that relate to Newton's third law?."

Questions were open ended and many candidates skied away scratching their tired craniums. Creativity and

the ability to explain their logic won points, while regurgitation of manuals showed lower scores. Just when the candidates were certifiably brain dead they had to sit down to an hour long written test...no time for dinner. Maybe the examiners wanted to see



John Lohn



Maggie Loring



Patrick Rice



Ron Shepard

how they performed with low blood glucose levels preparing them for after assessment write-ups. The evening ended with tired muscles, minds and the group being further cut to nine.

Nine smiles showed up to a foot of snow at Snowbasin the next morning.

Brains were sapped, but enthusiasm reigned within. Longer teaching segments with their peers occupied the day's agenda. Six examiners with score books in hand put each aspiring DECL under the microscope. "Are you sure you wanted to do that drill?," "could you have targeted another part of the turn?," "when were you going to relate this back to free skiing?" At the end of the last long day the examiners took off their mirrored sunglasses and went behind the doors of the Snowbasin Children's Center. Sitting on small chairs the examiners decided that all nine be given a shot at this DECL job.

We are proud to announce the new members to our development program:

Collin Bywaters, Alta
Corby Egan, Sundance
Jill Evans, Jackson Hole
André Heiber, The Canyons
Jason Hunter, Solitude
John Lohn, Jackson Hole
Maggie Loring, Snowbird
Patrick Rice, Park City
Ron Shepard, Park City

These new DECL are not finished with the tough days. They will now go through auditing clinics, exams, and further learning situations before you will actually see them in front of their own group. We think you will be very pleased when you finally get a chance to ski with them.—Ron & Guillermo are the education and certification managers for PSIA-I

Visit PSIA-I/AASI-I Online at:

www.psia-i.org

or

www.aasi-i.org



What's Happening: Nordic

By Steve Neiner

Greetings from the Nords! We are in full tilt boogie mode, with a great snow season North and South. I hope all of you are enjoying your sliding, working, and teaching as much as I am enjoying mine! Lots of stuff going on in Nordic land, so here we go...

We have seen solid, early clinic and exam participation, with events happening at Ed College, Eric McLaughlin's annual Jackson excursion for up and coming tele instructors, and an old face back again with the Pocatello Parks and Recreation rejoining as a member track ski school at East Mink Creek Nordic.

Our Backcountry Accreditation Program is starting out with great success, with a Day One Tour in the South happening in conjunction with Utah Interconnect. This looks to be a super relationship we are building with Interconnect for future BC events, in addition to an already positive relationship with the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and our BC events which are happening in the North.

Be sure to check the remaining schedule early if you are looking for clinics and/or certification; believe it or not, we are just over half way through the season by the time you read this, so prepare and register early. Remember, there is a two week deadline for registration of events. It is critically important to sign up early, not only to avoid late fees, but also to insure we have enough participants to make events happen. On that note, be sure to check out our offerings for Spring Clinic in this Edge.

Last, but certainly not least, we held our Telemark DECL Hiring Event at Alta and Solitude on February 1 and 2. Amazing snow conditions both days

and a stellar posse of seven ripping tele skiers, who were also fantastic, professional teachers and industry leaders, made for one of the most memorable events we have held here in Intermountain.

Candidates actually came from not only Intermountain, but also the Rocky Mountain Division and the Pacific Northwest. As a result of this talent pool, we are hoping to establish our own Telemark Accredited Trainer program, with the following three Provisionally Accredited Telemark Trainers coming from this event:

David Karlin, Breckenridge, CO

Nate Carey, Jackson Hole, WY

Frank Clapper, Park City, UT

Congratulations also to the following, newly anointed Intermountain Telemark DECLs:

Mike Shimp, Breckenridge, CO

Greg Dixon, Jackson Hole, WY

Steve Neiner, Jackson Hole, WY

Mike Sharp, Park City, UT

Big thanks and gratitude go out to Chris Ulm and Scott McGee for a superb DECL hiring event, the rest of the current DECL staff, Susan, Vicki, and Natalie at the office for all of their patience and support, and thanks to Carl Boyer and the rest of the Board for their endorsement and encouragement of our exceptional, Intermountain Nordic Program. Hope to see you soon with free heels, and Pray for Snow!!

—Steve Neiner is Intermountain Nordic Manager, Track and Telemark DECL, and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Nordic Center Nordic Manager. E-mail him at telemark9er@hotmail.com.

It's Classified

ESTABLISHED EQUESTRIAN CENTER looking for riding instructors for all levels and disciplines, lesson horses provided, FT & PT, \$25+/hr. Set own hours. Pls. call Natalie (435) 640 - 4750.

The Hartford Ski Spectacular

By Chuck Torrey



In December, Pete Badewitz and I attended the Hartford Ski Spectacular in Breckenridge, Colorado. The six-day event is presented by Disabled Sports USA.

The week provides many opportunities to get involved. This is the slope to ride, whether you want to take clinics from top instructors and race coaches from across the country or volunteer your teaching expertise. As volunteers, instructors teach our veterans, many of them injured recently in Iraq. I highly encourage all instructors—adaptive or alpine—to attend this awesome event. It is a chance to network in a setting of various adaptive programs and instructors from all over the nation.

Pete and I went to take clinics and to see what's new in adaptive skiing and snowboarding. We discovered that some equipment is improving, but that technique has not changed much. The overall approach to adaptive skiing is the same as with able-bodied skiers. Gauge the student. Fit him with the right equipment. Maximize his abilities and strengths for optimal performance. Set attainable goals and reach them.

An attainable short-term goal for a beginner adaptive skier might be to load and unload the chair with minimal or no assistance from the instructor. A long-term attainable goal might be to ski a blue or black run, just as it is with an able-bodied skier. Even more so with an adaptive skier, the proper fit of equipment is essential. It is impossi-

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intent to strengthen Division and Area identity and unity, for the benefit of each member, thereby strengthening the guest experience.

- ◆ Future Vision: strategic planning
- ◆ Member Services
- ◆ Marketing and Advertising:
 1. Brand promotion and marketing to current and potential members, snowsport guests and the industry.
 2. Support and enhance where appropriate, division marketing efforts
 3. Sponsorship
- ◆ Growth and Retention: Encourage and guide to “common ground” thereby reducing divisional, resort and member disconnects and confusion.
- ◆ National Events: Academy, Examiners College, Support division events of national interest
- ◆ Leadership and Management Skills: Create supportive training programs to assist snowsports school directors in their efforts to run their schools and support national and divisional initiatives.

Divisional Roles: (a vision of some key responsibilities and indicators)

- ◆ Best Practices
 1. Identify, Maintain, Encourage and Guide the division and resorts “Best Practices” to a Divisional Common Ground related to Technique, Teaching Methods, Certification Processes.
 2. Communicate Projects and upcoming products to area resorts and solicit feedback from directors and leadership in the individual areas. This must be done in a way that honors the “Best Practices to Common Ground” concept.
 3. Individual resorts may have marketing practices that highlight their

uniqueness and this should be honored. However, the “common ground” within those practices should encourage member growth and retention rather than exclusion and confusion. The division can assist this effort.

- ◆ Organizational Structure and Governance, and Communication Needs: All research and development will honor the intent of “Common Ground” or to strengthen the individual division projects move to unity.
- ◆ Manage task forces: Avoid duplication with national task forces while strengthening divisional needs.
- ◆ Education delivery: Avoid duplication of effort with national standards and task forces while strengthening divisional needs.
- ◆ Certification delivery: Avoid duplication of effort with national standards task forces while strengthening divisional needs. The division runs their own certification program, yet should do so in a manner that does not violate the “common ground” principles and practices they have agreed to.
- ◆ Member Services
- ◆ Research and Development: Avoid duplication with national task forces while strengthening divisional needs.
- ◆ Growth and Retention
- ◆ Future Vision
- ◆ Education Foundation
- ◆ Marketing: Avoid duplication of effort with national marketing and standards, task forces while strengthening divisional needs. The division should budget for and run their own marketing program with national support, yet should do so in a manner that does not violate the “common ground” principles and practices they have agreed to with national.
- ◆ Participation iNational Governance

Area/Resort Roles: (a vision of some key responsibilities and indicators)

- ◆ Growth and Retention: The most effective influence on growth and retention of members comes from the individual resort snowsports leadership. National and Division efforts may be strengthened or weakened by the personal attention and direction from the area resorts and their snowsports schools.
- ◆ Leadership and Management Skills
- ◆ Best Practices: Supportive of national and divisional “common ground”, but inclusive of the creativity that comes from those working daily at the grass roots levels of our profession.
- ◆ Member School responsibilities
- ◆ Common Ground: Snowsport schools are encouraged to incorporate “Common Ground” techniques, methods, training and certification programs. Less member confusion and greater success will result for each instructor/member. This does not mean that each area should not have a strong individual “key note” type of program for their snowsports school. The idea of “common ground” with the National and Divisional programs should be to support the areas with powerful umbrella support, education/certification direction and protection, without all the detail that individual snowsports schools use to brand themselves – all under the American Snowsports Education Association banner.

Members Voice:

Each of you can contribute to this working model. Please share your experience in writing at www.admin@psia-i.org.—**Jerry Warren, ASEA National Board Rep, 14 year national team member, former PSIA National Education V.P., Director of Mt. Operations – Sundance**



What Type of Trainer are You?

By Ron Shepard

Have you ever asked yourself why you teach? Is it for the satisfaction, the opportunity to get paid to do something you love? Or is it both? Do you teach because, in the end, you also gain proficiency?

In his book “How to Practice,” the Dalai Lama describes different types of altruistic attitudes—a basis for understanding the “whys” of teaching. His holiness describes the monarch, the boatman, and the shepherd; each offering a different path to enlightenment. As instructors, we offer our students and fellow instructors a different form of enlightenment; illuminating pathways to goals. We can expand upon the Dalai Lama’s descriptions, as they fit into our world.

When trainers conduct clinics, we discuss goals, although we sometimes fail to consider hopes, dreams, and aspirations. If the clinic message is to be heard, the student needs to trust the motives of the clinician. We must hear and acknowledge the aspirations of the student, and encourage them in their pursuit—this is a vital first step in gaining their trust.

As teachers, it is assumed that our own gratification comes from the success, rather than the failure of those in our care; yet an unfortunate truth is that we sometimes lose sight of this obligation. We can set limits on their ambitions, or become jealous and threatened by their potential. How we react to our student’s aspirations and how we aide them in realizing their dreams, can define our teaching approach.

The Monarch, for instance, seeks to gain enlightenment first (as the most effective way to help others). The Monarch wishes success upon his people,

for by their success his kingdom and riches grow. The Monarch takes pride in the advancement of his people, and is only sometimes wary of their ambition.

The Boatman, desires to arrive at the other shore of enlightenment together with all other beings. His personal goals impart no limits on those of his disciples; they may advance far beyond him. The Boatman sees his task as specific and cyclical in nature, and

As instructors, we offer our students and fellow instructors a different form of enlightenment; illuminating pathways to goals.

he may never reach the shore himself, or venture outside of his path. His satisfaction comes in the enlightenment of others, though he may secretly dream for more.

The Shepherd desires that all others should succeed first, before his or her own enlightenment. The Shepherd protects his flock, and views all of his disciples equally. He is a careful and practiced guide, guarding against danger and misdirection. The Shepherd is wise, wary, and practiced, but may be reluctant to encourage exploration and self-discovery.

In our own schools, we can easily point to examples of each type of teacher; Monarchs have traveled the entire path, and are now able to show others; they often become school directors and supervisors. Boatmen have a specific skill to impart; they conduct clinics within their areas of expertise—moguls, for instance, or overcoming difficult teaching scenarios. Shepherd’s take it upon themselves to nurture and protect everyone, they volunteer to mentor, and show genuine enthusiasm, concern, and support.

Sometimes, we act like the Boatman with some, and the Shepherd with others; applying our capabilities as

needed. Through self-awareness (we don’t have to admit the truth to anyone but ourselves) we can observe our own motives in teaching, and how we may appear to others. Each type of teacher offers advantages; personal discovery can bring out the best teacher in each of us, and validate our reasons for doing so.—**Ron Shepard was recently selected to train as a PSIA-I DECL.**

HARTFORD continued from 7

ble for an individual to perform at his personal best without the right fit.

The right fit is determined by which type of ski, or even manufacturer of ski, is right for the individual. Does the skier’s abilities best match with a Mountain Man Biski or a BiUnique Biski? Or does the skier better fit in a Yeti Monoski, Revolution Monoski, or a Tessier Monoski? Among the details that determine fit are length of outriggers, amount of brake on the riggers, use of tip clamps, and use of fixed versus a bungee on the tip clamps. The correct piece of equipment and proper fit make all the difference.

As adaptive instructors, it is our challenge not to get locked into the piece of equipment that seems to work all right. More so, adaptive instructors need to veer away from using a certain piece of equipment for the sole reason of it being comfortable for them. Try different set ups. You and your student’s match may yet be made.

If this all sounds interesting, if you are in awe of those who rip it up despite their disabilities, or if you just want to understand more about adaptive snow sports, this annual clinic offers a lot of fun in a beautiful place with a whole bunch of talented athletes and instructors. Start making your plans for next December!—**Chuck Torrey is PSIA-I Adaptive Manager**



KRYSTLE continued from 2

If a truly talented child appears on our radar screen, how do we respond to the responsibility of deciding where to take the student? As stated, all children are talented, and the principle “*safety, fun, learning,*” our energy, experience, and our bag of tricks provide our highway to help kids discover confidence and joy in ski sport. What if a very young potential Zali, Nick, Picabo, or Bodie suddenly appears in our lesson? These principles must still govern our instruction. Well-directed strategic fun is the key to unlock youthful talent, and the location of appropriate coaching to maximize development through subsequent learning stages.

I had the pleasure of meeting Krystle Yin in July of 2004 in “dramatic” fashion at the age of just 5 years, in a Thredbo Interschools race prep lesson. Apart from Krystle, the group of seven was all boys. Krystle was youngest by at least two years and tiny compared with the other kids. All the kids were carrying poles, including Krystle who carried her tiny poles vice-like in both hands beside me on the chairlift.

I brought the group out of Thredbo top station to the very first pitch to warm up. The slope was crowded with school vacationers, quite steep, very firm, and unavoidable, being the only slope option accessing blue race training terrain. I looked at Krystle with some trepidation for her safety. Some of the older kids skied first, doing moderate medium radius turns, which I had given as a task. Krystle skied fall-line turns to me at “mach-2,” tipping her skis directly from edge to edge. My hair stood on end thinking she would “kill” herself and I called out “Slow down!” She hauled into the group with a perfect hockey stop. All the kids’ eyes were popping out! In that instant of recognition Krystle was immediately adopted by all the boys and myself as “mini-superstar” and given the red carpet by all for the next two hours. A lot of fun

was had on the trail and four runs through the GS course were made.

I cannot recall at the end of this lesson whether or not I met Krystle’s parents, Biing and Nicky. I was very pleased when they booked me for a series of private lessons with Krystle, which continued throughout 2004 and 2005 seasons over five school vacations and some during school weekends. I was excited to explain to Biing and Nicky my opinion of Krystle as a very talented young athlete. This was confirmed subsequently by a series of outstanding Interschools’ race results in GS and Moguls taking Krystle to

If a truly talented child appears on our radar screen, how do we respond to the responsibility of deciding where to take the student?

national level against girls up to four years older than her. She has also shown herself to be competitive in gymnastics up to state level. I cannot help feeling much of that confidence stems from her successes in skiing.

Krystle is confident when whatever she is doing is fun. I was delighted to become a friend to the family, and especially delighted when they took up my recommendation to ski Utah last year in Krystle’s Easter vacation. They return for Easter 2006 having fallen in love with Utah. It has also been a pleasure to coach parents Biing and Nicky, and to have seen improvements in their skills and understanding of skiing.

There are many highlights and a lot of fun in my journey to date with Krystle. She is a delightful effervescent kid with a wicked sense of humor and a loud laugh. Now approaching 7-years-old, she loves to roll in the snow, throw snowballs, play dead, or come up with any practical joke which she thinks can get the better of me.

Last winter Krystle learned to ski moguls with a pole touch, by tickling

the hibernating polar bears’ noses with her pole, being soft as she goes over them so as not to wake them, and get away quickly before they sneeze. (Thanks to Heather Fielding of The Canyons for this great idea.) Thredbo colleagues were bemused as we skied around the mountain going “Tickle, tickle!” She also loves to ski the Thredbo “roller-coaster” which is a “ripper” of a skier-cross/boarder-cross course from our creative groomers.

Where did Krystle’s talent come from? Her parents have been unable to explain it. They are purely recreational skiers and Krystle had only skied for two seasons before joining the race clinic where I met her. Whoever taught her first must be given great credit for having ignited the spark. With talent comes responsibility to provide opportunity to develop it. So far fun and play, speed on blue/green slopes and versatility games to learn releasing skills for steeper and bumped terrain, have brought Krystle into skiing the mountain. She loves going “bear-hunting” in the powder, in erstwhile creeks, gullies and in the trees.

I have been encouraging Biing and Nicky to join Thredbo Race Club when Krystle is a little older. Biing and Nicky wisely view their ongoing decisions as being guided by Krystle’s continuing to enjoy the sport, and not too soon creating situations where pressure to perform could replace enjoyment. I support this point of view as healthy, compared with some fanatic parents I have met, who try to live through their children’s achievements and kill the joy by pressuring children to ski when freezing, tired or just not into it. I hope that Krystle will continue to love skiing the rest of her life, and continue to grow confidence and self-belief through skiing. In due course she may infect many others with her enjoyment, as she has already done for her parents, for me, and for her teammates.

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Event Registration

Professional Ski Instructors of America Intermountain Division American Association of Snowboard Instructors, Intermountain

REGISTRANT INFORMATION				
NAME		PHONE		FAX
STREET		CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE
E-MAIL		SKI SCHOOL		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF NEW ADDRESS
YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> Entry Level <input type="checkbox"/> Level I <input type="checkbox"/> Level II <input type="checkbox"/> Level III		MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	INDICATE DISCIPLINE FOR THIS EVENT <input type="checkbox"/> Alpine <input type="checkbox"/> Snowboard <input type="checkbox"/> Nordic <input type="checkbox"/> Adapted	

EVENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION					
EDUCATION	*** LIST CLINIC TOPIC FROM SCHEDULE ***	LOCATION	CLINIC PASS ELIGIBLE	DATE	COST
			<input type="checkbox"/> Clinic pass, no charge		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Clinic pass, no charge		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Clinic pass, no charge		
	Clinic Season Pass (purchase by 1/31/06) \$175.00	Passes are good for all educational clinics and lecture series events during the period covered excluding Spring Clinic, accreditations and assessments. Pass holders will be subject to all published deadlines for registration including late fees and any additional surcharges.			
ASSESSMENT	LIST ASSESSMENT TITLE FROM SCHEDULE	LOCATION		DATE	COST
DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE REQUIRED for assessment registration: 					

FEES		TOTAL FEES:
Level 1 Package \$110.00	PAYMENT METHOD: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash/Check/MO <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> Am. Express Account Number: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Exp. Date: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
Clinic Season Pass \$175.00		
One-day Clinic \$50.00		
Spr. Cln. Package \$150.00		
Spr. Cln. Banquet Tickets \$35.00		
L2, L3 Assessments/per day \$70.00		
Level 2, 3 Written Test \$12.00	Please bill my credit card. Signature: 	

RELEASE	
<p>I, (print name) _____, have requested to attend the Professional Ski Instructor of America Intermountain Division (hereafter "PSIA-I") or American Association of Snowboard Instructors (hereafter "AASI") education or certification function led by a PSIA-I or AASI designated clinic leader or examiner (hereafter "Event Facilitators"). As a professional ski or snowboard instructor or experienced skier or snowboarder requesting participation in this event I fully understand and accept sole responsibility for my personal safety, behavior, and performance. I am fully aware of the risks of skiing and snowboarding associated with this event, including the possibility of serious injury and death, and release and forever discharge PSIA-I and AASI, their officers, directors, employees, facilitators, agents, member ski areas, sponsors, and all persons from any and all claims, injuries, damages, expenses, or actions arising from or related to my participation in the PSIA-I or AASI sponsored event and under no circumstances or eventuality will suit be filed against PSIA-I or AASI, their officers, directors, employees, facilitators, agents, member ski areas, or sponsors for any injuries resulting from participation in this program. I also agree to incorporate by reference all the provisions of the Utah Risk of Skiing Act (when applicable), and Your Responsibility Code as endorsed by the Professional Ski Instructors of America. I have fully read and voluntarily agree to the above terms and conditions.</p>	
Registrant signature (your signature also verifies that you are over 18 years old) 	Date

Mail or Fax your completed registration form to: **PSIA/AASI Intermountain Division** f: 801 942-7837
 7105 South Highland Dr, Suite 201 v: 801 942-2066
 ☒ TELEPHONE REGISTRATIONS NOT ACCEPTED Salt Lake City, UT 84121 e: admin@psia-i.org

Completed registration form and payment must be in the Division office at least 2-weeks prior to the event date. Postmarks not accepted. REFUNDS: Notice given office before deadline, 100%; notice after deadline but before event, 50%; no notice given before event NO REFUND.

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KRYSTLE continued from 10

Finally, I would like to put in a plug for the ACE program. Instructors can network with other instructors and trainers, and build up their bag-of-tricks and understanding of the many ways kids learn and enjoy. I gained a lot for Krystle and all my child (and adult!) students in Utah and Australia through ACE I and II and APSI ACC (Australian Professional Ski Instructors Advanced Children's Certificate). I intend to work on ACE III with you, my fellow PSIA-I colleagues.

I give special thanks to Jo Garuccio, Patti Olsen, John Musser, and George Mosher for setting up the ACE opportunities, and also to Grant Nakamura and Terry Barbour for great networking and presentations on kids' teaching at recent PSIA National Academies. I also give thanks to many downunder trainers and colleagues.—**PSIA III & ACE II, The Canyons, APSI ACC, CSCF/FESC Race Coach I, Thredbo Australia.**

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