

# THE INSTRUCTORS EDGE

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*The Professional Ski Instructors of America*

*The American Association of Snowboard Instructors*

## Intermountain

### Cross Country Examiners College

By Steve Neiner

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT—Nords from around the planet descended on the world-famous ski trails in West Yellowstone, Montana Nov. 21-22 with the purpose of updating and unifying national examination standards. The PSIA Nordic Team spearheaded an astounding event, also creating an opportunity to bring the “PSIA Ski Team” of examiners/clinic leaders together with the US Cross Country Ski Team coaches to look at how the two organizations could better work together to foster standards all could agree on and improve ski education at all levels.

The last time a national track event of this magnitude occurred, was in November of 1992. Ralph Thornton, a longtime Cross Country DECL from Choteau, Montana, remembers the tribe came together for many of the same reasons, not to mention howling at the moon with fellow nords night after night. He noted the discussions back then had a fair amount of discord between divisions. As Ralph reflected



Jeremy Jolley finding his happy place near Valdez, AK, April 2006. Jeremy Jolley is AASI Intermountain Communications Manager, Alpine L3, Snowboard L3, DECL, and Advanced Freestyle Accredited.

**In Search of ... The Perfect Turn.** You sell it to your students, but what about you and yours? Move this joint, straighten your spine, bend your knees. How about we just let it run here? No more lift lines, parking lots, no merging runs ahead, no eight dollar hamburgers. Hours of driving, hundreds spent in plane tickets, waking up early, hiking in the dark. One turn, one smile, one love. Everything else - details.

on this year’s event though, he commented, “I am impressed with people working together. We argued, no, discussed. But not like in the past.”

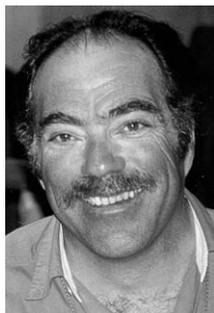
In this spirit of cooperation, our modern day group began looking at a draft copy of the Track Matrix of cross country skiing standards, comparing the new, six component PSIA Skills Model with what USSA is using, a sim-

plified three part skills model. We enjoyed a collaborative effort with Pat Casey and Matt Whitcomb, coaches from the US Ski Team. Our new three-part model includes Body Position, Timing, and Propulsion. These components are a mirror image of what USSA is using to produce the best Nordic rac-

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## President's Message

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

I am very excited about our joint Spring Clinic/Symposium with PSIA Northwest at Big Sky, April 13-15. The opportunity to grow and gain insights and friends through exchange with instructors from other divisions is one of the most valuable benefits I have garnered from events such as the National Academies and this upcoming event.

Staging an event outside our Division will require some changes to our normal routine. One is organizing a transportation option (chartered bus) that will both ease access worries for some of our members, and be affordable (for both you, and the Division). This option will provide an opportunity for building camaraderie among the participants, and will be a heck of a lot of fun! This, and other concerns with logistics, necessitates moving the application deadline to a month out, March 16. This will require forethought and thorough planning on the part of all of us. The next issue (Winter 2) of *The Instructor's EDGE* will likely arrive after this deadline has passed. Don't let this date slip by, and leave you on the outside wishing you could join in.

Also, the host resorts in our Intermountain Division have graciously extended lift privileges over the years at no cost to our members for education events. We, as always, are very grateful for this courtesy – which is not universal with all the Divisions. In this instance we are attending as guests in a region where event participants are offered reduced pricing, but not full comp passes. The Board, and your Education leadership feel the benefits of this special shared event in a new (for many) and exciting venue more than offset this additional expense.

I hope and anticipate this event will have a large attendance and will generate many positive memories. I look forward to seeing you there, or at another of our varied educational events this season! ■



**Spring Clinic 2007**  
April 13-15, Big Sky Montana  
**Plan your schedule now!**



Prices for discounted Spring Clinic lodging is printed on page 10. You can also visit Big Sky Resort website ([www.bigskyresort.com](http://www.bigskyresort.com)) under lodging for pictures and more information. Members can also avoid the \$35/day lift fee by purchasing a "Frequent Sky Card" for \$69 (good for friends and family too). Cards offer free ski days between April 8-15. The card can *only* be purchased by calling Big Sky resort.

To book your discounted lodging reservations call Big Sky Central Reservations at (800) 548.4486 and let them know you are with Professional Ski Instructors (PSIA).

**Applications will be available in the next Edge and online soon.**

## The Instructors EDGE

The Instructors EDGE, official publication of the Professional Ski Instructors of America Intermountain Division and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors Intermountain Division, is scheduled to be published four times a year at a nonmember subscription rate of \$15.

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## Communications Corner

By Mark Quaintance, PSIA-I/AASI-I Communications V.P.

The season is off to a great start, and there is a lot happening this season. Our Alpine DECLs are working on pushing their quality up even higher through a verification process where we build up each others skills. The end result will provide better clinics for all of our PSIA-I members.

With that in mind, we have a great Spring Clinic planned this year as you may have heard. This is a multi-divisional clinic put on by PSIA-Intermountain and PSIA-Northwest. But do not be surprised if we see members from other divisions like PSIA-Northern Rocky Mountain and PSIA-Northern Intermountain. This amazing event will be taking place at Big Sky Resort in Montana on April 13-15, 2007. We are looking into getting a couple buses for the trip up, so plan on registering early. The cost for the bus will be \$95 round trip if there is enough interest.

Some things you should know - not all divisions provide free lift tickets like Intermountain resorts do for PSIA/AASI events. Tickets at Big Sky will be a special reduced rate of \$35 a day (a special Frequent Sky Card is available for greater savings), and the event fees will be \$75 for one day or \$120 for both in addition to your lift ticket. This is the same rate for all the participants regardless of division affiliation. Friday is a social ski day where you can ski and get to know other members. Don't be surprised if you see several DECLs out and about and possibly a PSIA D-team member. There is a banquet on Saturday night and the price will be \$25-\$30 (not set yet).

Several members of the Alpine DECL staff have also been working on revising the portfolios for the Alpine Certification processes. They have worked very hard on making the portfolios easier to work with for both the candidates and the trainers. You can go to [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org) to find the new portfolios. For the 06/07 season, you can turn in either portfolio for any exams you may have coming up.

Remember to get out there and enjoy the snow, and don't forget to register for Spring Clinic early. You can go to the website for more information. ■

## Board Elections

It is that time of year again. You, the membership, will be electing five Board members this spring. This is really a grassroots process. Any Certified member (Level I, II or III) in good standing is eligible to run and, if elected, serve.

The opening Board positions are: Region III (Powder Mtn., Snowbasin, Wolf Mountain), Region IV (Brianhead, Elk Meadows), and three Member-at-Large positions. The requirements to appear on the ballot are pretty basic; the following must be received in the Division office by February 15:

- ◆ For the two regional seats, you must be employed by one of the Snowsports Schools in the region in which you are running.
- ◆ The signatures of five Division members in good standing who are willing to support your candidacy.
- ◆ A black and white photo of yourself (suitable for publication in the Edge) and a short biographical sketch, which includes education, past and present employment, divisional employment, and years of membership, along with a statement of their expectations and goals for the Division.

There is a minimum of two Board meetings a year; there are typically four meetings a year and you need to be available to attend all of those meetings. The term is three years. If you spend your off season out of the area it will be difficult to attend the meetings. Board meetings can be long and tedious. They can also be very rewarding and interesting. If you feel snowboarding and skiing have been good to you and you would like to give something back to your sport, serving on the Board is a great opportunity. ■

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ers in the land. To further refine the Track Matrix, we dove into the nitty gritty of the Nordic Team's first draft, which lists descriptors for the various levels of certification. There is nothing like a roomful of ski instructors to over-analyze what many consider to be the simple act of sliding on snow. But at the same time, everyone recognized the importance of mutually agreed upon measurable and attainable standards.

If you've never experienced the ritual of West Yellowstone's Fall Camps,

it's a Nordic skier's paradise. The streets are filled with Cross Country skiers and racers of all stripes, abilities, and ages on their way to the trailhead, skinny skis in hand. Junior skiers and elite racers whiz by on the trails. Manufacturers and reps stand by at the trailhead with new equipment to demo and custom wax jobs to keep your skis fast. Hundreds of Nordis, completely focused and immersed in upping their skills and fitness, fill the Rendezvous Trail system. In the midst of this inspir

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## To Like or Not to Like

### *That's Not the Question*

By Carolyn Fushimi

S/he says, "I don't teach kids." I ask, "Why not?" S/he replies, "I don't like them," or "I'm not good at it," or "They hate me," or "i/m afraid," or ...

I'm not always sure what to say at this point. I often stifle myself from saying, "So what? Are you a professional ski instructor, or just someone who teaches what comes easily to you?"

There are, indeed, a few instructors who should never, ever teach children. In my opinion, that's a rather terrifying thought. Do we need an association of Professional Ski Instructors of Adults only?

*Do we need an association of Professional Ski Instructors of Adults only?*

If you don't go into challenging terrain every so often, you'll forget things and your overall skills could decline. The same is true for your teaching skills. If you can't teach kids (at least on occasion) then you're not as professional as you could be. Kids can be like gnarly bumps; they can be the ultimate challenge to your skills and it could take you a few years to learn how to deal with them without getting beaten up. It's all about your skill level.

ACE clinics are fun and offer huge amounts of useful information. Many ACE participants teach few, if any, adults at their areas. Clinics are usually an exchange of ideas and tried and true methods. There are always surprises.

To summarize, to like or not to like, that's not really the question. Can you admit your weaknesses and work to strengthen them? That's the real question. ■



## ACE

By Mark Nakada, PSIA-I/AASI-I Children's Manager.

Aloha! For those instructors that participated in one of our early season ACE clinics, thanks for your support! We still have a number of ACE events scheduled for this season that can increase your effectiveness in working with kids. Due to a number of changes in our calendar, here is an updated schedule for your review:

Date	ACE / Kids Clinic	Location
Fri 1/19/2007	Kids Clinic	Brian Head
Fri 1/26/2007	ACE I Indoor	Targhee
Sat 1/27/2006	ACE I On-Snow	Targhee
Wed 1/31/2007	ACE I On-Snow	Solitude
Wed 1/31/2007	ACE II	Solitude
Thur 2/1/2007	ACE II	Solitude
Fri 2/02/2007	ACE I Indoor	Kelly Canyon
Sat 2/03/2007	ACE I On-Snow	Kelly Canyon
Sat 2/10/2007	ACE II	Jackson
Sun 2/11/2007	ACE II	Jackson
Mon 3/5/2007	ACE I Indoor	Jackson
Tue 3/6/2007	ACE I On-Snow	Jackson
Sat 4/14/2007	ACE Refresher	Spring Clinic
Sat 4/14/2007	Bag O' Tricks Clinic	Spring Clinic
Sun 4/15/2007	Bag O' Tricks Clinic	Spring Clinic

This calendar is also posted at [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org). Program updates:

We've updated all of the ACE materials for the 2006-2007 season [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org). The ACE curriculum outlines the objectives and requirements for each accreditation; the workbooks, presentations, study guide, and other materials are part of a work-in-progress library. Please note, for the ACE I and II accreditations, we have updated both Workbooks, and will only accept 2006-2007 materials after January 1, 2007.

There has been some confusion over the qualifications for ACE I. Although ACE materials may be presented as part of your Snowsports School Training Program, you must be a PSIA/AASI Level I certified instructor - and meet the curriculum requirements - to receive your ACE I accreditation.

To clarify the time limitations for ACE I and ACE II, you must complete all of the curriculum requirements within one calendar year - from the time you start - to receive credit. Because we did not hold an ACE III event last year, this requirement has been waived for this accreditation for this season.

For the ACE II and ACE III accreditations, there have been some questions about the "meets standards" evaluation. The evaluation is not a "grade"; it was established to provide ACE participants with better feedback from these two-day accreditation events. A sample evaluation form has been included with the ACE Curriculum.

On behalf of the ACE team, I'd like to thank you for taking the time and effort to seek ACE accreditation, or attend one of our clinics. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events this season. Happy Holidays! ■



## Alpine Education Corner

### Three reasons to take a clinic: Yips, Yipes, Yippees

By Ron Kipp, PSIA-I Alpine Education Manager

There are many reasons to take a clinic. Many are sterile, boring, and some just fulfill a requirement. Let's look at three that have none of these flaws. They are all known, but not necessarily in the lexicon of skiing vernacular.

**Yips**, what golfers experience when their body starts doing what it is not supposed to be doing. Common when they are about to attempt that seemingly easy three foot putt.

**Yipes**, heard when things aren't going quite right...and other language is not appropriate. And by the way, the scenery is getting scarier by the second.

**Yippee**, often blurted out loud by young children when they have an adrenaline rush while doing something they did not think they could. Adults have the same sentiment, but social mores and kidding by other seemingly mature individuals have taught them to keep it zipped up.

Golfer Tommy Armour in the 1920s was the first to come out of the closet and describe the affliction that became affectionately known as the yips. Freezing up, blacking out, and twitching, have all been used to describe the yips. None of these are conducive to the timing needed for proficient skiing. In the high-tech world of today the yips have been explained with every branch of science. One common denominator is that heart-rate and brain-activity seem to surface in all the research (yes, there is research on yips). Heart-rate is a physiological response to doing work, err skiing. Efficient skiing, the type we promote, helps reduce the heart-rate for a given amount of work. This combined with the confidence acquired from purposeful execution of movement will help keep the yips at bay.

Oh no, you just went over a steep precipice and are not too sure that it was the best decision. The snow is not forgiving, the bumps are big, and the speed with which you landed is beyond your personal red line. How do you deal with this situation? Some just sit down and suffer the consequences, others, those that have taken a PSIA-I clinic have learned strategies in which to handle the deep end of the pool.

The wind in your face, fun and exhilaration.... Yippee! Yes we are professionals, but after the first commandment of "safety", "fun" is the reason we are out there. We can look at the x's and o's of skiing, draw vectors in the snow, and drop Newton's name like he was the guy next door. But in the end, was it fun? Did you have a good time? We may sign up for clinics for the educational credit, but what we are really looking for is the fun credit. Yippee!... you don't have to yell it, but I bet you are out there because you feel it. ■

Visit PSIA-I/AASI-I Online at:  
[www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org) or [www.aasi-i.org](http://www.aasi-i.org)

## Website Facelifts

The websites for PSIA and AASI (national) have undergone facelifts. The nips and tucks serve the purpose of enhancing educational resources to PSIA and AASI members as well as providing information to the press about the world of ski and snowboard instruction. New content includes comprehensive bio pages for the AASI Snowboard team and PSIA Alpine and Nordic teams, as well as the addition of a new, quick-to-access mini-site called "Yür Mountain."

"The goal of this redesign is to help people find out more information about alpine, nordic, adaptive and snowboard instruction. We want our members, people in the ski industry and the press to be able to get to the information quickly," says Mark Dorsey, Executive Director PSIA-AASI. ■

## New Publications

PSIA and AASI have released a new book for advanced skiers called *Tactics for All-Mountain Skiing*.

*Tactics for All-Mountain Skiing* represents a new direction for PSIA. Written by two-term PSIA Alpine Team member Chris Fellows, this book deals with advanced topics such as how to be a better off-piste skier and how to overcome challenging terrain and conditions.

In addition to Fellows' book, an updated Alpine Technical Manual is scheduled for a late January release and a new Snowboard Manual is in the works.

"The core materials really provide a good system and foundation of what a ski instructor needs to have in their back pocket," says Fellows. "*Tactics for All-Mountain Skiing* provides a resource for instructors to gain insight about their own skiing as well as drills, exercises and progressions to help their students improve their all-mountain skiing." ■



## CROSS COUNTRY continued from 1

ing and overwhelming Nordic scene, our team of boys and girls alike were treated to the eye candy that only high speed Lycra can provide. Surprisingly, amid all this distraction, we managed to stay on our feet, avoid being flattened by serious, gun-toting nordis (bi-athletes) and other racers, and remain on task. Days consisted of skiing and many hours of hashing through the details that would generate and clarify the Track Matrix.

We came to consensus on a new set of certification standards that we believe will clarify and standardize the exam process across all of the divisions, thus improving the experience and outcomes for participants. With that said, there is no better time to get involved in the PSIA Track/XC Certification process.

Join us for the latest and greatest from both the PSIA and USSA track worlds. You will learn lots, round out your certification, and experience the exhilaration only the free heel can bring. See you on the tracks!—**Sam Palmatier, Sundance, along with Scott McGee and Steve Neiner from Jackson, attended the recent Track Examiners College. For more information regarding Intermountain Track Certification, contact Steve Neiner at telemark9er@hotmail.com.**

## It's Classified

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## Alpine Certification Corner



By, *Guillermo Avila Paz, PSIA-I Alpine Certification Manager*

### An overview of the new Level I Assessment

The Level I-Certified Ski Instructor is certified to ski and teach from the Beginner through the Novice Zones. The Level I Assessment consists of the following segments (see the Study Guides and the Alpine Certification Flow Chart for more information).

### Workbook

Candidates will complete a take-home Level I Workbook before attending the assessment. The workbook must be returned to the division office at least two weeks prior to the two-day skiing/teaching clinic/assessment. Workbooks will be reviewed during the assessment day. The workbook serves as a learning tool for certification for the candidates.

### Portfolio

Prior to attending the Level I Skiing/Teaching Assessment, a candidate's Level I Portfolio training checklist must be completed. The checklist boxes must be signed off by a PSIA-I DECL, a PSIA-I Accredited Trainer or a current PSIA-I certified member appointed by the candidate's Snow Sports School. These trainers and coordinators can answer questions regarding the portfolio. The portfolio serves as a learning tool for certification for the candidates.

The candidate must provide the division office with a copy of the portfolio cover with the final completion signature by a PSIA-I DECL or a Snow Sports School Director or a Technical Training Manager two weeks prior to the day of the Level I Skiing/Teaching Assessment.

### Level I Assessment

#### *Video Movement Analysis*

The video movement analysis is a short, 10-question video. The video movement analysis segment will be given the morning of the assessment. A score of 70 percent (7 out of 10) is required to meet the standards on the video assessment. Candidates who do not meet the standards on the video assessment will interview with the examiner.

#### *The Skiing/Teaching Clinic Prep*

The on-snow Clinic and Assessment will be a two-day event. The first day will consist of a skiing prep clinic and teaching prep clinic. The second day will be the skiing and teaching assessment.

#### *The Skiing Assessment*

The on-snow Skiing Assessment will be on the second day. Candidates will ski six different tasks and must meet standards in 5 of the 6 tasks in order to pass. (See the Study Guides and the Alpine Demo DVD for skiing descriptions and Standards.)

#### *The Teaching Assessment*

During part of the first day, there will be a teaching segment review of the teaching topics and basic teaching skills, professional knowledge and application of technical and mechanical learning concepts.



The on-snow teaching assessment will be on the second day. In a workshop format, each candidate will have a five-minute teaching segment on one assigned teaching topic selected by the examiner. The topics will cover skiers from a First-Time Beginner through the Beginner Novice Zone. The candidate must meet all the Standards to complete the Level I certification process.

## About the new Level I Teaching Assessment

The addition of a teaching segment was added to comply with the National Standards for the Level I Certification per the request from many resort directors and our obligation to the consumer (the student).

## The National Standards

Adding a teaching segment meets the PSIA National Standards, which indicate that a Level I-Certified Ski Instructor is certified to ski and teach students from a Beginner through the Novice Zones.

Our candidates and examiners can best fulfill the requirements for Level I certification by making it a positive learning outcome.

## Level I Teaching Assessment

During training early in the career, the candidate has probably encountered situations and student needs that will be covered in the assessment. While reviewing the list below, it might help the candidate to recall a training segment they may have participated in that taught these specific items.

One way to think of these things is to recall a training or real-life teaching segment that could have gone better. The candidate might share how he or she would now address that situation given the knowledge gained in the interim.

In a teaching/coaching session of approximately five minutes using one of your peers as the student, show strategies, model tasks and coach movements leading to desired outcomes.

### Assigned Teaching Topics:

- Teach walking in ski boots to a first-time, beginning skier.
- Teach walking/climbing on one ski to a first-time, beginning skier.
- Teach walking on both skis to a first-time, beginning skier.
- Teach sidestepping or climbing on both skis to a beginner.
- Teach a straight run to a beginner.
- Teach a gliding wedge to a beginner.
- Teach a breaking wedge to a beginner.
- Teach a traverse to a beginning skier.
- Teach wedge turns to a beginner.
- Teach wedge christie turns to a beginner.

## Personal Interview

A personal interview, if needed, will take approximately 2 to 3 minutes and will help clarify the candidate's understanding of his or her teaching segment. The interview will also provide more time for the examiner to give individual feedback and coaching.

The main points of this process are to help each new instructor set a basic teaching foundation to guide students through a lesson and to help examiners see how the candidate would teach and interact with lower-level students.

Please carefully examine the Alpine Education and Certification Calendar ahead of time to determine your training track and schedule the Level I prep clinics and assessments you would like to take. ■

## Alpine Portfolios Revised for Simplicity

By *Rodger Renstrom*

Should a Level 1 Certified ski instructor possess basic knowledge of boot sizing, appropriate ski length, and how a wedge turn is similar to a parallel turn? Should a Level 2 instructor be able to explain how to give effective feedback to their students? Or, should a Level 3 instructor have experience in how to effectively analyze skiing movements in upper level skiers?

Those questions wouldn't even enter your mind if you were a guest shelling out hundreds of dollars for a lesson – you would take it for granted that your "Certified Pro" had a well-rounded foundation of knowledge. Verifying that candidates for certification have been exposed to basic information is exactly what the Level 1, 2, and 3 PSIA-I portfolios are meant to do.

Recent revisions to the PSIA-I portfolios do nothing to change the current exam process requirements; however, those revisions do attempt to simplify how trainers and ski schools help instructors track the range of training expected of certification candidates.

Candidates for PSIA-I certification are required to complete a portfolio record of training prior to attending a certification exam. That training can be administered by any trainer the snowsports school chooses; however, the final validation of the completed training portfolio must be made by the snowsports school director, a PSIA-I DECL, or specific trainer appointed by the director. Only the validated cover page of the portfolio must be forwarded to the Division office with an assessment application.

Most snowsports schools already provide most of the training listed in

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**PORTFOLIOS** *continued from 7*

the portfolios. But, in some cases, the portfolios may identify gaps in training that have slipped under the school's training radar. For instance, most entry-level instructors (the typical candidates for Level 1 certification) begin teaching children. One requirement of the Level 1 portfolio is that candidates receive some training in the CAP model – a breakdown of how children develop and learn mentally, emotionally, and physically – probably a good thing for those instructors to know. Although most schools are going to provide new instructors with information on “how to teach kids,” exposure to a more formal approach to looking at child development (the CAP model) can be of great benefit. The beauty is that there are many ways to provide this training depending upon the imagination and the time constraints of each school.

In the case of the CAP model, schools could choose to combine CAP information with an on-hill children's teaching clinic. Or, the school might schedule a one-hour indoor after-ski session that discusses the CAP model and how to manage the learning environment for both children and adults (another Level 1 Portfolio expectation). Or, a trainer could create a “homework” assignment and send candidates to the national PSIA “Internet Learning Center” to research the CAP model and submit a brief synopsis of what was learned. The possibilities are many, and so are the rewards. New Portfolio Trainer Guides provide several ideas.

It is not uncommon to hear examiners, directors, or other experienced instructors comment on the low level of preparedness of many instructors seeking certification. Yet, the commitment to provide a broad range of training for those candidates often meets with resistance from those very people. The reality is that our limited exam process only does a limited job of assessing candidates for certification. But certification

is not simply about what people do during two days of observation; it can also be about the training that they have received prior to being evaluated by an examiner. That is the purpose of the portfolios, to be able to say to the skiing public that our “Certified Pros” possess at least a basic knowledge in the areas our guests are hiring them to provide. That's not asking too much.

But there are no free lunches and completing the Portfolio requirements takes time. Candidates shouldn't run to their trainers two weeks before an exam expecting them to validate their portfolios if the instructor hasn't attended training all season – and trainers shouldn't bend to those last minute

pleas to “cheak off” a portfolio. That's one reason we have ill prepared candidates. Instead, candidates should already be well ahead with training that meets their portfolio requirements.

Completing a portfolio does not ensure success at an on-hill assessment, but participating in the portfolio process can help identify the knowledge and skills that candidates need to become good instructors. And that's what it's really all about – certifying good instructors. Is everyone up to the challenge? If so, then the new revised portfolios can help.— **Rodger Renstrom is a PSIA-I DECL, training manager for Snowbird Mountain School and a former PSIA-I certification chairperson.**

## Renegade **Rider Rally**

AASI Northern Rocky Mountain Division is sponsoring the Renegade Rider Rally, scheduled for April 2-6 at Steamboat Springs, CO. The rally is open to AASI members, certified Level I and above.

Steamboat Springs is known for having an awesome park and super-pipe, open glades, and famous champagne powder. Steamboat is named after the many hot springs, which are open to the public. In addition to the soothing water, the town offers plenty of great activities and nightlife.

The Rally is a five-day event with the third day, April 4, a free day. Participants can explore the area, free-ride at Steamboat, or participate in any number of other activities. All clinics will be led by past and present National Demonstration Team members, NRM or RM staff members, or by nationally renowned coaches and experts in their fields. Cost for the full event is \$360 or \$100 per day. Lift tickets are included in the registration fee, including the day off.

Meals are not included in the registration, but we will try to arrange group activities or dinner locations. We will also have some sort of organized

meal/activity at the end of the event.

Scheduled Rally topics include:

- ◆ Surf The Earth-Slashing Steamboat: Ride the whole mountain and learn to get more out of your day.
- ◆ Natural Slalom: From mellow and open to steep and tight, Steamboat has some of the best trees in the world. Learn to ride around them.
- ◆ Air It Out: Some like man-made, some like the natural kind. Let's play on them all.
- ◆ Superpipe: Steamboat's pipe is super log and super sick! Big, Long Pipe+Short Lift=More Ride Time for you.
- ◆ Get the Runs: Higher speeds and more laps. Steamboat has plenty of wide open groomers just waiting to be carved up.
- ◆ What's Wrong With That Run? It Has Bumps All Over It: Bumps can be bad on certain things, but a run is not one of them. Tame the bumpy beast.

*Conditions may force a change in topics or clinic focus.*

Contact Eric Sheckleton at [esheckleton@hotmail.com](mailto:esheckleton@hotmail.com) for more information. ■

## PSIA-AASI Hire **Education Director**

PSIA and AASI have hired Kim Seevers to serve as education director. Seevers replaces Linda Crockett, who headed the associations' education department for 13 years.

Seevers most recently served as the program director and head ski team coach for the Adaptive Sports Foundation in Windham, New York. She earned her Alpine Level III certification in 1986 and became a division clinic leader and examiner 10 years later. Seevers was director of education and programs for PSIA/AASI's Eastern Division from 1998-2004, during which time she developed and implemented certification programs; participated in multiple strategic planning, certification, and education committees and task forces; authored several manuals, and served as a reviewer for numerous publications developed by the PSIA-AASI Education Foundation.

Prior to working with the PSIA-AASI

Eastern Division, Seevers was the athletic director for the Grier School for Girls in Tyrone, PA from 1983-1998. She attended Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a master's degree in physical education, with an emphasis in performance assessment.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity to make a difference in ski and snowboard instruction on a national scale," said Seevers. "Challenges motivate me. I look forward to helping create educational programs, materials, and certification processes that benefit the entire membership, and the industry."

PSIA-AASI President Ray Allard had praise for Seevers' qualifications and gratitude for her predecessor. "Linda Crockett led the education department with great skill for more than a decade, and I know Kim will continue that strong tradition," said Allard. ■

## Yür Mountain

### Demystifies Snowsports

A new interactive Web site created by PSIA, AASI, and NSP and sponsored by Subaru targets "tweeners" and beginners, revealing all they need to know to enjoy skiing and snowboarding.

Yür Mountain is a consumer-oriented, animated, interactive Web site launched October 27 to educate and entertain viewers about skiing and riding. The site utilizes modern animation and interactive technologies to engage the "tweener" and beginner markets.

Linked to the PSIA, AASI, and NSP Web sites, (psia.org; aasi.org; nsp.org) www.yürmountain.org aims to demystify the snowsports experience and motivate the "tweener" audience and their parent to go out and enjoy skiing and riding. ■

## PSIA/AASI Northern Rocky Mountain Nordic Rendezvous

*Big Sky, Montana, April 6-8, 2007*

Open to PSIA, AASI and NSP members from all divisions.

Join the Annual Nordic Rendezvous at Big Sky Ski Resort, Montana and surrounding areas. Ski and learn from some of the best nordic skiers and teachers in the U.S.A. - Nordic Demo Team Members Dan Clausen, Scott McGee and Team Coach Craig Panarisi.

Enjoy three days with "the team" participating in daily Telemark clinics. Crust skiing in Yellowstone National Park, Track skiing and Back-country will be available depending on conditions.

Cost: \$175. To register contact Neil Hetherington, 406-581-6139 - director@psia-nrm.org  
For more information contact Angela Patnode, angelapatnode@yahoo.com

[www.psia-nrm.org](http://www.psia-nrm.org)

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Ancona has been selling clothing, designed for the professional working in the Snow Sport Industry for over twenty years. We specialize in High Tech Stretch Garments that resist water and wind. Teflon coated, wool blended with synthetic materials.

Fits close to the body, keeps you warm, with unrestricted movement.

In the past, you may have seen us selling in your resort or seen our garments worn by the members of PSIA National DEMO Team.

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- **Gloves**

**\*Area Rep inquiries invited**

For more information please call TOLL FREE or visit our web Site.

**1 - 888 - ANCONA - 1**

## Big Sky Spring Clinic Lodging

Visit Big Sky Resort website under lodging for pictures and more information. [www.bigskyresort.com](http://www.bigskyresort.com). To book your discounted lodging reservations (listed below) please call Big Sky Central Reservations at 800) 548.4486 and let them know you are with Professional Ski Instructors (PSIA).

### The Huntley Lodge

This slopeside three-story hotel was part of the late NBC news broadcaster Chet Huntley's original vision. With recent remodeling, it is as tasteful as it is convenient. The Huntley complex includes a fine dining room, lounge, coffee cart, concierge, shops, ski storage, meeting rooms and Solace Spa. Breakfast buffet included in the pricing for the Huntley.

Huntley Lodge	one person	two people	three people	four people	five people	six people
First class (2-4 per room)	\$ 93	\$ 93	\$ 118	\$ 143	N/A	N/A
Deluxe (2-4 per room)	\$ 103	\$ 103	\$ 123	\$ 153	N/A	N/A
Loft (4-6 per room)	\$ 104	\$ 129	\$ 154	\$ 179	\$204	\$229

### Shoshone

The slopeside Shoshone combines the service of a hotel with the comforts of a condominium. Conveniently located at the base area you are just steps away from the lifts. Solace Spa, shops, espresso cart, and Kids Club are located in the lobby. Breakfast buffet included in the pricing for the Shoshone Condos

Shoshone Condo	one person	two people	three people	four people	five people	six people
Suite (sleeps 4)	\$ 186	\$ 186	\$ 186	\$ 186	N/A	N/A
Suite with view (sleeps 4)	\$ 208	\$ 208	\$ 208	\$ 208	N/A	N/A
Corner (sleeps 4)	\$ 193	\$ 193	\$ 193	\$ 193	N/A	N/A
Loft (sleeps 6)	\$ 261	\$ 261	\$ 261	\$ 261	\$261	\$261
Loft with view (sleeps 6)	\$ 276	\$ 276	\$ 276	\$ 276	\$276	\$276

### Summit at Big Sky

This slopeside 10-story luxury complex combines the convenience of a hotel with the amenities of a condominium. Flexible lock-offs allow for many sleeping configurations. Summit melds European sophistication with Western style with three high capacity lifts within 100 yards of the entry. Breakfast is not included in the pricing for the Summit Hotel.

Summit Hotel	one person	two people	three people	four people	five people	six people
Studio	\$ 116	\$ 130	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hotel	\$ 137	\$ 150	\$ 170	\$ 190	N/A	N/A

### Summit Condos

Summit Condos	one person	two people	three people	four people	five people	six people
One bedroom	\$ 265	\$ 265	\$ 265	\$ 265	N/A	N/A
Two bedroom	\$ 351	\$ 351	\$ 351	\$ 351	\$351	\$351
Three bedroom	\$ 493	\$ 493	\$ 493	\$ 493	\$493	\$493

### Stillwater

Stillwater Condominiums are affordable and convenient. Walk to the Mountain Mall and Huntley/ Shoshone shops and restaurants.

Stillwater Condos	one person	two people	three people	four people	five people	six people
Studio	\$ 108	\$ 108	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
One bedroom	\$ 127	\$ 127	\$ 127	\$ 127	N/A	N/A
Loft	\$ 169	\$ 169	\$ 169	\$ 169	N/A	N/A

### Big Horn

Big Horn Condominiums are truly a home away from home. These units are spacious, well-planned and especially comfortable for groups. Enjoy views of Lake Levinsky and Lone Mountain. Check in at the Summit Hotel.

Big Horn Condos	one person	two people	three people	four people	five people	six people
Two bedrooms	\$ 184	\$ 184	\$ 184	\$ 184	\$184	\$184
Three bedrooms	\$ 259	\$ 259	\$ 259	\$ 259	\$259	\$259



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## The Instructors EDGE

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