

THE INSTRUCTORS EDGE

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The Professional Ski Instructors of America

The American Association of Snowboard Instructors

Intermountain

Make Your **Voice Heard**

PSIA-I/AASI-I Member Survey on SurveyMonkey.com

By J. Scott McGee

This summer, Donna McAleer, the PSIA/AASI Intermountain Board's newest member, took a nod from the directors to proceed on a divisional survey to determine member demographics, perceptions, and opinions on a wide array of topics. After a few drafts, the survey was approved by the Board and was scheduled to open to member input February 14. Division leadership values the input of every member in striving to understand and meet the needs of the association's members and member schools. This is a great chance to make your voice heard.

The association already has a number of avenues for member input, including evaluation forms used after events, letters to the Board, Edge articles, open meetings, along with your access to Board members in person, by email or by phone. This web-based survey complements these avenues and is meant as a more comprehensive vehi-



Mike Sellers

Alpine candidates listen to their examiner during a recent assessment at Deer Valley.

cle with the opportunity to add depth and detail where appropriate.

SurveyMonkey is a leading online survey tool that performed well in a trial survey conducted last spring. Perhaps best is the ease of use for participants, followed by the ability to sort data and compile results in a meaningful and digestible format. Expect a survey results story in a future Edge issue.

Completing the survey will take between 15 to 30 minutes. Our suggestion is to spend the most time and attention on areas of the survey that are personally most meaningful. *Notification of and invitation to take the survey will come by email with a link to the survey.* A link to the survey will also be available on www.psia-i.org. While the survey is anonymous, providing your

name is optional. As an incentive to encourage survey completion, the Board is offering a chance to win a PSIA-I/AASI-I Clinic Discount Pass (2009-2010) valued at \$195. Respondents will need to provide a contact email or number to be eligible for the drawing. Names and contact info for the drawing will be kept confidential and discarded after a winner is named.

Please provide your input via this member survey. There are other ways of contributing to and getting involved in the Division. Whether it's becoming a member of the board, writing articles for the newsletter or rallying contributions for division fundraising events, it's individual contributions to the greater good that make our association the best it can be. Thank you. ■

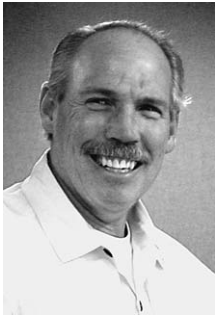


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President's Message

By Dave Boucher, PSIA/AASI Intermountain President

To begin with, I would like to bring you up-to-date on the proceedings of the dissolution of the Education Foundation. As you remember, this eventuality occurred as a result of an IRS audit in the fall of 2006 with the IRS auditor report and conditions being received by the Division in 2007. During a Board of Directors meeting on January 12, 2009, the Board voted to continue with the dissolution. By the time this article posts in the Edge, the attorney retained by the Division to assist with the dissolution will have completed the necessary documents and decision on the dissemination of funds will have been completed. Conditions for dispersing funds will be in accordance with governing statutes and to entities involved in snowsports education. A committee of Board members who do not have any apparent conflict with requesting entities will make the determination regarding the dispersal of funds and amounts. Those participating with myself on the committee are Scott McGee and Max Lundberg. Since it will be some time before another edition of the Edge is produced, we will post the entities receiving funds and the amounts of those funds on the webpage.

Other issues that are at the forefront of seasonal operations: First, the selection of a National Board representative. This selection will be made according to Division By Laws with the selected individual's name forward to National by April 1. The National Board appointment will be announced on the Division's website. Second, the yearly election of members to the Division Board of Directors. This is an opportunity for members to participate in the governance of the Division – either by running for a position or through the voting process. Selections for the Board should not be taken lightly and with serious consideration of individual capabilities and trust. Interestingly, to this point, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee made a noteworthy observation in a recent interview: elected positions are not *owned* by the persons who are elected to fill those positions. Elected positions are *loaned* to those elected on a temporary basis as a condition of trust; the ownership of the position remains with those in the body electing the individuals. This is a powerful and humbling statement worthy of your consideration and careful thought as some of you place your name on the ballot and for those casting ballots to elect representation.

Interestingly, the Harvard Business Review (*Hamel, G., Moon Shots for Management, Harvard Business Review, February 2009, Vol. 87 Number 2, ppg.91-98*) had some interesting commentary on leadership and management challenges. There are too many to enumerate, but a few are worthy of paraphrasing and comment as you consider options toward Board members and Board members consider the selection and appointment of the Executive Committee. Here are a few of Management's Grand Challenges:

- ◆ **Fully embed the ideas of community and citizenship in management systems.** There's a need for processes and practices that reflect the interdependence of all stakeholder groups.

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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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Spring Clinic 2009

Brian Head

April 3, 4, 5



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"/> Children		

- Spring Clinic Package \$175.00 \$ _____
(Includes Friday non-credit Ski/Ride day, Saturday/Sunday clinics, Banquet, souvenir)
- One day clinic only \$65.00 \$ _____
- Two days clinic only \$130.00 \$ _____
- Banquet Tickets \$30.00 each Number of tickets _____ Total Banquet cost: \$ _____
(For non-package participants and partners)

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					TOTAL FEES:
Account Number: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>				Exp. Date: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
X Please bill my credit card. Signature: <input type="text"/>					

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 or signature of legal guardian if under 18 years of age X	Date

Mail or Fax your completed registration form to:

TELEPHONE REGISTRATIONS NOT ACCEPTED

PSIA/AASI Intermountain Division
7105 South Highland Dr, Suite 201
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

f: 801 942-7837
v: 801 942-2066
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. Applications not received by event deadline (two weeks prior) are subject to a \$20 non-refundable late processing fee. REFUNDS: Notice given office before deadline, 100%; notice after deadline but before event, 50%; no notice given before event NO REFUND.

*** INDICATE CLINIC TOPICS ON BACK OF THIS REGISTRATION FORM ***

Spring Clinic Topics

Please select your clinic topics from the list below. Indicate your first and second choices for each day attended.

Alpine Topics for Friday, April 3 (no clinic credit)

- ___ *Tour de Brian Head-with a DECL.* You might even pick up a tip or two

Alpine Topics for Saturday, April 4

- ___ *Movement Analysis:* You thought you saw something... was it the cause or just the effect? Looking twice at movements and their originating ramification.
- ___ *Classic to Modern* A skiing experience with former D-Team member PJ Jones. Explore the movements that brought us to where we are today, Arlberg, projection circulaire, all the classics.
- ___ *Flexion/extension & directional movements:* Why, when, where, how.
- ___ *Park and Pipe*-an introduction to technique and tactics.
- ___ *How to Shred:* 1. Ski offensively, 2. Turn where the snow is nice, 3. Use the terrain. "Shredding" is doing all three at the same time.
- ___ *Women's Syncro Ski:* The goal: Learn via (nonverbal) teamwork. The plan: Shut up and sync. You've got to be a girl and you've got to want to have some giggles. A truly fun way to learn.
- ___ *Race Clinic:* For the never ever to the fast master. If you have never been in a course this is your chance. Learn technique and tactics for gates.
- ___ *Legends:* Ski with a Legend. They have been doing it forever and are still on top of their game. Maybe you can discover some of their secrets.
- ___ *The Rusty Gold Pin Clinic:* Ski with experienced old timers. Share strategies with your peers that got you to where you are today.

Alpine Topics for Sunday, April 5

- ___ *Movement Analysis:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *Classic to Modern:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *Flexion/extension & directional movements:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *Park and Pipe:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *How to Shred:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *Women's Syncro Ski:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *Race Clinic:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *Legends:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *The Rusty Gold Pin Clinic:* See Saturday's description.

Snowboard Topics for Friday, April 3 (no credit)

- ___ *Freeride!* Explore the terrain that Brian Head has to offer, with a DECL guide.

Snowboard Topics for Saturday, April 4

- ___ *Shut up and Ride:* Get back to the roots of the way we are out there, the riding. The day is spent focusing on personal riding techniques through mileage. The use of

riding tactics and task progressions keep the clinic moving; talking is left for rides on the chairlift.

- ___ *Snowboard Learn to Ride/Intro to Snowboard Day 1:* Take advantage of this fun 'crossover' clinic and learn to snowboard! Learn from the best, guaranteed to get you having fun with a new sport in just two days!

Snowboard Topics for Sunday, April 5

- ___ *Snowboard Learn to Ride/Intro to Snowboard Day 2:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *Snowboard Movement Analysis:* Make MA natural and easy. Whether watching beginners or advanced riders, this clinic will help you see more clearly if you have struggled with MA or just want some different tricks!

Nordic Topics for Saturday, April 4

- ___ *The Telemark Skills Lab:* Covers the common skills in tele and how to isolate and improve them in mellow 'laboratory environment' designed to increase the "bag of tricks."
- ___ *How to Teach the Telemark Basics:* Focus on basics to get into the "how to" of teaching and skiing the foundations of basic telemark skiing.
- ___ *Track, Teaching the Diagonal Stride:* Getting back to basics will challenge you as a teacher and introduce teaching strategies for the finer points of classic skiing. We learn to lead a complex yet gentle terrain tour that teaches basic cross-country skills.

Nordic Topics for Sunday, April 5

- ___ *Coaching Telemark Skiing :* Visual cues and analysis to coach (and be coached) by upper level telemark skiers on terrain specific to the day's conditions (ask that all be Level 6 and willing to try bumps at a minimum). For those wanting coaching on topics selected by the group.
- ___ *The Three Best Drills to Improve Track Skiing:* Learn to get the most from three drills that have the most to offer, both skate and classic. The focus allows a broad look at track skiing skills, how to improve yours and how to recognize & evaluate these skills in others.

Children's Teaching Topics for Saturday, April 4

- ___ *Don't/Can't Teach Kids 'Cuz I Don't Want To:* Learn to see kids in a different light. All disciplines, welcome.
- ___ *Kid's "Bag O' Tricks":* Wondered why some games and drills work for some ages but not others? Explore and share how kids learn, act, and move at different ages and add to your bag of tricks. All disciplines welcome.

Children's Teaching Topics for Sunday, April 5

- ___ *Don't/Can't Teach Kids 'Cuz I Don't Want To:* See Saturday's description.
- ___ *Kid's "Bag O' Tricks":* See Saturday's description.

Ready to **Spring Down South?**

Well good, because it's time to start making plans to come down and experience our unique Southern Utah hospitality at the Brian Head Resort. We are so excited for the opportunity to host the 2009 Spring Clinic April 3-5!

Our Resort and surrounding areas offer a wide variety of enjoyable activities for those of you who want to take full advantage of our beautiful location

and weather. A short drive away you will find several fabulous national parks, golf, biking, hiking, tennis and just about any other springtime activity you can think of.

If your main focus is still on the slopes, you will find superior snow quality due to our 9,600 ft base elevation. We pride ourselves on providing a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and no

lift lines. Additional resort activities include tubing, night skiing, snowmobile tours, cross-country skiing, sleigh rides, spa treatments and fine dining.

If you haven't been to Brian Head for a couple of years, we added two new lifts last season, which increased the available terrain by nearly 35 percent and connected the previously separate sides of the mountain. You'll quickly understand why "Experience the Change" is our new motto.

Selected as a "Top Family Getaway" by the Family Travel Forum, Brian Head Resort invites you, your family and friends to join us for what is sure to be an excellent and memorable Spring Experience.



Lodging for Brian Head Spring Clinic

At Brian Head we have no "Resort-Owned" lodging facilities. Listed below are the management companies offering discounts to participants and their guests along with information regarding other options.

Discounted Midweek Rates Apply for Your Entire Stay

- ◆ **Brian Head Vacation Rentals:** Custom homes and condos offering above grade interiors and cleanliness. Owned and operated by Peg and Danny Edwards, please call or email for reservations at the reduced rates. Check out our interactive map showing all of the condos projects in relationship to lifts. Toll free: 1-866-688-BHVR (2487) / www.vacationbrianhead.com
- ◆ **Aspens Rental Agency:** Various sized units in a cozy location across from the Giant Steps Lift. Owned and operated by Barb and Chris Dwyer. 1-435-677-2018 / www.aspensrental.com
- ◆ **Georg's Ski Shop and Lodging:** Located at the Base of Chair #1, we manage our own properties and many more. Owned and operated by the Hartlmaier Family. 435-677-2013 / www.brianheadtown.com/georgs
- ◆ **Brian Head Reservation Center:** Various sized units located across the Hwy from the Giant Steps Lift. Owned and operated by Dutch and Doug Deutschlander. 1-800-845-9781 / www.brianheadtown.com/bhrc
- ◆ **Cedar Breaks Lodge:** www.cedarbreakslodge.com / 435-677-3000
- ◆ **Victoria's Bed and Breakfast- Parowan:** 435-477-0075 / www.utahre-treat.com. Ask for Lisa.
- ◆ **Best Western Town and Country- in Cedar City:** Rooms for \$45 per night plus tax. (800) 493-2608 or 435-586-9900

Other lodging options for Brian Head, Parowan and Cedar City can be found on the Brian Head Resort Page under Lodging at www.brianhead.com. Feel free to call Danny Edwards with questions anytime at 435-590-4166

Additional activities planned or offered:

- ◆ Friday evening: BONFIRE, Brian Head Style
- ◆ Saturday evening: After feasting on the delicious buffet, dance to the music of our favorite local band-"Too Much Fun!"- And they really are!
- ◆ Snowmobile Tours from Thunder Mountain Motor Sports: 25 percent discount given to participants on Friday or Sunday evening tours. (435-677-2288)
- ◆ The Ledges Golf Course in St. George: \$30 off green fees for clinic members. (435-634-4640)
- ◆ Cedar Breaks Lodge and Spa in Brian Head: Bar, Fine Dining and Day Spa. (435-677-3000)
- ◆ Pizanos Pizzeria is offering a \$5 lunch special (2 slices and a soda) for all PSIA/AASI members with member card.

Websites with more information:

- brianhead.com
- brianheadchamber.com
- parowan.org, cedarcity.com
- cedarcity.org, utah.com
- scenicssouthernutah.com

One of the hottest topics around the division these days is the Research Project (RP), and for good reason. The thing is a total pain in the *#@ to do, takes forever, and then after all that work only two of the ten questions are graded. What a nightmare. And frankly, what's the point? "Why can't we just do a simple written test where we read the book, answer a few questions and move on?"

Well, after having done the written test for years we noticed that people got really good at reading the book, memorizing some key terms (acronyms and such) and passing the test, but once we saw them on-hill, they were struggling because very little of what we do on a daily basis comes from a book.

It's seldom that you actually get a lesson that goes according to plan (your plan or anyone else's). Instead, as things change in the lesson, the instructor is forced to adapt—whether it's the number of students, type of students, snow conditions, weather, visibility, student goals, or any of the other million variables involved in a lesson.

It's this ability to adapt that is often tested in an on-hill assessment through tasks, questions and conversation and almost none of these "what-if" questions can be answered by reading a book. Instead, it's the instructors background, which includes many knowledge sources: books, the matrix, videos, in-house training, divisional training, conversations with other instructors, knowledge from a mentor and personal experience through trial and error that is drawn upon and tested. From this the Research Project idea was born.

The use of open-ended questions allows the instructor to research and answer Research Project questions in their own way, and by going through the process the instructor gains personal knowledge. They are forced to try some of the concepts and gain a personal understanding of how things work and why. In this manner the RP becomes a way to prepare for the on-hill assessment. Being able to look at a question

The Research Project Demystified

By Lane Clegg



and the different variables and come up with an answer that makes sense is at the heart of the process.

The RP is not meant as some thing to confuse or dissuade the candidate from participating in the process but instead to help them prepare to be successful and pass their on-hill assessment.

So then HOW to complete the RP is the next question. I have led a lot of clinics based around the questions found in the RP and they are wide open for exploration. None of the questions contained in the RP are just thought up on the spot and thrown in – instead they are carefully developed, worded and tested to make sure they are challenging the candidate in the right way.

The questions concerning technique should be actually tried on-hill by anyone going through the process as they are designed to open your eyes to some new or different ideas (yes, put your snowboard on and go try to do the tasks presented). The questions about teaching should be reasoned out using experience as well as guidance from trainers or mentors. Please draw on other's experience to help you formulate your answers but also think carefully about what you hear as you need to incorporate that information into your own knowledge. Take some time.

It's not the kind of a thing that can be done in an afternoon (or even over a weekend). To give well thought out, reasoned answers will take a lot of time in preparation and trying out the concepts.

Ideally, the RP could be downloaded at the beginning of the season and worked on when the candidate has time. Study groups are encouraged as they are helpful in comparing answers, but sharing knowledge and experience between instructors is invaluable. And, new this season, we have added some clinics to the divisional schedule for anyone who feels they need more help or don't have the resources at their home mountain—we won't give you the answers, but we will help you find them.

One question we get frequently is why are only two questions graded when the candidate is forced to answer all ten? That answer is simple: resources. Because of the subjective nature of the questions, we try to keep grading consistent by only using one person to score the test. There is no way that this one individual can grade all ten questions in the time and for the cost of the RP. We would need an army of people to grade and the cost of paying them would drive the cost of the entire process up (which we are trying to avoid). The questions to be graded are chosen at random so that person has no control over that part of the grading process. The answers are developed and tested by a panel of educators as to what content should be included and that panel actually answers the questions so the grader can go through and compare the answers in an RP to that "key."

The RP has no limit on the number of times it can be turned in for grading. If a candidate fails to meet the standard on an attempt they can review and rewrite for resubmission. The grader has requested that they not talk directly to instructors taking the RP but they are willing to talk to a trainer at your home mountain if there is some confusion



PRESIDENT continued from 2

- ◆ Reduce fear and increase trust. Mistrust and fear are toxic to innovation and engagement and must be wrung out of management systems.
- ◆ **Redefine the work of leadership.** The notion of the leader as a heroic decision maker is untenable. Leaders must be recast as social-systems architects who enable innovation and collaboration
- ◆ **Expand and exploit diversity.** We must create a management system that values diversity, disagreement, and divergence as much as conformance, consensus, and cohesion.
- ◆ **Dramatically reduce the pull of the past.** Existing management systems often mindlessly reinforce the status quo. In the future, they must facilitate innovation and change.
- ◆ **Create a democracy of information.** Organizations need information systems that equip every individual and member to act in the interests of the entire enterprise (*paraphrased*).
- ◆ **Empower the renegades and disarm the reactionaries.** Management systems must give more power to individuals (*in the original: employees*) whose emotional equity is invested in the future rather than the past.
- ◆ **Depoliticize decision making.** Decision processes must be free of positional biases and should exploit the collective wisdom of the entire organization.

There are 25 Challenges listed in the article and it is a worthwhile read for those interested; particularly those who aspire to governance positions within the Division and National organizations.

I look forward to the process of the Division electing members for the next Board of Directors. Some individuals will be retained and we may see new faces in the coming year. After all, this IS your Board of Directors, elected by you and positions of those elected on loan. I encourage each of you to become involved in the process, carefully evaluate the qualifications of candidates and participate through voting or by offering up your talents, experience and expertise for election. We had a record voting turnout last year and have every expectation that we will continue to experience an increase in member interest in this vital process.

In a parting thought: I have thanked many individuals in past issues for making contributions to the Division and snowsports education. I was reminded that I failed to mention of an individual, without whom the construction and reformatting of a new DECL Reference Portfolio would not have occurred. My apologies to Chris Sprecher for not expressing appropriate thanks and appreciation for his involvement with this project. Chris put in many hours of hard work to bring to fruition an exceptional portfolio distributed to all of the DECLs at their annual training last December. Thank you Chris for your efforts in helping to make the Division and its processes more professional.

Remember that Spring Clinic this year will be held at Brian Head. Thanks to Henry and Danny for all of the planning they are putting into what will be a memorable event. Information on the 2009 Spring Clinic is included in this edition of the Edge. As a reminder, Spring Clinic in 2010 is scheduled for Sun Valley, Idaho and will be in conjunction with, hopefully, four other Divisions. Watch the Edge and website of more information; we hope to have additional information posted on the website summer 2009. — **Dave**

about why a particular question didn't meet the standard. In this way both the candidate AND the trainer are brought into the loop on the requirements for a particular answer.

Another question we often get is why does it need to be turned in so early? The answer is simple: to allow for the candidate to fail and still be eligible to take the on-hill assessment. Because a passing grade is required on the RP before the candidate can attend the on-hill assessment, we want to make sure that there is ample time for a retake on the RP if necessary.

In the past a failure of the RP (and no time for a retake) has kept people from taking an on-hill assessment and forced them to wait until the following season to attend that part of the process. We want to avoid this if possible; therefore, this season we are asking them to be submitted three weeks prior to the required Foundation clinic. Ideally, completing the RP by this time will actually make the candidate more prepared to participate in the Foundation clinic and fine-tune themselves in preparation for the on-hill assessment.

At the end of the day the RP is not meant as some thing to confuse or dissuade the candidate from participating in the process but instead to help them prepare to be successful and pass their on-hill assessment. ■

BOD Elections

The PSIA/AASI Intermountain Board of Directors election is upon us. Look for your ballot in the mail.

Ballots will be mailed out to current members by the end of February, with ballots due back in the office by March 15. Ballots will be tallied within the next week and winners announced.

The Board is comprised of members elected by members each year in the spring. Terms run for three years, beginning with the start of "new business" at the Spring BOD meeting. ■

Adaptive Update

By Kristen Caldwell

Greetings from your new Adaptive Representative! This is my tenth season teaching at the National Ability Center and my fifth season as NAC's Alpine Ski and Snowboard Program Manager. I am not sure what I am getting myself into but I am excited to be on board!

My goals are to create more interaction and communication between all Intermountain adaptive ski programs, provide more information about the adaptive discipline on the PSIA-I website, and gradually change our adaptive certification process to match the national standard.

As you may have seen on the website, we have already made a few changes to the cert process for this year. The biggest change is that we are eliminating the alpine certification requirement and going back to including alpine skills in the adaptive assessment (however this season only, alpine cert is still required for level 1).

In theory, the alpine requirement was a good idea, but in reality, people seemed to shy away from becoming adaptive certified. We have seen a significant decrease in adaptive certification over the last few years, especially Levels 2 and 3. The alpine certification requirement not only added an additional expense for instructors (and we are not making the big bucks), but also added additional training time spent on the stringent alpine requirements, at the expense of the six adaptive disciplines. Many instructors found themselves spending an entire season (or four) trying to pass an alpine exam, while their adaptive-specific training suffered.

Now I am not saying that alpine skills are not important in adaptive teaching. Do not get me wrong on this point! Alpine skills are obviously the foundation of any adaptive discipline. For our assessments, we will be using



Communication Corner

By Nancy Kronthaler, PSIA-I/AASI-I Communications VP

This is a busy time of year for everyone. Board elections are coming up, Spring Clinic with our silent auction is in early April, and there are continual clinic opportunities and assessments.

Board Elections: Hopefully we will have more members interested in serving on the Board. It takes many people with varied backgrounds and qualifications to run the Division and make good business decisions to benefit the membership in these economically challenging times. It has been a great learning experience for me in my terms of office, dealing with the different personalities and ideas. Hopefully I will have an opportunity to remain in my Board seat and continue my focus on the membership's needs through our open houses, your letters, e-mails and personal comments. We are a membership-driven organization and all of your input is necessary for our division to succeed. Don't hesitate to e-mail or write your questions or comments to me through our local office, or ask for my contact information.

Spring Clinic: This year, in early April, Spring Clinic will be held at beautiful Brian Head. Join us for great skiing and riding featuring a list of varied clinic topics and a chance to get together for our banquet with a silent auction, a possible bonfire, and even golf opportunities and other surprises. Danny Edwards, one of our current board members, has been spending a lot of time planning this event. Much thanks to him and Brian Head!

Clinics: Our clinics have been well attended this season. Ron Kipp and Jason Pellegrini have done excellent jobs scheduling Alpine and Snowboard events to meet everyone's interests and educational needs. With the revision of the Alpine Level II teaching exam that plus the onus on the candidate, it is very important that Level II candidates take a variety of clinics and become familiar with the video analysis shown on the web. Our season pass has opened that opportunity for our members; all of our clinics, no matter what the topic, are of value to expand your development. There are more lecture series available this year – take the opportunity to attend them.

Our silent auction at Spring Clinic is an important event to raise money for membership scholarships. If you have any items to contribute to the auction, please drop them off at the office. We would be grateful for your contribution!

I am continually grateful for Susan and her staff – they are the glue that binds us together with their ongoing smiles and willingness to support our needs.

Ballots will be out. Please follow the directions for filling them out carefully and sign the envelope so they may be counted.

Your comments are valuable to the division and me. Thanks for your participation. – **Nancy Kronthaler**

Visit PSIA-I/AASI-I Online for up-to-date information.

www.psia-i.org or www.aasi-i.org



Alpine Education

By Ron Kipp

Demonstrations: It's all how you blend them!

We have 15 different clinics posted on the web. Spring Clinic (see article in this issue) will add even more topics. These clinics all have one common thread. One thing that ties them all together. Something that has been around since 1973. Yet ski instructors keep

looking for something new. Surreptitious information that will bring them closer to the gold ... pin. One item, one thing, one tip, that must be the solution, explanation or answer to elucidate skiing's clandestine mysteries.

Skills, everyone knows them. Just reciting them seems to be the prerequisite mantra for an exam. Let's look how these skills fit into our demonstrations:

Johnny has stiff legs. He can make a rudimentary wedge turn but matching the skis is harder than getting him to eat veggies. If we could just get some flexion and extension a weight transfer might be possible and then, with the luck of the edging gods, a flattening of that inside ski—and it might just match. We have verbally told him a million different ways. “Shift the weight,” “Touch the sky,” even “Ride a horse.” Johnny's legs make steel girders look flimsy. We need to get Johnny to bend. Hitting the back of his knees with our ski pole crosses our mind, but when a ski school supervisor skis by this method is ruled out.

A demonstration or having Johnny follow us is another option. We extend like a missile taking off from Cape Canaveral, followed by flexion as if we are headed to China. Up and down, tall to short, we resemble a pogo stick working its way down the hill. Any instructor passing by will have sympathy with us. They have all been there. Trying to get flexion and extension into stiff legs.

Fast forward to the same instructor at a PSIA-I assessment prep clinic. The clinician is also a working ski instructor, at one time he most likely has had a cousin of Johnny. Or, if not a cousin, at least a student with the same gene for stiff legs. He would have been sympathetic to your demo if he skied by. And probably has done the same exaggerated reproduction himself. But now, today, the clinician has a different hat on. Any demo with the same vertical amplitude would be met with feedback that pointed out the unnecessary vertical motion.

Teaching demos, although they appear different, contain the same skills as the demos we do in clinics and assessments. Rotary, edging, and pressure are found on the ingredient box. While these demos contain the same skill set, it is the exaggeration during the teaching example that is obviously different. We need to exaggerate to point out what we are trying to emphasize. It is the highlighter or spotlight pointing to what we are trying to call our student's attention.

Good assessment demos are like magic. They contain a blend of skills that are difficult for the unaccustomed eye to break apart. This is their beauty and this is why they are difficult to do.

When you buy a cake mix, the instructions tell you what you need: eggs, water, oil, and the cake mix. After you purchase the items at the store you take

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the Rocky Mountain model of “Functional Skiing Skills” that focuses on the alpine skills most pertinent to adaptive teaching. For example, pivot slips as they relate to bi ski tethering or synchro skiing as it relates to VI guiding. For a complete list of the functional skiing skills, follow the link in the adaptive section of the PSIA-I website. For a complete description of the new adaptive certification process for this year and next, please see the website as well.

I do hope that the changes to the certification process will improve the quality of Intermountain's adaptive discipline, thus encouraging more people to become certified. We ultimately want the adaptive certification to be synonymous with a well-rounded, versatile, and high quality instructor. I can be reached at: kristenc@discovernac.org. ■

Dues Due

Dues for the 2009-2010 season are due! However, in consideration of business levels and economic circumstances, the Division has decided to extend the dues deadline to March 30 and waive late fees up to this deadline. There will be no further extension past that date, so please attend to dues promptly. ■

It's Classified

EARN \$50 FOR REFERRALS when your lead results in a rental for Skiers Accommodations of Utah. We offer 2, 3, and 4 bedroom Townhouses at the mouths of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Contact Tom and Nancy Kronthaler, information (801) 943-2426, www.utahskilodging.com.

!!!INTEREST RATES ARE AT A 15 YEAR LOW!! It's time to buy! Call Jane Pattee (PSIA-I) to be a first-time buyer, find your dream home, or positive cash flow investment property. I've been selling Salt Lake and Wasatch front for 30 years! Call Jane/Homenet Real Estate/801-706-2048! Let's talk!

SMALL AND COZY VACATION CABIN in Little Cottonwood for multiple day or weekly rental. Located 4 miles from Snowbird. Special rates for PSIA/ASSI members. Contact George at 801 440 4370.

Development Squad Adds Six

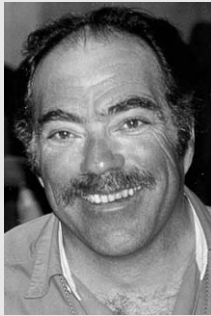
Imagine a skiing exam lasting two weeks. That is close to what 17 Intermountain Level III Alpine instructors endured starting January 17. Candidates endured demonstrations, a race, and an assortment of off-piste graded skiing at Park City Mountain Resort. Some of the tasks were hard, some long, the rest were long and hard. A full day.

Since these 17 were competing for spots on the PSIA-I Alpine Development Squad it was important that the end of the first day mimicked the stressful exam days of an examiner. (Yes, exam days are long and stressful for the examiners also). So straight after skiing (some had time to take their boots off), the aspiring DECLs were subject to an hour-long written test timed and full of questions covering every topic under the sun. If the breath of questions didn't kill them, the depth surely would. High score was 72 percent. A "C-" at a major University. Needless to say a hard test.

When the written test was over, (no dinner yet) the candidates met one-on-one with the examiners. They were told what they need to work on and change in their skiing. They had two weeks to complete the task before meeting again at Alta.

After the interviews, the candidates were given a list of questions. Thirty "Lunch Questions" for homework that they would have to figure out and then rehearse a 3-5 minute verbal response. At Alta in two weeks they would each pull one of the Lunch Questions out of a hat and dive straight into a response in front of their peers and the examiners. A response that hit the pertinent high points and that was backed up with judicious practical logic.

Candidates also had to perform an on-snow teaching and movement analysis segment at Alta. The teaching needed



Administrative Report

By Carl Boyer, PSIA/AASI Intermountain Administrative VP

Dues for the 2009-2010 season are due! However, in consideration of business levels and economic circumstances this year, the Division has extended the dues deadline to March 30 and waived late fees up to this deadline. There will be no further extension past that date, so please attend to dues remittance at your earliest opportunity.

We are very pleased with clinic participation this season, including increased use of the Clinic Discount Pass. If you have one, please be sure you faithfully attend the clinics for which you sign up or inform the office as soon as you know you cannot make it. We want to assure that opportunity for professional development remains for those waiting to get in to popular clinics. It is very important we don't abuse this privilege extended to us by the hosting resorts.

Be sure to keep your eye out for the ballots for the Board of Directors election. This is your opportunity to direct the governance of your association. Dave has included many serious points in his President's message for you to consider as you vote. Be extra sure to follow the proper steps outlined to assure your vote can be counted (school affiliation, signature). Remember that *all* members can vote for *up to two* at large seats in this election. Additionally, *only* if you are employed by one of the member schools within region I (Jackson, Targhee, Snow King, White Pine); region VI (Brighton, Solitude, Sundance); or region VII (Alta, Snowbird) may you vote for *one* of those candidates.

After much popular demand, we are again hosting Spring Clinic at Brianhead. Danny Edwards and Henry Hornberger and their able staff have organized a fun filled weekend with lots to do, look elsewhere in this EDGE for details on all that is planned. Our past Spring Clinics at Brianhead are fondly remembered by those who attended; please join us in this celebration! – **Carl Boyer**

ALPINE EDUCATION continued from 9

them home and put them into a bowl to mix. Now the measuring cups and spoons come out. The number of eggs and the amount of water and oil are very important if you plan on eating that cake later. Without the correct amount of each ingredient, who knows what you will get in 40 minutes at 325 degrees. The same is true of efficient skiing. We have the ingredients, but it is the amount or "blend" that is so important. Too many eggs changes the cake and too much vertical motion changes the turn. You may still get a cake and you may still get a turn, but you won't win the blue ribbon at the county fair and you won't be skiing efficiently.

We all know the skills and have some sort of idea of the motions needed for each. Rotary twists the lower body, pressure can be viewed with flexion and extension of the ankle, knee, and maybe hip. Edging goes from little toe side to big toe side of the foot. We are comfortable with those. The problem

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Children's Update

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

Aloha! I hope you are having a great season. It's not too late to take advantage of the Division's children's teaching events. Check the calendar on the web for the latest ACE/Children's information. Program updates:

- ◆ The ACE team is starting to work on ACE program updates for next season; stay tuned for more details.
- ◆ A new PSIA/AASI Children's Manual is available at the office. The manual updates material from the "green" manual (1997); get your copy today.
- ◆ For Spring Clinic, the children's clinic topic is "I Don't/Can't Teach Kids 'Cuz I Don't Want To." Led by Carolyn Fushimi and Leslie Blank, learn how to see kids in a different light in this fun session. Sign up early – as space is limited.
- ◆ For ACE I/II accreditations, curriculum materials are available for download at www.psia-i.org/www.aasi-i.org. Please note: We will only accept "current" season workbooks for both accreditations.
- ◆ ACE I, II, and III pins are available for purchase from the Office. Please call for more details.
- ◆ ACE I clarification: In order to receive accreditation credit, participants must attend (and pay for) the ACE I indoor and outdoor clinics, submit their completed workbook (prior to the Outdoor session), and register with the Office.

Thanks again for taking the time and effort to seek an ACE accreditation, or attend one of our clinics. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events this season. ■

to be short and to the point. "Show us something you believe is paramount in modern skiing and needs emphasis in today's teaching" was the assignment. This needed to have a unique flair, while an air of controversy didn't seem to hurt. Of course it had to be backed up with in-depth sensible reason.

Movement analysis was not your run of the mill MA. Examiners sounded like inquisitive six year olds. "Why?" was echoed after almost every response. "If that is what you saw, what really caused it?"... and then "what caused that?"

Two weeks for an exam is tough. Every candidate who went through the process should be congratulated. The Development Squad is different than a traditional exam. At PSIA-I Level I, II, and III exams the bar is set by the National Standards. At these tryouts the bar is set by the candidates, and these candidates set it quite high. In the end, six were chosen. A two week exam, that will be the easy part, now these six will start their training as part of the Development Squad. Congratulations to: Mike Conrad, Kelly McNinch, Franz Penistan, Andrew Raybould, Mike Sellers, and Erin Williams.— **Compiled by: Ron Kipp, Stephen Helfenbein, Dave Lundberg, Rob Sogard**

ALPINE EDUCATION continued from 9

arises when we have to enter a turn. How much do we move to the big toe side before rotating the legs? Or should we rotate the leg then move to the other side of the foot? Or ... well there are a million options.

Teaching demos get the job done. They point out a movement via exaggeration. This embellishment, while important to send a message to the student, is a misrepresentation of the blend of skills. Skiing assessments check for efficient skiing by measuring the blend, or recipe, to make sure it is just right. The correct blend for the situation. This is ultimately what we are striving for in our skiing.

A clinic might not introduce you to new skills; there is a limited quantity. What you should look for is the amount, intensity, and order of skills. The blend is what is important. All skiers make it down the hill. What differentiates the good from the great is their blend of skills. When taking a personal skiing clinic don't just look for the new move, look for the old move in a new size or place. In other words, have your recipe checked. ■



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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a skier in a dark jacket and pants, leaning forward in a skiing stance on a snowy slope. In the background, other skiers are visible. The text is overlaid on the image. The 'fantis group' logo is in the top left. The phrase 'need some help?' is in the middle right. A diagonal line with an arrow points from the text 'try www.saltyhomes.com' to a portrait of Tony Fantis, a man in a suit and glasses, in the bottom right. At the bottom, contact information for Tony Fantis is provided.