

# THE INSTRUCTORS EDGE

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

## Board Test

With all the new designs flooding the snowboard world these days, the Snowboard education staff of Intermountain division decided to do an informal board test to make some comparisons. We contacted several manufacturers, reps and shops and were able to compile a wide range of some of the more popular boards we see every day—most with untraditional designs including some sort of reverse camber, edge technology (like magne traction) and even some rocker base designs. Here is the lineup:



Carl Boyer

Sun Valley and Ketchum, ID viewed from the new gondola linking River Run Lodge and historic Roundhouse Restaurant at Sun Valley Resort. Intermountain officers Nancy Kronthaler and Carl Boyer took the inaugural ride on the lift. The multi-divisional Spring Clinic is scheduled for April 9-11.

### The Testers

- Jeremy Jolley, AASI-I DECL, team coach and rep (Snowbird)
- Sandra Guzman, AASI-I DECL, resort trainer, instructor (Snowbird)
- Eric Rolls, AASI National Team, coach, instructor, rep (Steamboat Springs)
- Lane Clegg, AASI National Team Coach, AASI-I DECL, coach, resort trainer
- Rich McLaughlin, AASI-I DECL, resort trainer (Jackson Hole)
- Jess King, AASI-I EDS, resort trainer, instructor (Brighton)
- Gwen Rogers, AASI-I DECL, resort trainer, instructor (Snowbird)

- Kyle Kostohris, AASI-I DECL, resort trainer, instructor (Park City)
- Josh Reinhart, AASI-I EDS, resort trainer, instructor (Park City)
- Greg Gibb, AASI-I DECL, resort trainer, team coach, instructor

### The Boards

<b>Burton</b>	The One	
Feelgood V-rocker 148	Jeremy Jones	
Lipstick 152	Justice	149
Custom V-rocker 154		
Joystick 154	<b>Never Summer</b>	
Hero LTD 158	SL	155
Custom V-rocker 159	SL	158
Joystick (wide) 159	Evo	155
LTR 150		
<b>Rossignol</b>	<b>Gnu</b>	
Angus	Park Pickle	156

<b>Lib Technologies</b>	Camber	
TRS 159	w/MagneTraction	
<b>DC Snowboards</b>	Superpark	156
HKD 156	MIP	155
	Vixen	148
	Pinner	162
<b>Smokin Snowboards</b>	KT-22	162W
w/DIRT Rocker & MagneTraction (DTX)	KT-22	154
Vixen DTX 144		
MIP DTX 151		
Pinner DTX & Taper 156		
BigWig DTX 153		
BigWig DTX 157		

### Bataleon Snowboards

<b>Capita</b>
Charlie Slasher (flat w/Taper)

Snowbird hosted the test for two days and the process was simple: bring your own boots and bindings and pick a board to test. We didn't have a time

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## President's Message

By Christine Katzenberger, PSIA-I/AASI-I President

Welcome new members, certified members and anyone who may have joined us from other Divisions. The season has begun and education and certification events are under way. I hope you will take time to hone your craft of teaching and attend some events or read some of the newer manuals that PSIA/AASI has available. Recently you should have received an email from PSIA/AASI announcing that [www.thesnowpros.org](http://www.thesnowpros.org) site has clothing, educational materials and pro-forms available online. Please look this over or go on to our site [psia-i.org](http://psia-i.org) and order what you think you might need for manuals.

We've added to the Lecture Series and also lowered the price. These are great events and have lots of information that can be related to our every day teaching and knowledge. Be sure to sign up early.

The Level 1 process this season has some changes. I would encourage you to download the Study Guide and begin working on it while reading manuals that are available through the office. In addition to other Level 1 Assessments there will be two 3-day and one 5-day Level 1 Academy this season. These courses are geared to those who may want more of an introductory day before jumping right into the Level 1 Assessment. It will be an opportunity for more in-depth focus on skiing and teaching skills you will need to attain your Level 1. You must have a Directors signature on your Study Guide and be a member of PSIA/AASI. Please download the new Level 1 Study Guide if you plan to complete your Level 1 this season. You can find the link at the Alpine page of [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org). Look for these events on the calendar and again sign up early.

The Snowsports Directors met October 12 to get updates on BOD news, Educational and Certification news along with reports from all the discipline managers on news pertaining to the schools. Time was spent on ideas for attracting instructors and retaining them at area resorts. Special guest appearances were made by Junior Bonous, Weems Westfeld and Jerry Warren to discuss changes they have seen in the industry. We thank them for staying connected to the industry and sharing their experiences from the past and future.

Keep current! This is the time to bring your membership up to date. Too many times people come back to reinstate with the Division and they get caught with having to pay back dues and attend clinics. Many people move on to other jobs and don't ever think they'll return to teaching at a resort. When they do it takes time and money they could have saved.

Here's wishing you Happy Holidays and many rewarding experiences. Get out and enjoy the snow! ■

## Spring Clinic Sun Valley

April 9-11

### The Instructors EDGE

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*2007-2010:* David Boucher, Danny Edwards, Chris Katzenberger, Kent Lundell, Scott McGee  
*2008-2011:* Carl Boyer, Max Lundberg, Donna McAleer, Scott Rockwood, Joe Waggoner  
*2009-2012:* Jess King, Nancy Kronthaler, Rich McLaughlin, Jason Pellegrini, Kathleen Roe

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limit for how long to ride each piece of equipment but tried to ride each board long enough to gain an opinion. Once we were done with a board we had a simple form to take notes on and then on to the next board.

As a group we were interested in the newer designs and types of equipment and how they might affect a riders movement patterns for two particular situations: when teaching students who are not on the same gear as the instructor and when participating in an exam. Obviously we want to be demonstrating the desired movements to students so they can observe and copy those movements. If some of this equipment creates markedly different patterns in the instructor, we have a gap in the communication of the lesson. To that same end, if the movement patterns performed in an exam situation do not look traditional, we as educators/examiners need to be aware of how those differ so that we can understand what the rider is doing to achieve a desired outcome.

We all agreed that what we are really looking for in all cases is board performance—making the board react a certain way to achieve a certain outcome using efficient move-

ments. Thus I challenged all the participants to try tasks they might use in a lesson or an exam situation and compare the movement patterns required to achieve that outcome to more traditional equipment. As a group it was challenging to draw broad conclusions about these newer designs because of how different the equipment rode and how many different designs there were. It was also difficult to feel that we had any board completely “dialed” in the



Board testers gather on Hidden Peak at Snowbird.

short time we rode it. However, we did come to an agreement on a few issues:

- ◆ These boards felt very easy to ride which is attractive to many of the guests that come to our resorts. Once someone is turning comfortably, these boards allow the rider to make a subtle edging movement to create a nice turn. However, we all felt that most of the boards were somewhat limiting for an aggressive rider trying to achieve high performance. While this might be lack of time on the gear, it was noticeable

- ◆ Many of us felt that carving turns and especially short radius aggressive carved turns were challenging if not impossible on some of the boards.

- ◆ Many testers complained that the boards lacked “pop” off the tail when trying to load the tail and achieve some spring.
- ◆ Most testers felt that the boards with the rocker starting between the feet were challenging to twist into a turn and instead were tilted into the turn. It made it challenging to make subtle adjustments to turn shape and it often felt that the turn shape was pre-set in the board.

- ◆ In powder or soft snow most testers liked the float the boards provided and felt that even a shorter board was effective in that condition.
- ◆ These would NOT be the boards of choice for any of our testers for an exam unless one was very adept at riding all tasks and all conditions and could achieve the performance level required of assessments (especially Level 3).
- ◆ Most felt that if the student(s) were on this type of gear then it would be acceptable for an instructor to teach on similar gear—however if the student(s) was on traditional gear, it would be a challenge for the instructor to clearly demonstrate the movements necessary for the students

Below are the comments or conclusions reached by some of our testers individually:

**Sandra:** I chose to ride reverse-camber boards, combination-camber boards, a couple of traditionally designed boards w/ magne-traction from different companies and a powder-specific board. I also focused on riding women-specific models (because I don’t typically ride or care for most girl-boards) and I rode quite a bit shorter (144-155, 159 for the pow board) than what I typically ride (154cm).

Overall, I enjoyed the performance of the smaller boards—easy to turn, responsive and stable. However, the reverse-camber models were very easy





to over steer, particularly in all-mountain riding. At higher speeds and in the steeper terrain, the shorter lengths were a little squirrely, again because the initiation of the turn happens to fast and easy that quite a bit of the speed control takes place more at the end of the turn. In the chunkier, set-up snow, the reverse camber boards were challenging to ride. All boards were fun for the lower-angle, all-mountain terrain jibbing and spring snow conditions.

I have to say my faves were: Rossignol Justice 149 (combo-camber), Smokin Vixen 148 (traditional Camber w/ mag), Smokin MIP 155 (traditional camber), and Burton Feelgood 148 (v-rocker).

**Eric:** Fun, Playful, Greasy, Loose, Pivoty, Surfy. These words are how I would describe most of the reverse camber boards we tested. Although some high-end performances were limited with more extreme designs, some moves became easier. Compared to a traditional camber design and shape, I found that the more extreme shape and design the board had, the less versatile it was.

For non-aggressive riders and lazy-skidding weekend warriors that like to jib, the reverse camber boards are super fun and appropriate. Riding a reverse camber board in the current Level 3 exam, and demonstrating the skills required for success, could be challenging. Personally, I enjoy lazy skidded turns with random jibbing as well as high performance maneuvers. I prefer the designs that have a combination of reverse camber and flat/camber. Notably, these were Rossignol with Amptek, Never Summer with R.C. Tech, Burton with Party Rocker, and Smokin Snowboards with D.I.R.T. Rocker & Magne Traction.

**Lane:** I was one who felt the boards both lacked some “pop” off the tail and were a little limited in high-end, aggressive riding—the exception to this was the Never Summer which had lots

of “pop” and reacted well to aggressive riding. However, by and large they were really fun and easy to ride and felt very “jibby.”

I would definitely grab one of these for riding smaller parks (not big jumps or pipe) or flatland jibbing around the mountain. My favorites of the test (in no particular order) were: Burton Joystick, Rossignol Angus, Never Summer



Jeremy Jolly

SL and the Smokin KT22 (although it has traditional camber).

**Jess:** The best way for me to describe the feeling I got while riding these boards would be, “super sketchy fun!”

Of the boards I tested, reverse camber/mag/no-camber/etc, there were few that stood out. These were the Smokin MIP, Rossignol Angus, and the Never Summer SL.

Other reverse camber boards tested include the Lib Tech TRS, the Gnu Park Pickle, the Burton Custom V-rocker, the Burton Hero LTD, and the DC HKD. Over all, these boards are easy to manipulate and maneuver, are typically a bit sketchy at high speeds and

bigger landings, they like to spin on snow(super pivoty), like powder versus anything else, and not as much pop as traditional boards. Having one of these boards in you quiver is a great idea as they are lots of fun, especially in powder!

On the other hand, in order to create the most efficient angles and forces desired in all aspects of riding at an advanced to expert level, I still feel that the traditionally cambered decks lead the way.

**Gwen:** Fun times testing these boards out. My winner of the day was the Rossignol Justice with its almost negligible traditional camber between the feet and reverse camber tip and tail. This board gave me the best response of the day in terms of maneuverability, although its soft flex left a bit to be desired for stability.

Other boards were a bit more difficult to figure out in just a few runs. I would love to have some more time exploring their features since I didn’t feel so trusting in their response. My turn shapes and styles were different from what I expected or intended, making aggressive riding a bit sketchy. I ended up having more time with the Justice on some powder days and was loving the reverse camber for its floatability despite its mere 149cm in length.

**Kyle:** It was great to get out there and try some of the new snowboard technology. The reverse camber boards are fun and easy to ride and I think would be good for specific riding styles(park and powder). I felt that the board gave very little back when you tried to bend it further or ask it to give any performance back in all mountain riding. I also noticed this comment come from some of the other crew that were a bit taller or heavier. Not saying fat, maybe just a bit “Husky.”

I think this technology can be best used to enhance the experience for beginner and intermediate riders.

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## PSIA-I Big Mountain Clinic



PSIA-I DECL Team Manager Stephen Helfehbein cruises the pow at Alta.

*Little Cottonwood Canyon:  
Alta, Snowbird, January 25-26*

*By Stephen Helfenbein*

Are you looking for a unique educational opportunity this winter? Have you always wanted to come shred the finest snow in the lower 48? Is your skiing in a rut and in need of inspiration?

This is your opportunity to experience the excitement and high intensity of Big Mountain skiing. What is "Big Mountain" skiing? It's a style of skiing requiring the unique ability to assess a wide variety of natural conditions and variable terrain. Then a skier must spontaneously adapt his/her skills to that situation. We're not just trying to get down the hill either. The best big mountain skiing is inspiring to watch and even more electrifying to do.

This clinic is hosted by Alta and Snowbird on their finest expert off-piste terrain. Little Cottonwood Canyon is notorious throughout the world for its wealth of big mountain terrain.

This clinic relies on video analysis, a couple of innovative drills, one-on-one coaching and lots of skiing. This clinic will provide tools for ski instructors looking to improve their own off-piste game and that of their clients.

Clinic participants should be motivated to learn about skiing, improve

their performance and ski hard. Instructors who already consider themselves expert skiers are ideal candidates for this clinic. However, all skiers in this clinic are required to complete a questionnaire. This tool is used to form groups ahead of time and make sure folks know what they are getting in to. Participants are encouraged to do both days of the clinic.

2010 is year three of the Big Mountain Clinic. In the past this clinic has filled up quickly and a waiting list usually forms. Sign up early! *Also, it usually dumps for one the days!*

Equipment choice is an important factor in this clinic. We do not ski on groomed runs (unless they are taking us to some great off-piste skiing)! So, the most useful skis are typically fatter, softer and longer than what you ride on the groomers. Helmets are a great idea.

The primary coaches are DECLs Stephen Helfenbein and Collin Bywaters, who have instructed at Alta for the past 14 years. They also coach the Alta Freeride Division. AFD is a competitive junior freeride program in its sixth season. They coach their athletes the integration of high performance expert skiing, terrain park skills, and big mountain versatility. Through this experience they've created the system that they hope to share with you during the Big Mountain Clinic.

Call the PSIA-I office ASAP and sign up. See you in the LCC! ■

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Of these boards, I thought the one that gave maybe the best of both worlds was reverse between the feet and regular camber outside the feet. As much as we used to mock the "Inca" snowboard's "Dual Camber" idea from a few years ago, that idea seems to have been improved upon.

As for magne-traction, I bought a Rossi "J-Dub" with mag in '07 and hated it. Since then I've rode Lib, Smokin' and new Version of the "J-Dub" with magna-traction and have changed my mind...I'm sold, it works. My best advice would be to get out there and demo a few or ask a friend to try there's and see what suits your riding style the best.

**Josh:** Overall, the boards are fun and easy to ride, making them appealing for general public and instructors alike. I do feel these boards are lacking a few qualities that I look for when choosing a board. They seem to lack the pop and response that I like. I felt I had to tone down my riding and not ride too aggressively.

One feature that I really liked was the Magne Traction found on the Lib tech, Rossignol, and Smokin boards. You can definitely feel the edge hold well on firmer slopes. Some of the test boards that I enjoyed riding were the Rossignol Angus, Lib Tech TRS Banana, Smokin Pinner, and Smokin KT 22.

**Greg:** 1. I want a reverse camber board!

2. They are easy to ride.
3. Allows for a wider stance.
4. I know I will see students on these boards. Many of the rental boards will have similar design. So I will need to know how to ride and teach on these boards.

In conclusion, we all had a great time riding some stuff that many had never tried and we recommend that everyone at least get out and try some of

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## Adaptive

By Kristen Caldwell

**Paralympic Year:** As adaptive instructors, I hope you are as excited as I am about the 2010 Paralympics in Vancouver, Canada. After all, the Paralympics are the pinnacle of what we do every day—providing opportunities for people with disabilities to challenge their abilities in this great sport of skiing. I, for one, am taking advantage of the chance to attend the Paralympic Games while they are here in North America. So I thought I would do a little research on Paralympic facts:

- ◆ Paralympic Games are for athletes with physical and visual disabilities, not to be confused with Special Olympics, which are for people with intellectual disabilities.
- ◆ The name Paralympic was originally a blend of “paraplegic” and “Olympic,” as the games unofficially began in 1948 for British WWII veterans with spinal cord injuries. In 1976 other disability groups were included, so the explanation of the name was no longer appropriate. The current explanation is that “para” derives from the Greek preposition meaning “beside” or “alongside,” such that the Paralympic Games are a competition held in parallel to the Olympic Games.
- ◆ The first *official* Paralympic games were in Rome 1960.
- ◆ Participation has grown from 400 athletes in Rome 1960 to 4200 athletes in Beijing 2008.

### Winter Paralympics

- ◆ The first Winter Paralympics were in Sweden 1976 for amputees and skiers with visual impairments. In Austria 1988 sit skiers began competing.
- ◆ Winter games have grown from 250 athletes in Sweden 1976 to 486 in Italy 2006.



## Communication Corner

Nancy Kronthaler, PSIA-I/AASI-I Communication VP

Greetings. By the time you receive this edition of the Edge the Holiday Season will be upon us. Hopefully we will be skiing some of that great western powder! With a little luck the economy will stabilize and resort bookings will be on the rise enhancing the snowsport schools business and rewarding those of us working for the industry with a profitable season.

The fall Edge was packed full of valuable information that will be an important source to refer to for the entire season. My thanks to a host of people for their countless hours during the summer and early fall producing the calendars for all disciplines-policy updates-the new software program for easier on-line capabilities-L1 revamping with more of a user friendly workbook-and Oh yes, the reawakening of the SIRC committee! Special thanks to Rodger Renstrom; the editor, for successfully pulling all this information together for each edition, creating a valuable source of information for our members.

### Clinic Discount Pass

If you haven't already done so the clinic discount pass is available for purchase until January 31. This \$195 opportunity for six educational clinics is a bargain! Also, check our lecture series schedule; we have reduced the price to \$20 to make the lectures more affordable. There are a wide variety of topics that are offered and it is fun to meet new people in the industry from other resorts.

### Board Elections

Board elections are right around the corner. Five seats are up for election each year. Those people elected will serve a three-year term. It is a great opportunity for members to be a working part of the division. We are always happy to have new energy and ideas from those elected. Please do not hesitate to take the challenge and run for election. This edition holds the information necessary to run for the board which will also appear on the home page of our website. It's also very important when filling out your voting ballots to read the directions carefully, as incomplete ballots are not counted.

We invite any member in good standing to attend and observe our board meetings if you are interested in seeing the process and hearing reports and issues we address! There is an ongoing plea to non-affiliate members to contribute service to their local resorts. Your experience and knowledge in the industry would be appreciated especially during their busy times.

### Education

Spring clinic at Sun Valley will be an event not to miss. Mark your calendar to save the dates! April 9-11 2010.

There are many opportunities available for all disciplines in our educational and certification calendars. Take the time for education. Challenge yourself with certification. Be proud of your profession, uphold it, support it, and contribute to it. Never hesitate to communicate with me; your thoughts and ideas are what make our organization a success! ■





## Alpine Education

By Ron Kipp, PSIA-I Alpine Education Manager

### Primum Non Nocere: An Exam Deal Breaker

Primum non nocere is a Latin phrase that means “first, do no harm.” It is sometimes attributed correctly or incorrectly to Hippocrates, and may date as far back as late 5th century BC. Used in the indoctrination of physicians, the phrase emphasizes the ethical burden that a medical practitioner must pledge.

Ski instructors have no such exultant proclamation. Maybe this is because we don't deal with people's lives. Although, it could be argued that the information and leadership we convey is vitally important in it's own way. To the examiner, “doing harm” is a deal breaker. These deal breakers are so harmful that wearing a pin at the end of exam day will be impossible. Teaching a bad lesson is one thing, doing harm...unacceptable. These detrimental “deal breakers” can be divided into “safety” and “communication.”

### Safety

When we speak of “do no harm,” safety is indisputable. An obvious hazard is when students are positioned below a blind knoll or under a moving chairlift. Another instance is terrain that is too steep for a student's ability. Steep slopes cannot only create an opportunity for physical injury but may also affect the student's mental psyche. Not unlike Pavlov's dogs, once the skier has been frightened, the same fear response may resurface when the skier encounters a similar circumstance. This reaction can linger regardless of the skills acquired afterwards. One bad exposure may propagate terror long into the skier's future. This sole exposure may essentially scar the skier for life.

### Communication

A student's “technical health” is predicated by the efficiency of the instructor's communication. Demonstrations, being the most profound communication conduit, must impart a technically accurate message. If the image received by the student results in technique that will have to be relearned, or will obstruct future progress, the student's technical health is compromised.

For example, students are on constant lookout for the easy way to get their skis from right to left. If the student observes the instructor's upper body rotating prior to the skis turning they will assume this rotation is the secret to turning. Since we are an upper body orientated culture, it is understandable that the student's focus, no matter what we have told them, is on the instructor's torso. Even though we have preached to them to keep the upper body quiet, just one observed rotation will trump any clever cliché we have uttered previously or will in the future. Actions speak louder than words. For the beginner skier, in an upper body orientated culture, this upper body rotation seems to get the job done. The student is upright and the skis turned, end of story. They have found their panacea. Never mind the occasional 360

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- ◆ Skiers are divided into 3 categories—stand, sit, and visually impaired. There are 3-7 classes within each category. Some classes have 2-3 sub classes. Times are compared within categories with a “factor system,” much like a “handicap” in golf, that attempts to put all skiers on level playing field.
- ◆ Ragnhild Myklebust, a Nordic skier from Norway, holds the record for the most medals won at the Winter Paralympic Games. She won a total of 22 medals, of which 17 were gold, from 1988-2002.

Get your students excited about the Paralympics! Set up a winter Paralympics display at your adaptive school and educate them on this international competition. Introduce them to the athletes on the US Adaptive Team and get them excited about the process of earning a spot on the US Paralympic Team. Visit [www.usparalympics.org](http://www.usparalympics.org) for team news and a countdown to the games!

Please note an adaptive calendar change. The Functional Skiing Prep at PCMR has moved from January 9 to January 16. — **Kristen Caldwell is PSIA-I /AASI-I Adaptive Manager**

## 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](http://www.utahskilodging.com).

NEED A VEHICLE? Red Zone Auto Sales just opened a location in North Salt Lake. We pride ourselves on our honesty and are a family run business wanting to take care of our extended family (the PSIA family that is). We'll work hard to find the car you need at the right price. Check our website [www.redzoneautosales.com](http://www.redzoneautosales.com) or call Heather Beasley Dumas 801-815-7614.

VACATION COTTAGE FOR RENT in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Near bottom, 1 mile from park and ride. Daily or weekly. Perfect for clinic and exam participants for events in B.C.C. & L.C.C. 25 % off for PSIA/ASSI members. <http://www.littlecottonwood-cabin.blogspot.com/>

## BOD Elections

Nominations/applications for the PSIA/AASI Board of Directors are due in the Division office by Monday, Feb. 15. 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 (Snowbasin, Wolf Mtn., Powder Mtn.), Region IV (Brianhead) and three (3) Members at Large.

The requirements to appear on the ballot include:

- ◆ For 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.

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.

There are different kinds of Board seats. For example, any Certified member in good standing can run for the Board as a Member at Large. The same member can run for the Board when a Regional seat for the member’s home snowsports area becomes available. The result is a dynamic Board comprised of 15 directors. The PSIA/AASI-I Board of Directors meets three times each year to conduct official business.



## Children's Corner

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

Aloha! I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving.

As you get ready for the busy holidays, please remember that we have a number of events that can enhance your “Kids” knowledge base. Check out the ACE/Kids calendar at [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org) for more details.

### Program updates:

- ◆ The National Children’s Committee is in the midst of a two-year project, which could lead to a unified standard for ACE/children’s specialist programs across all divisions. Stay tuned for more details.
- ◆ For this season, our ACE I and ACE II events remain unchanged—except for minor revisions to the workbooks. For ACE III, a new workbook has been developed and is posted on the ACE/Kids page at [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org).
- ◆ For those professionals interested in getting an introduction to the “CAP Model” and how it can enhance your teaching efforts, we will be offering several informative lectures throughout the season. Please check the calendar for more details.
- ◆ For ACE I, we will continue to offer ski- and ride-specific on-hill groups based on participant interest. Please sign-up early as these discipline-specific ACE clinics will sell out.
- ◆ There continues to be 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. Please note, for ACE I, II and III, we will only accept *current* season materials.
- ◆ A limited number of ACE I, II and III pins are available for purchase from the Office. Please call for details.
- ◆ The new PSIA/AASI Children’s Manual is also available for purchase from the Office; get your copy today.

Thanks for your support. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events this season. ■

Board meeting dates for 2010 are scheduled for Feb. 9, location TBA (evening meeting) and an all-day meeting in May, location and date TBA.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the governance of your association, we welcome your candidacy for a seat on the Board. Some elections have seen candidates run unopposed. Let’s all benefit from our member’s active engagement! ■

## Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2010. Location TBA. ■

**Check the calendar at [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org) for updates and changes.**





### **ALPINE EDUCATION continued from 7**

resulting from the judicious amount of revolving, they assume this rotary is the key to turning. This student will be permanently disfigured with regards to ski technique... harm done... deal breaker!

Not all bad skiing is a deal breaker. If your demonstration has a limited amount of flexion and extension, or maybe too high of an edge angle, this will not cause harm in your student. It may not be good skiing, but the technique will not create a movement pattern that has to be relearned. Even if the student mimics these demos exactly, their skiing will not suffer enduring damage. They just need some direction in how to turn up or turn down the volume...more vertical motion and less edge angle. They will not have to relearn or eliminate a bad habit.

Lastly “what” we teach can also have negative ramifications. If we give misinformation that is detrimental to the ski turn or the skier’s body, we have done harm. For example, encouraging the student to put their body in an anatomically or biomechanically compromised position is a deal breaker. The cliché “feel the pinch” is not only irresponsible but reckless. Lateral flexion of the spine is an anatomically unsound method to create angulation. Missing the opportunity to instruct the student to create angles via the hip joint leaves the student in a biomechanically unstable position. The resultant “bad technique” can result in physical injury.

Primum non nocere is essential to maintain the standards of our profession. Without respect for proper technical elements in our teaching and skiing our students will encounter road blocks in their future development. In exams as well as in day-to-day teaching anything that will harm the student is a deal breaker. These deal breakers are not just innocent didactical blunders but incendiary mistakes with grave consequences for the student’s skiing future. ■

## **Nordic News**

*By Steve Neiner*

Greetings to all from “the nordis!” We are stoked for another season of free heel fun and education, with a schedule packed full of great events. Coming up right away is the annual Mountain States Rendezvous, Dec. 12 and 13 at Grand Targhee. This has become one of the premier Nordic events in the country, and will be sure to do so again this season. We have a full slate of our usual offerings, like telemark and track certification prep clinics, tele steeps, and tele bumps clinics. And, there is a full calendar of assessment opportunities for those considering Nordic certification. **PLEASE NOTE;** the following event dates at Pebble Creek have changed from the original calendar:

Mon, Feb. 1 – Learn to Telemark  
 Tues, Feb. 2 – Tele 1  
 Wed, Feb. 3 – Tele 2/3 prep  
 Thurs, Feb. 4 – Nordic DECL Mid-winters

We have also added a “Beyond Level 3 Tele” clinic at Jackson Hole for Friday, Feb. 5. One of our priorities in the telemark discipline this season is our telemark DECL hiring event scheduled for Feb. 25 and 26 at Pebble Creek. We are looking to grow our “gene pool,” and are offering two Beyond Level 3 events this year as precursors for those interested in working for the division as tele DECLs. The first will be at Alta, Jan. 15. Even if you don’t feel qualified, but might be interested in the future, this is a great opportunity to preview the process. Participants must be level 3 certified PSIA telemark instructors, capable of teaching and skiing in all conditions all the time.

We are excited to offer the following new events also, in hopes of catering to more of our membership: Learn to Skate Ski clinics, Learn to Tele clini-

■ **continued on 12**

### **TEST continue from 5**

the newer gear. Like some of the other equipment that is widely available (powder boards, race boards, etc.) it may not be the board-of-choice for all conditions/tasks, but you may find some of this new gear has a place in your quiver. At the very least it is technology that is here to stay and we as educators will need to familiarize ourselves with the concept and theory differences between this and more traditional gear. You can expect that you will be responsible for information pertaining to this equipment in the near future to remain current with the industry.

We want to thank those individuals and companies who made the equipment possible.

*Never Summer snowboards*–Mike Gagliardi, Sales Manager Never Summer

*Rossignol snowboards*–Jeremy Jolley, Rep Rossignol snowboards

*Lib Tech snowboards*–Nordas Shop

*Gnu snowboards*–Nordas Shop

*DC snowboards*–Nordas Shop

*Bataleon snowboards*–Milosport

*Burton snowboards*–Ryan Queen, Wooden Robots

*Smokin snowboards*–Eric Rolls, Rep, Smokin snowboards

Special thanks to:

Eric Rolls–AASI National Team member–who drove out from Steamboat with a carload of boards to participate and help us out with gear.

Jeremy Jolley who helped locate boards and then helped me put the event together. ■

## Member Awards

These members will be honored with their 20-, 30-, 40- and 50-year pins at the Spring Clinic banquet scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2010 in Sun Valley. Don't miss out! Make plans to attend the Spring Clinic at Sun Valley now.

### 20 Year Pin Recipients

Jim Avichouser	AL2	Mary Mc Culloch	AL2	Michael Wilwert	AL3	Greg Hill	AL3
Andy Baker	AL3	Marilyn McGill	AL1/HL1	Scott Wood	NL3	Cheryl Kidder	AL3
Dieter Beger	AL2	Christopher Mousley	AL3/NL3	Mike Zakowski	SL2/AL2	Letitia Lussier	AL3/NL2
Robin Clegg	AL2/SL2	Mary Lou Mylet	AL3	<b>30 Year Recipients</b>			
David Cunningham	AL2	Susan Nyhus	AL2	Gary Allen	AL3	Ann Miller	AL3
Donald De Blieux	NL3	David Peck	SL3	Dieter Altmann	AL3	Glenn Price	AL3
Alice Drake	AL2	John Pohl	SL3	Guillermo Avila Paz	AL3	Bruce Simpson	AL3
Nathan Emerson	AL3	Felix Rauscher	AL3/NL3	Marianne Bicksler	AL3	Lynn Stevens	AL2
Eric Garner	AL2	Kathleen Roe	AL3	Diane Bode	AL2	Mark Wilder	AL3
Bill Good	AL1	Mark Shepard	AL3	<b>40 Year Recipients</b>			
Jason Hunter	AL3	Shelly Simpson	AL2	Shawn Caine	AL3	Scott Montgomery	AL3
David Jones	AL3/SL3/HL1	Jerry Spencer	AL2	Bobbie Deese	AL2	Christopher Newell	AL2
Renny Kerr	AL2	George Sweeney	AL3/NL3	Jackie Devlin	AL3	Mark Sletten	AL3
John Lohn	AL3	Chuck Torrey	HL3/AL3	Ron Eaves	AL2	<b>50 Year Recipients</b>	
Chip Loring	AL3	Nicholas Walker	AL3/NL1	Kevin Fay	AL3	Ron Hill	AL2
Andrea Martin	AL3	Nicholas Walker	AL3/NL1	Steven Garside	AL2	Lex Kunau	AL3
		Michele Weigold	SL1	Ronald Gault	AL2	Dave Thurgood	AL3
		Franklin Williams	AL3	Terri Hanrahan	AL3/HL1		

## Editor's Corner

By Rodger Renstrom

It's sobering at times to reflect on the fact that I've been involved in the ski industry as a full-time seasonal since 1977. I've had a lot of good times during those three decades and have learned a bit about our organization and our "profession" as well. One of the things I've learned parallels something former PSIA Demo Team member and PSIA-I DECL Scott Mathers said several years ago, that snowsports instruction is more a lifestyle than it is a profession.

I'm going to go out on a limb and suggest that 30 seasons of ski instruction, instructor training, examining, supervising, editing this newsletter, and trying to become better at my sport permit me a couple of observations.

The first observation is that virtually everyone I've worked with in our organization has been committed to making it better. I haven't always agreed with *how* individuals wanted to make it better, nor have I always acted with wisdom myself, but hearts have always been in the right place.

The second observation is that it's easy to forget why people get involved in teaching snowsports and with our organization as we get wrapped tighter in the business bureaucracy that our sport has become. We can forget that the heart of that involvement is about people and the sport, not about money, bureaucracy, or power.

I'm not aware of anyone who started teaching skiing or snowboarding because they thought they were going to make lots of money. People start teaching because they love their sport, then they realize that they probably *aren't* going to make a lot of money. (An especially cruel realization when instructors start comparing lesson ticket prices next to their paychecks.) That's also the time when people start looking for an off-season "profession" to pay the rent, the doctor, and the kid's college fund; or, when they quit teaching full time to find a job that allows them to teach part time. There aren't many professions out there where the goal is to work a different job so you can practice your part-time profession—that's usually called a "hobby."

When I started teaching skiing, top instructors earned 50 percent of the

lesson gross, they could party in their locker rooms after work, and a pair of skis, boots and bindings on pro form could be paid for over Christmas week. Today, even top instructors are lucky to get 30 percent of the lesson price, drinking a beer in the locker room is pretense for dismissal, and a pair of pro-form skis costs a month's wages—or more. In many respects, the industry has sanitized the fun out of our "profession" without boosting its rewards to professional status.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not advocating all play and no work. We still made a choice to teach snowsports, and I am often disappointed in the commitment to our sport and students made by some instructors—including some veterans. Living a professional "lifestyle" doesn't exempt you from living up to *some* standards. The adage "if you're not getting better, you're getting worse" applies here. However, as peer instructors, examiners, clinic leaders, division officers, and members who are now snowsports school management as much or more so than instructors, we should never lose sight of a love of the sport and its people, or we're in the wrong profession. ■



# 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				
<b>EDUCATION</b>	*** LIST CLINIC TOPIC FROM SCHEDULE ***	LOCATION	DISCOUNT PASS ELIGIBLE	DATE COST
			<input type="checkbox"/> Discount pass, no charge	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Discount pass, no charge	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Discount pass, no charge	
<b>Clinic Discount Pass requires separate form (purchase by 1/31/10, \$195.00)</b>		Passes are good for up to 6 educational clinics and lecture series events during the period covered excluding Spring Clinic, accreditations, assessments and any 3-day package event. Pass holders are subject to all published deadlines for registration including late fees and additional surcharges.		
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	LIST ASSESSMENT TITLE FROM SCHEDULE	LOCATION	DATE	COST
I attest that I have familiarized myself with the requirements, standards and expectations for the level of certification that I am seeking and also with the various preparation tools and clinics available to me through PSIA-I/AASI-I, PSIA/AASI, and my home area. As such, I consider myself thoroughly prepared to safely, confidently, and skillfully participate in the assessment for which I am registering.			<b>Candidate Signature (for assessments)</b>	

FEES		TOTAL FEES:
Level 1 Package \$125.00	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"/> <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"/>  Please bill my credit card. <b>Signature:</b> _____	
Clinic Discount Pass Separate Form		
One-day Clinic \$55.00		
Add extra for Cat Skiing \$20.00		
L2, L3 Assessments/per day \$80.00		<b>Exp. Date:</b> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Level 2, 3 Written Test \$12.00		
Lecture \$20.00 per session		

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 Intermountain Division (hereafter "AASI-I") education or certification function led by a PSIA-I or AASI-I 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/AASI-I and PSIA/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/AASI-I sponsored event and under no circumstances or eventuality will suit be filed against PSIA-I/AASI-I or PSIA/AASI-I, 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. <b>Anyone who does not exhibit the skills necessary to ski/board safely in a clinic will be invited to take another product or receive a refund. I have fully read and voluntarily agree to the above terms and conditions.</b></p>		
<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <b>Registrant signature or signature of legal guardian if under 18 years of age</b></td> <td><b>Date</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Registrant signature or signature of legal guardian if under 18 years of age</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Registrant signature or signature of legal guardian if under 18 years of age</b>	<b>Date</b>	

Mail or Fax your completed registration form to: **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

**☒ TELEPHONE REGISTRATIONS NOT ACCEPTED**

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.**





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**The Instructors EDGE**

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 AASI Intermountain Division  
 7105 Highland Dr., Suite 201  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

## Thanks Brighton!



Brian Oakden



Left: Chris Sprecher, third from left, gets organized with his Ski Improvement Workshop during the 2009-10 Ed College. Right: Linda Heymering, fifth from left, poses with her "Bag O' Tricks" clinic. The Ed College was held December 5-6 at Brighton.

The 2009-10 PSIA-I/AASI-I Ed College helped kick the clinic season into gear Dec. 5-6 at Brighton resort. Approximately 70-80 people attended each day. Saturday's general membership meeting was attended by about 40 members.

Brighton also hosted Alpine DECL training Nov. 1 and Dec. 2. PSIA-I/AASI-I extends its thanks to

Brighton and Brighton Ski and Snowboard School for their support of Intermountain snowsports instruction. ■

***NORDIC continued from 9***

cs, the Tele Powder Fest at Powder Mountain, Telemark Bumps Camp, and

Tele Steeps Camp. Of course, we are eagerly anticipating Spring Clinic at Sun Valley, where there is sure to be fresh Nordic blood in the water to feed the hungry with new friends and connections. So, we'll look forward to seeing y'all on the slopes and the tracks, and pray for snow.—**Steve Neiner is a Nordic DECL from Pebble Creek**

