

# THE INSTRUCTORS EDGE

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

## The Vanishing Half-Pipe

*How it's Changing  
Snowboard Exams*

By Evan Toal

Finishing the last sip of your second cup of coffee, you stumble off the bus and turn up the volume as you walk to the locker room. The air feels warmer and damper than it has the last few months. Christmas rush, Martin Luther King, and President's week are all behind you and you are way ahead of your contracted hourly requirement for the season.

After easing into a now packed-out pair of boots that were brand new just two months ago, you grab a board from your locker slot and climb the stairs to line up. You say hello to all the usual suspects: the girl who always wants to work, the guy who never wants to work, the new-hire group that always wants to clinic, the back country nerds and the park rats. "What do you want to do today?" says the guy with the radio. Quickly you take a brief mental audit of your bank account. This month, you'll



Scott McGee

Participants in the L1/2/3 Cross Country exams held at Teton Pines in Jackson, Wyoming January 14-15 celebrate under the sun.

handily appease the landlord and you may even have enough left over for a few beers. "I'm here to help out how ever I can," you reply. What you really mean is, "I'd really rather not work today, the mountain has been in a freeze-thaw cycle for over a week, and my back and knees shudder at the mere thought of another day of firm bumps." No, it's the challenge and thrill of a half-pipe you crave and no amount of Intermountain powder will serve as a fix. You want to ride the lift alone and disappear behind deafening metal and blacked out M3s. You want to get your head right for the coming tidal wave of spring breakers.

If this is you and you work at one of the many resorts that has recently

decided to cut half-pipes from its repertoire, you may as well get back on the bus. Head home to fold laundry or go grab one of those beers and raise it up high in honor of our fallen comrade, the half-pipe.

With an increase in operational costs, consolidation of privately held resorts, decreasing millennial interest in snow sports and the uncertainty of climate change, resorts country wide are cutting pipes from their budget's and there's nothing Terje, Craig, Hanna or Shawn can say about it. Even now in an Olympic year when interest in pipe should be at a four-year high, major resorts are cutting them out.

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It's never too early to plan for fun.

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Run, vote, and be counted.

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Tele, the Ying Yang of Learning and more.

PROFESSIONAL SNOWSPORT INSTRUCTION IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

## HALF-PIPE continued from 1

### How will not having a half-pipe affect your teaching?

We know what this means for your free riding, but how will the great pipe extinction affect your teaching? Commonly, pipes are used to teach advanced concepts like dropping into “mandatory terrain” like chutes and couloirs. They can be utilized as terrain-based teaching arenas to promote the appropriate movements required to move the center of mass in reference to the changing fall line. Pipes are great for teaching all the different ways to weight and unweight a snowboard for a multitude of desired outcomes. They’re also great for teaching folks how to ride a half-pipe. If you’ve been using the pipe as a teaching tool, have no fear because while there are very few terrain settings that afford a truly vertical counter slope, there are plenty that come close. Ditches, gullies and cat track walls are all great for promoting the same movement patterns that are present in the half-pipe. Here are some drills and tasks you can try. Ask your student to place certain aspects of the turn phase in a ditch, i.e., edge change in the bottom of the ditch and the shaping portion on the wall. By doing so you can get students to incorporate pipe like skills. Because of the multiple fall line nature of a half-pipe or ditch, they are great arenas for teaching students how to engage their downhill edge and move the center of mass toward the next turn. This “drill” is not only a fun way to ride a ditch but it also promotes movements that are applicable to steeper terrain settings. Another cool pipe related task to try is to ask a student to steer a large-radius turn back up the hill and change edges as the board is pointed 45 degrees to the fall line. In this exercise students need to match the timing of their movements and their board performances to their momentum. Poor timing will cause the

student to catch edges or cause them to “slip” into the next turn. If you’re a pipe addict, both edge catches and slipping to the next edge should be no stranger to you. While good timing is critical to becoming a good pipe rider it is also an essential part of steepes, bumps, trees and more. There’s a long list of other pipe related riding concepts that can be applied to the rest of the hill, the only thing needed to bring those ideas out onto the slope is a creative mind.

### So how will not having a half-pipe affect my exam?

What does this no pipe thing mean for my upcoming exam you ask? Don’t worry, we’ve got you covered there too. In November, when it became clear that Park City Mountain Resort would have the only half-pipe in the AASI Intermountain region, the Intermountain Committee engaged in a heated, weeks-long debate. On the surface, the issue struck an emotional cord; folks were saddened by the news that a skill set so essential to the core of snowboarding was going away. But how do we continue the obligation to uphold the AASI National Standards while also conducting fair exams for the membership? Let’s face it, one half-pipe between all of Utah, Wyoming and Southeastern Idaho just doesn’t afford all members the same opportunity to practice and prepare for the standards. No committee member believed that the pipe standard should be assessed in the way that it has been, with only one pipe available to the membership. The question was how we could best uphold the standard while changing the process to level the playing field for all members in the region. After much deliberation, on December 21, 2017, John Pohl proposed a new “best practice” for the committee to vote on. The proposed best practice is as follows:

In assessing level 2 and 3 candidates, a natural terrain feature will be used to evaluate the transitional feature proficiency and/or standard. Can-

## The Instructors EDGE

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### Editorial/Advertising Office

Rodger Renstrom, Editor  
770 Pinewood Dr, Sandy, UT  
(v) 801 566-9727  
(e) [editor@agegroupsports.com](mailto:editor@agegroupsports.com)

### PSIA-I Division, AASI-I Division Office

Vicki Mills, Kathy Sudweeks, Kathryn Milne, Kirstie Rosenfield  
7105 Highland Dr., Suite 201  
Salt Lake City, UT 84121  
(v) 801 942-2066, (f) 801 942-7837  
(e) [admin@psia-i.org](mailto:admin@psia-i.org)

### PSIA-I, AASI-I Officers and Chairs

*President:* Rich McLaughlin  
*Administrative V. P.:* Mike Thurgood  
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The Edge may also be viewed online at [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org).

## Bring on Spring

(Well, maybe bring on a little winter first!)

### Deer Valley Resort, April 6-8, 2018

We are excited to announce that this year's Spring Clinic will be at Deer Valley (Snowboarders, stay tuned for details on Spring Ride). There will be some "traditional," and a lot of "new" this year, so come celebrate the successes of the season in the greatest skiing region in the country – your Intermountain Division!

Take advantage of all the exceptional spring skiing Deer Valley has to offer. Then join us for a bowling party at Jupiter Bowl. We'll have food, bowling, billiards, and of course, awards. It's the time we cheer for the winter sport we love and the community we have created. Show up, have fun and make this a party to remember.

#### Choose your Clinic

Most topics this year will have different pacing options: relaxed (slower speed and intensity), moderate (medium speed and intensity) and full send (high speed and intensity).

#### Friday

Freeski with a Intermountain DECL.

#### Saturday and Sunday Topics

1. *Legends* – ski with the Ski Instructing Legends from the Intermountain Division.
2. *Bumps* – Moguls provide one of the classic challenges in skiing. Get better at choosing a line, maintaining ski/snow contact, rhythm and speed on the natural snow conditions of the day
3. *The Groomer Game* – It's all about slicing up the groomers – Dial in the essential ingredients for powerful and precise carving on Deer Valley's excellent groomed surfaces.
4. *All-around the Mountain* – This group will focus on the adjustments necessary for skiing the full variety of the mountain's terrain and conditions.

#### Lodging

Deer Valley has offered us reduced lodging rates. To access the request use the link below. Type in the key code: PSIDvr0418. After filling out the request, the Deer Valley lodging reservations department will contact you to confirm the requested reservation. If you prefer to make a reservation by phone, please call Group Lodging at: (855) 410-3337. Please book your reservation on or before March 7 to ensure availability. Deposit and cancellation policies will apply. [https://deervalley.secure.force.com/ResortForce\\_\\_ReservationRequest?id=3679730](https://deervalley.secure.force.com/ResortForce__ReservationRequest?id=3679730)



Join your peers  
and friends!  
Experience a  
"new" kind of  
Spring Clinic!

5. *Skiing Sisterhood* – Women teaching women at the pace of your choice. Make some new ski buddies as you experience a wide range of conditions and terrain

6. *Race Drills for Ski Improvement* – Learn how to develop higher edge angles higher in the turn or how to release the skis sooner to carry more speed between turns. Ski groomed surfaces on advanced or expert terrain.

#### Sunday - 3:30

Last run! – Come one come all. Let's all meet at the top of Flagstaff for one last run together. Sounds like a good photo opportunity, doesn't it? We will make our way back down to the Snowpark Lodge from there.

#### Clinic Cost

\$80 per day. **This year lift tickets are included in the price!**

#### "Banquet" Party

Jupiter Bowl Party starting at 5:30. Cost TBA, but we are keeping it low. Full-cash bar.

didates will not be assessed in a half-pipe, even if the feature is available, as it would be unfair to test pipe in some exams but not in others.

On December 22, 2017, the Committee voted to adopt this new best practice. This means that level 2 and 3 candidates will *not* be assessed in a half-pipe. This may be a sigh of relief to some readers. Keep in mind these are still level 2 and 3 exams and the riding

standard must still be assessed. If you are tracking toward one of these certification events, be prepared to ride ditches, gullies and counter slopes to display pipe related skills. Examiners may ask to see variations of carving and skidding in the same turn, they may ask to see varied methods of weighting and unweighting the equipment at obscure moments in the turn or in strange locations to the fall line. Keep in mind that

ditches, gullies and counter slopes are often not manicured surfaces. This means that moguls, ruts and groomer lips are a few of the features you should expect to see incorporated into an examiner's assessment of the proficiency. Pipe riding isn't easy, but then again neither is showing that you can ride a pipe without a pipe to ride.

**continued on 4**



### HALF-PIPE continued from 3

Will the half-pipe go away completely? While the future of the half-pipe and its availability to the public is uncertain, we shouldn't forget it's a huge moneymaker. Events like the US Open, the Dew Tour, the X-Games and the Olympics still draw crowds of thousands of people and resorts benefit greatly from the revenue. The resorts where these events are held will continue to keep pipes around as long as there are spectators for the events. The real problem that we face as pipe lovers is that the public shows little interest in learning the skill because – let's admit it – it's hard.

Resorts these days are faced with lots of new challenges, one of the main ones is capturing the interest of younger generations. As interest in snowsports amongst millennials wanes, resorts are forced to focus on things that will entice them in. Now don't get me wrong, this isn't entirely the millennial's fault; I said it before and I'll say it again, the half-pipe is hard, it's always been hard. It's hard to learn, it's hard to get good at, and it's hard to stay good at. To be honest, that's what makes it so appealing to industry professionals and skiers and snowboarders who log 50-plus days a year. For those people the pipe is a place you can always have fun and you can always improve. It's a place where if you hang out long enough you're bound to bump into someone you know. It's a place where the "session" vibe thrives, where people freely offer advice, encourage one another and cheer each other on.

The optimist in me wants to believe that resorts do what they do because they wish to create the most fun and inviting environment possible, a place where everyone's interests are taken into consideration and it's all in the name of having a good time. The realist in me knows that the thing driving those decisions is money. Quite frankly, it has to be since operational costs for the places we all love are astronomical.

As we move forward into a new era



## Alpine Certification

*By Dustin Cooper, Alpine Certification Manager*

With the winter season in full swing, it's time to start thinking about your certification plans and training this season. We consistently see those that plan their education and certification pathway become more successful.

Keep up to date on what is happening with the Intermountain Division. Be sure to utilize the updated website and sign-up for events early.

### More Assessments

Additional exams have been added to the calendar this year, based on demand and requested events over the last few years. There are three more Level 1 events that have been added. The locations are Sundance, Park City - Canyons base, and Snowbasin. There are added Level 2 and Level 3 exams at Snowbasin, February 26 and 27. We will be offering two opportunities this year for the 2-day coached assessment. These will be held at Deer Valley and Jackson Hole. Last year there was a lot of positive feedback about these events. For now, it seems best for the members to offer both the 2-day coached and Individual day assessment formats. This allows flexibility of process for different member needs.

Divisional education and certification leaders from all disciplines attended the PSIA Fall Conference, held at Keystone Resort in Colorado the first week of November. The focus was making PSIA divisional processes more effective and consistent. The process was started in more clearly defining the learning outcomes for all certification levels. In addition to Fall Conference, we will be participating in divisional education staff exchanges. Representatives from different divisions attend staff training or participate in education and certification events in other divisions. This process has helped with the divisions attain more consistency in the education and certification process.

### Alpine Advisory Committee

The PSIA-I Alpine Advisory Committee (AAC) met periodically throughout the summer and fall to discuss and give input on education, certification, and DECL training within the division. This group is made up of DECLs selected by their peers to serve two years in this capacity. This creates more collaboration and discussion when making important decisions about our education and certification processes. This season there will be few updates to the PSIA-I certification process. Here's to everyone having a successful season! ■

of snowboarding, where the half-pipe only exists on TV, remember you are not just an industry professional but a consumer as well. Let resorts know about the things that matter to you. The next time some nice person approaches you and kindly asks if you'd mind filling out a survey, don't

forget your fallen comrade. – **Evan Toal is a fourteen-year Jackson Hole Mountain Resort snowboard instructor and current AASI-I DECL. He now dedicates every waking moment of his free time to teaching his 3-year-old son and one-year-old daughter that they don't have to ski first. #kidscansnoboard**

## Choose the Better Transition For the Perfect Turn

By Alex Duret

The transition is the process between the end of one turn and the initiation of the next turn. There is more than one way to go through the transition and your choice will determine the ski performance. The goal of this article is to explain how each type of transition affects the skis differently and, in consequence, generates a different outcome.

tion, the outside leg is flexed at a faster rate while the inside leg is staying relatively flexed as well.

As a result, if both photos are compared, during cross-over the skier ends up with a taller position (extended), while during cross-under, the skier ends up with a shorter position (flexed).

A “Mixed” transition is a hybrid that combines elements of the other two

Contrastingly, because Cross-Under is performed through a flexion (of mostly knees and hip joints, while the ankles remain flexed), the CM can travel fast laterally. When Cross-Under is performed, the CM can be quickly directed to the inside of the new turn and doing so implies that the CM cannot be directed forward as much as in the Cross-Over. Cross-



Photo 2 (Alex Duret)

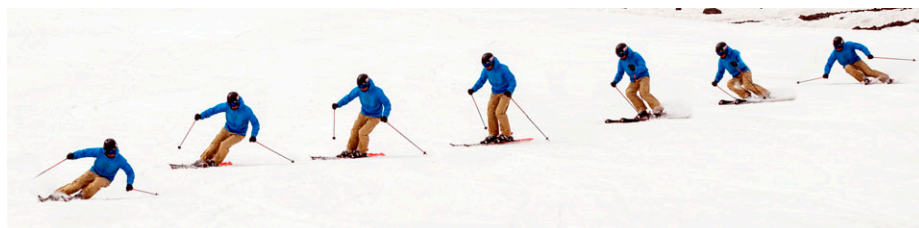


Photo 1 (Alex Duret)

There are basically three different ways to go through the transition to start the next turn: Cross-Over, Cross-Under, and Mixed. Let’s analyze a simplified version of how each one is performed.

A “Cross-Over” transition is basically approached by the extension of the legs. Mainly, the inside leg will become longer and push the Center of Mass (CM) forward and across the skis into the inside of the new turn. This can be appreciated in the series of photos (photo 1) where, from the fall-line to the transition, the inside leg is extended at a faster rate while the outside leg is staying relatively extended as well.

A “Cross-Under” transition is approached by the flexion of the legs, where the outside leg becomes shorter allowing the CM to travel across the skis. This can be appreciated in the series of photos (photo 2) where, from the fall-line to the transi-

tion, the outside leg is flexed at a faster rate while the inside leg is staying relatively flexed as well. In this case, the transition is approached with the simultaneous extension of the inside leg and the flexion of the outside one.

How will each type create a different ski performance? And which one is “best” for a given situation?

To answer the first question, we need to briefly analyze how the Center of Mass moves in each case.

Because Cross-Over is performed through an extension (of mostly knees and hip joints, while the ankles remain flexed), the skier is able to direct the CM further forward along the length of the skis toward the tips. However, the CM cannot be quickly directed toward the inside of the turn. Cross-Over will allow the skier to strongly build pressure in the front of the skis at the beginning of the turn, with a slower edge-change while the overall transition time will be longer. See Fig 1.

Under results in a shorter transition with a faster edge-change, but it will have limited capability of getting pressure on the tips of the skis. See Fig 2.

Naturally, because Mixed transitions are a combination of the previous two, the direction of the CM will depend on how is executed and it will be closer to Cross-Over, to Cross-Under, or be right in between.

So, how do we answer the second question? Even though most skiers have a natural preference for one over the other, both transition types are constantly present in great skiing. When it comes to choosing the “best” one, there are many factors to be considered: snow conditions, terrain, desired turn shape, speed. However, it is handy to know how each transition will affect the skis.

Choose between Cross-Over to engage the front of the skis, Cross-Under to make a fast transition, or Mix them up and make your next turn perfect. – Alex Duret is a PSIA-I DECL and instructor teaching at Jackson Hole.

Visit [psia-i.org](http://psia-i.org) or [aasi-i.org](http://aasi-i.org) for the latest Intermountain information.

## From the **Board of Directors**

Dear Members,

We hope you all had a great holiday and are looking forward to a prosperous and snow filled winter season! Hopefully, you all have had some decent turns and are looking towards more snow as the season progresses.

Our new vision statement "Create Lifelong Adventures through Education," adopted by all of the divisions, is something to live by. Each day is an adventure in our industry. How lucky we are to teach our clients and share our passion and love of the sport.

Our mission statement is to "Provide our members with high quality educational resources and well-defined national standards to enhance their professional skill and satisfy the needs of Snowsports customers." To that end, we are always looking to improve our resources with continued work with the discipline managers, allowing our members to experience more educational and worthwhile clinics and activities! The Intermountain Division Board of Directors is committed to these responsibilities and is working hard to meet those ends. It is our hope that our efforts drive our division forward into the future.

Looking to the future, we have some exciting goals we are trying to accomplish. We are moving to hire an executive director to oversee the office operations. This will enable the division to align with the other divisions and the national organization that all currently have executive directors. The process will be long, but well worth the effort. Second, we are committed to continue our work with national and the other seven divisions to come up with best practices with the three C's: Consistency, Consolidation, and Cooperation. Third, we are committed to be fiscally sound as a division, while

continuing to be one the least expensive divisions. This does not mean that costs will not go up in the future. Costs continue to increase nationwide, but we will be working hard to keep costs to the members down. Lastly we are committed to continue our volunteer work with the National Ability Center. They have provided us with conference rooms for our meetings. This has been our way of giving back. We are always looking for other ways to give back to our communities and our resources. Looking for ways to help and give back is an ongoing endeavor.

The board looks forward to continuing to support the organization with our commitment to education and events, and to building strong relationships with the schools within our division. We appreciate the support of our members and look forward to a great 2018 and beyond.

We are wishing you all a great season! Respectfully, the Intermountain Division Board of Directors. ■

## Quick News from **Region 1**

### *Snow King, Targhee, Jackson Hole Mountain Resorts*

*By Rich McLaughlin*

Hello Intermountain Division. Recently, we have been gifted with a lot of snow. As I write, Teton County WY, Idaho, and the entire mountain area is under a winter storm warning. It's been great to see people enjoying the mountains again in earnest. We'd like to invite all of you to Region 1 to enjoy the snow with us!

Snow King Mountain: Also known as the "Town Hill," Snow King features many slope side amenities: family friendly restaurants, a mountain

coaster that runs both summer and winter, and their famous winter tubing park. Every spring, Snow King hosts the Hill Climb. This year it is on March 22. This event has been going on since 1975, marking the beginning of spring for many locals. Snow King is located in the town of Jackson. You can ski and ride all day long then head right over to the many restaurants in Jackson, just a couple of blocks away.

Targhee Mountain Resort: Locally known as the "Ghee," Targhee is known as the quiet side of the Tetons. They too have a tubing park, along with miles of cross country skiing and fat bike riding trails! Since their base is at 7851 feet and their summit rises to 10,121, they boast 500+ inches of snow a year. Their powder usually is soft and plentiful. There are many activities coming up this winter that you can enjoy. Après ski at the base Trapper Bar or have dinner in the slope-side restaurants. Please come up for a PSIA/AASI event to take advantage of this fun mountain.

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort: Locally known as, "The Mountain," is my home mountain. We are currently in the construction phase of a new Ski and Ride Learning Center at the mid-station of the Sweetwater Gondola. The Kemmerer's have invested in the Mountain Sports School and will open the new facility next winter. Our snow is finally starting to accumulate; it's just getting better day after day. The steep terrain can be found pretty much everywhere. Corbet's Couloir to the Hoback's and many runs in between. As I write this, there are 14 inches of new snow on the mountain. The powder frenzy is in full force!

If you've never been here, please come visit our friendly western mountains. There are many PSIA/AASI events here that you can attend then stay another day to enjoy everything Jackson Hole has to offer. I'm sure the

*continued on next page*



## PSIA/AASI Intermountain **Board of Directors Election**

*What is it all about and how can I run for a seat?*

### What do they do?

The Intermountain Division Board of Directors consists of PSIA-AASI members who volunteer their time and expertise to the board. They are responsible for the strategic management of our nonprofit corporation. Board members represent the PSIA-AASI membership. They represent their ski schools and the Intermountain Division. The board operates by following our Policies and Procedures along with our Bylaws.

### What should members want and need from their Directors?

We all want a board member who has passion for the organization, a willingness to volunteer their time, and the desire to be a leader. A board member should have a team-oriented attitude. The board member works to speak with one voice for the entire board.

### What is it all about?

The board meets three times a year in Salt Lake City (summer, fall and spring). Beginning with the summer meeting,

there is a strategic planning session that reviews membership data such as membership demographics, event and exam data, and financials of the organization. This is a fact-based assessment of our financial stability and a review of the membership's needs. Revisions to

Policies and Procedures, such as electronic voting process from ballots, event cancellation, and policy changes are some examples of what the board reviews. The code of conduct creation, travel reimbursement, and clinic discount pass changes are other examples of the board's work. The board is also fun! We plan the Spring Clinic, discuss new ideas for education, meet new people, and overall learn how our organization that we belong to runs!

## How do I Vote?

You must be a member in good standing of the Intermountain Division in order to vote in the Intermountain Division Board of Directors election. All members may vote for two (2) At Large candidates. If you are affiliated with a school listed below you may cast one vote for a candidate in that category in addition to the at large votes.

*Region 1:* If you are affiliated with schools in Region 1 (JHMR, Targhee or Snow King) you may vote for a candidate running for that seat.

*Region 6:* If you are affiliated with schools in Region 6 (Solitude, Brighton or Sundance) you may vote for a candidate running for that seat.

*Region 7:* If you are affiliated with schools in Region 7 (Alta, Snowbird) you may vote for a candidate running for that seat.

Starting March 1, 2018 at 8 a.m. the candidates' pictures and statements will be posted on the website. The best way to vote is online through the [www.psia-i.org](http://www.psia-i.org) website. Voting will conclude March 15, 2018 at 5 p.m. If you prefer to cast a paper ballot please contact the office (801-942-2066 or [admin@psia-i.org](mailto:admin@psia-i.org)) If a paper ballot is submitted it must be postmarked by March 15. Ballots will be counted within seven days and results will be published after all candidates are notified of the results.

**Please Vote! Every Vote Counts!**

### Great! You want to run for a BOD position! Here is the Process!

Applicants must be Certified Level 1, 2, or 3 members, in good standing, of the Intermountain Division.

Applicants must be endorsed, in writing, by five certified members in good standing in the division.

Applications are to be received in the office via email at [admin@psia-i.org](mailto:admin@psia-i.org) or postmarked by February 15.

Applicants must submit a photograph no smaller than 2"x 2."

Applicants must submit a short biographical paragraph, which includes your certification education, past/present employment, years of membership, and why you want to be on the board. This will be published so that members can know you better and vote.

If running for a regional position, you must be employed by the snow-sports school identified in that region.

Voting for regional candidates will be by IMD PSIA-AASI members in good standing in that region.

Voting for at large candidates will be by eligible voters within the full membership.

Open Seats for the March 2018 elections are:

*Region 1* – JHMR, Targhee, Snow King

*Region 6* – Solitude, Brighton, Sundance

*Region 7* – Alta, Snowbird

*At-Large seats* – two available

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Rendezvous Festival this spring will be packed full of great bands and fun events to herald in spring at Jackson Hole. So come on up and stay awhile!

I hope you all have a great winter season. If you do get into town, come on by the Kids Ranch here at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and say hello. We can go take a run!

All the Best from Region 1, Rich McLaughlin.– **Rich McLaughlin is Region 1 Representative and PSIA/AASI Intermountain Division president.**

## Patagonia **Telemark**

*First Tele Cert. in South America*

*By Scott McGee and Jim Shaw*

In September 2015, following Interski in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, Jim Shaw, Ross Matlock, Scott McGee, members of the PSIA Nordic Team, and frequently contracted manual and matrix videographer Vinnie Urgo, along with some other South American Tele'ers, traveled overland by car to Cerro Catedral in Bariloche – a three-day landscape-sampler odyssey. There the team members delivered Telemark clinics that were the germinating event for what has now become the Patagonia Telemark Festival.

This year the festival stretched for eight days in September with all levels of Telemark certification events, Telemark skills clinics and certification prep clinics, as well as weekend clinics for the general public. The results: seven Level 1, six Level 2, and one Level 3 certified Telemark instructors from five different countries, all under the auspices of PSIA/AASI-Rocky Mountain.

### How it all began

Back in about 2012, Diego Allolio, a leading avalanche educator in Argentina, contacted PSIA/AASI Pool Supplier 22 Designs (now a festival sponsor) about getting some Tele expertise to Argentina. Chris Valiente of 22 Designs contacted McGee and that was the beginning of a years-long discussion about how to make something happen in Bariloche. Diego was traveling annually to North American winter and on his next trip connected with current PSIA Nordic Team member Grant Bishop for his Tele Level 1, in Jackson, WY.

This year's Patagonia Telemark Festival was organized with help from AADIDES (La Asociación Argentina de Instructores de Esquí y Snowboard), the RM Division and the PSIA National Office.



## Children's Corner

*By Mark Nakada, Intermountain Children's Manager*

Aloha! I hope you're having a great season!

### Children's Program Updates

As I noted in my last column, Patti Olsen and I attended Fall Conference as Intermountain's representatives on the

National Children's Task Force (NCTF). At this year's conference, the NCTF:

- ◆ reviewed the CS Standards and CS Rubric
- ◆ developed CS learning outcomes and assessment criteria using the "learning outcomes" model developed by Penn State University educators
- ◆ updated the core CS question bank used by all divisions as a preparatory step towards developing and implementing a national CS1 workbook and/or evaluative quiz
- ◆ collaborated on the proposed contents for the new Children's Manual

From the group's learning outcome discussions, the NCTF developed the following outcome statements for CS1:

- ◆ A CS1 instructor is able to build a child-centered learning experience.
- ◆ A CS1 instructor is able to develop relationships and engage in a partnership with the child and parent.
- ◆ A CS1 instructor is able to identify and describe the cognitive, affective and psychomotor (CAP) domains of child development.

Over the next several months, the NCTF will be holding monthly calls to continue its work on this endeavor. Stay tuned for more details.

### New CS Syllabus and Workbooks Posted

An updated Children's Program Syllabus as well as revised CS1, CS2 and CS Trainer Workbooks were posted on the division's website in November at: <http://www.psia-i.org/disciplines/children/>. Please download these documents to better prepare for one of our events. Please note:

- ◆ Only current CS Workbooks (v3.21 for CS1 and CS2; v1.2 for CST) will be accepted for our 2017-18 season events.
- ◆ Workbooks must be received at least two (2) weeks prior to a CS event at the PSIA/AASI-I office.

### Children's Lecture Added

We've added a lecture, "Pairing Technology and Teaching Skiing/Riding to Children with Abilities," to the Children's event calendar on Thursday, February 1 and Thursday, March 1 (same lecture, two locations).

**Lecture Description:** Learn how to engage children with abilities by using simple phone apps, and how these apps can enhance your lessons while increasing the learning experience. Bring your favorite app! This lecture is an update to last season's lecture.

**Lecturer Bio:** Eve Bier is a Granite School District special education school social worker who has worked with autistic and emotionally challenged individuals for over 35 years. She has also been a part-time ski instructor for over 17 years.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events! ■



The goal for AADIDES is to develop a Telemark Certification program of their own. This certification event and festival was the first step. And, it's working! There are now 10 newly certified Argentinian Telemark instructors.

### An International roster

In addition to the participating instructors from Argentina, Germany and Chile, there were four instructors from the PSIA-RM Division and one from the PSIA-I Division who made the trek to Bariloche for the event. All five of these individuals recognized a unique opportunity in the instruction world and seized the moment. All made new friends and connections while enjoying some fantastic skiing and sharing of Telemark wisdom!

If the possibility of international travel, picking up or improving your Tele'ing, or off-season certification pique your interest, stay tuned – plans are in place to host

the next Patagonia Telemark Festival again next September. There's even discussion of offering events for other disciplines as well. Stay tuned!

### Equipment, the great challenge

One of the toughest aspects of developing Tele in Argentina is the scarcity of equipment. The government, in an attempt to encourage industry in ARG, has instituted an import tax of 35 to 50 percent on new merchandise, whether shipped into the country or brought through customs in luggage. For products with a per-size mold cost upwards of \$100,000, no one is jumping to start new boot companies in Argentina.

To this end, one day last May McGee wiped out the Tele boot selection at the local Jackson, WY thrift store and paid a hefty baggage fee to haul an extra duffel full of Tele boots with him this trip. But 10 new pairs of boots (at \$25-\$75 prices

at the Bariloche consignment store) in an equipment-starved country represents significant growth in the stockpile of available equipment for folks to give Tele a try, and maybe become "core" Tele'ers. (Recently, Scotty scooped six pairs of free tele skis from a local ski swap and the bindings from those will be traveling with him on his next voyage south.) Says McGee, "Smuggling Tele gear is no way to grow rich in this small sector of the industry, but it does feel great to know that you're helping grow the sport in a place without easy access to gear."

### Telemark Participants

*Level I:* Ines Alder, Alexis Blackstead, Elliot

Hovey, Raul Iturbe, Ryan McCartney,

Macarena Correa Perez, Jon Runschke;

*Level II:* Diego Allolio, Alexis Blackstead, Santiago Busch Frers, Rick Daniluk, Donny Nieters, Regine Oexl, Pierre Tagliabue;

*Level III:* Hernan 'Tito' Franco

## Fall Conference

By J. Scott McGee

Each fall, just after the PSIA/AASI team training event in Colorado, our national organization gathers trainer/examiner representatives from each division, and from each of the disciplines, to come together to achieve closer alignment on some or all of the following: certification standards, interpretation of the standards, exam formats and methods, discipline-specific fundamentals, written test/workbook materials, and other ways to bring divisions' certification closer together, in content, means and result.

This Fall Conference was held at Keystone/Arapahoe Basin, CO. The Tele group was focused on revisiting/revising the Tele Fundamentals, now one year out, and new learning outcomes designed to help PSIA/AASI achieve a credit-rated status allowing

PSIA/AASI training to count for college credit. While this was a somewhat daunting task, we not only honed and clarified our message, but we also came closer together in our understanding of how we interpret standards.

There is much work yet to do, but

we anticipate the growing consensus-building attitude from the teams, divisions and national can only help in the quest to provide more consistent certification processes. – **J. Scott McGee is the PSIA Nordic Team coach and senior manager for Nordic and training at Jack-**



### The Tele Fundamentals

Why have Fundamentals? Fundamentals orient examiner, trainer, instructor, and student/client to the 'planes' of movement – or most important categories of movement to look at and develop. Any technique being taught should relate to one of these fundamentals (excluding tactics, except for where and when to apply the Fundamentals).

**Lead Change:** Control the lead change to manage fore/aft stability and to complement the other fundamentals.

**Fore/aft:** Control the fore/aft relationship of the center of mass to the base of support to manage pressure along the length of the skis.

**Side to side:** Control the lateral relationship of the center of mass to the base of support to manage pressure from ski to ski.

**Rotation:** Control the turning of the skis with rotation of the feet and legs in conjunction with discipline in the upper body.

**Edge:** Control edge angles through a combination of inclination and angulation.

**Overall pressure:** Regulate the amount of pressure created through ski/snow interaction with flexion and extension movements.

## Foundations of Learning I

*AI, Chaos, Dragons, Whales*

*By Cookie Hale*

### Frames

There has been a transformation in the last 40 years of how we look at the world. One view is that the world is made of objects. When you look at the world, you see the objects. As a consequence of seeing the objects, you think about what to do. After you think about what to do, you act. Now this seems self-evident, but there's a real problem with this idea. The first problem is that seeing is actually impossible.

You use half your brain to see. The visual cortex is a large part of your brain. As far as we can tell, the reason it's so large is that seeing is actually impossible. This fact wasn't discovered by psychologists or philosophers, it was discovered by people who were working on artificial intelligence (AI). Their pre-supposition was what to do once you see objects. However, it turned out that making machines that could "see" objects was impossible. The reason for that is that the boundaries between objects are not obvious. It's difficult to understand how we separate out things.

Consider what you do see when you look in the mirror. Do you see reality? Do you see the quantum level, the atomic level, the molecular level, the organ level, the interactions between you and your family, friends, society? When you look at yourself, you only see a certain level of resolution. But all those other levels are equally real. How is it that you see what you do see?

Almost nothing has obvious boundaries. The name for this problem, how to limit and bound perceptions, is called the *Frame Problem*. (Look up McCarthy and Hayes, 1969, and others such as Dennett, Fodor, and Thielscher, whom some

believed "solved" the problem using fluent calculus in 2001). Everything is more complicated than what you see, so why do you see what you see?

The world isn't made out of objects, it is made out of relevance - things that you use (tools) and things that get in your way. When you look at the world, you see it through your frame of relevance, what you can do with it. In skiing, an expert may



look at a black run and see a great line through the bumps. An intermediate learner might see impossible obstacles that are going to swallow him up and then shoot him into the trees. Understanding perception is foundational for understanding and helping people learn. What is relevant to them, in their world, is what they will see. Skiing is an open-skilled sport and so much depends on awareness and perception – your experience will depend on how you can see things and what you do with them. Experience is real.

### Chaos and Order

Chaos is all those things you don't understand, that exist outside your perceptual precondition. Order is the things that you do understand, the things that you do that produce the results that you intend. Everywhere you go, you have both. It's the chaotic things that attract your attention. Think about this in teaching skiing from the learners perspective. What can they do, what have they experienced and what is their chaos? If something unexpected happens, your nervous

system automatically reacts and orients to it. Your brain knows what to do. It stops thinking about the future, it puts you in emergency preparation mode so you are ready to do anything because you do not know what to do. It shifts your cortisol levels up, activates your right and left cortices, your limbic and motivational systems are disinhibited and turned on. The orderly structure that you thought you inhabited, that provided you with security and direction, has disappeared. We don't want our clients to go into chaos to this extent. This is not setting up a learning environment!

The world is always this interplay between chaos and order. Learning is making order out of chaos that we voluntarily choose to approach. We all need to stand with one foot in order and one foot in chaos. There, we are secure enough to be confident, but not so interested to be terrified. When you are in a state like that, engaged, you find things meaningful, time slips by, you are no longer self-conscious. It is a place. We want to go there with our clients.

### Dragons and Whales

How do you approach chaos if there is fear? You can get over fear by voluntarily approaching things you are afraid of. Physiologically, if I force you to accept a challenge, your body goes into that emergency preparation mode and you will become stressed. If I present you with the same challenge and you accept it voluntarily, your brain doesn't produce stress hormones and a completely different physiological system kicks in. Humans evolved two modes for dealing with the unknown. One is a voluntary approach, and the other is panic, paralysis and flight. We help people approach chaos by starting where they are, in their now, their reality, and having them decide how close to their chaos they can get. What can they add to what they can already do that will help them approach their chaos?

*continued on next page*

## Value as an Instructor

By Yaron Steinhauer

Every day we come to the mountain to enjoy the sport we really love. Whether we are free skiing or teaching our sport, we all hope to enjoy sliding down the hill. I say hope because there are days we are stuck down in the beginner area teaching first-time kids that just learned how to walk a year ago or first-time adults that always had an excuse to skip PE class in high school. The worst is when we are teaching these lessons after a fresh snowfall, watching people come back to the base saying it's their best day ever. However, in all my years of teaching I have never seen an instructor walk out on their group and go free ski. We just bite our tongue or take a deep breath and find a way to get through the day or more importantly share our sport with our stu-

### FOUNDATIONS continued from 10

#### St. George and the Dragon

Dragons are strange creatures. First of all, they don't exist, or do they? They hoard gold and trap virgins in their lairs – very strange for a reptile. St George goes out to confront the dragon. If you confront your dragon, you can get the gold! Sometimes a story like this is great for clients.

Another great story for your clients is *Jonah and the Whale*. The whale is what lurks underneath that can come up and swallow you. However, if you fall into the belly of the whale, you can come out the other side transformed. This is how we learn. Every time you learn something, it's because something you did didn't work. People have an incredible capacity to face and overcome things – like skiing a steep bump run or even the beginner slope.

(Next - Foundations of Learning II - *The gods that inhabit all of us*). – **Cookie Hale** is an instructor at Jackson Hole.

dents. Yes, share the sport we came to the mountain to enjoy.

And the next day, when we arrive to another foot of snow, your previous students have asked for you again. Some success the day before – maybe playing red-light green-light, walking in boots, making a snow angel, or doing a straight run – was a feeling they want to experience again and again. You have brought an experience the student will never forget. Now you have to pull off some more magic and better the experience. Maybe ride the chairlift or just gain the confi-

*You wanted to ski fresh tracks, but your role on these days was bringing value to beginner skiers.*

dence of stopping in a wedge. The supervisor comes over and adds a few more students to your group. After introductions, you warm the group up and start the lesson, observing all the new students. In your mind you have set a goal and some progressions. The lesson ends and you have not only achieved your lesson goal, but exceeded it with a number of your students. They're all skiing consistently on a green run with bright smiles on all their faces. You check out with the supervisor who gives you a thumb's up and you can't wait to tell the other instructors the success of your lesson.

Wait a second, wasn't there fresh snow on the slopes? Yes, but you choose the responsibility of sharing a sport you enjoy when you come to the mountains every day. Today it will be beginners and one day you may lead a group of expert skiers looking for the untracked snow. You might have wanted to ski the fresh tracks, but your role on these days was bringing value to some beginner skiers. Plus, during the lesson, you found a way to connect to your student and give them a great experience. It might have been gained from a training class or previous lesson, but you shared your experiences with

your students that resulted in success.

Life is about challenges we face each day and we face these each day as an instructor. Regardless, when a supervisor assigns us a lesson, no matter the level, you teach. We always bring value to the mountain. This is something we miss as an instructor some days. Many people come to our mountains for a break from the everyday grind and they value our time. Every instructor is valuable as we have gained a vast amount of knowledge to share. We bring an experience to our guests they are expecting. Without us new skiers wouldn't enter the industry or intermediate skiers wouldn't be able to ski that mogul field comfortably.

Sure, it's easier to talk about it than do it. But it's important we don't miss this point. When you are tired at the end of the day, remember those kids or adults are talking about their stories to their family or friends and you brought that to their lives. This is value no one can put a dollar figure on and hopefully many instructors can understand it's not always about the best turn on the mountain. The best instructor sometimes is someone who values their time, energy, and provides the best experience for their students. Our jobs are not easy, but it's important we don't give up on the hard days. We need to learn from these days and our value doesn't stop growing when we end our lesson, but only when we stop learning.

Our industry keeps growing and mountains are recruiting more instructors than ever before, but it's hard when instructors give up because they feel undervalued from the mountain, maybe because of their tough lesson or given a lower level group. It certainly is a combination of respect on both sides, but it's important to know the mountain does value every instructor because of the experiences we bring to our students. This is the most important thing, and this makes us the most valuable skiers or snowboarders in our industry. – **Yaron Steinhauer** is an instructor at Park City Resort.



## Passings

### Kurt Warnecke

Kurt Warnecke, PSIA-I member and ski instructor at Solitude, passed away on July 16, 2017.

Kurt excelled in everything he did. He earned a Masters in Education, Bachelors in Sports Science, Associates in Drafting, a CDL, and was Utah's Ski Instructor of the year. He coached diving for 17-plus years and a number of state champions. He took 2nd in state diving as a senior at Cottonwood High School in 1980. He loved the outdoors, camping with family, skiing, hiking, mountain biking, fly-fishing, rock climbing, cliff diving, and the list goes on....

The joy he found in teaching others has brought richness to generations of people. He will be remembered by hundreds of kids and adults each time they put on skis, pick up a fly rod, step on a diving board, go hiking, pick up trash in the canyons, or just receive kindness from a stranger.

### David Clark Bybee

David Clark Bybee, a 50 plus year member of PSIA-I, passed away in September 2017 at the age of 96.

David's passion was skiing and was an instructor for the I.F. Ski School at Pine Basin. He received his Associate Certification at Kelly Canyon and taught also at Grand Targhee. His Intermountain Professional Ski Instructors pin was earned at Park City, Utah, and he skied his last run at age 89 on a Sun Valley slope. Grand Targhee held the PSIA Spring Clinic in April of 2012, and David was awarded Americas 50 Year Certified Member Pin.

His young years were filled with summer weekend fishing trips and winters were spent trying to learn the art of skiing with makeshift wooden skis and a strap across the toe. Later on came the tough times working odd jobs helping his parents through the long depression.



Kurt Warnecke



Dave Clark Bybee

David retired from Firestone in 1980, and spent the next 10 winters teaching at Park City. The next 20 winters were spent in Lake Worth, Florida, to placate his wife. He was a faithful husband, father and member of Trinity Methodist Church where he sang in the choir. He was always there for his many nieces and nephews and valued his buddies in the Men's Senior Golf Association. ■

## AASI History Lesson

By Eric Roles

This year, AASI is celebrating 20 years since its inception. To get a history lesson, I interviewed one of the original greats of AASI. Lane Clegg has been an influential leader within the association for 30 years! Lane has served as a AASI National Team member, AASI National Team Coach, AASI-I Divisional Chair, examiner/clinic leader, AASI manual author, USSA Coach and an international snowboard liaison for the United States- to name a few. Lane offers his perspective on where AASI has been, where AASI is, and where AASI is going.

*How did the formation of AASI come about?*

As with anything historical, viewpoints will vary but essentially about the time I was named to the '96 PSIA Snowboard National Demo Team there was a fair amount of discontent within the existing membership about the identity of being a snowboard instructor within PSIA. At the time the Demo Team was a divisional selection – each member was elected within their own division to represent that division on the team. Additionally, each Demo Team member was automatically a member of the national snowboard committee that met each summer. This is pertinent because we had representation from all nine divisions so we had input from the entire snowboard membership.

*Who initiated the formation of AASI?*

The team had opportunity then (as it does now) to approach the national organization (CEO, BOD or whomever) on matters that we felt important to address and we came together as a team to try to make some changes. It took some discussion but we were able to make the point that as a sport we were growing fast and were then large

enough to warrant our own identity within the national organization. This posed a few problems however – not the least of which was the national organization at that time was called PSIA, so even with a new name we would still be “under” the parent organization (with “ski” in the title). The then current CEO and the BOD were sensitive to this and explored the idea of creating a new organizational name that would then have the various disciplines under that heading. In this way ASEA and AASI came about in a similar timeframe.

*Do you feel the formation of AASI still serves the best interest of the snowboard membership?*

Why or why not? Much like creating a separate school district or congressional district allows for local issues to be addressed, the formation of AASI created a distinct platform to speak to problems or issues unique to snowboard instruction. I think this is as or more important today as it was 20 years ago. At that time snowboarding was in a huge (and sustained) growth trend. Today we are faced with declining numbers and regardless of what you attribute it to, those numbers need to be addressed. Alpine skiing has gone through cycles of growth and decline and is still currently enjoying a big upswing with the introduction of twin tip and alternate shape skis that have reinvigorated the ski market, albeit in different ways than the days when the alpine ski racer was revered. While I am happy for the overall industry to see this growth, without AASI who will speak for the snowboard instruction industry?

*What do you think are the most credible accomplishments of AASI?*

It's difficult whether to credit AASI or snowboarding in general with a lot of what I believe to be credible accomplishments within snowsports instruction. Specifically, I believe that with the

first AASI manual we paved the way to simplify all the models and technical content we use in our jobs. With the “Y” model, snowboarding evolution was broken down into a simple concept, and by addressing board performance separate from movement concepts we could look at snowboard outcomes independently of how each rider achieved those outcomes. This really became important with the introduction of various types camber profiles in boards as these changes impacted how riders achieved various outcomes.

*We have certainly matured since the early days and the rebel approach of the past has been replaced with more of a process for change.*

The original AASI manual was very easy to read (compared to the much more tech heavy alpine and previous snowboard manuals), which I feel helped encourage instructors to seek more information. This trend has continued through subsequent revisions of the manual. AASI was certainly instrumental in the whole freestyle movement – freestyle has always been a part of what we do (going back to the Y model) and we addressed the technical and tactical information necessary to successfully teach that within our lessons and then developing the freestyle accreditation to highlight those instructors who chose to excel in that realm. Beyond that however we looked at how freestyle could be introduced early in lessons (within the first lesson) to aid in student's enjoyment. And this of course was influenced by a hard look at retention of our students and how we could improve those numbers. This certainly became very important as the overall snowboarding numbers started to decline, but AASI was already very engaged in improving retention.

*How has AASI evolved since its inception?*

We have certainly matured since the early days and the rebel approach of the past has been replaced with more of a process for change. We have developed and implemented clearly stated national standards that are used across all divisions. The freestyle accreditation is fairly common across all divisions and is using the same standards to make it universally accepted. We used to be the young punks and we fought for a seat at the table while now (mostly) we have our own committees within divisions to organize all things that relate to snowboarding. With this maturity comes respect from others in the industry and more of a relationship as equals when problems arise. But I hope that the leaders in AASI still put snowboarding first when making decisions that impact the members they serve and will rise up when needed to uphold their beliefs.

*What do you see the future beholds for AASI?*

The current AASI leadership inherit a fairly well-established organization that a lot of people have put a lot of time and energy into creating. However, they really don't have the option to coast – there are plenty of problems that need to be addressed including declining snowboard numbers, instructor acquisition and retention, falling numbers in snowboard certifications (likely tied to instructor retention), and maintaining the national standards across the divisions where we are seeing increased “exam shopping” to find the “easiest” division in which to pass their exams. While I feel that we now have a seat at the table and are accepted in the winter sports industry, it will be important to continue to represent the unique challenges that exist within snowboarding. ■

*The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the author of this article do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the of the Intermountain Division Board of Directors.*

## IMD BOD Elections

### *A time to vote for real change*

By Charles A. Rodger

*Why you need to vote – the national/ division survey results.*

Recent surveys conducted by the national office strongly indicate that our IMD board and the national organization are viewed by our IMD membership to be cliquy and out-of-touch, membership fees are judged to be expensive, our offices are accused of being helpful, but neither dependable nor reliable. You now have an opportunity to make a difference, you have the right to demand full transparency in the workings of the board – to quote Barack Obama, “yes you can.”

When I launched a proposal for election to the IMD Board in 2016, I promised that I would work for change, that I would not accept the status quo. I will be honest, it has not been easy. But I will assure you that I will not weaken my resolve to bring membership issues to the board and to encourage the IMD board to communicate effectively and transparently with the membership.

Our IMD board contains a number of long-serving individuals, each of whom contributes valuable experience and historical perspective. My (short) experience as a board representative suggests that our collective ambition to implement change for the benefit of the membership is often attenuated somewhat by the length of service on the part of some, and “we haven’t done it that way before.”

My heightened sense of urgency (impatience!) leads me to believe that our IMD DECL teams try hard to bring fresh ideas for clinics for example, but as an IMD board we spend far too

much time debating the wording of subsections of an arcane policy or procedure, albeit in an effort to be precise.

As our IMD voting cycle rears its democratic head, I urge you to take the time to read this primer, to evaluate the candidates critically, to avoid voting for a recognized DECL or resort management candidate, and to seek out candidates who will have your interests at heart and who can commit time and energy during the ski season to you, our IMD membership.

*The Election Cycle and Voter Apathy – does anyone care?*

Voting is arguably a leap of faith. As we have seen recently in our national presidential election, one gets the government and the governance one deserves. And as we have learned, calling voting an obligation, or indeed a civic duty, is simply not enough. Either you believe that the system is both changeable and worth changing, or you don’t. Criticisms and protests post-election are meaningless – the time for action is now, the opportunity for change is in your hands on voting day.

Statistically, from a voting point of view, we are an apathetic lot. The thing about apathy is that nobody really cares about it. Or more accurately, in the absence of meaningful dialogue between elected board representatives and the electorate (you, dear reader), the apathetic masses have become disengaged from meaningful interaction and dialogue, a process leading to a functionally broken system. Arguably, we each can be accused of laziness; rather than take the time to examine the candidates, to search for candidates with energy, commitment, and with new ideas, we simply tick the box for the DECL or resort manager name we recognize. I urge you to stop doing this! Please consider voting for real change!

From first hand experience I will happily concede that our representatives believe that they work hard for IMD and for the membership. Verifica-

tion of that work is, however, another matter. Let me ask a leading question. When was the last time your representative specifically asked you for an opinion or encouraged you to participate in the process? When was the last time your representative actually asked you “what do you think”?

As in any relationship however, communication is a two way street. In fairness to our representatives, when was the last time that you approached your representative to understand the ambitions of board meetings? I mean really, do you know what they discuss and why? Do you have any idea what the goals for the organization might be (aside from profitability, I can hear you ask)? I firmly believe that, in general, our representatives are convinced they are doing their very best for the membership. As we prepare for the next board election cycle, I will take a positive and optimistic approach and presume that right now you are asking yourself, “What should I be looking for in a candidate this election year?”

*Some Rules to Vote By*

Reality bites – at the very least it’s time for some Intermountain soul searching.

*Some Questions for Your Representative*

Recognizing that candidates and incumbent representatives launch a “letter of intent” with laudable intentions, the role of the electorate should be to identify the strongest candidate, to weed out candidates with misplaced ambition, and to identify the candidate who brings not only commitment, but knowledge and experience. As a starting point I would suggest:

- ◆ Why should any IMD member vote specifically for you?
- ◆ Are there specific business related aspects in your background that make you the best candidate for the board position: any previous board experiences, any specific legal, financial or



procedural training that might make you an optimal candidate (other than your love of resort management, skiing, or teaching)?

*Additional questions could be linked to defining the details and knowledge of the PSIA/AASI-I functionality.*

- ◆ What do you consider to be the number one issue affecting our IMD?
- ◆ What will you do specifically to address the issue? Members should press the candidate for the objective, the action, and the measurement process. The candidate has three years to make a difference, how will the term be spent, and how will voters measure success?
- ◆ Are you familiar with the current board, and what do you see as your biggest challenge in working as a board member?
- ◆ In assessing the needs of the board, office and membership, how would you actually do this, or how have you done this? This question speaks to the ability to actually reach out to the board members, the office staff and the membership, rather than offer platitudes in a manifesto.
- ◆ What do you understand of the relationship between the national organization and the division?
- ◆ Do you see any advantages in IMD working closely with the national office, and if so, what are they?
- ◆ Are you familiar with the roles of the division managers, and if so, which DMs?
- ◆ Can you think of any current conflicts between the managers, the board, and the membership? How will you work with the division managers to resolve issues?
- ◆ What particular challenges do you see for DECLs, and how will you work to address the issues?

Now we come to the Membership.

- ◆ What, if any issues do you see that currently confront the member-

ship? Pick one. How do you propose to resolve the issue?

- ◆ Simply for background and awareness – do you know how much membership in PSIA/AASI costs, and what portion is retained by IMD (as opposed to directed to the national office), and what is the cost of an IMD clinic?
- ◆ There has been considerable discussion about the cost of clinics and about the value of PSIA/AASI membership. What are your thoughts?
- ◆ There has been considerable progress around the assessment process and evaluation of L1, L2, L3 candidates for certification, and of CS accreditation. Are there any further changes that you would like to see? If yes, why? If no, why?
- ◆ IMD makes a concerted effort to launch clinics and lectures. What are your comments on the programs and what changes might you wish to see? This is an open question and the candidate has an opportunity to demonstrate vision.
- ◆ If you are elected, and if you can imagine yourself three years from now sitting having this discussion, what would you hope to have accomplished?

Perhaps in my “heightened sense of urgency” I hope for too much change in too short a time. But in the absence of hope, what have we? I recognize that a board membership position is a commitment, one that requires considerable effort and patience, and all for little recognition. I would not write this article aimed at you, the electorate, if I did not care about the public perception of the “Professional Instructor” designation, how impressed I am to see the efforts that my colleagues across the IMD resorts make on a daily basis with clients, often under extremely challenging conditions, and the direction that the organization must take in a rapidly evolving environment, changes that should protect and enhance the visibility of the individual members.

“If voting changed anything, it would quickly be made illegal” is a quote often attributed to the anarchist Emma Goldman. I will suggest that we must find a way to resist Noam Chomsky’s characterization, “All over the place, from the popular culture to the propaganda system, there is constant pressure to make people feel that they are helpless, that the only role they can have is to ratify decisions and to consume.”

Together we must find a way to populate our board with new energy, new commitment, and a renewed willingness to engage the membership.

The time is NOW. Just do it. Get off your donkey and VOTE! – **Charles Rodger is an IMD BOD representative. He can be reached at us01220@gmail.com.**

## Office IT News

*By Jesse Morse, IT consultant*

Our primary task for the computer side of things in the Intermountain Division has been to make the website considerably more helpful for the membership. To this end, we have re-organized and re-formatted most of the pages on the website to put the most important info front and center, and make it unnecessary to go digging through long documents to find the right information. The Membership and Disciplines sections, as well as the front page, received the biggest overhaul. We’re committed to keeping out-of-date info off the website going forward!

Our other big project was to rebuild the event calendar from scratch. The main reason was to make it more efficient for the office staff to get the calendar set up for the season, but we were also able to add many features to make it easier for members to find the event they’re looking for. Events are displayed similarly to the old version, in a

***continued on back page***



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color-coded monthly calendar. By clicking on one of the discipline names or opening the "Filter Displayed Events" link, it is possible to show only events pertaining to a certain disci-

pline or based on other criteria, including the location where the event is held. The individual pages for each event should be much more helpful than they have been in the past, as well.

All in all, we hope that these updates make life easier for all of the

members this season and into the future. If you have any feedback on ways to further improve the website or the calendar, please feel free to send them to the division office, or you may contact me directly at [jesse@snow-sportsresource.com](mailto:jesse@snow-sportsresource.com) if you prefer. ■

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