

Leadership • Camaraderie • Adventure • Excellence

Making fresh tracks this season

the
edge



2016/17 Fall/Winter Issue
PLUS Event Calendar

Photo by
Hanalei Edbrooke.

PSIA - WESTERN DIVISION - AASI

THE JOURNAL OF WESTERN SNOWSPORTS INSTRUCTION

President's Message

By Greg Lyons PSIA/AASI-West President

Dear members and business associates,

Similar to the question, which came first, the egg or the chicken, is the question, who gets more out of the lesson, the instructor or the student?

If you had asked me that question 30 years ago, I would have quickly answered, the student. What a silly question. As a student I learned. I became more knowledgeable. I could do something I could not do before the lesson. A tangible change had occurred.

Thirty years later I answer the question a bit differently. Do I get something out of providing instruction to someone and seeing them have a “break through moment”? Is there value to me in seeing the smile, the glint in their eye, maybe a tear of pride at having worked hard at something for a long time and succeeding? Is there value to knowing something so well that I can teach it to another person so they too understand it? By the very act of teaching do I improve my understanding of the subject being taught? Has learning to teach my “profession of ski instruction” taught me how to teach other subjects?

I think the answer to all these questions is yes. Sometimes I think I get as much out of the lesson as the student does. That's a pretty good result.

I look forward to serving the membership as your new President.

Greg Lyons



Greg Lyons

Snow A-Z... yuki, nieve, schnee or snø... No matter what you call it, we're ready for it!

Our PSIA/AASI Board and Ed Staff member Bryan Schilling guides us through the melodic, at times sublime language of snow. Look for more appellations over the next issues of the EDGE.



GO BIG

Offering top pay, PSIA/AASI certification training and over 300 days of sunshine a year.

Apply today to become a ski or snowboard instructor, supervisor or trainer at California's premier big mountain resort.

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ALL FACILITIES OPERATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ANO NATIONAL FOREST



The PSIA-AASI Western Division Board of Directors serves its membership by fostering their love of skiing and riding through the certification pathway, ensuring that both the learning process and the examination experience is encouraging, professional, and inspiring. By embracing the philosophy of inclusiveness for all disciplines and levels of expertise, our membership is driven to achieve exceptional standards at all levels and disciplines of snow sports instruction. Their professional advancement and ability to inspire a lifelong passion for snow sports, adventure, and the mountain experience will result in sustained organizational strength, financial health, and leadership continuity for the Western Division member schools.

Board of Directors - Moving On and Moving In

Thanks Carl & Finlay!

By Mitch Dion PSIA/AASI-West Executive Director

Carl Underkoffler and Finlay Torrance, who between them set the bar for professionalism and upholding standards, have retired from the PSIA-AASI-W Board of Directors this season.

Carl Underkoffler served 5 terms on the PSIA-AASI-W Board, holding positions of Alpine VP, Vice-President and most recently as President. Carl is also a two term member of the PSIA National Alpine Team. Carl is currently head coach of the Mammoth Mountain Jr Race Team and he and his wife Emily are adjusting to having an “empty nest” with their boys now off to college. We hope to see Carl out on the snow leading his trademark clinic, “23 laps of Chair 23” this season.

Finlay Torrance served 4 terms on the PSIA-AASI-W Board with stints as Alpine VP and Member Schools Chair. He had considerable involvement with PSIA National, serving as a National Team selector as well as numerous committees. After nearly 20 years with the Mammoth Mountain Ski School Finlay has been promoted to a senior management role at Mammoth overseeing a number of different departments in Mammoth's Mountain Operations Division. We will all miss Finlay's commitment to excellence, energy and good humor.

We welcome new Directors Blaine Lomen, Lea Logal and Nick Treat. All three bring years of experience in the snowsports industry, but offer new ideas and a fresh perspective to our Board. Nick is Director of Mt. Shasta Race Team, has worked as an instructor at Mammoth, and is a valued member of our Education Staff. He is Committee Chair for Rules and Procedures Committee.

Lea is a Snowboard instructor from Heavenly, a member of our AASI Ed Staff, and has energized our offerings for snowboard members, including Snowboard Camp and Women's Freeride Camp. She will serve as Publicity Chair.

Blaine Lomen, a past President, is returning to the PSIA-AASI West Board. Blaine's deep knowledge of the industry, our region and the history of the Association continue to be extremely valuable. He is serving as Committee Chair for the PSIA-W Ed Foundation.

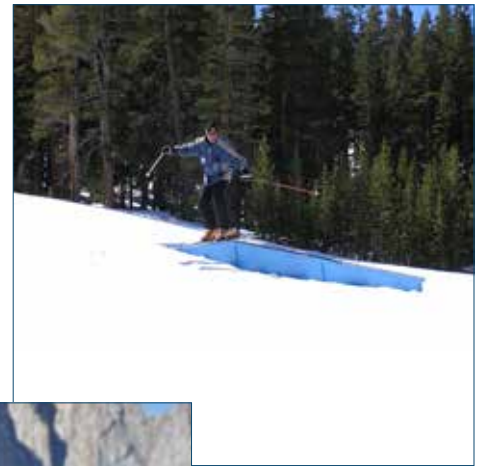
Here is a rundown of our current Board and their duties:

President - Greg Lyons, Heavenly. In addition to presiding over meetings, Greg provides leadership for the Board.

Vice President - Doug Fagel, Thrive Snowboards. The VP monitors work of the various Committees and enforces deadlines.

National Rep - Neil Bussiere. Neil, from Mountain High and Aerojet-Rocketdyne is our representative on the National Board of Directors for PSIA/AASI.

Alpine VP - Bryan Schilling, Homewood. Oversees standards and certification for the Alpine discipline, including planning, staffing and implementation of our on snow events.



Above: Carl Underkoffler



Left: Finlay Torrance

Snowboard VP - Artie Castro, Bear Mountain. Oversees standards and certification for the Snowboard discipline, including planning, staffing and implementation of our on snow events.

Children's Chair - Dan Ray, Squaw Valley. Oversees standards for Children's events, including planning, staffing and implementation of our on snow events.

Adaptive Chair - Dan Stormer, Mountain High. Oversees standards and certification for the Adaptive discipline, including planning, staffing and implementation of our on snow events.

Nordic Chair - TBA

Convention Chair - Rachel Bauer, Heavenly. Planning and oversight of our flagship event held every Spring.

Education Chair - Heidi Ettlinger, Heavenly. Heidi is responsible for creating content to serve the educational needs of the membership.

Check our Board of Director's page on www.psia-w.org for email addresses and more information.



Chowder, aka Chunder - is heavy wet lumpy snow; when skied well, incredibly fulfilling.

Line Choice for Skiing Bumps

By Ali MacGrain

Our students often look upon bumps (moguls) as a challenge to be avoided, however, with some tactical instruction they can become a fun filled rollercoaster ride. There are (at least) 4 different lines that one may ski through the bumps, as the instructor, our job is to decide which line(s) is best suited to the needs of the guest.



Sliding down spine “Fred Flintstone” line.

Easiest Route

The easiest route is what I like to call the “Fred Flintstone line.” If you recall, during the opening credits of The Flintstones cartoon, Fred finished work and slid down the bumpy spine of the dinosaur. In the “Fred Flintstone” line I have my students start the turn on the top of the bump and then like Fred, slide sideways down the spine. This allows them to remain high on the bump and stay out of the trough. By staying out of the trough speed can be controlled through slipping sideways and it can be skied relatively straight down the fall-line rather than having to traverse through the bumps and inevitably, get knocked off balance. This option is ideal in situations where the back-side of the bump drops away into a deep, narrow or aggressive trough. Students who are intimidated by speed or terrain, or who are lacking the necessary skill to effectively absorb the bump might find this an easier introduction.

Intermediate Line

For the “intermediate line”, the skier still initiates the turn on top of the bump, but rather than sliding down the spine, the skier slides diagonally down the backside of the bump, into the trough and then into the next bump. This is a slightly rounder and faster line, but still predominantly using sideways slipping to control speed. As the skier becomes more confident, the speed will continue to increase as will the force with which one hits the front side of the next bump. Consequently, the legs have to act more and more like shock absorbers in a car, so the skier does not get knocked off balance. This line is perhaps more suited to a student who has previously explored moguls and is looking to ski them with more flow or, to the guest who was skiing the advanced line on a steeper pitch but at speeds which resulted in them only being able to ski a handful of bumps in succession.



Diagonally sliding down backside of bump.

Run for PSIA/AASI-W Board of Directors

If you have a passion for snowsports instruction and are a member in good standing, consider running for the PSIA Board. Anyone can apply, however a background in business, marketing, financial oversight or non-profit administration would be a plus. This is a volunteer Board. Directors receive a modest stipend to offset the cost of traveling to our meetings, and otherwise donate many of their hours on a volunteer basis. There are two required meetings each year:

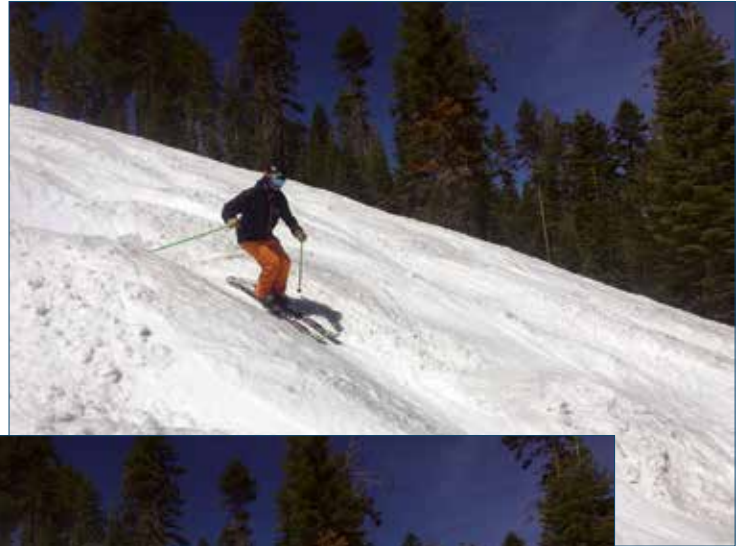
- A 1 day meeting the Thursday prior to Spring Convention (usually April)
- A 2 day meeting the first weekend (Sat-Sun) in August

Send your statement of approximately 300 words and a ‘head shot’ to the PSIA/AASI office, mdion@psia-w.org. Directors are elected by a vote of the membership for a three year term. DEADLINE for submission is Jan. 20, 2017.

Line Choice for Skiing Bumps (cont'd)

Advanced Line

When skiing the “advanced line” or “zipper line”, the aim is to ski from trough to trough. The turn is still initiated on the top of the bump, but then the skis are fed out and down into the trough. Being down in the trough forces significantly faster skiing than the first two lines. The trough does not allow for turning the skis totally sideways, so side slipping cannot be used as a form of speed control. The skier has to be comfortable with a faster pace and hitting each bump with more force. In order to remain in balance, the legs have to be even better shock absorbers to flex quickly to absorb the impact. When we introduce this line, we have to ensure that it is done on a suitable pitch, due to the issue of increased speed. Personally, I prefer blue bumps. The student needs to already be skiing with a high level of proficiency to accomplish this line. It is more common to introduce the zipper line to instructors going for certification exams than it is to the general public.



Zipper line.



Most Difficult & Technical Line

The “round line” is arguably the most difficult and technical of all. The skier initiates the turn in the same spot as before, then the skis get fed out and around, however, they do not end up in the trough, instead one ski is on the front side of the next bump. Due to the fact that the skis are taking a much rounder path in comparison to the “advanced line”, it is easier to maintain one’s speed and not constantly accelerate. Furthermore, this is a great route for when the troughs become too deep or when the backside of the bump drops away aggressively. By staying out of the jarring trough, the skier can maintain rhythm and flow. Skiers who are ready to attempt this line should already be comfortable



Where to start turn.

in the “advanced line” on steeper pitches and wish to ski with increased grace and smoothness. Typically, this line is seldom introduced to anyone except high level ski instructors.

It is likely that experienced skiers will use a combination of the above lines, depending on the pitch, length of the run, level of fatigue, condition of the bumps, etc. So whether you ski like Fred, (or Barney or Wilma) go out there and find your best line.

By Ali MacGrain

Heritage

By Ted Pitcher



Nic Fiore

Nominate your “unsung hero” today for the Nic Fiore Award 2017!

The Fiore Award was created by the Heritage Committee in 2011 as a way to honor a hard working member who has given service to the Division and the membership, but whose work may not be that well known.

The award is named in honor of Nic Fiore who served the Division from its very inception over 50 years ago, donating countless hours over four decades to help build PSIA/AASI-W into

the organization it is today. Nic passed away in 2009.

This is a grassroots award, any member is free to nominate your “unsung hero” today for the Nic Fiore Award 2017! Submit a nomination letter to the PSIA/AASI West office, mdion@psia-w.org, by Jan. 20, 2017 (1,000 words or less please). The Heritage/Senior committee will review all submissions and announce the recipient of the Nic Fiore Award in the spring, in time for Convention.

the edge

The Edge is a publication of the The Western Division of Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA-W) and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors (AASI-W) covering California and Nevada. We are one of nine divisions that make up the American Snowsports Education Association (ASEA).

PSIA was founded in 1961 to develop a standardized system for teaching and to unify instructors throughout the country in the disciplines of: Alpine, Nordic, Snowboarding, Adaptive.

The Edge is published two times annually. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily the policies and opinions of PSIA/AASI Western Division.

For advertising submissions and information, contact our office:

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info@psia-w.org

For all membership inquiries, check out our website at www.psia-w.org or contact our office for additional information.

Congratulations to the 2016 Nic Fiore Award winner, Jerry Anderson!

Jerry has spent most of his adult life sharing his love of the outdoors with people. He is well known in Yosemite as a climbing guide, starting his career in the 1970's and countless guests have put their lives in his capable hands. Jerry has pioneered first ascents on hundreds of Yosemite climbing routes.

He started skiing relatively late in life. He began his ski instruction career at Badger Pass in 1986, where he had a chance to work with Nic Fiore for numerous seasons. Jerry's skills as an instructor/ supervisor and all-around good person to work with took him to several resorts: China Peak (then Sierra Summit), Sierra at Tahoe, Northstar, and currently at Homewood. Wherever he has worked, his caring nature, dependability, passion for teaching and cool head under fire made him a solid contributor.

Jerry currently works as part of our Western Division Senior Ed Staff. He continues to divide his time between his lovely family, and sharing the outdoors as a climbing, skiing and hiking guide.



Jerald Anderson

New & Featured Events!



AASI Western Division Snowboard Camp is back! Photo by Hanlei Edbrooke.

SENIOR SUMMIT (FOR SKIERS)

Dates: March 6-7, 2017

Location: Squaw Valley

Western Division has been a leader in serving the needs of one of the fastest growing groups of participants in Winter Sports. Join our team of Senior Specialists for an exploration of the changes in the sport that allow our clients (and us!) to stay on the slopes longer and ski better. We will learn about the opportunities provided by new equipment and applying new ways of skiing to the physiology of the aging skier. Get coached on your own skiing while exploring teaching ideas and progressions for intermediate and advance Senior Skiers.

FALL RALLY

Dates: Dec. 11-13, 2016

Location: Northstar

Hone your skiing and teaching skills, get ready for exams or just tune it up with your fellow instructors. We will accommodate all levels of skiing, and do our best to help you reach your early season goals. It's one-stop shopping for Children's, Adaptive and Senior clinics. Joining the fun this year are our Nordic members. Want to see what a Cross Country or Telemark clinic looks like?

SOCAL WINTER SESSION

Dates: Jan. 22-23, 2017

Location: Snow Summit, Bear Mountain

This is our "mini-Convention" designed especially for our valued instructors from Bear Mountain, Mt. Baldy, Snow Summit, Mountain High and Snow Valley (but of course, all members welcome!) Look for clinic opportunities for all levels of skiing/riding, and teaching. Alpine, Snowboard, Children's, Freestyle and Adaptive specific events will also be offered. An après ski Pizza Party (location to be announced) Jan. 24.

HALF AND HALF IS BACK!

Dates: Feb. 7, 2017

Location: Northstar

Alpine or telemark in the morning, and then venture forth to the cross country trails for an afternoon of classic or skate skiing. This clinic is designed to provide skill improvement for recreational enthusiasts and explore the benefits of versatility by developing the skills that will allow you to maximize the cross country terrain located throughout the Tahoe Basin.

REGIONAL EDUCATION RALLY

Dates: Various

Location: Mammoth & Squaw Valley

The focus is on exam prep and training, but all members are welcome to refresh their teaching, skiing and riding skills. Education credit for all comers.

cont'd on pg. 8

NEW YEAR'S RALLY

Dates: Jan. 8-9, 2017

Location: Squaw Valley

Catch your breath after the busy holidays and catch up on education. Each day will offer exam prep courses for all levels of Skiers and Snowboarders. Look for Children's, and Senior's and Telemark clinics too.



Corn - is basically coarse, granular wet snow, the result of cycles of melting during the day and refreezing at night. Usually harvested in Spring.



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New & Featured Events! (cont'd)



Women's Summit 2016 - Kim Kircher, Crystal Mtn, WA leading an avalanche awareness group. Photo by Candace Horgan.

WOMEN'S SUMMIT 2017

Dates: March 6,7,8, 2017

Location: Mammoth Mountain

Join us in this National event bringing together professional women from PSIA/AASI, NSP and USSA. The program includes: three full days of coaching and collaboration, apres parties and evening presentations, networking opportunities, and a bucket load of new friends. Train with highly experienced world class colleagues, enhance your platform for leadership in the industry, and energize your skiing, teaching, learning, and coaching. Please visit womens-summit.com to download the comprehensive Event Guide, lodging specials, and more.

WOMEN'S FREERIDE CAMP

Dates: March 14, 2017

Location: Kirkwood Mountain

Women of AASI, are you ready to challenge your riding and boost your mental game?

Join us on Tuesday March 14th, 2017 at Kirkwood Mountain for this season's Women's Freeride Camp.

In this "For Women, by Women" event you will push your personal limits with like-minded driven ladies from around the division. Take your riding to the next level and get creative in an environment unique to the snowboard scene. Drop some of California's best lines and gather tactics and techniques that will help you see the mountain in a whole new way.

Lead by top female riders and clinicians in the Western Division, and featuring professional freerider Casey Lucas on her home mountain, you are sure to be challenged! For additional information contact Lea Logal by phone or email, (530)318-8733, leakathleen2017@gmail.com.

CONVENTION SNOWBOARD CAMP - AASI WESTERN DIVISION SNOWBOARD CAMP IS BACK!

Dates: April 21-23, 2017

Location: Mammoth Mountain

AASI West and Mammoth Mountain are hosting one of the premier snowboarding events of the 2016/2017 season. Connect with like-minded, driven riders from around the country on Mammoth's legendary freeride and freesyle terrain for a three day, camp style experience.

Up your game in the park, push your freeriding to new levels, and shred with your fellow riders! We are keeping it simple and have a package that includes; off hill events, parties, expert coaching, personal feedback, swag and awards for doing what we love.

With on hill and off hill events lead by members of the AASI Team, our featured coaches include Seth Johns, Chris Hargrave and Lea Logal. You will get top level coaching and training from some of the best snowboarding has to offer. Space is limited for this one of a kind experience! For additional information please contact Lea Logal by phone or email (530)318-8733, leakathleen2017@gmail.com.

LOCKER ROOM PIZZA PARTIES

This FREE event is your chance to meet PSIA/AASI Directors and staff, and get up to date on everything in the PSIA world. Is membership right for you? Need to catch up dues or get some manuals? Have a slice of pizza (on us) and get it done. Various locations throughout the season.



DROPPING IN MARCH 14

AASI 2017
Women's Freeride Camp
KIRKWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Expand your personal limits and connect with women from around the Western Division in Kirkwood's world class, freeride terrain.

Join us for an amazing day of riding steep chutes, man made and natural terrain features while gathering mental and physical tools and techniques to up your freeride game.

* Riders should be comfortable linking basic turns on groomed black terrain.

KIRKWOOD  

To register go to www.gala-w.org and follow instructions for online event registration. Please contact Lea Logal with all other inquiries and questions: (530) 318 8733 // leakathleen2017@gmail.com

Line It UP!

Convention is coming.
Mammoth, April 21-23, 2017

Clinics, parties, camaraderie
and more!

Alpine, Snowboard, Children's,
Adaptive, Senior's and Telemark.



Convention Snowboard Camp

Challenge yourself!

Three days of top
coaching and fun on
Mammoth's challenging
terrain.

Space limited, book early.

Do you have a product or service that
you would like to show our members?

Sponsorship opportunities available at
Spring Convention, our premier event,
attracting 300-400 instructors from
across the West. Sponsor a party! Demo
Tents available.

Contact Kristi Jereb, kjereb@psia-w.org
for information and pricing.

Conv. Lodging DEALS

Lodging deals from Mammoth available. Grab
some friends and book a slopeside room or condo.

1-800-Mammoth-Group name: PSIAVAASI
Spring Convention, Booking ID 22280





Western Division Event Calendar 16-17

Chronological Calendar			
Start Date	End Date	Title	Location
11/30/16	12/1/16	Resort Trainer	Mammoth
11/30/16	12/2/16	Early L1 Exam	Mammoth
11/27/16	12/2/16	6-Day Level 1 Exam	Mammoth
12/11/16	12/13/16	Alpine Level 1 Exam	Northstar
12/11/16	12/13/16	Snowboard Level 1 Exam	Northstar
12/11/16	12/13/16	Fall Rally	Northstar
1/8/2017	1/9/17	New Year's Rally	Squaw
1/8/17	1/9/17	Resort Trainer	Squaw
1/9/17	1/11/17	Alpine Level 1 Exam	Squaw
1/9/17	1/11/17	Snowboard Level 1 Exam	Squaw
1/10/17	1/11/17	Alpine L2/3 Ski and Teach Exams	Squaw
1/10/17	1/11/17	Snowboard L2/3 Ride and Teach Exams	Squaw
1/18/17	1/20/17	Alpine Level 1 Exam	Heavenly
1/18/17	1/20/17	Snowboard Level 1 Exam	Heavenly
1/22/17	1/23/17	SoCal Winter Session	Snow Summit/Bear
1/22/17	1/23/17	Resort Trainer	Snow Summit/Bear
2/7/17	2/7/17	Nordic Half and Half	Northstar
2/7/17	2/9/17	Freestyle Session	Northstar
2/6/17	2/6/17	Intro To Teaching Seniors	Mt. High
2/6/17	2/10/17	Children's Specialists L1 and L2	Sierra at Tahoe
2/11/17	2/12/17	Adaptive L1/2 Exam	China Peak
2/12/17	2/13/17	Regional Alpine Education and Prep Clinics	Mammoth
2/12/17	2/13/17	Regional Snowboard Education and Prep Clinics	Mammoth
2/13/17	2/15/17	Alpine Level 1 Exam	Mammoth
2/13/17	2/15/17	Snowboard Level 1 Exam	Mammoth
2/14/17	2/15/17	Alpine L2/3 Ski and Teach Exams	Mammoth
2/14/17	2/15/17	Snowboard L2/3 Ride and Teach Exams	Mammoth
3/6/17	3/10/17	Children's Specialists L1 and L2	Northstar
3/6/17	3/7/17	Senior Summit	Squaw
3/6/17	3/8/17	Women's Summit	Mammoth
3/13/17	3/14/17	Adaptive L1/2 Exam + Validation	Bear Mountain
3/15/17	3/15/17	Adaptive L1/2 Exam + Validation	Sierra at Tahoe
3/14/17	3/14/17	Women's Freeride Camp	Kirkwood
3/19/17	3/20/17	Regional Alpine Education and Prep Clinics	Squaw
3/19/17	3/20/17	Regional Snowboard Education and Prep Clinics	Squaw
3/20/17	3/22/17	Alpine Level 1 Exam	Squaw

Event Type Calendar		
Premier Education Events		
Date	Title	
12/11-13/16	Fall Rally, Northstar **	
1/8-9/17	New Year's Rally, Squaw **	
1/22-23/17	SoCal Winter Session, Snow Summit/Bear **	
2/7/2017	Nordic Half and Half, Northstar	
2/12-13/17	Regional Education Rally, Mammoth	
3/6-7/17	Senior Summit, Squaw	
3/6-8/17	Women's Summit, Mammoth	
3/14/2017	Women's Freeride, Kirkwood	
3/19-20/17	Regional Education Rally, Squaw	
4/21-23/17	Snowboard Camp, Mammoth	
4/21-23/17	Spring Convention, Mammoth **	
Premier Education Events offer Clinics for Alpine and Snowboard Ski/Ride and Teach Improvement. The Events started ** also include Children, Senior and Nordic Clinics.		
*See pages 7-9 for more information on these events.		
Alpine and Snowboard Level 1 Exams		
11/27-12/2/2016	Mammoth *6-day event, ALPINE ONLY	
11/30-12/2/2016	Mammoth *ALPINE ONLY	
12/11-13/16	Northstar	
1/9-11/17	Squaw	
1/18-20/17	Heavenly	
2/13-15/17	Mammoth	
3/20-22/17	Squaw	
4/23-25/17	Mammoth	
Alpine and Snowboard Level 2/3 Ski/Ride and Teach Exams		
1/10-11/17	Squaw	
2/14-15/17	Mammoth	
3/21-22/17	Squaw	
4/24-25/17	Mammoth	
Children's 1 and 2 Exams		
2/6-10/17	Sierra at Tahoe	
3/6-10/17	Northstar	
4/21-23/17	Mammoth (See Spring Convention)	
Senior 1 and 2 Exams		
3/22-24/17	Northstar	
3/23-24/17	Mt High *L1 ONLY	
4/21-23/17	Mammoth (See Spring Convention)	

3/20/17	3/22/17	Snowboard Level 1 Exam	Squaw
3/21/17	3/20/17	Alpine L2/3 Ski and Teach Exams	Squaw
3/21/17	3/22/17	Snowboard L2/3 Ride and Teach Exams	Squaw
3/22/17	3/24/17	Senior Specialists L1 and L2	Northstar
3/23/17	3/24/17	Senior Specialist L1	Mt. High
4/21/17	4/23/17	Spring Convention	Mammoth
4/23/17	4/25/17	Alpine Level 1 Exam	Mammoth
4/23/17	4/25/17	Snowboard Level 1 Exam	Mammoth
4/24/17	4/25/17	Alpine L2/3 Ski and Teach Exams	Mammoth
4/24/17	4/25/17	Snowboard L2/3 Ride and Teach Exams	Mammoth
5/6/2017	5/7/17	Adaptive L1/2 Exam	Mammoth
Traveling Events			
Custom exams and education can be arranged. We require a minimum of five (5) participants and 3 weeks of advance notice to request a traveling event. Contact our office info@psia-w.org or complete request here http://psia-w.org/traveling-event-request			
Validations			
2/3/2017	2/4/17	Alpine L1 Validation	Squaw
2/3/2017	2/4/17	Snowboard L1 Validation	Squaw
3/3/17	3/3/17	Alpine L1 Validation	Mammoth
3/3/17	3/3/17	Snowboard L1 Validation	Mammoth
3/13/17	3/13/17	Alpine L1 Validation	Sierra at Tahoe
3/13/17	3/13/17	Snowboard L1 Validation	Sierra at Tahoe
3/26/17	3/27/17	Alpine L1 Validation	Northstar
3/26/17	3/27/17	Snowboard L1 Validation	Northstar
3/26/17	3/27/17	Alpine L1 Validation	Snow Summit
3/26/17	3/27/17	Snowboard L1 Validation	Snow Summit
4/10/2017	4/10/17	Alpine L1 Validation	Mammoth
4/10/2017	4/10/17	Snowboard L1 Validation	Mammoth
To attend a Validation you must have met the prerequisite and be signed off by your Resort Trainer: *See page 15 for more information on Validations and In House Certification			

Adaptive Level 1 and 2 Exams:	
2/11-12-17	China Peak
3/13-14/17	Mt. High
3/15-16/17	Sierra At Tahoe
5/6-7/17	Mammoth
*See page 12 for more information on Adaptive Events	
Freestyle Sessions	
2/7-9/17	Northstar
4/21-23/17	Mammoth (See Spring Convention)
Nordic	
12/11/2016	Cross Country Level 1 Prep at Northstar
12/12/2016	Telemark Level 1 Prep Northstar
*See page 13-14 for further information on Nordic Events	
Resort Trainers	
11/30-12/2/16	Mammoth
1/8-9/17	Squaw
1/22-23/17	Summit/Bear
*See page 15 for Further information on Resort Trainer	
Divisional Trainer	
2/12-13/2017	Prep, Mammoth
3/19-20/2017	Evaluation, Squaw
Prep Required *See page 15 for more information on Divisional Trainer	
Event Prices	
\$240.00	Level 1 Exam
\$220.00	Level 2 Ski/Ride
\$220.00	Level 2 Teach
\$250.00	Level 3 Ski/Ride
\$250.00	Level 3 Teach
\$80/day	Education
\$180.00	Children/Senior 1
\$270.00	Children/Senior 2
\$270.00	Freestyle Session
\$110.00	Validations

Discipline News

Adaptive News

by Dan Stormer

This year we are setting up a more flexible 'ad hoc' schedule for examinations, driven by the needs of local programs/schools. We are also setting a number of scheduled events. Local programs will be able to contact the Adaptive leadership and schedule an examination or other training when there are sufficient candidates. We are hoping to use technology based training through the use of Skype to help candidates with their preparation. We are also examining our historic approaches to service delivery to expand and improve them if needed. We are hopeful that we can begin our online written exams this year. There is always a need for passionate, energetic people who want to get involved. If you have any interest please contact me:

The present makeup of the committee is:

Southern California:

Fred Liebel (Big Bear): fml@ehrenfeldinsurance.com

Tom Peirce (Big Bear): tom@usarc.org

Kim Meares (Snow Valley): kmeares31@gmail.com

Central California:

Maggie Palchak (Mammoth): MPalchak@disablesportseasternsierra.org

Randy Coffman (China Peak): randy@centralcaladaptive.org

Northern California:

Neil Woodruff (Lake Tahoe): woodruffneil@hotmail.com

Brent Kummerle (Kirkwood): alleleftfoot@hotmail.com

Bill Bowness (Squaw/Alpine Meadows): bill@disablesports.net

Adaptive Representative to the Division's Board of Directors:

Dan Stormer: dstormer@hadsellstormer.com

FEATURED ADAPTIVE EVENTS

Look for Adaptive Education Clinics at New Years Rally, SoCal Winter Session and Spring Convention. Topics include exam prep, and introduction to the world of Adaptive.

February 11-12: L1/L2 Adaptive exam at China Peak

March 13-14: L1/L2 Adaptive exams and L1 in-house validation at Mountain High

March 15: L1/L2 Adaptive exam and validation for Sierra at Lake Tahoe

May 6-7: L1/L2 Adaptive exams and L1 in-house validation at Mammoth

Alpine News

by Bryan Schilling

Greetings! In beginning as your new Alpine VP, accolades go to mentor and predecessor Finlay Torrance - for leaving this office better than when he found it. As a smart farmer, Finlay plucked low hanging fruit: growing Ed Staff consistency with ski mechanics language and format. We are now poised to climb higher up the tree. Thanks Fin.

The focus for the Ed Staff will be fundamentals, with particular focus on the fundamentals of great teaching. This coming season the biggest change is to the Level 2 & 3 teach modules – where we are returning to the two days length, shortening the overall exam to four days. In administering this compressed format, we are creating a new teach module outline that follows an objective evaluation of national standards. Here's to shorted exam time!

Additionally, for those of you who have ever passed a level II or III ski module – more good news – the BOD has voted your pass as valid indefinitely. Beginning retroactively to last season, if you pass your ski module it stays on your record in perpetuity, provided you stay up to date with your membership and education. Remember that accurate demos are an elemental benchmark of good teaching, and poor skiing demos will definitely impact your ability to pass Level 2 Teach, so keep your skiing polished.

Crud - denotes irregular clumped snow, resultant of skier traffic; though it is often used as a pejorative term by beginning skiers, crud's lure is a soft surface, found often at the less skied shoulders of a piste.

We are living through a shift in our profession. Competent instructors are more in demand than ever, which is a great thing for those who are dedicated to their craft. There's never been a better time to move to the next level with your skiing and teaching. Return to the tortured tree metaphor from paragraph one, aren't we all essentially like trees, either growing or dying? Whether it be through an accreditation, personal ski or teach improvement, or certification challenge – keep growing. I'll see you out there!

Best Job on the Planet!

Bear Valley is hiring exceptional ski and snowboard instructors. No experience required; PSIA training provided.



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BEAR VALLEY

Discipline News (cont'd)

Children's News

by Dan Ray

The kids are the future! The Children's Specialist Accreditations are in place to help you become a better kids teacher. If the kids have fun, and love being on the hill the future of the sport (and our careers) is safe. An explosion of new research is available on how kids develop, mentally, emotionally and physically. It is an exciting time to come and learn more about how to improve your understanding and skills as a kids instructor.



Photo by Heidi Ettlinger.

Nordic News

Our Fall kick-off events for Cross Country and Telemark will be held at Northstar in conjunction with Fall Rally, Sunday and Monday, December 11-12, 2016.

Combining with our Alpine and Snowboard brethren will allow us the ultimate in freedom to cross disciplines. Consider track skiing in the morning, and ride the lifts on the gear of your choice in the afternoon. Get ready for the season with instruction from the best of PSIA-AASI. If the conditions at Northstar do not allow Track skiing, we will shift our Cross Country events over to Tahoe Donner.

cont'd on pg. 14



Champagne Powder - typically comprised of less than 5% H2O content, such as found in a high altitude continental snowpack; appellation aside, 'tis the Champagne of powders.'



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Share your passion for skiing at a resort that's not only one of the best in the world, it feels a lot like home (last year, over 1,100 staff members celebrated their fifth season or more at Deer Valley). Competitive wage and benefits package. Progressive ski programs with small class sizes. PSIA-accredited ski school. Apply now at deervalley.com/jobs or call 435-645-6635 for more information.



Discipline News(cont'd)

CERTIFICATION EVENT SCHEDULING

Level 1 X-C and Telemark prep clinics will be offered at the Fall Rally.

All level 1 exams, all level 2 prep clinics, and level 2/3 X-C exams will be scheduled by arrangement with

Discipline directors:

- Telemark: Email your interest to Aaron Pearlman, ski. aaron@gmail.com
- Cross Country: Email your interest to Mitch at the office: mdion@psia-w.org.

Level 1 exams may be scheduled three weeks after the prep clinic. Level 2/3 prep clinics may be scheduled between January 8 and March 20. Level 2/3 exams will be conducted at the Spring Convention.

FEATURED NORDIC EVENTS

LOOK FOR TELEMARCK OFFERINGS AT NEW YEARS RALLY, SOCAL WINTER SESSION AND CONVENTION



Coral Heads a.k.a. Chicken Heads – are frozen slush clumps found on the early morning surface of 'rotten' (freeze-thaw) spring snow.

Snowboard News

by Artie Castro and Lea Logal

It is almost time to get out and ride! This year there is a new look to our Event Calendar layout. At each event you will find offerings to help you get ready for your next step in certification as well as engaging and fun education. Historically, our best snowboard events occur at Convention and So-Cal Session. Building on that model, we have more events where members of all levels and disciplines can attend. We have also booked exam training days directly before exams for convenient prep. We hope these steps are an improvement in supporting our members.

OTHER FEATURED EVENTS

RESORT TRAINER COURSE

This two-day course is offered across the Division to help support and develop Resort Trainers. It is for both experienced trainers and instructors that want to become trainers. All levels of trainers should attend yearly to work



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Discipline News (cont'd)

along side the Division's leading Trainers. For In-House Trainers, annual attendance at the FULL TWO DAYS is required to sign-off participants. Trainers will learn the latest on certification standards and ski/riding techniques as well as tools to further develop the skills needed to be an effective trainer.

Prerequisites: PSIA/AASI Level 2 or Level 3 Certification
Currently Employed by a PSIA/AASI Member School
Willingness and ability to meet the demands of sports trainer and presenter.

In-House Validations: These courses are for instructors who are enrolled in an IN-HOUSE certification program offered by one of our Member Schools. Under this method, the Snowsports School is taking on the time and responsibility of training you to the Level 1 standard. PSIA-AASI 'validates' that your training is complete and that you have reached the Level 1 standard. Contact your Member School Director to find out if In-House is offered at your resort. To attend a Validation, you must register as a member with PSIA-AASI West by Jan. 15, 2017 complete the systematic training put on by your school, including the written portfolio. Your resort trainer must sign-off that you are ready to attend.

THE DIVISIONAL TRAINER

Prep Feb. 12-15, Mammoth

Evaluation: March 19-20, Squaw

We spend our time learning to become great teachers. Now start developing your skills teaching other how to teach. All Trainers, no matter your level, should look to attend the annual Resort Trainer course. We will continue to offer these at a number of stops across the Division near the beginning of the season. Any snowboarder looking to pursue the Divisional Trainer qualification should attend a Resort Trainer Course early season and then sign up with the Snowboard Discipline Chair via email by February 1st to get into the program.



Concrete – is an inaccurate, dismissive descriptor; hard concrete refers to icy conditions, while wet concrete refers to wet, slushy crud (both terms generally reserved for the skier who can't).

Share your passion and enthusiasm, while enjoying the Greatest Snow on Earth®!

Solitude Mountain Resort in Utah is hiring Ski and Snowboard Instructors for the 2016 - 2017 winter season.

- Seeking staff who can commit to working weekends and holidays
- Apprentice instructors needed, will train
- PSIA/AASI certified instructors needed who can demonstrate and teach contemporary ski/ride methods on all terrain, in all conditions to both children and adults
- Children's Program Supervisor and Trainer position available

We Offer:

- Competitive wage and benefit package
- Training to enhance your skills and credentials
- Free UTA Bus Pass
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Please apply online at skisolitude.com/employment or contact **Tim Wolfgram** at **801-536-5731**, t.wolfgram@skisolitude.com or 12000 Big Cottonwood Canyon, Solitude, Utah 84121.



Our Fall Events Were a Place for Fun & Learning

Nearly 40 members took advantage of these opportunities to explore the cross-over skills from some of our favorite summer activities to snowsports.



Skate to Ski at Tahoe Donner. In partnership with our National sponsor Rollerblade®.



Mountain Bike Skills Clinic at Northstar



Surf to Snow, San Onofre State Beach



Photos by Hanalei Edbrooke, Doug Fagel and Kristi Jereb.

40-year successful Snow Sports School for sale. Started in 1977. Great location near beach on Coast Hwy. Teach all year.

Serious and qualified inquires to info@adventureski.com

Instructors wanted to teach on a revolving slope simulator in Encinitas, CA. Nov-March.

More info & apply at <http://adventureski.com/employment.htm>

www.adventureski.com

50 Year Member

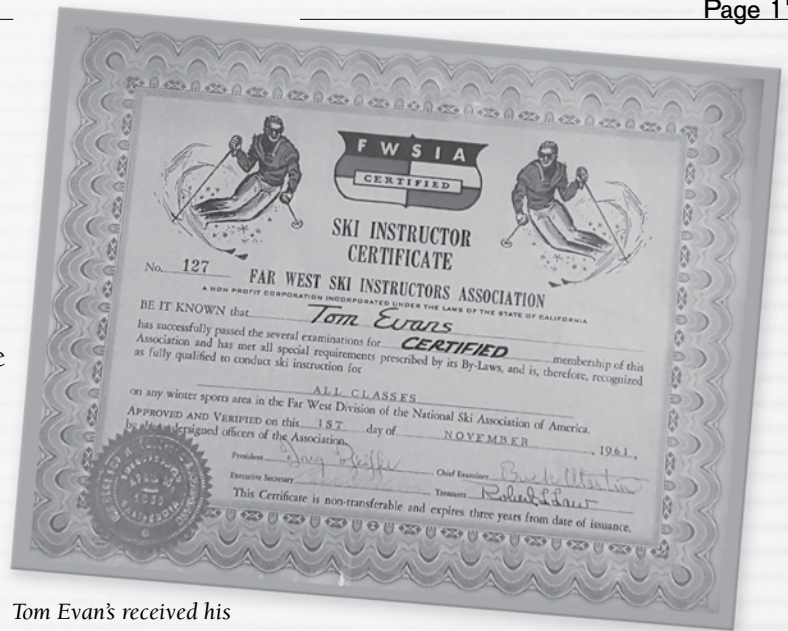
Tom Evans – 60 years and still going strong!

Tom became involved in the ski business 'by accident' when he was elected President of the Compton Junior College ski club. "I told my wife we had better learn to ski," Tom remembers. Certified as a Ski Instructor 11/1/61, he has over 60 years of continuous membership in the Association. Tom went on to serve a stint as Ski Director of "Table Mountain" now called Mountain High North in Wrightwood, CA.

But snowsports is just one facet of Tom's life. Born in Oklahoma in 1926, he was 'discovered' as a teenager and signed to a 1 year contract by 20th Century Fox for a singing part in a movie. The movie was never made, and his career as a performer was interrupted by WW II. Tom joined the Marines at 'almost 17' with parent's consent, and saw combat action on Peleliu Island, which history buffs will recognize as some of the most brutal island warfare of the Pacific campaign. By age 18 he was on Okinawa and was wounded twice, received 2 purple Heart Medals and the Silver Star Medal for above and beyond Call of Duty.

Tom has been a businessman and entrepreneur. He currently resides in Newport Beach, and hits the gym "every morning at 4 AM and remains "one of the happiest men alive."

Congrats and thanks for your membership.



Tom Evan's received his Far West Ski Instructors Association certificate in 1961.

Congratulations and thank you to the following members who are celebrating Anniversaries as members of PSIA/AASI:

30 Year Members

(Joined in the 1986-87 Season)

Frank Aldridge, Truckee, CA
Dee Byrne, Squaw Valley, CA
Kathy Copeland, Mammoth, CA
Don Frye, Auburn, CA
Viginia Kantz, Truckee, CA
Tod Lindsey, Redding, CA
Paul Petersen, Truckee, CA
Darcy Stevens Seals, Tahoe City, CA
Sarah Trebilcock, Truckee, CA

40 Year Members

(Joined in the 1976-77 Season)

Jerald Anderson, Ahwahnee, CA
W. C. Fields, San Juan Capistrano, CA
David Hawtrey, Soda Springs and Mammoth, CA
Jeff Jensen, San Francisco, CA
Barbara Joplin, Truckee, CA
Gary Martin, Reno, NV
Fernand Michaud, Reno, NV
Mike Schenone, Tahoe City, CA

50 Year Members

(Joined in the 1966-67 Season)

Linda Good, Reno, NV
Lewis Lambert, Fremont, CA
Pat Quillen, Valley Center, CA
George Twardokens, Reno, NV

PSIA-W Education Foundation

Five Things to Love About the PSIA-W Education Foundation

1. Funded BY instructors to HELP instructors. The PSIA-W Ed Foundation has a current balance of approximately \$180,000, built primarily on contributions from our members and the rising value of our investment funds. Our goal is to build the fund and still 'give back' a significant amount each season to support our membership.

2. Making our events more affordable. Education Foundation support has helped us put on the Women's Summit and Professional Development Day.

3. Individual scholarship offerings. Making events possible to members who might not otherwise be able to make it. Check out our new "Convention" Scholarship. Deadline for submission is Dec. 1, 2016- see our website, <http://psia-w.org/psiaaasi-education-foundation/> for application information.

4. Fun and camaraderie! Sponsored our 10th annual golf tournament at Dayton Valley Golf Course.

5. Training our team. Member surveys continually rank consistent application of standards as the #1 most important deliverable you want from us. This takes an investment in our staff. The EF is helping to provide access to our staff to the latest training ideas and tools.

Your volunteer EF Board of Directors consists of Jennifer Taylor, President, Blaine Lomen, Secretary, Artie Castro, Treasurer Katherine Hayes-Rodriguez, Director, Bryan Schilling, Director.

cont'd on pg. 19



The Education Foundation was established in 1993 and has over 20 years of service to the membership

of Western Division. The Foundation provides education opportunities and financial assistance to instructors looking to enhance their personal growth.

The Sodergren Fund was established in 1997 to honor the memory of Mike and Miriam (Mim) Sodergren, who were killed in a landslide in Thredbo, Australia. Mike and Mim were beloved and respected as instructors, educators and motivators who served the Division as examiners/clinicians. Contributions in the name of the Sodergren's have created a lasting legacy of opportunity for career instructors who have demonstrated an ongoing passion for teaching.

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PSIA-W Education Foundation (cont'd)

Ways you can participate:

Join hundreds of your fellow instructors and add a donation to your membership payment in June. We receive donations ranging from \$5 to \$2,500!

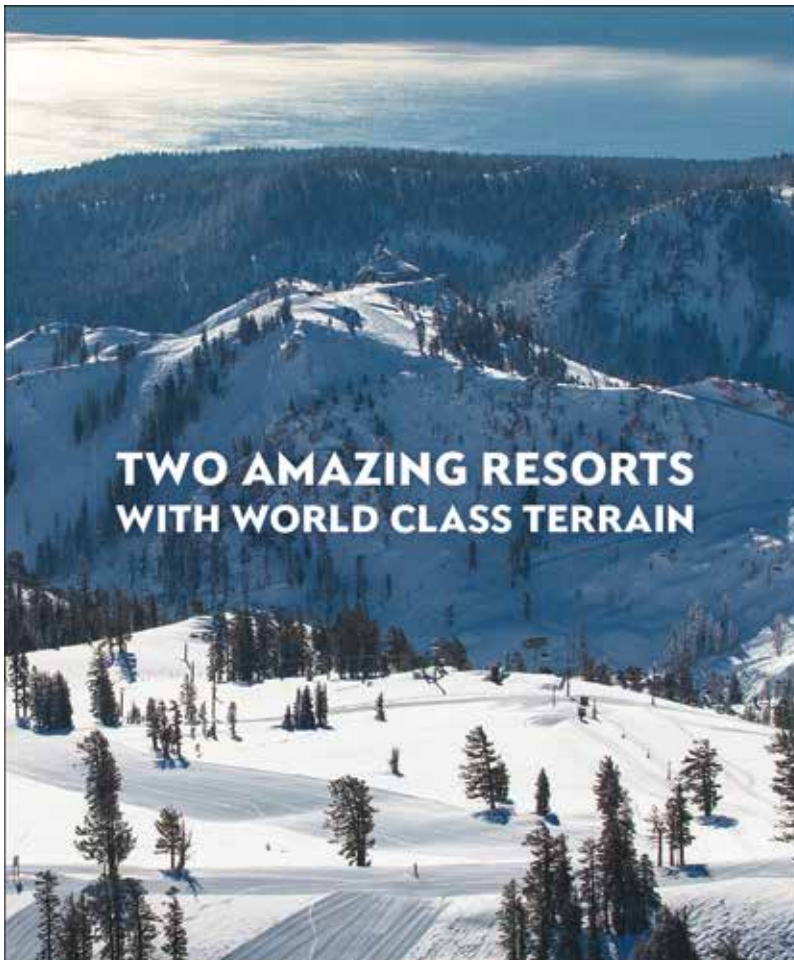
Use the Donate Now link is available on the PSIA-W.org site. Just click the "ED FUND" button top right of the home page.

Help us organize one of our fundraisers, the April 22, 2017 Auction or the 2017 Golf Tournament. We count on donations from outside sponsors for auction prizes.

PSIA-W Ed Foundation Golf Tournament - Ten Years of Fun and Enjoyment

The tournament this year was held Oct. 3. Dayton Valley Golf Course provided a stunning venue. The evening before our golf day, Tahoe had its first snowfall. Todd Hipsley and Jim Sanchez believe in the endless summer and sported shorts.

Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin were won by Mike Uliana. The winning team consisted of Dan Kleiner, Mike Uliana, Damon La Blue and Steve Evenson. A special thank you to the long distance travelers, Patty and Dan Kleiner and Damon La Blue. Thanks Golfers! - Greg Lyons



Lynne & Marcus Haile

Marcus Haile Memorial Adaptive Scholarship

The Mountain High Adaptive Program will again be awarding scholarships

through the Marcus Haile Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship is named to honor the memory of Marcus Haile, a dedicated supporter of adaptive skiing. The purpose of the Fund is to support training in adaptive snowsports and is open to any adaptive instructor at ANY of our Western Division member schools. Scholarships can be used for clinics and examinations. For information and an application form, please contact Lynne Haile at (760) 316-7861.

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2016/2017

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