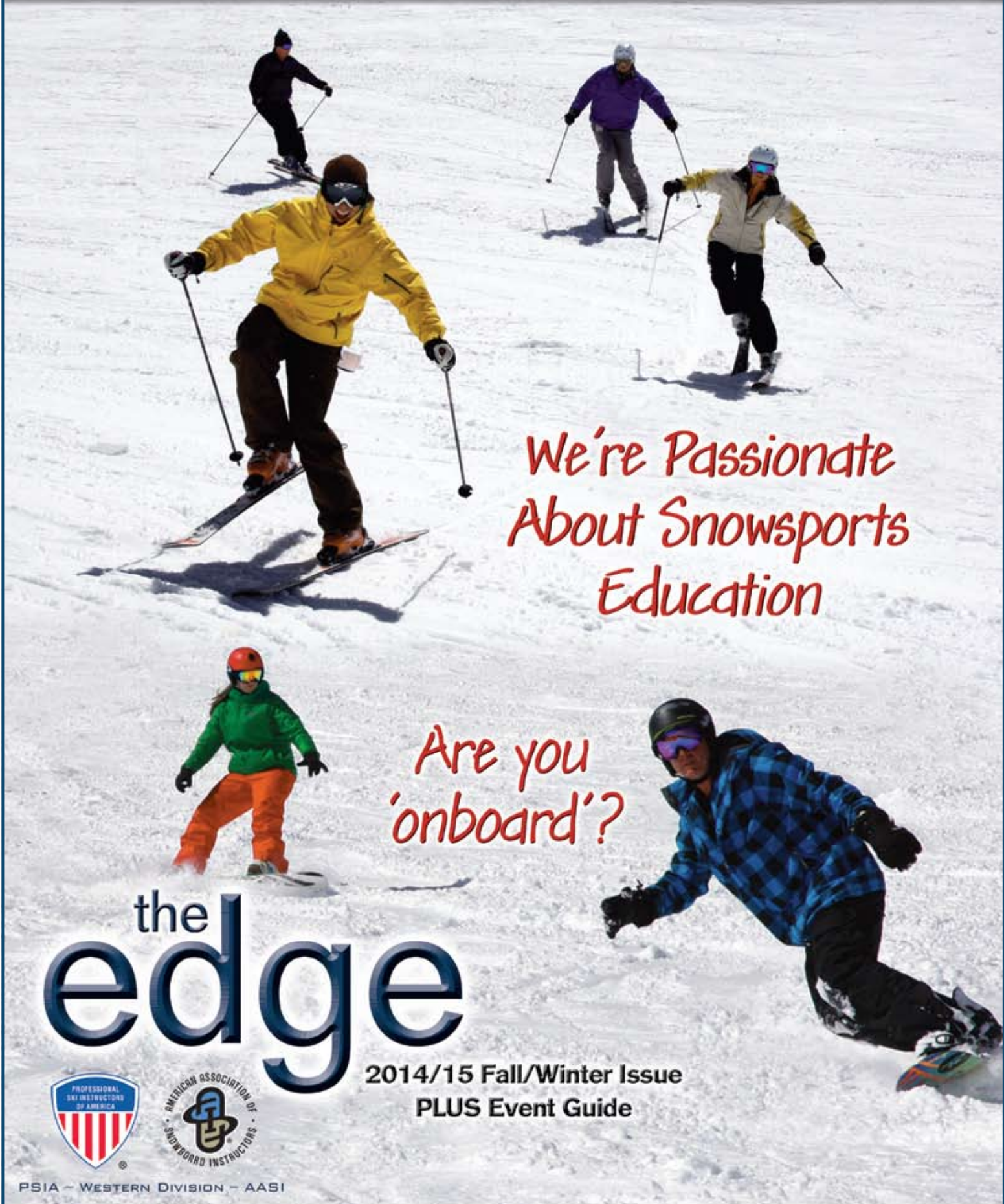


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About Snowsports
Education*

*Are you
'onboard'?*

the edge

2014/15 Fall/Winter Issue
PLUS Event Guide



PSIA - WESTERN DIVISION - AASI

THE JOURNAL OF WESTERN SNOWSPORTS INSTRUCTION

Focus on Education

By Mitch Dion, PSIA/AASI-West Executive Director

Some of you may have already received a notification that you are behind on your education credits. The Western Division Board is focusing efforts this season on informing members of their obligation to take ongoing education to keep their certification in good standing.

“This is about professionalism and fairness,” according to Carl Underkoffler, Western Division President. “Just like any other professional organization, ongoing education is an important component of keeping your skills sharp. Insuring that you have the best and latest information is only fair to your guests, your employer and your fellow instructors that have remained current.”

The fall and early winter schedule will offer plenty of opportunities for members to get current with on-snow and dryland events. Check the event list inside this issue for information on events like Fall Rally, Nordic Fall Festival, and working with top level Snowsports educators such as Horst Abraham, Ron LeMaster, Heidi Ettlinger, Chris Fellows and your Western Division education staff.

The Board will use this season as an opportunity for everyone to effectively get back to a current status. Beginning in Spring 2015, out of compliance members will see a \$25 Administrative fee added to their dues invoice. Members who remain out of compliance will ultimately have their certification moved to inactive status. These policies will align Western Division more closely to what is being done in other divisions across the country.

“You wouldn’t fly with a pilot, or get surgery from a doctor who had not kept up with the latest innovations in their profession,” said Doug Fagel, PSIA/AASI West Vice President. “Our industry has the same need for standards and professionalism.”

Following is a summary

of the key elements of the policy as adopted by the Western Division Board at the August, 2014 meeting.

PSIA/AASI-W requires ongoing education to maintain instructor proficiency, competence and the high level of Professionalism signified by wearing the PSIA/AASI pin. Education credits are obtained by taking an ‘Education’ event in any Division of PSIA/AASI. Members must also be in compliance with the Education Policy to be eligible to take an exam or module.

(cont’d on pg. 3.)



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Champion.**

Travis Ganong:
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Focus on Education (cont'd)

CURRENT WESTERN DIVISION EDUCATION CREDIT POLICY:

1. All active, certified members must take at least 1 education event every year or 2 education events every two years.
2. You can check the status of your education credits online at the National Website. You will need your member number to access this information. Go to <http://www.thesnowpros.org>.
3. One-day education events are worth 6 credits. Multi-day events are worth 12 credits.
4. Education Events consist of clinics, conventions, academies, tech team trainings, in any of the 9 PSIA/AASI Divisions. Ski/Ride Exams/Modules DO count as Education Events.
5. All Education Credits are valid for 2 years from the date of completion. Taking more than (12) credits (or 2 events) in one season does not extend the Education Event expiration date. For example if you take (4) 1-day events in one calendar year, these credits will expire two years from the date completed.

Exceptions to Education Policy

1. Alumni Members are excused from the Education Requirement
2. Medical Waiver: Members may be excused from the Education Policy if they have a medical condition that prevents attendance. A doctor's note must document the condition. Members are allowed one medical waiver each 5 years, and must 'make-up' the education the following season. (Note: PSIA/AASI West regularly schedules indoor events to assist members with medical issues to still maintain their membership in good standing.
3. Petition: Members may 'petition' for education credits for a course or clinic from an Organization other than PSIA/AASI that has increased their knowledge or enhanced their professionalism as an Instructor, (for example: A United States Skiing Association coaches clinic). Petitions will be evaluated by the Education Chair. See www.psia-w.org/services-category/certification.



Sharing knowledge with your fellow instructors at educational events can energize your teaching. Photo by Terry Peters.

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.

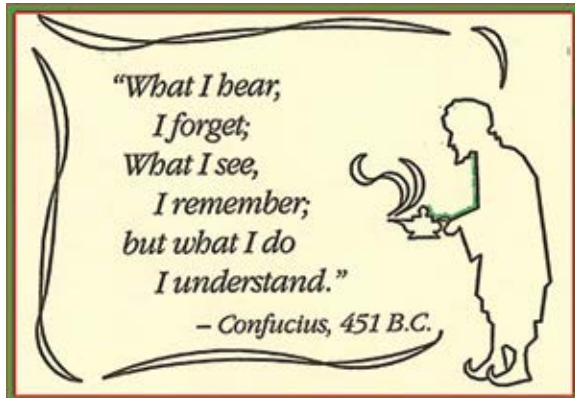
The Edge is published two times annually. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily the policies and opinions of PSIA/AASI Western Division.

For advertising submissions and information, contact our office:
 PSIA/AASI Western Division
 9709 Highway 267, Suite B,
 Truckee, CA. 96161
 phone (530) 587-7642
 fax (530) 587-4273
info@psia-w.org

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

Education...your future is calling!

By Heidi Ettlinger, Education Chair



According to Wikipedia, etymologically, the word education is derived from educare (Latin) "bring up", which is related to educere "bring out", "bring forth what is within", "bring out potential" and ducere, "to lead."

When you love what you do it shows, regardless of whether you're introducing a new participant to the sensation of sliding or guiding a seasoned expert to the best snow on the mountain. Engaged instructors capture the interest of their guest and cleverly weave an experiential blend of instruction that recognizes age, ability, mental state, motivation, physical condition, learning style, equipment choice and personal goals.

Trainers have the equally complex job of tailoring the education they deliver to instructors so that it meets the demands of the evolving snowsport guest. They also make it their goal to help you be your very best by building your confidence and providing feedback to help you develop. Most of us would agree that a great clinic is a mix of relevant content, participatory activities that give us some practical experience. It's engaging and our clinician seemed to truly value our success.

To help address the complexities of our job and the diversity in our membership, this season we are launching the following events and resources:

- **Ignite your curiosity and check-out the event schedule for cross over events that combine Nordic and Alpine skiing as well as an introduction to making the most of local cross country centers.**
- **Join fellow instructors at one of our new "Alumni Club" events and stay connected with like-minded folks from across the division.**
- **Take your skills up a notch at our Professional Development Camp specifically designed for level 3's and resort trainers.**
- **Consider updating your library with National's release of several new manuals and the revised National Standards for all disciplines.**
- **Visit the Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month website [skiand-snowboardmonth.org] and encourage your resort to take advantage of the free media toolbox that helps promote snowsports to the public.**
- **Stay tuned for the next phase of the More Fun Starts Here Campaign as divisions across the country hop onboard with Eastern's Push for Public Awareness campaign. For more information go to: <http://www.psia-e.org/eastern-division-push-for-public-awareness/>**



Pick your Adventure with the Alumni Club!

By Heidi Ettlinger, Education Chair

This season we've coordinated a range of educational opportunities with the goal of providing variety to our diverse membership.

The Alumni Club event schedule below is for everyone. These clinics are a great way for you to keep your social and professional connections active, as well as catch up on your educational credits.

Don't stop here... check out the full Event Guide on pages 20-21 for our complete 14-15 calendar.

HISTORY COMES ALIVE

Location: Northstar Date: Dec 13

Join us for a day of historical perspectives and have the opportunity to ski through the evolution of skiing techniques and the skills required to use them. This clinic will compare traditional with contemporary skiing movements on groomed terrain.

BOOMERS FOR BUMPS

Location: Northstar Date: Jan 23

Boomers for Bumps will focus on developing skills and tactics to link turns on blue and easy black bumps. The pace and intensity will be geared towards developing balance and speed control to minimize fatigue and maximize enjoyment.

CROSS OVER TO CROSS COUNTRY (OPEN TO ALL DISCIPLINES)

Location: Tahoe Donner Date: Jan 27

Expand your sliding opportunities by learning the basics of Nordic classic and skate techniques at Tahoe Donner Cross Country. This clinic will divide the day in half to experience the best of both classic and skate technique. The day is designed to provide an overview of the fundamentals of both, to help you get the most out of Nordic skiing for fun and fitness. Come prepared to treat yourself to scenic trails of Tahoe Donner! Complimentary trail passes and equipment rental available on-site for just \$10.

HALF AND HALF – ALPINE & SKATING CLINIC (OPEN TO NORDIC AND ALPINE)

Location: Northstar Date: Feb 9

Join us for an Alpine and Nordic rendezvous at the Northstar Cross Country Center to learn specific techniques on skate skiing gear in the morning, that you can transfer and use to enhance your alpine skills in the afternoon. Skating creates an opportunity to hone your balance and subtle edging skills that often lead to "aha" moments when returning to the comfort of your alpine or telemark gear. This clinic is designed to provide skill improvement for recreational enthusiasts and explore how you can take advantage of the cross country centers located throughout the Tahoe Basin. Participants will have the opportunity to pace themselves at their own level. Nordic Equipment is available on-site for \$10.

SILVER SKIERS AND SHREDDERS (OPEN TO SKIERS & RIDERS)

Location: Squaw Date: March 6

Share the day with fellow emeritus club members discussing one of the fastest growing groups of participants in winter sports. Most resorts, retail shops and travel services offer senior discounts for trips, equipment, lessons and lodging. We've put together some of our most helpful tips that address physiology, new equipment technology and a few progressions enabling them (and us) to stay in the sport longer.



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Heritage

By Ted Pitcher



Nic Fiore

Nic Fiore Award 2015

Garry Cox was honored last April at the PSIA-W Spring Convention as the fourth recipient of the Nic Fiore Award. The Fiore Award was first awarded by the Heritage Committee in 2011 as a way to honor the “Unsung Heroes” of our Division. These are the people who are the glue that hold our Division together.

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.

The Nic Fiore Award is designed to recognize a dedicated member who has given much service

to the Division and the Membership, but whose work may not be that well known to the Members.

This is a grassroots award, any member is free to submit a nomination letter to the PSIA/AASI West office, mdion@psia-w.org, by Feb. 15, 2015 (1,000 words or less please).

Run for PSIA/AASI-W Board of Directors

**Candidate Statements
are due by
Jan. 18th, 2015
to be considered.**

Qualifications:

Member in good standing, and a willingness to work hard for the membership. 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. Successful candidates will earn a three year term.

Congratulations to the 2014 Nic Fiore Award winner, Garry Cox!

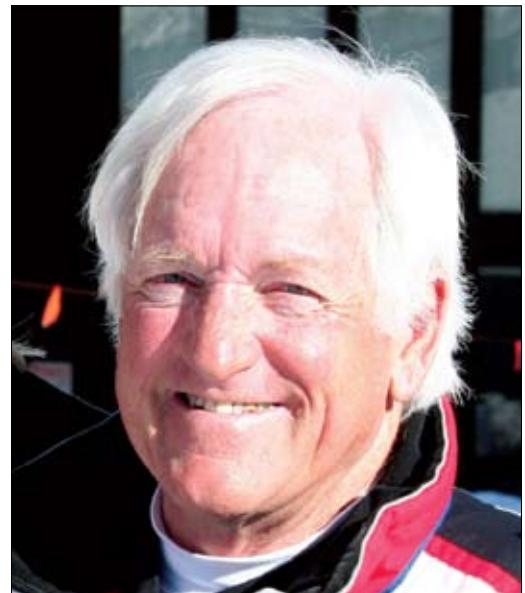
Garry can clearly remember the first day of his 53 year career as a ski instructor: Thanksgiving Day, 1961. He was 14 years old, and was asked by Soda Springs Director Jim Winthers to take 8 kids out for a lesson. “Go have fun with them,” was all the direction he was given by Winthers*, and it worked. Garry joined the Air Force and was assigned to the Armed Forces Recreation Center in Garmisch, Germany, teaching skiing and leading recreation programs from the mid 1960’s to 1981. From there it was Dodge Ridge, working for Jon Mahanna, and then stops at Boreal, Donner Ski Ranch, for Mike Iman at Sugar Bowl and for the last four years at Homewood.

Garry will take on a new job at Homewood this season, running the Children’s program.

The award was presented to Garry at last season’s Spring Convention by Kevin Mitchell, National Demo Team alumni and General Manager of Homewood. Mitchell said the Cox is known for “always saying yes to the difficult jobs,” and being there as an example to the other instructors. Mitchell remembered how important Garry’s mentoring was to him when he was a rookie instructor.

Great job Garry!

*Winthers went on to pioneer the Adaptive skiing movement in the US, founding the organization that would morph in Disabled Sports, USA.



Garry Cox.

PSIA/AASI West - It pays to be a Member

Your membership is your ticket to pro deals that recognize your standing as a Snowsports professional.

We take pride in offering our members a comprehensive benefit package that includes year-round benefits ranging from liability insurance to over 30 different suppliers of hard and soft goods, roof racks and slack lines. Our National Education Department also produces a wide variety of educational materials including manuals, handbooks, magazines (32 Degrees and our division newsletter) and access to the extensive video library on the Movement Matrix. In addition, PSIA-AASI's new e-Learning Modules are a great way to launch your foundation as a teacher. You can learn more about these and other member benefits in the "Go Pro" section of the PSIA-AASI website (TheSnowPros.org).

Western Division local deals:

- Lift Ticket discounts at our Local Member Schools - Slide around the state at great prices!
- Calstar Air Ambulance Service-\$ 30 Family Membership, www.calstar.org
- Alpina/Elan- Skis, boots and binding systems for Alpine and Nordic. 35% discount
- Footloose Sports, Mammoth Lakes - One Free hot wax a season
- Snowpro Portal -pro quality business cards and individual turnkey Snowpro websites launched in 60 seconds, ideal for connecting clients with instructors. See: SNOWPROPORTAL.COM

Lodging Discounts:

- Cinnamon Bear Inn welcomes our members with low rates and a great breakfast all season long.
- Mammoth Mountain Inn is offering lodging discounts for PSIA/AASI members during our Fall events including Fall Rally.
- Choice Hotels

For more information on accessing these member benefits, go to: <http://psia-w.org/services-category/benefits/>

Must be a current Member with a valid membership ID card to receive these benefits.

They're here!

As temperatures are dropping, PSIA-AASI's three new manuals are hot off the presses and still warm in the warehouse.

Go to the PSIA-AASI Accessories Catalog online and click on Education Resources.



For a complete list of Member Exclusive Pro Offers go to:
www.thesnowpros.org

National Deals

The following great companies offer Pro Deals to our members. To access, log in to your account on www.thesnowpros.org.



... and more

Exam Process - Why we do the things we do

By Finlay Torrance, Ceci Chourré and Chris Lange

Many questions are asked across the division related to the structure of our exam processes. Some members wish to attempt to skip levels or take multiple levels of examination in one season and want to know how go about requesting these types of accommodations. Here is the recommended expectation and how the process flows with some rationale for the “why” so members can get a better idea of why we do the things we do.

The current 1 to 3 Level Examination Pathway follows a RECOMMENDED five year plan for a full time instructor. Part-time instructors should expect a protracted learning experience and therefore longer time prior to completion of the Level 3 certification.

Year One:

Level 1- An introduction to snowsports teaching with an exposure to teaching concepts and skiing/snowboarding demonstration ability. Although the base methodology is basic in nature we believe that it is only through practical teaching experience that an instructor can fully grasp how to utilize and implement sound teaching scenarios. A petition to attempt more than one level in a year would necessitate that the applicant had a strong and documented coaching



Year One: Learning how to utilize and implement sound teaching scenarios. Photo by Terry Peters.

background in an activity which complimented the skill set looked for as a professional snowsports instructor. Skiing/riding ability alone is not a suitable reason for petition. Due to the complexities of and fundamental principles introduced at this level it is unlikely that a petition will be approved unless the complimentary skill set is from within the snow sports industry.

Year Two:

Develop practical experience with teaching hours and training. Candidates should use the time period between Level 1 and 2 to refine their understanding and develop the ability to describe and discuss the complexities of ski/snowboard teaching. Turn mechanics, biomechanics, teaching methodology need to become habitual in nature before one can possibly be ready to take the next exam.



Year Two: Developing a natural ability to describe turn mechanics and complex methodology. Photo by Terry Peters.

Year Three:

Level 2- This is the examination standard set for most full-time snowsports instructors. It assesses skiing/snowboarding and teaching competency to a level where an instructor is certified to teach 90% of the snowsports public. Again there is a skiing/riding and teaching component in this exam however the assessment is split into two sections: skiing/riding first, then teaching. It is our belief that candidates must have the ability to demonstrate accuracy in their movements before they are likely to understand how to teach these movements to someone else. Due to the complexities of and fundamental principles expected to be present in all skiing/riding and teaching scenarios at this level it is unlikely that a petition to sit this exam will be approved unless it is from within the snow sports industry, typically from an internationally certified (ISIA) instructor not associated with PSIA.

Year Four:

Develop Practical Experience with teaching hours and Training at higher skill levels. At this stage in



Year Three: Instructors must demonstrate skiing/snowboarding ability as well as teaching competency. Photo by Terry Peters.

Exam Process (cont'd)



Year Four: Developing athleticism beyond Level 2 and tactical decision making is expected. Photo by Terry Peters.

professional development an instructor can discuss complex theories and develop individualized lesson plans. In the area of skiing/riding demonstrations candidates must develop athleticism that is typically not present at Level 2. Tactical decision making needs to be present and an ability to coach tactically is expected to be developed during this time period.

Year Five:

Level 3- At this level it is expected that candidates have a mastery of the written materials, methodologies and practices of PSIA/AASI and the physical aptitude to ski/ride all conditions with any guest that may take lessons in any given resort. Again the exam is split into skiing/riding then teaching.



Year Five: A mastery of written materials and practices of PSIA/AASI and the ability to ski/ride all conditions is required. Photo by Terry Peters.

Following this five year pathway is no guarantee of success and it is only your effort, commitment and time dedicated to this profession that will result in a successful exam outcome, but this is a solid recommendation on how to be as well prepared as possible. Other disciplines may have differing timelines for your success.

Should you choose to challenge this time line, a petition form is available on our website, <http://psia-w.org/forms-applications/petition-form>.

You will need to include justification for accelerating the process. Skills sets like History of racing, Coaching other Sports, and teaching hours can influence approval. Your petition will need to be endorsed by a current member of one of our Education Teams.

This petition will be routed to the discipline chair, at present Finlay Torrance for Alpine and Chris Lange for Snowboard.

Submit early, at least one month prior to the exam you wish to attend. This will give the chair and office sufficient time to review, ask follow up questions and respond to the applicant.

The Discipline Chair has sole discretion for petition approval.

While it is possible to complete the pathway to Level 3 in less than five seasons, it would require an exceptional effort from an exceptional instructor.

We hope this information helps to clarify the certification pathway.

WINNING SELECTIONS NOW AVAILABLE TO PSIA-W MEMBERS.

elan

WWW.ELANSKIS.COM

A Significant Change to Our Sit Skier's Progression

By Bill Bowness, Adaptive Chair

There was a great question raised about the new Adaptive Alpine Standards Exam Supplement <https://www.thesnowpros.org/Portals/0/Cache/Pages/PSIA%20Adaptive%20Alpine%20Exam%20Supplement%20Final%206.4.14.pdf>. The information in the supplement used to be found embedded in the National Adaptive Certification Standards but in an attempt to make the Standards more user friendly, the skiing equivalencies and Adaptive specific teaching and technical skills were removed and now that information is found in this “stand alone” supplement.

The member asked about the change in outrigger use at the “gliding/braking wedge” equivalents for outrigger users, particularly, mono skiers. In the past, we have coached our students to create a slowing/braking action by engaging the friction devices (brakes) of the outriggers and driving the outriggers forward while pressuring downward. This braking technique is rarely used by our sit skiers after the first gravity movements are introduced. If you watch independent sit skiers slow or stop in close quarters (i.e., lift lines, congested areas or narrow spots) they typically utilize a “diverging wedge” with their outriggers. They will turn their outrigger outward so the tips are pointed away from their midline and slowly apply pressure until the slowing/stopping has been achieved.

This outward rotation of the forearms causes the outside edge of the outrigger tips to engage in the snow. By increasing pressure on the outriggers (and/or increasing the outward rotation of the outrigger tip) slowing is augmented. I believe that there are several benefits of the diverging outrigger ‘wedge’ method over the old ‘braking’ method. First, this outward rotation of the outrigger is used by sit skiers throughout their skiing life. Unlike the “hunker down” method that we taught in the past, this “turning the doorknob” movement is the building block of all future outrigger use. It is utilized at all ability levels (beginner – advanced) to create torque (rotary). The ‘wedge’ technique is beneficial for introducing efficient outrigger methods sooner in the student’s progression.

Second, the student will learn the importance of being able to let the outrigger drift across the snow. The ‘wedge’ method teaches our new students to vary (“feather”) pressure on the outriggers as they maintain balance and move across the snow. I think the old brake technique teaches an “all or nothing” pressure movement.

Third, the student is introduced to using the rigger tip’s edge rather than the brake claw to develop friction and create torque. Using the outrigger’s edge allows the user to create torque without as much slowing. I have seen students that learned with the ‘braking’ method that never understood the need to turn the outrigger in the direction they want to go. They simply pushed the brake claw harder into the snow to effect a turn; i.e. torque with significant slowing/friction.

Fourth, it is a natural progression to introducing first turns. With the diverging wedge, when first turns are taught, the student simply keeps one rigger pointed straight (or point both riggers in the direction of the turn) and a turn will occur. Again, they are introduced to a movement that they will use for as long as they mono ski... the braking method is a movement that should be/must be extinguished for the beginner to move to intermediate levels.

And, maybe the biggest benefit, the student is far less likely to become dependent on the stupid brake! If we teach the student’s first sliding movements to utilize the edge of the rigger instead of the brake claw, the student never develops a dependency on the brake. The students I have taught lately start with maybe a 1/4” of brake bolt. By the time they are making linked turns, the brake bolt is gone! It is important to note that this is not an efficient braking method. If you are on steep enough terrain that your student cannot stop, a turn to a stop should be taught.

Check out the great video clips of this technique on the Matrix. (Go to www.thesnowpros.org – sign-up for the Matrix in your ‘member area’ and check out the great Adaptive video clips!)

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2014-15 EVENT GUIDE

Level 3 and Beyond. Looking forward to your next level of professionalism in your snowsport careers? Try:

Educator Skill Building with Heidi Ettlinger, Nov. 9, South Lake Tahoe, see pg. 12.

Professional Development Day with Horst Abraham and Linda Cowan, Nov. 18, Mammoth, see pg. 12.

Supervisor Educator and Development Clinic, Jan. 8-9, Homewood, see pg. 13.

Divisional Trainer Course, see pg. 23.

New and Featured!

Ron LeMaster, Ski Technique and Movement Analysis, indoor session, Nov. 23 at Squaw Valley, see pg. 19.

Cross Over to Cross Country (open to all disciplines), Jan. 27, Northstar, see pg. 12.

Half and Half - Alpine & Skating Clinic (open to Nordic and Alpine), Feb. 9, Northstar, see pg. 12.

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All Disciplines

Broaden your horizons and cross disciplines for one of these events.

EDUCATOR SKILL BUILDING

Join us for an early season in-door planning session on how to design, develop and deliver on-snow training clinics. This is not your ordinary pen and paper session, expect to put on your creative hats and explore education theories & models, hands-on activities, and the opportunity to build your presentation skills and tool bag. Open to all disciplines. Prerequisites: Must be Level 3 certified. Clinician: Heidi Ettlinger



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAMP WITH HORST ABRAHAM AND LINDA COWAN

Massive social, political, economic and technological changes have rocked our world. These transformations have also affected the winter sports industry requiring us to have a closer examination of the market we serve, our value to the public and how we address complex and diverse generations. Our current instructional practices are struggling to keep pace within this rapidly evolving industry, which have created an opportunity to embrace education and neuro-science that can help bring our profession into the new millennium. In this workshop, Linda and Horst would like to provide you with a sampling of concepts, frameworks and practices that can immediately be incorporated into the teaching/learning process. They invite you to explore the powerful return business enhancing experience, which incorporates centered teaching and the learning process. \$15 lift ticket required unless you have a Mammoth pass.



CROSS OVER TO CROSS COUNTRY (OPEN TO ALL DISCIPLINES)

Expand your sliding opportunities by learning the basics of Nordic classic and skate techniques at Tahoe Donner Cross Country. This clinic will divide the day in half to experience the best of both classic and skate technique. The day is designed to provide an overview of the fundamentals of both, to help you get the most out of Nordic skiing for fun and fitness. Come prepared to treat yourself to the scenic trails of Tahoe Donner! Complimentary trail passes and equipment rental available on-site for just \$10.

HALF AND HALF – ALPINE & SKATING CLINIC

Join us for an Alpine and Nordic rendezvous at the Northstar Cross Country Center to learn specific techniques on skate skiing gear in the morning that you can transfer and use to enhance your alpine skills in the afternoon. Skating creates an opportunity to hone your balance and subtle edging skills that often lead to “aha” moments when returning to the comfort of your alpine or telemark gear. This clinic is designed to provide skill improvement for recreational enthusiasts and explore how you can take advantage of the cross country centers located throughout the Tahoe Basin. Participants will have the opportunity to pace themselves at their own level. Nordic Equipment is available for \$10 at the Northstar XC Center.

SILVER SKIERS AND SHREDDERS (OPEN TO SKI & SB):

Share the day with fellow emeritus club members discussing one of the fastest growing groups of participants in winter sports. Most resorts, retail shops and travel services offer senior discounts for trips, equipment, lessons and lodging. We've put together some of our most helpful tips that address physiology, new equipment technology and a few progressions enabling them (and us) to stay in the sport longer.

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

All Disciplines

TEACHING IN SPANISH, INDOORS

Learn to teach skiing or snowboarding in Spanish. In this course we will explore basic Spanish grammar, helpful phrases, cultural considerations for educators, and some conversational Spanish practice. The course will be interactive, and will work from the Spanish proficiency level of each participant in the form of teaching scenarios, role plays, conversational practice and discussion. This is an in-doors course that takes place two evenings, 4:30 – 8pm, 3.5 hours each (7 hrs total), over two consecutive weeks. A fully completed course merits a one-day Educational Credit (no partial educational credits for half course attendance).

Handouts: cookbook of basic phrases, survival words, technical terms, snowsport specific vocabulary and study materials for home.

SUPERVISOR EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT CLINIC:

This new two day PSIA-W clinic is designed to help Snow School supervisors become more proficient at their job. It is also an excellent way for our members who are working as supervisors or interested in a supervisory position. The clinic will focus on the many roles that supervisors play in the smooth operation of snow sports school, including

- The supervisor as a coach, educator and mentor
- The role of the supervisor as a conduit of information between the Snowsports School and resort management.
- Instructor training, staffing and scheduling.
- Customer Service



Both days of this clinic will include a half day on snow skiing / riding clinic with discussions of the needs and wants of the clinic participants and an overview of the program curriculum. Each day will also include a half day indoor work session delving in-depth into the many roles and responsibilities required of Snowsports School Supervisors with an emphasis on your specific needs.



NEW MEMBER WELCOME DAY (SPONSORED BY THE PSIA-W EDUCATION FOUNDATION)

Get Ready! You are starting your career in Snowsports instruction but you have many questions.

- Should you join PSIA/AASI West?
- What is certification?
- How hard is it to get?

Join some of the top Snowsports instructors in the nation and find out! The event will help you understand the skiing/riding and teaching skills that are required to become certified. But mostly, expect to improve your own skiing/riding and HAVE FUN! No Charge. Open to New Registered Members (Join Date after March 1, 2014.) Discounted lift ticket of \$15 required at the Mammoth event.

FALL RALLY

This 2-day event is open to the entire membership as an opportunity to get an early season tune-up. Come prepared to have fun and hone-in skiing skills as well as receive updates on divisional and national education materials and updates. There will be several different clinics types and pacing groups to choose from including children specific clinics.

Photos by Terry Peters.

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

Adaptive Education & Certification Program

Your Adaptive Committee shares a passion for teaching snowsports to individuals with disabilities. The Committee is comprised of adaptive snowboard members, adaptive alpine members, program directors, volunteer instructors, staff trainers, and all levels of certifications. If you want to get involved with our great sport and help shape the future of our profession, please contact Bill Bowness (bill@disabledsports.net). Following is a sampling of the projects our committee is currently working on for 2014-15:

- Developing an online test for all three levels of certification as is currently being offered by Alpine and Snowboard disciplines.
- Working on a process for a partial pass at level three. Currently, candidates that take the level 3 certification must pass all six disciplines. If the candidate is weak in one or more of the exam areas, he must retake the entire exam. Seems like a misuse of resources (time and money) to retake the areas where the candidate is solid.
- Developing a video library of adaptive skiers that can be used to administer a standardized movement analysis assessment. Currently, most examiners do MA on-hill. Although this is more realistic, it can be challenging for the examiner and candidate alike to provide consistent MA experiences for all candidates.

An ongoing task is developing an examiner standard for each level of exam. We have excellent exam standards (PSIA Adaptive Alpine Certification Standards; AASI Adaptive Snowboard Certification Standards) that describe in detail what the candidates need to understand but at times there may be minor inconsistencies between examiners as to the level of competency candidates must have at each level. We believe that our examiners do a fantastic job of fairly assessing our candidates but we are striving to make this assessment more concrete. This will be an ongoing task that will be modified each year to keep pace with current trends in snowsports.

If you have suggestions or comments about Adaptive Snowsports please do not hesitate to contact any of the Adaptive Committee representatives listed below:

Southern California:

Dan Stormer (Mountain High): dstormer@hadsellstormer.com

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

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

Central California:

Maggie Palchak (Mammoth): MPalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org

Northern California:

Glen Smith (Heavenly): glentsmith@frontier.com

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

Brent Kuemmerle (Kirkwood): alllefffoot@hotmail.com

Adaptive Representative to the Division's Board of Directors:

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



Adaptive Representative, Bill Bowness.

Adaptive Education & Certification Program

SO-CAL ADAPTIVE RESORT TRAINER'S TRAINING

This one-day training course is required for resort trainers to lead an In-House L1 Adaptive Validation. Participants must be L2 or above Adaptive Certified and must be selected by their home ski school.

SOCAL WINTER SESSION WELCOME TO ADAPTIVE

These clinics will be tailored to the needs of the members. The group leader will give instruction and feedback on any subjects requested by the participants with the primary goal being preparation for the Level 1,2,3 exams.

ADAPTIVE L1 IN-HOUSE VALIDATION (SKI OR SNOWBOARD)

This is a one day clinic/exam where you will be coached and tested on your skiing/riding and teaching/technical ability in one of the disciplines (VI, etc.).

Candidates must have participated in a multiple week training program conducted at their home area by a qualified in-house trainer. You will be coached and tested on teaching skiers/

riders through open stance parallel/L4 riding. You will also be coached and tested on your functional skiing/riding as it relates to adaptive teaching and assists for your discipline. Successful candidates will display an understanding of the disabilities and the medications you may encounter with skiers/riders under these categories. Candidates will perform free skiing/riding, demonstrations, and tasks. Adaptive L1 skiing/riding requirements/standards are the same as Alpine or Snowboard L1 skiing/riding standards. For a complete event description, see www.psia-w.org, Adaptive page.

HARTFORD SKI SPECTACULAR

Hosted by Disabled Sports USA at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colorado, The Hartford Ski Spectacular is one of the nation's largest winter sports festivals for people with disabilities with more than 800 registered participants annually! Dec. 1-7, 2014. See www.skispec.org for information.

*All levels & all disciplines offered ONLY at candidate's request.
Candidates MUST contact Bill Bowness (bill@disabledsports.net)
3 WEEKS PRIOR to arrange desired exams.*

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

"I love working for a company that treats you like family.
There is a sense of camaraderie you can't find anywhere else."
Philip Linford, Deer Valley ski instructor for 18 seasons

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LEARN A NEW DEFINITION OF FAMILY.**

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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 1,000 staff members celebrated their fifth season or more at Deer Valley). Compelling wage and benefits package. Progressive ski programs with small class sizes. PSIA-accredited ski school. Apply now at deervalley.com/jobs.



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Alpine Events



Finlay Torrance, Alpine Chair.

PSIA exam standards and the impact of Skis design on your movements.

Greeting fellow snow lovers,

My job as Alpine VP is to try to explain how and why we assess candidates in the way we do. Also, when we see movement patterns in our candidates that are wide spread and detrimental to their success we need to make some changes to the information that we provide and set expectations that you can follow as you train to sit any given exam. Let me explain what I mean.

When ski equipment characteristics change there is an equal and opposite reaction that we need to be aware of. Failure to recognize change may affect our movement patterns and can have a negative outcome for you and your students. Our new found accessibility to ski challenging snow

conditions on FAT, Rockered, and funky side cut skis does not necessarily mean that we are better skiers it simply means that the skis are making it easier to be out of balance and stay out of balance without falling over.

The movements that we are seeing in exam candidates have changed in the past few years as a direct result of changes in ski design and particularly side cut. Let's call this the ACTION. Side cut allows a skier to balance on a platform and follow the designed arc or radius of the ski. Most recreational skis now have a design radius of 9-14 Meters, which allows most people to feel the sensation of carving without the need to be skiing at 50MPH. Our body movements follow more of an ARC and so the mechanics of skiing have been altered significantly. Generally speaking skiing has moved from a sliding sport with a dominant rotary focus to sliding activity with a predominant edging or carving based focus. Neither of these aforementioned skill focuses are "bad", it is just more difficult to accurately control a rotating ski than it is to stand on a carving ski. This ease of use allows for less disciplined movements and as a result we are seeing exam candidates with significant deficiencies in their rotary skill blending abilities, this would be the OPPOSITE REACTION. Common deficiencies are a rotation of the whole body into the turn, an inability to separate and control the rotation of the lower body underneath a stable upper body and a lack of discipline and accuracy with hand, arm and pole usage. Each of us have idiosyncratic movements that at some time will hinder or help our skiing, and modern side cut has directly affected how we feel when skiing but it has not made us technically more accurate or efficient. It's like when I'm playing golf and hit my new oversized driver, it feels great, but I'm still not a good golfer.

To address this collective issue we will be adding a few skill based tasks to the Level 1 and 2 exam this season. The goal is to highlight and refine your rotational skill blending and balancing abilities from an entry level and beyond Level 3. These tasks are, pivot to a hockey stop, blocking pole plant drills, pivot side slips and a focus on hand and arm movements that complement and enhance the turn mechanics of any given turn. Please review your relevant certification study guide for specific details.

As professional instructors we need to have, or strive for a mastery of all movement patterns and have the ability to analyze and understand how these movements are helping or hindering you or your students' performance. By shifting our skill focus to train for accuracy in our rotational movements, which is the opposite reaction to undisciplined skiing we will assure that our instructors will be more successful as they develop as professionals and will be better served when they attempt higher levels of certification that require greater accuracy in these areas.

Have a great season and "May the Force be with You."

Fin

Alpine Events

Education Events

ALL LEVEL VIDEO ANALYSIS

This clinic will include video and feedback on the participants skiing. How body performance effects ski performance will be covered in the feedback. This is a great clinic for anybody who is working toward an exam or just feeling like they need a bit more help getting to the next level.

ALL MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

Ready to explore Mammoth? This clinic will include skiing a variety of terrain as you receive guided practice to all four corners of Mammoth, to search for the best conditions the mountain has to offer.

BUILD YOUR TECHNICAL FOUNDATION W/ HEIDI ETTLINGER

Updated for 2014-15 this indoor clinic will build your knowledge of biomechanics, turn mechanics, and performance skiing utilizing fun multi-media presentations. It will include a comprehensive overview of the technical aspects of contemporary skiing. Come prepared for an entertaining day and learn how you can apply these technical foundations to your skiing, teaching and movement analysis. Each participant will receive a workbook and custom DVD. Clinician: Heidi Ettlinger

CREATING DYNAMIC MOVEMENT PATTERNS-ALL LEVELS ALL TERRAIN

Learn how to create body movements that allow for more dynamic and efficient movement patterns in all conditions, all terrain and for all levels

CREATING PROGRESSIONS FOR ALL TYPES OF STUDENTS

Young, old, timid, aggressive, analytical? If you have worked with it, we have teaching and progression ideas to make your day smoother and more fun. This is a great clinic for anybody who is looking for more teaching ideas or training for their exams.

CREATING STRENGTH AND EFFICIENCY IN MOVEMENTS

Learn how to create body movements that allow for stronger and more efficient movement patterns in all conditions and all terrain. This is open to all levels.

CROSS-OVER TO CROSS COUNTRY

Expand your sliding opportunities by learning the basics of Nordic classic and skate techniques. This clinic will divide the day in half to experience the best of both worlds (classic and skate technique) and is designed to provide an overview of the fundamentals through intermediate skill blending to help you get the most out of utilizing Nordic skiing for fun and fitness. Come prepared to treat yourself to incredible vista points and sampling treats from the various warming huts! Equipment available on-site.

FOOT AND LOWER LEG DYNAMICS

This indoor clinic is staffed by industry pros who will present fundamental information for understanding foot and lower leg biomechanics. We will cover: Movements and function of the foot, ankle, and lower leg specific to skiing, and how to understand boot fitting and alignment issues to improve your and your students' skiing potential. We will assess each attendee's feet and lower legs for boot fit considerations. Attendees should wear shorts or loose fitting pants and bring their ski boots. Clinician: Bud Heishman

HISTORY COMES ALIVE

Join us for a day of historical perspectives and have the opportunity to ski through the evolution of skiing techniques and the skills required to use them. This clinic will compare traditional with contemporary skiing movements on groomed terrain.



Photo by Terry Peters.

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

Alpine Events

INTRO TO BUMPS AND STEEPS

This clinic is for those who are struggling to get into the bumps and steeper terrain. You will learn a variety of tactics to approach variable and steep terrain. Get comfortable skiing the terrain, not just surviving it!

MOVEMENT ANALYSIS AND SKI VISUALIZATION W/ BRYAN SCHILLING

Gain an in depth critical eye on ski imagery, and learn to use it to your advantage. Whether preparing for a Teach Exam or just sharpening your eye for MA, this course explores both good, and not-so-good skiing through film and video. This is a two-part, hands on and discussion based approach to understanding the biomechanics and 'cause and effect' relationships that drive effective movement on skis.

SKI TEACHING AND PRACTICE INDOORS/ CONSECUTIVE FRIDAY EVENINGS

This is a two part course. First: practice and polish the art of team building. Through games and activities, we will explore team building techniques used by 'performance organizations.' Next, through an activities approach, practice the art and science of effective public speaking to command your audience. And finally, complete the pedagogy package: explore learning theory perspectives (Vygotsky, Kohlberg, Piaget, and Maslow) that underlie the teambuilding dynamic. This is a fun course for any ski teacher who wants to become more effective. Instructor: Bryan Schilling

SKI TEACHING IS JUST A GAME

Break down boring. Rather than a call-down / feedback approach to ski teaching, this clinic presents ways you can teach effective movements through non-traditional approaches - that keep the group moving. Reciprocal teaching, guided discovery, problem solving are the main means to be explored – all through the use of games. This is a fun clinic that will address the serious challenge of making ski lessons both fun and educational.

SOCAL WINTER SESSION

Open to all members, this is a great event to tune up your skiing, connect with your fellow Southern California instructors and work with the top educators in the West. This nonstop two-day event brings the excitement of the Convention into an early season tune-up session.



Photo by Terry Peters.

TEACHING AROUND THE GLOBE

Interested in teaching around the globe? Think big. This clinic takes a skis-on look around the world of ski techniques – how they differ, how they are alike. Additionally, the course presents strategies for creating a winning resume, navigating legal hurdles, and preparing for a teaching job overseas. "Having taught skiing myself across 4 continents and annually hiring a team of international instructors for my home resort, I am a big advocate of the global exchange – both in terms of technique and work experience" Bryan Schilling. Instructor: Bryan Schilling

TEACHING IN SPANISH

This clinic is designed to translate common skiing language into Spanish. Come prepared to either develop your current Spanish abilities or start with the basics. Learn how to better communicate with your Spanish speaking students and have more fun!

L2 TEACH AND MOVEMENT ANALYSIS PREP

This clinic is for anybody who is thinking of doing their Level 2 teaching certification, or anybody who has their L2 and would like a refresher. If you just want a little extra training, a better understanding of the process and standard, or are not sure if you are ready yet this is a great event to attend. On-hill teaching presentations, teaching methodology and movement analysis will be covered along with personal feedback.

Alpine Events

SKI TECHNIQUE AND MOVEMENT ANALYSIS

An interactive workshop with Ron LeMaster. Explore the essentials of biomechanics, fundamental and advanced techniques and the mechanics of skis, boots and poles. Ron is an internationally recognized expert on skiing and the author of "The Essential Guide to Skiing." Sunday, Nov 23, 9am – 11 am. Palisades Room, Squaw Valley Village.

WEEKENDERS TUNE UP

This clinic is designed for the weekend adventurer who wants to catch up on tips for personal improvement and pair efficient movements for the snow du jour.

WOMEN'S SUMMIT

Top women clinic leaders will provide insight, knowledge, inspiration and a whole lotta fun for participants of all ability levels. The program includes am/pm clinics to customize each day with different terrain and ski pacing options. The Summit includes (optional) indoor presentations, guest speakers, goodie bags, new friends, and surprises. Check the online event descriptions page for a complete detailed agenda (including lodging specials). If you have questions or special requests please contact Heidi Ettlenger (heidiettlenger@yahoo.com). Location: Squaw Valley.



Date: **March 9-11**

Location:

Squaw Valley

Questions
on agenda,
lodging, special
requests:

**Contact Heidi
Ettlenger at**

**heidiettlenger@
yahoo.com**

Certification, Preps & Exams

SIX-DAY LEVEL 1 MODULE

The six-day program is for people who are not actively teaching at a snowsport school, but are interested in becoming a Certified instructor. The program covers information on skiing, teaching, movement analysis, and technical knowledge to meet our National Level 1 Certification Standards. Successful candidates receive a certificate of completion and then have 2 years to complete 20 hours of teaching to become a Certified Level 1 Instructor.

L1 MODULE

This three-day program is for members who are actively instructing at a Snowsports School. The event covers teaching and skiing demonstrations, movement analysis, and technical knowledge to meet our National Standards for Level 1 Certification. Successful candidates that pass the Module and have completed 20 hrs of teaching at their snowsports school, become a Certified Level 1 Instructor.

L2 SKI PREP

L2 SKI AND DEMO PREP

These clinic are for anybody who is thinking of doing their Level 2 ski certification, or anybody who has their 2 and would like a refresher. If you just want a little extra training, a better understanding of the process and standard, or are not sure if you are ready yet this is a great event to attend. Demos, tasks, and free skiing standards will all be covered along with personal feedback.

L2 SKI MODULE

Candidates must pass the Ski Module before taking the Teaching Module. The two-day Level 2 Certification Module includes a skiing assessment, feedback, and coaching from the clinician to meet the Level 2 National Standards. Level 2 certified instructors have the skills to make short, medium, and long radius turns on blue and groomed black terrain with minimal skidding. Skill application and accuracy may vary with terrain and snow conditions. Demonstrations should illustrate accurate movement patterns. Scoring for this event is pass or fail. Essential elements of all skiing maneuvers must appear regularly at a satisfactory level to pass. Prerequisites: Must be a certified Level 1 instructor, current with membership dues and education credits, and actively working at a Snowsports School. Participants must read the Alpine Level 2 Certification & Study Guide.

CONTINUED ON PG.22

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

2014-2015 EVENT

Register online and check for updates or changes at www.psia-w.org.

Multi Discipline

Date	Event	Event Location	Cost
11/9	Educator Skill Building w/ Heidi Ettlinger	South Tahoe Chamber of Commerce	\$80
11/14 & 21	Teaching in Spanish - Indoors (2 evenings)	Homewood	\$80
11/15	Build Your Technical Foundation w/ Heidi Ettlinger	South Tahoe Chamber of Commerce	\$80
11/18	Professional Development Camp with Horst Abraham	Mammoth	\$80
12/7-8	Fall Rally	Mammoth	\$80
12/13	History Comes Alive	Northstar	\$80
12/14	New Member Welcome Day	Squaw	Free
12/14	New Member Welcome Day	Snow Summit	Free
1/8-9	Supervisor education and development clinic	Homewood	\$160
1/13	New Member Welcome Day	Mt High	Free
1/15	New Member Welcome Day	Mammoth	Free
1/23	Bumps for Boomers	Northstar	\$80
1/25-26	SoCal Winter Session	Bear Mtn, Snow Summit	\$80/day
1/27	Cross-Over to Cross Country	Tahoe Donner	\$80
1/27	New Member Welcome Day	Heavenly	Free
2/9	Half & Half - Alpine and Skate Clinic	Northstar	\$80
3/6	Silver Skiers and Shredders	Squaw	\$80
4/17-19	SPRING CONVENTION	Squaw	tba

Adaptive

11/20	Adaptive Resort Trainer	Mammoth	\$65
12/1-7	Hartford Ski Spectacular	Breckenridge, CO	
1/25-26	Adapt SoCal Winter Session	Snow Summit	\$80/day
Tba	Adapt Exams will be coordinated by request. (email bill@disabledsports.net)		
4/20-22	Adaptive Exams	Squaw Valley	

Alpine

11/12	Foot and Lower Leg Dynamics	Sky Tavern	\$80
11/21-26	Six-Day L1 Module	Mammoth	\$600
11/23-26	L1 Module	Mammoth	\$255
12/5&12	Movement Analysis & Ski Visualization	Homewood	\$80
	w/ Bryan Schilling		
12/7-8	Resort Trainer	Mammoth	\$130
12/13	History Comes Alive	Northstar	\$80
12/16	Teaching In Spanish	Heavenly	\$80
1/5-6	Resort Trainer	Sierra at Tahoe	\$130
1/6	Teaching Around the Globe	Heavenly	\$80
1/6-11	Six-Day L1 Module	Heavenly	\$600
1/8	L2 Ski and Demo Prep	Northstar	\$80
1/9&16	Ski Teaching Theory and Practice		
	(2 evening sessions)	Homewood	\$80
1/10	Weekenders Tune-Up	Sierra at Tahoe	\$80

Date	Event	Event Location	Cost
1/12	Ski Teaching is Just a Game	Heavenly	\$80
1/13	Intro to Bumps and Steeps	Northstar	\$80
1/20-22	L1 Module	Sierra at Tahoe	\$255
1/21	L2 Ski and Demo Prep	Mammoth	\$80
1/22-23	L2 Ski Module	Mammoth	\$200
1/28	L2 Teach and Movement Analysis Prep	Heavenly	\$80
1/28-30	L1 Module	Northstar	\$255
2/3	L3 Ski Prep	Squaw	\$80
2/4	L3 Teach Prep	Squaw	\$80
2/6-8	L1 Module	Mammoth	\$255
2/10-12	L1 Module	Diamond Peak	\$255
2/9	L2 Teach and Movement Analysis Prep	Northstar	\$80
2/10-12	L2 Teach Module	Northstar	\$300
2/13	Creating Progressions for all Types of Students	Sierra at Tahoe	\$80
2/24	Creating Dynamic Movement Patterns-All Levels	All Terrain	Squaw \$80
2/25	Creating Strength and Efficiency in Movements	Alpine	\$80
2/25-26	L2 Ski Module	Mammoth	\$200
2/27-3/1	L1 Module	Bear Mountain	\$255
3/1	L2 Ski & Teaching Cert. Prep	Snow Summit	\$80
3/3-4	L2 Ski Module	Heavenly	\$200
3/3	Intro to Bumps and Steeps	Alpine	\$80
3/3-5	L1 Module	Mammoth	\$255
3/5	L3 Teach Prep	Mammoth	\$80
3/6	L3 Ski Prep	Mammoth	\$80
3/7	All Mountain Adventure	Mammoth	\$80
3/7	Weekenders Tune up	Snow Summit	\$80
3/9-10	L2 Ski Module	Snow Summit	\$200
3/9-11	Women's Summit	Squaw	\$80/day
3/10-12	L3 Teach Module	Squaw	\$345
3/11-12	L3 Ski Module	Squaw	\$230
3/11	All Level Video Analysis	Squaw	\$80
3/12	L2 Ski Prep	Alpine	\$80
3/17-19	L2 Teach Module	Alpine	\$300
3/18-20	L3 Teach Module	Mammoth	\$345
3/19-20	L3 Ski Module	Mammoth	\$230
3/24-25	L2 Ski Module	Mammoth	\$200
3/23-25	L2 Teach Module	Snow Summit	\$300
4/7-9	L2 Teach Module	Mammoth	\$300
4/7	L2 Ski and Demo Prep	Squaw	\$80
4/8	L2 Teach and Movement Analysis Prep	Squaw	\$80
4/20-22	L1 Module	Squaw	\$255
4/20-21	L2 Ski Module	Squaw	\$200
4/20-22	L2 Teach Module	Squaw	\$300
4/20-21	L3 Ski Module	Squaw	\$230

CALENDAR

Register online and check for updates or changes at www.psia-w.org.

Date	Event	Event Location	Cost
4/20-22	L3 Teach Module	Squaw	\$345
TBD	Race Camp at Mammoth	Mammoth	

Children's

12/16	Intro to the World of Kids	Alpine	\$80
1/26	Intro to the World of Kids	Bear Mtn	\$80
1/28-29	Children's Specialist L1	Snow Summit	\$170
1/27-28	Beyond the CS2, Experienced Children's Instructor	Squaw	\$160
2/1	Intro to the World of Kids	Sierra at Tahoe	\$80
2/2-4	Children's Specialist L2	Mammoth	\$255
2/5-6	Children's Specialist L1	Mammoth	\$170
3/4-5	Children's Specialist L1	Homewood	\$170
4/18-19	Children's Specialist L1-Convention	Squaw	td
4/20-22	Children's Specialist L2	Squaw	\$255

Divisional Trainer

1/12	Divisional Trainer Training Day	Heavenly	\$85
2/11	Divisional Trainer Assessment Day	Mammoth	\$85
3/23-24	Divisional Trainer Evaluation	Squaw	\$170

Freestyle

1/7	Freestyle Progression Day	Boreal	\$80
2/24-26	Freestyle Session	Bear Mountain	\$255
2/11	Freestyle Coaching Day	Heavenly	\$80
3/10-12	Freestyle Session	Mammoth	\$255
4/1	Freestyle Progression Day	Northstar	\$80
4/17-19	Freestyle Session at Convention	Squaw	\$255

Nordic

12/11-13	Nordic Fall Festival Telemark and XC	Tamarack & Mammoth	\$65/Day
12/11	Nord XC L1 Prep	Tamarack	\$85
12/11	Nord Telemark L1 Prep	Mammoth	\$85
1/6	Nord XC L1 Prep	Tahoe Donner	\$85
1/7	Nord XC L2/3 Prep	Tahoe Donner	\$100/115
1/27	Cross-Over to Cross Country	Tahoe Donner	\$80
2/10	Nord Telemark L1 Exam	Mammoth	\$85
2/11	Nord Telemark L1 Prep	Kirkwood	\$85
2/12-13	Nord Telemark L2/3 Prep	Squaw	\$200/230
2/9	Half and Half-Alpine and Skate Clinic	Northstar	\$80
3/9	Nord Telemark L1 Exam	Squaw	\$85
3/10-11	Nord Telemark L2/3 Exam	Alp Meadows	\$200/230
3/17	Nord XC L1 Exam	Tahoe Donner	\$85
3/18	Nord XC L2/3 Exam	Tahoe Donner	\$100/115

Snowboard

12/7-8	SB Resort Trainer	Mammoth	\$130
1/5-6	SB Resort Trainer	Sierra at Tahoe	\$130
12/7-8	SB Resort Trainer	Mammoth	\$130
1/5-6	SB Resort Trainer	Sierra at Tahoe	\$130

Date	Event	Event Location	Cost
1/6-8	SB L1 Module	Heavenly	\$255
1/6-8	SB L1 Module	Snow Valley	\$255
1/13-14	SB L2 Ride Module	Bear Mountain	\$200
1/22	SB L2/3 Training	Alpine	\$80
1/25-26	Resort Trainer-SoCal WS	Bear Mountain	\$130
1/27	Improve Your Riding Skills	Bear Mountain	\$80
1/28	Improve Your Teaching Skills	Bear Mountain	\$80
1/30	SB Steeps Riding	Kirkwood	\$80
2/3-5	SB L1 Module	Northstar	\$255
2/4-5	SB L2 Ride Module	Northstar	\$200
2/9	Improve Your Teaching Skills	Mammoth	\$80
2/10	Improve Your Riding Skills	Mammoth	\$80
2/11-13	SB L1 Module	Mammoth	\$255
2/12-13	SB L2 Ride Module	Mammoth	\$200
2/12-13	SB L3 Ride Module	Mammoth	\$230
2/11	SB L2 Teach Training	Northstar	\$80
2/25-27	SB L2 Teach Module	Northstar	\$300
3/2	SB Improve Your Teaching Skills	Alpine	\$80
3/3	SB Improve Your Riding Skills	Alpine	\$80
3/4-5	SB L2 Ride Module	Squaw	\$200
3/4-5	SB L3 Ride Module	Squaw	\$230
3/6	Silver Skiers and Shredders	Squaw	\$80
3/11	SB MA Progressions	Alpine	\$80
3/12-13	SB L2 Ride Module	Bear Mountain	\$200
3/18-20	SB L2 Teach Module	Squaw	\$300
3/18-20	SB L3 Teach Module	Squaw	\$345
3/24	SB Women's Development Day	Squaw	\$80
3/25-27	SB L2 Teach Module	Snow Summit	\$300
4/8-9	SB L2 Ride Module	Squaw	\$200
4/8-9	SB L3 Ride Module	Squaw	\$230
4/15	SB L2/3 Teach Training	Squaw	\$80
4/20-22	SB L1 Module	Squaw	\$255
4/20-22	SB L2 Teach Module	Squaw	\$300
4/20-22	SB L3 Teach Module	Squaw	\$345

Senior

1/12	Senior Intro to Teaching	Mt. High	\$80
1/29-30	Senior Specialist L1	Mt. High	\$170
2/3	Senior Intro to Teaching	Mount Rose	\$80
2/23	Senior Intro to Teaching	Mt. High	\$80
3/1-2	Senior Summit	Squaw and Alp	\$80/day
3/8-9	Senior Mastery of Skiing	Snow Summit	\$160
3/9-10	Senior Mastery of Skiing	Heavenly	\$160
3/16-17	Senior Specialist L1	Diamond Peak	\$170
3/22-24	Senior Specialist L2	Snow Summit	\$255
3/23-25	Senior Specialist L2	Sugar Bowl	\$255
3/26-27	Senior Specialist L1	Mt. High	\$170
4/18-19	Senior Mastery of Skiing	Squaw Valley	\$170
4/18-19	Senior Specialist L1-Conv.	Squaw Valley	\$170
4/17-19	Senior Specialist 2-Conv.	Squaw Valley	\$255

Alpine Events

L2 TEACH MODULE

The three-day Level 2 Teaching Module includes a teaching assessment, feedback, and coaching from clinician to meet the Level 2 National Standards. Candidates will be evaluated on their use of the Teaching Model, ability to communicate, actual demonstrations by the candidate, use of methodology “tools”, tasks, drills, exercises, and overall instructor presence. Candidates will be asked to teach adults and children ATS levels 1-7. Scoring for this event is pass or fail. Essential elements of all teaching demonstrations must appear regularly at a satisfactory level to pass.

L3 SKI MODULE

Candidates must pass the Ski Module before taking the Teaching Module. This 2-day event includes a skiing assessment, feedback, and coaching from the clinician to meet the Level 3 National Standards. Level 3 certified instructors have the skills to make short, medium, and long radius turns with the appropriate blending of the skills. Demonstrations should illustrate accurate movement patterns. Certified Level 3 instructors can ski any slope, with any snow condition commonly skied by the public and can do so skillfully and dynamically. Candidates must demonstrate strong leg action, a quiet and stable upper body and powerful use of the ski as it

has been designed. Scoring for this event is pass or fail. Essential elements of all skiing maneuvers must appear regularly at a satisfactory level to pass. Prerequisites Must be a certified Level 2 instructor, current with membership dues and education credits, and actively working at a snowsport school. Participants must read the Western Division Alpine Level 3 Certification & Study Guide 2014-15 and the National Alpine Level 3 Study Guide.

Ski Technique & Movement Analysis

PRESENTED BY:
PSIA-W

Time and Place:
Sunday, November 23
9 - 11 am
Palisades Room, The
Village at Squaw Valley

A workshop with Ron LeMaster

For More information
PSIA-W: <http://psia-w.org/>
www.ronlemaster.com

INTERACTIVELY EXPLORE

- Essentials of ski biomechanics
- Fundamental and advanced techniques
- The mechanics of skis, boots & poles
- On and off-snow exercises

Skiier Marcel Hinderer
Image: Ron LeMaster

CURRENT MEMBERS - \$10 (AT DOOR)
OTHERS - \$20 (AT DOOR)
PSIA ED CREDIT (3 HRS) - \$40
*Must register in advance at
psia-w.org for credit*



starting September 15 - December 31
classes for the community

L3 SKI PREP

This clinic is for anybody who is thinking of doing their Level 3 ski certification, or anybody who has their 3 and would like a refresher. If you just want a little extra training, a better understanding of the process and standard, or are not sure if you are ready yet this is a great event to attend. Demos, tasks, and free skiing standards will all be covered along with personal feedback.

L3 TEACH MODULE

Please read the Western Division Alpine Level 3 Certification & Study Guide 2011 for detailed information. This 3-day event includes a teaching assessment, feedback, and coaching from clinician to meet the Level 3 National Standards. Candidates will be evaluated on their use of the Teaching Model, ability to communicate, actual demonstrations by the candidate, use of methodology “tools”, tasks, drills, exercises, and overall instructor presence. Candidates will be asked to teach adults and children ATS levels 1-9. Scoring for this event is pass or fail. Essential elements of all teaching demonstrations must appear regularly at a satisfactory level to pass. Prerequisites: Candidates must have passed the Level 3 Skiing Module and completed the Alpine Level 3 Workbook 2014-15 and deliver to the clinician on the first day of the Teaching Module.

Divisional & Resort Trainer Information

Divisional Trainer, Level 3 and Beyond

These events are for Level 3 members who are looking forward to their next level of professionalism in their Snowsports careers.

Trainer Courses

RESORT TRAINER

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 along side the Division's leading Trainers. For In-House Trainers, annual attendance is required to sign-off participants. This course is where trainers will develop the training skills needed to run clinics at their home resort and stay current with professional education. The course offerings are catered to meet the training needs of the member schools, including updates on certification standards and ski/riding techniques as well as information 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.

DIVISIONAL TRAINER (4-DAY COURSE)

The PSIA-AASI West Divisional Trainer Accreditation is a training and evaluation process that introduces a competent Level 3 instructor to the theories and practices of becoming a successful trainer of instructors in the Western Division. Becoming a trainer is not simply a case of sitting one more exam after passing the Level 3 Certification. While training has many components of teaching and relies on strong teaching abilities, there are significant differences between teaching students and training instructors which this course highlights. Candidates working through this program must have a strong teaching background and experience of teaching at all levels. Candidates must also have the opportunity to present clinics to instructors at their home resorts in order to practice the skills necessary to develop into a successful trainer and pass the certification exam.

This course is for any fully certified instructor that has extensive experience training and wants to be recognized as a competent trainer in the Western Division. This course will help guide



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Work as few as 14 days throughout the season and get an EPIC Ski Pass valid at Heavenly, Kirkwood and Northstar.

Work 30 hours a week and extend that Ski Pass privilege to your family!

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JOBS.YAILRESORTS.COM

participants in understanding and applying the difference between skill sets for teaching a lesson as an instructor versus leading a clinic as a trainer. This course can also act as a stepping stone for people who want to grow their clinician and presentation skills for their career development pathway. The four-day course consists of a Training Day, an Assessment Day and a two-day Evaluation. Participants must attend all days and meet all aspects of the Divisional Trainer Standards to successfully complete the course and be acknowledged as a Western Divisional Trainer. However, no matter the results of the evaluation, participants are considered to be active and integral parts of the organization's Trainer's network.

Prerequisites:

- PSIA/AASI Level 3 Certification in good standing
- Currently Employed by a PSIA/AASI Member School
- Attended the Western Division Resort Trainer Course, within the past two seasons
- Experience training instructors and running clinics
- Willingness and ability to meet the demands of sports trainer and presenter

Sign up for the course event days at least two weeks prior to the start date.

Upon completion of a Level 3 Certification, along with the other course prerequisites, a candidate becomes eligible to enroll in the Divisional Trainer Program. However, it is highly recommended that an instructor have several seasons experience as a Level 3 instructor as well as real life experience working as a trainer in order to gain the knowledge and maturity to successfully transition to become a competent trainer and attain the Divisional Trainer qualification.

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

Children's Events

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!" Dr. Seuss

Have you ever watched kids at a playground? The inventive energy is amazing. They climb. They jump. They swing. They can keep busy all day long on the swing alone. They sit on the swing. They learn how to pump their legs to go faster and higher. They stand up on the swing. They twist the swing in a circle and then unwind it rapidly. They squeeze a number of children onto one swing. They jump off straight. They jump off and do a flip. They step from one swing to another. They push someone in a swing fast or they push someone slow. Someone can run under the swing as it swings. Someone can catch the swing in mid-flight and suddenly stop it. And on and on.



Children's Chair, Greg Lyons

Kids are not shy about testing and experimenting with equipment--the swing-- even pushing it out of the zone of what it was designed to do. Kids look for every conceivable way to manipulate a tool to make it fun.

How does this apply to teaching snow sports? We can do the same thing with our students as kids do with swings. Experiment. Try something different. Skis and boards offer all sorts of opportunities for experimentation. Skiers and riders can slide on the tips, tails, centers or the outside edges. They can be in the air and have none of the ski or snowboard on the ground. The ski or snowboard can make different sounds, ranging from the sound of slapping a landing on a jump to the sound of skidding to the minimal noise made when carving. Visually, skiers and riders can put different colored tape, crayon marks or stickers on their skis to define left or right or on a snowboard to focus on front and back. Through vibrations in the equipment, the skier or rider can feel different textures of snow and the difference between groomed, ungroomed, firm, slush and powder conditions. Riding on a box or rail will provide a feeling of how a manmade surface affects the equipment and its user.

It is so easy to take a drill usually performed in a certain way and change it by simply focusing on a different part of the equipment, the body or terrain.

Small changes can make for big breakthroughs.

Think like a child. Think of the possibilities. Think of the things you can think if only you try!

Greg Lyons, Children's Chairperson

Children's Events

CHILDREN'S BEYOND THE CS2 FOR THE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN'S INSTRUCTOR

This course is for instructors and supervisors who have their CS2 and are looking to gain greater understanding of how the mind, body and emotions develop. We will cover teaching ideas, group handling, and any other questions that arise.

CHILDREN'S INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF KIDS

This clinic is designed to make understanding, communicating, and working with kids easier and more enjoyable. Learn how they process information, develop physically and interact with others. If you are a kid's instructor and have not taken either your CS1 or Level 1 this will be a great clinic to make your lessons better and easier.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIST L1

This two-day event explores the CAP model (how kids think, move, and feel) and teaching progressions for children in different age zones. We will also explore children's movement patterns "kids moveology", and work on your own skiing/riding skills and improvement. On day two we cover building kid

friendly teaching progressions with the Play Drill Adventure Summary method as well as focus on your own skiing/riding development. We'll finish the day with informal group teaching presentations. This is a pass/fail event. Prerequisites: Must be a Certified Level 1 Instructor, current with membership and actively working in a snowsports school. Must download and complete the CS1 Workbook (found at www.psia-w.org website under "Children" then under "Education Materials") it is handed in the first day of the event. Read the Children's Instruction Manual, second edition published 2008 (use to complete workbook, available at www.thesnowpros.org in the Accessories Catalog), the Children's Instruction Manual, 1st edition, and the Alpine Entry Level Guide for Children's Instruction (available on the National website).

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIST L2

This is a three-day event that assists instructors at designing and implementing creative, appropriate and movement oriented lesson plans for children 4-14. These lesson plans are focused at the high intermediate through expert level of the selected discipline. The idea is for the participants to demonstrate their ability to understand and use teaching principles provided in the Children's Manual and other materials to develop polished and creative lesson plans. Each participant gives a full presentation lasting 45 minutes, with follow up feedback from the group on the last day of the course. Participants should have an in-depth understanding of the CAP Model utilizing previous lesson experiences. Real vs. Ideal movement patterns at higher skill levels will be reviewed. Creative and experimental lesson planning will be emphasized. This course is very interactive Prerequisites: Must be a Certified Level 2 or 3 Instructor (Alpine, Snowboard, Nordic, Adaptive), current with membership and actively working in a snowsports school. Must have completed the Children's Specialist 1* Must complete the CS 2 Workbook (found at www.psia-w.org website under "Children" then under "Education Materials") and deliver to the clinician on the first day of the event. *Level 2-3 certified instructors in any discipline may petition for special permission to skip the CS1 requirement.

TAHOE DONNERSM

SKI AND SNOWBOARD SCHOOL SUPERVISORS NOW HIRING

Tahoe Donner Association's Downhill Ski Area is looking for Ski and Snowboard Supervisors. This position is responsible for teaching adults and children and assisting with the ski school organization, special events, staff training, races and other activities. Recommended qualifications: minimum PSIA/AASI level II certification and 2 years supervisory experience.

WAGE RANGE: \$14.14-\$22.40, DOE

SKI AND SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTORS

Tahoe Donner Association is looking for certified and non-certified ski instructors for the Downhill Ski Area. Part-time and full-time positions available; weekends and holidays a plus. Season runs through April 12, 2015.

WAGE RANGES, DOE, HOURLY:
NON-CERT: \$9.12-\$11.88; LEVEL I: \$10.55-\$13.75; LEVEL II: \$12.83-\$16.72; LEVEL III: \$17.19-\$22.40

To apply fill out an application online at tahoe Donner.com/employment/ or stop by the HR Office in person at 11509 Northwoods Blvd, Truckee CA.

Employees enjoy access to a world-class fitness facility, our Downhill and Cross Country Ski Areas and generous F&B and retail discounts.

Tahoe Donner Association is looking for Cross Country Ski Instructors for kids and adults.

TAHOE DONNER ASSOCIATION IS A DRUG FREE WORKPLACE, AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, AND AN "AT-WILL" EMPLOYER.

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

Nordic Certification & Events



Free skating can be enjoyed on corn snow (crust cruising.) Photo by Mark Nadell.

Cross Country Ski Skating is a fun and healthy way to improve your downhill skills. It is fast, fun and free... (well, sometimes!). This popular form of cross country skiing is a far cry from the "tour-through-the-woods-with-your-dog" kind of skiing most of us do from time to time if we live in snow country. Modern ultra-light equipment allows you to glide quickly over firm snow and swoop downhill at what feels like breakneck speed. While fitness is important in this sport, good technique is what really allows you to experience the fluidity and power that reward the skating enthusiast.

While it shares the aerobic aspects of cycling or running, skate skiing offers a technical dimension beyond either of these sports that appeals to the serious student of skiing. Gains in efficiency through improved body position, power application and timing are immediately felt as the work/glide ratio changes. Because WE supply the energy of propulsion, not gravity, small increments of efficiency become gratifying milestones of accomplishment. It's a pleasant surprise to find that the precision and balance developed on skate skis can translate to greater mastery of other sliding disciplines.

The fun comes in a variety of ways. You can find an uncrowded trail and meditate on the sensation of skis quietly gliding over fresh packed powder, or you can group up with friends and competitors in a mass start race. Just an hour or two will leave you feeling refreshed and cleansed from your life-stress, or worked from exertion – depending on how you approach it. Free skating can be enjoyed on corn snow (crust cruising) or at a community supported trail system such as Mammoth Nordic.

Many of those who are initially drawn to the sport primarily for the fitness benefits find that they stay with it for the technical challenge. Elements of ski technique such as projection of the core, release and reengagement of the edges, flexion and extension of the legs, weight transfer, anticipation and relaxation can be honed for a lifetime.

Come see for yourself how working on these techniques on skating skis can have a dramatic impact on your normal skiing and riding. Two clinics will be offered this season:

Cross Over to Cross Country – January 27 at Tahoe Donner Cross Country Center

Half and Half – 1/2 day on skating skis, followed by a 1/2 day on alpine skis – February 9 – Northstar Cross Country Center

Look for clinic descriptions and more information in this issue of The Edge and at psia-w.org.

Bring your ax!

Urmas Franosch, Nordic Committee Chair

Nordic Certification & Events

NORDIC FALL FESTIVAL + L1 PREPS

The Nordic Fall Festival is THE big event of the season for cross country and Telemark instructors! A variety of skiing and teaching oriented topics will be offered for intermediate and advanced skiers, as well as Level 1 and 2 exam prep clinics (see below for descriptions of these). An après ski social and banquet with general membership meeting round out the agenda. This is a great opportunity to tune up your skills for the season and become acquainted with your fellow Western division Nordic instructors. Check psia-w.org in mid November for a schedule of clinics.

NORDIC XC AND TELEMAR L1 PREPS

These clinics are mandatory for those seeking certification. The history, purpose, and philosophy of PSIA will be covered indoors the first hour. For the remainder of the day, skiing maneuvers, tasks and demonstrations will be covered on snow, as will hypothetical and movement analysis based teaching scenarios. Participants will be involved as teachers and students. Comprehensive verbal feedback will be offered throughout the day. For more information please refer to either the Cross Country or Telemark Handbook on www.psia-w.org.

NORDIC XC AND TELEMAR L1 EXAM

Exam formats are identical to prep clinics with regard to number of days, and proportions devoted to skiing and teaching. Comprehensive verbal feedback will be offered throughout the exam. For more information please refer to the PSIA-W Cross Country and Telemark Handbooks downloadable free from psia-w.org.



NORDIC XC L2/3 PREP

This clinic is mandatory for those seeking certification. This one day event covers skiing maneuvers, tasks, and demonstrations, as well as hypothetical and movement analysis based teaching scenarios on snow. Comprehensive verbal feedback will be offered throughout the day. For more information please refer to the Cross Country Handbook on www.psia-w.org.



NORDIC XC L2/3 EXAM

Exam formats are identical to prep clinics with regard to number of days, and proportions devoted to skiing and teaching. Comprehensive verbal feedback will be offered throughout the exam. For more information please refer to the PSIA-W Cross Country Handbooks downloadable free from psia-w.org.

NORDIC TELEMAR L2/3 PREP

These clinics are mandatory for those seeking certification. Each clinic consists of two days on snow. The first day will be spent covering skiing maneuvers, tasks and demonstrations. On day two participants will practice teaching skills in hypothetical and movement analysis based formats as well as with a volunteer student. Comprehensive verbal feedback will be offered throughout the clinic. For more information please refer to the Telemark Handbook.

NORDIC TELEMAR L2/3 EXAM

Exam formats are identical to prep clinics with regard to number of days, and proportions devoted to skiing and teaching. Comprehensive verbal feedback will be offered throughout the exam. For more information please refer to the PSIA-W Telemark Handbook downloadable free from psia-w.org.

Senior Events

It's hard to believe that the PSIA/ AASI-W Senior Program is entering its ninth season! We continue to develop new clinic topics aimed at inspiring "a lifelong passion for snow sports" among the senior skiing public and give our members the tools they need to provide top instruction to this clientele. All our senior educational and accreditation clinics are open to instructors of any age, who are interested in becoming more proficient at teaching seniors.

In spite of the less than perfect season, the Senior Program still had a successful year. I'd like to extend my congratulations to the 12 instructors that achieved L2 Senior Specialist Accreditation at our events at Diamond Peak and down south at Bear Mountain. Special thanks to Dan Kleiner and Blaine Lomen for making the event at Bear Mountain possible. I'd also like to extend my congratulations to the 12 instructors that successfully completed the L1 Senior Specialist Accreditation at Convention at Mammoth. Great job!

If you're looking for a fun event that explores two of America's greatest ski resorts, our "Senior Summit" is slated for March 1st and 2nd at Squaw Valley/ Alpine Meadows. It was an outstanding new event last year. Our thanks go out to Cindy Livermore, who suggested the format. We are always open to new ideas. If you have a suggestion for a senior clinic topic please let me know through the PSIA/AASI-W office.

New this year on the calendar will be our inaugural L1 Senior Specialist Snowboard Accreditation. The Senior Committee's goal is to expand our senior clinic offerings to instructors of all teaching disciplines.

Whether you're looking for a fun way to get educational credits or you want to get better at teaching seniors and get a Senior Specialist Accreditation pin, check out our clinic



descriptions and calendar and come ski with us, and whatever else you do, KEEP ON SKIING & RIDING!

Pray for snow.
Ted Pitcher



Senior Specialist pin recipients at Convention, 2014, Mammoth.

Senior Events



SENIOR SPECIALIST L2

This three-day event is for Alpine Level 2-3 certified instructors of any age who would like to improve their skills working with all levels of senior skiers. Course includes in-depth study of the technical and tactical elements of contemporary skiing and modern equipment as applied to seniors. We will study how modern technique can optimize strength and balance, and expand enjoyment. We will also cover how to work with seniors in terms of pacing a lesson, group dynamics, and flexibility to student's physical limitations. This is a Teaching Clinic & Exam. You will be evaluated on your teaching. The Accreditation Clinic includes coaching your skiing, video analysis and personal skiing improvement, but there is no skiing exam.

SENIOR INTRO TO TEACHING

This clinic is open to any member of any age, no certification required. This clinic will introduce you to the Teaching Model as applied to seniors and the Skiing Model as applied to seniors. In addition to learning about teaching seniors, you will also be individually coached on your personal skiing.

SENIOR MASTERY OF SKIING

This is a very popular two day skiing improvement event open to any member regardless of certification level. Everyone is welcome! This fun educational event is aimed at senior instructors who want to ski stronger, longer and better. We will work with you to help you understand how good contemporary technique and equipment can improve your skiing, and help you ski more efficiently with more stamina and less strain and effort. Groups will be divided by terrain and ability to make this an optimum learning experience for you. You will be individually coached and analyzed on video to help you become a better skier. It's all about the skiing and all about the fun!

SENIOR SPECIALIST L1

This event is designed for Level 1 certified Alpine instructors. This two day event encompasses skiing improvement, video analysis and senior skiing and teaching models for beginning and intermediate senior skiers. Your teaching will be evaluated the afternoon of the second day (no skiing test). Successful candidates will receive our Senior Specialist Level 1 pin.

SENIOR SUMMIT

This is a new two day education/skiing improvement and social get together aimed at our Senior members looking for a fun way to earn educational credit, ski and socialize with fellow Senior Instructors. This event is open to any member regardless of certification level. Groups will be divided by the terrain you prefer to ski. This is also a great opportunity to ski two of Tahoe's premier ski resorts in one clinic! Sunday, at Squaw will be a mix of skiing and teaching. We will coach your personal skiing and we will explore teaching ideas and progressions for intermediate and advanced senior skiers. We will also include a fun and comfortable exploration of one of the West's greatest ski resorts. On Sunday evening, there will be an optional dinner/get together at a moderately priced restaurant for some socializing and exchange of ideas. Monday, we will explore Alpine Meadows with emphasis on skiing improvement. We will also use video analysis to help you refine your skiing skills. This is a great opportunity to get together and have some fun with your fellow senior instructors, ski two great resorts and earn two days of educational credits.

Snowboarding Certification & Events



Chris Lange, Snowboard Chair.

Greetings from Las Vegas. I know, I know, you are thinking Joshua trees and road runners. But oddly enough it did snow here in the mountains the other day and snow in September is awesome no matter where you get it.

This summer has been a very interesting one at Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort. We are getting a new lift for the season, so we had to move the base terminal, and move about a million cubic yards of dirt. Ever wonder what it would be like to drive a giant 6 wheeled articulated dump truck? Well its every bit as rad as you would think. I was a bit apprehensive at first to be working in operations, because we all know what Ops folks think of ski school-ers. I believe the term they use is "hand wavers". I am still not quite sure, but it must be something to do with how we show people how to get the boards into the fall line or something. I got to help with a haul rope splice which was incredibly hard work, but also fascinating. When I realized that it was an actual rope that the cables wrapped around I was like "whoa, no way" and the grumpy old gentleman

running the project simply stated "Way". The final project I have been working on is clearing trees in the glades. Imagine what you would do if your boss handed you a chainsaw and said "you're a rider, make it rideable." Yeah, let's just say there are quite a few more tree jibs than there were before. I will go out on a "limb" here, and say we probably have more tree features than just about anywhere.

So the other morning, I was hiking through the woods with my trusty chainsaw and stopped to watch the deer in the aspens and reflected for a moment on my summer. I thought I knew a lot about ski areas and the Snowsports biz. I was mistaken. One has a tendency to get comfortable in an environment, and not realize all that goes into getting people out on snow. The more I thought about it the more excited I got for opportunities to learn new ways of trying things, and new ways of sharing my passion for snowboarding.

The amount of talent we have in the west is second to none. As the frost starts to form on our windows, get excited for winter, but don't just think about all the sick POW you will be getting. Think about learning something new this season. Challenge yourself to look at your teaching; can you go from good to great? I am super stoked for this winter and if any of you ever want to shred Sin City, hit me up. Oh yeah, don't forget to thank your ops guys when you see them this winter.

Sincerely,

Chris Lange, Snowboard VP AASI Western Division

Snowboarding Certification & Events



Photo by Terry Peters.

Squaw Valley can offer steeps, park, half-pipe, and pretty much whatever the crew wants to ride. It is also a great opportunity to bounce ideas around to help any of you trainers out there comeaway with some tools to help inspire female instructors at your home mountains. Wherever we end up riding on the mountain, we will be focusing on building strength, but may be having too much fun to even notice.

STEEPS RIDING

Push your riding in the steeps while improving your skills and learning a new tactical approach to steep terrain. By learning the use of a variety of movement patterns, the steep terrain can become a more comfortable place. As skills are improved through

the use of effective movement patterns related to timing, the rider's control in steep environments can be quickly improved. This clinic is a good choice for instructors training for the Level 3 Certification or who just want to step up their game in the steeps and short radius turning tasks.

MOVEMENT ANALYSIS : PROGRESSION BUILDING

Improve your skills in Movement Analysis by finding the root cause in the performance effects of a snowboarder's riding. This clinic will cover cause and effect relationships and how to prioritize what is needed to develop quality progressions. Using MA to build your progressions will improve your student's experiences, help train your eye and prepare you for the next level of Certification. Use this clinic to prepare for your Teaching Module or just keep your instructor eye sharp. This clinic is ideal for members training for Level 2 and Level 3 Certification.

Certification, Preps & Exams

L2 & L3 CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Success at advancing your level of certification comes from quality training. This training day covers your specific needs to be successful in the certification process. Led by the Tech Team Staff that will be giving the exams, this is the best place to get the right training to set you on the right path towards achieving your goal. This event will cover both riding and teaching standards for the Level 2 and Level 3 Certification, dependant on the needs of the participants.

L2 & 3 TEACH TRAINING

Prepare for the Teaching Module by working with one of the examiners prior to the certification event. This is the best opportunity to strengthen your weaknesses and fine-tune your presentations before the Teaching Module. Those that arrive

Education Events

SOCAL WINTER SESSION AND RESORT TRAINER EVENTS

Open to all members, this is a great event to connect with your fellow Southern California instructors and work with the top AASI educators in the West. Get a jump start on your progressions and take part in a variety of clinics ranging from riding improvement, teaching techniques, certification prep, and freestyle riding. This nonstop two-day event brings the excitement of the Convention into an early season full-on snowboarder shred session. Make sure to get yourself to this event to show the Division just exactly what SoCal has to offer. The Resort Trainer Course for Level 2/3 certified trainers will be held concurrently (see description on pg. 23.)

IMPROVING YOUR RIDING SKILLS

This clinic is for all levels of riders. It will help you improve your personal level of riding and explore new terrain or get more comfortable on terrain you have already explored.

IMPROVING YOUR TEACHING SKILLS

This clinic will help anybody who teaches snowboarding who wants ways to become a more effective teacher. Learning styles, teaching styles, CAP, and any other questions people have will all be covered. This is a great teaching module prep course.

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT DAY

Get ready to push yourself! It will be a ladies only event led by the top female trainers in AASI West. This is a clinic designed to develop some tactics and skills to continue progressing at a charging level of riding. Riding with a team of ladies can often push you to try things that you may have never considered.

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

Snowboarding Certification & Events

the most prepared for the Teaching Module get the most out of it and have the most enjoyable experience. Get feedback on your progressions, work on your movement analysis skills and hone your pro knowledge. Invest in your success! This is a "must do" event for anyone training for the Level 2 or Level 3 Teaching Modules.

LEVEL 1 MODULE , THREE -DAY

Prerequisites: Must be a registered member, be at least 16 years of age, be willing and able to perform needed riding requirements, have twenty hours of logged snowboard teaching experience and have completed the Level 1 Workbook online. This three day Certification Module is an evaluation of the candidate's skills and knowledge as well as an educational based event. The module gives all candidates a stronger understanding and ability to apply the teaching, learning, riding and service concepts. Riders must be comfortable on all blue, basic black and freestyle terrain. Candidates will be required to show proficiency in meeting the required riding, teaching and movement analysis standards.

LEVEL 1 IN-HOUSE PROGRAM

Prerequisites: Must be a registered member, be at least 16 years of age and be willing and able to perform needed riding requirements. The Level 1 In-House Program is offered and run by a Member School Resort. In this course candidates attend weekly trainings to develop proficiency in all areas of the Level 1 Standards. The participants must be a member of AASI West during their training and register for the final validation, which is facilitated by an outside AASI West Examiner. Resorts conducting the Level 1 In-House Program must be led by an AASI West Resort Trainer that has gone through the yearly Resort Trainers Course.

LEVEL 2 RIDING MODULE

Prerequisites: Must have earned the AASI Level I Certification at least one season prior, must be employed by an AASI-West Member School, must be current in educational requirements and dues, must be willing and able to safely perform needed riding requirements, and have the professional knowledge to understand and execute riding instructions relevant to the standards. The two-day Riding Module will offer coaching to the candidates to further develop skills and techniques as well as evaluate the candidate's ability to consistently meet the riding standards. The candidates will need to be able to ride in a variety of terrain; see the AASI West Certification Handbook for more details. Candidates that pass will be eligible to attend the Level 2 Teaching Module. Candidates must complete the Teaching Module within two seasons of successfully completing the Riding Module.

LEVEL 2 TEACHING MODULE

In the three-day, Level 2 Teaching Module successful candidates will show the ability to apply and analyze the areas of snowboard teaching included but not limited to; Movement Analysis, Teaching Scenarios, Professional Knowledge, Proper Demonstrations, Children's Education, use of all aspects of the Snowboard Teaching System, and Professional Etiquette and Safety. The successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to teach a spectrum of riders, children to adult, up to and including black terrain and freestyle features. To take this course the candidate will have already passed the riding portion of the exam. Candidates are expected to utilize proper demonstration skills in their riding to facilitate success in teaching scenarios; this includes the areas of riding that may have not been able to be fully assessed in the riding module due to weather or lack of certain terrain arenas; e.g. half pipe and park riding.

LEVEL 3 RIDING MODULE

The two-day Riding Module will offer coaching to the candidates to further develop skills and technique as well as evaluate the candidate's ability to consistently meet the riding standards. The candidates will need to be able to ride in a variety of terrain; see AASI West Certification Handbook for more details. Candidates must demonstrate multiple movement patterns to show desired outcomes. Candidates that pass are eligible to attend the Level 3 Teaching Module. Candidates must complete the Teaching Module within two seasons of successfully completing the Riding Module.

LEVEL 3 TEACHING MODULE

In the three-day, Level 3 Teaching Module successful candidates will show the ability to synthesize and evaluate the areas of snowboard teaching included but not limited to; Movement Analysis, Teaching Scenarios, Professional Knowledge, Proper Demonstrations, Children's Education, use of all aspects of the Snowboard Teaching System, and Professional Etiquette and Safety. The successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to teach and coach his or her peers on any available terrain with evident change. **Prerequisites:** Must have passed the Level 3 Riding Module, be current with Membership and education credits. Participants must read the Western Division Level 3 Teaching Standards and the AASI Western Snowboard Certification Handbook, 4th Edition. Participants are also encouraged to review these educational materials: AASI Snowboard Technical Manual, Core Concepts for Snowsports Instructors, and the Children's Instruction Manual, 2008 Edition

Freestyle Accreditation & Events

FREESTYLE COACHING DAY

Freestyle for me, for the kids, and for the lessons. Intro progressions inside and outside the park with a freestyle twist. Learn the 'how' and the 'why' of the benefits of incorporating freestyle into our everyday lessons.

FREESTYLE PROGRESSION DAY

With an emphasis on safety and fun, this clinic will help you put a new look on old tricks and get coached on some new ones.

FREESTYLE SESSION

In a Freestyle Session all members from all disciplines are welcome to attend. This three-day event offers Freestyle education and training as well as a skill evaluation. The course dives deep into the world of freestyle progressions, skills and movements. The participants will be broken down into groups by skill level, coaching abilities and discipline; depending on the activity. All participants will be coached as they progress their skills in the freestyle environments. Each participant will be evaluated based on the National Freestyle Standards in the areas of freestyle skills and coaching abilities over the three-day session. Based on the evaluation, participants will be awarded either a Freestyle Safety Certificate or the corresponding level of Freestyle Specialist. In order for a participant to be awarded a Freestyle Specialist Accreditation they must meet the National Standards and complete the prerequisites and corresponding workbook for course completion.



AWARDED FREESTYLE COMPETENCIES:

FREESTYLE SAFETY CERTIFICATE - INCREASING SAFETY & MINIMIZING RISK

FREESTYLE LEVEL 1 - INTRO LEVEL FREESTYLE INSTRUCTOR

FREESTYLE LEVEL 2 - BASIC FREESTYLE COACH

FREESTYLE LEVEL 3 - FULLY ACCREDITED FREESTYLE COACH



Photos by Terry Peters.

PLEASE SEE EVENT CALENDAR ON PGS. 20-21 FOR DATES & LOCATIONS.

Spring Squaw Valley Convention April 17th - 19th, 2015

Presented by PSIA/AASI Western Division

Puzzle Master Ceci Chourré

INTRODUCING NEW EVENTS:

- SPRING SNOWBOARD CAMP
- ADAPTIVE ADVENTURE
- RIPPIN' RACIN'
- CHILDREN'S CORNER
- SENIOR SUMMIT
- NORDIC FESTIVAL

Accommodation Deals

- Squaw Valley Village
- Squaw Valley Lodge
- Resort at Squaw Creek
- Granlibakken
- Pepper Tree Inn
- See www.psi-a-w.org for rates

Entertainment

- Friday Night
- Bar One Squaw Valley @ \$21
 - Ugly Sweater Contest
 - Pasta Party
 - Lauren Lindley Photo Booth
 - Team Challenge TBD

Saturday Night

- Olympic Village Inn @ \$35
- Western Round-Up Contest
- Buffet Dinner
- Lauren Lindley Photo Booth
- Foundation Auctions
- Nic Fiore Award Presentation

Limited: \$499
inclusive package option
with accommodations
& lift tickets.



Adaptive Adventure

We are very excited about the Adaptive Events at this year's convention. Our offerings will be a unique collection of innovative clinics. These innovative approaches cross all lines, including Snowboard, Alpine, Nordic, Race and Adaptive. The clinics are aimed at Instructors, Program Directors.

LI: Cog. & Dev. Disabled
 LI: Bi-Ski

Rippin' Racing

Nic Treat is designing a overlay offering for race training this year. He will have Brushes, Shins, and Full Rapid Gate courses set up for: Alpine, Snowboard, Kids, Seniors and Adaptive alike to try in their clinics. Squaw Valley has generously given us their NASTAR arena (fenced) for our us all weekend. Come have a go at challenging yourself with a course or clinic.

- Nic Treat

Children's Corner

There will be many offerings in Children's this Spring. We will continue to help instructors build their Tool Kits for Fun, Drills and Adventure. While adding more Models and unique skills needed for Psychology and Bio-Mechanics specific to Children. Please welcome back Stacey Gerrish. She is the Training Director at Beaver Creek, one of the top experts in teaching Children and member of Rocky Mtn. Children's Education Team.

L1: Children's Accreditation
 L2: Children's Accreditation

- Greg Lyons
 - Stacey Gerrish

- Rachel Georgieva
 - Melissa Stewart

- Dan Stormer
 - Brent Kuemmerle

Convention Committee

Contest for Best Costumes
 Rachel Georgieva

Tuning With Pam Warman
 Pam Warman

Marketing & Social Media
 Erick Espinosa & Nikki Klein

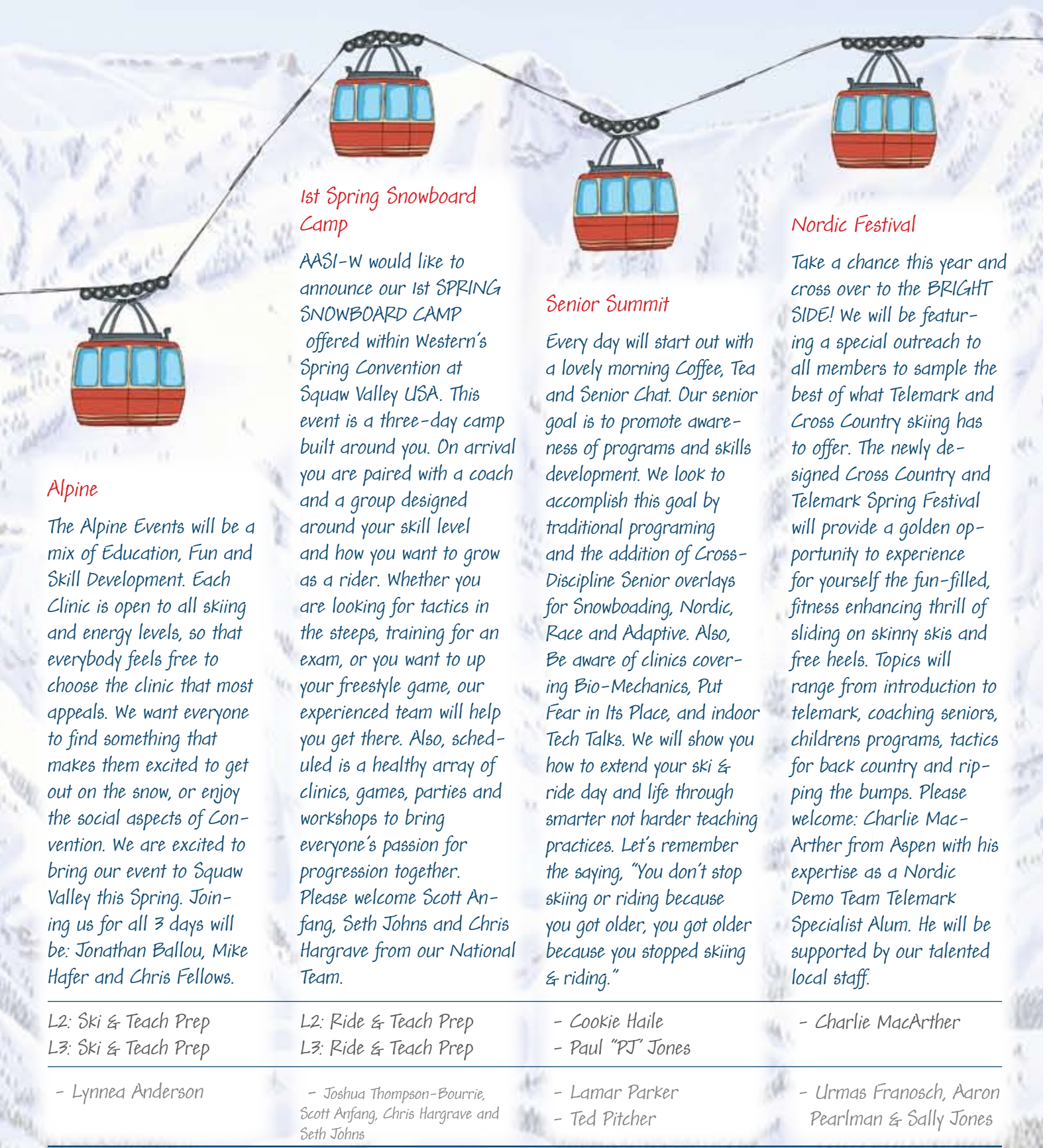
Volunteers
 Garry Cox & Family

Team Competitions
 Rachel Georgieva

Demo Tent Village
 Pam Warman

Graphic Design & Layouts
 Lisa Weiss

Treasure: Lisa Weiss



Alpine

The Alpine Events will be a mix of Education, Fun and Skill Development. Each Clinic is open to all skiing and energy levels, so that everybody feels free to choose the clinic that most appeals. We want everyone to find something that makes them excited to get out on the snow, or enjoy the social aspects of Convention. We are excited to bring our event to Squaw Valley this Spring. Joining us for all 3 days will be: Jonathan Ballou, Mike Hafer and Chris Fellows.

L2: Ski & Teach Prep
L3: Ski & Teach Prep

- Lynnea Anderson

1st Spring Snowboard Camp

AASI-W would like to announce our 1st SPRING SNOWBOARD CAMP offered within Western's Spring Convention at Squaw Valley USA. This event is a three-day camp built around you. On arrival you are paired with a coach and a group designed around your skill level and how you want to grow as a rider. Whether you are looking for tactics in the steeps, training for an exam, or you want to up your freestyle game, our experienced team will help you get there. Also, scheduled is a healthy array of clinics, games, parties and workshops to bring everyone's passion for progression together. Please welcome Scott Anfang, Seth Johns and Chris Hargrave from our National Team.

L2: Ride & Teach Prep
L3: Ride & Teach Prep

- Joshua Thompson-Bourrie, Scott Anfang, Chris Hargrave and Seth Johns

Senior Summit

Every day will start out with a lovely morning Coffee, Tea and Senior Chat. Our senior goal is to promote awareness of programs and skills development. We look to accomplish this goal by traditional programming and the addition of Cross-Discipline Senior overlays for Snowboarding, Nordic, Race and Adaptive. Also, Be aware of clinics covering Bio-Mechanics, Put Fear in Its Place, and indoor Tech Talks. We will show you how to extend your ski & ride day and life through smarter not harder teaching practices. Let's remember the saying, "You don't stop skiing or riding because you got older, you got older because you stopped skiing & riding."

- Cookie Haile
- Paul "PJ" Jones

- Lamar Parker
- Ted Pitcher

Nordic Festival

Take a chance this year and cross over to the BRIGHT SIDE! We will be featuring a special outreach to all members to sample the best of what Telemark and Cross Country skiing has to offer. The newly designed Cross Country and Telemark Spring Festival will provide a golden opportunity to experience for yourself the fun-filled, fitness enhancing thrill of sliding on skinny skis and free heels. Topics will range from introduction to telemark, coaching seniors, childrens programs, tactics for back country and ripping the bumps. Please welcome: Charlie MacArther from Aspen with his expertise as a Nordic Demo Team Telemark Specialist Alum. He will be supported by our talented local staff.

- Charlie MacArther

- Urmas Franosch, Aaron Pearlman & Sally Jones

Convention Committee

Sponsorships: Sparky Irving

Thursday Evening Events

Indoor Vendors

Bio-Mechanics Seminars

Trader Joe's Swag Bags

Lauren Lindley Photo Booths
Brianna Lui

Indoor Clinics

Foundation Auctions
Jenny Taylor

PSIA-W Education Foundation

By Greg Lyons

Thank you to our donors!

The Education Foundation BOD would like to thank our donors!

The PSIA-W Education Foundation is making a difference in our mission “to provide education opportunities for professional ski and snowboard instructors”

Here are just a few examples of how your donations are used.

The PSIA-W Education Foundation is reaching out to the newest members of PSIA/AASI-W to participate in a complimentary one day event called “New Member Welcome Day.” We are holding five of these in different regions of our Division, and the cost is subsidized entirely by the Foundation. This is an opportunity for our new instructors to create a lifelong connection with PSIA/AASI-W.

16 Scholarships were awarded in the 2013-2014 season.

See Zachary Ergish’s article on the opposite page on attending National Academy. He was a recipient of a Sodergren Scholarship.

Educational Development Funding provided for the translation of the “New Instructors Guide” into Spanish.

The Education Foundation provides assistance to send PSIA/AASI-W attendees to the National Conference in Colorado. The focus of the conference is on national certification standards consistency across the eight disciplines. This event brings representatives from each of the nine divisions together to share best practices in each of the national standards.

The Education Foundation provides assistance, if needed, in bringing the best outside talent to our Division, for example the lecture by Ron LeMaster Nov. 23 at Squaw Valley. He is the author of “Ultimate Skiing” and “The Skier’s Edge”.

The PSIA-W Education Foundation is primarily funded through donations of our members, participation in the Golf Tournaments, and our largest event, the Silent Auction Fundraiser at Spring Convention.

A Donate Now link is available on the psia-w.org site. Please click the Education Foundation, click “About the Foundation”, and scroll down to the “Donate Now” button or use <http://psia-w.org/psiaaasi-education-foundation/donate-to-the-education-foundation/>. The PSIA/AASI-W office will happily assist with donations.

A quote from Desmond Tutu: “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

Sincerely;
Greg Lyons, Bryan Schilling,
Artie Castro and Jennifer Taylor
PSIA-W Education Foundation
BOD



Scholarship recipient, Zachary Ergish, and friends at National Academy 2014, Snowbird, VT.

Marcus Haile Memorial Adaptive Scholarship Provided Again This Year

The Mt 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 all adaptive instructors in PSIA/AASI-W.

Any Adaptive instructor at ANY of our Western Division member schools can apply. Scholarships can be used for clinics and examinations. For information and an application form, please contact Lynne Haile at (760) 316-7861.



Lynne & Marcus Haile

By Zachary Ergish | PSIA-W Education Foundation

Living a Legacy

It was a huge honor to receive the Sodergren Scholarship to attend National Academy at Snowbird this last spring. I did not really know what to expect, but as it got closer, friends let me in on the 'ins and outs' of Academy and I started to become excited and nervous. That first morning, as the groups were divided I found myself among young, enthusiastic and passionate ski instructors from all over the US, including last year's Sodergren scholarship recipient Tanya Milleli. I didn't realize at the time that a special bond would form between us all. We all had different stories, but what brought us together was the camaraderie, and like-mindedness in regards to our love of skiing and being an instructor.

The rest of the week was full of adventures and definitely was fun. Each clinic brought its own spice, and every leader was passionate. We shared the elation of fresh powder under our skis the first few days. Later that week we were challenging ourselves on the hard morning groomers. But snow is snow and always good, making every day a great day.

Recently I have been putting a lot of thought into the importance of skiing in my life. How has it changed my life? Who has helped me along this path? And what does it have in store for me in the future? I've always looked

at skiing as fun and challenging, and a great way to enjoy the outdoors with others. The ability to develop myself mentally, physically and spiritually has been unmatched. Over my 'short' skiing career of 9 seasons (6 Northern Hemisphere and 3 Southern Hemisphere) I have met a multitude of people in this industry from a wide range of backgrounds. I have experienced many opportunities to encounter different cultures and to further my knowledge of the sport. To me, there is no better way to promote a healthy lifestyle and test my physical limits than to do some runs or drills with a group of awesome friends. Skiing has helped with cultivating a connection to nature and understanding the freedom associated with this amazing sport.

I recently had an interaction with Chris Fellows and Mike Costello and as most conversations between ski instructors go, we started sharing stories about our love of skiing. Histories were being swapped and little by little I noticed how each of us had been influenced by Mike and Miriam Sodergren. Mike Costello was also a recipient of the Sodergren scholarship, and Chris Fellows, who knew them well, still felt a profound connection to them and their love of teaching. It struck me that, even though their deaths



Mike and Mim Sodergren.

occurred over 15 years ago, the power of their legacy continues through people like me. The Sodergrens legacy is alive, passed on through dedicated and driven individuals.

Thank you to the Education Fund Committee for granting me this scholarship and allowing me to continue to develop my passion for snowsports instruction. Enjoy the snow this winter!



Drills at Academy. Photo by Zach Ergish.

PSIA-W Education Foundation Scholarship

2013-14 Recipients

Education, Certification and Sato recipients: Chantal Astengo, Snow Summit; Juan Beverati, Sierra at Tahoe; Chris Carter, Kirkwood; Shane Chamblin, Mtn High; Joon Chang, Mammoth; Lisa Fahncke, Squaw Valley; Lindsay Frensz, Mammoth; Max Gaal, Boreal; Tyler Guenter, Sugar Bowl; Brian Harasha, Heavenly; Corey Lennon, Mt. Rose; Jeremy Musser, Mtn High; Evelyn Popeck, Heavenly; Kory Saxe, Squaw Valley; Kaitlyn Wolfe, Bear Mountain

Sodergren Scholarship: Zachary Ergish, Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra; Jasmine Reichardt, Heavenly

Disabilities at PSIA/AASI Examinations

By Brent Kuemmerle and Dan Stormer

If you are looking ahead to a certification event in our Division and have a disability, you may be wondering what to expect and how to best prepare.

As examiners and educators for the Western Division, we are proud of the work that our association has done to raise awareness of disabilities and smooth the road for persons with disabilities to participate in snowsports. But how does that carry over into the world of certification where members are being examined to a challenging standard? In this article, we hope to shed light on the obligations of the Association, the actions of the examiner, and the responsibilities of candidates to work together in a cooperative way to provide a positive and fair examination experience.

A little history may be helpful to better understand the reason accommodations are necessary. In the 1970s and 1980s there were a series of legislative mandates involving equality in the work place. These led to increased awareness and protections for persons with disabilities. The purpose of these accessibility laws was and is, to allow all participants an opportunity to com-

pete equally, while also reasonably accommodating a disability, without altering the essential functions of the position sought --whether a job or a PSIA/AASI certification. These requirements are not intended to give anyone an unfair advantage. Nor is it intended to weaken the standards for performance required in the examination process. To be certified, our members must meet the requirements of the National Standard for that discipline. The real question is, how do you do that when a person has a disability?

The definition of a disability for our purposes, focuses on functional issues. Under these requirements an impairment qualifies as a disability if there exists one or more of the following:

- A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of that person,
- A record of having such an impairment, or
- Being regarded by others as having such an impairment.
- Examples of major life activities include, but aren't limited to,

caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

Sounds pretty broad, huh?

Historically candidates were told to inform the examiner of any infirmities so the disability could be addressed in the exam. As examiners we tried to take the disability into consideration when looking at skiing, demos, etc. This leaves a lot of room for personal discretion without sufficient guidance for either the candidate or the examiner. The Western Division is trying to directly confront the need for certainty and clarity for examiners and candidates alike.

If a candidate with a disability is requesting a reasonable accommodation there are two things the candidate must address and an examiner must evaluate:

- What functions in the examination does your disability affect?
- What accommodations would reasonably provide for fair access without impinging on the essential requirements of the examination?

If a candidate's disability and/or need for accommodation are not obvious, PSIA/AASI is entitled to ask for medical information confirming that the disability is covered under the law and merits accommodation. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide the appropriate medical information requested where the disability and/or need for accommodation are not obvious or already known.

A reasonable accommodation is defined (for our purposes) as any change in the way things are customarily done that provides an equal opportunity to an individual with a disability. While there are some things that are not considered reasonable accommodations (e.g., removal of an essential certification function), reasonable accommodations can cover

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PSIA-AASI member Tyler Barnes is the creator of the SnowPro Portal. Check out his pro site here: tylerbarnes.snowproportal.com

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Disabilities at PSIA/AASI Examinations (cont'd)

most things that enable a candidate to have equal access in the examination process. Examples are rest periods, timeouts, extra time in certain situations and other accommodations which do not impair the essential functions of the examination.

The information should be brought to the attention of PSIA/AASI at least 3 weeks prior to the exam. Our education staff can ask for proof of the disability in advance of the examination and the candidate must describe what specific accommodation is requested as a result of the disability.

Under the Rehabilitation Act, medical information obtained in connection with the reasonable accommodation process must be kept confidential. This means that all medical information obtained in connection with a request for reasonable accommodation must be kept in files separate from the individual's test performance. This includes the fact that an accommodation has been requested or approved and information about functional limitations. It also means that whoever obtains or receives such information is strictly bound by these confidentiality requirements.

In the end, integrating members with a disability into our certification events is a new opportunity for all of us to learn, and with good communication we can make this process easy and respectful to all parties.

If you are taking a PSIA/AASI certification, and need to inform us of a disability that needs and accommodation, please send an email request



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to info@psia-w.org at least three weeks prior to the desired event. Please include specifics on the requested accommodation(s). Please be ready to submit proof of the disability in the form of a Doctor's note, or supply more information if needed. Your information will be kept confidential. As always, do not hesitate to contact our office with your questions.

Brent Kuemmerle is an L3 Snowboard Instructor, Examiner, Adaptive Ed Staff, and Adaptive Committee member. He currently runs a non-profit, the Tahoe Adaptive Competition Center (TACC), to provide training opportunities for athletes with a

disability. In 2012 TACC hosted the largest adaptive snowboard competition in history. TACC hosts daily training, camps and competitions at various locations in the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. Brent is also one of those candidates with a disability who might not tell you until you ask...or notice the single golf shoe.

Dan Stormer is an attorney whose practice includes representing persons with disabilities. He is also a L3 Adaptive instructor, Examiner, Adaptive Ed Staff, and Adaptive Committee member. He also has L2 Alpine, L2 Seniors and L2 Children Specialist. He is on staff at Mt High.



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Spring Convention 2015

April 17th-19th, 2015
 Squaw Valley



We're psyched! Are you?

Convention is made possible by many hours of volunteer time by the Convention Committee.

Chair: Ceci Chourre'; Race: Nic Treat; Senior's: Lamar Parker & Ted Pitcher; Children's: Stacey Gerrish; Adaptive: Dan Stormer & Bill Bowness; Nordic: Aaron Pearlman & Urmas; Treasure & Graphics: Lisa Weiss & Kathy Pitcher; Social Media: Nikki Klein; Marketing: Erick Espinosa; SB Camp: JTB, Scott Anfang, Chris Hargrave, Seth Johns; Alpine: Lynnea Anderson; Auction: Jenny Taylor; Volunteers: Garry Cox & Family; Demo Tents: Pam Warman; Parties: Rachel Georgieva; Accommodations: Melissa Stewart