



NRM

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN



WINTER 2013 NEWS

Volume 30

Number 2

LETTER FROM THE NRM PRESIDENT

What a wonderful season it has been so far! Starting off in December with a great, and cold, Fall Festival, to the busy Christmas season, and to have January already come and gone. While many of our mountains have been blessed with great snowfall and others have only limited runs open (pray for snow!), the NRM office, education staff, and volunteer leadership have been busy. So far we have had 41 events, including 15 Alpine Level 1's and 9 Snowboard Level 1's, and we are just rolling into our exam preparation season!

While our Ed staff has been busy on the road, our NRM Board of Directors has been busy reading and reviewing the Agreement that the National organization and Presidents Council worked on over the past year. This document is "to formalize their [National's and NRM's] historic relationship in order to ensure better communication, understanding, cooperation and efficiency to their members, the snowsports industry and the public." Within the document, the roles and responsibilities of both the National organization and our division are outlined and detailed. For example, the document affirms that we share a common membership, that National exclusively owns the PSIA and AASI logos, and defines our geographic boundaries as a division. In regards to education, the document affirms that it is

the role of National to coordinate the collaboration of the divisions to create the National Standards, and that it is the role and responsibility of the division to develop the format and process to educate and examine to those standards, as well as provide educational programs to our membership.

Since the October meeting in Copper, Colorado, where the Agreement was worked on diligently by all divisional representatives, few changes have been made to the document. With this being the case, and not wishing to stall any longer, six divisions



asked for a final copy of the agreement in early January to review and vote upon. The result has been that five divisions have accepted this agreement, with NRM being the first to secure the necessary votes.

While all of this off-snow work has been happening, some of your education staff and myself have gotten to hit the road and travel to some of our amazing ski areas within the division! At each of these areas it was such a pleasure to meet both the new and the seasoned instructors and have the opportunity to ride and experience each mountain's unique culture. In so many ways, you have helped give us new ideas and fed us your excitement and passion for teaching snowsports. I would like to thank each area for opening your doors to us, sharing the history of your mountain, and letting us hopefully share some enthusiasm, as well as see where we as a division may be able to grow in our service as an organization. In what seems like a whirlwind tour for myself (Lost Trail, Showdown, Hogadon, Maverick, Blacktail, and Teton Pass), it has been each of the instructors I got to meet, talk with, and share chairlift rides that I remember!

And, as always, I want to thank all of the volunteers of our division. From our chairs, who deal with countless emails and spend time staffing our events, to our committee members who support their chairperson and discipline, to our board members who answer my countless emails, and to so many more. We would not be able to run as a division if it wasn't for your time and dedication. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Wishing all of you the best for the last half of our season, and keep praying for snow!

Sincerely,
Shannon Griffin



IN THIS ISSUE:

Mid-season Chair Reports, Spring Event Calendar, Division Affiliation Agreement Update
NRM Board of Directors Election Info & Candidate Statements, and more

PSIA-AASI NRM OFFICERS, DIRECTOR & CHAIRS

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National Board Representative
Eliza Kuntz

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Jill Imsand-Chumbley

Freestyle Chair
Matt Larson

Nordic Chair
Stewart Chumbley

Snowboard Chair
Trey Theard

Snowsports School Mgmt. Chair
Bonnie Hickey

PSIA-AASI NRM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Craig Beam
Anthony Brown
Steve Hill
Heidi Maier
Sherrie Nevill
Greg Sponseller
Randy Wall

OFFICER, DIRECTOR & CHAIR CONTACT INFO

Jim Anderson
Big Sky
406.223.1921
andersons_mt@msn.com

Christine Baker
Big Sky Resort
406.570.0983
cbaker@bigskyresort.com

Craig Beam
Red Lodge Mountain
406.855.3058
troutscout@hotmail.com

Anthony Brown
Bridger Bowl
406.599.2940
anthonybrownconstruction@yahoo.com

Stewart Chumbley
Big Sky Resort
406.599.5287
stewartchumbley@gmail.com

Shannon Griffin
Yellowstone Club
406.581.8773
shannonchristinegriffin@gmail.com

Meghan Larson
NRM Office
406.581.6139
info@psia-nrm.org

Bonnie Hickey
Bridger Bowl
406.556.5662
bbssdirector@imt.com

Steve Hill
Whitefish Mountain Resort
406.250.0854
skihd58@hotmail.com

Jill Imsand-Chumbley
Big Sky Resort
406.539.3222
jilljuliet@hotmail.com

Eliza Kuntz
Red Lodge Mountain
406.446.2610 ext 110
snowsports@redlodgemountain.com

Matt Larson
Big Sky Resort
406.570.7930
captmhobie@hotmail.com

Heidi Maier
Yellowstone Club
406.570.2040
heidi.maier@yellowstoneclub.com

Sherrie Nevill
Red Lodge Mountain
406.445.2228
snowgofast@yahoo.com

Diana Proemm
Eagle Mount Bozeman
406.570.1630
diana@dpphoto.net

Greg Sponseller
Big Sky Resort
406.531.0475
gregfishski@gmail.com

Trey Theard
Big Sky Resort
406.493.7185
trey_theard@yahoo.com

Randy Wall
Moonlight Basin
406.599.3794
bigdawg@bigdawgtele.com



The Northern Rocky News is published twice a year by PSIA/AASI-NRM and the PSIA/AASI-NRM Education Foundation. Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos. Educational articles earn three credits. Letters to the editor and response to

articles are also encouraged. Content can be sent to info@psia-nrm.org

EDITORIAL POLICY: All submissions will be edited for content, clarity, accuracy and to fit available spaces. Not all submissions are guaranteed inclusion. Ad rates are based on \$200/page.

PSIA-AASI NATIONAL NEWS

By Eliza Kuntz, PSIA-AASI NRM National Representative

The annual winter meeting of the national PSIA/AASI board of directors was held February 4, 2013 in Lakewood, Co. In attendance were the board representatives from all nine divisions, national staff members, legal counsel and members of the association. At the helm was the very capable Eric Sheckleton, chairman of the board, who facilitated an efficient and productive meeting. Below are the highlights of the meeting.

Affiliation Agreement

The hot topic of discussion continued to be the Affiliation Agreement, which has evolved to replace the original 1986 agreement, which will provide the divisions and the national office an agreement regarding the use of logos and certification standards to name a few topics of agreement. Most importantly, this agreement will provide greater consistency between divisions, the national office and the membership. Refer to article on page 8 for details.

PSIA-AASI NRM, led by President Shannon Griffin, was one of the first divisions to sign the new Affiliation Agreement and NRM is proud to support the efforts and importance of this agreement. As a member, this agreement will benefit your everyday work as a snowsports instructor.

Strategic Education Plan (SEP)

The SEP continues to be a bright spot for PSIA-AASI. The 2012 fall conference, held at Copper Mountain in October, proved its worth as discipline specialists gathered together to focus on the national standards, the material that supports those standards, and consistencies between those standards and the divisional interpretation of the standards. The Education Team at the national office is currently hard at work planning the next fall conference.

Marketing and Communications for the Members' Benefit

Susan Urbanczyk was recently hired by the national office as the Director of Marketing and Communication. She provided the board with a very aggressive approach to driving membership, looking into opportunities for better brand recognition, and expanding communications with snow sports directors and members. Susan will be spearheading projects to put out more informational and FUN social media posts and encourages all members, directors, and general managers to follow, as well as make posts, on the PSIA-AASI Facebook pages as this media is a fantastic and effective means to share and gain information concerning the snow sports industry.



Next Meeting

The National Board of Directors will meet again in June to solidify the Affiliation Agreement, plan the Fall Conference, and discuss the financial well-being of the association. If, at any time, you may have questions, comments or concerns that you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me or any member of the board. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent the NRM membership.

ALPINE CHAIR REPORT

By Christine Baker, NRM Alpine Chair

The last I wrote we were just looking to the beginning of winter and now we are almost half way through the season. I hope you are enjoying it!

The Fall Standards Conference at Copper was a great event. I met with representatives from all other divisions and we came to the conclusion that our application and understanding of the standards is closer than we may have thought. Our processes differ quite a bit, but one of the understandings at the outset of the conference was that we weren't going to spend time trying to create consistency in process. Instead, we spent our time on application and understanding of the standards. NRM is positioned well. At some level, all divisions work to create consistency among divisional examiners. NRM has been working on this and will continue to do so.

Here are a few of the agreements from the weekend:

- Agreement of examiners giving exam feedback specific to the standards (application of an examiner's analytical vs. intuitive abilities).
- Agreement that we evaluate candidates through the lens of three areas of skiing:
 - Applied (General Characteristic and Mountain Skiing are other ways of saying the same thing).
 - Blended (demonstrations)
 - Isolated (tasks or adaptability/versatility)
- Agreement that we should use common language across divisions whenever possible, the three lenses above as an example.

We had a successful Fall Festival with three National Team members and are always looking for feedback. Please let us know if there are clinic topics you would like to see. Prep clinics are underway and exams are coming up – we are trying a “new again” idea of offering an early season exam, so sign up soon if you are interested.

SNOWBOARD CHAIR REPORT

By Trey Theard, NRM Snowboard Chair

As we reach the midway point of our winter season, the snowboard committee hopes that all the riders and instructors in NRM have had a strong start to their season with plenty of lessons to teach and plenty of pow days to ride.

Fall Fest had a good turnout of riders, and conditions were good at Big Sky with riding as high as the Challenger lift. Several Level 1 exams have taken place within the division, and several more will be coming up at other areas.

We would like to thank Lost Trail for hosting a Level 2 Prep clinic, which was very well attended, and by the time this newsletter is published a Level 2 and Level 3 Prep will have taken place at Big Sky. All exam candidates are reminded that the prep clinic is good for 2 seasons, so if you



took one last season, you are still eligible to attend the exam this year at Moonlight Basin, March 29-31, 2013. Written tests are due by March 3, 2013 in order to attend the on snow exam.

We hope everyone continues to have a great season as sunny days and spring approaches.

FREESTYLE CHAIR REPORT

By Matt Larson, NRM Freestyle Chair



It seems that any time we have a freestyle event it ends up being a powder day. Well not this year. We made history this year with an FS1 event at Big Sky and had one sunny day! Amazing! Hopefully there is more sun to come as we have events coming up in February and March at Jackson Hole, Great Divide, Bridger Bowl, and Big Sky. It is not too late to put together more events for this season. Get a hold of me, and let's put it together.

To recap on the season so far, the Iron Team had the opportunity to work with NRM Ed Staff of other disciplines at training in early December. Freestyle electives at Fall Fest had plenty of participation. I hope to see some of those participants at future Freestyle Specialist events. An FS1 at Big Sky has been completed with 10 out of 10 participants passing! Still to come: FS1's at Bridger Bowl, the Yellowstone Club, and Great Divide; FS2 and three at Jackson Hole; ProPark; and Iron Team Selections for next season. Hope to see you there!

Congratulations to new FS1's:

Zoe Mavis
Adam Glick
Dylan Thornton
Alexander Schwank
Mia Lennon
Sara Berkstresser
Mike Blumenfeld
Jeremy Wood
Travis Sullivan
Tim Dietz
Tim Chamberlain

CHILDREN'S ED CHAIR REPORT

By Jill Imsand-Chumbley, NRM Children's Ed Chair

It's been a busy season for the Children's Discipline with five Children Specialist 1 (CS1) and two Children's Specialist 2 (CS2) events so far with more likely to be added in March. We've also been working on revising the workbooks and quizzes so they are accurate and correct as far as wording etc., so look for those changes soon.

Another change to watch for relates to challenging for the CS2 (i.e., bypassing the CS1 and going straight to the CS2). After careful consideration the Children's Committee made the decision to do away with any type of challenging starting next season (2013-2014). We feel this will ensure that everyone attending both events will be on more equal footing as far as their familiarity with the concepts and knowledge level. Because the Children's Specialist credentials are not only skill-based but knowledge-based as well, we felt this decision made sense. Many times it takes extra work to get even those with the most prominent snowsports teaching backgrounds at a level where they are passing. Even Glen Plake took his Alpine Level 1 Certification so he had the appropriate background for the next levels.

This proposal will be brought before the board in the spring. With that in mind, please feel free to share any helpful comments,



Yellowstone Club CS1 group

thoughts, or questions, and I will be happy to hear and answer them. Sorry my report is so short this time, I promise to write more when I have time. As always I am happy to talk to any of you about whatever pressing children's needs, thoughts, comments or ideas you have, so please don't see my short blurb as an affront; it's just speaking to how busy it's been!

NORDIC CHAIR REPORT

By Stew Chumbley, NRM Nordic Chair

Happy New Year! Now I am sure we are all awaiting a new blanket of snow to fall across the Northern Rocky Mountain Division. Our Cross Country and Telemark programs had a strong start to the 2012-2013 season. Everything started with a successful collaboration with PSIA-Intermountain for the Nordic Education Staff (NES) Telemark Fall Training. We loaded up the PSIA-NRM Subaru and headed to Grand Targhee for three days of skiing. In addition to reviewing the proceedings of the Fall Standards Event at Copper Mountain, we also joined PSIA-I members for the annual Mountain States Rendezvous. Nonetheless, it was a very successful three days where NES and NES - In-Training (NES-IT) were able to strengthen our ties with PSIA-I.

On the cross country front things have been even busier. NES cross country fall training may have had a slow start as rain fell in West Yellowstone. After many years of service Herb Davis will be stepping down as the Chief Cross Country examiner. Stepping up will be Brenda Winkler. Brenda is very excited! The following of our XC program in the NW part of Montana continues to grow. Despite popular belief our XC participant numbers are greater



NRM Cross Country NES Brenda Winkler and crew practicing V1 without poles

than our Telemark numbers. This is primarily due to the membership following of the clinics of Brenda Winkler. Great Job.

Many events are still to come in 2013.



find us on facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/PSIA.AASI.NRM>

ADAPTIVE EVENTS COMING TO BRIDGER BOWL IN MARCH

By Diana Proemm, NRM Adaptive Chair and Eagle Mount Bozeman Adaptive Director

PSIA-NRM Adaptive is excited to announce that we are hosting an adaptive event here in Big Sky country. The event will be held at Bridger Bowl Resort just outside Bozeman. Bill Bowness will be here to host two days of clinics on upper level mono-skiing and steeps, as well as an Adaptive Alpine Level I Exam. (Please keep in mind that you will need a beacon for the steeps course, and if you do not have access to one, you need to let us know.) Bill has been mono-skiing since 1989, is a former paralympian and PSIA National Demo Team Coach. He currently is the adaptive technical director for DSUSA - Far West at Alpine Resort in the Lake Tahoe area.

Josh Spoelstra from Heavenly at Lake Tahoe will be hosting the first NRM Adaptive Snowboard Exam. He is the Ski & Ride School Training Manager at Heavenly, examiner for PSIA-West and just recently served on the AASI National Demo Team. Adaptive snowboarding is up-and-coming so don't miss your chance to sign up.

Details on how to sign up for this event can be found on the PSIA-NRM Website Event Calendar. www.psia-nrm.org

Bill Bowness: Mono Skiing

March 15-16 \$70/per day

March 15: Upper Level Mono Skiing

March 16: Mono-Ski Steeps

Adaptive Alpine Level I Exam: Intellectual Disabilities

March 16-17 \$205

This will be a two-day evaluated clinic. Exam candidates need to pass a skier assessment, which will be held on the 15th. Day two of the exam will be on adaptive skiing, intellectual disabilities, assessments, tips and tools used with beginner skiers and beginner progressions.



Josh Spoelstra: Adaptive Snowboard Level I Prep Clinic/Exam

March 16-17 \$115 ed clinic \$205 certification

This will include a two-day evaluated clinic going over basic adaptive snowboarding skills, with an emphasis on sit equipment.





2012-2013 PSIA-AASI NRM Event Calendar

Dates and locations are subject to change. View NRM website www.psia-nrm.org for updates. Event details, prices and on-line registration info will be available starting in October. In the meantime please direct any questions or requests for clinic topics and/or locations to the NRM office at info@psia-nrm.org. We look forward to skiing and riding with you this season!

ALPINE

Feb 6-8	Level 2 Prep Clinic	Snowbowl
Feb 6-8	Level 3 Prep Clinic	Snowbowl
Feb 8-10	Level 2 Prep Clinic	Terry Peak
Mar 2-3	Level 2 Exam	Discovery
Mar 2-3	Level 3 Exam	Discovery
Mar 4-5	Level 2 Exam	Garmisch Germany
Mar 6-7	Level 3 Exam	Garmisch Germany
Mar 6	Ski Like a Girl	Showdown
Mar 6	Ski Like a Middle Aged Guy	Showdown
Mar 7-8	Ridge Tactics	Bridger
Mar 16-17	Ski with a DCE	Showdown
Apr 6-7	Level 2 Exam	Bridger
Apr 6-7	Level 3 Exam	Bridger
Apr 8-9	Clinician Hiring Event	Big Sky
Apr 8-9	Examiner Hiring Event	Big Sky

SNOWBOARD

Feb 9-10	Level 2 Prep Clinic	Big Sky
Feb 9-10	Level 2 Prep Clinic	Big Sky
Mar 3	Level 2 & 3 Workbooks Due	
Mar 29-31	Level 2 Exam	Moonlight Basin
Mar 29-31	Level 3 Exam	Moonlight Basin

NORDIC

Feb 26-28	Telemark Level 2 & 3 Exam	Moonlight Basin
Mar 9-10	X-Country 2 & 3 Exam	Izaak Walton Inn

KIDS (multi-discipline)

Feb 25-26	Children's Specialist 1	Discovery
Mar 9-10	Children's Specialist 2	Big Sky

FREESTYLE (multi-discipline)

Feb 26	MSAA Annual ProPark **	Great Divide
Feb 27-28	Freestyle Specialist 1 (FS1)	Great Divide
Mar 1-2	Iron Team Selections	Big Sky

ADAPTIVE

Mar 15	Mono-Ski Upper Level	Bridger
Mar 16	Mono-Ski Steeps	Bridger
Mar 16-17	Adaptive Alpine Level 1	Bridger
Mar 16-17	Adaptive Snowboard Ed Clinic	Bridger
Mar 16-17	Adaptive Snowboard Level 1	Bridger

Additional clinics may be held "in-house" at area snowsport schools. These clinics are held at member schools specifically for that school's staff. Check with your school's director for schedule and availability.



* MSAA's annual "ProPark": MSAA will once again be sponsoring the annual ProPark at Great Divide. This winter PSIA-AASI NRM's freestyle coaches - the Iron Team - will be teaming up with Great Divide Ski Area to put on the annual ProPark event. This one-day event is offered to ski area employees and/or snowsports shop employees in the state of Montana. The event combines NRM's professionally trained coaches and the Smart Style education program to promote freestyle/terrain park safety and personal rider improvement. The Smart Style www.terrainparksafety.org is a national freestyle safety program developed by Burton Snowboard and the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) to foster safe use of freestyle terrain by staff and the public alike. NOTE: This event is by invite only. Advanced registration is required.

Event Registration Policy

Registration is open up to two weeks prior to event start date. Payment is due two weeks prior to the event start date. A \$50 late fee applies to payments within two weeks of event start date. If payment is not received by the event start date, registration will be canceled and individual will not be allowed to attend event.

Registration within two weeks of the events start date is on a space available basis and will not be guaranteed. If participant numbers have not reached maximum, registration may be allowed and will incur a late registration fee (\$50).

Minimum and Maximum Participant Numbers and Policy:

The minimum number of participants for an event is six. If there are fewer

than six individuals registered for an event two weeks prior to the event, the event may be canceled or rescheduled.

The maximum number of participants is ten for educational clinics and eight for exams. If registration numbers exceed these maximum numbers an additional clinic/exam groups may be created provided the new group numbers meet minimum number requirements.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

Should cancellation become necessary seven days or more before the event, your registration fees will be refunded less a \$10 cancellation fee. Within seven days of the event half of the registration fee will be refunded. No refunds will be given if requested on the day of the event or later. All requests must be made directly to the NRM office.



AN IMPRESSIVE VIEW.

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PSIA-AASI DIVISION AFFILIATION AGREEMENT CHARTS A COURSE FOR GREATER CONSISTENCY, COOPERATION

By Susan Urbanczyk, PSIA-AASI Director of Membership Marketing and Communications

The Professional Ski Instructors of America and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors' (PSIA-AASI) Board of Directors announced that five of its divisions signed a ground-breaking affiliation agreement which will pave the way for greater consistency of certification standards and a stronger, more unified force for advocating ski and snowboard instruction throughout the United States. While four of PSIA-AASI's divisions have yet to reach agreement, there is hope agreement will be reached with them soon.

The agreement—signed by PSIA-AASI Chairman Eric Sheckleton and presidents from the association's Alaska, Central, Northern Intermountain, Northern Rocky Mountain, and Western divisions—evolved from an original 1986 agreement in which divisions agreed to unify under the PSIA banner. This set the stage to develop a unified national and international image of PSIA and later AASI, and better protect the investment members make in their certification.

Noting that the agreement would not have been possible without “the efforts of these five division leaders and a national board committed to the long-term integrity and credibility of our member-focused association,” Sheckleton expressed confidence that PSIA-AASI's other four divisions could reach the same accord, since the agreement forwarded for signature received unanimous support from five respective divisional boards.

“PSIA-AASI is made up of extraordinarily dedicated members who count on services provided at the division and national level, and this agreement solidifies the framework by which both entities do what they do best,” said Bill Stanley, the Central Division board president who chairs the Divisional President's Advisory Council. “And by working together to develop, apply, and maintain consistent national certification standards, we ultimately enhance the lesson experience for students with whom we share the thrill of skiing and riding.”



PSIA-AASI Chairman Eric Sheckleton (L) and Divisional President's Advisory Council Chair Bill Stanley, the Central Division board president (R).

“A lot of hard work, examination of principles, and painstaking discussion has gone into the formation of this agreement,” said Carl Underkoffler, board president of PSIA-AASI's Western Division. “I'm confident that it bolsters our association while honoring the vital role the division's play in our members' success. We're all stronger when we work together.”

The agreement was developed through a joint effort of division presidents and the PSIA-AASI Chairman of the Board as well as a two-day session involving all divisions and the national board this past October. “Without agreement from all of the divisions, PSIA-AASI would take a step backward to the pre-1961 environment in which there were many different certification programs that had different regional recognition,” said Sheckleton, “The national organization is firmly committed to ensuring any disagreement does not directly affect our 31,716 members.”

A snowsports school director located in the one division often hires certified instructors from another division, said Sheckleton. “This director knows that their skiing and riding guests will benefit through quality instruction from PSIA-AASI certified instructors, because PSIA-AASI's national standards mean that an instructor uses the same quality teaching method regardless of what division they belong to. Without agreement across all divisions, PSIA-AASI and its members that have worked so hard to earn their certification will lose credibility with the industry and the hiring directors, and the unified presentation of PSIA-AASI across the country will splinter.”

PSIA-AASI members can learn more by sending an e-mail to mist@thesnowpros.org.





PSIA-AASI NRM Board of Directors Election 2013

There are four (4) candidates running for three (3) open seats on the PSIA/AASI Northern Rocky Mountain Board of Directors. Once elected, the new board members will take office at the spring 2013 board meeting and serve a three-year term.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters before the end of February. Ballots must be returned (postmarked by) to the NRM office by March 31, 2013. Results will be announced mid-April.

Current Board of Directors and Term Expiration Date

Craig Beam	6/15
Anthony Brown	6/14
Steve Hill	6/13
Heidi Maier	6/14
Sherrie Nevill	6/13
Greg Sponseller	6/13
Randy Wall	6/15

In addition to electing three board members, the following officer and chair appointments will take place at the spring board meeting:

- President
- Secretary
- Alpine Chair
- Adaptive Chair
- Freestyle Chair
- National Board Representative

Details on responsibilities and eligibility can be found in the NRM Bylaws and NRM Rules and Regulations (links available at www.psia-nrm.org on the NRM BOD page).

As an organization we are only as strong as our membership. Additional volunteers willing to share their expertise and contribute to the success of NRM are welcome. If you have experience with accounting, human resources, fund raising, marketing, writing, photography, graphic design, web design, legal services, or other fields, we encourage you to get involved. Help grow and improve NRM and uphold our vision and mission:

Vision: Inspiring a lifelong passion for the mountain experience.

Mission: We support our members, as a part of the snowsports industry, to:

- Develop personally and professionally
- Create positive learning experiences
- Have more fun

*"The road to success is not crowded.
Because while most are looking for ways to take,
the truly successful people are finding ways to give.
With a giving attitude, every situation
is an opportunity for success."
- Unknown*

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS:

The following four PSIA-AASI NRM members have thrown their names into the hat for the upcoming Board of Directors Election. Please review their statements and cast your vote by March 31.



MIKE EWING

I would like to run for a Board of Directors Position of PSIA-NRM. I have an extensive business background and have been involved in skiing and ski teaching for a long time and think that my business experience and ski industry experience would be an asset to PSIA-NRM.

I was on the original Vail Ski Patrol and was first certified as an Associate ski instructor in 1964.

I worked for K2 Ski Company for 14 years at the following positions; Ski Tester, Territory Representative, Western Sales Manager and National Marketing Manager.

After leaving K2, I went into business and was one of the three founders of Life Link International Company. I served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing. We achieved a place on the INC Magazine list of the 400 fastest growing private businesses in the United States.

When I sold my interest in Life Link International I owned and served as President and CEO of McIntosh Sports Cottage, a 6 store chain of Ski, Tennis, and Running stores headquartered in Sacramento California.

I also served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for R.L. Winston Fly Rod Company and held the title of General Manager.

Now that I am retired from business I have returned to my first love of teaching skiing at Big Sky Mountain Sports and would like to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of PSIA-NRM.

Thank you for your consideration.



DICK FAST

My name is Dick Fast and I am running to be on your NRM board. I have been teaching at Big Sky since December 2000 and am fully certified in Alpine and level two in Telemark.

Prior to moving to Montana, I served 30 plus years in the US Air Force, mostly in Colorado

Springs, Washington DC and Europe. A good amount of that time was spent teaching, along with more time in staff positions in DC than I care to remember. I also taught skiing part-time on weekends for four years in a small area in Pennsylvania (Ski Liberty at Gettysburg).

As a board member, I see two priorities. First, serving the members of the organization – ensuring that the training and support products the division provides you are of the highest quality and reasonably priced. Second, maximizing cooperation among the nine divisions of PSIA/AASI.

I would appreciate your support in this election and, if elected, look forward to serving you.



CHRIS KRONEBUSCH

Hello, my name is Chris Kronebusch and I am running for a seat on the NRM Board of Directors. I have been teaching full time in this division for 14 years. I'm a DCE for Snowboard, Children's Ed, and Freestyle with additional certification in Alpine and Nordic.

My current position is the Snowboard Program Manager in the Mountain Sports School at Big Sky Resort but I haven't forgotten my roots working my first two years at Showdown, MT.

I understand the challenges and advantages of working at a small snowsports school, as well as what it takes to operate one of the

largest schools in this division. I have the ability to be calm and objective when handling issues that I might have to face. I feel that I'm a team player who enjoys working towards a common goal with like-minded individuals. I believe in the direction that National is headed and I want to help to build a stronger relationship with other divisions while keeping our own unique identity.

I truly believe this organization is member driven and I want to help provide the members with what they need by having a voice on the board. Thank you for your consideration.



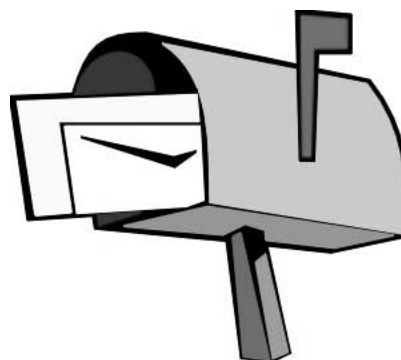
SHERRY NEVILL

I have been a member for Northern Rocky Mountain over 30 years. It was an honor to serve the membership on the Board of Directors for the last 3 years and I would like the opportunity to serve on the Board for another 3 years.

For members who I have not met, yet, my home area is Red Lodge Mountain. I graduated from the University of Montana in Communications and minored in Special Education. Certainly my passions are teaching and riding snow. Wherever I laid my hat, it had to be close to a ski area. In Montana I've also worked at Montana Snowbowl, (the former) Marshall Ski Area, Garmisch, Germany and as well as in Colorado. Almost twenty years ago I was able to merge a career as a Special Education teacher with winter recreation while employed at Eagle Mount Billings. Currently I am certified Level III in Alpine and Adaptive and have CS2. Semi-retiring in 2008 was the perfect time to get more involved in NRM.

A small division compared to others, Northern Rocky Mountain has historically had a unique ability keep on the cutting edge in the snowsports educator arena. Our division needs board members from the far reaches of its boundaries; a board member who understands the needs of the part-time, as well as its full-time professionals. For all the members, clinicians, and examiners who helped me become a better teacher and rider I would like to give back to the division as your representative on the Board of Directors. Please vote.

Watch your mailbox for the NRM
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NRM staff and members hard at work inspiring a lifelong passion for the mountain environment.



RULE OF THREE'S

By Brenda Winkler, NRM Cross Country Ed Staff

I recently had an opportunity to participate in presentation training¹ for my professional geology work. This was an enlightening experience because what I learned is what successful snowsports instructors already know. First, our students have unique ways of learning and they will likely only remember a few (3) things. Second, be prepared with a simple three-part lesson plan that will provide your students with a positive learning experience. Third, leave your students wanting more.

ONE:

We all have unique ways of learning¹ (VAK)

- Visual (see or demonstration/show)
- Auditory (hear or explain/instruct)
- Kinesthetic (feel or practice)

As snow sports instructors we have a lot of knowledge to share through instruction and demonstration but practice is what makes our students progress to the next level. Additionally, your students likely will remember only a few things. Therefore, don't overwhelm your students with too much Visual or Auditory information. Instead, place a heavy emphasis on Kinesthetic (practice makes perfect).

TWO:

Format for a Simple Lesson Plan. Develop a simple three-part lesson plan to present the things you want to focus on in your time together. Fine tune your plan during the initial student introductions/interview. There are many different teaching styles/preferences². I find that I use the command or task style in private and master group lessons. Here is an example format you may wish to follow:

- Explain the three things you want to accomplish today. For first time advanced students I usually watch them ski first. I begin by saying that skiing is about three simple things:
 - Body Position
 - Timing
 - Propulsion/Power. Without proper body position and timing, you cannot apply power effectively.

Then I explain the three things we will focus on (example: V1 body position, V1 kick/no pole skiing, V1 timing).

- Use one of the following formats to present your three things.
 - EDP
 - Explain
 - Demonstrate
 - Practice
 - SIP
 - Show
 - Instruct
 - Practice

Acronyms are a simple tool to help you remember. Note that instructors also remember better in threes. Using the EDP/SIP



Brenda Winkler demonstrating balancing on one ski

method is a great way to cover all VAK learning styles so each student, regardless of their unique way of learning, leaves with something.

THREE:

- Leave your students wanting more.
- Close with the three things you covered today.
- Emphasis how those three things fit into the Body Position/Timing/Propulsion.
- Provide feedback to each student on:
 - What they did well
 - What they should practice, and
 - What you would/will cover next time.

Note that many times we do not touch on all the items in our mental list or our students progress quickly. That's ok. Plans are just that, plans. Being prepared with a lesson plan builds your confidence and the student's confidence in you. Being flexible provides the students with what they need, not what you want to teach them. Positive learning experiences will keep them coming back for more.

In conclusion, remember that our students have unique ways of learning and likely will remember only a few (3) things, be prepared with a simple three-part lesson plan, and provide a positive learning experience leaving your students wanting more.

1. Special thanks to Scott P. Nelson, CEC www.claritycentral.net

2. For more detail on different types of learning and teaching styles see *Core Concepts for Snowsports Instructors*, PSIA/AASI 2008.

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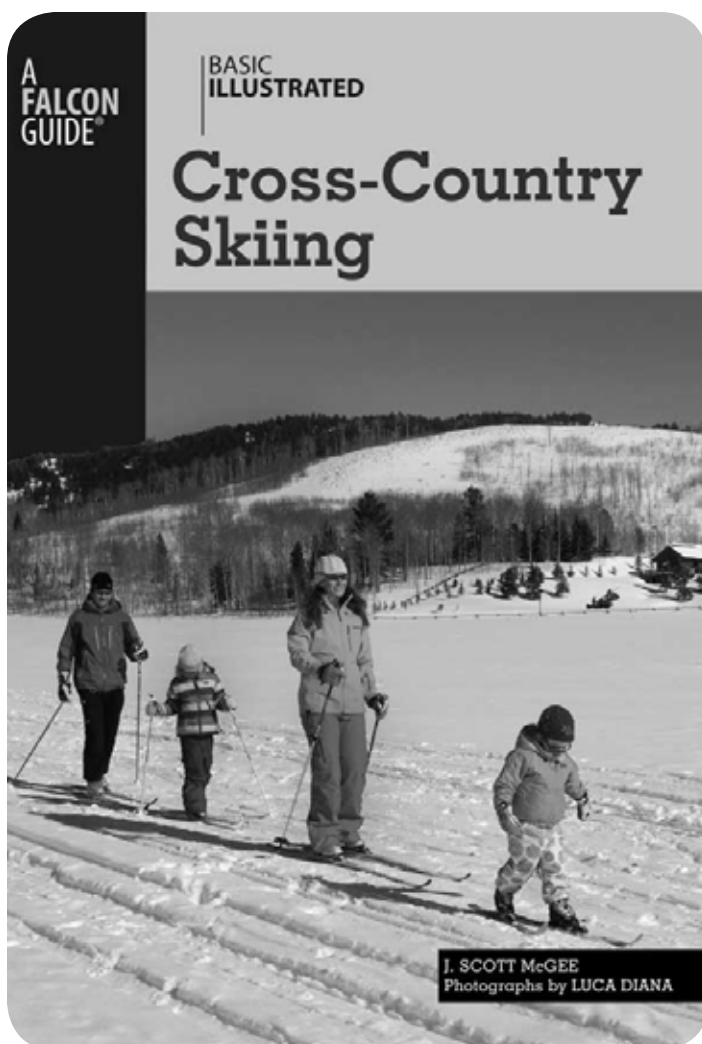
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CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

By Tim Johnson, PSIA-AASI assistant editor

Just as your skills improve on snow and you work toward the Level I, II, and III brackets (and beyond), growth also can expand while you're sitting still. No, not the kind of expansion that happens as you're downing chocolate croissants or perched waiting for refreshment after the lifts closes for the day.

PSIA nordic coach Scott McGee's new book—*Cross-Country Skiing*, published by Falcon Guide in Montana—deals out information and insights for those just dabbling in nordic skiing in the local park as well as those who seemingly can maintain V2 poling for hours without getting their heart rate above 90—well, so it seems as they motor away on the snow.

On the first flip through McGee's book, it seems to be a basic how-to piece. Yet as you spend more time with its 104 pages there's plenty of useful information for a range of skiers. Will the book keep you challenged for this season as well as when the snow falls again next fall? Likely so. Motivation expands your experiences.

With 11 chapters (listed to the right) it certainly will keep you challenged longer than trolling through YouTube. If you're thinking of expanding your nordic skills or just starting out, make this

the “get-going” point in a new discipline. Try it for simple fun or expanding your skills into a new phase on snow.

Well over 50 images and montages help show proper technique, repair tips, as well as the bounty and the sheer fun on snow. The range of photos helps both beginners (of all age) as well as seasoned skiers.

While McGee is a nord that enjoys set track he also enjoys taking spring backcountry routes across Wyoming's big mountains. “Routefinding is a hard-won skill because learning to read terrain is a skill born of experience and mastered through mistakes. Most people take years to develop the combination of intuition and experience that makes a good routefinder. Staying on the established trails might see safe, but masterful routefinding can sometimes actually be safer, and besides, exploring is a big part of the adventure.”

The book also takes us back eight centuries—though this snow-run was not for fun. According to the ski legend, Norway's child king was in peril in 1206 but was rescued by skis. It's an old tale but that country honors that historic event with a race, ever since 1932. The race's name? The Birkenbeiner.

McGee brings other little nuggets to the book as well. An example: In southern Europe, the early boots were held down on at the front and back, while in the northern part of Europe, the nordic folks would have the heels relatively free. Well that little info may only win you a bar bet—or not—but it's yet another bit of information that expands your knowledge.

While PSIA has 2,216 Nordic members, books like McGee's should entice more to join the nord folks. Over all, it's a well-done primer on this sport.

One other plus of the book is a seeing a family of four enjoying the track—who turn out to be McGee's family. Another great shot shows one of his daughters sprawled on the corduroy, laughing hard, alone with her dad.

Here is the last nugget of advice from the McGee's book, though it's actually from the book's introduction: “Yes, if you can ski if you can walk, but skiing better is where it's at.”

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Published by Globe Pequot Press in Connecticut,
Published by Falcon Guides

CHAPTER LISTINGS

- All that Cross-Country Is
- Equipment
- Waxing for Cross-Country
- Traditional Classic Technique
 - Getting Started: Classic
 - Advanced Skills for Skills for Classic Skiing
- Freestyle Skate Ski Technique
 - Getting Started: Skate Skiing
 - Advances Skills for Skate Skiing
- Downhill Techniques
- Training and Safety
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