

Northern Rocky Mountain Division



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Northern Rocky Mountain Division has experienced a gangbusters year in 2015/2016. I am happy to report that despite missing our budget projections for revenue, we were still able to operate at a profit. This was accomplished by the diligent work of Meghan Larson, Jill Imsand Chumbley, our capable education chairs and the Finance Committee, all communicating and solving problems in a timely fashion. The Board of Directors are to be congratulated on their participation and advice which helped greatly in the decisions that were made, which resulted in the cutbacks in spending that made us profitable. Thank you all for your hard work and volunteer hours that you give to NRM.

On the national front, NRM has stepped up in a big way to offer advice and help make American Snowsports Education Association (our national organization) function better:

- Eliza Kuntz, our National Representative is now serving as Vice President of the National Board of Directors. She is leading the way in helping bring newly appointed board members up to speed on the complexity of the last five or six years.
- Lifetime Member and one of NRM's leaders and mentors, Eric Sheckleton, was part of a search committee that successfully found and hired the CEO for American Snowsports Education Association. Eric was also elected to the Presidium of Interski and will be working on an International basis to improve the Skiing/Riding experience worldwide. Maybe even getting Interski to the USA for the first time in years.
- Brenna Kelleher was one of several of our educators who tried out for the PSIA-AASI Team. Congratulations to Brenna for accomplishing her goal and winning an appointment on the Alpine Team! We are so excited for her and know she will represent NRM in a way that makes us all proud, showing the rest of the country that NRM is producing top notch snowsports professionals. WAY TO GO BRENNNA!
- Jim Mikulich, NRM Board member, is serving on the National Awards Committee.
- Nick Herrin, former member of NRM and known to our division for the many Fall Fests that he has participated in as a clinician is now serving as ASEA's CEO.
- Tony Brown, our Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, has been tabbed to serve on a national committee to explore the ways that divisions co-operate with each other and how the membership can be better served by interdivision cooperation.
- I participated in a process to set the National meeting agenda with Bill King from Northwest and Tom Koto from Northern Intermountain. The meetings I had in Seattle with Bill and the long telephone calls with Tom resulted in Tom Koto chairing a committee to explore and set the agenda for the joint National meetings in the future including the adoption of a Mission Statement and goals for National meetings in the future. Focusing on how best to serve our members, how to get our message to our stakeholders and reduce the cost of doing business without cutting important programs.

For the upcoming year, we look forward to working and playing with you, learning more ways that we as an association can support and help you grow as a snowsports professional. Between our two largest events of the year, Fall Fest in December and ProPark in February, I hope to see you and celebrate why we do what we do! And don't forget to support NRM's educational foundation by purchasing your MT "Let It Snow" license plate! I now have both of my cars licensed with it and am getting so many compliments. How about You?

Mike Ewing
PSIA-AASI NRM President



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The Northern Rocky News is published twice a year by PSIA-AASI NRM and the PSIA-AASI NRM Educational Foundation. Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos. Educational articles earn six 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.

Needed! Marketing & Fundraising Coordinators

Marketing & Social Media Coordinator

Fundraising Coordinator

NRM operates largely on the basis of volunteer efforts. All of the program chairs, board members and officers are volunteer positions. Additional volunteers share their expertise to contribute to the success of NRM. We are currently looking for members to share their skills in fundraising and marketing. Descriptions of both positions can be found at psia-nrm.org. If you are interested in joining the NRM crew, please let us know!

Make sure to thank the volunteers! Next time you cross paths with an NRM volunteer, please let them know that you appreciate their efforts!

News from our National Representative



By: Eliza Kuntz - Red Lodge, MT

Every fall snowsports enthusiasts pour over the glossy trade magazines that fill their mailboxes, in anticipation new gear, deep powder, and weekend trips to the mountains. While snowsports instructors appreciate the above scenario, we also await the newest in educational material from PSIA-AASI to assist us in moving our “stoke meter” up a notch or two. Knowing that we are armed with updated material sets us up to begin the new season at the top of our game.

Nicholas Herrin, PSIA-AASI CEO is as stoked about this new material as much as the rest of us! When he took over the helm of the organization in July, he focused his energy to ensure that PSIA-AASI remains on the forefront of snowsports education. “An easy way to think of PSIA-AASI is that we want to be the first place folks come for innovative and current information about ski and snowboard instruction, the overall impact of each sport, and about the ski and snowboard industry overall.”

Herrin is pleased that this manual will “show that PSIA-AASI is supporting the specialist instructors by recognizing the need to support the educational demands of the growing freestyle world.”

For those of you who don’t have the patience to wait for the mail truck to pull into the driveway, you can access the new material at TheSnowPros.org, which includes digital versions of the educational material as well as video clips.

MEMBER PSIA-AASI BENEFIT

LAYER UP ON YOUR INSURANCE.

Make sure you're covered, no matter where you teach or train. As a PSIA-AASI member, you get access to extra insurance coverage that goes where your other plans don't, for just \$135. Designed for members certified Level I and above, it allows you to teach at multiple resorts and resorts with limited insurance coverage. It even extends to your family. Get the coverage you need to teach the way you want. **Sign up today at TheSnowPros.org!**

Logos for PSIA-AASI, National Association of Ski Instructors of America, and Sports Insurance are displayed.



ALL THE KNOWLEDGE YOU NEED, ALL IN ONE PLACE.

Download the Snow Pro Library app for everything you need to know, on-mountain and off, with or without a wireless connection. Get quick access to PSIA-AASI's instructional videos, *32 Degrees* magazines, *Accessories Catalog*, manuals, and a whole lot more. It's bottomless, on-the-go knowledge.



TheSnowPros.org

#snowpros



NRM Event Calender

Alpine

Dec 5-7	Examiner Training	Big Sky
Dec 6-8	Clinician Training	Big Sky
Dec 7-9	IT Training	Big Sky
Dec 8-9	Area Clinician Training	Big Sky
Dec 9	Fall Fest Train/Trainers	Big Sky
Dec 9-11	Level 2/3 Prep Clinics	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	USSA Level 100	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	Level 1 Exam	Big Sky
Jan 12-14	Level 2 Prep Clinic	Lost Trail
Jan 12-14	Level 2 Prep Clinic	Snowbowl
Jan 21-22	Level 1 Exam	Showdown
Jan 27	Examiner/Clinician Training	Bridger Bowl
Feb 3-5	Level 2/3 Prep Clinics	Big Sky
Feb 7-9	Level 2 Prep Clinic	Jackson Hole
Feb 11-12	Level 2 Exam	Red Lodge
Feb 23-24	Ridge Tactics	Bridger Bowl
Mar 1-3	Level 2/3 Prep Clinics	Bridger Bowl
Mar TBD	Ski Like a Girl	Maverick Mtn
Mar 11-12	Level 2/3 Exams	Discovery
April 4-5	Level 2/3 Exams	Big Sky
April 6-7	Ed Team Hiring Event	Big Sky

Snowboard

Dec 7-8	Pro Ed Staff/IT Training	Big Sky
Dec 9	Fall Fest Train/Trainers	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	Level 1 Exam	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	Level 2/3 Prep Clinics	Big Sky
Jan TBD	Level 1 Exam	Red Lodge
Jan 26-27	Level 2/3 Prep Clinics	Bridger Bowl
Feb 2-5	Ed Staff Training	Jackson Hole
Feb TBD	Level 1 Exam	Lost Trail
Mar 2-3	Level 2/3 Exams	Big Sky
Mar TBD	Level 1 Exam	Blacktail
Apr 9-10	Ed Team Hiring Event	Big Sky
Apr 13-14	NRM Rider Rally	Big Sky

Senior Specialist

Dec 7-9	Ed Staff/IT Training	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	Senior Specialist 1	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	Senior Specialist 2	Big Sky
Mar TBD	Senior Specialist 1	TBD
Mar TBD	Senior Specialist 1	TBD

Register for Fall Fest 2016!
psia-nrm.org

Nordic

Nov 27-29	Nordic Academy 2016	W. Yell.
Dec 1	NES Training	W. Yell.
Jan 7-8	XC Level 1 Exam	Whitefish
Feb 3	Children's XC Clinic	Bohart
Feb 6-8	XC Level 2/3 Prep & Exam	Whitefish
Feb 5-7	XC Level 2/3 Prep/Exams	Lone Mtn
Mar 4-5	NES Training	Maverick Mtn
Mar 4-5	Telemark Level 1 Exam	Lost Trail
Mar 6-7	Telemark Level 2/3 Exam	Targhee

Childrens

Dec 8	CS Team Training	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	Children's Specialist 1	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	Children's Specialist 2	Big Sky
Dec 17	Children's Ed Clinic	Snowbowl
Feb 10-11	Children's Specialist 2	TBD
Feb 25-26	Children's Specialist 1	Lost Trail
Mar 13-14	Children's Specialist 1	TBD
Mar 18-19	Children's Specialist 2	Big Sky
April 1	April Fools Fun Clinic	TBD

Freestyle

Dec 5-6	Iron Team & IT Training	Big Sky
Dec 10-11	Freestyle Specialist 1	Big Sky
Feb 14	MSAA's Annual Pro Park	Great Divide
TBD	Freestyle Specialist 1	TBD
TBD	Freestyle Specialist 2/3	TBD
Apr TBD	Ed Team Hiring Event	Big Sky

Adaptive

Dec 10-11	Adaptive Level 2 Prep	Big Sky
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Additional clinics can be scheduled if the minimum number of participants is met. If you are interested in a clinic topic or event not currently on the calendar, please contact the NRM Office at education@psia-nrm.org.

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.

Fall Festival 2016

By: Jill Chumbley, Professional Dev. Coordinator

Welcome to the beginning of the Winter Season 2016/17. So you know what's coming next? That's right! Time for my annual Fall Festival Article. I know many look forward to this almost as much as the event itself... as you read this know I am writing just for you. This article has been written for your enjoyment so I hope it lives up to your expectations. I know Fall Festival will!!!

The most exciting announcement for Fall Festival 2016 is the 5 special guests coming to slide on snow with you! Hot off from National Team Selections we have **Eric Lipton** (Just made his third term on the team, yeah, he's that good); **Brenna Kelleher** (Born and raised in Big Sky folks!) from the Alpine Team;

AND **Grant Bishop** (straight outta Jackson, I hear he even rips in the park!) from the Telemark Team! Yes, you read correctly! Grant Bishop will be leading the Telemark Core group and afternoon Telemark electives Saturday and Sunday. To all of you knee dipping tree fairies, get out there and sign up to ski with one of the most ripping Telemark skiers you'll ever meet!

Back by popular demand, TWO National Team Alumni will be joining us: **Chris Fellows** (Co-owner & Director of NASTC and two term team member) and **Nick Herrin** (NRM Alum and new CEO of PSIA/AASI). I could go on for pages about each of these individuals but in the interest of time I'll let you Google search your evening away.

On Snow

This year we will again have core groups in the AM and electives in the PM. If you can't devote time to the entire three-day event, you have the option to participate on Saturday & Sunday. If you come for this two-day option you will still be joining a core group in the AM and elective sessions in the PM. Please don't worry that you be missing out.

The **standard core morning session** focuses on improving both riding and teaching skills in the format of an on snow clinic. The morning sessions are discipline specific. Options for core groups this year include: Alpine, Snowboard, Telemark, Freestyle, Childrens, and Alpine Teaching.

We have a wide variety of **afternoon electives** to choose from, some of which you might remember from years past while others are hot off the press. Elective descriptions follow this article or you can find them at psia-nrm.org under Events.

Prep clinics, level 1 certifications and specialist events are also available during Fall Fest. These groups run all day either Friday-Sunday or Saturday-Sunday. You can find registration for the following Fall Fest events online at psia-nrm.org:

Certification Events

USSA Level 100 Exam
Alpine Level 1 Exam
Snowboard Level 1 Exam

Prep Clinics

Adaptive Level 2 Prep Clinic
Alpine Level 2 Prep Clinic
Alpine Level 3 Prep Clinic
Snowboard Level 2 Prep Clinic
Snowboard Level 3 Prep Clinic

Specialist Events

Senior Specialist 1
Senior Specialist 2
Freestyle Specialist 1
Children's Specialist 1
Children's Specialist 2

Please sign up for these groups before the deadline so we can assure you will have a spot! You snooze you lose!

Like I said before we have FIVE special guests for you to slide on snow with, as well as NRM's talented Education Team! In fact, no less than 11 of the NRM Education Staff and Educators In Training were invited to the National Team Selections last Spring, so we have some talent to share with you all!

Fall Fest A.M. Core Offerings

Alpine Core - 9AM – noon Friday-Sunday

The AM core clinics will be like a group lesson, with the same DCE for all two/three mornings, allowing for consistency and a few days to work on things.

Alpine Core with a Teaching Focus 9AM – noon Saturday and Sunday

This core group will focus on your teaching skills including: communicating with different types of learners, learning theory, and those tricks of the trade that help you become a better and more effective instructor. This group will experiment on skis with the best ways to help students (and probably themselves) through those learning trials that leave the most seasoned instructor pulling out their hair. Come and enjoy two fun filled mornings discussing and then putting those discussions to the test on snow.

Snowboard Core 9AM – noon Friday-Sunday

The AM core clinics will be like a group lesson, with the same DCE for all two/three mornings, allowing for consistency and a few days to work on things.

Children's Core 9AM – noon Friday & Saturday

This clinic is design with ski school trainers in mind. As with all children's clinics any discipline is welcome to attend on any gear they choose with the understanding that this clinic is focused toward information and dispersion of this information at a staff training level. PLEASE attend this clinic with the blessing of your ski school director as it is geared towards those who specifically will be training the children's staff at their schools. This clinic will build on the topics ATTAINED at the CS2 credential (if you don't have CS 2 please contact Zoe before signing up: nrm.childrens@gmail.com subject: TCTC-FF) instructing participants in how to best convey and teach the concepts of child development and learning theory and how to instruct staff to enable them to apply theory and method into their lessons!

Freestyle Core 9am-noon Saturday & Sunday

This fall we have access to a new Freestyle Tech Manual! What is most exciting about the new manual is the content bridges between multiple disciplines including sports psychology, performance, and management of emotion as it applies to learning and performing. For those itching to dive in, join us at Fall Fest where we will be exploring new concepts and models to improve guest experience and success.

Telemark Core 9am-4pm Saturday & Sunday

Join Grant Bishop for this dynamic clinic, which will give you TWO FULL DAYS to brush up on Tele skills early season, and to get inspired by a team member.

Fall Fest P.M. Elective Options

Multi-Discipline

The Rosetta Stone: SATURDAY - A multi-discipline clinic focused on unlocking the similarities between all snow sports.

Participants can be on any gear (Alpine, Telemark, Snowboard) and there is no guarantee what type of gear the clinic leader will be wearing. This clinic is heavy on group participation and will touch on fundamentals of all snow sports. Ideal for the instructor that participates in more than one sport, or one who wants to provide classes for families on different gear. We will look at drills that can be given to mixed groups and still focus on similar fundamentals.

Freestyle

Fear to Fun Freestyle: FRIDAY, SATURDAY and/or SUNDAY

Freestyle still seems to carry stigma of "extreme", "danger", and "injury". Put some time on snow with an Iron Team Coach to see what its really about. Smash down the scary stuff by learning to be safe through good decision making, understanding freestyle etiquette, and tactics to emphasize safety when trying new movements and skills.

What's New in Freestyle: SATURDAY

Managing emotion and sports psychology are important pieces to have ownership of in the freestyle lesson. Get a peak into the new freestyle tech manual as we dig into new models and concepts. No experience in freestyle necessary.

Freestyle Specialist Prep: FRIDAY and/or SATURDAY

Join the Iron Team on snow to get yourself prepared for your next level Freestyle Specialist Certificate. It's always easier to know what is expected by having to face time with your evaluator before going into the event. Get your information here as well as some coaching to grow your skills.

Alpine

How to Play with Your Ski Boot: SATURDAY with Master Boot Technician Brent Amsbury

Ski boot fit basics. Learn how to incorporate simple fit aids to improve the performance of your student and how skier balance can be improved with an assortment of tools that can fit in your pocket. Come in casual attire for this indoor session and bring your ski boots and socks.

The Science of Alignment: SUNDAY with Master Boot Technician Brent Amsbury

An advanced bio-mechanic analysis of how skiers balance and the process of assessing fore-aft and frontal plane mechanics.

Important: On snow for the first hour of the clinic to perform alignment recognition. Casual attire for the afternoon session. Please bring your ski boots and socks.

Off Piste or Piste Off?: FRIDAY, SATURDAY and/or SUNDAY

Don't let the off piste get your piste off. Let's see what Big Sky has to offer and head to un-groomed terrain for some early season fun. A member of our NRM Education Staff will give you tactics for skiing off piste terrain, or try to turn your legs to rubber. The choice is yours. Available in hot, medium or mild.

Groomers For Zoomers: FRIDAY and/or SATURDAY

This clinic will focus on getting the most energy and fun from the corduroy goodness of Big Sky. Find new ways to teach and entertain on the prepared Piste. Consider groomers one elective day and off piste the other if possible. Available in hot, medium or mild.

Demonstrations and Tasks Skills Revealed: FRIDAY and/or SUNDAY

The most popular clinic from last year is back. The education staff is psyched to reveal and refine the skills needed to perform effortless demos and tasks. Similar to the perfect golf swing, the perfectly performed demo or task is a thing to behold. Everything feels better with refined skills to support your everyday skiing. The demos and tasks may be separate depending on the numbers of those attending allowing for even more focus. Consider demos one day and tasks on the other if possible. Available in hot, medium or mild.

Keep it Moving!: SATURDAY and/or SUNDAY

This challenging and fun clinic is geared towards keeping your group moving down the hill. Come find out how to balance all of the teaching and learning styles while we continue to ski with our groups. Discover the obstacles and workarounds to keep a group moving. Develop the skills to give your clients the most bang for their buck!

Gamesmanship: SATURDAY and/or SUNDAY

This clinic will focus on fun adult games and learning. Adult students need games and play just as much as children. Expose your inner child while we explore all the games and activities possible in a few hours of skiing and coaching. Lets make the learning unconscious while we are distracted being playful.

Demystifying Movement Analysis: FRIDAY and/or SATURDAY

This is an introduction to movement analysis geared towards certification levels 0-2. In this indoor and on-snow session, we will build a foundation of movement analysis looking at the 5 Alpine Fundamentals and how to give feedback.

Skills Based Skiing Versus Stamina Based Skiing: SATURDAY and/or SUNDAY

Explore the spectrum of movement patterns to determine best practice skiing. Learn ways to assist the student who fatigues early in the lesson.

Intro to Video: FRIDAY, SATURDAY and/or SUNDAY

This Clinic will focus on YOUR skiing image through the use of video. Expand on your ability to use video with your students as you become the student and see yourself in video. Best practices for video usage will be discussed. Class size limited to maintain a quality clinic.

Master Instructor Experience: SATURDAY and/or SUNDAY

A clinic geared for seasoned instructors with 5+ years of teaching and level II certification or greater wanting to be challenged by their peers. Exchange ideas, survival skills and career notes for a long career in ski instruction.

Snowboard

Steeps Camp: FRIDAY & SATURDAY - A focus on riding steeps, off-piste and how to more effectively teach in this terrain.

Video & Movement Analysis: FRIDAY & SATURDAY - Focus on personal and professional development. Tools to improve your personal riding and to use video and analysis tools to enhance your clients' experiences, help you get new request privates and make more money!

The VAK Way to Amplify Your Snowboard Senses: FRIDAY & SATURDAY - Focus on visual cues to practice teaching without talking; on the best words to describe movements and sound cues to achieve change; and on how to identify and create the feelings related to fun riding movement patterns.

Power & Success Indoors: SATURDAY & SUNDAY - An INDOOR session focusing on stance to increase power as well as turn your riding skills up a notch.

Hard Boots on Soft Snow: SATURDAY & SUNDAY - For intermediate to advanced boarders. Start off learning the basics of hard boot riding and depending on ability levels and group splits, take it to the point of feeling butterflies in your gut! For a little insight and incentive check out some of the Alpine Snowboard Carving videos. A couple of favorites include "Russian Extreme Slalom" and "Hurricane". Not to worry if you need equipment. We have a good supply of loaners with advanced notice.

Video & Movie Making: SATURDAY & SUNDAY - This clinic will focus on your skiing image through the use of video. Expand on your ability to use video with your students as you become the student and see yourself in video. Best practices for video usage will be discussed. Class size is limited to maintain a quality clinic.

Children's

V. A. K. (Indoor): SUNDAY

This clinic focuses on using learning styles to your advantage to engage students in their lesson. How you can adapt a drill for a child who learns visually and make it just as much fun for a kid who prefers auditory learning. This clinic will be held indoors with great video examples. We hope that this will facilitate a lot of discussion about learning styles and how to keep a lesson moving.

I can be hip too: FRIDAY

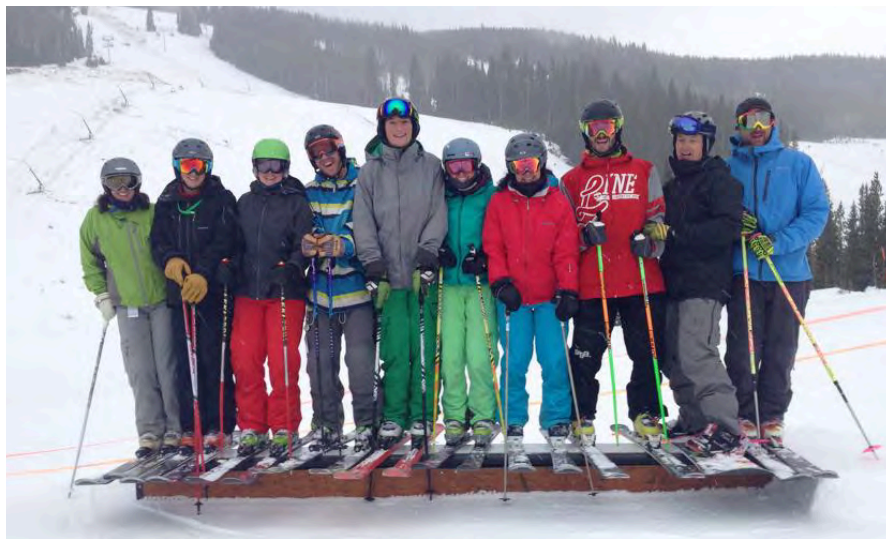
Ever feel like you have a hard time getting through to your teenage clients? This clinic will focus on connecting with your teenage clients. How to break the ice at the beginning of the lesson and keep those teens engaged. We will also talk about what sort lesson styles these too cool for kids prefer.

Putting the Fun in Skiing Fundamentals: SATURDAY

How to incorporate the 5 Fundamentals in your lessons at every age and stage. This clinic will explore the real vs. ideal movements as the body grows, through the lens of the 5 Skiing Fundamentals. It will give you the skills to apply that understanding to students across the ages.

Teaching High Level Kids: SATURDAY

This clinic will ride in off piste, bumps and black terrain. It can always be tempting to just go ride with our clients who rip, but this clinic will give you more tools and techniques to working with Kids who ski/ride at high levels.



Fall Fest Off Snow

Wednesday, December 7th

If you're around the Wednesday before Fall Festival, the Beehive Brewery is holding a **Pint Night** at their only location in the Meadow Village to benefit NRM. Come enjoy some outstanding beer, catch up with your snow buddies and support your favorite Nonprofit supporting Snowsports Instructors, NRM! Bring a few friends with you too. Always drink responsibly!

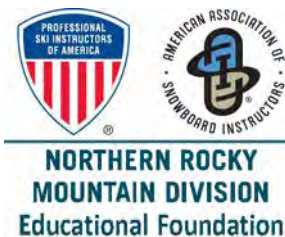


Friday, December 9th

Meet & Greet with fellow members, NRM representatives at Montana Jack's Friday night at Big Sky Resort! Look forward to food, fun and friends this night...

Saturday, December 10th

Join us Saturday evening and enjoy good company and complimentary appetizers while we raise funds for the NRM Educational Foundation. Our annual **Silent Auction and 50/50 raffle** supports NRM's scholarship and grant program, providing scholarships and grants to members and member schools who need some extra help to get the education our gifted staff provides. We have some very exciting auction items including a **Big Sky Resort Triple Chair**, thanks to a gracious donation from Big Sky Resort! If you happen to have any items or anything you would like to donate please contact the NRM office: info@psia-nrm.org.



Saturday night is also the night we award the service of some of our most talented and generous members of NRM. But before we can thank them we need to know who you think these folks are. This is where you come in! Please go to psia-nrm.org/awards to read up on eligibility and criteria for each award. Once you know who you'd like to recognize, send your nominations to info@psia-nrm.org.



Lodging & Lift Tickets



Our host, Big Sky Resort, is the most convenient choice for accommodations during Fall Festival. Once again Big Sky Resort will be offering one complimentary Sky Card for every individual who stays for three nights or more, along with discounted rates if you book your reservation under the PSIA-NRM room block! Thank you, Big Sky Resort!

First Class: \$114-\$164
Mountain View: \$124-\$174
Loft: \$139-264
Shoshone Condos: \$252-\$395
Big Horn Condos: \$264-\$352
Stillwater Condos: \$132-\$224

Call 800-548-4486 or 406-995-5000 for reservations.

Lift tickets are available at the discounted rate of \$45 + 3% tax per adult, per day to members *registered in accommodations through Big Sky Resort*. Those staying at the resort will be able to order tickets through the Concierge Desk or Ticket Sales.

We are ready to ride and share everything we know, spreading the passion we have for snowsports and playing outdoors. Just like you, we are life-long learners with new information to contribute each year.

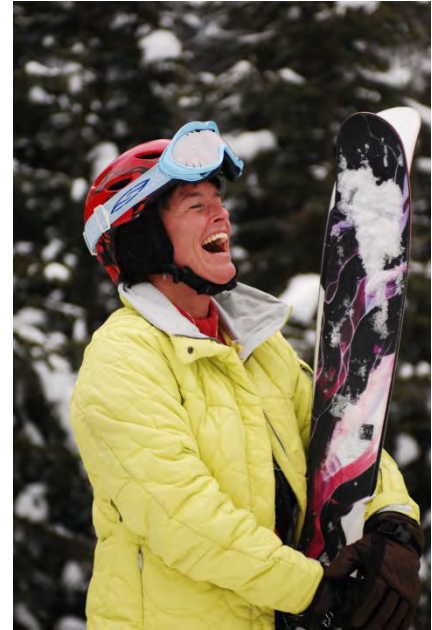
Award Nominations

PSIA-AASI Recognition

• **3 C's Award – Collaboration/Communication/Cooperation:** This award recognizes members who have demonstrated positive leadership behavior within a snow sport school. Positive leadership may be shown through building team spirit within a snow sport school, by encouraging customers to strive to become instructors themselves, or through other efforts of an exemplary nature that contribute meaningfully to the wellbeing of a school. Nominations are invited from snow sport school directors and managers as well as peers.

• **Rising Star Award:** This award recognizes newer PSIA-AASI members who have demonstrated positive Leadership behavior within the snow sport industry. Members who show extraordinary promise, charting a Career path within the snow sport industry, serving as volunteer leaders, or otherwise distinguishing themselves in a fashion that is truly exemplary, are eligible to receive this award. . Nominations are invited from snow sport school directors and managers as well as peers.

• **Top of the Course Award:** This award recognizes members who, while being examined for Level III Certification and scoring at the highest percentile in skiing/snowboarding, teaching and technical knowledge, Have also demonstrated exemplary willingness and ability to empower other candidates in the exam to Achieve success. Exceptional compassion and understanding for the needs of others, leading to elevated Peer performance plus a more positive examination environment and experience, constitute criteria for receiving this award. This award nomination starts with division examiners



NRM Recognition

Help us recognize those NRM members who have had a positive impact on you, the organization and snowsports as a whole. Know someone with contagious enthusiasm for instructing snowsports, a benevolent individual who has committed hours to an extensive NRM project, a role model with a long-time history with the organization? Nominate him/her to receive an award this fall (awards will be bestowed at Fall Fest).

Double Black Diamond Award

Eligibility: Any member of PSIA-AASI-NRM active, inactive or alumni. The award may be given posthumously.

Criteria: Any member who has made an exceptional contribution to PSIA-AASI-NRM as a teacher, coach or leader; has been a positive role model as a professional ski instructor, coach or leader and has demonstrated a long-term history of service to PSIA-AASI-NRM.

Lloyd Sorlie Award

Eligibility: Any member of PSIA-AASI NRM, active, inactive, or alumni, who holds certification in at least two different snowsports disciplines. The award can be given posthumously.

Criteria: The person should be a positive role model. They have actively participated in educational clinics for a sustained period of time. Their genuine love of the sport is contagious to others.

Service Award

Eligibility: Member who has given outstanding service to PSIA-AASI-NRM; member who has completed an extensive special project for PSIA-AASI-NRM.

Criteria: Service should be above and beyond the normal duties of the office; service should be exceptional over a period of several years; service has not been (and is not likely to be) recognized by the Extra Mile Award.

Extra Mile Award

Eligibility: Actively involved in teaching or coaching skiing; member of PSIA-AASI-NRM in good standing.

Criteria: Sustained history of distinguished service of lasting benefit to PSIA-AASI-NRM as a teacher, coach or leader; exceptional act worthy of special recognition.



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NRM Committee Chair

Reports of 2016



ADAPTIVE

By: Rebecca Starr, Adaptive Chair

Happy Fall!

Here in Red Lodge the leaves are far along on their journey to yellow, and we in the Adaptive world have started to turn our attention to our snow radars.



*We finished up last season with an awesome Adaptive Level hosted at Big Sky with the indomitable Shawn Jimerson who will once again join our ranks this Fall Fest to lead a Level II prep.

*This November Chad Biggerstaff from Eagle Mount Bozeman/Big Sky will attend Fall Conference in Summit County, CO where he will schmooze with the best in the adaptive world and will be looking at expanding into the world of Adaptive Nordic.

*We are very excited to preview the new Adaptive Manual and incorporate the material in our everyday lessons.

We here at NRM are ready for a great season of snow so we can get out and play! If you have any ideas for Adaptive clinics or exams, let me know! Have a great start to the season, and hope to see you all out there.

ALPINE

By: Tom Marshall, Alpine Chair

The alpine program is excited to share with you some news about the upcoming winter. Brenna Kelleher was named to the PSIA National Alpine Team this spring at the tryouts held in Breckenridge. This is a big accomplishment and we are looking forward to hearing directly from one of our own NRM members what she and the team are working on.

On some other news I am the new alpine chair for the next 3 seasons. I have been the assistant chair the past 3 seasons and have been a member of the alpine committee previously. I joined PSIA-NRM in 1999 as a rookie instructor at Big Sky Resort. This will be my 12th season on the NRM alpine education and certification staff. Over the years I've had the opportunity to ski with many of you and look forward to meeting more NRM members over the next few seasons. One of my main goals is to improve the communication between membership, the leadership, and the education staff of NRM. If you have questions or concerns regarding the alpine discipline within NRM please send me an e-mail at nrm.alpine@gmail.com.

Please welcome the incoming committee of Jim Anderson, Steve Hill, Brenna Kelleher, Eliza Kuntz, Zoe Mavis, Heidi Meier, Troy Nedved, and Joe Poole. Please thank them for their commitment in volunteering for NRM for this season. We will re-name to committee after the spring meeting each year, and as a reminder all members are welcome to attend the committee meetings.

NRM is going to be represented at Fall Conference by Brenna Kelleher, Emily and Troy Nedved. They will be working with representatives from all the divisions on the national teaching standards and how we as an organization can be more consistent in applying these standards in our divisional events. This information is going to be a large part of the staff training this fall.



FREESTYLE

By: Matt Larson, Freestyle Chair



Photo by Darby Ask

Once again, you are in for updates/changes in the NRM Freestyle Specialist Program. This fall we have access to a new Freestyle Tech Manual! We will incorporate content from the manual into the 1,2 and 3 specialist certificates. What is most exciting about the new manual is the content bridges between multiple disciplines including sports psychology, performance, and management of emotion as it applies to learning and performing. For those itching to dive in, join us for Fall Fest where we will be exploring new concepts and models to improve guest experience and success.

Don't forget that this year is the 10th annual ProPark!!! Plans are to make it big and incorporate education from the alpine and snowboard programs! There will be something for everyone at Great Divide sponsored by Montana Ski Areas Association. Education credits are also available with participation in the morning sessions. Stay tuned for updates

on education topics and credentialing at ProPark 10!

Positions remain open for skiers on the NRM Iron Team. For those interested in continued professional development in snowsports, we are seeking candidates for the Iron Team training program. This is not limited to skiers. We are always looking for new athletes to join the efforts of the Iron Team. Selections are held every year in the spring for those who have met the qualifications. All NRM Pro Staff are required to be level 3 certified and also have Children's Specialist 2. Iron Team applicants also need their Freestyle Specialist 2 and Level 1 certification in an additional program (Alpine, Snowboard, Telemark). This high bar is set to provide NRM membership with the most qualified educators and evaluators resulting in the best membership experience. For additional information please email: nrm.freestyle@gmail.com.

I am excited to see you on the snow!

Ryan Christofferson is coming to NRM!



Take advantage of the opportunity to learn from one of the country's top snowsports educators! Ryan will be joining the Iron Team at ProPark this February 14th, as well as leading an education clinic the same week. Stay tuned for details.



Photo by Grant Nakamura

SNOWBOARD

By: Bridger Biggins, Snowboard Chair

Hey NRM Snow Pros! For those of you who don't know me, I would like to formally introduce myself. My name is Bridger Biggins and as of now I am the new Chairman for AASI NRM. For the past two seasons I have worked side by side with Ben Daniel as his apprentice chair to learn about our division, and see firsthand what the snowboard chair position is really all about.

I am currently based out of Bozeman, MT where, when I'm not on the slopes, you can find me spending time with my wife Michelle and going on adventures with our Mini Aussie pup, Granite. I am extremely excited to begin my term as snowboard chair and look forward to meeting and riding with you all. I have a lot of different ideas on how to better our division, but ultimately I am here for all of you. I strongly encourage everyone to reach out to me if you ever have questions, concerns, or just want to say "What's up!" I can't wait to see what the next three years has in store for NRM and I look forward to being a positive and productive influence for our division and industry!



By: Ben Daniel, ExOfficio Snowboard Chair

Autumn is here, colors are changing and snow is falling in the mountains again! This time of year is full of giddy-christmas-eve-like-excitement for those of us who ride to live and live to ride. Time for new shred flicks to drop, new gear to be bought and goals for the season to be thought. It's also time for the fall update on what's new and exciting in the world of snowboard education for the 2016-17 season. We are excited this season to have funding for more outreach shrededucation to member areas thanks to the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation's generous donation. NRM will be sending stoke ambassadors to pass on useful training to show members, and non-members, how helpful and fun our learning techniques can be at little or no cost to the schools. Have you seen the new NRM license plates available in Montana? The money raised will help fund more outreach shrededucation to help our members, like you, get more fun, useful training. They are available for \$30. I highly recommend you get one for your ride and please spread the word!

I said it before and I'll say it again, we are only as good as our contributors. So, be active, write articles, get involved, go to meetings, participate in events...create events, email us any Snowboard Education Event topics you'd like to see offered at a venue of your choosing. We will do our best to offer and hold any event that has, at a minimum, six participants signed up two weeks prior to the event start date. The sooner you can send your great ideas the better! As a snowsports program apply for a grant to pay for the event or as an individual apply for a scholarship for any NRM snowsports event, see our website for more details. The snowboard education chair term is up, our apprentice chair Bridger Biggins will take over. I will stay on to help as a mentor with the title of ExOfficio. We are excited to have Bridger take over, the future is truly bright in his capable hands. In November, Bridger Biggins and I plan to attend the National Fall Conference and Rocky Mountain's Staff Training. We will discuss how the national standards are being received, if they need some tweaking to make



them more user friendly and to stay current. We will also create strategies on how to best implement the new national standards and the new technical manuals in our divisions. Last year we decided that every season at these national gatherings we'll pick a topic to pass on at our divisional staff training then to the membership. Last year's topic was SCARF, from the new Snowboard Technical Manual, and how to implement this into our exam process. I look forward to seeing and shredding with you all at Fall Fest in Big Sky Dec 9-11 (sign up on-line via our website) or hopefully sooner. Remember to stay fit, cross-train, eat healthy and set your goals for this coming season.

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NORDIC

By: Mary Marshall, Nordic Chair

Now that fall is here, and we are getting some hints of winter, the Nordic side have been busy scheduling events for the upcoming season. We are trying to join forces with Intermountain more this year, and have combined events in the hope that we will ultimately have more events available for membership. We are also super excited about the newly appointed Nordic Team and the opportunity to do events with Team members. We now have 2 Telemark specialists, one of which is Grant Bishop, who is based out of Jackson Hole and works for Intermountain. We have managed to hire Grant for our Fall Festival this year for 2 days of clinics and I would definitely encourage taking these clinics if possible, it's a great opportunity to brush up on Tele skills early season, and to get inspired by a relatively local Team member. There is also a World Telemark Event scheduled at Targhee this year, March 2-5. The event will include a big mountain competition, demos, public clinics and Telemark races, culminating with a Telemark party on Sunday, March 5th. Our combined NRM/IM Telemark Level 2/3 will be held directly after this event, so it will be great exposure for all those who intend on participating. At this time, Grant Bishop will also be co-leading our 2/3 exam.

We are also privileged to have return of the Cross Country Academy in West Yellowstone this year, and this will be hosted by NRM. The event is November 27-29 and will involve 3 days of classic and skate on snow events with 3 Team members attending, Coach David Lawrence, and new members, Emily Lovett and Greg Rhodes. So once again, an awesome opportunity to get involved early season! We also have a combined NRM/IM Cross-Country Level 2/3 scheduled at Lone Mountain Ranch Feb 6-8. Please check the schedule for further events and detailed information. Stewart Chumbley is stepping down from the Nordic Chair and I will be taking on the duties of this role. Stew has done a phenomenal job as the Chair, I believe being in this position since 2008, so I feel I have some big shoes to fill! I have been involved in the Nordic Committee since 2008 and over the years have attended many Telemark events and definitely want to keep the ball rolling and keep our membership strong in the Nordic World. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Looking forward to seeing you all when the snow falls!



SENIOR SPECIALIST

By: Michael Hickey

Good news!!! NRM is in the process of developing its own Senior Specialist program. Previously, any member wishing to obtain credentialing would travel to either the West or North West divisional events. This past season, 3 SS1 events were held in NRM thanks to the cooperation of the NW division and clinician Michael Birch-Jones. We owe them our thanks for giving us the opportunity to test the waters to see if a similar program in NRM would be successful. Given last season's enthusiastic response from both the membership and a few member schools, we are moving forward with

the development of an NRM program. This 1st season will see the implementation of a Senior Specialist 1 two day event, with SS2 events to hopefully come along the following year.

So, what is this all about anyway? Simply stated, it's a program designed to aid snow sports teachers in observing and understanding the issues being dealt with by aging riders and those dealing with diminished capabilities due to injury. Aging and physical limitations conspire to take our sport away from us. We want to be able to, if not stop, at least slow down that process. We all wish to continue to ride, so how do we maintain our riding level as long as possible as age or injury becomes an issue. Through indoor and on snow sessions, we hope to aid you in developing your ability to work with this ever expanding group of skiers and boarders.

This is an assessment program, not an exam. Similar in concept to the Children and Freestyle programs, there will be an evaluation based on participation and a written Q&A with open ended questions.

At this time, we have an event scheduled for Fall Fest, and two more tentatively scheduled for March. Details on the March events will be forthcoming as things solidify. So, should you be looking to expand your learning and teaching horizons to include working with aging but active snow sports enthusiasts, please join us!



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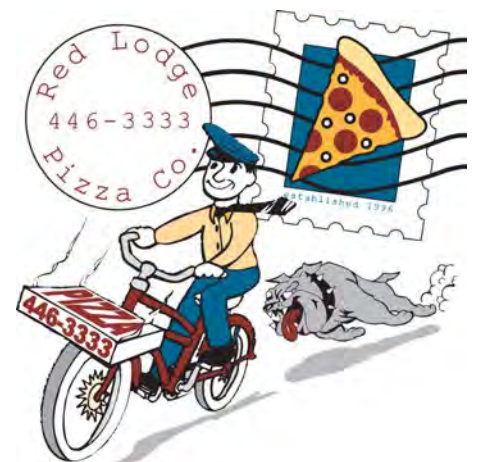


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CHILDREN'S

By: Zoe Mavis, Children's Chair

With the days growing shorter and the nights growing colder, I am sure most of you have started dreaming of winter yet again. Now that fall is upon us, I have been eagerly anticipating Fall Fest and all of the great events we will be offering this season.

As always we will be offering children's specialist events and fun electives this year at fall fest. We are also going to continue the option of a children's core group. This group will be for members who either work in a leadership role with children's instructors, or are looking for further education beyond the children's specialist program. With all of the talented education staff we have, you will not go wrong with a children's event at fall fest. Furthermore I am looking forward to a season filled with events being held all across our division. Northern Rocky Mountain is special due to the character, charm and atmosphere that so many of our ski hills have been able to preserve.

It is for that reason that so many families decide to introduce their children to the sport of skiing. As certified children's instructors, we play a big role in adding to those family traditions. This season make sure you take a look at the NRM website to see when there will be a children's event near you.

I am very excited to announce that a children's specialist pin has been approved by a national committee, and we will be starting to put its use into effect this season. All of our members, who have gone through the children's specialist programs, know that being successful is a great accomplishment. It is exciting to recognize our members and enable you to proudly display that accomplishment.

I am so looking forward to this season and encourage anyone with questions about children's events to please contact myself or the NRM office. If you would like to get more involved with the children's program, I am always available and excited to speak with you. There are many ways to be involved outside being on the education staff, especially in a division that runs so well on the dedication of its members.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy 2016/2017 winter season. Always remember what we do is fun, so have fun doing it!



NRM Educational Foundation

The PSIA-AASI NRM Education Foundation (NRM EF) was established in 1991 to serve the membership of NRM by providing financial assistance to those who are looking to further their careers/schools and enhance their growth in the snow sports instruction industry. The Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization in good standing. NRM EF is governed by the Education Foundation Committee under the supervision of the PSIA-AASI NRM Board of Directors. Every year, NRM EF awards scholarships/grants to individuals and schools wishing to further their education in alpine, adaptive, children's, snowboard, freestyle and nordic education. The training that members receive as a result of the scholarship program increases their productivity and value as a member and as an instructor in their particular snowsports school. Scholarships/grants are awarded based upon financial need, personal/professional goals, snowsports school experience, and ability and means to share the benefits of the scholarship/grant with other staff members and snowsports area guests.

Scholarships/grants are funded through donations from our members as well as outside grants and donations. Our primary fund raising event is the Fall Fest Silent Auction. To make a donation to the EF scholarship/grant fund or to donate goods or services to the silent auction please contact the NRM office.

- Application materials must be received by **December 1** to qualify for first consideration.
- Applications submitted by the second deadline of February 15 will be considered pending available funding.

Please send applications to:

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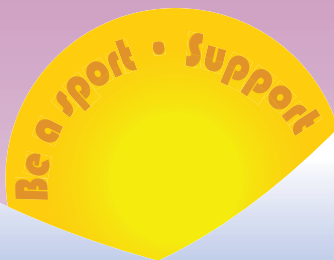
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The Passion of the Instructor

Or the late night ramblings of an insomniac parent...

By: Jill Chumbley, Professional Dev. Coordinator

My Dad used to have a sign in his office that said:
“*Ms. Helen Waite is now handling all complaints, if you have complaints please go to Helen Waite.*”

It took me until I was 13 to figure it out... it's tough being the oldest kid with no one to give you any direction. Anyhow, I was thinking about being a volunteer in our division and how sometimes it feels like you are Helen Waite. Volunteering to hear people share their thoughts and insight can sometimes get tiresome and overwhelming. And then I remembered what our executive director said when I first started this position, “Sometimes I have to remind myself that there is A LOT of passion in this division”. It's true! It's so true. In fact, that's why we all volunteer our time in the first place, right?

Hence the name of this article, "The Passion of The Instructor" (with apologies to Handel). It is included in our mission statement, “Inspiring lifelong *passion* for the mountain experience.” To inspire passion you have to have passion! When members get fired up it is usually due to the passion driving them.

DEFINITION OF PASSION:

pas-sion

'paSHən

noun

noun: passion; plural noun: passions; noun: Passion; noun: the Passion

1. strong and barely controllable emotion.

◦ a state or outburst of strong emotion.

synonyms: (blind) rage, fit of anger/temper, temper, towering rage, tantrum, fury, frenzy

◦ intense sexual love

synonyms: love, (sexual) desire, lust, ardor, infatuation, lasciviousness, lustfulness

◦ an intense desire or enthusiasm for something.

synonyms: fervor, ardor, enthusiasm, eagerness, zeal, zealousness, vigor, fire, fieriness, energy, fervency, animation, spirit, spiritedness, fanaticism More enthusiasm, love, mania, fascination, obsession, fanaticism, fixation, compulsion, appetite, addiction; informal thing
antonyms: apathy

◦ a thing arousing enthusiasm.

synonyms: obsession, preoccupation, craze, mania, hobbyhorse

2. the suffering and death of Jesus.

synonyms: crucifixion, suffering, agony, martyrdom

◦ a narrative of the Passion from any of the Gospels.

◦ a musical setting of any of the narratives of the Passion.

Would you agree that passion is a pretty strong word? “A strong and barely controllable emotion.” Whoa, watch out for passion! Anything used to describe death, or even the main figure in one of our world's largest religions is serious business. Plus, the root word in Latin for Passion is *pati*, which means suffer. In short, we participate in a sport we are willing to suffer for. The painful gear and inclement weather are suddenly making more sense now... Ski boots anyone?

My point is our members have an extreme passion for snowsports and for NRM. The proof is in the pudding. The time and care taken to provide thoughtful feedback to our leadership is seen time and time again. This is GOOD and only emphasizes the amount of passion that drives this division! It is why we work on our technique, buy new gear, plan to ski/ride something we haven't before this season, and are awake at 2:56 am on a Thursday morning, thinking about this. WE ALL CARE A LOT. We know how it feels to be first on a run on a powder day, to carve fresh corduroy, or to spend a day on the mountain with people you love. How can you not care? Who could be a “hobbyhorse” about skiing?

The smartest thing an exam participant has ever said to me was at a bar after she'd failed. She was telling me how mad she was about failing. Then she stopped for a second and turned to me and said with vengeance, “But you know what? I'm glad I failed because if it was easy, if everyone passed, then it wouldn't be worth anything!” PASSION!!! Amazing! I love it!

So the next time someone comes to you with something to offer, or to share what they'd like to see, do, or see you not do, remember it's because they have PASSION just like you and maybe, just maybe, you'll understand each others point of view a little better.

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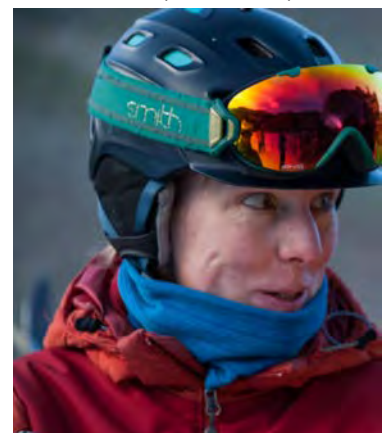


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The Lure of Nature through Breath

By: Audra J. Bintz, S3, CS2, FS2

So many Americans, both young and old, have never had the privilege of building their character through exploring and adventuring in the great outdoors. Over half our people live within city limits and rarely have the opportunity to study the wonders of nature at all. Many people who come to the mountains see them as a place to release stress and become more connected with nature. For them, outdoor recreation is a physical, mental and spiritual imperative. We, as snow sports educators, create a portal to nature in every lesson.

One great way we can help our students fully connect with their surroundings is to through the breath. Breathing is what connects what's inside to what's outside. During the introduction of the lesson, having everyone take some full, deep breaths while stretching or warming up brings awareness to the present moment. This helps people calibrate their bodies with balance through breath.

The conscious direction of breath can be utilized by having everyone think about the inhale and exhale. To look at inhaling as a rise in center of mass, a lightening of contact with earth and equipment, an expansion of lungs and being, or an extension of self. To see exhaling as a fall in the center of mass, a contraction of lungs and being, a heaviness of contact with earth and equipment, and a flexion of self.

Once breath has been established as the key focus, incorporating it via the turn becomes exceptionally fun. Create symmetrical turns of a chosen size and try inhaling in the transition of the turn and exhaling through the duration. After becoming comfortable with the rhythm, try changing the size of the turn for long, drawn out, slow breaths or short, rapid, quicker breaths. Another possibility would be to let the breath dictate the shape of the turn. The possibilities are endless. For snowboarding, toe-edge=inhale, heel-edge=exhale. Skiing alternate inhale/exhale with each side then switch.

If this article seems overwhelming and too much to think about, then all I ask is for you to simply observe your breath once in a while, on the slopes and off, to re-connect the inner world with the outer world. Mention it to your students if it works for you. Those who do this may find the deep connection between body and nature. No matter what age, young or old, whether instructor or student, one can receive life-long benefits from conscious breathing.

I leave you with a bonus poem:

*There is a pleasure in the pathless woods;
There is a rapture on the lonely shore;
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep sea and music in its roar:
I love not man the less, but nature more. -Byron*

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