

PSIA



AASI

Winter 2018 News | Volume 36 Number 2

Northern Rocky Mountain Division

Letter from the President



Greetings to all. As I sit here on Valentine's Day looking out at the snow-covered Bitterroots Mountains I am so happy that my parents gave me the gift of skiing many many years ago. For the winter of 2017-2018 here in Montana we have to be pretty thankful for the great skiing we've had. Hopefully the season continues to bless us with some great powder conditions.

Our winter got off to a great start. The division had a great showing at Fall Conference held at Arapahoe Basin for on-snow drilling and Keystone Resort for indoor work. Our divisional representatives worked hard with the rest of the divisions to start working on making our certification process more objective based to help both the candidates and examiners understand what is required to pass a certification exam. There was lots of gnashing of teeth and wringing of hands as the groups worked to create what was being called "The Perfect Plate of Pasta". By the end of the three days all disciplines had made great headway with the project. Stay tuned for more to come.

For me Fall Conference was spent with the Presidents Council. The Presidents Council was formed back in the 90's when there were some trust issues between the National Board and the Divisions. Through some great work between the Divisions and the National Board this isn't an issue anymore. Our National Board representatives (Thanks Eliza Kuntz) are doing a great job and Nick Herrin our National CEO is leading PSIA-AASI in exciting directions. The Presidents Council has rewritten our Mission Statement to reflect this trust and now instead of being a watchdog group, our mission is "To foster and develop pathways for better communication and collaboration nationally". We are working towards more consistency between divisions so that you our members have more options for clinics and exams and moving around the country.

Fall Fest had some of the best conditions we've had for many years. I know that I had a blast and spent a lot of time lapping the bowl on the double-triple. We tried a few changes to the tried and true format of the weekend with some successes and some "We'll do better next time". Traveling around the resort

during the weekend I saw a lot of happy faces with some big smiles. For me Fall Fest is about seeing folks that I only get to see once a year. Hopefully we get to spend some time sliding together and sharing time on the lifts. This year we had 67 attending the education clinics and 70 taking prep clinics and Level I exams. It was great to see the number of new faces attending Fall Fest for the very first time.

With the Christmas rush behind us we are getting into the heart of the certification season. We've had a bunch of Level I's given at areas already. We are somewhere around 75 new certified instructors. Level II and III prep clinics are starting to get underway and right afterward the exams. I'm sure that many of you are hard at it, perfecting the perfect dynamic wedge turn (oh my hips still hurt) or falling leaf or developing that teaching progression that is sure to hit all the VAK words. Here's to all of you, good luck and remember to have fun at these events, even if

Hopefully all of you know by now that National Academy is coming to Big Sky this year (April 17 – 22, 2018). What a great opportunity for us to have this event in our division. One thing that I have found is that every time that I attend a PSIA-AASI event I get to meet some great people. At National Academy you'll get to meet and ride with folk from all over the country. It will be a great way to share your stoke for riding in the Northern Rockies. During the week there will be riding with National Team members, time to demo some 2018-19 gear and have just a great time to finish out this great season.

We've had some changes in our administrative operations. When you call or email the office your inquiry will be answered by the call center in Denver. The folks there are doing a great job of serving you and getting answers to your questions with a very quick turnaround. If they can't take care of your needs, they will forward you on to Herb Davis our Executive Director. We want to make sure that all members are getting the best care that we can provide you.

There are still over two months of great sliding in front of us. Let's hope that Ullr continues to bring snow to the slopes. Good luck to you if you're heading for a certification exam. And here's to all of you as you pass on your passion to all of our students/clients.

Cheers

Stu Hoyt, PSIA-AASI NRM President

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2018 EVENTS CALENDAR

Dates and locations are subject to change. View NRM website www.psia-nrm.org for event details, prices and online registration. 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!

ALPINE

Mar 2-4	Level 3 Prep Clinic	Lost Trail
Mar 4	MSSA Training Series 6	Lost Trail
Mar 5-6	Level 2 Exam	Jackson Hole
Mar 5-6	Level 2 Exam	Garmisch
Mar 10-11	Level 2 Exam	Showdown
Mar 13	Ski Like a Girl	Red Lodge
Mar 28-30	Level 2 Prep Clinic	Great Divide
Apr 9-10	Level 2 Exam	Big Sky
Apr 9-10	Level 3 Exam	Big Sky
Apr 11-12	NRM PSIA Hiring Event	Big Sky
June TBA	Camping/Skiing	Beartooth Pass

CHILDREN'S

Mar 16-17	Specialist 2	Red Lodge
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FREESTYLE

Mar TBA	Specialist 1	Grand Targhee
Apr TBA	Iron Team Hiring Even	Big Sky

ADAPTIVE

Mar 29-Apr1	Adaptive Level 2 Exam	Big Sky
Apr 7-8	Adaptive Level 1 Cog/ID Ex	Showdown

SNOWBOARD

Mar 1-2	Level 2 Exam	Bridger Bowl
Mar 1-2	Level 3 Exam	Bridger Bowl
Apr 9-10	NRM AASI Hiring Event	Red Lodge
Apr 16-17	NRM Rider Rally	Big Sky

SENIOR SPECIALIST

Mar 3-4	Senior Specialist 1	Terry Peak
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NORDIC

Mar 5-6	Telemark Level 2/3 Exam	Grand Targhee
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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.



SS2 Crew is all smiles at Bridger Bowl!



Senior Specialist Two participants are treated to 22" of Bridger Cold Smoke!

2018 PSIA-AASI NRM BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

The following 3 members are in the running for 2 open seats on the NRM Board of Directors. Please review their statements and cast your electronic vote by March 31, 2018.

Greetings NRM Snow Pros!

I'm pleased to introduce the 3 candidates below running for the two open spots on the NRM Board of Directors. They all bring tremendous passion and commitment to PSIA-AASI and NRM and a desire to help our growing organization. Please give them careful consideration when you receive your electronic ballot in the next week as you select two of these very qualified candidates to serve 3 year terms on the NRM Board. You'll have until March 31st to submit your ballot. Please contact the NRM office for any questions.

Dick Fast
Board Secretary
PSIA-NRM

Electronic ballots will be emailed to all eligible voters early March. Ballots must be submitted by March 31st. Results will be announced mid April.



CHRIS KRUCKEBERG

I'm going to keep this short and sweet. I'm running for board of directors because I want to represent our division's younger membership before I get too old to do so. I've run for this position before, on the platform that I wanted to represent our smaller ski schools--the backbone of any division. And I still do. But what I've come to think of as more important to the growth and survival of our organization is serving our younger membership, getting them involved in leadership, and making events both engaging and affordable. "Lifelong learning" shouldn't have to start when you're old enough to afford Fall Fest or heaven forbid National Academy.

I'm 40, a supervisor at Red Lodge Mountain, and in the summer I plant flowers for money.

I'd appreciate your vote.

A colorful advertisement for the PSIA-AASI NRM License Plate. At the top left are the logos for the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors (AASI). To the right is the text "NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION". Below these is the heading "Support Your local Instructor". The main image is a license plate that says "MONTANA AAA000" with "NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN" and "Let It Snow" at the bottom. A yellow speech bubble points to the plate with the text "Cool New Plate". Below the plate is the text "Available January 2016" and "When you buy this plate a portion of your fee goes to support PSIA-AASI Northern Rocky Mountain Division Education Fund". At the bottom is a red car with a snowboard on its roof rack, driving on a road. A yellow sun with the text "Be a sport - support" is in the bottom left corner.



KATIE WHITE

My name is Katie White and I believe skiing is the absolute BEST thing in the world and that as Professional Ski Instructors we are so fortunate to be able to make skiing a career, hobby, or whatever it may be for you. I have been a NRM member for the past 6 seasons and am looking forward to many more in this division. My goal in running for the NRM board would be to serve our membership by representing the views of our members to make our division better each year.

I am currently working in my second season as a Children's Specialist Supervisor at the Yellowstone Club. Prior to my supervisor role I instructed children and adults for four seasons at the Yellowstone Club. I also have spent four summers instructing in Portillo, Chile. Through my experience as a supervisor I feel I have fine-tuned my organizational skills. Working as an instructor in Portillo has kept instructing relevant for me. I have also been serving on the NRM Children's Committee which has helped me connect with people from other resorts in our division. I recognize that to be on the board would be to represent all of our resorts and instructors, and that is my exact intent.

What I have learned through my experiences is that the voice of the instructor matters. The instructors use their knowledge and expertise daily to share their passion for skiing. What I hope to do if elected as a board member would be to hear the needs and wants of our membership, the instructors, and put it in to practice. The second part of my vision as a board member would be to continue developing our education to better train and serve our members. Most of all I want to share my passion and excitement for skiing with the like-minded individuals of our division!



STU HOYT

Hello, my name is Stu Hoyt and I am running for re-election for the Northern Rockies Division, Board of Directors. I have been a member of PSIA-AASI for 18 years. During this time, I have been teaching at Lost Trail Powder Mountain. I hold Level III certification in both Telemark and Alpine disciplines. Over the years I have met many of you during certification events or at Fall Festival as a clinician or participant. Outside of my life on snow, I spent my career with the U.S. Forest Service in Fire Management in leadership positions. Having retired a couple of years ago I am now in a place to continue helping with our organizations leadership.

For the past three years I have been serving on the board. As a current board member, I am also serving as your division President. During my term, I have done my best to serve you our members. Be this in divisional financial, operational or educational decisions or personal conversations concerning your membership. Our division continues to be a leader in PSIA-AASI on the National level. During my tenure as division president I have been able to represent our division on the Presidents Council as we work to solve issues affecting one or all divisions.

Our board of directors is a dynamic group of individuals. They represent the large and small resorts across our division. Each of us bring our own perspective and experiences to the table to make our division strong. As a director I value all your experiences and what you bring to PSIA-AASI. In my decisions, you are the number one priority, making sure that our division is working for the best of all members. I would like the opportunity to continue working for you, please consider me when you vote.

Thanks, Stu

NEWS FROM THE NRM OFFICE

Greetings NRM Snow Pro's!

I hope you all are enjoying the abundant snow we've been getting here in Montana this winter. A few updates from the NRM office;

Included in this email are candidate statements and mug shots for three candidates running for 2 positions on our Board of Directors. A separate email will be sent with ballots for the election in early March.

The NRM mailing address is now PO Box 161052, Big Sky, MT 59716-1052. Our awesome team with the call center is handling all calls, Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm at 406-581-6139. After hours please leave a detailed message and someone will get back to you the next business day.

As we are in the middle of a very busy events schedule please try to sign up for events 2 weeks ahead of the scheduled date, it greatly helps us facilitate staffing. As a reminder the events close for on line registration 1 week prior to the event. If your plans have changed or you finally got those days off from work, please call the office (406-581-6139, 8am to 5pm) for assistance in registering for an event.

Speaking of events, a big shout out to Iron Team Coach Matt Larson and the Iron Team for leading the 11th annual Pro Park event at Great Divide! What an awesome day of riding and skiing! A special thanks to Kevin and the crew at Great Divide for once again hosting this event for over 90 riders and skiers from throughout NRM! The event would not be possible without their generous hosting and the support from the Montana Ski Area's Association.

Thank you all for your continued support of Northern Rocky Mountain and your dedication to sharing your passion for sliding on snow!

Herb



NRM Iron Team rocks Pro Park!

Pro Park 2018



New Beginnings: Chet Hope Youth Ski League 2018

Peg Havlovick

The Chet Hope Youth Ski League is an entry level cross country ski program for 4-12 year olds in the Flathead offered by the Glacier Nordic Ski Club! It has been in existence since the 1990's and was originally called the Bill Koch Youth Ski League. The underlying premise was an introductory program designed with learning skills through a platform of fun/play in mind! Chet Hope was an area physician, who was very involved in the community and a volunteer leader for the program! He especially enjoyed sharing the fun and adventure of cross country skiing with kids! The local program was renamed in his memory in 2003!

Enrollees participate in a Classic ski experience on either Wednesday afternoon or Saturday mornings! Through the first five weeks we covered all of the basic fundamental skills delivered through playful activities.....yes the program could be referred to kids games on skis, but a very appropriate for format to keep interest and energy level high! Enrollment has reached over 100 participants in recent years, with this year's enrollment at 123 youngsters. This tier is the foundation of the race program's pyramid! The final two weeks consist of a Challenge Course of all the basic skills and an end of the season Carnival as a finale!

With many years ski industry experience under my belt, it seemed like an invigorating challenge, after sitting out a winter of skiing, to move to Whitefish to give the Chet Hope Program leadership a whirl! Like any 4-12 year old "New Learner", I had a transition period of being introduced to new co-workers, communication styles and tools, community volunteers who would be the program coaches, and parents! Being a "Newbie" has certainly been refreshing and very possibly a perfect reminder of what each of these kids experience, in a new program or new season!



Three very strong themes began to emerge as keys to understanding how to guide this program! The program has a rich Tradition, the Community thrives on recreation and isn't afraid to be involved and Skiing is Family in Whitefish!

My lesson in tradition came through the search for the staging area signs! During the first week's Saturday gathering,

one of the Coaches came up and asked me "Where's the Reindeer sign? We don't have numbers for our groups! We have animals! My group is the Reindeer!" At this point, I did not know the signs existed, but I definitely understood that I would be finding those signs and that they were VITAL to the remaining weeks of practice!



I now take great pride in putting the staging area signs up for each practice! My hat is off to the local artist who painted them and I am reminded how important symbols can be in how we

identify ourselves in groups we associate with and join in our communities! The group I lead on Wednesday is also the Reindeer!

The coaches for the Chet Hope Youth Ski League are all volunteers! Many of them are parents and grandparents of kids in the program, demonstrating how Family is strongly interwoven in the program's history. Chet Hope's daughter and granddaughter continue to volunteer as a coaching tandem and exemplify the richness of sharing their love of skiing! Thankfully, there were enough "Star Quality" returners from previous season's, to get this season off the ground! I can't imagine how challenging it would've been to be a new resident in the valley and have to recruit a whole new team of coaches! I also have had the very distinct pleasure of having five members of the Competition/Recreation team volunteer one of their practice days to attend Chet Hope practice and help fill the Coaching role. They bring tremendously positive energy to practice.....No surprise, they are idolized and cherished by the younger kids! I hope they recognize that their time has been received as a gift!

Coordinating the Chet Hope Youth Ski League has been invigorating, challenging and a tremendously playful experience! It has forced me to learn from the beginning again, which is refreshing! My new experience as a beginner has reshaped how I approach teaching adult lessons as well as embracing how I approach learning! I am thankful for the community involvement and the team of leaders/coaches!

It is my hope that this final week.....the Chet Hope Carnival brings each participant a shared smile, new success, some laughter and a hot cup of Chocolate in celebration with a friend!

Performance Cross Country Ski Waxing: Waxing for Snow Type or Temperature?

Eric Mittelsteadt, PSIA L3 Nordic, TOKO Tech Team

I was recently reminded of the need to cover this topic with some friends who were complaining about slow skis on one of our weekend ski outings. It was a Saturday morning with the air temperature around 22F and foggy in Bozeman, Montana. It had snowed about 7" of fairly wet snow the previous day. At first thought, one might expect to use a glide wax in the "mid-range" or "Red" range (a wax that is designed for temps in the low to mid 20sF).

The trend however for the winter has been many nights of inversions where the skies are clear and the cold air settles in the valleys and the air temp gets warmer as you go up. When this happens, it is common to get very dense fog and hoar frost (images below). This is a result of rapid evaporation of the moisture in the snow which leaves a much drier and more abrasive snow behind. The air may feel humid but the snow is typically quite dry. In this case, a harder (colder) wax will work significantly better than a mid-range wax. Knowing this, I had chosen a Blue wax while most of the other skiers had used a Red wax. As a result, my skis had significantly better glide and thus made for a much more enjoyable ski. This is a typical case where the snow "type" outweighs the snow "temp" when considering your wax choice.



Another more obvious example is choosing a kick wax. Here are two scenarios both at 25 degrees F:

- 1) fresh new fallen snow with packed powder tracks (image below left)
- 2) transformed snow that has undergone many freeze/thaw cycles; tracks are very glazed and consist of packed granular transformed snow (image below right)

Although the temperature is the same in either scenario, the kick wax used would be significantly different. In the first scenario, a hard kick wax would be a fairly straightforward choice. In the second scenario, a klistler kick wax would be a good choice. This is a common example of choosing the wax based on snow "type" vs snow "temp".



As a general rule with glide waxes, it is always better to error on the "cold" side when choosing your wax. Cold waxes glide just fine when the snow is warmer however warm waxes become a liability when the snow is colder than anticipated. Colder and more abrasive snow will "grab" the warmer (softer) wax, slowing the skis. The softer wax is also more easily torn from the base by the more aggressive snow crystals resulting in much lower wax durability.

What about the recommended temperatures on the ski wax labels? From my experience in the Intermountain West, due primarily to the low humidity in much of it, the "range" of the glide waxes can go much higher than the packaging suggests. For example, I use an LF Blue and HF Blue glide wax well into the 20s F in drier snow even though the label shows a range of 14F and under. The drier snow has a more abrasive effect on the ski base than snow with a higher moisture content.

Another common scenario involves "wind-blown" snow. In this case, maybe the air temperature is 28F however the wind has been howling all night and you plan to ski the next morning. The "temp" might suggest a mid-range to warmer-range wax however wind-blown snow is typically very dry and abrasive. In this case, it's always better to choose a cold wax over a warmer wax. With wind-blown snow, I typically will choose a wax in the cold range (Blue). The harder wax will reduce the amount of friction that the dry abrasive snow generates on the ski base, resulting in skis that glide more freely.

As a PSIA instructor, it is always a primary goal to educate my students so they ultimately get the most enjoyment as possible out of the sport. For those advanced students, who are ready to learn, this subject can be a great way to add value to their experience.



KNOW IT ALL.

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