

PSIA



AASI

Winter 2019 News | Volume 37 Number 2

Northern Rocky Mountain Division

Letter from the President



Sitting here looking out my living room window I'm seeing snow falling across the valley floor, obscuring the Bitterroot Mountains. That's a good thing. I know that Lost Trail is also getting snow which hopefully means a "Powder Thursday"!

This winter has again been pretty fine for us in the Northern Rocky Mountain

Division. The season started out with a bang at Fall Festival. It was a really fun weekend. Weather was great, we had an outstanding cadre of clinicians, snow conditions were some of the best in many years, a great line up of clinics and an awesome number of members contributing to the excitement. Our division clinicians along with Jonathan Ballou, Jennifer Simpson Weier, and Nick Alfieri from the National Team delivered amazing clinics all structured around the "The Learning Connection". It was really nice to bounce around different groups listening to the discussions and hearing the excitement about getting some new retooled ideas on how to better share our passion with our clients. For me the three days of Fall Festival are such an awesome time, seeing old friends, getting to ride with some amazing skiers and boarders and learning some new tricks for my teaching toolbox.

Following the Christmas run I was able to escape the teaching scene at Lost Trail and head west around the globe to experience some amazing skiing in Hokkaido Japan. I spent 12 days with Grant Nakamura skiing at six different ski areas. We had amazing conditions with new deep powder on 10 out of 11 days of skiing. At every area we skied, we saw school groups out getting lessons. How would you like to have a class of 25 to 35 kids, with identical skis, boots, pants, jackets, hats, gloves and goggles? They did give them a numbered bib to help sort everyone out. It was fun watching the instructors share with their students the joy of sliding on snow. Observing these classes, the instructors were pretty much using a command style teaching style for all the classes I watched. Some reciprocal with some very long lines of students snaking their way down a run. Oh yeah, the side-country powder was okay.

As we move through February into the second half of the ski season we are in the midst of prep clinics and exams for all disciplines. We have a bunch of new Level I instructors across the division. It's great to have your enthusiasm and excitement

for teaching as part of PSIA-AASI-NRM. For me watching you come back from teaching a first timer lesson with smiles of success and stories about how you taught your students how to make their first turns is infectious. I hope your career as an instructor is long and rewarding. There is a whole big instructing world out there for you to explore and you've just scratched the surface.

For those of you heading towards Level II and III certification hopefully you are getting plenty of time to practice and train for your demos and tasks. Reach out to other instructors for help both with your skiing but also to work on training your eye on movement analysis. And don't forget to practice and train for the teaching segments as well. Take the time to think about progressions, how you could present a fundamental to your peers at a clinic or an exam. The Teaching Snowsports Manual is a great resource to help you prepare for your teaching segments. Good luck with meeting your goals. I look with anticipation to seeing great success with the exams this year.

This will be the second year that National Academy is being held at Big Sky. Last year the event was attended by over 400 instructors from around the country. For many of us that work and ski at the smaller areas in the division, National Academy is an opportunity to ride with National Team members, get some super clinics and help with your technique as well as getting to meet and ride with other instructors from all over the country. It's an event that is totally worth going to. This year I'm hoping to see lots of NRM faces there too. I was super bummed last year when I had to end my skiing at the beginning of March and was only able to attend the final banquet. Just visiting with folks there and hearing their stoke made me want to attend this year even more.

This year there are three Board of Directors positions up for election. Participating as a board member is a very rewarding volunteer position. Our board is working behind the scenes to help steer the division in directions that make your experience as a member more valuable. The Board will be spending our spring meeting working with Sherry Jennings, a specialist in Non-Profit Policy and Governance to help us with our divisions goals and objectives that will make us a stronger and more responsive organization. As a board we are trying to mature and be more focused on providing long term strategic planning and goal setting and less in the weeds being operational.

As always I look forward to hearing from you about any concerns, stories or ideas about how the Northern Rocky Mountain Division is performing.

Thanks again for passing your passion on to skiers and boarders of all ages and abilities. Keep your tips up!

Cheers,
Stu Hoyt, PSIA-AASI NRM President

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2019 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 3	MSAA 6 Series	Lost Trail
Mar 9-10	Alpine Level 2 & 3 Exam	Discovery
Mar 10	MSAA 6 Series	Lookout Pass
Mar 18-19	Alpine Level 2 Exam	Garmisch
Mar 21-22	Alpine Level 3 Exam	Garmisch
Apr 8-9	Alpine Level 2 & 3 Exam	Big Sky
Apr 10-11	Alpine Ed Team Hiring	Big Sky

FREESTYLE

Mar 7-8	Freestyle Level 1	Garmisch
Mar 27	Freestyle Level 2	Great Divide
Apr TBA	Iron Team Hiring Even	Big Sky

ADAPTIVE

Mar 30	Veteran Specific Clinic	Big Sky
Apr 6-7	Adaptive Level 1 COG/ID Exam	Big Sky

SNOWBOARD

Mar 1-2	Snowboard Level 2 & 3 Exam	Big Sky
Mar 11-12	Snowboard Level 2 & 3 Prep	Garmisch
Mar 14-15	Snowboard Level 2 & 3 Exam	Garmisch
Apr 10-11	Snowboard Ed Team Hiring	Bridger Bowl
Apr 12-13	Snowboard Level 2 & 3 Exam	Big Sky

SENIOR SPECIALIST

Mar 3-4	Senior Specialist 1	Terry Peak
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NORDIC

Mar 4-5	Telemark Level 2 & 3 Exam	Grand Targhee
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CHILDREN'S

Apr 6	Childrens Specialist 2	Big Sky
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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.



Pro Park 2019



XC Whitefish

2019 PSIA-AASI NRM BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

The following 4 members are in the running for 3 open seats on the NRM Board of Directors. Please review their statements and cast your electronic vote by March 31, 2019.

Greetings NRM Snow Pros!

I'm pleased to introduce the 4 candidates below running for the 3 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 three of these very qualified candidates to serve 3 year terms on the NRM Board. You'll have until April 5th 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 April 5th. Results will be announced mid April.



KARL SVENSSON

I would like to thank our membership for allowing me the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors for the past three years. I feel we have made amazing progress toward making NRM a leading division in the PSIA organization. I would like to ask for your votes again to continue the good work as a proven member of the board. as your Treasurer we strive to active the lowest cost of doing business with the highest amount of accountability and proficiency so we can spend as many membership dollars on the membership itself. We are always planning better events and programs with the members themselves as the top priority. Coming from a small area my personal focus is on providing more and better things for our instructors at our outlying and smaller resorts. thank you again for your votes in the past and hopefully in the future.

An 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 graphic of a Montana license plate with the text "PSIA-AASI NRM LICENSE PLATE" at the top, "MONTANA" in the middle, and "AAA000" below it. The plate also features a skier and a snowboarder. To the right of the plate is a yellow speech bubble that says "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 graphic of a red car with a snowboard on its roof rack, driving on a road. A yellow speech bubble at the bottom left says "Be a sport - support".



JOSH VALE

Hello my name is Josh Vale and I am running for a seat on the NRM Board because I believe that teaching people how to ski or snowboard is one of the best professions one can have. We have a unique opportunity to take our passion and share it with others so that they may enjoy skiing/riding at a higher level, or create a whole new experience for someone going out for the first time that can lead to a lifetime of enjoyment in the outdoors. My goal in running for the board is to serve our membership by representing their wants and needs so that they can continue to share their love for skiing and/or riding and will continue to make our division better every year.

I moved to Bozeman four years ago from Mammoth, CA where I started my career as a ski instructor. I am currently in my fourth season at the Yellowstone Club as a SnowSports Supervisor where my goals are to be a level head, a voice for our staff, and to help provide the tools that are needed for them to be successful and enjoy their jobs. I have over a decade of supervisor experience via roles with Mammoth Mountain, the Forest Service, and most recently the Yellowstone Club. Through this experience I have always pushed for accountability and have learned that it is achieved and retained through organization, education, and documentation. Every ski school wants to be the best and being elected to the board will allow me to help out every school in the division in the same manner that I help mine.

I have been a member of PSIA for 13 years and during that time I have seen the love that people have for teaching and how member suggestions and concerns can have a large impact. What I have to offer our division is a forward thinking mindset, a calm approach to issues that arise, cross divisional experience, and a desire to ensure that NRM continues to be a leader at the national level.



SHELBY ROGALA

Greetings,

My name is Shelby Rogala and I currently live and work in Helena, Montana. Born and raised in Darby, Montana, I began my instructing career at Lost Trail Powder Mountain. Since then (a little over ten years ago) I have taught at Bridger Bowl, the Yellowstone Club, Aspen Highlands and in Portillo, Chile. In that time my passion for skiing and teaching has grown, leading me to serve as an Ed Staff member for NRM and lend a hand on committees for the division whenever needed. Returning to the NRM Region and revisiting mountains from Lost Trail to Red Lodge, Great Divide to Snowbowl has reminded me the true strength of our division is our community, and the countless individuals working at resorts big and small, sharing their love of skiing with students from every background. We are a diverse and strong organization that I am truly grateful to be a part of, and happy to call home. I hope to give back to PSIA-NRM, and I believe I am well-suited to do so through board membership. In addition to skiing, my other passion in life is the nonprofit sector, where I have worked as a fundraiser, community organizer, communications consultant, and most recently as the training and education manager for the Montana Nonprofit Association, where I have built a skill set in organizational development and nonprofit capacity building. I believe I am in a unique position to combine these interests - and my love for this division - to benefit our organization, our members, and our students. I would be honored to be of service to you, and I look forward to the opportunity.



BEN BROSSEAU

We are all sliders of snow in one form or another that thrive on sharing our passion for winter sports through education, fun and adventure. My name is Ben Brosseau. I reside in Big Sky, Montana with my fiancée, Hannah. I would appreciate your vote to serve on the Board of Directors for PSIA-NRM.

I have been a member of Northern Rocky Mountain Division for 16 years. I started my career in snowsports education over 20 years ago at Bottineau Winter Park in North Dakota as a competitor, race coach, ski instructor, ski patroller and worked every on-mountain position possible. As a non-profit ski area, I served as General Manager under the direction of its board of directors for 2 years. More recently, I have worked for Big Sky Mountain Sports School since 2004 as a ski instructor, mountain guide and staff trainer. I am currently an examiner for the PSIA-Northern Rocky Mountain Education Team and was a finalist for the 2016 PSIA Alpine National Team selection.

I have gained valuable knowledge and leadership experience in the snowsports industry through many roles at ski areas big and small. I will bring my acquired perspective on and off the mountain to heed the voice of our membership and help guide our division on a continued path of success and growth. I look forward to joining our dedicated team of board members.

Thank you!

NEWS FROM THE NRM OFFICE

Greetings NRM Snow Pro's!

Included in this newsletter are candidate statements and mug shots for four awesome candidates running for 3 positions on our Board of Directors. A separate email will be sent with ballots for the election, check your in box soon. Please vote, your participation is essential in choosing the next generation of leadership in NRM.

We are in the middle of a very busy events season, with record numbers participating in preps and exams. 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, (M-F)) for assistance in registering for an event. Or email at info@psia-nrm.org.

The 12th Annual Pro Park was a tremendous success again this year, lead by Iron Team Coach Matt Larson, Bridger Biggins and the Iron Team at Great Divide! What an awesome day of riding, skiing and knee boarding! A special thanks to Kevin, Joe Pope and the crew at Great Divide for once again hosing this event for over 100 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 adventures on snow!

Herb

Two Steps Forward

Jill Chumbley

This season as a division we've made many steps toward alignment with other divisions in a number of areas. Some affect the administration side of our association, but the one I'm going to discuss in this article has more to do with certification.

This season ALL disciplines in ALL divisions agreed to use the 1-6 scoring scale with the same descriptors to rate participant performance during exams.

Scoring Scale:

- 1 = This element was not observed or is not present.
- 2 = This element is beginning to appear.
- 3 = This element appears, but not with the necessary consistency.
- 4 = This element appears regularly at a satisfactory level.
- 5 = This element appears frequently, above required level.
- 6 = This element appears continuously, at a superior level.

If you've been involved in alpine exams you will be familiar with this scale. However, if you're not accustomed to the 1-6, the descriptors are the main element that makes this scale understandable. It gives the candidate a better understanding as to how they're currently performing and where they need to get to pass or to move toward the next level of certification. A score of 4 is passing, hence the description "this element appears frequently at a satisfactory level".

If you are heading to an exam this spring please make sure you have a good understanding of where you're performing at, and if you're unsure please discuss it with a trainer at your school before you sign up! In adopting this scale across all our disciplines and nationwide, we are all able to better ensure that we have greater consistency in the level someone is at to be certified.

In other certification news the NRM alpine team decided to adopt the teaching fundamentals to better assess teaching outcomes during exams. The teaching fundamentals were solidified this fall and will be presented by the National Team at Interski this month.

Teaching Fundamentals:

- Create an environment that promotes play, exploration, and experimentation towards desired outcomes.
- Collaborate on short-term objectives and long-term goals.
- Facilitate the learner's ability to recognize, assess, and reflect upon experiences and sensations.
- Manage terrain choice and the pacing of information and activities.
- Reinforce effort and learning, and adapt learning environment to accommodate changing needs of the learner.
- Manage emotional and physical risk within the learning environment.

If you are attending an exam this spring for Alpine you will see that the teaching fundamentals have taken the place of the elements assessed during the teaching components of the exam. Not to worry though all the elements we assessed previously are encompassed within the teaching fundamentals! Using the teaching fundamentals as your guide you will be able to demonstrate those elements of movement analysis, communication, teaching application etc. in a more fluid and natural way than if you were just trying to hit those elements alone. If you are nervous about the way this change on the scorecard may affect your performance please seek out your area trainer or local alpine staff to discuss it. I think you'll find it may actually help you perform better to use the teaching fundamentals as your guide.

Both of these changes were made to better align the NRM certification process with all divisions nationally, which will benefit us all as we move toward our national goal of alignment. Good Luck in all your certification endeavors this spring and beyond!

NRM 2020 National Team Selection Process

The 2020 PSIA-AASI National Team Selection process will be occurring April 12-16 in Breckenridge, Colorado. This selection process will allow PSIA-AASI to select the nations best instructors to represent the association at the highest levels. The Team is selected on a “best in the nation” concept where women and men are chosen to represent the association for a four year term. The National Team is made up of the following disciplines:

- Adaptive
- Alpine
- Cross Country
- Freestyle Specialist
- Snowboard
- Telemark

In order to tryout for the National Team potential team members need to meet the following professional requirements and skills:

- Current member of PSIA-AASI
- U.S. Citizen or Permanent U.S. Resident
- PSIA or AASI Level III certification
- Children’s Specialist 2 credential (XC will have equivalency guidelines)
- Ski or Snowboard educator skilled in training, assessment and evaluation of PSIA-AASI National Certification Standards and Learning Outcomes.
- Encompass a broad , diverse technical knowledge of skiing/riding, teaching, professional development and learning theory relevant to snow sports instruction.
- Superb and inspirational communication skills
- Athletic, inspiring and accurate skier/rider and role model.
- Team player focused on the vision and organizational ends/objectives of PSIA-AASI and it’s membership.
- Passion for providing exceptional guest service.

As part of the selection process potential team members must secure a nomination letter from their home division. To receive this letter of nomination NRM candidates must submit a letter of intent to the NRM Divisional CEO outlining how your participation in the selection process and potential selection to the national team will benefit the team, PSIA-AASI and NRM. Additionally please elaborate on your professional ski/riding experiences outside of ski or snowboard teaching, including any authored materials, video modeling, foreign language skills and special credentials. In addition you must attend a 2 day selection event on April 12-13, 2019 at the Big Sky Resort. Details on the NRM selection process will be sent to candidates upon receipt of their letter of intent. Letters of intent must be received by 5pm on April 5, 2019. Please send your letter as a Word document to hdavis@psia-nrm.org. For any questions on the NRM Nomination Selection process or for more details on the national selection process please also contact the above address.



Level 2 Prep at Lost Trail



KNOW IT ALL.

NOW YOU CAN. These new PSIA-AASI resources are completely rewritten and are brimming with accompanying videos, whether you choose the print edition, digital edition, or both. They will make you a better instructor, which makes your guests better. Get yours now at TheSnowPros.org or call the PSIA-AASI member services specialists at **1.844.340.SNOW (7669)**.



TheSnowPros.org

#snowpros



Aspen - Turn Project #2

April is a great time of year to hone in on skills you have been working on throughout the season. Join PSIA alpine team members to challenge your ability level and push the direction of your skiing to the edge. The morning will be spent running gates while the afternoon will be about switching gears and getting into the bumps and off piste. Changing disciplines and skis can help connect movement patterns on and off piste and create retention in and better overall understanding. Must be a minimum of a strong Level 2 skier.

REGISTER

Clinic will include:

- Tickets
- Coaching
- Lane space and gates
- Video MA

*In order to attend this Project you must be a member of the PSIA. You can be a member from any division to participate

When: April 5th, 2019 8:30 AM through April 7th, 2019 4:00 PM

Location: Aspen Mountain Aspen, CO

Contact: Phone: 970-879-8335

Email: info@psia-rm.org

Event Fee: \$510



VW at Pro Park



Craig and Jim at Red Lodge



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