



# Snow

The Official Publication of the  
**Professional Ski Instructors of America  
Eastern / Education Foundation**

# Pro

SPRING 2012

## PSIA-AASI Eastern Teams Make a Strong Showing at 2012 National Team Tryouts

### Five selected for National Alpine, Snowboard and Adaptive Teams

*By Mickey Sullivan*

*PSIA-E Director of Education & Programs*

**T**he new 2012 AASI and PSIA National Teams have been selected! After many days, months, and years of training, culminating in a thorough and grueling tryout process, the members of our Eastern Team that participated in the tryouts represented you and the Eastern Division exceptionally well.

All of the Eastern Team members have expressed to me appreciation for the generous support given to them from the division and from the many members who were able to help. The abundance of team spirit, coaching, and emotional and financial support was well recognized by all of the National Team tryout participants, and the Eastern Teams were the envy of all of the divisions at the tryouts.

The AASI Snowboard Team tryouts and the Alpine “freestyle specialist” tryouts were held at Copper Mountain, Colorado on April 9 – 12. While the East did not have a member selected to the 2012 alpine freestyle specialist team, Matt Tinker from our division made a great showing and represented the eastern team and division well.

The AASI Eastern Team consisted of Brian Donovan, Joe Jones, Bonnie Kolber, Chris Marcoux and Tommy Morsch. AASI Eastern Team coach Tom Vickery was also at the tryouts as one of the national team evaluators and selector. The team was thoroughly tested with all terrain riding, park and pipe riding, on snow coaching, indoor presentations, and personal interviews. We are proud to report that Tommy Morsch was selected to the six-member 2012 AASI Snowboard Team.

The Alpine and Nordic Team tryouts were held at Snowbird, Utah on April 23 – 26. The tryout participants experienced “Utah spring skiing.” There was usually a hard frozen surface in the morning that quickly softened with the sun and warm temperatures. Daytime temps were in the 60’s most days. Some of the skiing and ski tasks were done in deep, thick, formerly powder snow. Just think what it would be like to ski in bottomless vanilla, “very soft” ice cream. Only near perfect technique and a lot of well directed strength can make you look good in this stuff. Following four days of skiing, on snow coaching, indoor presentations



*Here is the AASI Eastern Team that attended the National Team tryout at Copper Mountain. Front Row: Tom Vickery (Eastern Team Coach), Bonnie Kolber  
Back Row: Chris Marcoux, Brian Donovan, Tommy Morsch, Joe Jones*

and personal interviews the 2012 Team was selected. The 2012 Nordic team unfortunately does not include a member from the Eastern Division this time around; however, we are very proud that Jeb Boyd, Matt Boyd and Eric Lipton are returning for second terms as members of the 2012 National Alpine Team.

The Nordic Telemark tryout was well represented by Mike Beagan of our Eastern Team. The Alpine Eastern Team members that participated in the tryouts are: Jeb Boyd, Matt Boyd, Kathy Brennan, Dave Capron, Frank Cartwright, El-

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## President's Message



Ron Kubicki



## “Winter Wonderland”?

**A**pril Fool's Day seems like the perfect day to write this column. This was such a bizarre season in the East, and it appears in to have been the same in much of the country. My resort opened December 13 and came to a screeching halt on March 18. The last two days we were open Saturday and Sunday – March 17 and 18 – it was 75 degrees and “bluebird skies”!

During this “balmy, sun-soaked weekend” we hosted an in-house Level One Alpine exam, with 22 people. Now I, like you, have attended my share of educational events and cert exams, but this is the first where candidates were skiing in everything from wind pants and shirt sleeves, to shorts and t-shirts – I guess “clothes do not make the skier”. The snow conditions ranged from crusty meringue in the shadows to challenging “pond skims” when entering lift lines. I witnessed some incredible recoveries, some imaginative coaching, demonstrations of the straight runs that were followed by “rooster tails” plus, wedges that pushed “bow waves”, but throughout the two days, I also saw nothing but smiles and laughter.

What an exceptional introduction for these newly certified members; they came into this event with the baggage and anxiety that is familiar to all of us. “Can I pass this?”, “What if I don't remember my skis?” “Why am I here?” “What if I'm not on their list?”, and in the course of the first morning I witnessed two groups of anxious and stressed candidates turn into two bunches of friends and colleagues, having “fun in the sun”!

How is this an appropriate message from the Eastern Division president? Well honestly, I saw this as perfect example of what makes being a member of PSIA-E/AASI such a value and so much fun! I mean really, isn't this all about enjoying the lifestyle we love, interacting with each other, sharing with our guests and students? This event could have taken such an ugly spin; we were losing lifts and slopes daily – sometimes during operating hours. It was a challenge to find appropriate terrain to give the candidates a fair opportunity to succeed. Not only was terrain limited, but the resort was quite busy with skiers and riders enjoying the glorious weather.

Instead of focusing on the challenges Ellen (Garrett) and Emily (Gregg), the two event leaders, made it a good time and took the casual route to success. After the typical anxious start for the candidates, by mid-morning in the first day there were 22 pretty casually dressed members – not a uniform in sight – who were at ease and engaged. There was smiles and laughing all the way around. This pointed out to me the value and quality of the training our highly skilled Ed staff receives AND passes on to the members. What a fine model of creating a “learning environment”.

I experienced this myself this season, as I took the Children's Specialist One, at a night event. I was not overly enthused, after working at the resort all day, to load up my equipment and drive to another resort to ski and be evaluated for two nights. Plus, here I am, director of my school and division president – what if I don't receive this accreditation! But ten minutes into the first night I was caught up in the enthusiasm generated by our pair of ACE's – Griz (Caudle) and Sharon (Foehl) – and I enjoyed the entire process and met members I had not known before. When I was presented my certificate – phew! – I felt a real sense of the bonding and pleasure you experience in sharing an accomplishment that you only receive from receiving quality guidance, coaching and evaluation from skilled clinicians; and sharing it with friends.

These are only four examples of the hundred-plus highly trained educators, clinicians, examiners and members who pass on these high level models of coaching and assessment to you. So, when you consider what value you as a member represent you should realize your dues and event fees make the training of these premier teachers and coaches possible. Then, in return, through their hard work and commitment to excellence, they pass this on back to the membership. This is our strength, the solid foundation that makes PSIA-E/AASI the professional quality and fun association it is; because of the personal ongoing interaction of friends and colleagues.

At the end of the second day of the “fun in the sun” Level One, I had the privilege of handing pins and shaking hands with 22 newly certified Level One Alpine members. Proud and smiling faces, with various degrees of “goggle tans” shared their moment of success, new “certs” and examiners sharing a fun learning experience. GOOD STUFF!!!

One final note; Dan, think sun block! ■

## Snow Pro

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Submission of articles, photos or other items for publication is invited. Articles are not to exceed about 1000 words. Receipt of submissions will be confirmed to the writer. Upcoming deadlines are published in each issue of *SnowPro*. Material should be sent to “*SnowPro* Editor” at: psia-e@psia-e.org as an MS Word document attachment.

*Pro Shop header and Your Turn header photos by Scott Markewitz. Courtesy of PSIA.*

All submitted material is subject to editing. Its use, whether solicited or not, is at the discretion of the editorial staff. All published material becomes the property of PSIA-E/EF. Articles are accepted on the condition that they may be released for publication in all National and Divisional publications.

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■ cover story, continued

len Garrett, Josh Haagen, Sue Kramer, Eric Lipton, Luke Martin, Brian Smith, and Lani Tapley. They were accompanied by Alpine Eastern Team coach Terry Barbour.

The Eastern Division has six members associated with the 2012 National Teams:

Alpine Team members: Jeb Boyd, Matt Boyd, Eric Lipton

AASI Team member: Tommy Morsch

Adaptive Team member: Geoff Krill

Adaptive Team coach: Kim SeEVERS

For a complete list of team members and news article of the 2012 National Team Tryout check out the national association website at [www.thesnowpros.org](http://www.thesnowpros.org)

We send a Big "Thank You" to the entire Eastern division for their support of the Eastern Team. It is our hope that each of you will have the opportunity to ski and ride with these snowsport leaders. Be sure to ask them about their tryout experience. They would love to share and as a member I'm sure you will appreciate their stories. ■



**Alpine Eastern Team at April 23-26 National Team Tryouts; Snowbird, Utah**  
**Top, L-R: Josh Haagen, Dave Capron, Kathy Brennan, Brian Smith, Luke Martin, Sue Kramer, Frank Cartwright, Lani Tapley**  
**Bottom, L-R: Ellen Garrett, Matt Boyd, Jeb Boyd, Eric Lipton**

## Executive Tracks



## Making Next Season Better Starts NOW

by Michael J. Mendrick  
Executive Director

This wasn't a great year. There, I said it. I'm sure most of you didn't have to read that to know that it was by most measures a season best left in the rear view mirror with little in the way of favorable weather throughout most of the Eastern Division and throughout most of the "so-called" winter season. I'm not sure when Albany, N.Y. moved to Richmond, VA but that's what it felt like most of the winter!

As a result, our numbers in key categories were down; in some cases significantly. For example, our total event registrations for the 2011-12 season were 5,400 – down 787 (-12.5%) from 2010-11 and the lowest in more than ten years. We brought in 1,123 new members – down 127 (or about 10%)

from last year. Our retention of current members came in at 87.3% for this year – down from the five-year average of nearly 88% each year.

Back in February I completed a comprehensive analysis of membership trends for the Board of Directors. One of the most revealing items that jumped out of that report was the following:

In 2002 – 2003 a total of 1,174 new members joined PSIA-AASI Eastern. Ten years later only 304 of those members remain in the organization. This represents a ten-year retention on those 1,174 new members in 2002-23 of only 26% in 2011-12. Based on this example – we are losing 3 out of 4 new members within their first ten years. Obviously this is not the kind of trend that leads to healthy growth in an organization and it helps to validate why we have seen a slow regression in membership within the Eastern Division from 11,172 in 2001-02 to 10,700 ten years later.

We track and pay close attention to such statistics and trends on a regular basis. I can assure you we don't have a pair of rose-colored glasses in our desk drawer when reviewing our reports, either. We know this is a challenging time for you as a member and for us as your organization. And we know it won't be any easier in the coming year given the impending \$11 National dues increase you are seeing in your renewal invoices this month. Hopefully the fact that you will see no Eastern Division dues increase for the coming year will help balance the overall impact.

Your division staff and your volunteer leadership have spent hundreds of hours during the past year analyzing, discussing, proposing, debating and considering dozens of different initiatives and ideas for improving your membership experience, the value you get for being a member and the ease and convenience by which you can meet your financial obligations to remain a member. Some ideas and initiatives we have complete control over and can implement without complication. Other things need the support of the National association and in some cases other PSIA-AASI divisions as well. A number of initiatives and ideas have already been endorsed by the Executive Committee and will be presented to the full Eastern Division Board of Directors on the weekend of June 23-24.

We need your input as well to help us make the best decisions and recommendations on your behalf so be looking soon for an e-mail invite to take a short survey in the near future. Also stay tuned for our summer issue of the *SnowPro* in July as I will be including a summary of Board actions and approved initiatives from their meeting in June. ■

## The Zipper Line



straight talk from the association

# Congratulations To New Alpine Education Staff Members

**C**ongratulations to the new Alpine Divisional Clinic Leaders selected at the tryouts at Mount Snow on March 20-21, 2012! These new team members will be part of the Alpine Educational Staff and serve a four year term.

Mark Absalom, Mark Aiken, Victor Antonelli, Daniel Bergeron, Terry Carey, Lonny Clark, Ned Crossley, Matt Dembinski, Brian Dolin, Ralph Olaf Eberhardt, Joshua Matta, Paul Mawhinney, Brennan McCleary, James Polinchok, Brad Poppleton, Angelo Ross, Gerardo Salazar, and Gary Saperstein.



### A SPECIAL THANKS TO FORMER ALPINE DIVISIONAL CLINIC LEADERS!

We wish to thank all the Alpine Divisional Clinic Leaders who served a four year term from 2009 to 2012. Your commitment and service to the organization and the membership is greatly appreciated. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Nick Brewster, Guy Cantrel, John Carey, Paul Conrad, John Cossaboom, Paul Crenshaw, Dick Fox, Alexis Gidley, David Langan, Lauren O'Reilly, Donald Peters, Merrill Rollins, and Austin Young. ■

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## Fall Master Teacher Indoor Courses Announced

Back by popular demand... this season the Fall Master Teacher courses will be held at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga, NY beginning Saturday, October 13 through Tuesday, October 16, 2012. The Saratoga Hilton Hotel offers abundant choices of recreational opportunities both indoors and out. Only footsteps from the hotel, there are a multitude of restaurants, antique shops, art galleries, and so much more. October is the perfect time of year to enjoy the many outdoor activities in beautiful Saratoga... and it's a great opportunity to get a jump start on your season and network with other instructors.

Specific courses for the master teacher weekend have not been finalized as of publication. The courses offered will be a different variety of core required courses as well as optional courses. Once all details have been confirmed, they will be posted on the website at [www.psia-e.org](http://www.psia-e.org) and in the summer issue of the *SnowPro* newsletter. You may register for one day or multiple days; each day will offer at least two sessions to choose from.

New this year, one low price of \$145 per day will get you:

- Continental Breakfast including fresh brewed coffee, hot tea, a variety of juices, fresh fruit, yogurt, cereal and milk, and a selection of bakery items.
- Lunch buffet with fellow participants. An exceptional lunch buffet will be served from noon until 1:00pm each day. A selection of soup, salads, pasta and sandwiches will be available.
- Fantastic course selections including:
  - **A Conversation with Fear** with Mermer Blakeslee - Designed to help instructors discover how to deal with the psychological diversity that goes along with leading a group of students in the mountain environment.
  - **Stance & Alignment** with Bill Haight and Green Mountain Orthotics - Course content will help participants break down and understand the skier system, leading to improved movement analysis. Course conductors will examine lower extremity anatomy and function, varying boot constructions, footbed casting techniques and different nuances of each system. Course leaders will also discuss heel lifts, toe lifts, Q-angle, and cant measuring protocols, and help participants understand how to assess a guest's equipment needs.
  - **Functional Movement Screen** with Brian Mieczkowski - A ranking and grading system created to document movement patterns that are key to normal function. Basic movement pattern limitations can reduce the effects of functional training, physical conditioning, and distort proprioception (body awareness).
  - **Outdoor First Care, Anatomy and Motor Learning** with Richard Frear - Richard is an outstanding course conductor who can relate complex subject matter into simple and applicable language.

**PLUS many more....**

**This is quite the value for your professional development and continuing education!**

A room block just for PSIA Members has been arranged. Discounted lodging has been reserved for PSIA Members at \$139 per room per night. Please call 518-584-4000 to make your lodging reservations, don't forget to mention PSIA when you call.

Master Teacher Courses are open to all PSIA/AASI Level I, Level II and Level III members regardless if you are pursuing a Master Teacher Certification. Participating in two one-day indoor courses will satisfy the PSIA-E/AASI continuing education requirement. The PSIA-E website has specific information on course descriptions and requirements for certification. Mark your calendars today! ■

## Certification Question Answered

*Edited by Mickey Sullivan from original article by Dave Casto, NRM Alpine Ed Staff*

Every year we receive several questions in regards to why the division does not have an exact description of or video of certification tasks. The truth is that our education staff and examiners do not want you to prepare for a specific outcome. We would be doing you a disservice if we only had one outcome in mind. Skiing, teaching, and discussing variances of a task are an effective and efficient means to determine the level of understanding candidates have in relation to the level of certification being tested.

The goal of the exam is to test your understanding and ability to implement the American Teaching System as put forth in the National Standards for each level. The underlying goal is to verify that a candidate is qualified to demonstrate, teach and present information to the desired level.

Your success relies on your ability to be versatile. Our ski areas and resorts provide a wide variety of terrain, and snow conditions can change frequently. As snow conditions change, the skill blending required to successfully complete a task can change. We recommend practicing the skiing tasks in all conditions, including less than ideal ones. The external forces that require you to adapt to achieve the desired outcomes will build your versatility.

The stepping stones concept requires a teacher be exceptionally versatile. To meet each student's needs, a teacher has to adapt presentation styles. Part of our communication to a student is our visual demonstration. Keep in mind the Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic Model (VAK). In order to effectively communicate two of the three, you need to be able to accurately perform the task you are asking of your student. When accurately demonstrating (visual) a task, you then know what it feels like (kinesthetic) for the given terrain, snow conditions, type of ski, size of turn, etc. Tasks help evaluate a candidate's ability to communicate this information to their students.

When preparing for your exam keep in mind that it has been the extremely rare instance when someone fails because of one or two tasks. The root cause of poor performance is almost always traced back to a lack of ability to consistently implement body movements in relation to the desired skill-blend while the ski interacts with the snow. In other words, candidates do not fail the exam because of a single task, there is always a fundamental link through each task.

\*\*For example; the candidate will struggle with a task such as pivot slips, do poorly on hop turns, and barely receive passing scores on their low-end demos. The problems are all related to controlling rotary skills. The link present throughout a candidates skiing will simply manifest itself more in certain tasks.

Skiing tasks for certification are not easy. They require work and dedication. I asked one of my early trainers to teach me hop turns. His response was to ask me how many I had tried. My answer was around 10-20. He told me to go do at least 500 and then come back. I thought he was a jerk. Once he saw me out trying to learn, he came and started offering some input. On a chairlift ride he told me that he could not teach me anything until I took the responsibility to learn it. This sounds harsh but was some of the best advice I ever received.

Our goal as clinicians is for you to train to pass the exam and that the skills you acquire through this process transfer into great skiing and ski teaching. ■

*continued next page*

## Master Teacher Program 2011-12 Graduates

**P**SI-A-E is proud to acknowledge the following Master Teacher Certification graduates. Master Teacher program provides instructors with an in-depth educational background in a variety of different specialty areas. In order to receive Master Teacher Certification, the instructor must complete 20 days of coursework and pass an online exam for each course. Coursework includes indoor lectures as well as on-snow application. Congratulations to the following 2012 Master Teachers.

James Kapp, Seven Springs Mountain Resort  
Leslie Bucher, Amateur Ski Instructors Association  
Seth Janssen, Massanutten Ski Resort  
Edouard Sandoz, Wachusett Mountain  
Joseph Veshinfsky  
Deborah Cowell, Hidden Valley Club  
Ellen Arnold, Swain Snowsports Academy  
Thomas Williams, Mad River Glen  
Lewis Privo, Whitetail Resort  
Chauncey Bateman, Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort  
Todd Buffington, Whitetail Resort  
Sandra Olney, Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country

### Accreditations Completed this season!

This past season 13 members completed an Accreditation. Members can achieve as many Accreditations as they wish by attending the required three courses in any of the specialty areas.

### Congratulations to those completing an Accreditation this season!

#### Backcountry

Eric Arvedon  
Stephen Maloney  
Ali Pirnar  
Aaron Prince

#### Sports Science

Seth Janssen  
Lewis Privo  
Patrick Lazzaro  
Ken Koellner

#### Coaching Advanced Skiing and Racing

Denis Donnelly  
Todd Buffington

#### Adaptive

Sandra Olney

#### Special Populations

Ellen Arnold  
Thomas Williams ■

## PSIA-E / AASI Eastern Teams Have Been Adopted!!

**T**hank you to our generous members for lending their support to members of the Eastern Team attending the 2012 National Team Tryouts. Through their donations of airline miles, hotel points, timeshares units and of course...cash, it became possible for our eastern members to compete at this high level.

This demonstrates the dedication and true devotion PSIA eastern members have in supporting PSIA/AASI and the future of the Eastern Division.

A special Thank You to the PSIA-E examiners who contributed their training expenses to the Eastern Team and to the many AASI members and staff that made team contributions. We appreciate those unnamed and unknown members that have contributed directly to many of the eastern team members attending the 2012 National Team Tryouts. Many thanks to the following members for their generous support of the Eastern Team.

Leroy Dame, Bristol Mountain Winter Resort  
Michael Murdock, Beech Mountain Resort  
Kristen Radloff, Massanutten Resort  
Susan Minton, Cataloochee Ski Area  
Marc Plotnick, Hunter Mountain  
Vic Tartaglia, Killington ■

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### SKI + RIDE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Okemo Mountain, a family operated resort for over 25 years, has an opening for a Ski + Ride School Director. Located in southern Vermont in the Village of Ludlow, Okemo offers 119 trails, 19 lifts and is recognized for snow quality, grooming and family programs. The Director is responsible for all aspects of the Ski + Ride School and staff of approximately 400 both on and off snow. The Ski + Ride School provides instruction for all ages including the children's programs, Snow Stars and Day Care. Management duties include interviewing, hiring, training, evaluating and scheduling employees and the ability to establish budgets and projections for future growth. This position also assists with marketing functions to include creating and implementing programs and representing the mountain within the industry. The ideal candidate will have previous management experience, an Associates degree in a related area, business, resort or sports management preferred, and PSIA level 2 certification or higher. Ability to ski or snowboard all terrain at an advanced level on the mountain is required. This is a Seasonal Department Head position working from September through April. Benefits include 401K, Medical, Life and Dental Insurance, Sick Time, Flex Plan, Ski & Golf Resort Discounts and more.

**TO APPLY COMPLETE AND SUBMIT  
AN ONLINE APPLICATION WITH RESUME TO:**

**Okemo Mountain Resort – Human Resources**  
77 Okemo Ridge Road, Ludlow, VT 05149  
(802) 228-1963 E-Mail: [jobs@okemo.com](mailto:jobs@okemo.com)  
Web: [www.okemo.com](http://www.okemo.com)

*Okemo Mountain is an Equal Opportunity Employer*



# In Memoriam



**Robert Cary Mahan** passed away Friday morning, Feb. 3, 2012, with his mother and father at his bedside.

Rob was born Aug. 11, 1969, in Columbus, Ohio. He was a 1987 graduate of Paul G. Blazer High School. After graduating high school, Rob moved to Snowshoe, W.Va., to pursue a career as a skiing professional.

Rob was a ski racer and instructor who became the director of Snowshoe Resort's Ski and Snowboard School for many years.

Rob was an active member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America. He achieved the highest level of certification awarded by that institution. In addition, he was an examiner and trainer for PSIA and a member of their Eastern Regional Demonstration Team, traveling and representing PSIA around the country.

Rob was a professional athlete of the highest caliber. In addition to his ski career at Snowshoe, he was a PGA teaching professional for the Hawthorne Valley Golf Club of Snowshoe Resort.

In 2004, Rob moved to Colorado to become a supervisor of training for ski instructors at Beaver Creek Resort in Avon, Colo. At Beaver Creek, Rob was a member of the National Champion Beaver Creek Synchronized Ski Team. He also competed with that team in the Synchronized World Championships for several years in Switzerland. Rob skied all over the world, from Australia and New Zealand to France, Italy and Austria. Rob was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2009. Even after his diagnosis, he became the director of training for ski instructors at Vail Resorts in Vail, Colo., the largest ski school in the world.

Rob is survived by his mother, Sudie Davis, and father, Danny Mahan, both of Ashland. He is mourned by his brothers, Cade Mahan of Ashland and Case Mahan of Brooklyn, N.Y. His sisters, Colleen Mahan Small, is a resident of Lexington. Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Mahan of Rocky Mount, Va., and former longtime residents of Ashland, are his surviving grandparents.

Rob had dear friends all over the world, and he was an inspiration to all who knew him. He was a dedicated skiing teacher and trainer who touched many lives, and he will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Ashland Community Hospice or the Snowshoe Ski Team Parents Association for the Rob Mahan Memorial Scholarship Fund, 13102 Princeville Court, Silver Spring, MD 20904. The scholarship was established this year to cover the cost of lift tickets, equipment and training for local West Virginia youth chosen for the Snowshoe Ski Team.



**James "Jim" Delaney Platt Okie, Jr.**, passed away Tuesday (December 27, 2011) after a long battle with Alzheimer's. His wife, Rowena, and his two children, Lauren and Jason were by his side. Jason had just told his dad it was time, "to find the deep powder" -alluding to Jim's love of skiing—when Jim slipped away. Jim was a large, strong man, who fought a multi-year battle with one of nature's most horrible scourges. He needed 24 hour care for the past two years, and

was attended to many times every day by his wife of 46 years as well as the compassionate and capable staff of Arden Court in Avon. Jim and Rownie lived in Canton and brought up their two children as avid outdoor enthusiasts

and loving parents. There are seven grand-children--all of them cuter than the next and a little smarter too. What a crew to behold as they gather at the old family home in Rhode Island for boating, fishing and swimming. Bring your earplugs! Jim's youth was spent in Texas, Connecticut, Ohio and Rhode Island. No wonder, he built his own family a sturdy home of post and beam on top of a hill, overlooking the Farmington Valley, where he spent his time as a contractor and a beloved and most capable kids' ski coach at Sundown. Jim was a graduate of Andover Academy, 1960, and Princeton University, 1964, where he was active in Tiger Inn and captain of the lacrosse team. He also played "helluva drums" as leader of a rock band called The Hustlers.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 20th, 2 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, River Road in Collinsville. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Jim Okie's name to one of the following charities: Roaring Brook Nature Center: [roaringbrook.org](http://roaringbrook.org); : [alz.org](http://alz.org) or the Princeton Scholarship Fund, class of '64: [princeton1964.com/fundraising](http://princeton1964.com/fundraising).. Please visit Jim's "Book of Memories" at <http://www.vincentfuneralhome.com/> for online condolences.



**Robert H. Vannier**, 92, of Ticonderoga, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Feb. 17, 2012.

Bob was born at home in Hudson Falls, on Dec. 12, 1919, the son of Howard and Helene (Sellingham) Vannier. He graduated from Hudson Falls High School in 1937. On June 21, 1941, he married Lorraine Brazier in St. Paul's Church, Hudson Falls, and they enjoyed 70 years of marriage.

Bob worked at the Curtis Wright Aircraft Manufacturing Co. in Buffalo, N.Y., from 1941 through 1945.

After World War II, he returned to his father's farm, the former Wyman Farm in Fort Ann, N.Y. Shortly thereafter, he was hired by New York Telephone Co., where he worked for 32 years, throughout upstate New York as a lineman, a residential installer, a wire chief, and retired as the inside plant manager in Ticonderoga.

Bob was a great sportsman. He was very proud of being a part of the 1984 summer Olympics as a driver for the torch relay. When Gore Mountain first opened in 1964, Bob was one of the very first ski patrolmen and served as such for 29 years, until he became an instructor in 1989 at the age of 70. At the age of 85, he was recognized as the oldest certified active ski instructor on the East Coast. He had a great time participating in the annual 70 Plus Club ski races at Gore and most recently winning a gold medal in the 90-plus age group. Many years ago while operating his own ski shop (Bob's Skee Way), he was instrumental in starting the Ticonderoga School Ski Bus.

Memorial contributions may be made to Amanda's House, 22 Henry St., Glens Falls, NY 12801, to Knights of Columbus, Council No. 333, Montcalm St., Ticonderoga, NY 12883; or a charity of your choice, in Bob's memory. ■

*The volunteer leadership and staff of PSIA-AASI Eastern extends its heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of our passing members.*



CONGRATULATIONS

to the following members who passed their **new Level II and Level III certification**

during this past season! Members who passed their Level I certification are listed on the website at: [www.psia-e.org/new](http://www.psia-e.org/new) - check it out!



**Alpine Level III Certification Examination**

- Robert J. Bacon
- Alexander B. Bassett
- Chandler R Brill
- Steven Cummings
- Zachary C. Dease
- Louis Esoldo
- Milo L. Fischer
- Scott J. Gaskell
- Martine Halford
- Tricia Harty
- Jan Hrkal
- Dan-George Icon
- Seth Janssen
- James K. Kapp
- Chip Martin
- Jeannie E. Masters
- Abbie More
- Yoonho Park
- Paul Piscitelli
- Paul G. Sawchuk
- Barbara T. Schneider
- Maria E. Tomaselli
- Amanda Tucker
- Michael Zelenko

**Alpine Level II Certification Examination**

- Bev Abplanalp
- Paul J Albrecht
- Jacques M. Archambault
- Timothy J. Bacon
- John F. Bees
- David L. Berger
- Robert H Brainard
- Allegra L Burch
- Jonathan P. Butler
- Paul Campbell
- Jaime W. Cole
- Gary P. Cook
- Tonia R. Crumpton
- Ian Danby
- Randolph H. Davis
- Carla DeMendonca
- Michael D Dixon
- Matthew A Doro
- Gault M. Farrell
- John K Faulkner
- Charles R Fleming
- Robert A. Freibaum
- Debbie K Gagon
- Phil Gelenberg
- Sean Gibson
- Aaron M Gillespie
- John Gingrich

- Steven D. Goodwin
- James Hayes, IV
- Marion Hecht
- Barbara W. Hill
- Dwight Holland
- Michael R Howe
- Brian E. Jessiman
- Filipp E. Kistenev
- Dan J. Klemann
- Jacob A. Kravitz
- Linda LeBlanc
- Jamie Lynn Litton
- Stephen Ludwig
- Christopher MacDonell
- Ashley M.D. Madden
- Daniel R. Mahoney
- Margarita Mayo
- Edward D Meltzer
- Michael Miller
- Adam D. Obletz
- Bradley R Olson
- Thomas Petersen
- Stephen M Pomeroy
- Christopher J Rider
- Brandan D Rist
- Michael D Roussel
- Kaylee C. Rumley
- Christopher Sailer
- Heidi Sampson
- Duncan M. Schmitt
- Marty Silverman
- Brian M. Smith
- Richard F. Smith
- Nancy K Spier
- Jeffrey R. Spring
- Helen J. Squitieri
- Alexander M. Stratmann
- Michael J. Sullivan
- Erik L Suvanto
- Brian C. Swedberg
- Sumiko Tanaka
- Heather C. Thomas
- John P. Thompson
- Jozsef A. Toth
- Keith M. Tuan
- Christine A VanEtten
- Gregory A. Vinogradov
- Dana Walton
- Timothy F. Willis
- Lisa Z Wood

**Snowboard Level III Certification Examination**

- Alexander Collazo
- James M. Flynn
- Joseph Forte

- Danielle Needle
- Timothy J Shannon
- Gabriel R Sylvestre
- Tim M Whitten

**Snowboard Level II Certification Examination**

- Blake Baade
- Thomas J. Baumann
- Kelsey L Beverage
- Guy W Boor
- Michelle R. Dill
- Christopher Fratkin
- Alex R. Frayer
- Gregory S. Hamilton
- Martin Hardy
- Amy Horton
- Peter Kelly
- Douglas O Klock
- Benjamin A Kuzma
- Kirsten E Lima
- Josi A Morsch
- David R Mull
- Dustin T. O'Reilly
- Alison E Pariseau
- Chandler R Pelletier
- Ian T Pfeiffer
- Geoff W. Romero
- Nicolette Sacco-Brown
- Lawrence Selph
- Andrew H. Tolbert
- Stafford S Wootten

**Telemark Level III Certification Examination**

- David H. Gould
- Andrew V. Grab
- Robert M. Johnson, Jr.

- Ali Pirnar
- Roger Rivera

**Telemark Level II Certification Examination**

- Martin Hamburger
- John P. Mann
- Chip Martin
- Peter G Ness
- Thomas A. Rogers
- Tomasz Wieczorek
- Bruce Wolcott

**Cross Country Level III Certification Examination**

- Neal T. Graves
- Michael Innes

**Cross Country Level II Certification Examination**

- Lori F. Innes
- Daniel J. Sandberg

**Adaptive Level II Certification Examination**

- Marcel Chaine
- James Freedman
- Harold Sandstrom
- Sam Shaver
- Christopher S Williams

**Adaptive Level II Certification Examination**

- Catherine Zinn

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## Region 1 & 2 Board Election Results

By Michael J. Mendrick, Executive Director

Below are the 2012 PSIA-AASI Eastern final Board of Directors election results for Regions 1 and 2 as tabulated by our secured online voting website at VoteNet. Please note that per PSIA-E bylaws only one Board representative in each region can be an education staff member (defined for elections as an examiner or ETS member).

As you can see the level of voting activity was very high (571 votes in Region 1; 490 in Region 2) and all candidates received strong support. In fact, total voter participation of 1,061 more than tripled from 341 combined Region 1 & 2 votes in 2009.

Congratulations to those elected (or re-elected). Their three-year terms began April 1, 2012 and will run through March 31, 2015. Also, our thanks to retiring Region 2 Director Steve O'Connor (who did not run for re-election) for his service, energy, ideas and involvement during his terms. Steve will be recognized formally by his peers at the 2012 Snowsports School Management Seminar banquet in early December.

### REGION 1 Board of Directors

Total Eligible Voters:1,507

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Jason Audette	81	14%
<b>Ross Boisvert (Regional Representative)</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Tom Butler (Eastern Staff) (Regional Director)</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>29%</b>
Jeffrey "Jake" Jacobsen	84	15%
Chandler Simpkins (Eastern Ed Staff Employee)	96	17%

### REGION 2 Board of Directors

Total Eligible Voters:1,329

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
<b>Curtis Cowles (Regional Representative)</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>31%</b>
John Hobbs (Eastern Ed Staff Employee)	140	29%
<b>Katherine Rockwell (Regional Director)</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>40%</b>

## Region 1 (NH & ME)

**Tom Butler, Regional Director, reports:** Hello Region 1. Ross and I want to thank you for your support in this year's elections. We are humbled by your show of support and will, as always, strive to represent your needs and concerns to the best of our abilities.

Back in March, Sunday River graciously hosted a Region 1 meeting in conjunction with the events being held at that time. Below are the notes from that meeting. I should mention that anything that is in the first person is not my opinion, but rather that of the member(s) making the comment. The meeting lasted just about one hour.

### Topics Discussed:

- CS1 & CS2 generated a lot of discussion.
  - Some members shared that they wanted to pursue their certification and can teach kids but don't want to and don't feel that they should be forced to.
  - Another member wondered if perhaps if one came from an education background that the CS1 & 2 could be waived. For instance someone with 20 years classroom experience or post grad Ed degrees would fall into this category.
  - The business of kids vs. the age of our membership quite a disparity. Most ski schools are 60% kids biz (+/-) and 70% of membership are 50+
- Exam changes
  - While we're so focused at the moment on kids and racing, what about freestyle? We are constantly trying to lure younger members into the organization but freestyle isn't a part of the process. Shouldn't we look at this as a component like the CS 1 & 2
  - When going to an exam, have a 'major'. You would do everything offered at the exam but depending on your chosen 'major', you would specialize in something e.g. kids, racing, freestyle...

Question arose as to who was driving all this exam change which Peter Howard answered commenting on the length of other divisional exams, the relationship with RM and BOD involvement

NASTAR needs to be reworked. Inconvenient in terms of travel to official sites. A member commented that racing is a very small portion of what we do yet this will become a major part of the exam preparation and the exam itself.

- Exam consistency / meaning of the pin
  - A couple of members commented that they want their pin to mean something and they don't have issues with the exam changes. The test should be hard because ultimately it's the journey that counts. The pin should mean something and the same thing no matter where you are in the country.
  - Peter Howard offered information regarding the length of exams out west and internationally to show perspective on our exam process.
    - A clarification was asked for what "in the process" meant. Peter Howard clarified that it was upon completion of the written test and that there was a five-year grandfather clause for anyone who took the written prior to the end of this season.
    - A suggestion was thrown out that the PSIA office should send out a blanket email to all members explaining what "in the process" indeed meant. Some comments ensued that the organization could stand to make quite a bit of money in the next few weeks from people trying to get in under the deadline.
    - One member commented that if directors valued the Level I so much then they should pay for it.

continued next page

## ■ around the regions, continued

### 4. Marketing

- A couple of members commented that kids may be the bulk of our business but that's because whom we are advertising to. Parents of young families though don't have the money like older guests and retirees do. The organization and ski schools for that matter should be going after the money, which is with our older clientele.
- It was commented that we should offer adult programs for mature adults such as stress free skiing, stress free bump skiing and race at mature pace. (pointed out that we do indeed have programs targeted at seniors)

To wrap up, by this point the national tryouts have happened at Copper and Snowbird. I wanted to congratulate all who took the step to enter this process and who worked so hard to improve in the lead up to these tryouts. Thank you for your efforts; we are all better professionals due to your quest. If I can use the metaphor that a rising tide floats all ships...well we are the ships and you are the tide. A powerful image and one for which I, for one benefitted.

As always, please send any comments or concerns to delbocavista98@yahoo.com and thank you for reading.

Tom Butler, Regional Director

Ross Boisvert, Regional Rep

## Region 2 (VT)

**Curtis Cowles, Regional Rep reports:** Hello Region 2!! Well, that was quick. Mid-March was a disaster with too many days in the 80's. With the late beginning and early ending, Bromley had forty less ski days than previous years. Stratton, Okemo, Mount Snow and others, closed the 25th of March, one of the earliest dates ever. However, Killington, Stowe and Jay Peak survived the warmth and still had lifts turning as of 4/2/12. Bicyclist and motorcyclist enjoyed the warmth, but the weather has since turned seasonable chilly. So I hope you got some ski days in April!

At this time, Region Two would like to thank retired Region 2 Director Steve O'Conner for his years of service. It was a pleasure serving next to him.

Katherine Rockwell and I would like to thank all who voted in Region Two this season. We are your elected BOD Region 2 Representatives, and if you have something you wish for us to bring up in the June Board Meeting, don't hesitate to contact us. You can reach Katherine at krockwell@picomountain.com (Director) or me, Curt Cowles at gardencenter@comcast.net (Representative).

Thank you,  
Curt

## Region 3 (MA, CT & RI)

### **David Welch, Regional Director reports:**

This is the time of year that I like to thank all of the areas that hosted PSIA – AASI events. Each and every season a large number of areas big and small show their support for our association by providing lift tickets, meeting space, and great conditions for our educational events. Given the challenges we all faced this past season due to the weather the owners, operations staff and school directors all did outstanding jobs in helping us get in as many events as possible! Let's hope that mother nature has lots of snow in store for us next time around.

Dave Beckwith our Regional Representative hosted our annual regional meeting on Sunday January 8, 2012 at Mt Southington, CT. Fifty members from around the region attended along with Joan Heaton the PSIA-E Area Representative Coordinator. Agenda topics included the Eastern Division budget and certification changes, the PSIA-AASI survey and the upcoming National dues increase. With so much happening on all fronts it was good to get your thoughts on these important matters, thank you to those that participated!

Next year is an election year for our region so if you are interested in serving on the Eastern Division Board of Directors this will be your opportunity to get involved! Successful candidates will serve a three year term on the board beginning in March 2013. This fall in the *SnowPro* there will be a call for candidates, this is where you start the election process so keep an eye out for this all important issue.

In other news Mt Southington will be hosting its 6th annual golf tournament to benefit the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Children's Adaptive Ski program on July 22, 2012 at the Southington Country Club. Anyone interested in participating should go to <http://connecticutchildrensfoundation.org/mtsouthington> or contact Dave Beckwith at [davelee26@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davelee26@sbcglobal.net).

That's all for now but if you have any questions, comments or news you'd like to pass along please contact me at [dbwelch317@att.net](mailto:dbwelch317@att.net) or Dave Beckwith at [davelee26@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davelee26@sbcglobal.net) and have a great summer!

## Region 4 (PA & NJ)

### **Eric Jordan, Regional Director, reports:**

The winter or lack thereof seems like a distant memory at this point in time. Let's hope that Mother Nature is kinder to us next year! Even though we had a less than desirable winter, Region 4 members once again turned out in huge numbers to attend educational events.

A special thanks to our professional staff in the Albany office. They worked tirelessly to accommodate all members throughout this challenging

season. When events get cancelled or relocated, our staff always has the member's best interest at hand and they try their best to transfer everyone into another event that fits your schedule.

We anticipate a very busy off season and plan on continuing to work with the National office to represent the needs of the Eastern Division members. This topic, among other will be the focus of our upcoming Board of Directors meeting in June. Speaking of the Board of Directors, this coming winter we will be holding an election for Region 3, 4 and 7. I would encourage everyone to consider running for the Board. It is a great way to represent your Region and get involved as a volunteer leader.

That's all for now, I will be sure to give you a full report after our spring Board of Director meeting

## Region 6 (Eastern NY State)

**Region 6 Director Brian Smith reports:** It's not over until it's over. Winter that is! Wow what a crazy winter of weather this year. Despite the unseasonably warm weather areas in Region 6 delivered some great skiing!

As the season winds down to a close Region 6 has been busy over the last few weeks of skiing. Jack Jordan Region 6 Representative held a Regional meeting at Belleayre in Mid-March. There was good skiing that day and good friends sharing a lot of ideas, comments, and experiences about the membership. Almost 50 members attended the meeting. This is awesome! I received excellent meeting minutes from Jack and here are some of the highlights discussed.

1. Membership Demographics – Promote to the youth. (Educate kids to the benefits of being a pro, have an off season mailer to school and community centers highlighting benefits.)
2. Program events. (Examiner visits "Guest appearances" per school request) (Mini pro-jams less expensive that allow members to commute from home)
3. Create higher organization visibility (poster campaigns updated / advertising ski publications.)
4. Snow Sports management & promote PSIA value. (Tie PSIA/AASI certification to private lesson distribution / training efforts with comp tickets perks 5 clinics = 1 free comp, i.e.)
5. Encourage schools to work with their managements to continue to invite other pros to their resorts. Give tours to visiting pros.
6. Take a continued look at building the "in house" exam concept. Cut the logistical expenses down for members, lodging, gas, meals
7. Concerns about the medal requirements to the Nastar requirement for level 2, 3. Knowledge of racing was received well. Nastar medal requirement was questioned.
8. Due increase was discussed without much op-

position. It was noted that the increase has a lot to do with maintaining the standard of benefits provided. Jack and Kathy Jordan noted that their affiliation with PSIA/AASI saved them \$500 dollars in lifts tickets on a recent trip to Colorado. 😊

9. Cs1 and Cs2 concept was well received and the majority believes these events serve as a valuable resource for Snowsports education that meets the primary market demands.

As you can see there were many topics discussed at this meeting. The members of Region 6 are passionate people who take a lot of pride in what they do and in the association. The topics mentioned will be reviewed in preparation of our annual June board meeting. It is our intention to report these and other ideas received from the Gore, Whiteface and Belleayre meetings as well as comments received throughout the season. Thank you very much to all of our members who took an interest in participating in all three of these regional meetings. As we complete our season and set our sights to the future, there are many things we can do as members to help make our association better. The most important is to communicate your ideas and suggestion to your local area representative and regional reps and continue to take part in our collective effort to make this association great!

We would like to give a big thanks to our divisional office and the staff who work there. This season was a difficult one to manage as far as event

planning, staffing, and membership support. Our Eastern office staff did an amazing job negotiating through a tough season. Thank you very much for a job well done.

We all have ideas and concerns. Remember. At the end of the day we all want to ski and ride and have fun. There are many things within an association that can be changed to improve performance. I truly believe the best way to contribute to the growth and image of PSIA/AASI is in every lesson we teach. Show the people you care and show them a fun time. Change they're skiing and riding and we all become more valuable, to the guests, the managements, and to those who have yet to ski and ride.

Have a great spring!! Be active. Be healthy.

Brian Smith

Region 6 Director

## Region 7 (States south of PA & NJ)

**Paul Crenshaw, Regional Director reports:**

Let's hope this winter's weather is not repeated in a very long time. I am sure we all have stories concerning events at our mountains which are directly centered on the weather. The weather did have some effect on events held in several regions in our division. Some were cancelled because the resort did not have enough snow or even open,

others were cancelled due to lack of participants because with business down some of us did not make the early Christmas income needed to attend events. Our office really worked hard to not cancel events, even holding many with only 5 participants.

We held our Region 7 Meeting in February at Massanutten Resort in conjunction with several ski and snowboard events. We had a great turnout with over 60 members attending. Walter presented a slide program detailing facts he obtained about Region 7. Each of you has since received this slide program through e-mail and many of you have contacted Walter and me about your views and concerns about some of this data. We do appreciate the time you have taken to share your views with us. The next PSIA-E Board meeting will be held in June. If anyone has specific issues needing to be raised at the meeting, please let us know.

With your season now over it is time to start reading and preparing for next season. Keep your conditioning program going and let's hope next year's weather is better. Contact Walter or me with your concerns about your organization.

Paul Crenshaw pcrenshaw@massresort.com

Walter Jaeger wjager@mac.com

## Regions not reporting Region 5 ■

## f.y.i.

### Kudos to you for your persistence and patience!!

What a season this has been, or shall we say - hasn't been. With the many last minute rescheduling and/or cancellation of many events in March, we would like to take a moment to THANK YOU for your understanding, patience and timely responses. We appreciate your support during this challenging season. All participants that were registered should have received an appropriate refund and a continuing education credit waiver as needed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 518-452-6095. ■

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## A special thank you to Eastern Division Snowsports Schools

This has been a record breaking season! The first snowfall in October was a promising start to the season. How wrong we were... high temps, little snow and frequent rain made for some challenging situations to say the least. We would like to thank you for your efforts in providing the best possible conditions for the PSIA-E and AASI events scheduled this season, especially those in March. We understand and appreciate the extra effort from all the staff at each resort! ■



## Upcoming *SnowPro* Copy Deadlines

If you are submitting articles, information or ads for the *SnowPro* please note the following deadlines for upcoming issues:

**Summer 2012: July 9, 2012**

## Writing Guidelines

General member submissions to the *SnowPro* should not exceed 1,000 words and should be sent to [mmendrick@psia-e.org](mailto:mmendrick@psia-e.org) as a MS Word document attachment. Please see additional guidelines on page 2 of this issue under General Information. Thank you! ■

# Thank You!

Once again, we extend a big "Thank You" to the following areas who hosted one or more of our events this past season. Their generous support continues to assist us in providing members with quality programs at the best possible value.

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| Bear Creek Mountain Resort       | Mount Snow Resort              |
| Beech Mountain Resort            | Mount Sunapee Resort           |
| Belleayre Mountain               | Mount Van Hoevenberg           |
| Big Boulder                      | Ober Gatlinburg                |
| Blandford Ski Area               | Okemo Mountain Resort          |
| Blue Knob All Seasons Resort     | Olympic Sports Complex         |
| Blue Mountain Ski Area           | Pats Peak Ski Area             |
| Bolton Valley Resort             | Peek n' Peak Resort & Spa      |
| Bousquet Ski Area                | Pico Mountain                  |
| Bretton Woods Mountain Resort    | Plattekill Mountain            |
| Bristol Mountain Winter Resort   | Ragged Mountain Ski Area       |
| Bromley Mountain                 | Rikert Nordic Center           |
| Burke Mountain Resort            | Roundtop Mountain Resort       |
| Camelback Mountain Resort        | Saddleback Mountain Resort     |
| Cannon Mountain                  | Seven Springs Mountain Resort  |
| Cataloochee Ski Area             | Shawnee Peak Ski Area          |
| Catamount Ski Area               | Ski Academy of Switzerland     |
| Craftsbury Outdoor Center        | Ski Bradford                   |
| Cranmore Mountain Resort         | Ski Butternut                  |
| Crotched Mountain                | Ski Sundown                    |
| Elk Mountain Ski Resort          | Sleepy Hollow Inn              |
| Garnet Hill Lodge & XC Ski Area  | Smugglers Notch Resort         |
| Gore Mountain                    | Sno Mountain                   |
| Greek Peak Mountain Resort       | Snowshoe Mountain Resort       |
| Gunstock Mountain Resort         | Stowe Mountain Resort          |
| Gunstock X-C & Snowshoe Center   | Stratton Mountain Ski Resort   |
| Hidden Valley Club               | Sugarbush Resort               |
| Hidden Valley Resort             | Sugarloaf Mountain Resort      |
| Holiday Valley Resort            | Sunday River Ski Resort        |
| Holimont Ski Area                | Swain Resort                   |
| Hunter Mountain                  | Thunder Ridge Ski Area         |
| Jack Frost Mountain              | Timberline Four Seasons Resort |
| Jay Peak Resort                  | Toggenburg Mountain            |
| Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort      | Wachusett Mountain Ski Area    |
| Killington                       | Waterville Valley Resort       |
| Kissing Bridge                   | West Mountain Ski Resort       |
| Labrador Mountain                | Weston Ski Track               |
| Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Ctr | Whiteface Mountain             |
| Liberty Mountain                 | Whitetail Resort               |
| Loon Mountain Resort             | Wildcat Mountain               |
| Mad River Glen                   | Windham Mountain               |
| Maple Wind Farm                  | Wintergreen Resort             |
| Massanutten Resort               | Wisp Resort                    |
| McIntyre Ski Area                | Yawgoo Valley Ski Area         |
| Middlebury College Snow Bowl     |                                |

# 2011-2012 EF Scholarship Award Recipients

Total scholarships awarded: \$ 13,589.00

Name	Scholarship Fund	Name	Scholarship Fund	Name	Scholarship Fund
Louisa Abarno	Membership	Reid Gryder	Membership	Jeanmarie Miller	Membership
Bev Abplanalp	Membership	John Gula	Membership	Kelly Myhan	Membership
Gary Amon	Membership	Hanna Haidar	Leader	Kathleen New	Membership
Jeffrey Baker	Membership	Leslie Hall	Membership	Frederick Newcombe	Membership
Rob Barrese	Terry	Michael Hower	Membership	Bradley Olson	Membership
Lisa Batchelder	Membership	Neil Jordan	Membership	Dustin O'Reilly	Membership
Judy Bechard	Leader	Kimberley Kalinowski	Membership	Robin Paul	Leader
Bruce Bennett	Burbridge	Michael Kaplan	Membership	Jason Piasecki	Membership
Jessica Bisbee	Membership	James Kapp	Membership	David Rhoads	Membership
Gregory Bischoff	Membership	Alyda Karreman	Burbridge	Geoff Romero	Membership
Sandra Bohling	Membership	Barbara Keller	Membership	Emilia Sadonis	Membership
Daniel Bruns	Membership	Robert Klemm	Membership	Daniel Sandberg	Membership
Judi Bruns	Membership	Ron Kubicki	Membership	Joseph Savitch	Membership
Alison Buhler	Leader	Nancy Lee	Membership	Lisa Segal	Ed Staff
Daryl Burleigh	Membership	Susan Lehman	Terry	Charlene Smolkowicz	Membership
Michelle Carey	Membership	Kevin Leyland	Membership	Tyler Sullivan	Membership
Bill Cherry	Membership	Laura Liebel	Membership	Michele Tulp	Membership
Mark Connors	Membership	Kathleen Lockwood	Burbridge	Christopher Ujvagi	Membership
Paul Crenshaw	Ed Staff	Peter Lucatuorto	Membership	Scott Unsworth	Membership
Tonia Crumpton	Membership	Virginia Mainus	Membership	Fran Vall	Membership
Michael Cuzydlo	Terry	Amy Marron	Membership	Herbert Whitaker	Membership
Julie Dillenbeck	Terry	Sally McMurdo	Burbridge	John Whitney	Leader
Christina Dushenko	Membership	Jeffrey McWilliams	Membership	Patricia Whitney	Leader
Kaitlin Flor	Membership	Katherine Merriman	Membership	Jane Woodman	Membership
John Galvin	Membership	Philip Michel	Membership	Aga Wusatowska-Sarnek	Ed Staff

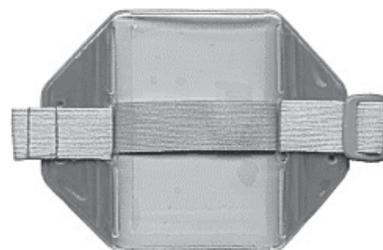


## Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting (which fell victim to cancellation along with the Spring Rally in March) has been rescheduled to coincide with the annual spring meeting of the Eastern Division Board of Directors on the weekend of June 23-24. The meeting for members will take place from 4 – 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 23 at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, NY. If you are planning to attend please send an e-mail to executive director Michael Mendrick at [mmendrick@psia-e.org](mailto:mmendrick@psia-e.org) so adequate seating can be arranged. ■

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#### Accommodations:

Private Cabins in Picturesque Location,  
Home-cooked meals

### Camp Director and Head Coach:

Dave Gregory is Peak Performance Camp Director and founder (Founded in 1985). Program Director & Head Coach Mt. Washington Valley Ski Team, Former Head Coach Dartmouth Women's Ski Team, USSCA and PSIA certified. 2005 NH State Coach of the Year.

### Coaches:

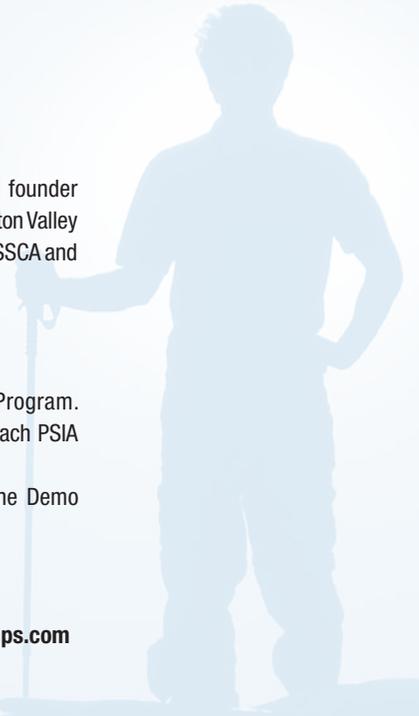
Shawn Smith (Program Director MWV/Cranmore J3 Program. Former Director of Skiing, Stevens Pass. Former member / coach PSIA Demo Team)

Luke Martin (5 yr PPSC coach, PSIA, ETS, Eastern Alpine Demo Team Member)

Other staff TBA

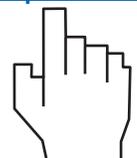
**For information and camp fees visit [peakperformancecamps.com](http://peakperformancecamps.com)**

Dave Gregory, Director, Cell # 603-520-1642



Where's the rest?

If you have this issue in your hands, you'll notice it's a bit shorter than usual. Well, so was the season and the snowfall amounts throughout the East! As such, we had to make some adjustments to this issue. But don't worry, the rest is still there, but virtually. You can find the entire Spring Issue of *SnowPro* at [www.psia-e.org](http://www.psia-e.org)

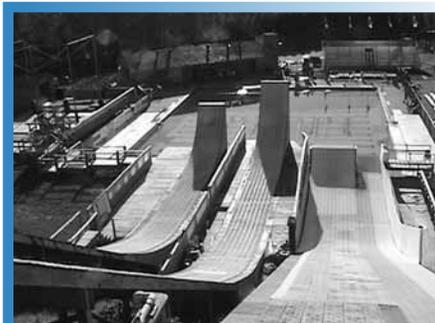


*And now, the rest of the story:*

## On-Any-Gear JUMPING EVENT at Lake Placid, NY

Wednesday and Thursday, September 5 & 6, 2012

FEATURE EVENTS				\$220
Num.	Event	Dates	Location	Deadline
001	Jumping Event	Sept 5-6, 2012	Lake Placid Jumping Complex	08/15/12



**To Register:** Please visit the website ([www.psia-e.org](http://www.psia-e.org)) for an event application, fill it out and submit by the deadline of August 15, 2012. The cost is \$220 for PSIA-E/AASI members; \$245 for non-members. **Non-members, Registered and Level I Members must interview with Mickey Stone prior to registering.** Please e-mail him at: [cpage3@aol.com](mailto:cpage3@aol.com). Applicants must be 16 years of age or above to participate. This event can be used for update credit for any discipline. Price includes coaching by PSIA-E/AASI Education Staff and ORDA coaches, trampoline usage, facility storage, pool fees, and handouts.

Fax your completed application to 518-452-6099 or...

Mail your completed application to 1A Lincoln Avenue, Albany, NY 12205

**Location:** The jumping complex is located just east of Lake Placid, NY, on route 73. Approaching from 73 west, the pools and jumps are on your left. Meet at the Complex Gate house, which is just above the pools, at 8:15am each day. You can't miss it - just drive to the base of the 90-meter jump.

**Lodging:** There is plenty of lodging nearby; go to "Lake Placid Lodging" on the web where you'll find a lot of places to suit your style and wallet.

**Schedule:** Training Time period will be 9am- 4pm each day, with a 1-hr lunch break. Feel free to bring lunch. There is a snack bar with lunch at the pools, and it is a short drive to town.

**Snowboarders:** You must be at least AASI Level II. If you have participated in the past events, and are not Level II but could negotiate the ramp-sliding portion effectively, please contact Mickey Stone via e-mail at: [cpage3@aol.com](mailto:cpage3@aol.com). Wrist guards, kneepads and full clothing from head to toe is required for your safety.

**Preparation:** You will be training on trampolines for at least half of the first morning. Wear clothing appropriate for working out. No shoes allowed, so wear appropriate socks. Also, jewelry and sharp objects need to be taken off. These trampolines are outside, so you'll need to dress for the weather.

### For the pool you will need:

- Boots that can get wet for Telemark, Snowboard or Alpine.
- Skis or boards, preferably short, 150-175 cm. It works best with less shaped skis. So your straightest, shortest pair would be the best.

- Helmet a must. A Pro Tec or ski helmet preferred; no bike helmets because you need some type of soft or hard earflap in case you don't quite land right in the water. Strap must be worn.
- PFD approved personal flotation device; not a seat cushion over your shoulders.
- Mouthguard found at any sports store (Play it Again, etc). One you put in hot water and form to your mouth.
- Optional
- Wet suit, shorty, Lycra suits, etc. Whatever you will be comfortable in during the temperature of the day. The water is not heated; it is in the cool 70s.
  - Towels, sunscreen and cameras or video.

### Schedule:

#### Day 1

- 8:15-8:45 Meeting/Organization/Handouts/Waivers
- 8:45-Noon Framing Safety and Training Groups
  - \* Warm-up flexibilities
  - \* Trampoline etiquette and instruction
  - \* Landing/turning/twisting/height
  - \* Advanced moves for those with past training
  - \* Viewing National Teams who are there

#### Lunch

- 1:00-4:00 Afternoon Gear prep/ Waxing/Safety on jumps/Into the water
  - \* Approach/Take-off/Maneuver/Landing
  - \* Adding tricks

#### Day 2

Repeat and continuation of the above. Trampoline to warm-up and into the pool when ready. The goal is to become more accurate with the basics and to add some tricks.

This is an excellent event to begin your freeride career. It allows you to learn how to become more aware of your body in the air, and what movements affect you during approach, take-off, performing the maneuver, and landing. Basic trampoline maneuvers will be performed before any tricks are added. The basic and simplest maneuvers will be experienced before adding more difficult ones. ■



## Season ending thoughts

By Ted Fleischer, AASI Advisor

I'd like to welcome three new Dev Team members to the AASI Educational Staff. They are Danny Murawinski from Wintergreen, VA, Toby Burrows from Peek n Peak, NY, and Amy Gan from Stratton, VT. We are pleased to welcome these folks to the AASI Education Staff, and acknowledging their stellar performance against some VERY strong competition. These folks will make up the class of 2012 which also includes brand new Ed Staff members Bonnie Kolber and Chris Marcoux, pending board approval of all members in this class of five. I'm also excited to report that some veteran clinicians will be joining us as well.

The AASI Eastern Team has recently returned from the National Team tryout at Copper Mt, CO. They represented themselves and the Eastern division extremely well. The AASI education staff was able to support some of their expenses with the sale of special "AASI EAST" stickers.

Congratulations to our own AASI-East Tommy Morsch who made the AASI National Team of six riders. This is Tommy's second term on the team.

Ted Fleischer  
AASI Advisor - Eastern Division ■



**Congratulations to the new members of the AASI DEV team**  
From left to right: Amy Gan, Danny Murawinski, Ted Fleischer (AASI coordinator), Toby Burrows



## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The winners of the Burton Snowboard Promotions which were held this season are:

AASI Level III Member - Tim Whitten from Waterville Valley  
Tim attained his AASI Level III certification and also won a Burton snowboard

AASI Level II Member – Amy Horton from Bromley  
Amy attained her AASI Level II certification and also won a Burton snowboard

**Thanks to Burton Snowboard for being such a great PSIA-E/AASI 2011/2012 sponsor! ■**





with loose heels

By Mickey Stone  
PSIA-E Nordic Coordinator

**W**as it the winter that never arrived? After being spoiled last season with over 300 in of snow all over New England we suffered through approximately 85-125 in of natural snow fall this year. At most we had 3-4 storms with accumulation of over 8 in. This was the season to be at an area with powerful snowmaking. Unfortunately, Nordic areas and natural snow areas took a big hit this season.

On average our Nordic areas had about 50% of the days they had open last season. Once again the industry buzz is surrounding around affordable and efficient snowmaking. Just this season three major Nordic resorts put in place small portable systems. The cost of making the snow is easily off set by large race venues coming in from high school and college teams.

When you look at the overall ski industry and you see a major player like Chamonix Valley in the French Alps looking to replace the infamous Agui de Midi that was built by rock climbers and engineers in the mid 1940's with a new Doppelmeier Tram to the base of Mount Blanc at approximately 14,000 plus feet, you know someone is taking global warming seriously. This lift will cost 107 million dollars and be finished sometime in 2017, so they can ski form 10,000 ft and above. Incredible!

Despite the low snow year and the shortened season we still did well overall. Early season numbers were good, a number of in-houses went off, all the backcountry events made it and our numbers in exams were good.

Break out the bikes or head west to finish the season. Thanks for all of your support this past season. ■

## Your Turn



now online at [www.psia-e.org](http://www.psia-e.org)

## Experiential Learning: We All Need It

By Missy Wolff-Burke  
*Adaptive, Level II*

**I** spent two days this week at the Bart J Ruggiere Adaptive Sports Center at Bromely Mountain, VT learning how to mono-ski. Sure I "KNOW" how to do it, I "KNOW" how to teach it, I "KNOW" how to analyze the movement challenges that my client demonstrates when mono-skiing. But I did NOT KNOW was what it felt like to be: a beginner on snow, afraid to commit to the fall line, dependent, and on the receiving end of assistance.

The course was titled: Mono-Skiing, Experiential Learning. And it was exactly that. We spent time analyzing the skiing of an experienced mono-skier (Betsy Hurley), who showed us smooth and effortless skiing even in the fresh powder that we received for the second day. We spent time talking PSIA terminology and technique and philosophy. But what really counted was the time spent in the mono-ski. The point of the dowel test became apparent when I was the one trying to reach that balanced point. The hesitation to initiate that next turn was suddenly perfectly understandable. The need to realign, and perhaps re-buckle is obvious, when after a fall you feel the detrimental effects of a forward hip or raised knee. The consequence of looking down, not reaching on the diagonal

with the rigger, and not finishing the turn was obvious as I experienced regular face-to-face time with the snow and pondered my mistake while waiting for someone to get me upright to try again.

And that is I think one on the most valuable lessons I received. Accepting help from others, for me, a giver-of-help, is an unusual, uncomfortable and humbling experience. I found myself feeling badly for the person who was constantly picking me up, annoyed at myself for making his day harder, and frustrated for not being able to get it right the first, or even second time. I marveled at his patience, persistence, and dogged belief that I would master this thing, and the cheery and believable optimism of the others in the group.

Being on the receiving end of this attention was experiential learning of a sort that I did NOT KNOW I would receive when I signed up for this course and did NOT KNOW I needed. Walking/skiing a mile in someone else's shoes/bucket is a lesson that we all need to have now and again. It is part of the learning and takes "knowing" to another level that will make me a better instructor in a number of different ways. ■

*This section is utilized for the publication of articles from the membership, and we invite your active participation. Content reflects the opinion and knowledge of the writers only, and is not to be interpreted as official PSIA-E information.*

# Movement Analysis... Scary Stuff?

By Tom Chase

PSIA-E Alpine Examiner Training Squad

**M**ovement...Analysis. Two words that strike fear in the hearts of *SnowPros*, new and old. But, Movement Analysis doesn't have to be a "scary monster". All *SnowPros* have the ability to perform basic Movement Analysis. Let's see how.

Luckily, we don't have to work from an empty snowscape. We have some tools that have been developed to help. Let's start with a basic, physical framework for skier's movements; we'll call it the "Skills Concept +1". It allows us to focus in on specific movements and to categorize them as Balancing movements, Rotary movements, Edge Control movements or Pressure Control movements. Directional movements (the +1) are also integral to modern skiing. These skills are all inter-related. We use the Skills Concept +1 to help categorize our student's body motions and the outcomes that they produce between the skis and snow. Understanding where these movements fit best helps us to pick the right things for our students to work on. Note that every movement a student makes, or doesn't make, has a direct effect on their ski performance.

For example, let's say one of your beginner wedge skiers is having a hard time turning their skis. They go straight by you and you notice that their legs are hanging on the backs of their boots, their hips are over their rear bindings, hands are by their sides and their spine is bolt upright. That's a big hint to you that the student is in the back seat and needs fore/aft balance adjustment right away.

Let's bring out some more options in the observation department besides just watching skiers go by. You may have heard that it makes sense to watch a student coming toward you, going by you and moving away from you as you are standing on the slope. This is a tried and true approach to viewing a student's skiing, but try these other options too. Try:

- examining what shape (path) their skis follow
- looking at the details of the tracks left behind in the snow
- following near a student – behind or to the side
- mimicking a student's movements (synchro with them)
- listening to the sounds their skis make through some turns
- looking at the skis only, through a number of maneuvers
- focusing on one part of a student's movement, or maneuver

What other options can you think of?

What skills from the Skills Concept +1 did you observe them doing well? What skills need modification?

Let's say you are mimicking a skier from behind and you discover that their skis skid at the end of each turn and that their upper body is rotating strongly towards the inside of the turn after the fall line. You run through the Skills Concept +1 and you decide that this student is going a little overboard with their rotary movements in the upper body.

Now, when you have some valid ski performance observations like this, things that you see repeating and not just occurring once, move on to assess the effectiveness of the movements that produced them. Maybe you've got a great mental video of good skiing, but if you don't, fear not. There is a great cheat sheet for alpine skiing that you can even pull out on the chairlift. It's called Visual Cues for Effective/Ineffective Skiing. These pocket size cue cards describe and show effective and ineffective skiing movements. They're even arranged by primary skill.

So, play your mental video of the student's movements. Relate those key movements to the Skills Concept +1. Know how these movements tie in with

how the student's skis were moving down the hill. Move from large movements to more subtle ones. Do these movements match your understanding of effective skiing? If they do, that's great! Give some positive feedback to your student and take her all over the mountain to build on those skills. Seek out activities and terrain that will strengthen her effective movements.

Did you observe inefficient ski performance, or movements that were exaggerated or out of sequence? Would these movements block all progress if left unchanged? If so, you need to address them right away. Make a plan to guide your skier to more effective movement options, then take him on a mountain adventure, working on skill development in a fun, high mileage way.

Let's look back at our upper body rotator. He needs to develop the rotary movements in his legs and cut back on the upper body rotation to be more effective. After some static exercises to promote turning the legs, you can have the student make direction changes where he focuses on moving both ski tips continuously in one direction. This continuous ski guidance should help him develop more predictable, C-shaped turns along with the speed control and confidence that goes with them. Then pile on the mileage, with your guidance.

Hopefully you've gained some additional insight into Movement Analysis. Take the tools discussed here and put them to work in your lessons. Try some that you haven't used before. Practice with your peers. Question someone from the Educational Staff or your supervisor if you need additional guidance. Building a solid foundation for Movement Analysis is a fundamental requirement for all ski teachers. No matter how good you are at it, you can always improve.

Once you get into it, it's not even scary...it's fun. ■

## Be the Ball

Angelo Ross

Region IV

Alpine Technical Director, Hidden Valley Ski and Board School

"Ok, does everyone understand the task?" "Yes, but do you want us to **demo** it or **ski** it?"

**T**his was an exchange during one of my clinics a few weeks ago. I don't particularly remember the topic or the task; medium radius turns on a green/blue (turquoise? aqua?) run, maybe. It is an exchange I've had before; but never really thought about it much. I never thought much about my answer either: "Ski it." But, a few nights ago on my way home from our regularly scheduled and totally voluntary Wednesday night clinic—having been asked again, "Demo it or ski it?" and having answered, "Ski it,"—I began to wonder exactly what it was I was telling people and what any of it might mean.

We instructors say **demo** a lot—much more than civilians do: "Did you demo the new Fischer P900 yet? It's sweet!?" (Yes, shameless plug); "Hey, when is the demo van coming?"; "When you demo this task in the exam be sure to smile, or at least don't look so forlorn."; "I'm hungry. I'm gonna go demo the vegetarian chili." **Demo** is, of course, a shortened form of *demonstrate* (because we're so busy), but have you ever thought about what *demonstrate* means? *Demonstrate* comes from the Latin *demonstrare*, "to point out, indicate; to establish". You can dig more deeply: the *de-* part of the word has a wide array of connotations. It can mean *down, down*

continued next page

## ■ your turn, continued

from, off: descend your favorite slope. It can negate a word: defrost your windshield before driving home. In many words it means *entirely*, and this is the meaning that the Online Etymology Dictionary identifies in *demonstrate*—to “entirely” *monstrate*? But what does that mean? Interestingly (perhaps, frighteningly) the second half of *demonstrate* comes from the Latin *monstrare* (to point out, show), which derives from *monstrum* which means “divine omen or sign” or “monster”. What the hell? That can’t be right—I certainly do not intend to tell ski instructors to “entirely monster” wedge christies on turquoise/aqua terrain for our resort guests or in their certification exams. No, **demo** can’t be it. Next... Do I want to convey to folks in my clinic to **ski it**? Well, *skiing* has got to be closer than “entirely monsterring”, but is it accurate? *Ski* comes from the Norse *skīth*, a noun meaning *strip of wood* (similar to the Old English *scīd*; and the German *Scheit*, “thin board”). The verb *ski* comes directly from the noun. However, in addition to the word *ski* being related to *skīth*, so is the Norwegian term for *snowshoe*. “Yes, but do you want us to entirely monster it or ski/snowshoe it?” Now, I own snowshoes; and while they are hi-tech, state-of-the-art, aircraft grade, R&D’d, instruments of travel and mirth, the idea of snowshoeing compared to what I want instructors to do is—like the snowshoes—just a bit bulky. Fun, but plodding. A bit contrived and awkward. No, I don’t want them to **ski it**. But how about another word I used just above without even really thinking about it: **do**. Do I want them to **do it**?

“Yes, but do you want us to entirely monster it, ski/snowshoe it, or **just do it**?” Could this be it? Could *doing it* be what I mean to convey to these people? *Do* derives from the Old English word *don* which means “to make; to act, perform; to put”. Am I asking these people to *make* ski turns? Maybe, but out of what? Thin air? Make them out of snow with a little shovel and a little bucket, like snowcastles? No, that doesn’t seem quite right. Do I want them to *act* or *perform* ski turns? Of course not. Ridiculous. How about *put*? “Put ski turns on this turquoise/aqua ski run.” No. *Do* is too passive; it creates too much distance between the actor and the action, between the creator and the created, between the musician and the music. So if we are not *doing* turns what is left? Hold that thought.

Have you ever had the opportunity to inspect a decaying tree stump? I know it’s a weird question, but I’m serious (and what does it have to do with anything? If you’ve made it this far you’re probably willing to humor me for a few more minutes...). And when I ask *inspect*, I mean *really* inspect—like, get down on your hands and knees and poke around in it. As an ecology teacher I have had that opportunity; and it brings an interesting reality to light. Do this: Go into the woods and find a decaying stump. Make sure it’s a *really good one*—mushy enough to stick your fingers in; mushy enough to scrape and smear and spread the old, dead wood around without damaging your fingernails or skin. (Watch out for spiders and stinging bugs. And poison ivy. And don’t trespass.) If you really get in there and trace a path down any side of the stump to the soil below you’ll realize that it’s not entirely possible to determine where stump ends and soil begins. There is no interface—they are one and the same. Stump *is* soil. Soil *is* stump. And *that* is what I want to convey to the ski instructors in my clinic: **Be the turn**.

**To be** means *to exist, to become, to happen*. Snow *is* snow. It exists that way. If it exists differently it *isn’t* snow, but *is* rain or *is* fog. Temperature and pressure and humidity and the tilt of Earth’s axis, and distance from the sun and latitude and longitude and elevation and topography and timing blend *to exist as, to become, to happen* as snow. And isn’t this also what we’re all striving for with our turns? Isn’t this the goal? Whether on skis or snowboard is irrelevant—we’re on a mission to remove all the fluff and filth from our turns and just *be* as we slide down the hill. And I think it is no small irony—

perhaps it’s a subliminal message from the Cosmos—that just as stump blends with soil we blend with DIRT. When *duration* and *intensity* and *rate* and *timing* of movements blend with our understanding and goals and attitude and physical state, and with the pitch of the hill and snow conditions, and you’ve got just the right amount of clothing on and you listened to your favorite album on the way to the resort and your breakfast is sticking to your ribs and everything is just flowing... Get it? When this happens turns will **be** wedge turns or they will **be** wedge christies or they will **be** basic parallel or they will **be** dynamic because everything is right, everything is blended, no additives, no preservatives, and the turns will just **be**... because.

So, my reply from now on when asked, “demo it or ski it?": **be it**. ■

## GLORY

By Brad Olson, Alpine L2 & Children’s Specialist 1, Camelback (PA) Snowsports School

In the words of Evel Knievel, “Bones heal, pain is temporary, chicks dig scars... glory lasts forever.” Perhaps these are not the most appealing words of advice given our chosen sport of skiing. However, glory does last forever. Today we often overstate what glory is as we imagine podiums, trophies, and overcoming insurmountable odds. I maintain that while glory may be displayed like the above examples, in our regular lives, we all need to find the little bits of glory in every single day that’ll amount to the larger ones; be it first tracks on a solitary run, watching the flicker of excitement in a student’s eye, or getting that après beverage you’ve been owed from one person for a long time. Glory exists in every moment; one just needs to think about it that way. The following is a brief story about a few moments of glory I experienced recently that led to a much larger one.

I took my PSIA level II part I exam at Elk Mountain, PA January 25th and 26th. While I was extremely confident in my preparation leading to the event over the last year, I felt the need to enter the first day with the mindset that I was just going to go out there, have fun, show my personality, and in doing so, kick some skiing butt. Of course, this was easier said than done. It took me two long, slow chair rides just listening to the stillness of the mountain before the “butterflies flew in formation” (Bit of Glory #1: Getting Over the Nerves). After settling my nerves, I had an extremely successful morning. Even after having to switch up tactics for the “chicken heads” or “death cookies” that were the snow conditions on Elk’s bump run Tunkhannock (Bit of Glory #2: ‘Cookie Killer’).

For lunch I enjoyed a rather large portion of food, to my group’s amazement (Bit of Glory #3: Surprising New Acquaintances) before gearing up and hitting Round Two of the exam head on. While the conditions on the bumps didn’t improve, my mood only elevated with the reaffirmation of nailing the tasks the second time around (Bit of Glory #4: Not Being a Fluke). With the examiners achieving much success at keeping the tasks and foci congruent from morning to afternoon, my group and I ended the day in high spirits and hit the lodge for the Day One evening ritual of talking entirely too much about the skiing exam while not in boots and with beverage in hand (Bit of Glory #5: Rite of Passage). Day two could not have started better, with a fresh inch of snow over night and

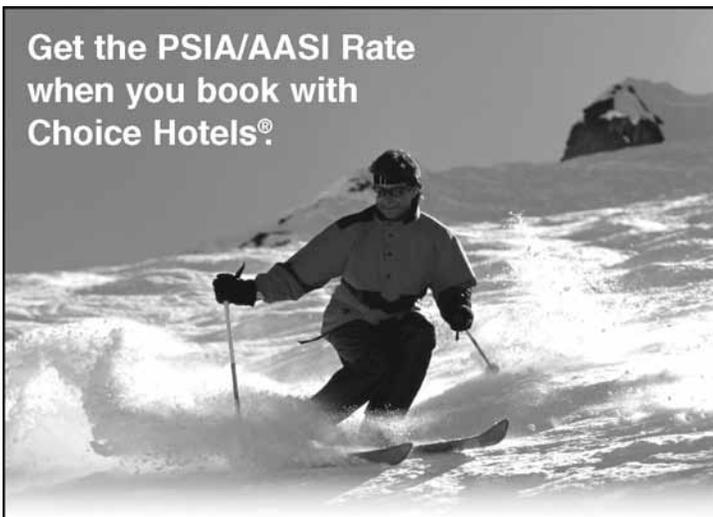
flurries still in the air. The cold Thursday morning seemed like a signal that even the mountain was pulling for all the test takers (Bit of Glory #6: Mother Earth's Cooperation). Not only were the bumps like clouds as opposed to the previous day, but also the whole mountain had hero snow dashed everywhere. I'm not sure if it was the snow or his style, but the third examiner's agenda was to knock out as many of the tasks during each run as we could. While it seemed that the group was uneasy about the idea at first, it turned out for the best. Our group completed four tasks the first run, four the next and a third run to seal the deal, leaving plenty of time for some personal runs to cool the nerves before the award ceremony (Bit of Glory #7; Skiing off the Worry). The snow continued to fall lightly into the afternoon until switching to rain just before the awards were scheduled (Bit of Glory #8: Perfect Timing).

While there were only twenty in attendance taking the Part I Exam, many more of our fellow PSIA members and friends gathered in Elk's main cafeteria all poised for the announcements (Bit of Glory #9: Support). The examiners

displayed the numbers and the exam sheets, and in a mixed wave of buzzing, glee, and acceptance, over half of the participants got the nod, including myself (Big Moment of Glory #10: Initiation). While my day ended in success, it was matched when the results for the Part II came in. A fellow instructor from my home mountain of Camelback, PA also passed his exam and got the pin (Bit of Glory #11: Representing the Home Mountain).

In conclusion, while the Level II exams had various levels of success for its hopeful skiers, there is no reason why we must constantly look for the extreme grandeur and glory. The small everyday bits of glory lay right before us. Perhaps in some way or form we need to accumulate all the little things and work up to the larger moments. With that said, be it first tracks on a solitary run, watching the flicker of excitement in a student's eye, or getting that après beverage you've been owed from the one person for a long time... find your glory because it lasts forever. ■

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