



**American Association of Snowboard Instructors
Professional Ski Instructors of America**

www.aasi.org | www.psia.org



Education E-News

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER 2008 EDUCATION E-BLAST!
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This e-blast is designed to let you know about PSIA-AASI national education developments. These will come to you twice per year: once after the June Board of Directors meeting and once after the completion of both the October board meeting and the fall national teams training session. The education department's goal is to provide you with up-to-date information on what we've done, what we're doing, and what we're planning to do.

PSIA-AASI, located in Lakewood, CO, works to unify ski and snowboard instructors throughout the country by delivering national educational content and by promoting snowsports and snowsports instruction. The national education department works together with key divisional education personnel and the national teams to develop information and materials that are disseminated among the divisions via national manuals, the PSIA-AASI national teams, and division communication systems.



2008-2012 PSIA-AASI NATIONAL TEAMS SELECTED

The PSIA-AASI teams selection was held at Mammoth Mountain, California. The selection process took six days and began Sunday evening, April 27, 2008, with final selections being announced Friday, May 2, 2008. Candidates in all four disciplines gave everything they had and raised the bar with their skiing, riding, and teaching skills. The newly named teams followed up the selection process with a training session and the teams are all hard at work on offering their input and hard work to the 08/09 education initiatives. Go to www.aasi.org or www.psia.org for more information about the teams and the selection process.

WEBPAGE AND MAGAZINE REDESIGN

The PSIA-AASI webpage and magazine are in the midst of a redesign. *The Pro Rider* and *The Professional Skier* magazines will be unified into a single publication. The new eye catching webpage redesign will allow for more frequent updates and will serve as a more useful resource for the PSIA-AASI membership. Be on the lookout for the new magazine format beginning with the Fall 2008 issue. Stay tuned for more details on the expected launch date for the new website.

SNOWBOARD

Snowboard Movement Matrix in Development

The PSIA-AASI Board of Directors approved the development and rollout of the Snowboard Movement Matrix during their June meeting. The AASI Team, led by coach Lane Clegg is hard at

work developing the format and content for the Matrix. The AASI matrix will be a great online resource with video, notes, and voiceovers. Look for more information in the next newsletter and expect to see this exciting offering this coming fall in time for the 08/09 season!

Rider Rally a Success

Mammoth Mountain did an excellent job of hosting the 2008 AASI Rider Rally. This was the Rally's first year as a national event following a long and successful run as a labor of love by Eric Sheckleton and the Northern Rocky Mountain division. The transition went smoothly as 30 riders enjoyed Mammoth's laid back spring riding and great clinics from AASI's best.

National Standards Update

The PSIA-AASI Board approved an AASI National Standards Task Force to begin work on updating the AASI National Standards.

ALPINE

National Standards on Movement Matrix

The anxiously awaited national standards piece of the Alpine Movement Matrix is in place. Log into the Matrix at www.psia.org to check out video of the PSIA alpine national standards. Look for updates to the Alpine matrix throughout the 08/09 season to include drills and activities for Beginner/Novice zone and Intermediate zone lessons.

2008 Academy a Success

The 04/08 PSIA Alpine Team finished their term with a challenging and successful National Academy at Snowbird in April. Snowbird offered up an awesome snowpack and colder temperatures making the snow surface less than forgiving for much of the week. Alpine team members, alums, and visiting international demo team members worked hard to make the most of the conditions and gave five days of great clinics.

Alpine Certification Unity Task Force Hard at Work

The task force for unifying national alpine certification has been hard at work creating a consensus on a consistent application of national standards. There has been excellent dialogue between divisional leadership and the taskforce as this initiative continues to progress. Task force members are looking forward to their first face to face meeting in late August.

NORDIC

Nordic Matrix on its Way

The PSIA-AASI Board of Directors approved the creation of the Nordic Movement Matrix at the June meeting. The PSIA Nordic Team is hard at work developing the format and content for the Matrix. The Nordic matrix will include video, notes, and lots of information about all areas of the freeheel world. Look for more information in the next newsletter and the PSIA-AASI magazine. Introduction of the Nordic Movement Matrix is expected this coming fall in time for the 08/09 season.

ADAPTIVE

New Adaptive Manuals in the Works

Adaptive Snowsports Instruction Manual

The PSIA-AASI Board approved work on a new Adaptive Snowsports Instruction Manual. Divisional adaptive leaders will meet in October to begin outlining a plan for the development of a family of adaptive teaching materials. At that time, a small task force of interested members, as well as a lead author, will be assigned to coordinate material for, and write, the new adaptive manual.

Adaptive Snowboard Manual

Development work is underway for the first Adaptive Snowboard Manual. A task force is being

convened to begin work on this very necessary project. The task force will benefit from the cooperation of divisions across the country as they contribute their materials to the development of this new product in order to make information on this area of adaptive instruction available to all instructors.

Examiners Course and Train the Trainers track at National Adaptive Academy

Planning for the 2008 PSIA-AASI Adaptive National Academy (Ski Spectacular at Breckenridge) is well on its way. New elements to look for at Academy will be an Adaptive Examiners Course as well as a Train the Trainers track. Look for details soon on the PSIA-AASI website as well as from DSUSA.

Golden Awards Program Nearing Completion

The Golden Awards program is nearing completion and will be ready for the 08/09 season. This program will provide an exciting challenge to intermediate adaptive skiers and riders who seek to become more skilled at their sport through an outcome based curriculum. Information and materials for implementing the program will be sent to adaptive programs this fall. A coaching guide will be available to programs and instructors using the Golden Awards program, and will be available to interested instructors online at www.psia.org and www.aasi.org.

GENERAL NEWS

Children's Instruction Manual

The new PSIA-AASI Children's Instruction Manual is nearing completion for release in October, 2008. The manual has been completely revised and will provide an exciting resource for all children's instructors. Look for it in the upcoming 2008-2009 *Accessories Catalog*.

Alpine Academy and Rider Rally 2009

Be on the lookout in the fall for information about these upcoming events. The PSIA-AASI event staff is hard at work planning these events. Dates and information will be available in the fall at www.aasi.org and www.psia.org and in the national magazine.

Get A Clue and Terrain Park Challenge a Success

The inaugural year of the Terrain Park Challenge and PSIA-AASI's accompanying *Get A Clue* materials were a success. The *Get A Clue* educational handout outlining park safety and etiquette was a big part of the Terrain Park Challenge, and was distributed to 20,000 skiers and riders during events at resorts around the nation.

Suggestions and comments are always welcome; please feel free to email with any ideas, thoughts, or feedback you'd like to share. Email us at education@psia.org, education@aasi.org, or call us at 303.987.9390.

**Sincerely,
The PSIA-AASI Education Department**

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