

# Snow Tracks

The GPSD Adaptive Snowsports Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 2 – Early Winter 2007



## Mission of GPSD Adaptive Snowsports

*To provide snowsports experiences and skill development for people of all abilities utilizing the safest and most effective adaptive equipment and qualified/trained volunteer staff in a supportive and positive learning atmosphere*

## Important Dates for 2007-2008

GP Swap Shop	Sat/Sun, October 27 & 28, 2007 Sat/Sun, November 3 & 4, 2007
General Meeting	Sunday, November 4, 2007 (starts at 10:00 am)
Dry Land Clinics (all start at 7:00 pm)	Thursday, November 8, 2007 (TBA) Thursday, November 15, 2007 Thursday, November 29, 2007 (rain date only)
On-Snow Clinics	Sat/Sun, December 8 & 9, 2007 Sat/Sun, December 15 & 16, 2007 (starts at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm)
Season Starts	Sunday, December 30, 2007
Winter Challenge Week	Sunday, January 27, 2008 through Thursday, January 31, 2008
Season Ends Picnic	Sunday, March 16, 2008

## What is PSIA-AASI?



The American Snowsports Education Association (ASEA) has two major branches, the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors (AASI). The vision of these organizations is to inspire life-long passion for the mountain experience. The mission is to develop personally and professionally, to create positive learning experiences, and to have more fun! The Adaptive program within these organizations focuses on both skiing and snowboarding instruction for people with disabilities. As you volunteer with GPSD and go through training clinics, you will become eligible to join PSIA-AASI and seek certification.

### **What is Certification with PSIA or AASI in the Adaptive Area?**

PSIA and AASI have created certification programs to help ski and snowboard instructors improve their teaching and skiing/riding skills and show evidence that they have attained a certain level of competency. The adaptive certification levels in alpine skiing include these subareas: vision impairment; cognitive-related disabilities, three-track, four-track, mono-ski, and bi-ski. Adaptive classifications in snowboarding include: blindness and low vision, cognitive-related diagnoses, physical-related diagnoses, and diagnoses related to the inability to stand on a snowboard. Both adaptive skiing and snowboarding standards for certification include the disability, medical, and special equipment knowledge and understanding, enabling an instructor to work with differing disabilities at each certification level. You can learn more about the certification programs at <http://www.psia.org/01/adaptive/adaptive.asp>.

### **How Can I Become Certified?**

If you are interested in learning more about obtaining your adaptive certification(s), please contact board member Pat Crowley. Pat will be facilitating training opportunities this winter. Also plan to attend a meeting on December 9, at noon, if you are interested in pursuing certification. On February 28-29, a Level I certification exam for 3-/4-track, vision impairment/developmental disability, mono-ski, and bi-ski will be held at Greek Peak. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise the level of quality of your own skiing, as well as increase your effectiveness as an adaptive ski coach and instructor.



For snowboard instructors/coaches, Jiminy Peak, MA, and Wintergreen Resort, WV will be holding Level I certification exams this winter (February and March).

There are many clinics and training opportunities, as well as multiple exam dates and sites for you to take advantage of for adaptive skiing or snowboarding. You can go to <http://www.psia-e.org/ev/schedule/> to view the opportunities in the PSIA-AASI Eastern Division. In addition, you can purchase an excellent resource, the *Adaptive Snowsports Instruction Manual*, from PSIA-AASI, also on the web site.

### **Winter Challenge Week 2008!**

Our Winter Challenge Week will be held January 27 to January 31, 2008. Volunteers are needed for a day, 2 days or the whole week. Put it on your calendar and contact either Robyn King ([robynking@roadrunner.com](mailto:robynking@roadrunner.com)) or Jim Cappellett ([jcappellett@stny.rr.com](mailto:jcappellett@stny.rr.com)).

### **Volunteer News – Ray Wilcox**

Ray Wilcox has been volunteering the longest of any volunteer at GPSD. His quiet, gentle approach in teaching and coaching goes a long way in helping participants learn to ski. His wife, Naomi, also volunteered for many years. Wish them well as they celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!



### **New Automatic Door Opener**

Whether you use a wheelchair, or have an armload of snow gear, the new automatic door opener on the GP Adaptive Center will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Jim Cappellett for getting the funds and taking the time to get the door opener installed in time for this year's season!

### **Submissions to "Snow Tracks" Newsletter**

Please feel free to send possible submissions to the GPSD Snow Tracks newsletter to Lynn Anderson at [andersonL@cortland.edu](mailto:andersonL@cortland.edu). This newsletter is available in alternate formats (large print, electronic) – just let Lynn know what you need! Feel free to share the newsletter with your friends! It is also posted on the GPSD web site: [www.skigpsd.org](http://www.skigpsd.org).