

Short Swings

Amateur Ski Instructors Association Newsletter

www.asiaski.com

Spring 2009

Belleayre Hall of Fame to Induct Bill Hornbeck

November 19, 2008

Dear Bill,

We are proud to announce Boston Culinary Groups' 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Dinner at Belleayre Mountain to honor individuals who have contributed in extraordinary ways to this establishment and the surrounding Catskill region.

Belleayre Mountain is excited to announce that we consider you, Bill Hornbeck, a role model, for your years of constant support for Belleayre Mountain through your invariable and positive devotion to the ski industry. In addition to being a cherished past employee, your efforts as founder and executive director of ASIA have inspired countless individuals, ski instructors, and skiers alike to devote their winters to the sport. Your presence and knowledge has been and always will be held in the highest regard at Belleayre Mountain.

This year's Hall of Fame Dinner will take place at 7:00 PM on Saturday, April 4, 2009 in the Overlook Lodge at Belleayre Mountain. We hope you accept this honor and will join us, along with your fellow inductees Judy Shiner and Dan Potter, for what will truly be a night to remember...

Imagine Bill's surprise and my delight when he received this letter from Belleayre Mountain Ski Center recently. I cannot think of a more deserving person for this honor. Congratulations, Bill.

■ Pat McVitty of Belleayre Ski Center would like you to know that if you'd like to join Bill for this night of fun, honor and celebration, tickets for the event will go on sale through her office on or about February 23. She says the cost is \$75 per person, and will include a banquet dinner, open bar, live band, red carpet photo ops and induction ceremonies. You can contact Pat McVitty for more information and tickets at the Belleayre Overlook Lodge or phone 800-942-6904 Ext 1313.

The Spirit of ASIA

■ It has been my joy, privilege, and honor to know, work for and ski with Bill Hornbeck for the past 19 years. When I first did the ASIA certification in 1990, I was really impressed with Bill's ability to bring out the best in his students and light the light of ski teaching within them. Though I was a weak intermediate skier at the time, he was so encouraging and positive about my ability to perform the tasks and ski the terrain, that I passed - by the skin of my teeth. Immediately, I was bitten by the learning bug, and became a student of the sport.

Since, I have seen Bill unselfishly give his time and expertise to many hundreds of students, friends, and ski teachers alike, never expecting a thing in return, only hoping to help them come to enjoy the thrill of skiing and teaching as much as he does. He takes the good in people and let's the rest go, and hopes others will do the same.

Bill looks forward to every ski day, and his passion for sharing the sport increases with each passing year. And today, he is just a much a student of skiing as the day he took his first ski run.

I am proud and grateful that he has been my mentor in both the sport of skiing and in life for the past 19 years. How lucky I have been...

- Betsy Burns

SHORT SWINGS

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 28 Park Drive, Woodstock, NY 12498
 (845) 679-4609 www.asiaski.com
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The Amateur Ski Instructors Association, Inc is a nonprofit educational organization incorporated in the state of New York in 1980. The ASIA mission has three main objectives:

- Train and certify candidates interested in teaching alpine, nordic and snowboard skiing at the amateur level through ski clubs, schools, youth groups and the like.
- Encourage and facilitate skills development through positive programs designed to contribute to and enhance the safety and enjoyment of skiing and riding.
- Provide a continuing education program for amateur instructors, and provide a first step toward PSIA membership for those wishing to become certified through PSIA.

Bill Hornbeck - Executive Director
 Bill Neville - President
 Ray Owens - Vice President
 Ned Crossley - Treasurer
 Betsy Burns - Secretary
 Stacey Lazarus - Executive Committee
 Nancy Nolan - Executive Committee

Nordic Director - Vacant

Regional Directors

Region I	Scott Landis	2010
Region II	Tom Powers	2010
Region III	Stephen Lutz	2010
	Nancy Nolan	2009
Region IV	Joel Blank	2009
	Laurie Owens	2010
	Ray Owens	2010
Region V	Betsy Burns	2009
	Stacey Lazarus	2010
	Alex Sharpe	2010
Region VI	Bill Neville	2009
Region VII	Ned Crossley	2009
	Madeline Knaggs	2009
(At-Large)	Les Bucher	2010
	Toni Mullins	2009

Come Help Us Grow

■ Several Board of Director positions are expiring June 1, 2009. If you are interested in donating some time, experience, or special expertise to this great group to help promote the organization and bring in new members, please fill out the nomination form below and return it to the ASIA office with a brief letter of your interests and experience to be considered for a position on the ASIA Board.

Regional Directors must attend a June and September Board meeting, and provide help in their area of expertise on a promotion committee and with area program coordination.

Benefits are the joy of giving back to the sport we all enjoy so much, as well as free ASIA program fees and tickets at many of our season events.

Many of our Board members started out in ASIA by going through our certification program, becoming involved with teaching through their ski clubs or organizations, and continuing their ski education with ASIA Level 2 certification, and PSIA affiliation. As their skills and knowledge expanded, so did their desire to help others learn to enjoy the thrill of skiing and riding through their volunteer association with ASIA.

■ If this sounds like something that would interest you, send your completed nomination form signed by three current ASIA members to the ASIA office by March 15, 2009. Come help keep ASIA growing!

Bill Hornbeck
 Executive Director

ASIA Board of Directors Nomination Form

The following Board of Director positions are expiring June 1, 2009. If you are an ASIA member in good standing and are interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors, please complete the form below and mail it to the ASIA office with a brief resume of your skiing or riding background and special expertise by March 15, 2009.

REGION	REPRESENTING	POSITION
III	CT/RI	1
IV	NJ	1
V	NY	1
VI	PA	1
VII	West Point	2
At-Large		1

Candidate:

NAME: _____ REGION: ____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

Nominated By:

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

This application must be received in the office by March 15, 2009. Thank you.

Madelene Knaggs Receives Pat Bettin Award

■ West Point Ski School Director, Nils Anderson, and Bill Hornbeck were proud to present Madelene Knaggs the *Pat Bettin Award* at the West Point Certification program this January.



The Pat Bettin Award is presented "In recognition of amateur instructors who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to helping others and promoting the sport of skiing in the volunteer spirit of ASIA."

Madelene has been skiing and teaching skiing both for ski areas and as a volunteer instructor since high school. She taught at Holiday and Davos as well as at Ski Minnewaska.

Madelene was a member and volunteer instructor for The Shawangunk Mountain Ski Club, Hudson Valley Ski Club, and since the early 1980's a volunteer instructor for the West Point Ski School.

■ Madelene can be found most weekends at West Points' Victor Constant Ski Slope sharing her knowledge and helping folks get started in skiing. She also serves as Regional Director on the ASIA Board of Directors. Congratulations and thanks so much,

Madelene, thanks for sharing your love of skiing in the volunteer spirit of ASIA!

* * *

Come help us celebrate our 30th anniversary next season! And bring a skiing or riding friend to an ASIA event. You'll both be glad you did!

* * *

ASIA Membership Application

NEW RENEW ALPINE NORDIC SNOWBOARD

NAME _____ DONATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ SKI CLUB _____

EMAIL _____

I have enclosed my check made payable to ASIA for membership dues and mailed to:

**ASIA 28 Park Drive Woodstock NY 12498 USA
(845) 679-4609 www.asiaski.com**

Member Donations

■ We are a member supported organization, and once again you have shown your support and appreciation through your generous donations. These are the donations we've received from September 19, 2008 through February 19, 2009.

In addition, we received \$871 through your participation in our raffles at the Fall Rally and February Bumpfest.

Thanks again!

Benefactors

Donations of \$100 or more

*Connecticut Ski Council
Stacey Lazarus
North Penn Ski Club
Upper Bucks Ski Club
Adel Teplitz*

President's Club

Donations of \$50 or more

Pat Gottshalk

Directors

Donations of \$25 or more

*Donald Phy
Joanne Landis
Judith Griemsmann*

* * *

Thanks to Pete Ryan, Laurie Owens, Jane Chambers and Pat Gottshalk and all who helped put the Fall Rally raffle together and sell raffle tickets, and especial thanks to all who purchased them!

We appreciate your continuing support of ASIA.

* * *



them as we skied Dot Nebel but we were giving our best to perform the Heismann Trophy exercise successfully.

The pre-season event with you, Betsy, was a great start to the season. Your insight into movement patterns is a gift. Thank you for sharing your eye. I continue to be blessed through my membership in ASIA. My own skiing continues to evolve and will always be a work in progress. The friendships

of ASIA are the best gift. We pick up where we left off the previous season, laughing and smiling all the way. We are a lucky bunch of fools.

Pat Gottshalk
ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructor
Upper Bucks Ski Club

■ I had a BLAST (at the Fall Rally)! This is very definitely a do again clinic! I have two take aways -- always figured if you got one then it was a good clinic.

One skiing related: Neutral!! Going to work on that every chance I get this year. When you get the timing right everything just slows down and smooths out! Quite a QUIET RIOT!

One organization related: These ASIA guys are quite a group! In two days I never heard a single negative comment about or directed at any one! And talk about encouraging! I was especially impressed this afternoon when we did was some level 3 drills to give folks in the group with PSIA L3 aspirations a glimpse of the tasks...

...I'm exhausted, but strangely enough, my legs are in relatively good shape for all the work they did in the past two days - there must be something to this skeleton stuff and efficient movements.

Jeff Barcus
ASIA Contributing Member

Hammered Into Shape

Bill,
■ I start school this Saturday to become a certified holistic health counselor. I believe that

this will be a very demanding course and therefore cannot get to the Bumpfest, however, I wanted to share an experience I had at Killington this past weekend.

I went to Killington for a 3 day weekend that included my son, his girlfriend and my daughter. I spent a couple of hours each day with my son's girlfriend to teach her how to ski. By the end of the weekend, she followed us all around the mountain with a big smile on her face. It was really cool (including the temps) to see this beginner turn into an excited new skier.

Also, my personal skiing has really improved, as the hammering, I mean lessons, you provided last year really produced better turns this year. My kids were duly impressed. With 4 inches of new powder on the mountain, it was a great weekend. Thanks again, Bill.

Doc Garner
ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructor
High Life Ski Club

Snö Mountain Successes

Dear Bill,

■ My daughter, Brynn, and I just completed a weekend of intermediate ski instruction at Snö Mountain with Bryce Swanker. It was our first time at an ASIA clinic and we really enjoyed it. Bryce is an excellent teacher, as well as a patient and encouraging individual. We enjoyed interacting with all the ASIA staff there, including Pete Ryan.

Bryce and Pete told us about the Fall Rally and we are already making plans to attend next year. We were referred to ASIA by friends and we are so pleased!

Jennifer Peters & Brynn Lancaster
ASIA Contributing Members



Fall Rally Highlights

Hi Bill and Betsy,

■ I wanted to let you and Bryce Swanker know that I found the Fall Rally very helpful. Bryce focused on control on ice. I skied Windham yesterday and it was almost all ice. They had an inch of rain the night before and then it froze but was too soft to groom. I had full control and was very comfortable, (except for the fatigue the vibrations caused me.) I enjoyed skiing where no one would go. Thanks and please forward this to Bryce.

Myles Gordon
ASIA Contributing Member

Bill and Betsy,

■ Thank you for getting me in the Fall Rally program this weekend. I was so impressed by the coaching, the professionalism and dedication that Mike Weiss demonstrated throughout the weekend. I worked really hard (I can feel it in my legs) yet I know I improved my skiing. I wish you both a Merry Christmas.

Karen Walsh
ASIA Contributing Member

Dear Bill and Betsy,

■ The Fall Rally was a wonderful time. One time Bryce told me that the season does not get started until we are all together. I am sure he is right.

The rally was the first time I skied with Rick Svencer. It was a great two days. He is one of the most graceful skiers I have skied with. As a visual learner his demos were powerful tools for me. He provided the class with lots of individual and group instruction allowing time for plenty of smiles. His group worked well together because of him. Many other groups thought we were waving to

Greetings,

■ This January, I attended the Level I Certification clinic at Snö. It was probably the best experience in my skiing life I can remember.

Les, our instructor, was the ultimate professional. He continually took time for each of the attendees so that we all felt we had our own personal coach. I know my skiing has improved because of his teaching. I'm now looking forward to the Spring Rally.

Dan Sierchio
ASIA Level 1 Certified Instructor

Gentlemen,

■ It was time for breakfast. In the Hampton Inn dining room I got a warm greeting from Les bucher, Patty Gottshalk and Pete Ryan. What a great way to start out. They were part of the ASIA team when I got my ASIA Level 1 Certification at Mt Snö last January.

I was back for a refresher this year. Our instructor this time was Bryce Swanker. Our group was very diverse but somehow Bryce made it work for all of us. He was personable, kind, attentive, and talented. I quit a bit early on Sunday to catch the Eagles/Giants game. I was at the bar with Pete Ryan. We weren't rooting for the same team which made it more fun. We're still friends, I think.

"You don't quit skiing because you get old; you get old because you quit skiing." I don't know who said that, but I believe it!

Donald E Kaplan
ASIA Level 1 Certified Instructor
Gentlemen's Ski Club

Saving \$\$\$ at Seven Springs

Hi Bill,

■ I just wanted to touch base with you regarding the Seven Springs clinic I took under the tutelage of Ernie Fagnelli.



It was THE BEST \$100 I have ever spent in pursuit of skiing in my life! And that is an understatement.

Seven Springs also graciously provided complimentary lift tickets, which would have added another \$110 to the cost of the program. I would thank them for that personally but don't have any idea who to contact. Maybe you could pass along that I, along with several other participants, greatly appreciated their support of the program.

Ernie was a very patient, methodical instructor. It was a real treat to spend the time with someone who loves the sport as much as he does. I left with a solid understanding of the building blocks to keep improving and fine tuning, but also to help my children develop their skills as well. Sincerely,

Marianne Salzman
ASIA Contributing Member

Betsy and Bill:

■ Again, it was a pleasure to ski with Ernie Fagnelli at Seven Springs. This was my second time skiing with him and it seems that I improve my skiing and teaching methods because of his progressive, step by step, fun approach.

ASIA should be proud to have him as an instructor because he has been such a positive influence on people like myself. Thanks,

Dave Mertz
ASIA Level 1 Certified Instructor
King of Prussia Ski Club

Dear ASIA,

■ The class conducted by Ernie Fagnelli on January 31 and February 1 was very valuable. Mr. Fagnelli is a gifted instructor and communicates key concepts in the expert fashion in which he skis.

Jan Carey
ASIA Contributing Member



Belleayre Bumpfest

Bill & Betsy,

■ Thank you so much for such a wonderful weekend of skiing and learning at such a beautiful mountain. I just wanted to let you both know what a great learning environment you created and how much I got out of it. I had never been in the bumps before and am now more confident and found that instead of fearing the bumps now I actually LOVE them!!!! I can't wait to get back out there and keep practicing what I learned.

You both have such an ability to teach and convey new information to a beginner like me in a way that made sense. I can't thank you enough and am already looking forward to coming back next year for some other ASIA events. Not only did I learn more about improving my own skiing, I also learned more about how to be a better instructor to my own students. You two are true role models!

It was a pleasure and an honor getting to meet and ski with you both. To see true masters like Bill out there enjoying what he does so well, truly warmed my heart and inspired me. I hope I can do the same thing when I am 82 years young too! God Bless!

All the best and thank you both from the bottom of my heart! I am so happy that Ed and Bryce introduced me to ASIA.

Paul Albrecht
ASIA Contributing Member
PSIA Level 1 Certified Instructor

Note: The folks in these photos stood still just long enough for the pictures. The rest of the weekend, they were bumping it up in the moguls and trees and on the dance floor with coaches Mike Weiss, Bill Hornbeck, Ed George and Don Boyce. It was one of our best Bumpfests ever!

ASIA Early Payment Drawing Winner

■ Congratulations to Jeff Thomas for winning the Early Payment Raffle this year. The prize was a free program, all fees included.

Unfortunately, Jeff was unable to attend any ASIA functions due to conflicting ski trips to Vail and Japan, so Jeff gifted the program to Al Leaf, who introduced him to ASIA last season, because he was so happy with the Spring Rally program and because "Al is such a great promoter of ASIA."

Thanks to Al for promoting ASIA, and to Jeff for his thoughtful gift! Al has taken his ASIA skills to the ski school program at Camelback Ski Area in PA, and is working on taking his PSIA Level 1 Certification this spring.

Jeff, hope to see you next year, and Al, we'll see you at the Spring Rally!

Goodbye, Friend

Hello ASIA,

■ It is with deep regret that I inform you of William Alexander's passing on Monday evening, November 24. Alex was diagnosed with IPF (Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis) in early 2007. He continued to live his life as he wanted despite his health challenges until his recent hospitalization.

Alex learned how to ski at the age of 58 and continued to improve his skiing ability with excellent lessons from ASIA. He loved skiing and looked forward to each Winter season to improve his skills. His greatest accomplishment was being able to get down a Black Diamond trail!

For all of us, his passing was far too soon and we will miss him dearly.

Thanks,
Denise Roberts
ASIA Contributing Member
King Of Prussia Ski Club

West Point Certification A Cool Blast

■ We held the West Point program over Martin Luther King weekend this year. It happened to be the coldest weekend by far all winter, with temps hovering around zero. Due to tight cadet schedules all the cadets and others who attended endured the cold for the training over two and a half days instead of the usual four. That led to long days, late night skiing and more effort on the everyone's part.



Twilight at Victor Constant Ski Slope

Everyone did a great job in spite of it, and we have lots of newly certified skiers and riders.

Thanks in part to the cold weather, the snow conditions were outstanding, with all available terrain open and packed powder conditions. The catch? Brrrr! As the evenings wore on, it got brisker and brisker.

Some of our coaches and riders even got a little more training than even we anticipated. They got to experience and participate in their own lift evacuation on Saturday night after an emergency stop of the lift caused a mechanical failure.

Fortunately, everyone survived with no ill effects, the lift was repaired by morning, and we all got to share in 6 inches of fresh, fluffy powder first thing on Sunday.

■ These new instructors will spend some of their free time after classes or work volunteering to teach the children and adults of the West Point community through the West Point Ski School. Congratulations to all who endured this long, cold and snowy weekend to learn to teach others. Our hats off to you.

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Congratulations To Our New Certified Instructors

■ 27 alpine and 27 snowboard folks earned their ASIA Level 1 Certification this season! Everyone went away from the programs with solid training for teaching beginning skiing and snowboarding and brought their own sliding skills to a new level.

Congratulations to everyone. We hope you have already enjoyed your first students, and were able to share a bit of the thrill of skiing and riding you love with them. That's the true spirit and mission of ASIA and its programs.

If you enjoyed the program, be sure to tell a skiing or riding friend about ASIA so they can have the same opportunity to improve their skills, build their confidence, become an instructor, or just learn to ski or ride like one!

Best Ski Instruction Program Ever

Dear Mr. Hornbeck,

■ I have just received my updated ASIA membership card with my certification as a newly qualified Level 1 instructor indicated. Thank you for your kind wishes that were included with the card.

The 4 day ASIA Level 1 Certification class led by Les Bucher at Snö Mtn in January was easily the best instruction program that I have ever attended, and head and shoulders above any other ski training that I have ever received. As a retired Training Consultant, I consider myself a good (and critical) judge of other trainers. Les was one of the finest instructors I have ever observed. His abilities as a skier and teacher were both outstanding. He was patient with the class, and kept us all focused on the overall content and goals of the course, and on our individual strengths and weaknesses. I have only good things to say about him as a dedicated course leader and instructor. I hope to have opportunities in the future to attend additional classes that Les will be leading.

My primary goals in taking this course were twofold: (1) to gain knowledge that will enable me to help my four grandchildren learn to ski, and (2) to improve the level of my skiing ability. Both goals were achieved through this course and Les' ability as the course instructor.

As I start my 26th year of skiing, on the threshold of my 72nd birthday, my only regret is that I didn't do this about 10 - 15 years earlier. While we can't turn the clock back, we can all look forward to as many more years of sharing this great sport together as possible. I have already told people about ASIA and this training, and I hope that I can help to bring additional members into the fold. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you at an ASIA activity.

Bob Levine, President
Eastern 50+ Ski Club
ASIA Certified Instructor

Keeping the ASIA Vision

■ Dear Bill and Betsy,

Thank you both for your positive and affirmative vision of ski education. I will keep my (ASIA Level 1 Certification) report card forever. I will pay you folks a visit to hopefully pass the wedge christy! I gave my first lesson through the CSC on Saturday to three children, and the two hours just flew by. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year,

Dave England
ASIA Certified Instructor
Mt Laurel Ski Club

Alpine Level 1

Okemo, VT
Jim Barlow
Debbie Danaher
Anthony E Edwards
David E England Jr
Judith Griemsmann
Don Simmonds
Snö Mountain, PA
Will Lapp
Bob Levine
Daniel Sierchio
USMA - West Point
Carrie Bachmann
Dennis Yongjin Cho
Isaac Cluff
Arthur C Coughlin
Spencer W Donaldson
Talon Z Erickson
Sarah R Hopkins
Kyle Johnson
John King
Edward W Lash
Samuel Maccammon
Nicholas Normandin
Julia Oh
Collin C Smith
Shawn Tenace
Raymond Vetter
Michael Scott Walls
Chris White

Snowboard Level 1

Michael Allen
Avi Bakshani
John Y Bonds IV
Josh Bryan
Kyle East
Adam Fulling
Chris Garti
Colin Gilligan
Brian Grealy
Patrick Herold
Alexander Johnson
Michelle Kane
Connor Brody Kilpatrick
Tyler Kim
Steven Lafave
Daniel G Lee
Harrison Mann
Hailey Merlo
Hannah Merlo
James Merlo
Justin D Pettit
Dariel Powell
Jonathan B Strickland
Carleton Swartz
Ruben Veliz
Sean Wester
Spencer Wilhelm

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"SERVING SKI CLUBS AND THE SNOWSPORTS COMMUNITY SINCE 1980"



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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



MEMBER SCHOOL

.....
Kudos...

What's true is that every member of our organization adds to our success! There are some who deserve our special thanks once again, for their volunteer spirit and tireless efforts on ASIA's behalf.

To Belleayre, Okemo, Snö Mountain, Victor Constant Ski Slope, and Seven Springs, for graciously hosting our events and providing lift tickets and meals at a great price for our members. Special thanks to Seven Springs for their donation of complimentary lift tickets for our program there this season.

To Nils Anderson, USMA West Point coordinator, for pulling together another great ASIA Certification and refresher program, and to *Major Ed Teague* for coordinating the West Point cadets.

To Sue Poirer for her efforts at getting a Nordic program together at Mtn Meadows XC Center, VT. If eight of you sign up, we'll HAVE one next year!

To Bill Hornbeck, Nancy Nolan, Pete Ryan, Ernie Fagnelli and Ray and Laurie Owens, for coordinating another great season of ASIA events, despite the economic meltdown we are all experiencing, and to all on the ASIA Board who give their support to the programs.

To Pat Gottshalk, Jane Chambers, Pete Ryan, and Laurie Owens for their donations, and tireless antics selling raffle tickets and setting up the penny social to raise money at our premier Rally events.

To our dedicated coaches, Don Boyce, Les Bucher, Betsy Burns, Ernie Fagnelli, Ed George, Bill Hornbeck, Jack Kennedy, Barb Marshall, Steve O'Connor, David Pick, Bryce Swanker, Rick Svencer, Mike Weiss and Woody Woodworth for willingly and professionally sharing their knowledge and passion for the sport.

It comes down to how our members enjoy their time on the snow that really counts. Thanks to all!

Inside This Issue

Belleayre Hall of Fame Induction 1	
ASIA BOD Nominations	2
Pat Bettin Award.....	3
Donations.....	3
Our Members Write	4,5
Program Notes.....	6
Certification News.....	7
Kudos.....	8

**ASIA Schedule of Events
2009-2010**

Look for the latest info, letters, photos, and program news, along with the 2009-2010 ASIA alpine, snowboard and nordic schedule on our website at www.asiaski.com in June.

Come ski and ride with ASIA!

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