

Short Swings

Amateur Ski Instructors Association Newsletter

www.asiaski.com

Spring 2011



New members Therese and Paul Davidson, Ron and Mary Phillips, Erin Davidson and Bill Chevalier ham it up with old pals Betsy Burns and Bill Hornbeck, Don McLaughlin, Ellen Stone, Sue Rowe and stowaway Bobby Obermeier at the ASIA Spring Rally.



SHORT SWINGS

is the official publication of the Amateur Ski Instructors Association
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Producer/Editor - Betsy Burns

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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
- Ray Owens - President
- Nancy Nolan - Vice President
- Joel Blank - Treasurer
- Betsy Burns - Secretary
- Les Bucher- Executive Committee
- Madelene Knaggs - Executive Committee

Regional Directors

Region I	Les Bucher	2011
	Scott Landis	2012
Region II	Stephen Lutz	2012
	Nancy Nolan	2011
Region III	Joel Blank	2012
	Toni Mullins	2011
Region IV	Betsy Burns	2011
	Laurie Owens	2012
	Ray Owens	2012
Region V	Madelene Knaggs	2011
At Large	Vacant	2012

Short Swings: "Consecutive parallel christies without traverse using the setting of the edges and pole plant"

- Ski Magazine Encyclopedia of Skiing
 Copyright 1970

Director's Corner

ASIA Level 2 Success

I'd like to extend my congratulations to our newest group of ASIA Level 2 Alpine certified folks. They spent 6 days with me refining their skiing demos, broadening their technical understanding, further developing their teaching skills, and taking their own skiing up a few more notches.

Each brought their own special personality and character to the group and helped make teaching the tasks more interesting. They worked hard and learned well, and are now ready to take their students from wedge turns to parallel skiing. See their smiling faces below, and read their personal Level 2 program experiences on Page 7.

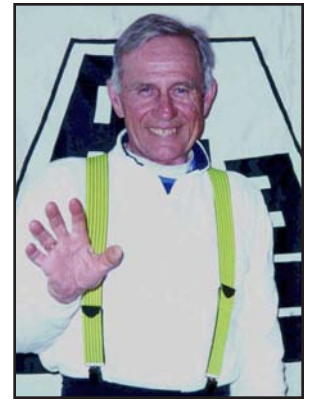
Bylaws Update

The bylaws amendments presented to the membership for vote at the recent Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, December 11, 2010 were unanimously approved, reducing the number of regional directors from 15 to 11. As stated, we feel this number will better serve our membership going forward. Thank you for your continuing support!

Membership dues

Dues statements will be coming your way shortly. Meantime, if you'd like to save ASIA some \$\$ send your dues and donation today. The 2011-2012 ski season is just around the corner. Meantime, I hope you have a great summer filled with good times and happy memories of skiing and riding with ASIA!

Bill Hornbeck
 Executive Director



Bill Hornbeck, Executive Director

Kudos to new ASIA Level 2 Certs Dave Mertz, Steve Shyne, Brian Nuss, Joe Mellusi, Dave England, Anita Mellusi, Lori Yamashita, and Rebecca Shiffman, pictured with Bill, (center) below.



Kudos

I'd like to say thanks again, to our members, new and old, for their continuing support of the ASIA mission! Also my thanks go out to the many coaches and volunteers in our organization who make it great and unique. 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, expertise, 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.

To Madelene Knaggs, USMA West Point coordinator and West Point Snowsports Director, *Major Chris Bachmann*, OIC, *Kevin Sheffield*, Outdoor Rec Manager and all their staff for pulling together another great ASIA Certification and refresher program this January.

To Sue Poirer for her efforts at getting a Nordic program together at Mtn Meadows XC Center, VT. If you Nords sign up, we'll HAVE one in 2012!

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 all the folks who help put together our Rally raffles and collect prizes. We appreciate their 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, Chris Ericson, Jordan Francis, Ernie Fagnelli, Ed George, Bill Hornbeck, Jack Kennedy, Barb Marshall, Steve O'Connor, David Pick, Bryce Swanker, Rick Svencer, Tim Thompson, Mike Weiss, Woody Woodworth and Craig Yunker, 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.

Bill Hornbeck
Executive Director

Member Donations

■ We are a member supported organization, and once again you have shown your support and appreciation through your generous donations. These are donations we've received from October 16, 2010 to May 15, 2011.

In addition, we received \$1536 through your participation in our raffles at the Fall Rally, February Bumpfest and Okemo Spring Rally.

Thanks to all who helped put the raffles together, donate items and sell raffle tickets, and especially to all who purchased them!

Sponsors

Donations of \$500 or more

*Les Bucher
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Mary Gould
Sally Hopkins
Eastern PA Ski Council
North Penn Ski Club
Upper Bucks Ski Club*

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Joe & Connie Greene
Ray & Laurie Owens
Rebecca Shiffman*

Directors

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Rosie Koch
Fred Meola*

Boosters

*Karen Grossman
Yoshihiro Kawano*

ASIA Membership Application

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Barb's Last Lift Group

The ASIA Experience

■ I've been fortunate enough to enjoy the sport of skiing since the ripe old age of 3. My parents decided it was a better idea to take me to the mountain with them rather than pay a baby-sitter a small fortune to watch me for the weekend. Now, at the ripe old age of 36, I think it's safe to say skiing is a true passion of mine.

Throughout high school and early into college, I thought I was a pretty accomplished skier; however, an elective gym class taught me differently. I decided to take "Skiing 101" for an easy A, but the instructor had a different plan. I learned a few things and changed my style; and it made the sport more exciting. The lessons had fueled a lifelong fire. I began to "work" more on my skiing and took an occasional lesson here and there.

Several years later I joined the Parmigan Ski Club and became a rather active member. I met more ski enthusiasts, picked up more skills, and built upon a good foundation (or so I thought). The Club was very active with day and week-long trips and I often was able to tag along with the gang. At one of our meetings, a member mentioned this "ASIA group" and provided some interesting information about how they provided ski improvement programs and also provided a 4 day certification program so you could learn to instruct beginning skiers. It sounded good, so I joined.

Like usual, I jumped in with both feet. I decided to take the Level 1 Certification course so I could instruct thru my club and help spread the enjoyment I get from the sport. What I didn't know was how much of an education I would get, and how much my personal skiing would improve. By the end of the first weekend of my certification course, my skiing was completely different:

more efficient, more smooth, more clean. My course conductor, Les Bucher, completely broke me down and built me back up in a way that allowed me to be an effective teacher, yet take my personal skiing to the next level. The experience was nothing like I've ever had! It completely blew away my college gym class, and put any "professional" lesson I've ever had to shame. The skills that

were refined in me made the exercises feel like nothing at all, and made my skiing feel smooth and clean - so much more enjoyable. That fire that was lit in college just had a full can of gas poured on it!

■ ASIA hosts a wonderful variety of program offerings and employs top professional instructors, and yet most of all, the people - by far - make the organization. All are welcoming and are deeply passionate about sharing the sport with anyone that will listen. They know their skills inside and out, and constantly come up with different tools and tricks for your bag - either to help you improve, or help you advise others. The overall experience offers a tremendous value. You spend two full days with a course conductor that offers group and individual instruction, and goes out of the way to coach you thru a progression of skills to accomplish the goals you're working to. Additionally, several of the clinics include other instructors that share knowledge and enhance the experience; they compliment the course conductor and offer feedback as an extra set of eyes. And with that comes a certain camaraderie that you cannot put a value to - it's an experience that you can't match.

■ Although I'm now a certified PSIA instructor, I prefer the offerings of ASIA and dedicate time each year to attend several clinics. I promote the ASIA organization through my club and at the resort where I instruct. ASIA is a member school of PSIA; just like most ski area ski schools, however, I feel ASIA offers a much more enjoyable experience and relaxed atmosphere

while delivering best in class programs and education - I cannot speak highly enough about the ASIA program!

Brian Nuss

ASIA, PSIA Level 2 Certified Instructor
President, Parmigan Ski Club

Unexpected Benefit

■ I had a nightmare December. Early in the month my adult daughter went for routine outpatient surgery. There was a frightening mishap that kept her out of work until after the new year. Happily it ended well, she is fine now.

I suppose I was still recovering emotionally when I arrived at Snö Mountain for the Movement Analysis program. I was glad to see Bryce Swanker, my instructor two years back when I took a Skiing Improvement class. He again did a masterful job but the real benefit to me came from our program coordinator, Pete Ryan.

Pete has been on all five of my ASIA weekends. He does his coordinator thing early each morning, gets us all going and then somehow magically finds us on the mountain where he also instructs. We only see each other one or two weekends a year but somehow we have developed a friendship. He is a warm, sensitive, kind man. Maybe I said something about my daughter or maybe he sensed I was recovering but I felt his presence. A suggestion here, a comment there or just warm conversation on the chair, it was all very pleasant.

Knowing Pete, I'm sure he has extended himself to many others. The skiing itself was therapeutic, it always is with me, but the biggest benefit this trip was Pete's friendship. ASIA is lucky to have Pete.

Rick's Rangers



He even gave me the shirt off his back – almost literally. At lunch on Saturday I mentioned I was a little cold. Without saying a word, he reached into his bag, came up with a thermal shirt and told me to go put it on.
Sincerely,
Donald Kaplan
ASIA Certified Instructor
Gentlemen's Ski Club

Bill, Betsy, and Nance
■ Had a great time at Okemo this past weekend! I did not have a chance to fill out a survey and wanted to make a comment about Ed George. He's a great instructor and got a lot of skiing in!

Made more turns with Ed and the group than I did with 5 days at Sunday River a week ago! Ed has the perfect mix of easy to understand instruction, demo, drills, and skiing! I hope we continue to have Ed for ASIA weekends! Many thanks for all the fun. And, dinner was GREAT, too!
Karen Grossman
ASIA Certified Instructor
Mt Laurel Ski Club

Going Pro

Betsy & Bill,
■ I know that there are thousands of people in the NY/NJ area that are sick & tired of all of the snow and can't wait for spring to come, but I'm not one of them. This was by far the best winter of my life. After a number of clinics with ASIA and their very patient instructors, I decided to put my skills to work.

■ I accepted a part time ski instructor's position at Mountain Creek in New Jersey. I went there with mixed feelings. I was nervous about being good enough. But with all of the wonderful ASIA clinics under my belt, there was no need to be nervous. I fit right in. Being able to spend so much more time on the snow was fantastic. I improved my skiing, passed my PSIA Level I, made new friends, lost six pounds and am in the best health of my past 15 – 20 years. Now that's a great winter! Thanks for your patience with this klutz and for your dedication to our snow sports. Be Well,
Doc Garner
ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructor
High Life Ski Club

UK Invasion

Bill, Betsy,
■ Another milestone year due to the wonderful group of people that make up ASIA...this year I was able to experience a wonderful 5 days of teaching at Killington helping with the UK Invasion. Again, my days with ASIA made the Killington event a dream come true for me. There is no way I can give enough praise to the wonderful coaching and instruction given at the ASIA Rallies. I look forward to many more years of excellence from an excellent group!
Stacey Lazarus
ASIA, PSIA Level 2 Certified Instructor

Dear Betsy and Bill,
■ Once again, I want to thank you both for your dedication and for your teaching that allowed me to have the wonderful experience of teaching for the UK invasion at Killington.

It was an exhilarating experience for both myself and my students and I'm very appreciative of the skills you both taught me. Look forward to seeing you at Okemo. Best,
Rebecca Shiffman
ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructor
Miramar Ski Club

Rally Fun

Hello Bill and Betsy,
■ I just want to tell you what a fantastic time I had last weekend and am already looking forward to doing it again next year. I can't tell you how wonderful it is that ASIA came into my life, in so many ways.

I am truly a very lucky person to know you all. Hope you all continue to have much success and happiness in passing the love of the sport along to others. Love,
Chris (Dora) Campbell
ASIA Certified Instructor
King of Prussia Ski Club



Bill, Nancy and Joanne enjoy dinner

■ I had a great time at the Bumpfest - skiing bumps so much better! Thanks for all you and Bill do to make a terrific organization - great people, great instruction and great fun! See you soon,
Joanna Douglass
ASIA Certified Instructor
Mt Laurel Ski Club

■ Another great ASIA gig! I continue to meet genuinely nice people and receive purposeful instruction from sterling Course Coordinators, in this instance Bryce Swanker. Enjoyed the very nice food.

I hope Betsy is feeling better; she was very much missed. Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas.
Norris Marshak
ASIA Contributing Member

Anyone for skiing in the rain?



ASIA Level 2 - PSIA Level 2

■ Congratulations to long time ASIA level 2 certified member Les Sheely who earned his PSIA Level 2 Certification this spring. Kudos also to Brian Nuss - Brian earned both his ASIA and PSIA Level 2 this year. New ASIA member Eileen Giammonna kept up with the boys by also earning her PSIA Level 2. All three work as pros at Bear Creek in PA. Good job, all!

Pat Bettin Award

The Pat Bettin Award is given "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."

Congratulations and thanks to Major Chris H Bachmann, who was presented the Pat Bettin Award this January at USMA West Point during the ASIA Certification program. Chris was the Officer in Charge of the cadets and organized candidates or the ASIA Alpine and Snowboard certifications as well as runding up the folks needing refresher training with ASIA.

Kudos to Ed Dalton for being chosen for the Pat Bettin Award in December 2009, for his work promoting ASIA and it's programs through the NJSC.

Certificate of Appreciation

Kudos and thanks to Cadets Nicholas Nomandin and Eric Harleman who received

Certificates of Appreciation "for coordinating and assisting cadets attending ASIA certification programs at USMA West Point."

These folks have demonstrated their love of the sport and volunteer spirit, which is the heart and soul of the ASIA mission.

Thanks everyone!

West Point Certification

■ We had another great ASIA West Point certification program over MLK weekend. The snow was excellent due to the efforts of Victor Constant slope management. Everyone did a great job and we have lots of newly certified skiers and riders. These new instructors will spend some of their free time after classes or workdays volunteering to teach the children and adults of the West Point community through the West Point Snowsports School. Congratulations to all who dedicated themselves to learning to teach others in the volunteer spirit of ASIA. Our hats off to you. Here's what folks are saying...

Dear Betsy and Bill,

■ I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for the Certification weekend. Everything was well organized and the course conductors were excellent. I can't think of any organization that does a better job in preparing, training and evaluating new snowsports instructors, as well as fostering enthusiasm. Experienced instructors improve both their teaching and personal skiing skills through the refreshers. You could see the progression in the groups. I thoroughly enjoyed and gained skills from the refresher I attended yesterday and today. Thank you for your dedication to the sport, hard work and ability to share your knowledge. The instructors are well prepared for the new students.

Madelene Knaggs

Snowsports School Director, West Point

Betsy:

■ I want to thank you for all the time and effort you afforded our ASIA certification group this past weekend. Speaking for myself, it was a wonderful, positive 4 days. My objectives for the weekend were to pick up better/more effective teaching cues, better understand the progression used for beginners, & understand/improve my own personal skiing. Along the way I got to study a real pro in her element. The way you were able to break down the skills, identify & correct problems, the flow of the class, your ability to make everyone feel at ease, the personal individual attention you afforded each of us, your sense of humor,...wonderful job! Thank you! I look forward to seeing you on the slopes again.

Paul Gannon

Dept of Physical Education, USMA, West Point

Dear Betsy,

■ Thank you again for all your hard work and professionalism! I learned so much, had a great time, and am excited about inspiring another generation of skiers. As an educator, and someone who loves teaching, I am so impressed with ASIA and you! You have mastered the art of setting a challenge, making hard work fun, and finding many ways to help us improve. I hope I live up to your example! Best regards,

LTC Carl Ohlson

Director, Center For Enhanced Performance

USMA, West Point

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Congratulations New Certs!

■ 23 alpine and 21 snowboard folks earned their ASIA Level 1 Certification this season! In addition, 8 folks earned their Level 2 Alpine Certification. 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. The Level 2 folks continued their journey, enhancing and refining their demos, increasing their teaching knowledge and improving their skiing skills.

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!

ASIA Level 2 Experience

■ The days have flown by since completing the Level 2 program, it was a great program, everything I hoped it would be and more. Thanks so much for all your time, assistance, guidance and dedication to making it the outstanding program it is. It has been a real privilege to take both the Level 1 and Level 2 programs with you.

Steve Shyne

ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructor

Hidden Valley SP

Dear Bill,

■ Thank you for your dedication and teaching over the past few weeks. You made extraordinary efforts to improve both our teaching skills and our individual skiing and I believe I can speak for all of us when I say that we all benefited from your endeavors. I enjoyed not just the learning, but the fun and camaraderie we had together as a group. I look forward to many more ASIA events and learning from your experience in the future. Thanks again for your dedication and commitment. Best,

Rebecca Shiffman

ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructor

Miramar Ski Club

Bill and Betsy,

■ You never cease to amaze us! Joe and I are always in awe of your passion for the sport and so grateful that we are members of such a great organization. It's comforting to know that you are both there to help us on our journey. Thanks for the video!

Anita and Joe Mellusi

ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructors

Garden State Ski Club

Bill and Betsy:

■ Thanks again for a great time this past weekend. As a trip leader and organizer myself, I know these kind of events take time to plan and organize and it could not have gone better. The dinner and dancing on Sat was also fun.

Dave Mertz

ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructor

King of Prussia Ski Club

Bill and Betsy,

■ Thank you for your tireless efforts to make us better skiers and instructors! We all appreciate your wealth of knowledge, patience, and tenacity. The Level 2 class was fun, productive, and rewarding - and what an interesting cast of characters! To my Level 2 colleagues, thank you for your great humor and support - I enjoyed our time immensely. Respectfully submitted,

Lori Yamashita, AKA Dave Mertz's Secretary

ASIA Level 2 Certified Instructor

North Penn Ski Club

West Point - Alpine Level 1

*Julie M Bradley
Roger Brubaker
Alexander Cansler
William Delgrego
Michael W Devens Jr
Hilmar Fenger
Andrew Fitzsimmons
Paul Gannon
Ryan Healy
Dylan Hyde
Matthew Kane
Richard Lake
Samuel L Lowell
Terri Nickerson
Carl Ohlson
Christopher Paulik
John Pozonsky
Rick Santos
Robert Schrack
Kyle Snyder
Nicholas Solfaro
Joseph Sterr
Adel Teplitz*

Snowboard Level 1

*Christopher Beatty
Michael Buckley
Jeffrey Davis
James Han
Alec Hayes
Isaiab Hickman
John Jesus
Jeffrey Kim
John Knepper
Dakota S Lee
Joshua Miller
Ryan B Nelson
Michael Pasque
Jared Petrowski
Chris Phair
Trent J Reece
Mark Richard
Greg Schrenker
Patrick Smith
Jung Kwan Son
Joshua Tabb*

Belleayre - Alpine Level 2

*Dave England
Anita Mellusi
Joe Mellusi
Dave Mertz
Brian Nuss
Rebecca Shiffman
Steve Shyne
Lori Yamashita*

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MEMBER SCHOOL

A Note of Praise for ASIA...

Bill, just a note to convey my appreciation for your work and organization.

■ Here's my ASIA story. Many years ago, 1982 to be precise, I was introduced to ASIA by a ski friend and became certified by Bill Hornbeck. Bill introduced me to the basics and then educated me in some real skiing techniques.

Before then, I skied passionately, but just on the hairy edge of control. Each season was usually ushered in by a major "crash and burn – garage sale extraordinaire". My recoveries from unusual flight situations were nothing but sheer brute force.

■ My ASIA certification experience changed all that,

and my skiing was elevated to a new level of balance, control and speed management. This to me was a big deal as I my skiing enjoyment was greatly heightened.

■ The contrast for me in "before/after ASIA training" could not have been greater. I now continually look forward to fun times on the slopes and handling new challenging terrain with confidence.

I look forward to each Fall Rally and the great instructors who are able to clear off the rust and tune things up for another season. I am amazed that in the middle of skiing some terrain out west, an ASIA nugget will pop into my mind to try.

I am grateful to ASIA for gathering such great ski talent to work with us students.

■ ASIA is certainly a unique organization for providing such great training as a way to begin a new season. In all the rallies I have attended, I can say with certainty I've noticed the skiing improvements in myself and my classmates. This certainly was the case, despite the rain, this last rally. Chris Ericson was an excellent communicator and teacher and I'd like you to convey my special thanks to Chris and the rest of the ASIA instructors.

Fred Voss
ASIA Certified Instructor
#1872

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ASIA Schedule of Events 2011-2012

Look for the latest info, letters, photos, and program news, along with the 2011-2012 ASIA alpine, snowboard and nordic schedule on our website at www.asiaski.com this summer.

Come ski and ride with ASIA!

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