TEACHING INSTRUCTORS HOW TO TEACH (PEDAGOGY)

A teaching <u>system</u> is imperative for successful teaching. Trainers also need a system when teaching instructors how to teach (the guests) because there is a fundamental difference between an instructor teaching the guests how to ride and a trainer teaching instructors how to teach (snowboarding).

If you are the guest, all you need to know is how and why you sideslip and off you go to practice and learn it. If you are the instructor, on the other hand, you need to know a whole manual's worth of information to be able to teach the guest successfully. For example, what sort of terrain, the progression, when is the guest ready to move on, what ability level is the guest, how long is the lesson, what are the snow conditions like? etc. There are literally hundreds of bits of information that an instructor has to be taught in order to be able to teach well. As you can imagine, if there is no system for passing on all this information it would be difficult for the trainer to teach and impossible for the instructor to learn.

A classic example is the person that takes his "buddie" riding. He takes him to the top of the blue run, shows him some turns and tells him to go for it. In this situation the guest is certainly being taught, but the "teacher" is doing everything wrong because he has not been trained or taught how to teach.

So what are the systems trainers use when teaching instructors how to teach? The system is called the "Teach to Teach system" and it has 5 parts to it.

1. INTRODUCTION what (are you going to teach the instructors to teach?)
    who   (level of students you are going to teach this to?)
    where (what sort of terrain do you need to teach this?)
    why   (do we teach this?)
    what   (are the mechanics needed to learn this?)

2. SAMPLE LESSON (this includes the "9 lesson essentials")

3. COMMON PROBLEMS

4. DURATION

5. SUMMARY

These are the 5 points that you go through every time you conduct a "teach to teach" session.

Here is a more detailed description of the 5 points.

INTRODUCTION -

Regardless of which "teach to teach" session you conduct, you introduce the session with the "5 w's". Here is an example of how to introduce "falling leaf" "teach to teach" session.
I am going to teach you how to teach the guests to falling leaf.
This will be to students who can make a solid sideslip.
Initially, the terrain will be the same as the sideslip. Later, if the students are doing well, you may use a beginner run. (If it is suitable)
The reason we want to learn to falling leaf is to control our speed and direction, as well as have more versatility.

SAMPLE LESSON -

In the "sample lesson" you go through a normal lesson, as if you were teaching the public. It is crucial that you systematically go through the Teaching Pattern in the sample lesson to illustrate how to it is implemented. During the "sample lesson" you will continually need to explain certain important elements of this lesson, such as: what to do if the snow is icy, where to stand to be able to do movement analysis on the students etc.

COMMON PROBLEMS -

Here you discuss, demonstrate, and imitate all the common problems the students display at the particular level. It is good to have the instructors try each problem to acquire an understanding and feeling for the problems. You also need to go through a couple of ways to correct each of the problems. Using relevant exercises to correct problems.

DURATION -

Give the instructors an idea of the time it takes to teach the particular task to both athletic and non-athletic students with an example of extreme cases. Some students can learn to falling leaf in 5 minutes and others can take 4 days.

SUMMARY -

Give a summary of the "teach to teach" session. Briefly go through the 5 points.