

Mt. Hood Meadows stresses Safety



As a result of the recent accident on January 5th, 2007, when skier Geoffrey Bradeen was in a collision with a snowboarder, which resulted in his passing, Mt. Hood Meadows is implementing more stringent safety rules, especially related to reckless, fast skiing. The ski area manager, **Dave Riley**, says in his recent blog:

“We implemented a new program this year called “**Are You Aware**”. It consists of a large investment in signage to communicate the appropriate messages to the entire guest population at the resort. Additionally, this program (which

Ms. Toney developed last fall and I support fully) calls for **aggressively confiscating lift tickets and season passes**. More tickets and passes have been confiscated already this year than any entire season in our history.

“We have three groups of people focused on this: the **MHM Professional Patrol Department**, the **Mt. Hood Volunteer Ski Patrol staff**, and the **Safety Hosts**.

“Once a ticket or pass is taken, the “**Are You Aware**” program requires the individual to attend a **safety class** which we present almost every day now at the resort. It includes a safety discussion by a pro patrol leader and everyone has to watch a DVD which Vail created. The DVD is very compelling and covers gruesome examples of accidents from skiing/riding too fast, two person collisions, running into fixed objects like trees, and deaths from skiing out-of-bounds.

“**Season pass holders** have their passes confiscated for at least **one week** (longer based on circumstances and/or attitude). Also, in order to get the season pass back, in addition to attending the safety class, the person must have five people sign a form which we provide which says they have been educated on Your Responsibility Code.”

More details in [Dave's blog](#) on the Meadows web site.

Safety

Turning Skills -- Vision of Skiing in the 21st Century

Safety

Building up on the idea of a new vision for skiing in the 21st century, started in the July/August 2005 issue of “Lift Lines”, resorts could make the slopes **safer** by providing more opportunities for us to practice **controlled turning**, by simply setting up a variety of **fun obstacles** on the slopes. This would not only make the slopes more **fun**, but would also **slow traffic down**, make the slopes **safer**, and lift lines **shorter**.

Urge ski areas to implement this idea, in any of a number of ways. Here's just one of them:



Use whisker gates

Whisker gates can be used in place of traffic cones, in a **fun obstacle maze** (not necessarily a race course).

They can also be used in place of gates for a **simple race-training course**.

These whisker gates can be skied over with no damage to the skis or the gates.

For more info on whisker gates, see:

<http://store.worldcupsupply.com/spm-whisker-gates.html>.

For more ideas, and the whole vision, see our web site at: www.mthigh.org/Vision.htm.

