

## Safety

## Turning around obstacles = Fun on the slopes

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The idea is to ask and encourage resorts to make the slopes **safer** and **more fun** by providing more opportunities for us to practice **controlled turning**, by simply setting up a variety of **fun obstacles** on the slopes. This could be done in any number of ways (trees, cones, whisker gates, etc.)

It is great to see that more and more ski areas are implementing such ideas. Here are some recently witnessed examples:



### Orange Cones

We saw them at **Alpine Meadows** in April 2008. Someone had set up a fun course and it was open to everyone. We had such a blast running the gates that we forgot to take pictures, so we are using this photo from Warner Canyon instead.

At **Warner Canyon** (Oregon), we set up the cones ourselves (after obtaining permission from the ski area), so that one doesn't quite count. But the one at **Alpine Meadows** (at Tahoe) was set up without any input from us.



### Trees

**Heavenly** at Tahoe announced three new trails with trees for this 2007/2008 season. The three are set up for different skill levels.

The Pines (pictured) is the easiest. It's a groomed run with some trees as "islands".

The Bohemian Grove is supposed to be a more advanced version of the same, with more trees.

Finally, the Nevada Woods is a typical forest, with ungroomed snow, but with thinned out trees.

This is very commendable, but we couldn't find the Bohemian Grove. It seems to be a seamless part of Nevada Woods. Maybe the announcement was premature.



### Fun trails

At **Sierra at Tahoe**, we enjoyed a visit to a "mining town" on the slopes, complete with a tunnel you could ski through, a saloon, and a jail. It's fun, people stop, take pictures, spending more time on the slopes and less in the lift line.

Similar fun stuff was seen at **Vail** and **Beaver Creek** a few years ago, and also at **Buttermilk** and **Snowmass** this year. These "fun trails" are usually hidden in the trees between marked trails, but are often not marked themselves on the trail map, because they are temporary. Many skiers miss them completely because they ski too fast right past the entrances to these fun trails. Seek them out at your ski area!

For more ideas, and the whole vision of safer skiing in the 21st century, see our web site at:

[www.mthigh.org/Vision.htm](http://www.mthigh.org/Vision.htm)