

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE



The idea to challenge snowriders to visit all of Oregon's ski areas came from **Steve Coxen**, in cooperation with the **Northwest Ski Club Council** and the **Oregon Snowsport Industries Association**.

The idea was widely advertised through local ski clubs and on the NWSCC and OSIA web sites, but few people actually completed the challenge by visiting all 11 ski areas. Having a season ski pass to just one resort was definitely a hindrance in this situation. For now, we know of four successful challengers, though others may surface in time.



1. **David Schor** did it on a **snowboard**, and was the first one to visit all the areas. He completed the task before the end of February. And this was his first full year of snowboarding!



2. **McCoy Smith** did it on **telemark skis** as well as **alpine** skis, and also purchased an item at every ski area!



3. **Emilio Trampuz** did it on **mid-fat alpine skis**, and took lots of photos.



4. **Ed Palmer** visited 9 of the 11 ski areas.

The adventure took us to places we had not visited before. Most of them were very pleasant surprises. The result is that we are now determined to go back and re-visit at least some of these places next year. Not only that, but, we'll bring our friends along!

The following pages contain an account of our experiences, including lots of photos to inspire you to check out these places. The ski areas are listed alphabetically.

Emilio Trampuz

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Emilio Trampuz, Steve Coxen, & David Schor

Ski Oregon Challenge 2006

The NWSCC is challenging Northwest skiers to ski or board **nine** of Oregon's **eleven** ski resorts during the 2005-06 ski season and qualify for the Council's year end drawing for prizes – equipment, services, 2006-07 lift tickets and a ten-time punch pass at Mt. Hood Meadows. Turn in proof that you have skied **nine** of the Oregon ski resorts listed below and your name will be entered in the drawing. **Ski all eleven areas and you qualify for a special award.** Proof can be lift tickets from each ski resort or a credit card receipt showing proof of purchase. Entries and proof of qualification must be received by the council no later than **June 15, 2006.** The drawing will take place at the June council meeting. You must be 18 years old or older to enter.

You may ski or board at the designated ski resort at any time during the 2005-06 ski season. If you are a PACRAT racer you can use your lift tickets for each day that you ski and race at the ski resorts as proof. Many clubs have trips scheduled to these areas during the season.

The Entry Form and Rules are posted to the NWSCC website at www.nwskiers.org.

First Year “**Ski Oregon Challenge 2006**” long-sleeve mock turtle-necks and sweatshirts are available for the same price as our club's shirts. See page 7.

For more information contact:

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To enter, complete the entry form and include it with your proof documents. Documents must be received no later than June 15, 2006. We recommend that you keep copies of the documents. Submit documents to the address below:

NWSCC Ski Oregon Challenge
PO Box 1915
Portland, OR 97207



Support small ski areas



At last year's Far West Convention, **Glen Plake** spoke about the need to support our **small ski areas**, the local hills where future Olympians are being nurtured. Remember

Steve and Phil Mahre? They grew up skiing at White Pass, WA, a relatively small ski area. Many similar young racers were seen recently at Cooper Spur, Mt. Ashland, and Warner Canyon. See photos on the following pages.

The Ski Oregon Challenge gives us all an opportunity to have some fun visiting different places, and supporting the small ski hills in the process.



SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Ski Oregon Challenge

2006

Oregon Ski Areas

Ski area	Nearest town	Base elev.	Top elev.	Vertical feet	Acres of terrain	Number of Lifts	Num. of Trails	Other
Anthony Lakes	North Powder, 15 m Baker City, 36 miles	7,100	8,000	900	1,100	1 Triple 1 handletow 1 wonder carpet	21	Closed Mon.- Wed. Snow-cat skiing: \$85 for half-day. 40 km nordic trails.
Cooper Spur	Govt. Camp, 23 m. Hood River, 23 m.	4,000	4,350	350	50	1 Double 1 rope tow	10	Open Friday afternoon, Sat. and Sunday only. 6.5 km nordic trails. Tubing hill (2 tows).
Hoodoo	Sisters, 20 miles Bend, 40 miles.	4,668	5,703	1,035	806 (120 groomed)	3 Quad 1 Triple 1 Double 2 rope tows	30	Closed Wednesdays. 15.8 km nordic trails. 20 tubing runs
Mt. Ashland	Ashland, 17 miles.	6,383	7,533	1,150	200	2 Triple 2 Double	23	Open bowl in addition to the 23 trails.
Mt. Bachelor	Bend, 22 miles.	6,300	9,065	3365*	3,683	7 Express Quads 3 Triple 2 poma lifts 1 wonder carpet	71	56 km nordic trails. 2 tubing lifts
Mt. Hood Meadows	Govt. Camp, 11 m. Hood River, 35 m.	4,523	7,300	2,700	2,150	5 Express Quads 5 Double 1 rope tow.	67	Night skiing. Snowcat skiing at times, individual runs. 15 km nordic trails.
Mt. Hood Ski Bowl	Govt. Camp, 0.5 m. Welches, 20 m. Hood River, 46 m.	3,500	5,027	1,500	960	4 Double 3 surfacetows 1 platter lift	34	Night skiing every day. Tubing. Zip-line, Sleigh rides, Snowbikes, Miniature snowmobile track.
Spout Springs	Weston, 22 miles Pendelton, 42 miles	5,400	6,000	600	150	2 Double	14	Open Friday afternoon, Sat. and Sunday only. Night skiing Fri-Sat. 5 km nordic trails. Snowplay area
Timberline	Govt. Camp, 6 m. Welches, 26 m. Hood River, 52 m.	4,950	8,540	3590*	1,500	4 Express Quad 1 Triple 1 Double	30	Night skiing.
Warner Canyon	Lakeview, 7 m. Klamath Falls, 101 m.	5,400	6,480	1,080	200	1 Triple	20	Open Fri.- Sun. 10-4. Also open all Monday holidays, and all week around Christmas and Spring Break. Nordic trails.
Willamette Pass	Oakridge, 26 miles. Eugene, 70 miles.	5,120	6,683	1,563	555 (225 groomed)	1 Express 6-seat. 3 Triple 2 surface tows	29	Closed Wednesdays. 20 km nordic trails. Tubing hill.

* Vertical is that much only when all lifts are open. More typically, the available vertical is around 2,000.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David Schor's Snowboard Adventure



David Schor at Timberline

This season I finally decided to get serious about snowboarding. I had only been on the slopes three times before this season, but that was enough for me to get the bug.

Yes, this was only my second season on a snowboard (after trying it just 3 times the previous season). I progressed quickly and had my first attempt at a black diamond run this season.

I set out to visit all the resorts in Oregon even before I read about the Ski Oregon Challenge on the NWSCC web site. When I found that info, it was a natural match.

This was a great season to get serious about learning to snowboard.

- David

NOTE: David was the first one to complete the challenge. He was done by February 19, and then continued riding the slopes till June 3 (the last day Meadows was open)!

Emilio Trampuz does it on Alpine skis



Skis are like wings! Emilio flies a lot on his!

I love getting in my car and driving from ski area to ski area. I had been on ski safaris to Canada and all over the western part of the United States. But, I had never skied at Oregon's own Spout Springs or Warner Canyon.

The Ski Oregon Challenge gave me the perfect excuse to visit these areas, and I was very pleasantly surprised. Not only did I see parts of Oregon I had not visited before, but I also found some incredible powder skiing almost everywhere I went. The more remote the area, the better the powder!

I will definitely go back and re-visit many of these less populated parts of Oregon. Hey, fewer crowds is another big plus!

At each ski area, including those I had skied many times before, I tried to explore every nook, and systematically ski all the runs, from left to right (or whatever system seemed logical). At the more familiar areas, I tried and succeeded finding new ways of skiing it, hidden trails, wooded areas, etc. New discoveries was the key idea.

After skiing all the 11 ski areas listed, I added one more for good measure, spending a day at the Summit ski area in Government Camp, the smallest and oldest ski area in Oregon, and spiced it up by skiing the out-of-bounds Alpine trails that leaves Timberline ski area and meanders down toward the top of the Summit area. From the top of Timberline to the bottom of Summit, it's about 4,500', probably more than any other continuous vertical descent in the United States.

-Emilio

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

McCoy Smith: Black & Blue on Telemark & Alpine



McCoy at the top of Warner Canyon, on alpine skis, with Timberline hat.

I decided to take up the first inaugural Oregon Ski Challenge, but wanted put my own special twists to it. I ski both alpine and telemark, so part of my personal challenge was to attempt to ski all of the Oregon ski areas according to my technique preferences -- alpine for the expert, black runs, telemark for the intermediate, blue runs (I skip green runs).

I also thought I skied hard and planned my days right, I might be able to say that -- in a single season -- I skied had every **black** run in Oregon on my alpine skis, and every **blue** run in Oregon on my telemark skis. I called that the "**Black and Blue Challenge.**" And to top it off, and in the spirit of financial support for the smaller ski areas, I also decided that I would try my best to purchase some piece of ski gear with the logo of each of the ski areas I visited.

In the end, I didn't achieve my Black and Blue Challenge goal, although I came pretty close. I did ski every black run on my alpine skis and every blue run on my telemarks skis at Anthony Lakes, Mount Ashland, Warner Canyon, Hoodoo and Cooper Spur. I missed only one blue run at Willamette Pass when they closed the back-side lift before I got in the final run. I missed out on four or five runs at Spout Springs because their main lift was closed for repairs after a wind storm the night before. I also got about 80% through all the runs at Mount Bachelor, but the spread of the terrain and some long lift-lines on President's Day weekend kept me from finishing off all the runs.

However, the main reason why I didn't complete my goal was that on my first run on Cooper Spur, I hit an ice patch on my telemark skis, fell down, and broke my thumb. I managed to finish off the rest of the runs at Cooper Spur, but the next morning the doctor put me in a splint and told me no recreation for at least four weeks. I cheated a bit on my doctor's advice (I ran a Pacrat race at Ski Bowl three weeks after the broken thumb), but it did keep me from going back and finishing up the slopes I missed on Ski Bowl, Mount Hood Meadows, Timberline and Mount Bachelor.

Overall, I had a great experience and ran into some really good ski days at Mount Ashland (6-8 inches of fresh powder -- in late March!), Warner Canyon (beautiful, clear, sunny day and a decent amount of untracked powder) and Anthony Lakes (fresh powder, beautiful clear day in the morning, followed by fog and heavy snow in the afternoon). I also picked up some interesting logoed skiwear (including a hat which was one of only two pieces of Spout Springs labeled gear sold in their ski shop).

The smaller ski areas not located on Mount Bachelor and Mount Hood are worth checking out -- good terrain, non-existent lift lines, and if you're lucky some great conditions.

Now, I need to figure out a way to complete my Black and Blue Challenge!



McCoy at the top of Warner Canyon, on telemark skis, with Hoodoo hat.

-McCoy

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Anthony Lakes

Emilio: Feb. 20, 2006. (Monday) I visited Anthony Lakes on a beautiful, sunny day, as part of a ski club trip that also visited Idaho. Due to the higher elevation of A-Lakes, the snow was light and powdery, and every bit of terrain was skiable. Anthony Lakes has several unique advantages over other ski areas (including those in Idaho).

- a) It has the **highest base elevation** in Oregon, at 7,100', which practically guarantees good snow.
- b) It offers a **great variety** of skiing for all skill-levels, from beginner to powder-hound, and yet all trails funnel to the same lift, so the whole family (or ski club) can stay in touch all day, even if they are skiing different trails.
- c) Anthony Lakes offers a very affordable way to try **snow-cat skiing** on the back side of the mountain. Half a day of cat skiing costs only \$85 (in 2006).

It's amazing how much terrain can be covered by a single chairlift! Think of how much terrain would be covered if Mt. Bachelor had a lift from the base lodge to the top of the mountain. Well, Anthony Lakes does have a lift like that. It offers several easy trails circling the ski area on both sides, but it also offers bowls and lots of tree skiing.

My favorite was the "Chicken Out" run, a blue ungroomed slope peppered with small trees perfectly positioned for a playful slalom. The name is a bit puzzling, since you are chickening out of a groomed blue trail onto an ungroomed one. But, maybe it was named so because it is flanked by two black ungroomed trails. Well, I "chickened out" and enjoyed it greatly! I'll be back for more!



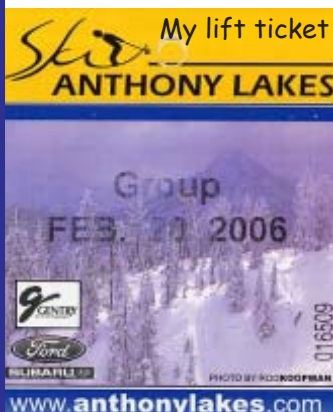
Mt. High club half way down the Rock Garden



Gorgeous views!



Powder snow!



Emilio on "Chicken Out"



View from middle of Rock Garden

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David: Anthony Lakes - February 19, 2006 (Sunday)

Anthony Lakes was a great way to end my adventure (not that the adventure is over!). The last resort on my list for the Ski Oregon Challenge, A-Lakes proved to be one of the best.

The powder here is dry and deep, and the 8,000 foot summit means plenty of good snow, plus amazing views. I was impressed at the amount and variety of terrain that spread out below the one main lift. From the boardercross course to the ungroomed backside, and all the steeps in between, every run at Anthony Lakes was a dry powder pleasure. It was clear that the secret is out - there were certainly quite a few folks enjoying the supreme conditions - but even with a full lot, there is so much room to spread across the face of the hill that I rarely found anyone in my path.

Another beautiful and sunny day on the mountain, and the joy of fresh air and fresh powder. This was a great season to get serious about learning to snowboard.



David Schor at Anthony Lakes

McCoy: Anthony Lakes

Nice snow, very sunny during the morning (great view of the Elkhorns) followed by pea-soup fog and snow in the afternoon.

Anthony Lakes has some good **black** terrain and is of interest to telemarkers in that it has a **cross-country trail** that leads from the lodge to almost the summit (meaning if you bring your skins, you can ascend up and ski down without taking the lift).

I bought a nice "Anthony Lakes" fleece vest.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Cooper Spur

December 31, 2005. The day at Cooper Spur started off with a soft drizzle, but it soon turned to snow, and snowed heavily most of the day. Ten runs earned me a total of 3,380 vertical feet. That's 338' per run!

At last year's Far West Convention, **Glen Plake** spoke about the need to support our small ski areas, the local hills where future Olympians are being nurtured. This nurturing of future racers is very much alive at **Cooper Spur**. The day I visited, Sat. Dec. 31, a bunch of 60 (or more) kids of various ages were at the end of a 5-day ski camp, where they honed their skills and topped it off with a final race. Smiles were everywhere.

Cooper Spur is small, intimate. Bring a friend to ski with. The old T-bar has been replaced with a double chairlift, and the old lodge (which had burned down several years ago) was re-built much nicer and better.



Future Olympians?



Great views from the top of the chairlift!



Racer on course, day lodge, & shuttle bus.



My lift ticket.



Easy tree trail opens onto a meadow.



Racer arriving at the finish line.



Group photo of the young racers.



Apparently, Emilio had fun too!

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David: Cooper Spur - February 17, 2006 (Friday)

Cooper Spur is especially friendly to children, but it also has some charm for adults as well.

I made my trip to Cooper Spur in the evening, to take advantage of their incredibly inexpensive night ticket. From four o'clock on, the hill was basically mine, and within a few hours I had made the acquaintance of every run on the hill. It is a small place, no doubt about it, but each of the runs is of high quality, and the crowds are so thin that you can basically imagine that you have the hill to yourself.

There is also a sweet little lodge, but after a quick bite, I was right back on the hill. The ride is short, and the hill is just right for making a few turns. I was happy to have the hill to myself and be able to cruise the slopes - and with no lines, there was plenty of cruising occurring. I lost count around 12 runs, and just kept carving until I was ready to head east.

At this point, I was on a mission.



Cooper Spur

McCoy: Cooper Spur

Not a place I'd normally ski, unless it was to skin up on my telemark skis to the Cloud Cap Inn.

I'm even less inclined now, since on my first run I hit an ice patch on my telemark skis, fell awkwardly, and broke my thumb (sidelining my skiing for about 4 weeks, although I did manage to finish skiing all the blue and black runs with my broken thumb before I left).

The ski shop didn't have any logoed gear.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Hoodoo: "Steeper, deeper, cheaper!"

Emilio: March. 26, 2006. Hoodoo is a real jewel, especially on a sunny Spring powder day. It is the only skiable mountain in Oregon that offers literally 360 degrees of skiing. About half of that, on the back side, is a powder-skier's paradise, with some nicely spaced small trees, and a pretty steady pitch. A road, circling the entire back side, picks you up and brings you back to one of the lifts. There are also plenty of easy groomed runs that will make you feel like a pro! And they even use traffic cones for practice gates, just as I've been advocating!

There is hardly ever a lift line, and you don't have to go through any metal gates every time you catch a chairlift. The new day lodge is beautiful, spacious, and warm, and you can always find a seat and a table, unlike many other overcrowded resorts where it's always a struggle to find a seat. Hoodoo is literally steeper, deeper, and cheaper. So, why ski anywhere else?!



An easy section of the "Big dipper" trail.



The day lodge and view of the front side of the mountain



Great powder skiing on the back side!



The elusive, seldom seen, hodag.



Yes, traffic cones in use for a fun slalom course!

My lift ticket.



Three-Finger Jack



View of Mt. Washington

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

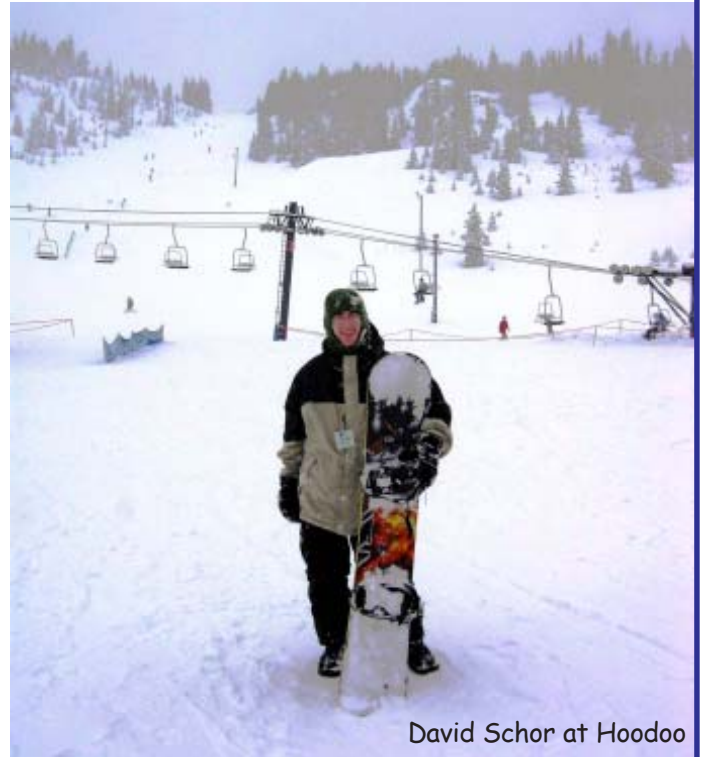
David: Hoodoo - January 8, 2006 (Sunday)

I brought my dad along for a trip to explore Hoodoo, as he was interested in the Tubing Hill. While he was happily sliding down the runs there, I was eagerly carving up the powder from summit to base.

This was my first visit to Hoodoo, so I began with a few short runs, and stayed off the main lift until I was warmed up.

Soon enough the "hodag" was calling my name, and I took the lift on up to the summit. There was light snow all day, which kept the runs in great shape, and after a few hodag runs, I decided to try out the deep stuff.

I made my way down from the summit to Powder Valley, and spent the rest of the day making runs through deep, soft powder. The slopes were in great shape, and I often had a whole run all to myself. It was a dream to have such a great snow day, and I skipped lunch so I could get a few more runs in. By the time the day was over, the smile on my face was fixed in place.



David Schor at Hoodoo

Mt. High club members at the top of Hoodoo,
with a view of Three-Finger Jack**McCoy: Hoodoo - Feb. 20, 2006. (Monday)**

Skied here the Monday of President's Day weekend. Bitterly cold temperatures and hard packed snow, on a bright sunny day. Hoodoo has some nice untouched black and double black on the back side.

The new cafeteria and ski shop are top notch (best of all the small Oregon resorts).

I picked up a loaed bucket hat and turtleneck.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Mt. Ashland

Emilio: February 4, 2006. (Saturday) Mt. Ashland offers everything from easy groomers to a really steep bowl, and wonderfully spaced trees. Many of the trail names are inspired by Shakespeare (Romeo, Juliet, Avon, Windsor, Tempest, All's Well, Ado).

I was overjoyed to find that whisker gates were being actively used by people of all ages to practice their turns. That's a first step toward a "terrain park for turning" (as opposed to just a bunch of jumps).

On a good powder day, or on good Spring corn snow, the Bowl is a wonderful playground and a proving ground. Also, a lot of tree skiing is available. Moguls under the Windsor and Ariel chairlifts provide an opportunity for hot riders to show off their skills.

Skiing is popular here. The lodge was full of people at lunch time, but they all spread out on the slopes, so there was never a long line, even with relatively slow, fixed-grip lifts on a Saturday in February.

For adventurous explorers, it's good to note that Mt. Shasta ski area is only 1.5 hours to the south, so a visit to Ashland can be enriched with a day of skiing at Shasta. But, Mt. Ashland itself will keep you busy exploring, especially if you like venturing into the trees.



View of the day lodge, from Upper Juliet trail.



Bottom of the Juliet trail.



Top of the Windsor chair.



Great tree skiing!



Whisker-gates used for race training.



My lift ticket



Group of kids uses the whisker gates.



Even the little kids can handle the gates.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David: Mt. Ashland - February 11, 2006 (Saturday)

Mount Ashland is a relatively small ski area - less than 300 acres - but it has terrain enough to challenge even expert skiers.

Still not an expert myself, I started with a few blue runs, but eventually, **the bowl** began to call my name. I had never seen terrain so steep - the walls of the bowl are truly vertical, and a quite amazing sight. After looping around the bowl a few times, I finally decided to drop in. Unfortunately for me, it was not a powder day at Ashland, and I found myself scraping along in an icy bowl. One run of that was enough for me, and I headed back to the beautiful groomers.

Ashland has a great little lodge, and wonderful terrain, and on this unseasonably warm day I found myself among topless skiers. Ashland is small enough to cover in a day, and that was my project - I made at least one run down every trail before I retired to the lodge for a brew.

The runs are very well laid out, and this is a very efficient hill to cover - not much traversing, and plenty of steeps.



Mountain High snowsport club members in front of the Bowl at Mt. Ashland

McCoy: Mt. Ashland, March 2006.

Fantastic ski conditions -- it basically snowed the entire time I was up there (and this was late March!), meaning I got a full day of ankle-to-knee deep powder.

The back bowl at Ashland was great -- lots of steep, untracked powder followed by tree skiing and very few people.

They didn't have any logoed clothing at the very small ski shop so I picked up a nice coffee mug.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Mt. Bachelor

Emilio: January 13, 2006. Mt. Bachelor is Oregon's jewel. The largest ski area in Oregon, the greatest number of ski lifts, the most skiable terrain, and snow that is supposed to be drier than that on Mt. Hood, according to the locals. In reality, the ski area is located almost directly south of Mt. Hood, and not much further east. But, the base elevation is a bit higher, which probably accounts for the somewhat better snow, if you are lucky to hit it on the right day.

This year, I visited Mt. Bachelor on a foggy, snowy day. The summit chair was not open. And I had to struggle with the most annoying ticketing system around. You have to punch your ticket through a narrow slot on every single run, even on the back of the mountain, where there is really no need to check people's lift tickets, since there is no way for people to get to the back of the mountain other than by using the front side lifts first. I had been hoping for years that the system would simply break down some day. Maybe it did, but they didn't throw it away. Instead, they replaced it this year with new machines (that work exactly the same way).

Mt. Bachelor is best visited on a sunny day in the Spring, when the summit chairlift is open, and when you can see the magnificent view from the top, and ski almost everything in sight!



A sunny Spring day at Mt. Bachelor



Punching in at the gate not easy in bad weather.

Mt. Bachelor

2006-01-13T10:04 POS: 685
 Trans Id: 111379521

Qty	Item	Amount
1	Adult Window 1 Day	49.00
Access Code: 015210004854040861		
Sub Total		49.00
Tax		0.00
Payment Amount		49.00
Visa/Master Card (Auto)		49.00

www.mtbachelor.com



A bit wet, but happy!

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE**David: Mt. Bachelor - December 31, 2005**

I purchased a snowboard and then drove straight to Bachelor the next weekend, anticipating the thrill of trying out my new board. By the end of December, I had decided that I would like to make it to all the ski areas in the state (who knew there was a Ski Oregon Challenge?), and to that end I had bought my first snowboard.

Bachelor was the perfect location to test out my new gear. After a couple of runs down the hill, I was all smiles, and glad to be there for a true powder day.

On the drive up, I had been worried about too much snow, but my fears were allayed once I took to the hill. Conditions were great, and there would be fresh dry powder all day long. I met up with my sister, her husband, and a family friend, and we all took our boards up to try out the moguls.

Not having any experience on moguls, the first run was a little bumpy, but I started to get the hang of it quickly, and by the end of the day I was actually carving turns with confidence. A full day at Bachelor called for some relaxation, so we all went back to Sunriver to enjoy a soak in the hot tub. Good times!



Mt. Bachelor: Lee-way trail

McCoy: Mt. Bachelor, Feb. 19, 2006. (Sunday).

Spent Sunday of President's Day weekend at Mt. Bachelor. Very cold, but good conditions, marred only by some horrendously long lift lines at the bottom.

Picked up a interesting logoed Tyrolean-looking fleece sweater from their massive ski shop.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Mt. Hood Meadows

Emilio: Nov. 26, 2005. The season started early, with plenty of snow, and Meadows had the best early coverage on Mt. Hood, so it was a natural choice for a first day of the season. It was somewhat foggy, windy and stormy, so I did not take any photos that day, just enjoying the skiing instead. The photos are from previous visits.

Mt. Hood Meadows has the most skiable acres and the most varied terrain among all the ski areas on Mt. Hood. There are people who will ski nothing but Meadows all the time. Over the years, I have often purchased 10-time passes here. Every season, we normally have 3 PACRAT races here as well.

The interesting thing about Meadows is that it is so varied and has so many hidden nooks and crannies that I still keep discovering new terrain here. It started a few years ago, around 2000, when I discovered Jack Woods, which I had never skied before in 12 years of skiing at Meadows. Ever since then, I've been on a mission to discover even more hidden places, ... and I am still managing to find more!



Some of my ski buddies resting on the Shooting Star Ridge run

View of Mt. Jefferson from the Cascade Chair at Meadows.

Mike, Deirdre, Wally, Emilio, Salah, Phil & Sylvia



MT HOOD MEADOWS
BEST SERVICES
MT HOOD OR 57041

TERMINAL T.O. 1 0010001
MERCHNT #: 0000002100500
MASTERCARD SVR: 1
1504
SALE EXP.: 08/06
BATCH: 000019 DIVLCE: 534985
DATE: 10/25/05 TIME: 09:03
RN1: 00004790608 WTH ID: 005528

548.00

EMILIO TRAMPZ

I AGREE TO PAY ABOVE TOTAL AMOUNT ACCORDING TO CARD ISSUER AGREEMENT (MERCHANT AGREEMENT IF CREDIT VOUCHER)

My lift ticket.

MT HOOD MEADOWS
RESORT

ADULT OC
NOT FOR RESALE
11/26/05 OPEN - CLOSE
FACE
\$48.00 09:05 tkappel
083
11/26/05 0004 0381 008

SKIHOOD.COM

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE**David: Mt. Hood Meadows - January 15, 2006**

Meadows is an amazing resort. I had never seen so many skiers and snowboarders in one place - or so many lifts.

I started this sunny day at Hood River Meadows, and decided that the fantastic conditions warranted the open to close lift ticket. After a couple of runs in the sun, I stopped at the Renaissance Cafe mid mountain to grab a mocha and rest my legs. Espresso on the hill is one of the great features of Meadows - aside from absolutely fantastic runs.

It took me a while to become familiar with the massive area, but after a few runs I was able to see why so many people enjoy skiing and boarding here. There is terrain enough for all, with great stops along the way, and enough lifts to keep things moving even on the busiest of days.

I think I finally hit my stride on the wide open runs at Meadows - I began to carve with confidence, and even took a run through the terrain park (just to take a look). Later in the day, I stopped for another mocha above the terrain park at the Mazot eatery, a cute little bar built on the footing of a former ski lift.

This was my first evening of night boarding, and I must admit, I am now hooked: the snow is even more beautiful under the lights.



Tom, David Schor, and Bob, enjoying a day at Meadows in May 2006, with Mt. Jefferson in the background.

McCoy: Mt. Hood Meadows

Visited here several times, both for PACRAT and regular skiing. Got to ski Heather Canyon for the first time although Upper Heather Canyon was closed.

Picked up a logoed fleece sweater.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Mt. Hood Ski Bowl

Emilio: March 19, 2006. (Sunday) Ski Bowl is the closest ski area to Portland. Many people come here for some night skiing after work. The ski area has a rich tradition of racing, such as City League, PACRAT races, Winter Games of Oregon, Speed skiing events, Extreme Championships and more.

I was there on a PACRAT race day, where Portland Area Clubs race against each other. But, there was also plenty of time to explore the steeper Upper Bowl, and the ungroomed slopes under the Tom Dick Peak.

Ski Bowl offers some of the easiest trails around (in the Lower Bowl), as well as some of the most challenging slopes in the Mt. Hood area (in the Upper Bowl). Today's Ski Bowl is the result of a merger between two ski areas, Ski Bowl and Multorpor (a.k.a. Ski Bowl East).

The views of Mt. Hood from Ski Bowl are amazing. Night skiing is available every night of the week. There are 2 eateries in the main area (West) - a cafeteria and a bar, a separate day lodge at Ski Bowl East, and a cozy warming hut that also serves food mid-mountain.

No high speed quads here. Just good skiing, and lots of history. Bill Johnson skied here. Hjalmaar Hvaam won races here in the 1920s. Multorpor Mountain was originally a ski jumping hill.

Awesome views of Mt. Hood!



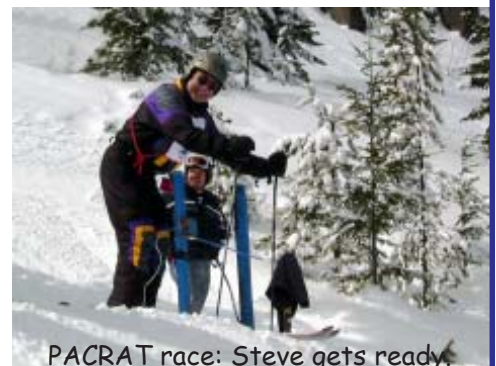
The upper bowl is steep.



Dale in the start.



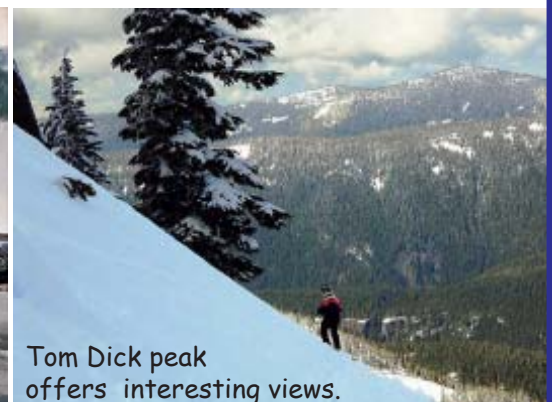
Ski Bowl organizes lots of races.



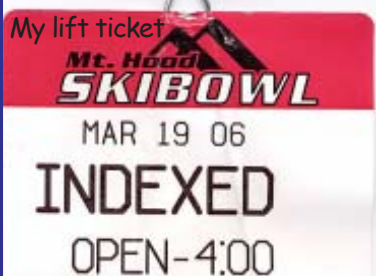
PACRAT race: Steve gets ready.



In the parking lot, getting ready.



Tom Dick peak offers interesting views.



SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David: Skibowl - January 28, 2006 (Saturday)

After driving past Skibowl on my trips to Timberline and Mt. Hood Meadows, and being jealous of the folks still skiing after 10pm on my way home, I finally decided to stop in.

Starting at Multorpor lodge, I made my way to the lift and noticed that there was snow far above the level of the loading area. This season has been good to Skibowl, it seems, and the snow on this day was nothing short of amazing. I had seen powder before, but nothing really prepared me for the depth and volume I found at Skibowl.

I stayed on the groomed trails and made my way down to the lower bowl lift, and then rode up to stop at the Warming Hut. One mocha, coming up. After downing my espresso (yum!) and taking a few moments to admire the classic architecture and photographs of the warming hut, it was time to explore the slopes. Another quick trip down the lower bowl, and then I was off to the summit.

I decided to try out Skyline to get my bearings, and was pleased to find that my skills were now refined enough to get me over the hills along the way. Another quick trip to the summit, and a few over the hill, and the outback was open. I made a quick run there, and found the powder to be nothing short of epic. Do I need a bigger board?

The sheer volume of powder was overwhelming in the outback, particularly between the trees. One run in that waist deep powder and I was ready for lunch. A quick crossover to Multorpor, a bite to eat, and then back to the bowl. I cruised the upper bowl most of the rest of the day, enjoying the fantastic conditions, with light snow covering my tracks by the time I came around the next run.

On into the night I boarded, no longer jealous of the late night crowd. Skibowl has got it all under the lights.



View from the top of the upper bowl.



Warming hut at Ski Bowl. Mt. Hood in the background.

McCoy: Mt. Hood Ski Bowl

Skied there for my PACRAT race on a really nice day with some great conditions on the upper slopes (which are some of the best double-black diamonds in the state).

Unfortunately, I was skiing with a broken thumb so had to take it easy on the steep stuff.

Picked up a logoeed fleece vest.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Spout Springs



A family-friendly area.

Emilio: Jan 15, 2006. I was pleasantly surprised at Spout Springs. It turned out to be a perfect powder day. It was about 12 degrees cooler than any other place in Oregon. Perfectly dry snow. At least a foot of fresh snow. And no crowds. There were maybe 20 people on the beginner lift, and only 5 or 6 people on the more advanced/intermediate lift. And this was on a Sunday!

I had 600 vertical feet of fresh, untouched powder almost to myself! I was laying down fresh tracks long into the afternoon. There were several slopes that required a bit of walking (traversing along the ridge), so nobody had skied them when I first cut some tracks there around 1:30 pm. About half an hour later, I re-visited the same

slope, and laid down a second set of tracks. Only on my third run did I notice another set of tracks.

On the slopes, several clusters of trees were left standing in places, providing lots of opportunities to explore different lines between the trees. Other places, there were tall shrubs growing in the middle of the trail, again providing for interesting slalom obstacles.

I even showed off on the beginner slopes too. The terrain right under the beginner lift is actually quite steep close to the top of the lift. Beginners get on a road circling this steeper part. This leaves a very wide steep swath of terrain totally untouched near the lift. I cut it up with pleasure, in several places!

I had a blast! I would recommend Spout Springs to everyone, especially on a powder day. Just remember that they are only open Friday through Sunday, plus holidays.

To get to Spout Springs, you drive along a very nice highway between Pendleton, OR, and Walla Walla, WA. Exactly half way between those two towns, you turn into the hills and drive for another 20 miles, toward a place called "Tollgate", and then another 3 miles beyond Tollgate. The ski area is only about 42 miles from Pendleton, and an equal distance to Walla Walla. That's probably less than what most people drive from Portland to Mt. Hood. I was surprised that there weren't more people skiing up there. One possible explanation is that the locals seem more interested in snowmobiling. There were lots of snowmobilers at snow-parks everywhere along that mountain road to Spout Springs. They even made quite a racket in the Spout Springs parking lot. Fortunately, the main ski lift is a bit removed from the parking lot (you ski to it). Once I got to the ski lift, I never once heard any snowmobilers.



Wide open slopes, and no crowds.



Fresh tracks!

From a distance, as you approach from Pendleton, it all looks so tame, with no snow on the ground at first, and only some very gentle, rolling hills. But, the road starts climbing quite steeply, and the climb continues from one rolling hill to another. It never lets up, just keeps going higher and higher, and pretty soon you are driving on a snowy road with 4 - 5 feet of snow on either side of the road!

I skied till 4:00 pm. By the time I left the parking lot, it was 4:20 pm. I was in Portland by 9 pm, even though I made 2 short stops along the way, in Pendleton and in Biggs, for food and gas. So, the total drive was just over 4.5 hours. It's quite do-able. That's how long I used to drive from San Francisco to Lake Tahoe!

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David: Spout Springs - February 18, 2006

Spout Springs is a little known ski area in the Blue Mountains.

Here I found another resort with plenty of fresh powder, and almost no traffic. Most of my runs were by myself, and for most of the day, the only tracks in the powder were my own.

A little traversing away from the groomed runs under the lift, and there were many lines to enjoy through the trees and all across the hill. I kept finding stashes of powder all day long, enjoying the sunshine and hospitality of the friendly folks in the lodge in between.

The trip to the lift is a little flat for a beginner snowboarder, but after a few trips I found that a little cut through the trees left me with enough speed to make it all the way around.

It was nice to have a whole mountain all to myself - and the powder here was the driest I had found yet.



Both lifts at Spout Springs are behind these trees.



The shorter, easier chairlift.



McCoy wearing Spout Springs cap

McCoy: Spout Springs

Very good snow here (ankle deep powder).

Unfortunately, the main lift was knocked out from high winds the evening before meaning I only got to ride the "bunny lift" the whole day.

Huge lodge, very much a family operation.

The rental and ski shop had only two logoed items -- a red baseball cap and a green baseball cap. I picked up the green cap (and am wearing it in the attached picture) -- an extremely rare souvenir!

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Timberline

Emilio: January 8, 2006. The first PACRAT race of the season was held at Timberline. Lots of fresh snow on the ground. In fact, the snow was so deep that Diane and I got stuck in the woods when the slope we were having fun on gradually petered out and became too flat to sustain sufficient speed. We broke quite a sweat getting out of there. Diane might never trust me to lead her into the woods again!

Timberline is known for its gentle slopes, but there is some challenging terrain there too, if you know where to look. In fact, it was on the Wingles Wiggle trail that I experienced my first face-shot ever (powder in the face)!

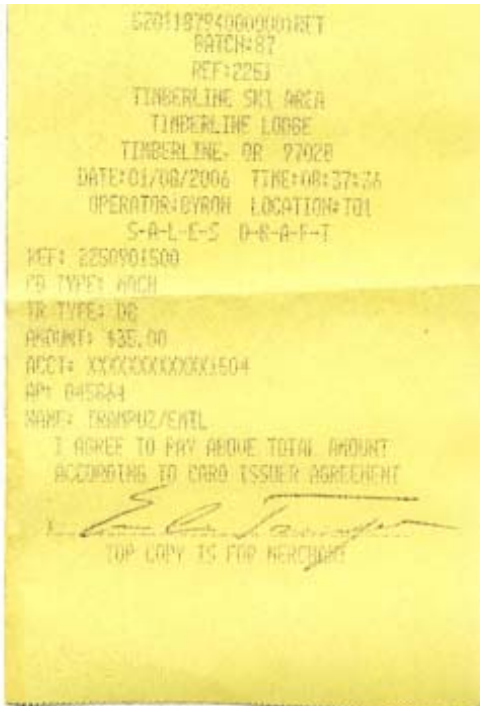
Timberline is also famous for its historic lodge and for the Summer race clinics on the Palmer snowfield. During my years as a volunteer ski host at Timberline, I once helped guide a lady safely down, after she had frozen with fear of heights. The view from the top of Palmer does look like you are looking down from an airplane!



Kurt and Diane waiting for their turn on the race course.



My lift ticket.



Part of the Mt. Hoodlums team: Diane, Phil, Kurt, Doug, & Narasimhan.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David: Timberline - December 24, 2005 (photo from February 15 visit)

My second trip of the season was to Timberline. I had not yet explored the blue runs at Timberline, or even the Magic Mile. Today was the perfect day to expand my horizons. I brought along a friend, and after making a quick stop at the rental shop (This was before I had purchased my own board), we were first in line to hit the slopes.

The snow was great, and the weather was perfect. A couple of runs down Pucci and then Norman, and I was ready to check out the Magic Mile. I enjoyed peeking back over my shoulder as we sped up the chairlift, taking in the amazing views of the Cascades.

We decided to start with the East Mile, and it was in fantastic shape - soft powder, and no ice. It was such a beautiful day, I had to take off my hat to cool off! After making a couple of runs on the East Mile, we decided to be even more adventurous, and made our way down to the top of Norman.

Having followed the ski area boundary down from the top of the mile, we kept going along the west edge of the ski area, and made our way down Paintbrush. It would be my first attempt at a black diamond, and my friend's as well. Deep breath, and then down we go. It was a thrill, and even though I had to unstrap and kick in a few spots, I was ready to go again.

My friend was a little slower, so I made my way to the bottom, gave a friendly wave on the ride up Norman, and then caught up on my second run - no kicking involved. Awesome.

We spent the rest of the day cruising the Magic Mile, and soaking up the sun and snow. What a beautiful day.



David Schor at Timberline



Fresh tracks on the way from Palmer snowfield to the Stormin Norman chair

McCoy: Timberline, January 8, 2006 (Sunday).

Very snowy day for PACRAT race.

Picked up a loeod leather baseball cap at the ski shop.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Warner Canyon

Emilio: February 3, 2006. (Friday) Warner Canyon is Oregon's best kept secret, at least for powder skiers. It's only 7 miles from the charming town of Lakeview, but hours of driving from everywhere else. Still, it's well worth a visit! A fixed triple chairlift will give you 1,080 vertical feet. That's 180 feet more than Anthony Lakes! And, on a good day, it's all fresh powder on advanced and intermediate terrain.

I experienced my best powder day of the season here. Since the area is closed Monday - Thursday, nobody had skied all the fresh powder until Friday, the day of my visit. I arrived an hour and a half after the lifts opened, expecting to find all the fresh snow already cut up. Instead, there was only one track snaking down the face of the mountain. I immediately proceeded to draw figure 8s across that track. Then continued to cut fresh tracks everywhere else. The views from the top are awesome. Some of the best slopes are along the edges of the area (the Coyote and Cougar trails). There were maybe a dozen skiers there, and only 3 or 4 were powder skiers.

The lodge was warm and uncrowded, the people friendly and relaxed, warming themselves near a centrally located stove, with sofas arranged all around it. And the restrooms are some of the cleanest in all of skidom, in a beautiful cabin made of pine-wood, with benches and hooks on the wall, so it doubles beautifully as a changing room. I hope to return some day soon!



Fresh tracks at noon!



More freshies in Cougar bowl!



First tracks in the Gully!



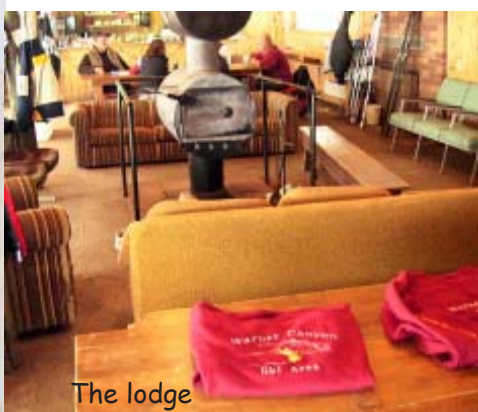
The back side



Outback



My lift ticket



The lodge



Skier on Coyote trail



Two guys exploring

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David: Warner Canyon - February 12, 2006 (Sunday).

Warner Canyon is an oasis in the desert. Far off the beaten path, this gem of a ski area is free of crowds, and flush with fine white powder. I made it on a Sunday, and there was plenty of untouched powder to be found.

The one lift serves the hill well, providing easy access to everything from gentle groomed runs to powder filled gullies and an ungroomed back area.

I was quite impressed to find a nice little lodge with friendly locals serving hot grub at fair prices, and a hill with no lines at all and plenty of the good white stuff.

Warner Canyon is run by the local ski club, and it shows - this place is great, and you can feel the love. Everyone is friendly, and they all seem to know each other - and by the end of the day, they will probably know you. I was the sixth car in the lot, and there were never more than twenty five cars all day.

The average run here is you all by yourself carving the whole length of the hill. A good mix of terrain, too, although nothing is too extreme. I was heartily impressed, and I can see myself making the trip again in spite of the longer driving time - it is rare to have so much good snow all to one's self!



Endless fresh tracks at Warner Canyon (the Gully area).

McCoy: Warner Canyon

Very small and informal resort (and the farthest from Portland). Doesn't even open until 10ish.

Skied it on an absolutely clear, bright, sunny day (with an awesome view of the surrounding mountains and valleys), but they still had some residual powder.

They don't really have a ski shop, so I didn't pick up any logoed gear. Very nice, uncrowded place with a handful of friendly local people. I'd encourage people to get a trip down there since it sounds any little bit of additional skiers helps keep the place running. Some interesting terrain off the sides of the lift.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Willamette Pass

Emilio: January 12, 2006. It was mid-week, and I had Willamette Pass all to myself! I was cutting fresh tracks late into the afternoon!

Willamette Pass has the only 6-passenger chairlift in Oregon. In the summer, they convert the same lift into a sight-seeing gondola.

You have to prove your mettle here on the RTS run, the steep, double-black “Really Tough Shot”, or “Really Terryfying Slope”.

Instead of a lift ticket, they use a watch-like gadget that you wear around your wrist, and use it to open the revolving metal gate at the base of the lift.



No crowds!



Friendly lift operator lady!



The RTS slope is yonder!



Nice glades at the edge of the trail!

My lift ticket:



The two pins must come in contact with a sensor at the gate.



Had the place to myself! Fresh tracks at the end of the day!

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

David: Willamette Pass - December 11, 2005 (Sunday)

I started my season with a trip to Willamette Pass in December, where I was pleasantly surprised by the excellent conditions.

After parking my car in Eugene, I rode the ski bus to the mountain and headed straight to the rental office. The employees were very helpful, and had me on the hill in no time. I checked my bag at the desk, and took to the slopes.

Being a relative beginner, I started out with a few passes down the front side, and then made my way to the summit to try out some blue runs. The weather was sunny, and the view from the summit was amazing - I really felt on top of the world. A quick stop to strap in, and the rest of my day was spent exploring the intermediate runs, with an occasional detour to duck through the trees.

It was a beautiful day, and by the time I returned my gear, I had decided that this year would be the perfect year for snowboarding.



Mountain High snowsport club members at Willamette Pass.

McCoy: Willamette Pass

Skied here the Saturday of President's Day weekend, where Oregon was experiencing record low temperatures. The snow was very hard-packed because of the cold, and I was wearing 2-5 layers to stay warm. A nice sunny but cold (teens to single-digits) the whole day.

Couldn't find an interesting logoed clothing item in the ski shop, so got a logoed water bottle holder belt for summer hiking.

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

Summit Ski Area (Government Camp, OR)

Emilio: April 8, 2006. Summit ski area was not officially on the list, but I felt my mission wouldn't be complete unless I also skied here. For years, I have been driving past it. It was time to check it out.

Summit is the oldest ski area in the Northwest, the first on Mount Hood, since 1927. It offers just about everything: skiing, tubing, cross-country, lessons, rentals, etc. The lodge has a cafeteria, but the hours are short, so you'd better have lunch when everyone else has it.

The chairlift is half a mile long, but rises only about 310 feet. There are several trails, more than is visible from the road, but they are all green and blue. This is a great place to learn how to ski. There is also a little bit of powder skiing as well. And, if you get bored, do what the locals do: hitchhike to Timberline, and then ski the Alpine trail from the bottom of Timberline's Stormin' Norman's lift to the top of Summit's lift. The trail is well marked, but remember it is out of bounds and not patrolled, so you are on your own.



Long chairlift, and no crowds!



View from the top of the lift.
You can go left, right, or down the middle!

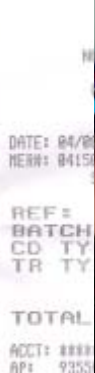


Learn how to ski here!
Hiking and cross-country trails cross the area.



That's Ski Bowl behind the trees.

My lift ticket.



Small trees in the middle of the Alpine trail



More trees on Alpine trail, seen from below

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE



You can order the above design printed on the backs of shirts, while the top part (the logo) is printed on the front left chest (pocket sized). Or, if you prefer, just the logo in the front.

The price of the printed items is:

- T-shirts: \$7.50
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SKI OREGON CHALLENGE

SKI OREGON CHALLENGE ENTRY FORM

Name of Participant _____

Member of Club (not required) _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Indicate dates skied at Oregon ski resorts below. Attach proof to this entry form. Proof must be the lift ticket used or a credit card receipt for the purchase of the ticket. You must be 18 years old or older to enter.

- | | DATE |
|---------------------|-------|
| • Anthony Lakes | _____ |
| • Cooper Spur | _____ |
| • Hoodoo | _____ |
| • Mt. Ashland | _____ |
| • Mt. Bachelor | _____ |
| • Mt. Hood Meadows | _____ |
| • Mt. Hood Ski Bowl | _____ |
| • Spout Springs | _____ |
| • Timberline | _____ |
| • Warner Canyon | _____ |
| • Willamette Pass | _____ |

To enter, complete this form and include it with your proof documents. Documents must be received no later than June 15, 2006. We recommend that you keep copies of the documents. Submit documents to the address below:

NWSCC Ski Oregon Challenge
PO Box 1915
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