

NOTE: This is a work in progress. Please check back from time to time for more updates.

Road trip Journal, page 1

The idea to challenge snowriders to visit all of Washington's ski areas came from **Steve Coxen**, in cooperation with the **Northwest Ski Club Council**. It is a natual extension of last year's Ski Oregon Challenge. The Oregon Challenge continues this year, but many of us are turning our sights to Washington.

The idea is to ski at least 10 of Washington's 14 ski areas. You can do it in 5 to 7 weekends. Several people are planning to see, ski and ride all of Washington this season



1. **David Schor** did it on a **snowboard**, and was the first one to visit all the areas. completeing all 12 ski resorts before the end of December. Good thing, because he then broke his leg on New Year's Eve! See his blog at: <u>http://skiwashington.blogspot.com</u>.



2. **McCoy Smith** planned to do it on **telemark skis** as well as **alpine** skis, and also purchased an item at every ski area, just like he did last year. But, he spent a large part of the winter working outside the country, so he didn't have enough time left to meet the challenge.



3. Emilio Trampuz met the challenget on mid-fat alpine skis, and taook lots of photos.

4. **Ed Palmer** is working on it too. Watch out for this guy. He starts slow and then suddenly comes up from behind at full speed!

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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6. Oregon Snowsport Industries Assoc.: <u>www.skioregon.org</u>, <u>marketing@skioregon.org</u>



Emilio Trampuz, Steve Coxen, & David Schor

Ski

Ski Washington Challenge 2007

The NWSCC is challenging Northwest skiers to ski or board **ten** of Washington's **fourteen** ski resorts during the 2006-07 ski season and qualify for the Council's year end drawing for prizes – equipment, services, 2007-08 lift tickets and a ten-time punch pass at Mt. Hood Meadows. Turn in proof that you have skied **ten** of the Washington 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, 2007.** 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**.

Note: "**Ski Washington Challenge 2007**" T-shirts, long-sleeve mock turtlenecks and sweatshirts are available for order. See end of this document.

For more information contact:

Steve Coxen Phone: 503-679-9022 Email: <u>sacoxen@aol.com</u>

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 the 2005 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 Washington Challenge 2007

Washington Ski Areas

Ski area	Nearest town	Base elev.	Top elev.	Vertical feet	Acres of terrain	Number of Lifts	Num. of Trails	Other
Cascade Powder Cats	Assemble 6:45 am at Cascadia Inn, 210 E. Railroad. Ave., Skykomish, WA.	4,000	6,000	Total: 10,000 min. per day	2,000	Snowcat can handle up to 10 passengers.	6 - 15 runs per day	\$395 per day
Crystal Mt.	Govt. Camp, 23 m. Hood River, 23 m.	4,400	7,012	3,100	1,300 lift served 1,300 backcountry	2 Exp. 6-passgr. 2 Exp. Quads 2 Triples 3 Doubles	50	Largest ski area in Washington. Night skiing, January only, Fri-Sat, 4 -8 pm.
49º North	Chewelah, 10 miles Spokane, 52 miles.	3,923	5,774	1,851	2,325	1 Quad 4 Double	68	Closed WedThurs. 6.5 miles nordic trail. 17 more miles soon.
Hurricane Ridge	Port Angeles, 17 miles	4,800	5,500	800	200	2 rope tows 1 Poma	10	Open weekends only. National park fee \$15.
Leavenworth Ski Hill	Leavenworth, 1 mile. Wenatchee, 18 miles.	1,200	1,600	400	10	4 rope tows	N/A	Open weekends + Fri. nights. Tubing & Nordic
Loup Loup Ski Bowl	Twisp, 12 miles. Okanogan, 18 miles. Omak, 25 miles.	4,500	5,740	1,240	150	1 Quad 1 Poma, 1 rope	10	Open Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 25 km nordic + tubing.
Mission Ridge	Wenatchee, 12 m. Leavenworth, 30 m.	4,570	6,820	2,250	1000	1 Exp. Quad 3 Doubles	36	Closed TueWed. Night skiing on selected days only.
Mt. Baker	Glacier, 33 miles Bellingham, 56 miles	3,500	5,000	1,500	n/a	4 Quads 2 Double	14	119 miles nordic trails.
Mt. Spokane	Spokane, 28 miles.	4,200	5,889	2,000	n/a	5 Doubles	45	Closed Mon Tue. Night skiing on 15 runs
North Cascade Heli Skiing	Freestone, Inn, Winthrop, 15 miles.	3,000	8,500	12000 min. per day	300,000	Helicopter	6 runs per day	Mid-week: \$850. Weekend: \$900.
Ski Bluewood	Dayton, 21 miles. Walla Walla, 52 m. Tri-cities, 83 miles.	4,545	5,670	1,125	n/a	2 Triples 1 Poma	24	Closed Mon Tue.
Stevens Pass	Wenatchee, 12 m. Leavenworth, 30 m.	4,061	5,845	1,800	1,250	2 Exp. Quads 1 Quad, 5 Triples, 2 Doubles	37	6 lifts open for night skiing Thurs Monday.
The Summit at Snoqualmie	Seattle, 52 miles.	2,800	5,400	2,280	1100	2 Exp. Quads 2 Quad, 3 Triples, 10 Doubles	65	50 km nordic trails.
White Pass	Packwood, 20 miles. Yakima, 50 miles.	4,500	6,000	1,500	n/a	1 Quad, 1 Triple, 2 Doubles	32	Open daily. Night ski: FriSat. 18 km nordic trails.

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ON CHALLENGE

David Schor's Snowboard Adventure



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

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-ofbounds 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.

Crystal Mountain

WASHINGTON CHALLENGE

Feb. 25, 2007. (Sunday)

Crystal Mountain is the king of Washington's ski resorts, in terms of size and number of high speed lifts. It is best suited for advanced powder skiers. Lower intermediates will enjoy the easy cruisers on the lower half of the mountain. But, there's not quite enough for the advanced intermediate or simply a tired advanced skier. The terrain is either challenging or easy. Not much in between. The High Cambell lift warns ther is no easy way down. There is lodging in some 3 or 4 hotels/condos at the base of the area. The nearest town is Enumclaw at the intersection of Highways 169 and 410.

SKI





Forest Queen lift.

Beginners should go no higher than this mid-mountain lodge. The High Campbell lift serves only double-black runs.



Vie of Silver Queen peak at Crystal Mt.

Diane, Mark, Linda & Bruce on the steeps of Big Chief. Note the highway on the right side of the photo.



The Summit House restaurant is located at the top of the Rainier Express chairlift, with views of most of the ski area on one side, and views of Mt. Rainier on the other side.







Skiers passing by the Campbell Basin lodge. The hill in the background is served by the High Campbell chair.



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Ski Washington Challenge 2007

49 Degrees North

WASHINGTON CHALLENGE

Dec. 8, 2006. (Friday)

First impressions: Much bigger than I thought. In some ways similar to Red Mountain and Apex (in Canada), in that one lift serves almost the whole mountain, but here, at least two other lifts help support both flanks of the mountain.

Cy's glades were my favorite. Numbered C1 thru C8, the first seven bear the names of the 7 deadly sins. Choose your vice and jump into a perfectly thinned forest.

Even though it was at least 5 days after the latest storm, Bob and I found perfectly untouched poder on the far side of the



newly developed East Basin, served by the new Sunrise quad chair. What luck! While I was setting up the camera to record my own tracks, 2 other local skiers left their signature on the slope that was totally untouched only a minute earlier! See photo.



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Hurricane Ridge

SKI WASHINGTON CHALLENGE

Dec. 31, 2006. (Sunday)

Located in the Olympic National Park. the road from Port Angeles takes 17 miles to rise almost a mile above sea level. A sudden transition from a dry, sunny, moderately warm town to glorious, alpine scenery, with several feet of snow on both sides of the road.

I had read in David Schor's blog that he had been here a week earlier and regretted that the poma lift was still closed. I figured the lift will sure ly be open by now, but it was still closed. I had to pay a \$15 entrance fee to the National Park (at the entrance to the Park, lower down on the mountain), and there was no information posted there about which lifts might be open. I decided



to lodge a complaint about it. I felt people should be alerted to the lift status before they pay the \$15 park fee.



I was introduced to a very friendly young lady named Lori, who turned out to be an excellent ambassador for the ski area. She said they would try to do better with putting out the information about the lift status. She explained the snowplow has to put in at least 100 hours of grooming before they can open the poma lift. Sure enough, I later heard the rumble of the cat grooming away. In the meanitme, the area is limited to 2 rope tows.

The ski area is run by a local ski club, and has only a customized metal container which acts as a ticket office and day lodge. The larger building, at the end of the road, belongs to the National Park, and it does house a small eatery and a ski shop, where I purchased glove protectors for the rope tow.

The beginner rope tow was easy, but the advanced one takes a lot of strength to hang on for those last 30 feet where it is steepest. But, that's also where some of the best terrain is located. From the very top of the ridge, you can drop left toward the poma lift, or right into a large

bowl that funnels down toward the road. I took my last run of the day in that bowl, and then started walking back along the road, abt. a quarter of a mile to the parking lot. Some locals were making laps in that bowl and were being picked up by a van of their own. They saw me and gave me a ride. Nice touch, and a great ending of the day! Thanks folks! I'll be back!





Leavenworth Ski Hill

WASHINGT

ON CHALLENGE

Jan. 1, 2007. (Monday)

This is a historic hill, famous for ski jumping competitions in the early part of the 20th century. Today, it is a family-oriented bundle of amusement, including downhill and cross country skiing and tubing.

It's located less than a mile from the charming Bavarian-style town of Leavenworth. It's the only Northwest ski area that relies exclusively on rope tows, so the glove protectors I purchased at Hurricane Ridge came in handy, although I could have purchased them here too.

It appears the best way to ride a steep rope two is to swing one arm behind your body and grab the rope firmly, so that your own arm acts like a T-bar, as shown in the photo. Of course, it helps if you are



Best way to hold the rope

After the first run on the longer of the two rope tows, my altimeter watch showed a total of 250 vertical feet.



light as a feather. With my hefty 200 and some pounds, I gripped the rope with such force that it gave me a tension headache.

To cure it, I took a lunch break. A warm cup of noodle soup cost me only \$1.00. Talk about family friendly prices! A pepperoni pizza was only \$1.50, a bowl of chili \$1.00, nachos \$1.00, and milk 50 cents!





Loup Loup



Jan. 7, 2007. (Sunday)

Loup Loup is inconveniently located for most of us, unless you are driving to Canada along Hwy 97 (toward Kelowna, Big White, etc.). Then it's just a short detour westward on Hwy. 20 near the town of Omak. Or you can turn west on Hwy 153 at Pateros.

The ski area is larger and steeper than expected. Beginer terrain is served by a platter lift. The rest of the mountain is served by a quad chair.

Totally by accident, Ed Palmer had decided to visit Loup Loup on the same day, so we met there. It was a very windy day. Highway 97 was literally blocked in one place by a congregation of tumble weeds that

had blown into each other and fuesed into a tumble-weed barricade. Because of the high winds, the quad chair was closed and Ed and I skied on the platter lift terrain. But, then I decided that I can't leave without at least taking a look around. So, I started climbing along the lift line. Several locals did the same, but they were either faster climbers or I took too much time taking pictures along the way. By the time I got near the top, everyone else had already skied down, and there was only a ski patroler on a snowmobile at the top, yelling at me to get back down, because of the danger that a tree might be toppled by a gust of wind.

Well, I was too close to the top to let it go. I pretended to ski down, but I ducked into the woods, traversed a



little bit, and then took another route up. I made it to the top unobserved, but then the snowmobile returned, looking for me. The ski patroler was actually the ski area manager, this time accompanied by another ski patroller. When I introduced myself as a ski club reporter, I was told that I could have asked, and they would have escorted me up the hill. As it was, they escorted me down the hill! Oh, well, at least I saw the top, and skied down one of the runs, surprised as to how long it was. I'll stop there again some time, on my way up to Canada!





Mission Ridge

WASHINGTON CHALLENGE

March 17, 2007. (Saturday) Mission Ridge is famous for the old World War II bomber plane that crashed into the mountain. Its wing is still on display on the slopes above Bomber Cliffs. There are at least a couple of skiable paths through and around those cliffs, which provide some spectacular photo opportunities. On the opposite side, another ridge (with the antena tower) also offers a lot of terrain for the advanced powder skier. Down the middle, several long cruisers snake their way back to the base of the new express quad, the "Liberator" chair.



This was part of our club's annual bus trip. Here's Linda McGavin, our trip leader (in the white helmet) with Diane and Patty, at the top of the main lift.



View of the antena ridge, as we start the traverse above bomber's cliffs



Paying our respects to the bomber's wing: Bruce, Barbara, Fred, and Gary. There are some great views from this spot!







Spectacular views, great snow, lots of terrain. What's not to like? Rich and Suzanne enjoy a view of the Wenatchee valley below.

Mission Ridge gets less snow than Stevens Pass, but the snow that it does get is usually drier and lighter. This is at the edge of the drier, eastern side of Washington State.

Mt. Baker

WASHINGTON CHALLENGE

December 2, 2006. (Saturday) Mt. Baker received more than double the amount of snow of any other ski area in the northwest. This is not unusual. Mt. Baker holds the record for the most snow received in a single season: 1,140" in 1998-99. That's 95 feet! By the end of November, there is usually at least 6 feet of snow here. This year (2006-07) over 20 feet of snow (250 inches) had fallen by the end of November. The skiing was great.



SKI

This was the first stop on our Canadian Ski Safari, since it is conveninetly located half way between Portland and Kamloops (Sun Peaks). This is Terry in the photo.



Here's part of the Canadian Ski Safari gang: Emilio Trampuz, Tom Rodrigues, George Yun, Kurt Krueger, Kay Kinyon, Terry Swan, Bob Voss and Rob Bozzuto.







You never know when you

might run into Santa Claus

at Mt. Baker!



Mt. Spokane

December 9, 2006. (Saturday)

Mt. Spokane is bigger than you might expect! I had skied there a few years before, and none of it looked familiar until we hit the back side of the mountain, where I must have spent most of my time on my previous visit. The front side has huge, wide open groomers, some of them quite steep. Only one area, serving some of the tamer terrain under chair 3 was relatively crowded on this Saturday, which started off as a very nice, sunny day, but after lunch suddenly changed to cloudy and snowing.

There was hardly anybody at the Vista house, on top of the mountain, where they served hot soup and had a log in the fireplace.

The back side of the ski area has some great glades, with very nicely spaced trees. Also, some more easy groomers. And also, some nice bumps right under the chairlift. Lots of variety. Great place!







The Vista House has a great view from the top. Also, they serve hot soup inside! Yummm!

Bob and I visited Mt. Baker on the way back from Canada. Along the way, we also stopped for a day at the 49 Degrees North ski area. Both of these are great places and very pleasant surprises. I will visit them again, first chance I get.

How did the weather change from sunny to snowing in just a few short hours?



By late afternoon, it was foggy and snowing, and I was tired. But the beginner slopes were still full of people.





Ski Bluewood

WASHINGTON CHALLENGE

January 2, 2007. (Tuesday) Normally closed on Tuesdays, but this was the New Year's holiday.

Bluewood has two triple chairlifts. The main one serves an amazing amount of terrain. Yes, this has been said of other ski areas (like Anthony Lakes, Loup Loup, and Mission Ridge) where one main lift covers a whole mountain. But, the trails at Bluewood somehowseem longer, and more fun. Also, there is a lot of acreage here, with lots of nicely spaced trees.

Bluewood is located in the Umatilla National Forest, 21 miles south-east of Dayton, in south-east Washington.



SKI

Yes, it's remote, but no crowds! If you are driving from For powder skiers, there are some wonderfully spaced Spokane, take Hwy 195 straight south, and follow signs to Dodge, Dayton and Walla Walla.



trees all over the place! This glade is right next to the chairlift line.

The grromed runs are steep enough to provide some challenge to intermediates and will even give a good workout to advanced skiers.

Most trails meander though the forest. The one in this photo is a rare straight segment, but even this one has a few turns in it before reaching the bottom.





Stevens Pass

March 18, 2007. (Sunday)

Stevens Pass is located right on Hwy 2, on top of a mountain pass 78 miles north-east of Seattle, or 37 miles west of Leavenworth, where our club found lodging for our weekend bus trip. Because of the proximity of Seattle and Everett, it can get crowded here on popular weekends. But, Stevens Pass gets lots of snow, and usually opens a lot earlier than Mission Ridge.

The Southern Cross chair on the back side serves only ungroomed glades! The 7th Heaven chair on the front side serves only ungroomed double black diamond terrain. In between, there are plenty of cruisers.



Chuck and Kurt with Big Chief Mt. behind them.



Diane, Mark, Linda & Bruce on the steeps of Big Chief. Note the highway on the right side of the photo.

Chuck in 7th Heaven!



An enjoyable cruiser next to the Skyline lift. Elaine Bock, Mike Henness, Lisa and Harry Scribner.

WASHINGTON CHALLENGE SKI

The Summit at Snoqualmie and Alpental

January 10, 2007. (Wednesday)

There are 4 ski area at Snoqualmie Pass, skiable on the same ticket. Three of them: Snoqualmie East, Central and West, are conncted directly. To get to the fourth one, Alpental, you have to take a shuttle bus, but it's only about a mile, or less, just on the other side of the I-90 freeway. The closest ski area to Seattle.

The trails at Snoqualmie West are relatively short. As you proceed eastward, they get progressively longer. But, for sheer challenge nothing beats Alpental When you are riding the second of the two chairlifts on the front side of Alpental, turn around and look at Snoqualmie below. It will appear very flat by comparison!





Summit Central is in between Summit East and West. Plenty of black diamonds!



Alpental is up there in

White Pass

February 26, 2007. (Monday)

White Pass is where the famous 1984 Olympic champions Phil and Steve Mahre grew up. It's one of my favorite places in Washington. Remote, yet closest to Portland, no crowds, meandering cruisers through the forest, some challenging steeps, and a perfect little glade of young trees right next to the main lift on the front side. The closest town is Packwood, on Hwy 12.



Those two tiny dots right under the chairlift are skiers!



I love places like this, where you can enjoy the glades and be playful, without fearing for your life!



Front side choice: groomed or gladed



The front side offers a lot of variety, from very easy cruisers runs to super steep moguls. On the back side of the mountain, there are several intermediate cruisers, and - best of all - no crowds!







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 seized). Or, if you prefer, just the logo in the front.

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SKI WASHINGTON CHALLENGE ENTRY FORM

Name of Participant			
Member of Club (not required)			
Phone number			
Email address			

Indicate dates skied at Washington 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

•	Cascade Powder Cats	
•	Crystal Mountain	
•	49 Degrees North	
•	Hurricane Ridge	
•	Leavenworth Ski Hill	
•	Loup Loup Ski Bowl	
•	Mission Ridge	
•	Mt. Baker	
•	Mt. Spokane	
•	North Cascade Heli-Skiing	
•	Ski Bluewood	
•	Stevens Pass	
•	The Summit at Snoqualmie	
•	White Pass	

To enter, complete this form and include it with your proof documents. Documents must be received no later than June 15, 2007. We recommend that you keep copies of the documents. Submit documents to the address below:

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