



Fortunately, Tracy did not fall, so she didn't experience the "joy" of uncontrolled sliding.

Did you know that plastic bags can be dangerous?

We became aware of the danger during our recent trip to Stevens Pass. Early in the morning, the mountain greeted us with a slight drizzle. So, the ski area staff helpfully distributed those plastic bag overalls that can give you a couple of hours of skiing in the rain before you get soaked anyway. Many ski areas do this. In fact, they even proudly print the ski area's name on the plastic. Little do they know they could get sued for endangering their guests.

Several of our members wore those bags and did not remove them even when the rain stopped after only a few minutes.

As it turns out, 2 or 3 injuries that happened were largely attributed to wearing these plastic bags. We are mostly all good skiers, and we don't fall much, but even the best can make a mistake at times.

The problem is, the plastic bags are so slick, that if you fall, you are in for an uncontrolled slide. If there are trees or rocks below you, along the fall line, you will probably hit them. As did some of our unfortunate club members. **Janice Jessen** (who was taken to a nearby hospital for a check up) later said:

"I know that the plastic bag contributed to my fall. I couldn't stop spinning and finally log-rolling. My fall ended by crashing into two or three trees. I am very internally bruised. I feel like I had internal surgery. I am very sore and have to take lots of ibuprofen. I think I am extremely fortunate not to have broken anything."

So, think twice before donning one of these slick contraptions that can transform you from a skier to a skelton or luge participant in a second.

Building up on the idea safer 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.

Here's just one of the ways:



Set up some training gates!

Why are all training gates always reserved for a group or racers or a club? Why not open some to the general public? Ski areas should give us an opportunity to practice **controlled turning**.

Why not create "terrain parks" devoted to **turning** instead of jumping?

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

