



# Lift Lines

= No. 166, October 2014 =

Mountain High Snowsport Club, PO Box 2182, Portland, OR 97208



## From the Prez



*Hey Mt. High-ers.*

*It looks like Fall has fallen, and with that, so have the temperatures. We still have some beautiful days ahead to catch the end of our Indian Summer, watching the changing of the leaves, and waiting for that first frost on the ground. Halloween is right around the corner, and then it'll be time to start thinking about our winter activities.*

*But first....a quick recap of the past month: our annual **Seafood Party**, on September 27th was a success! We had a new location this year, The Wilsonville Community Center. Everyone found it, and liked it, so we'll probably be back there again.*

*The **Mt. Hood Ski Patrol's Ski Swap** was a big hit the first weekend in October, and now we have our eye on the **Warren Miller show** on October 24th, at the Arlene Schnitzer Auditorium, followed by the Portland **Ski Fever Show** at the Expo Center, Northwest Ski Club Council's **Ski Fair**, and our own annual **Membership Kick Off party** in November.*

*Remember...there will be no Highway Clean Up this fall, due to all of the construction on Highway 26, which means we'll have our work cut out for us next June, when we clean up again.*

*We have lots of great **trips, activities and race days** planned for this coming winter season. Stay tuned to your Lift Lines for the specific event dates and to see what else is happening.*

*Debbi*



Note the color code.  
Our club is blue.

## 2014-2015 CALENDAR

**Blue:** Mountain High events  
**Red:** NWSCC / FWSA / Multi-club  
**Black:** General events

### OCTOBER

- Oct. 1 (Wed.): Hillcrest Race Night**
- Oct. 2 (Thur): TGR Film: "Almost Ablaze"** - Wonder Ballroom
- Oct. 3-4 (Fri-Sat): Mt. Hood Snow Sport Swap** (Ski Patrol)
- Oct. 11 (Sat): Lake Oswego Ski Swap**
- Oct. 15 (Wed.): NWSCC meeting**
- Oct. 24 (Fri): Warren Miller dinner & movie "No Turning Back"**
- Oct. 28 (Tue.): Mt. High Board mtg**
- Oct. 31 (Fri.): Halloween Party**

### NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1 (Sat.): TGR Film: "Almost Ablaze"** - Southridge High
- Nov. 8 - 9: Ski Swap** - Grant/Cleveland
- Nov. 14-16: Portland Ski Fever Show**
- Nov. 15 (Sat.): Pray for Snow party**
- Nov. 17 (Mon.): NWSCC Ski Fair**
- Nov. 20 (Thurs.): Mt. High annual Membership Party**

### DECEMBER

- Dec. 17 (Wed.): NWSCC Meeting, PIE Auction + PACRAT bib pickup**

### JANUARY

- Jan. 4 (Sun): NASTAR race**
- Jan. 11 (Sun): PACRAT race 1 Skibowl**
- Jan. 25 (Sun): PACRAT race 2 Meadows**

### FEBRUARY

- Feb. 8 (Sun): PACRAT race 3 Skibowl**
- Feb. 22 (Sun): PACRAT race 4 Meadows**

### MARCH

- Mar. 15 (Sun): NASTAR race**
- Mar. 22 (Sun): PACRAT race 5 Timberline**
- Apr. 4 (Sat): PACRAT Make-up race (?)**



## Mt. High

## Salmon Headwaters Cleanup



Laura Whitehorn

This was not a Mountain High activity. It was organized by the Snowrider Project. See their Facebook Page. But a couple of our members, **Laura Whitehorn** and **Emilio Trampuz**, participated. This is just one of several charitable projects in which our members are involved, including **Hope on the Slopes**, the **Oregon Cancer Ski Out**, **Ski to Defeat ALS**, and others. On top of that our club also organizes a cleanup of 2 miles of Highway 26 just west of Government Camp (mileposts 51-53) twice a year. This Fall, our **Highway cleanup** has been cancelled due to road construction on Highway 26.

**Sept. 13, 2014.** Over 30 people from all walks of life participated in this 4th annual cleanup of the Salmon Headwaters near Timberline's parking lot. We met at the first parking lot, where Mt. Hood climbers usually park. We had a slow start, but got going by about 10:30 am, and we worked till about 1 pm. We split up into two groups. One group was taken up to Silcox hut to help cleanup that area. The rest of us went into the first little canyon below the parking lot, where a lot of stuff gets blown into by the wind.

See a short 2-minute video / slide-show summarizing the whole event at: <http://youtu.be/BAOTSxGJ6PE>



## Mt. High

## Seafood Party



Debbi Kor

**Sept. 27, 2014 (Saturday).**

About 50 people attended our annual Seafood Party. This year, for the first time, it was held at the Community Center in Wilsonville, just 2 minutes from the I-5 freeway. Good company and good food. The food came in 3 waves: first the appetizers, then the main course, and then dessert. Most people brought something to share, and it was perfect! Thanks to Debbi Kor for organizing this, and to all who helped cook and serve the food.



Linda McGavin



Mary

Lisa &amp; Harry

See more photos at [www.mthigh.org/Photos.htm](http://www.mthigh.org/Photos.htm).



## Hillcrest Sports Race Night

**12th Annual Race Night**  
**Wednesday Oct. 1st**

 Junior Racers 5pm-9pm Masters Racers 6:30pm-9pm  
 Factory Reps will be here to answer your questions

**Oct. 1 (Wed.) 6:30 pm.**

The annual Hillcrest Race Night will be on Thursday evening, starting around 6:30pm. Best prices of the year from all the top companies! Factory reps will be present to answer your questions.

**Location:** Hillcrest Sports, 2506 SE Burnside Rd., Gresham, OR 97080.

**Time:** 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm.

**Questions:** Contact Gary Gunderson, (503) 658-7848 or email: [ktgpdx@verizon.net](mailto:ktgpdx@verizon.net).

Call the store. Ask for Dexter. at: 503-665-4455 or [hillcrest@hillcrestsports.com](mailto:hillcrest@hillcrestsports.com).

**Directions:** I-84 East to exit 16. Turn right @ top of exit. Follow 3 miles to SE Burnside. Turn left on Burnside. Follow 1 mile to Gresham Village Shopping Center. Hillcrest Sports is on the right hand side.

## Lake Oswego Ski &amp; Snowboard Swap

**Oct. 11 (Sat.) 2014**

Ski Swap held at Lake Oswego High School in the east gym. Doors open at 8 a.m. and close at 1 p.m. Admission is \$2 for individuals and \$5 for families

**Location:** Lake Oswego High School's East Gym, 2501 Country Club Road, Lake Oswego.

Sell your used gear on consignment (30% of sale prices goes to benefit the ski teams at both Lakeridge and Lake Oswego High School). Drop off for used gear is Friday, October 11, 4-7 pm. at the East Gym of Lake Oswego High School. Pick up unsold gear between 2 and 3pm Saturday. Remaining gear will be donated to charity. Checks will be mailed to the donors for items sold.

For more information, and to download an advance gear registration form, go to the event website: <http://lakeoskiswap.com/> Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get new and used equipment for the entire family!



## Mt. Hood Ski Patrol Ski Swap

**Oct. 3 - 4, 2014 (Fri.-Sat.)**

Friday: 4pm - 9pm. Saturday: 9am - 6pm.

Support the **Mt. Hood Ski Patrol** at the Mt. Hood Snow Sport Swap at the **Washington County Fairgrounds** 873 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro, Oregon 97124.

Consignment items will be accepted, and you could make money on your old ski gear. A portion of the swap proceeds benefit the Ski Patrol.

Thousands of new and demoed equipment for sale.

Admission: Individuals: \$3, Families: \$6,

Kids under 12: Free. Parking is free.

Look for discount admission coupons and a chance to win a season pass at the Mt. Hood Snow Sport Swap website, <http://www.mhsss.com/?src=mtnhigh>

More at: [www.mthigh.org/#Mt\\_Hood\\_Snowsports\\_Swap](http://www.mthigh.org/#Mt_Hood_Snowsports_Swap)

The Ski Patrol is looking for **volunteers** to work a shift.

Contact Kurt at: 503-625-1492, [telek2@frontier.com](mailto:telek2@frontier.com)

## NWSCC October meeting



**Oct. 15, 2014 (Wednesday)** 6 pm Happy hour. Meeting starts at 6:30 pm, at the Buffalo Gap, 6835 SW Macadam Ave., Portland. Special guests: Dave Tragethon and Matthew Drake, Mount Hood Meadows.

## Halloween Party


**Oct. 31, 2014 (Friday)**

**Moniquea Degan** is inviting us all to her place for Halloween! Friday, October 31, at 6:00 pm.

If you want to come to the party, please drop Moniquea

a quick note as RSVP at [moniquea.degan@gmail.com](mailto:moniquea.degan@gmail.com) or call 503-799-9623.

**Location:** 4036 East Burnside St., Portland, OR 97214

Come in costume and bring spooky stories. Share soup and pot luck, Bon fire weather permitting and late night hot tub, so bring swimsuit. BYOB.

Be prepared for anything....hula hooping, twister, dancing, hot soaks, good food. Bring whatever you'd like to share, including yourself.

## MOUNTAIN HIGH

## Upcoming events

## SNOWSPORT CLUB

## Mt. High Warren Miller's "No Turning Back"



**Oct. 24, 2014.** (Friday)  
Dinner and a movie!

**Dinner/drinks at 5:30 pm** at the Silver Spoon Bistro, 1211 SW 5th Ave Portland, inside the lobby of the PacWest Building.

**Movie at 7:30 pm** at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 SW Broadway.

Everyone coming to see the movie will receive:

1. **Lift ticket to Mt. Bachelor**, valid Monday - Friday, either before Dec. 13 or after March 31st. Or use it as a 2-for-1 coupon valid Monday - Friday from Jan. 5 - March 27.
2. **Junior Lift ticket** (15 and under) to White Pass, WA.
3. **2-for-1 lift tickets** to 3 Canadian ski areas (**Big White**, **Silver Star**, and **Sun Peaks**) valid either before December 20, 2014, or after March 30, 2015.
4. **30% off lift tickets to Red Mountain, B.C.** Good for two lift tickets per guest voucher. Valid all season except for the holiday season: December 22, through January 2, 2015.
5. **Discount at REI.** **20% OFF** one full price snow helmet or snow goggle. Offer valid 10.11.2014 through 2.14.2014.
6. **A free subscription to Ski Magazine**, if you fill out the contest entry form at the theater.

See more details at [www.mthigh.org](http://www.mthigh.org).

**To participate in our group tickets purchase, you should have sent payment by Friday, September 26.**

You should have sent your **\$18.50** check (per person) payable to **Sandra Smith**, and sent it to:

Sandra Smith,  
1500 SW 134th Ave.,  
Beaverton, OR 97005.

Email: [Sandra@pacifier.com](mailto:Sandra@pacifier.com) Phone: 503-646-4591

**Some people mailed their checks to the club's PO Box, which only creates more work for our Treasurer.**

**You can still buy tickets on your own**, through Tickets West, but it will cost you an additional \$6 or \$7.

**Let Sandra know if you are coming to dinner. Please don't show up unannounced.**

## Teton Gravity Research Ski Film: Almost Ablaze



**Nov. 1** (Saturday).

Doors open: 6:30 pm  
Show starts: 7:00 pm.

**Location:** Southridge High School auditorium, 9625 SW 125th Ave, Beaverton.

Tickets: Adults: \$10, Kids: \$7

Buy tickets at the door. A link to buy tickets is available at <http://www.tetongravity.com/films/almost-ablaze/tour/beaverton-or-premiere-of-almost-ablaze>.

All of the money raised will be for the benefit of the Southridge and Aloha High School ski team.

An unforgettable evening, a brand new ski film, and you'll be contributing to a good cause.

TGR's Almost Ablaze is a global odyssey combining state-of-the-art cinematography and the most progressive riding on The Planet. See trailer at:

<http://www.tetongravity.com/films/almost-ablaze>

## Ski Swap: Grant/Cleveland High

**Nov. 8 - 9** (Sat./Sun.)

**2014.** A good selection of clothing and equipment at yard sale prices. All proceeds help support the high school racing programs at Grant and Cleveland. The



team's commission on goods sold is 30% (donated goods are especially cherished).

Drop off: Friday: 7:30 pm - 9 pm  
Saturday: 10:30 - noon

Sale Hours: Saturday: Noon - 6 pm.  
Sunday: 10 am - 3 pm.

Location: Portland Adventure Boot Camp  
1606 NE 37th (Between Broadway and Sandy Blvd.)

There is an admission charge of **\$2** per person or **\$5** per family for the entire weekend. For that charge they are rewarded with free hot dogs/cider/popcorn and the chance to win some small door prizes. There will be both new and used equipment available for purchase.



## MOUNTAIN HIGH

## Upcoming events

## SNOWSPORT CLUB

## NWSCC Ski Fair at the Airport Holiday Inn



**Nov. 17 (Monday) 6-10 pm** Admission: FREE.

One day only, at the **Conference Center** next to the **Airport Holiday Inn**, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd.

Meet local ski clubs and ski areas. participate in the **Silent Auction, Raffle**, and more! See what's new.

As part of the auction, you can get great deals on lift tickets, lodging, ski trips, ski gear, and more.

All our members can purchase a **Meadows 10-time pass** for a discount, probably under \$400.

You can also **renew your club membership** at our club's booth.

To volunteer to staff the Mt. High booth, contact **Terry Swan**, [swans761@juno.com](mailto:swans761@juno.com)

## Ski Fever &amp; Snowboard Show - Expo Center



**Nov. 14-16 (Fri - Sun.)**

Admission: \$13.

Big annual ski show at the Expo Center. Great deals on ski clothing and equipment. Many freebies.

Live demonstrations. More info at: [www.portland-skifever.com](http://www.portland-skifever.com).

If you want to volunteer to staff the NWSCC booth for a 3-hour shift (representing ALL local ski clubs) in exchange for a free admission to the show, contact **Mary Olhausen**, [omary52@comcast.net](mailto:omary52@comcast.net).

## Mt. High Mt. High Kickoff Party + Mini Ski Swap



**November 20 (Thursday), 6:30 - 9:00 pm.**

Our biggest party of the year, marking the start of a new ski season. Come enjoy the following:

- \* Free food and drinks, and door prizes.
- \* Meet your fellow club members.
- \* Renew your membership (\$25 singles; \$40 couples)
- \* Sign up for trips.
- \* Join a PACRAT racing team.
- \* Bring a friend.
- \* Bring something to sell or swap. We'll have a mini ski swap, just like we've done for several years now. Bring your skis, jackets, or anything you'd like to sell.

**Location: Gray Gables Estate.** See [MAP](#).  
3009 SE Chestnut Street, Milwaukie.

More info on our web site:

[http://www.mthigh.org/#Membership\\_Party](http://www.mthigh.org/#Membership_Party)

## NWSCC, Schnee Pray for Snow



**Nov. 15, 2014 (Saturday)** - Starting at 6 pm.

Annual event to help usher in the Winter season, with a live band, dancing, revelry, and the company of friendly skiers. It's organized by the **Schnee Vogeli** ski club, but members of ALL local ski clubs are invited.

Location: **Charlie's Pub & Restaurant**, Government Camp.

Tickets: \$15, must be purchased in advance (Limited quantities). Ask the following people for tickets:

**Gordon Lusk:** [GordyLusk@hotmail.com](mailto:GordyLusk@hotmail.com), 503-804-8363

**Dale Parshall:** [dale.parshall@usbank.com](mailto:dale.parshall@usbank.com)

There will be no tickets at the door. This event fills up!

## PACRAT News

### Pacific NW Area Clubs Recreational Alpine Teams



**Bruce Kuper**  
Mt. High Racing Director

Our Racing Director, **Bruce Kuper**, has been elected to the position of Membership Director on the PACRAT Board, at the recent PACRAT elections on June 18, 2014.

**Greg Dilger** remains the PACRAT President, and **Sylvia Kearns** is the Party Director.

It's time to re-group and form our teams again. Ideally, we should have our teams completed by the annual Mt. High Membership Party, November 20.

### Here are the race dates for 2014/15.

**Jan. 4 (Sun): NASTAR race**

**Jan. 11 (Sun): PACRAT race 1 - Skibowl**

**Jan. 25 (Sun): PACRAT race 2 - Meadows**

**Feb. 8 (Sun): PACRAT race 3 - Skibowl**

**Feb. 22 (Sun): PACRAT race 4 - Meadows**

**Mar. 15 (Sun): NASTAR race**

**Mar. 22 (Sun): PACRAT race 5 - Timberline**

**Apr. 4 (Sat): PACRAT Make-up race** (only if needed)

**Apr. 17 (Fri): Rat Attack awards dinner party**

Check out PACRAT racing with Mt. High Snowsport Club here:

<http://www.mthigh.org/Racing.htm>

Hand out a poster: [http://mthigh.org/Racing/PACRAT\\_Poster\\_2014.bmp](http://mthigh.org/Racing/PACRAT_Poster_2014.bmp)

## PACRAT



**Wants YOU!**

**For Fun & Camaraderie!**

Each year, our teams lose some members and need to find new ones to replace them. It always happens.

This is an opportunity for non-racers or newcomers to the club to give racing a try. It's fun, it's social, you get to run some gates and meet lots of people.

Now is the time for new people to approach us and ask to join

a race team. If you want to race, tell us by November. As for existing racers, don't hesitate to approach brand

## Mt. High Team captains

| Team name          | Team captain     | Email address  |
|--------------------|------------------|--|
| Avalanche Express  | Gary Gunderson   | <a href="mailto:ktgpdx@frontier.com">ktgpdx@frontier.com</a>                 |
| Blizzardos         | Linda Eidemiller | <a href="mailto:2lindaloo@gmail.com">2lindaloo@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Chilled Brewskis   | Brenda Becerra   | <a href="mailto:LetsPlayOnTheMt@hotmail.com">LetsPlayOnTheMt@hotmail.com</a> |
| Frosted Flakes     | Stevie Viaene    | <a href="mailto:stevie.viaene@gmail.com">stevie.viaene@gmail.com</a>         |
| Infra-Rats         | Garth Eliason    | <a href="mailto:gweliason@gmail.com">gweliason@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Lab Rats           | Lonny Schiller   | <a href="mailto:landkschiller@gmail.com">landkschiller@gmail.com</a>         |
| Mixed Nuts         | Samy Fouts       | <a href="mailto:samyfouts@comcast.net">samyfouts@comcast.net</a>             |
| Moose on the Loose | Scott Stepan     | <a href="mailto:s_stepan@hotmail.com">s_stepan@hotmail.com</a>               |
| Mt. Hoodlums       | Phil Mant        | <a href="mailto:phil6666@aol.com">phil6666@aol.com</a>                       |
| Rat Racers         | Alan Bean        | <a href="mailto:abean@nwgeotech.com">abean@nwgeotech.com</a>                 |
| Rattitudes         | Chris Wiley      | <a href="mailto:Chris2007@Yhuji.com">Chris2007@Yhuji.com</a>                 |
| Schussing Shysters | McCoy Smith      | <a href="mailto:McCoySmith@comcast.net">McCoySmith@comcast.net</a>           |
| Vertigo Madness    | Tom Cansler      | <a href="mailto:tomcansler@qualitytank.com">tomcansler@qualitytank.com</a>   |

Anyone who isn't already on a team but would like to try running some gates, please contact our Race Director, Bruce Kuper, at [bruku@comcast.net](mailto:bruku@comcast.net), or contact any of our team captains listed above.



**Tom Hildick**  
on the "Slack Rats" team

new members and tell them that PACRAT racing is one of the funnest things we do.

The **Ski Fair** (Monday, Nov. 17) is a great opportunity to talk to a lot of people. People come to our booth to check out what we do and what we have to offer. Simply be there to help answer questions, and you just might snag a new person for your team.

At the **Kickoff Party** (Wednesday, Nov. 20), we will have an information table with flyers for upcoming trips, events, and PACRAT racing. Any racers are welcome to help staff that table, answer questions, and talk people into joining a PACRAT team.

It helps to have a copy of the PACRAT forms, so newcomers can sign up right on the spot.



## 2014-2015 Winter Trips

**NOTE:** On the Whitefish trip, a 3 of 5 days pass is included in the price, and for an additional \$44.10 per day, you can order a 4 or 5 day pass. You can use the pass on ANY of the 5 days we'll be there. We suggest that everyone ski at Whitefish on days 1, 2, and 5. Day 3 would be perfect for a visit to Fernie. Day 4 is optional (ski, shop, sightsee, cat ski).

Near the top of Whitefish Mt.



**Whitefish trip price** includes round trip train seat, 4 nights ski-in/ski-out lodging, 3 day pass at Whitefish, and at least one dinner:

Adults = **\$638**,  
Seniors (65+) = **\$606**  
Super Seniors (70+) = **\$497**

### Additional train option:

1. Sleeper bunk bed on train: **\$235** (round trip, pp/do)

### Other trip options: (all based on group discounts)

1. Additional Whitefish tickets = **\$44.10** per day
2. Fernie day trip = Approximately **\$105**.
3. Snowcat skiing = Approximately **\$395 - \$250**.

In order to get the group discount price, all these options must be reserved in advance. So, let us know your intentions right away. Mark it on the sign-up form.

### Payment schedule:

1. **\$100 deposit** due now to reserve your spot.
2. **Half of the total amount** is due by November 27.
3. **Full payment** due by January 14. No refunds after January 14 unless you can fill your spot. See our Mt. High [Trip Cancellation Policy](#).

Please use the [Dough Transmittal Form](#) (on the page before last) or find the form on the FORMS & DOCS web page. Make check payable to **Mountain High Snowsport Club**, and mail it to:

Mountain High, PO Box 2182, Portland, OR 97208.

More ski trips info at: [www.mthigh.org/Trips.htm](http://www.mthigh.org/Trips.htm).

## Mt. High Whitefish Mt. train trip

**February 28 - March 6 (Sat. - Fri.) 2015**

We'll leave Portland on Saturday afternoon, by train. Arrive in Whitefish at 7:30 am, leave our luggage in the on-mountain condo, and hit the slopes!

We'll spend a total of 5 days there, returning on the evening train on Thursday, March 6, and arriving back in Portland around 11:15 am Friday morning.

**Whitefish Mountain** (formerly Big Mountain) offers 2,353 vertical feet, over 3,000 acres, served by 14 lifts, of which 3 are high speed quads.

This coming season, Whitefish is installing a new triple chairlift that will open 6 new trails and some glade skiing.

We will stay in ski-in/ski-out condos within the on-mountain village. The basic trip will include a **3-day pass** to Whitefish, thus leaving 2 days (in the middle of the week) for other optional activities. Our options are:

1. **Ski** at Whitefish for an additional **\$44.10** per day.
2. **Take a rest** day for shopping or sightseeing.
3. **Day trip to Fernie** (Canada), just 2 hours and 15 minutes north. 3,550' vertical. If 20+ of us go, we can rent a bus. Cost is about **\$105** for bus and lift ticket.
4. **Snowcat skiing** with the Great Northern Powder Guides, just 25 minutes north of Whitefish. The cost is \$375 per person per day, plus \$15 for transportation from our condos to the site. The \$15 fee will be waived if at least 8 or more of us sign up. This has to be booked well in advance. The price can go down to just \$250 per person if we manage to get 14 people.

In order to get group discounts for the above, we need to commit to a plan ahead of time. So, visualize yourself there, and try to answer the following questions:

- a) How many days will you ski at Whitefish, 3, 4, or 5?
- b) Which side trips do you want (Fernie, Snowcat)?

Most likely, most of us will ski Whitefish on days 1 and 2 (Sunday and Monday), and also on the last day (Thursday). The two optional days are Tuesday and Wednesday., March 3 and 4.

Two nights will be spent on the train, one in each direction. Everyone needs to decide whether to sleep in a comfortable reclining chair (included), or pay **\$235** extra (round trip, pp/do) for a bunk bed in a sleeper car.

Your trip leaders are:

**Emilio Trampuz**, [Emilio2000@earthlink.net](mailto:Emilio2000@earthlink.net) and  
**Sandra Smith**, [sandra@pacifier.com](mailto:sandra@pacifier.com)

## Mt. High

## Crystal Mountain, WA



**March 20-22, 2015** A weekend bus trip, 2 nights/2 days. We leave Friday around 5:00 pm. Lots of fun on the bus – this is the best way to get to know other club members! We'll return Sunday by 8:30 pm.

**Crystal Mountain** is the largest ski area in Washington with 3,100 vertical feet of skiing, with over 50 named runs. There's everything from gentle groomed cruising runs for beginners to challenging steeps - backcountry, glades, chutes and unbelievable black runs for the more adventurous. This is why SKIING Magazine voted Crystal Mountain the #7 top mountain in North America.



There is one 8-passenger gondola, 2 six-pack hi-speed lifts, 2 hi-speed quads, 2 triples, and 3 doubles., serving 2,300 acres of lift served terrain, plus 500 acres of backcountry.

NEWS: Two lifts are being replaced by new ones in time for this winter:

1. **The High Campbell Chairlift**, for experts only, which was destroyed in an avalanche this past season, is being replaced by a new fixed grip double chairlift made by SkyTrac, the only American ski lift manufacturer.
2. **The Quicksilver fixed-grip double chairlift**, serving intermediate terrain, is being replaced by a fixed-grip quad lift.

**Lodging:** We'll stay at the Park Center Hotel in downtown Enumclaw, 45 minutes from the mountain, with easy access to a variety of restaurants and bars. Breakfast is provided for hotel guests, and there is an indoor hot tub.

The price is only **\$240** for the bus trip, 2 nights' lodging, 2 breakfasts, and one lift ticket.

**Seniors (70 and over)** pay only: **\$215**.

The reason for only one lift ticket is that on Sunday, March 22, Crystal Mountain is allowing all NWSCC club members to buy tickets at half price, but you have to go to the ticket window yourself and show your NWSCC card (i.e. your club membership card; you'll get it when you renew your club membership for this season).

Use the [Dough Transmittal form](#) on the page before last (or on our FORMS web page) to send **\$100 deposit**, due by November 30. Full payment due by February 15, 2015. No refunds after February 15 unless you can fill your spot. Contact trip leader **Linda McGavin** at (503)652-2840 or e-mail [Trips@mthigh.org](mailto:Trips@mthigh.org).

### Whistler Cabin trip

**Jan. 18-24, 2015.** (Bill Leeper)  
6 nights lodging/ 5 days skiing.  
Carpooling. Cost approx. \$280 pp. includes lodging, daily breakfast, lunch & dinner. Everyone is encouraged to cook a dinner. Lift tickets are additional.

Lodging in a cabin near Whistler Village. Shuttle to lifts every 20 minutes. Contact **Bill Leeper**: 503-639-2603, [wcleeper@hotmail.com](mailto:wcleeper@hotmail.com).

Trip is limited to the 13 people that can safely fit in the cabin.

### NW Ski Challenge

#### All season.

Ski or ride any 7 or more resorts during the 2014-2015 ski season to be eligible to win a prize. Just save your lift tickets or receipts, and mail them in at the end of the season.

Ski areas that count are all those in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii, as well as a few in British Columbia (Big White, Red Mountain, and Whitewater), and one in California (Mammoth Mt.).

Save your lift tickets or receipts!

### Powder Alliance

#### All season.

[Get 13 ski areas for the price of one!](#)

Silver Star in Canada has joined the alliance this year.

Buy the **Fusion Pass** to Timberline and Skibowl and get 3 free lift tickets to all these: Schweitzer Mt. (ID), Bridger Bowl (MT), Stevens Pass (WA), Sierra-at-Tahoe (CA), China Peak (CA), Mountain High (CA), Snowbasin (UT), Snowbowl (AZ), Crested Butte (CO), Angel Fire (NM) and Silver Star (BC).



Linda McGavin  
at Crystal Mt.



## MOUNTAIN HIGH

## Multi-club Trips

## SNOWSPORT CLUB

FWSA

## Far West Trips



Click on underlined blue links or go to [www.FWSA.org](http://www.FWSA.org).



**Dive Trip to Cozumel Mexico**, October 11-18, 2014. Dive Package: \$1,138 pp; Non-Dive Package: \$758 pp. Price includes: lodging, all

meals, 5 days of 2 tank boat dives, unlimited Nitrox, and more. Air-fare is not included. Contact **Randy Lew** at 530-304-0802 or [fwsa13randy@telis.org](mailto:fwsa13randy@telis.org).



**FWSA SKI Week: Whistler / Blackcomb**, January 31 - February 7, 2015. A week of skiing and racing in Canada. Price: \$1,299 - \$1,339 per person depending on the type of lodging. This includes 7 nights lodging, 5 lift tickets, banquet, council party, apres ski parties, races, & more. Airfare not included. **LAST CALL!**

Mail check to: NWSCC Whistler Trip, 5331 SW Macadam Ave. Suite 258, Box 438, Portland, OR 97239. Contact: **Chris Ciardi**, [c2blondie@hotmail.com](mailto:c2blondie@hotmail.com), 503-297-5351  
**Barbara Bousum**: [BBousum@gmail.com](mailto:BBousum@gmail.com) 503-224-3584



**FWSA European Ski Week: Val d'Isere, France**. March 14-21, 2015. Price for land package: \$1995 - \$2616 pp. Includes: 7 nights lodging with breakfast daily, welcome and farewell

parties, 5 nights dinner (2 nights left free to explore local restaurants), Air not included. Lift tickets not included. Optional pre-trip to Paris and post-trip to Provence. Make checks out to: Far West Ski Association (FWSA) for "FWSA 2015 Int'l Trip". Send to: Debbie Stewart, FWSA VP of Int'l Travel, 430 S. Church St., Visalia, CA 93277. [FwsaIntlTrvl@prodigy.net](mailto:FwsaIntlTrvl@prodigy.net)

### **FWSA Heli Skiing at Revelstoke, BC with CMH Heli-Skiing.**



March 15 - 21, 2015. (5 nights / 4 days of heli-skiing). Fly to Kelowna, then go by CMH bus or car to Revelstoke. Price =

\$5,830 pp double occupancy (plus taxes) or \$6,480 pp single supplement (plus taxes). Contact: Nancy Ellis, FWSA VP North American Travel, 530-414-8261 email: [vpnorthamericantravel@fwsa.org](mailto:vpnorthamericantravel@fwsa.org)

### **Bergfreunde Revelstoke + Sun Peaks**



**January 10 - 16, 2015.** Mt. High members are invited to join this carpooling trip.

**Cost: \$540** (ppdo, land only) includes: 2 nights at the ski-in/ski-out 5 star Sutton Place Hotel at the base of the mountain. 4 nights at the ski-in/ski-out Sun Peaks Lodge, 3 breakfast buffets.

Lift tickets (2 Revelstoke, 3 Sun Peaks): add **\$315**.

**Contact:** Bob Burns: 503-524-5261 (phone/fax), [bob@inkjetman.com](mailto:bob@inkjetman.com).

Make checks payable to **Bergfreunde Ski Club**. \$300 down, balance by Dec. 3rd. **Send payments to:** Bob Burns, 9980 SW Citation Place Beaverton, OR 97008. Please include: Your name; club name; address; phone numbers, and email address.

### **Bergfreunde Lake Tahoe Sampler**



**Feb. 21 - 27, 2015.** Mt. High members are invited to join this flexible carpooling trip.

**Cost: \$332** (ppdo, land only) includes: 6 nights lodging, 2 group dinners, Hospitality room Sun, Mon, Fri., a dinner dance cruise on the M.S. Dixie II paddle wheeler. Lodging in

South Lake Tahoe. **Skiing:** We'll be playing it by ear and taking advantage of any lift ticket deals that are offered. **Contact:** Bob Burns: 503-524-5261 (phone/fax), [bob@inkjetman.com](mailto:bob@inkjetman.com).

Make checks payable to **Bergfreunde Ski Club**. \$150 down, balance by January 2nd. **Send payments to:** Bob Burns, 9980 SW Citation Place Beaverton, OR 97008. Please include: Your name; club name; address; phone numbers, and email address.



**FWSA Mini Ski week: Whitefish, MT.** March 30 - Apr 4, 2015 (5 nights / 3 or 4 days of skiing). Price = \$550 (for 3 days

skiing), or \$600 (for 4 days skiing). Included: 5 nights lodging at Grouse Mountain Lodge on the outskirts of the town of Whitefish with free shuttles to the mountain. Trip Leader: Gloria Raminha, 661-829-5996 [H], 661-800-8229 [C], [garski2011@gmail.com](mailto:garski2011@gmail.com)

## Lift tickets and Season Passes

Here is a comparison of various lift tickets and passes. Which pass is best for you depends on how much you'll ski. Will you ski enough times at the same ski area to justify a season pass? PACRAT racers will be able to get discounted lift tickets on their race days.

Remember that Meadows and Timberline will be offering **Spring Passes** valid for March, April and May, for about \$100 - \$130. Consider buying a 5 day or 10 day pass plus a Spring Pass, and they don't have to be at the same ski area. Also, note the following changes from last year:

1. The **Fusion Pass / Powder Alliance** now includes a total of 13 ski areas. Silver Star was just added.
2. **Vail's Epic Pass** now also includes Park City, which they have purchased recently.
3. The **Mountain Collective Pass** has added Ski Banff-Lake Louise and Sunshine, for a total of 14 ski areas.
4. All prices will increase in November, and Mt. Bachelor prices have already increased at the end of September.

| Ski area /<br>Name of Pass   | 1<br>Day | 4 or 5<br>Day   | 10/12<br>Days            | Season<br>Pass  | Senior<br>Season | Season Pass description  |
|--|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Mt. Bachelor</b><br>Includes 3 free tickets at each of: Boreal (CA), Copper Mt. (CO), Killington (VT), and Las Vegas ski resort (NV).   | \$79     | 4-pack<br>N/A   | 12-day<br>\$575          | \$1,069         | \$599            | Includes 12 free days at other ski areas owned by Powdr Corp. (3 days at each of the 4 ski area). Multi-day and season prices have already increased after Sept. 30.                               |
| <b>Mt. Hood Meadows</b><br>Includes 5 free days at Mt. Baker   | \$74     | 5-days<br>\$299 | 10-days<br>\$399         | \$499           | \$379            | Includes 5 free days at Mt. Baker<br>Prices increase Nov. 2, Nov. 17.  |
| <b>Mt. Hood Skibowl</b>  | ?        | --              | --                       | \$399           | \$299            | Prices increase Nov. 2, Nov. 16.   |
| <b>Timberline</b>  | \$68     | 5-days<br>\$225 | 10-days<br>\$375         | \$399           | \$149            | Multi-day and season prices will increase after Nov. 17.   |
| <b>Fusion Pass/Powder Alliance</b><br>Timberline + Skibowl + 3 free tickets at each of: Stevens Pass, Schweitzer, Bridger Bowl, Snowbasin, Sierra-at-Tahoe, China Peak, Mountain High, Arizona Snowbowl, Angel Fire, Crested Butte, and Silver Star. | --       | --              | --                       | \$499           | \$249            | Unlimited skiing at Timberline and Skibowl + 33 other free lift tickets, 3 tickets at each of 11 other ski areas. Silver Star (Canada) was added this year. Prices will increase after November 2. |
| <b>Mountain Collective Pass</b><br>2 lift tickets at each:<br>Whistler/Blackcomb, Aspen/Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Alta/Snowbird, Mammoth Mt., Ski Banff-Sunshine-Lake Louise, and Alpine Meadows/ Squaw Valley   | --       | --              | 14-time<br>pass<br>\$399 | --              | --               | A 14-time pass, with a maximum of just 2 days at each destination, but additional days at each resort are 50% off. No blackout dates. To make the most of it, visit as many ski areas as possible. |
| <b>Snowbomb Platinum Pass</b><br>5 lift tickets total, 1 at each: Homewood, Sierra-at-Tahoe, Bear Valley, China Peak, and Mt. Rose, all in California.   | --       | 5-pack<br>\$200 | --                       | --              | --               | Also included are 2 free nights of lodging, Sunday - Thursday at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino in Reno, NV. Also some discounts at other Tahoe ski areas.                                       |
| <b>Epic Pass (Vail Resorts)</b><br>Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood, Park City, The Canyons, Arapahoe Basin, Afton Alps and Mt. Brighton.   |          | 4-day<br>\$399  | 7-day<br>\$569           | season<br>\$749 | \$559            | The adult full season pass (for \$749) is also valid Eldora, plus an additional 5 free days each at: Verbier (Switzerland), Niseko United (Japan), and Les 3 Vallees (France). No blackout dates.  |





## Vail acquires Park City

Acquisition settles all litigation and ensures no disruption to future resort operations

**Vail Resorts** announced that the Company has acquired **Park City Mountain Resort (PCMR)** from Powdr Corp. for \$182.5 million in cash. The acquisition includes all of the assets of Greater Park City Company (GPCC), the land used for ski terrain at the resort held by Ian Cumming, and certain base parking lands owned by Powdr Development Corp. The acquisition terminates litigation with Park City Mountain Resort and this dispute will no longer pose any future threat to disrupt the

operation of the resort. Park City Mountain Resort and Canyons will remain separate for the 2014-2015 ski season but the Epic Pass and Epic Local Pass will be valid at PCMR. Park City Mountain Resort will be added to the Epic Pass for the 2014-2015 ski season.

The Company intends to **connect PCMR** and **Canyons** for the 2015-2016 ski season to create the largest single ski resort in the United States with 7,000 skiable acres, subject to governmental approval.

## Deer Valley to own Solitude Mountain Resort beginning in 2015-2016

After almost 40 years of being owned by the DeSeelhorst family, Deer Valley Resort has entered into a purchase agreement with Solitude Mountain Resort and will begin operating the resort on May 1, 2015. No purchase price was revealed. Deer Valley employees will work with Solitude employees this ski season to see how the resort's systems brands and culture work and can best work with the Deer Valley brand and culture.

## Mountain High club's Season Overview

For a good overview of our club's varied activities, check out our web site [Photos](#) page. It contains photos from 22 past events.

All the photos will be moved a layer deeper, to our photo archives, and the current photos page will be cleared within the next few weeks to make room for the upcoming year's events.

## New Chairlift at Whitefish, MT

Montana's Whitefish Mountain Resort is spending \$2.4 million on a fixed-grip triple chairlift on the north side of the mountain and will open up new intermediate runs and glades on 200 acres of terrain from the top of Flower Point, including some expert tree skiing.

Flower Point is so named for the wildflower-covered alpine meadow on its peak. It offers a spectacular view of the North Fork area in Glacier National Park. In tribute to this national treasure, most runs are named after locales in the national park: North Fork, Whiskey Spring, Big Creek, Inside Road, Outside Road, and Hidden Meadow. An additional run, Ridge Run, will run along the northeast boundary of the resort. The lift will also provide access to a sixth new run yet to be named on the south side of Flower Point. See video at: <http://youtu.be/rC6kxd-tNcc>

Flower Point ridge can also be accessed from the south side by the Bigfoot T-bar, which operates only on weekends. The new north-side chairlift will operate every day.



Flower Point ridge run at Whitefish. North facing slopes are on the left.



## In Search of the Perfect Ski Watch

*Emilio Trampuz*

*October 2014*

I wrote a first version of this article in 2007, and now, seven years later, I am still looking for the perfect indoors/outdoors watch. Some watches come close, but each has some flaw, not being waterproof enough, or using up batteries too quickly, or lacking ski-related functions.

A **universal** watch should have all the outdoors capabilities (such as compass and altimeter) but also be elegant enough to be worn as a regular everyday watch. A watch you can take everywhere, both diving and skiing, as well as to a business meeting.

Above all, I want my perfect watch to be able to pass the **Robinson Crusoe test**: 5 years on a desert island, after first surviving the shipwreck and the swim ashore, surviving

water, salt, sand and dust. Most watches aren't waterproof enough, and those that are will become useless when the battery dies after a year or two.

My old **Avocet Vertech** watch (shown above) had all the ski-related functions I needed, it was user friendly and accurate. Unfortunately, its battery lasted only 2 years, and I had to mail the watch to a service center for battery replacement. The newer **Avocet Vertech II** has a longer-lasting battery, extended to 4 years, thanks to the watch going to sleep when not needed. This is still the most skier-friendly watch. But it is not an everyday watch, and it is not very water-proof.

### Most watches disappoint in their water resistance.

30 or 50 meters (3 - 5 Atmospheres) will survive some rain, but don't go swimming with it. 100 meters is OK for swimming, but don't splash too hard, and don't dive from a high place, 200 meters is the minimum to be sure that you can take it with you anywhere. We'll never dive that deep, but when you swim and splash around, the pressure on the watch is a lot higher than if the watch is just sitting at rest at a certain depth.

Here are the 10 features we'd like to see in a real skier's watch:

1. **Timepiece** (to simply tell time), and Chronograph (stopwatch, count-down timer, and alarm).
2. **Altimeter** (altitude, number of runs, total vertical skied) and **Barometer** (air pressure, weather).
3. **Compass**, to tell us where north is.
4. **Tough** - to withstand vibrations, bumps, and sudden deceleration (falling to the ground).
5. **Waterproof** - preferably at least to a depth of 200 meters (600 feet) or 20 Atmospheres.
6. **Ski functions** - count the number of runs, total daily vertical, annual total, and vertical speed.
7. **Analog hands** - which are much easier to see in low light than most digital displays.
8. **Digital display** - the only way to accurately display altitude, number of runs, and other data.
9. **Solar powered**, so you don't have to change batteries every few years, when you least expect it!
10. **Affordable** - Expect to pay over \$100, probably even \$200 - \$400. But \$1,000 is too expensive.

Does a complete watch exist, with all 10 out of 10 features? Well, almost! All these features are already available, but not yet in a single watch. Who will be the first to come up with a complete watch? In the meantime, let's rate the existing watches on a scale from 1 - 10, based simply on how many of the above features they have.

There have been some significant improvements and changes since 2007.

1. More altimeter watches now include a **compass**. The generic name for these is "**ABC watches**", for Altimeter, Barometer, and Compass. We count altimeter and barometer as one in the scoring, since they both rely on the same air pressure sensor. Every altimeter watch also has a barometer.

2. For years, only Casio watches were **solar** powered. Now Tissot and a few others offer solar power, but only Tissot and Casio offer solar power in an ABC watch.

3. **Analog, mechanical hands** are now available in combination with a digital display, in both Casio and Tissot watches. A digital display is needed to show all the numeric data. But analog, mechanical hands are easier to read to tell the time, especially in low light, and especially for the not-so-young whose eyesight isn't as sharp as it used to be. It's easy to tell the time just by the position of the hands, even if they might appear a bit blurry. By contrast, if your eyesight isn't sharp, it might be hard to distinguish between a digital 3, 5 and 8.



See some of the best watches below. We rate them by how many of the 10 features they have.



**Score: 5**  
(of 10)      \$400  
- \$600

### Suunto Ambit 3

GPS watch, computer connectivity.

**PROs:** Lots of functions, including a heart rate monitor. Data can be uploaded to a computer wirelessly. It measures vertical speed based on GPS.

**CONS:** Water resistance only to 50 meters. Battery lasts a maximum of 14 days, or only 1 or 2 days if GPS is active. Altimeter relies exclusively on GPS, not air pressure. It has functions for running, cycling, and swimming, but not skiing.



**Score: 8**  
(of 10)      \$545

### Casio ProTrek PRW6000

The latest ProTrek, Analog/digital.

**PROs:** Solar powered as all ProTreks. Has Compass, Altimeter, Thermometer. Analog hands + digital display. Second hand doubles as compass. Compass improved over previous models. Battery lasts up to 6 months without recharging.

**CONS:** Mediocre water resistance (100m). No ski functions. Doesn't count the number of runs. Taking measurements at 2 minute intervals is too slow. Expensive.



**Score: 8**  
(of 10)      \$120  
- \$130

### Casio ProTrek PRG270

Lots of features, but not for skiers.

**PROs:** Solar powered as all ProTreks. Has a Compass, Altimeter, Thermometer. It has the smaller, faster more accurate triple sensor (3rd generation).

**CONS:** Mediocre water resistance (100m). No ski functions. Doesn't count the number of runs. Taking measurements at 2 minute intervals is too slow. This watch loses a point for not having analog hands, but gains a point for being more affordable than the PRW6000.



**Score: 6**  
(of 10)      \$200

### Suunto Core

Has skiers' essentials. More affordable than the Ambit. That's the extra point.

**PROs:** Has cumulative totals. Has a Compass and Altimeter. You can take it down to a 10 meter depth, good enough for snorkeling.

**CONS:** Water resistant to only 30 meters (the worst of the bunch). Battery lasts only a year. Display is dark, hard to read. The watch band breaks frequently and is expensive to replace.



**Score: 10**  
(of 10)      \$300  
or less

### The Perfect Watch Yet to Come

A Casio with ski functions, or a Suunto with solar power & analog hands. Who will be the first?

#### PROs:

Solar powered  
Altimeter, Barometer, Compass  
Ski functions  
Analog hands + Digital display  
Waterproof to 300 meters.



**Score: 8**  
(of 10)      \$430  
- \$500

### Casio G-Shock GWN1000B Gulfmaster

Sturdy, analog/digital, but no ski features.

**PROs:** Shock-resistant, water resistant to 200 meters. Solar powered, works for 6 months in total darkness. Has a Compass, Altimeter, and Thermometer.

**CONS:** No ski features in any G-shock models, other than a slow altimeter that measures altitude at only 2 minute intervals. Expensive.

## MOUNTAIN HIGH

## Ski Watch

## SNOWSPORT CLUB



**Score:**  
7(of 10)      \$140  
                 - \$199

**Suunto Vector**

The watch that made Suunto popular.

**PROs:** Has altimeter (air pressure based), compass, and more.

**CONS:** Water resistant to only 30 meters (the worst of the bunch). People report water leaks in a swimming pool. Battery lasts only a year. The watch band breaks frequently and is expensive to replace.



**Score: 7**  
(of 10)      \$720  
                 - \$1,200

**Tissot T-Touch Solar**

Solar Swiss watch.

**PROs:** Touch screen, analog/digital display, Solar powered.

**CONS:** Mediocre water resistance (100m). Measures altitude for a maximum of 10 hours, and then stops automatically. Takes altitude measurements once every 5 minutes, worse than Casio. Expensive.



**Score: 8**  
(of 10)      \$240  
                 - \$300

**Casio G-Shock GW9400 Rangeman**

Sturdy, but no ski features

**PROs:** Shock-resistant, mud resistant, water resistant to 200 meters. Solar powered, recharged by any light source, works for 6 months in darkness.

**CONS:** No ski features in any G-shock models, other than a slow altimeter that measures altitude at 2 minute intervals.

**Honorable Mentions**

**Score: 5**  
(of 10)      \$100  
                 - \$150

**Avocet Vertech II**

Specialized ski watch. Works best as a second watch. Other watch makers should learn about ski functions from this watch.

**PROs:** Good set of ski features. It counts the number of runs as well as the total accumulated vertical. Battery life improved to 4 years (thanks to a sleep mode).

**CONS:** Not waterproof. Only to 10 feet (3 meters). Can only withstand some rain and snow, but not a swimming pool. No compass. Not suitable for everyday use. You must mail it in for battery replacement.



**Score: 5**  
(of 10)      \$130  
                 - \$160

**Timex Expedition WS4**

A specialized watch, but not for skiers

**PROs:** Has altimeter, compass and thermometer. Accurate weather and altitude measurements.

**CONS:** A bit too geeky to wear as an everyday watch. Uses battery (not solar). This watch is huge: 6 inches x 6 inches. Water resistant to 50 meters. If you climb 400 meters and then descend 400 meters, your accumulated altitude is zero! It just shows you the altitude difference from your starting point, not the accumulated vertical.



**Score: 6**  
(of 10)      \$195

**St. Moritz Momentum VS3**

Good all-around watch. Small, stylish, functional, made in Canada.

**PROs:** The display is a high resolution dot-matrix screen. Has altimeter, compass and thermometer.

**CONS:** Water resistance is 50 meters. Battery lasts 12 to 18 months. Altimeter measurements are taken only once every 10 minutes (the worst of the bunch). Altimeter records data for only 5 hours (not even a full ski day). Changing the mode from altimeter to compass stops the altimeter recording, just like on Casio watches. You can't measure accumulated vertical and use the compass at the same time.



**GPS WATCHES:** All GPS watches consume so much power that their battery lasts only a day, or sometimes a maximum of 2 days. In most cases, consider yourself lucky if you get one whole day without recharging. The **Garmin Fenix** is a good GPS watch, if you can live with the short battery life and poor water resistance (50 meters). But keep in mind that it is easy to lose the GPS signal in the mountains, forests, and canyons.

**SMART WATCHES FROM APPLE, SAMSUNG, etc.** Watches such as the i-Watch or the more established Samsung Gear might some day rival the watches listed here, but that day is still far in the future. They can run various apps (if you are satisfied with the tiny screen). But they rapidly consume batteries (lasting maybe 2 - 3 days), and have poor water resistance (3 feet or 1 meter). They are not in the same category with the outdoors watches listed here. They are the farthest from passing the Robinson Crusoe test. They probably wouldn't even last long enough for a Robinson Crusoe weekend! And almost everything these smart watches can do, your smart phone can do better.

**CASIO:** Casio watches have the highest scores, offering most of the desired functions for a relatively reasonable price. Most Casio watches will pass the Robinson Crusoe test. Casio is the only watch manufacturer offering solar power in most of their watches. Only two other watch makers offer solar power: **Seiko** (with no altimeter or any other ski functions) and **Tissot** (which is very expensive).

**Pro-Trek** watches (formerly known as Pathfinder watches) are all water resistant to 100 meters.

**G-Shock** watches are almost all resistant to 200 meters. That makes the G-Shock Gulfmaster one of the best for now.

The main fault in Casio watches is that none of them have skier-specific functions. They don't count your number of runs. They do accumulate your total vertical skied, but there is no start/stop button. If you switch from the Altimeter mode to the Compass mode, the watch stops recording altitude. Changing the mode acts as a stop button. Not good. The altimeter should have a start and a stop button. The watch should continue recording your cumulative vertical even if you change modes during the day, continuing to record altitude until you hit the stop button.

Also, accumulating vertical currently stops automatically after about 10 hours, which might be just enough for most recreational skiers, but it is not enough for an all-night vertical challenge such as Hope on the Slopes.

The measurement interval of 2 minutes is too slow. Casio does offer a shorter 5 second interval, but that only lasts for an hour, and then it reverts to the slower 2-minute pace.

If Casio would just tweak its software to provide skier-specific functions, and shorten the measurements interval to at least 30 seconds, and allow continuous recording of altitude changes regardless of which mode it is in until the stop button is pressed, Casio could easily become the best ski watch in the world.

**SUUNTO:** Most Suunto watches have the following problems:

1. Batteries need to be replaced frequently.
2. Replacement wrist bands for Suunto watches are expensive.
3. Not a single Suunto watch offers analog hands to display time. It's all digital, and screen visibility isn't always good.
4. The alarm on Suunto watches may not be loud enough to wake you. This may have been done on purpose. A weaker alarm means the battery will last longer.
5. Relatively low water resistance; only down to 30 or 50 meters (3 or 5 atmospheres).

**AVOCET VERTECH:** This watch has all the skier specific functions we need. If other manufacturers don't know what skier functions we want from a watch, they should take a good look at the Avocet Vertech watch and learn from it. It counts your number of runs (hills). It accumulates your vertical all day, and there is also a separate counter that accumulates vertical all season (or all week, or until you reset it to zero). It's a pity that nobody seems to be developing and improving this watch. It would be great if the Avocet Vertech could be made to look like a regular watch, make it more waterproof, add a compass, and make it solar powered.

**HIGHGEAR:** Highgear is not making watches any more. Some are probably still available on the market, but there will be no future development, and support is relatively minimal. Highgear Altis has an altimeter, barometer, and compass. But it is water resistant only to 50 meters (5 atmospheres), and it is battery operated (no solar).

**WHAT TO DO:** If you want that perfect ski watch, send your desired list of features to both **Suunto** and **Casio**. Ask them to forward your email/letter to those in charge of designing new watches. Compliment Casio on their solar powered watches, but ask them why they are so completely ignoring skiers and snowboarders. There are more skiers and snowboarders in the world than there are mountain climbers.

Tell Casio we need the **altitude measurements** to be taken at least every 30 seconds all day, until the stop button is pressed. Currently, all Casio watches take measurements only once every 2 minutes. In just one minute, you

can ski down 500 vertical feet, then get on a chairlift and be taken up a few hundred feet in the next minute, and the watch might not record any of that at all, or just a small fraction of it.

Tell **Suunto** we'd like **solar powered** watches, because Suunto watches are too battery hungry. Also, Suunto needs to improve the water resistance of their watches. And please add analog hands to tell time.

Tell both of them we need at least **200 meters waterproof** watch, or **300 meters** would be even better. If we are going to buy an expensive watch, we would like it to be truly waterproof.

If you write, it is best to send your message to the manufacturer's headquarters, in their home country (Japan, or Finland). Their U.S. offices are mainly for local sales and marketing people, who seem to be unable to forward your feedback letters to those who design the watches. So, it's best to contact the watch designers directly at:

#### Casio Computer Co., LTD

6-2 Hon-machi 1-chome,  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-8543  
Japan

#### Suunto

Valimotie 7  
FI-01510 Vantaa  
Finland  
Email: [support@suunto.com](mailto:support@suunto.com)

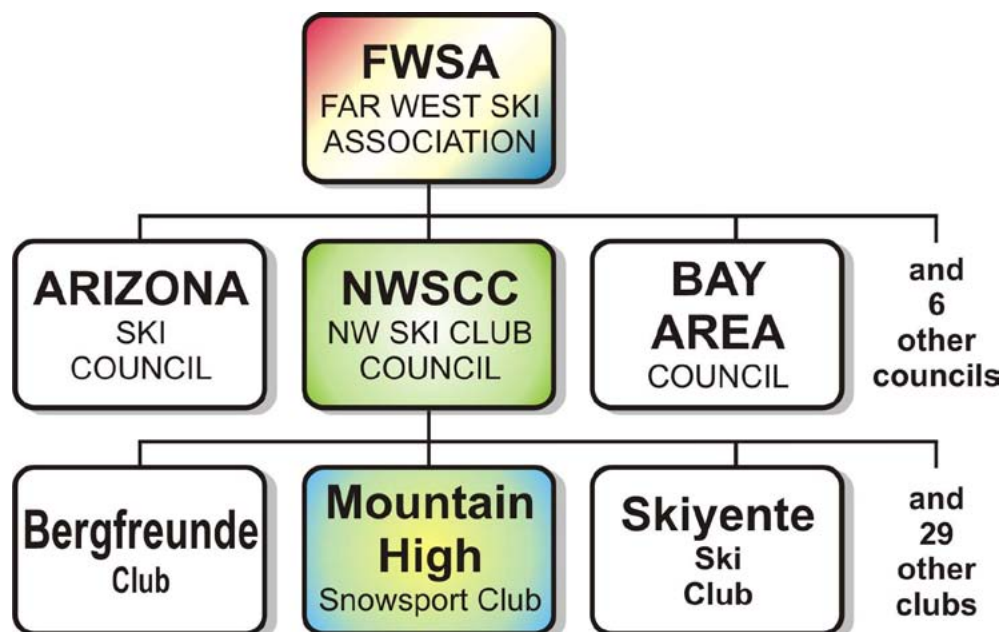
## FWSA / NWSCC / Mt. HIGH

Our club is part of the Northwest Ski Club Council, which represents 32 ski clubs in the region. So, just remember that we are all part of the NWSCC.

The NWSCC in turn is part of the Far West Ski Association (FWSA), which represents a total of 9 ski councils in the western part of the United States.

Again, we are all part of the FWSA just by being Mountain High club members. Our membership cards say so too.

Whenever you hear of some event or some benefit available to NWSCC or FWSA members, that is all of us!



### Facebook Page



We now have a **Facebook** page. Thanks to **Bruce Kuper** for setting it up.

This will be one more way for our members to communicate with each other, in addition to emails, our web site, Bulletin Board, and our two Forums (which are Google Groups).

Check out the Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1528330064067232/>

Join this Facebook group and post your thoughts and your photos there!

### Club name change

No, we are not changing the club's name again. But we do need to correct some old errors. Over the years, we have been a bit imprecise in describing our club. Some of us called it a "**Ski & Snowboard Club**", or a "**Snowsports**" club (plural), even though the official name is actually "**Mountain High Snowsport Club**" (singular). We are now in the process of correcting that in various documents, including in our bank checking account.

But one of the errors is in our Bylaws, where our club is called the "**Mountain High Ski and Snow Sports Club**". Nobody had noticed this until just recently. In order to correct this error, the Board will formally vote to change that and update it to: "**Mountain High Snowsport Club**".

According to the rules, we need to notify all our members about that. So consider yourself notified! The Board will vote on this on **October 28**.



## Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew

### Part 9: Alabama trip end by Emilio Trampuz



This is the last part of a 30 day trip involving 31 ski areas. Just one of many trips undertaken by John and Jewel Andrew in their quest to ski all of North America. They started from the State of Washington and headed for Alabama, accompanied by Paul and Carol Morford. After skiing Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Colorado and Wyoming, they are now in Idaho, heading back west.

**Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho.** This ski area was a big surprise west of the town of Arco (Idaho). It's open only on Saturdays and operated by a local ski club. I took the camera to the top, to record this surreal place.



The top crew at Blizzard Ski Area, Idaho

Blizzard's rocky peak was blown clear of snow. I removed my skis and scuffed my ski boots on sharp rocks to get this picture of the bull wheel and counterweight.



Blizzard Ski Area, Idaho

**Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho.** View of the lodge and parking lot down the lift line. No one knew or cared about the vertical. I conservatively list it as 600 vertical feet. If someone tells me it's 800 or 900, I'd buy that.



Blizzard, Idaho

**Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho.** Platter lifts are easier to ride than T-Bars on steep slopes, because the pull is balanced. Blizzard's slope above this point is very steep.



Blizzard Ski Area, Idaho

**Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho.** The south slope of Blizzard looks out on a surreal moonscape. The Craters of the Moon National Monument is the dark band on the mid horizon. US Highway 93 is the horizontal line. Blizzard approach road has a vehicle on it.

Blizzard Ski Area, Idaho





**Day 27. Rotarun Ski Area, Hailey, Idaho.**

On the way back to Sun Valley from Blizzard, we stopped in Hailey to ski Rotarun (600 ft. vertical).



John Andrew  
Rotarun Ski Area, Idaho

**Day 27. Rotarun Ski Area, Hailey, Idaho.** At the top, I meet a ski patroller who retired from avalanche control at my home ski area, Alpental, near Seattle. He said he hasn't had to throw one stick of dynamite at Rotarun. He led the way, and we bombed Rotarun's 600 feet of vertical several times.



Rotarun Ski Area, Idaho: John Andrew.

**Day 28. Soldier Mountain ski area, Fairfield, Idaho.**

We stopped at Soldier Mountain (1,400 ft. vertical). We found an interesting mountain with open bowls on the front and shaded glades on the backside.



Soldier Mountain, Idaho: Jewel Andrew

**Day 28. Soldier Mountain, Fairfield, Idaho.** Our trip to ski Alabama has taken us through 21 states. We've skied at 31 ski resorts, 27 of which Jewel and I had not skied before. Two days later, we roll into Seattle, having spent 30 days and 7,000 miles on the road



Soldier Mountain

Carol Morford, Janet Hoffman (Paul and Carol's daughter), Jewel Andrew.

NOTE: The above story has been published in several installments over several months. See the complete story in a single article on our club's ARTICLES web page at: <http://www.mthigh.org/Articles/Skiing-North-America.pdf>

### A challenge for all

You too can embark on a similar adventure. Or track your own lifetime progress in ski areas visited. Use a modified form of John and Jewel's spreadsheet with 3 added columns, for up to 3 more people. Use one of these columns to track your own progress by entering a "1" next to each ski area visited.

See: <http://www.mthigh.org/Documents/North-American-Ski-Areas-2014-5-25.xls>



## MOUNTAIN HIGH

## Contacts / Club info

## SNOWSPORT CLUB

## 2014 Man &amp; Woman of the Year

Our club's Man and Woman of the Year for 2014, are:

**Kurt Krueger**, was our club President for the past 3 years.

**Nancy Pratt**, our current club Treasurer.



## Mountain High Meeting

Usually last Monday. Exception this month **Oct. 28 (Tue.)**: Open to all who want to get more involved with the club.

Gather at **6:00 pm**. Start at **6:30 pm**.

**Location: Round Table Pizza, 10070 SW Barbur Blvd. (near Capitol Hwy.)**

## Mountain High snowsport club contacts:

|                             |                |                    |  |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>President:</b>           | Debbi Kor      | H: 503-314-7078,   | <a href="mailto:President@mthigh.org">President@mthigh.org</a>             |
| <b>Vice-President:</b>      | Terry White    | H: 503-781-4558    | <a href="mailto:TWhite223@msn.com">TWhite223@msn.com</a>                   |
| <b>Secretary:</b>           | Lisa Scribner  | H: 360-904-1302,   | <a href="mailto:LScribner98@yahoo.com">LScribner98@yahoo.com</a>           |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>           | Nancy Pratt    | H: 503-593-9427,   | <a href="mailto:Treasurer@mthigh.org">Treasurer@mthigh.org</a>             |
| <b>Past President:</b>      | Kurt Krueger   | H: 503-625-1492,   | <a href="mailto:President@mthigh.org">President@mthigh.org</a>             |
| <b>Membership Director:</b> | Terry Swan     | H: 503-729-3435    | <a href="mailto:swans761@juno.com">swans761@juno.com</a>                   |
| <b>Race Director:</b>       | Bruce Kuper    | H: 503-975-8039,   | <a href="mailto:bruku@comcast.net">bruku@comcast.net</a>                   |
| <b>Newsletter Editor:</b>   | Emilio Trampuz | H: 1-503-378-0171, | <a href="mailto:newsletter@mthigh.org">newsletter@mthigh.org</a>           |
| <b>Social Activities:</b>   | Debbi Kor      | H: 503-314-7078,   | <a href="mailto:ijustwannarun1@comcast.net">ijustwannarun1@comcast.net</a> |
| <b>Golf:</b>                | Cal Eddy       | H: 503-805-8606,   | <a href="mailto:baebaw@ccgmail.net">baebaw@ccgmail.net</a>                 |
| <b>Hiking:</b>              | Chris Brooks   | H: 503-764-5323,   | <a href="mailto:jruffman@aol.com">jruffman@aol.com</a>                     |
| <b>Bike rides:</b>          | Jackie Bonillo | H: 503-663-3359,   | <a href="mailto:jbon1960@comcast.net">jbon1960@comcast.net</a>             |
| <b>Bike rides:</b>          | Karen Michels  | H: 503-984-9210,   | <a href="mailto:michels7904@comcast.net">michels7904@comcast.net</a>       |
| <b>Mid-week skiing:</b>     | Ken Brundidge  | H: 503-720-0620,   | <a href="mailto:KenBrundidge@comcast.net">KenBrundidge@comcast.net</a>     |
| <b>Trip Director:</b>       | Linda McGavin  | H: 503-652-2840,   | <a href="mailto:Trips@mthigh.org">Trips@mthigh.org</a>                     |
| <b>Trip Leader:</b>         | Gordon Lusk    | H: 503-804-8363,   | <a href="mailto:GordyLusk@hotmail.com">GordyLusk@hotmail.com</a>           |
| <b>Trip Leader:</b>         | Sandra Smith   | H: 503-646-4591,   | <a href="mailto:sandra@pacifier.com">sandra@pacifier.com</a>               |

General info:  
[info@mthigh.org](mailto:info@mthigh.org)

Web site:  
[www.mthigh.org](http://www.mthigh.org)

## DOUGH TRANSMITTAL FORM

Mail check payable to: Mountain High Snowsport Club, PO Box 2182, Portland, OR 97208.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY: ☐ New membership or ☐ Renewal

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Hm): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Wk): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Hm): \_\_\_\_\_ Email (Wk): \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Preferences:** - Newsletter (once a month): ☐ yes, link only ☐ yes, complete file ☐ no  
☐ No changes - Club news & events (between newsletters): ☐ yes ☐ no  
 (same as last year) - Other ski news (NWSCC, FWSA, ski areas, trips...): ☐ yes ☐ no  
 - Is it OK to share your email address with other club members? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please take my money, and apply it toward the following Ski Club fun stuff: **Deposit?** **Paid in full?**

- ☐ **Annual Membership** (Oct. 1, 2014 - Sept. 2015): Single (\$25); couple (\$40) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **PACRAT Racing (2015)** \$99 for the whole season . Team: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Whitefish trip** (Feb. 28- Mar. 6). Dep.: \$100. Adult: \$638; 65+=\$606; 70+=\$497 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Whitefish train bed in sleeper car** \$235 round trip, per pers., double occy. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Whitefish lift tickets** (on top of the included 3): \$44.10 per day (max. 2 days) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Whitefish: Fernie day trip** (bus + lift ticket): \$105 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Whitefish: Snowcat skiing** Fewer than 8: \$390; 8+ = \$375; 14 people = \$250 p.p. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Crystal Mt. bus trip** (March 20-22): \$240; Seniors 70 and over = \$210; Dep.= \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (For whom you are paying. Roommate requests,...): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

See our Trips cancellation policy on our web site: <http://www.mthigh.org/Documents/Trip-Cancellation-Policy.pdf>

**Club membership = 298 Newsletter Distribution**

The Oct. 2014 issue is posted on our web site. Also:  
**269** copies sent via email (as PDF files)  
**22** paper printed copies sent via US Mail.  
 Copies are also sent to potential members, other clubs, etc.

**Count Your Ski Areas**

Set up your own counter of ski areas visited. Use a modified form of John and Jewel's spreadsheet with 3 added columns, for up to 3 more people. Make one of these your own. Enter a "1" for every ski area visited. See: <http://www.mthigh.org/Documents/North-American-Ski-Areas-2014-5-25.xls>

**Mt. High****Membership**

It is best to renew your club membership in person at the **Ski Fair** or the **Kickoff party**. Both are in November. These are the only two events where we will be

prepared to take your membership forms and dues and can also give you your new membership card (which we don't normally mail out unless specifically requested).

But, of course, you can always renew by mail too. Simply print the **Membership Signup form** at the [FORMS & DOCS](#) page and mail it in.

If you are planning to join us on one of our trips, an early signup would be desirable, to secure your spot on the train or the bus. In that case, it's best to do it by mail as soon as possible.

**Sno-Park Permits**

On Mt. Hood you can get a \$30 ticket for not having a sno-park permit.

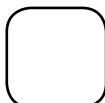
The best place to buy a sno-park permit is at your local DMV

office. The annual permit costs **\$25**. A 3 day (consecutive) pass costs **\$9**, a day permit is **\$4**.

You can also buy it at various sporting good stores, and even at the Rhododendron food market, but all these outlets usually tack on a **\$5 fee** for a season permit, or **\$1** for a day pass.

**Do some good and help the Ski Patrol by buying it from them at the Ski Fair.**

The sno-park permit fees help pay for snow removal from ski area parking lots during the winter.



Emilio Trampuz  
 Mountain High Newsletter editor  
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Please check our web site,  
[www.mthigh.org](http://www.mthigh.org)  
 for updates.