



Winter at Westminster March '07 Newsletter



The Vibe

February is always a good month in the Wasatch Mountains. For the Winter at Westminster program, February is the month when we focus on exploring the backcountry. There is nothing like touring in the Wasatch with its clear blue skies, riding fresh tracks, trekking with your friends, and enjoying the peace of the backcountry. This year the snow-pack has been unstable, so we've been sure to take every precaution before we step out of bounds.



Interconnect Tour *February 2 & 3*

If you haven't realized it before, it's totally possible (with the Ski Utah Guides) to ski from Deer Valley, Park City Mountain Resort, Solitude, Brighton, Alta, and Snowbird all in one day. What an amazing experience to cover 23 miles, ski six resorts and learn how well connected the Wasatch Mountains really are. As a bonus, the Ski Utah guides are not only knowledgeable about the backcountry and snow safety, but they're pretty funny too!



Exum Touring *February 3, 4 & 9*

When touring with the Exum guides, you are sure to have a day full of adventure. These guides are always in search of the perfect run, no matter how many mountains you need to climb to get there! The snowboarders went touring in Big Cottonwood Canyon, and the skiers toured out of the back gates at The Canyons. Despite hoofing it up to the tops of many mountain peaks, we found the white-capped mountain views incredible—you could



Lecture & Learn Series

Chris Waddell was our guest speaker on February 9th at The Canyons Resort. Chris is a five-time Paralympic gold medalist, business owner, and was voted as one of *People* magazine's "Top 50 Beautiful People" and by *Skiing* magazine as one of the "Top 25 Skiers in North America." Chris led us through a 1½-hour role-playing communication exercise. It was team-bonding, educational, and a lot of fun.

W@W & Addictionary.org Contest

The winning word for the Winter at Westminster & Addictionary.org contest is.....**CHOWDA!**

Chowda- (verb) to fall on one's face while snowboarding/skiing causing one to "chow on some powda."

Congratulations to Alan Miller for submitting this word. Alan will receive 10 tee-shirts with his winning word on it, and two lift tickets to The Canyons Resort, UT.

To view all of the contest submissions click here: <http://addictionary.org/Browse/Contest/1>. Even though the contest is closed, please continue to submit your favorite skiing, snowboarding or winter words to www.addictionary.org.

Shogul- (verb) : to ski around moguls with the precision and vigor of a Japanese general.

Flake Bake- (noun) When a skier sits on the deck (snowbird) or elsewhere and basks in the bright snow-reflected sunlight.

Pow-Wow- (noun) A large congregation of skiers and



even see Salt Lake in the distance. We all definitely earned our turns!

A special thank you to Voile Splitboards for hooking up the snowboarders!

Snow Safety Tours *February 10*

Controlling snow safety in Little Cottonwood Canyon can be very tricky; it is a full time job for the Snow Safety teams at Alta and Snowbird. Not only do these teams need to ensure safety within the resorts, but they also work with Utah Department of Transportation to keep the roads leading to the resorts safe from avalanches. It's not easy to be on the job before the sun rises in the cold, throwing hand bombs onto the slopes and/or preparing the Vietnam-era howitzers to blast the mountain sides...with astonishing accuracy. The snow safety teams at both resorts are hard-core. Hats off to everyone for a job well done!

Snowmobiling *February 17*

Everyone loves motorized machines and sled-necking is no exception. On [date] we all headed to 1000 Peaks Ranch (just outside Park City) for a few hours of buzzing around the mountain side. Even though this was a guided tour, there was plenty of opportunity to cruise around and let the snowmobiles scream around the fields.

1st Tracks at Snowbird *February 23*

The night before the "1st Tracks Off The Tram" event, we were all praying for snow. Not too much that the canyon would close, but enough to get fresh tracks off the tram. Well, the snow gods answered our prayers and we got everything that we asked for. When we arrived at Snowbird on Friday morning we had to wait for the 8:30am tram, as the snow safety teams were still bombing the mountain for avalanches at 8:00am. But, at 8:25am we were escorted onto the tram (surpassing everyone who was waiting in line), and proceeded to the top of Bald Mountain. Off of the tram we met up with our guides and we proceeded to gang ski the slopes, tearing up all the fresh powder in front of us. It was truly an amazing morning with 2 feet of untouched powder, being with friends, and listening to the quite peace of the snow falling.

After tearing it up for two hours, we headed to the Aire Restaurant at The Cliff Lodge. We were treated like royalty by having a private dining

snowboarders at the bottom of the lift. Usually on a powder day, one hour before the lifts actually open.

Altitude Sickness- (noun) A highly contagious disease that causes students to miss class on powder days.

Altituous- (noun) Otherwise known as low altitude sickness. This serious illness can ONLY be cured with exposure to high altitudes. Rx- Take 1-2 days of skiing, as directed.

Still Spill- (noun) when one successfully makes it to the bottom of the slope without crashing, comes to a complete stop, and then falls over for no explicable reason.

Shrap the Gnar- (verb) also known as....SHRED THE POW POW!!!

Noodler- (noun) A person who is an old school skier, who literally looks like a noodle, straight with their alignment, but soft and flail-y as they go down the run.

W@W Student Profiles

Jessie (Jess)

Home School: University of Pittsburgh, PA
Favorite Class: Abnormal Psychology
She has only snowboarded 18 days, but has fallen in love with Snowbird. Jess's favorite hangout is A-frame Bar with Parley. She wants everyone to know...watch for Pitt in the Final Four!

Chris Becker

Home School: Messiah College, PA
Favorite Class: Photography.
"I've skied 25 days and broken two pairs of skis—don't worry, that's what warranties are for. Snowbird is awesome, but nothing beats the terrain at Alta. My favorite W@W activity so far has been the Interconnect Tour! We skied six resorts, going from one to another through the Wasatch backcountry in one day; it was amazing to experience these mountains from a whole new perspective."

Collin Jefferies (C_loc)

Favorite Class: Western Civilization
Collin has boarded at least 35 days so far, but he's already lost count. His favorite resort is Snowbird and favorite hangout is the Pie Restaurant. Snowmobiling in Park City was an epic day for Collin, that is, until he wrecked the sled (but he is OK). Collin wants to share "Much love and respect to all those in W@W

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area for our group. The buffet breakfast was enormous, and we all ate until we were comatose. After breakfast we did laps off the tram until 4:00pm. What a way to kick off spring break!

program.”

Jay Moltz (J)

Home School: Ithaca College, NY

Favorite Class: Photography

So, Jay has skied “A LOT” and his favorite resort is Alta. His favorite W@W activity has been the Interconnect Tour (it really was an awesome day to be in the backcountry). He wants all his friends to know, “ Snow is good.”

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