



## Winter at Westminster April '07 Newsletter



### The Vibe

Nobody can believe it's already April! Where did this season go? One minute we were swiping the cobwebs from our gear, and now we are riding on mashed potatoes. Even though we are all enjoying spring riding, I have a gut feeling the season isn't quite over, and we are going to be hit with many late spring storms. All I have to say is, "Bring it on!"



### Online Video Contest *Now until April 20<sup>th</sup>*

This year W@W students are going to tell their story directly to YOU through our new video contest. The theme: **How do you Winter at Westminster?** There are five teams, and each video crew is composed of five people, and they are competing for the following prizes: *The Dynastar Choice Award, Backcountry.com's Goats Gone Wild, Spy Hop Production's Choice, and the Winter at Westminster Grand Prize...* for the winning team, each team member will win a pair of Dynastar's 2008 Trouble Makers or a Lib Tech snowboard.



The contest is from March 30–April 20, so **visit the following links and vote for your favorite video:**

- W@W [Video 1:](#)
- W@W [Video 2:](#)
- W@W [Video 3:](#)
- W@W [Video 4:](#)

Everyone bombed the mountain, enjoyed the spring weather, and many filmed for the video contest.

### Pond Skimming

*March 24*

This was an unofficial W@W event, but many people were at The Canyons to attend the annual pond skimming contest. Pond skimming always draws a crowd, as skiers and snowboarders fly down a hill and attempt to skim across the water without falling into the freezing pond. All of the contestants dressed up, and many of the spectators did too. Some of the costumes were jaw dropping, especially Borat in his man-thong (this threw the crowd into hysterics). We had two brave W@W souls, Grey and Mike, who made the leap of faith and challenged the pond. Grey went off a kicker and landed switch, then crashed into the pond. Mike took a safer route, gained a lot of speed, and crossed the pond successfully (hint: Mike's skis were wide enough to be pontoons!).

### Snowbasin

*March 30<sup>th</sup>*

Parents and W@W alumni weekend was kicked off at Snowbasin. Snowbasin is truly one of those secret resorts, where the riding is steep, deep and you literally own the entire mountain. This resort is famous for hosting the 2002 Winter Olympic downhill and super-G races. But, its also know for its beautiful lodges and dining (they have marble



## Utah Olympic Park

March 9<sup>th</sup>

Our annual visit to the UOP is always a crazy day! This year, we participated in Nordic jumping, freestyle jumping, bobsledding, and the famous extreme rafting. Here is a brief summary:

**Nordic & Freestyle Jumping:** It was truly a winter playground. Picture a wide-open slope. On the left, you had a huge table top, rails, and boxes. On your right, there were the Nordic jumps (K10, K20, and K40). Everyone took turns hucking themselves off of the kickers of their choice, and yes, there were some spectacular crashes and remarkable recoveries.

**Bobsledding:** Everyone was totally pumped for the bobsled ride, and I think even a few were a bit nervous. This bobsled ride is the real deal, rocketing 80+ mph down the Olympic track, and hitting 4-5 G's. It is an unbelievable ride...and the only one of its kind in North America. It makes the scariest rollercoaster look like a kiddie ride. It sounds like a locomotive barreling down the track, the G-forces make your head slump forward and your body collapse, and all the while, you are holding on for dear life and praying you don't flip (even though, with 10 years of operation, the UOP has never had a bobsled ride flip). It was a rush of a lifetime!

**Extreme Rafting:** This event lived up to its expectation! In fact, we even stepped it up this year as we slid down in a whitewater raft off the landing zone of the Nordic Jump K90. Last year we slid down the K60.

To celebrate our Olympic adventure day, we had catered dinner at the Joe Quinney Museum at the UOP, and yes, another great meal at W@W.

## Yurt Camping

March 16-19

Going yurt camping is truly a right of passage for anyone in W@W. There is nothing easy about trekking in six miles in the Uinta Mountains, climbing to 9600 feet, setting up camp and sleeping in the woods. But those who were willing to accept this challenge walked away with an experience of a life time. So, picture this: A yurt surrounded by seven bright yellow tents and a large orange Everest expedition tent, 25 people who are all smiles, 60 degree daytime highs with sunshine, Frisbees flying, hacky-sack playing, and good eats (everything tastes better when you

countertops in the bathrooms, and blown glass chandeliers...incredible!). Everyone had a great day cruising the mountain, and finding a few powder stashes.

**Learn & Lecture Guest Speaker:** Dean Cardinale. Dean is the MAN! He is a renowned mountaineer, assistant snow safety director at Snowbird, and can tell a great story about his adventures. Dean visited Westminster and shared his slide presentation from his Mt. Everest Summit in 2005. He stressed teamwork, collaboration and flexibility when a trek is faced with unforeseen challenges.

## W@W Student Profiles

**Caitlin Dunn** (nickname: Princess of the Wastach)  
Home School: University Of Denver  
Caitlin has been ripping it up at Alta—she's already clocked in 53 days this year. Caitlin is majoring in art, and she is lovin' her ceramics class. So far, her favorite W@W event was yurt camping. Caitlin's favorite hangout is the entire Wasatch Mountain range, hence her nickname.

**Will Wesson** (nickname: Will)  
Home School: University of Vermont  
Will is a natural on skis, whether he's going forward or backward. He lost count of how many days he has skied this year, but he's guessing around 70+. Will loves the park and his favorite resort is Brighton. On campus, he enjoys his photography class. Will really enjoyed the Utah Olympic Park events where he just flew off of the large tabletop.

**Grey Whittier** (nickname: skuntyskier)  
Home School: The powder college wherever it falls (he is a free spirit!)  
Grey has taken the cake this year, as he has already skied between 120–130 days, and I would suspect he will clock in a few more days before the seasons over. His favorite resort is The Canyons for park days, and Snowbird for pow days. Grey can't decide between bobsledding or yurt camping as his favorite W@W event...so we'll call it a tie. It seems that Grey scheduled his classes perfectly, so he can hit fresh tracks in the morning, and get to his business classes on time by noon. After skiing and going to class, you can find Grey hanging out at Mo's in Salt Lake.

are camping). We were accompanied by three professional backcountry guides who also acted as our private stand up comedians, sherpas, and snow safety experts. We did take a half-day backcountry tour, but with the avalanche danger, we kept it to mellow slopes. On the final night, we all gathered in the yurt, cranked up the tunes, and gathered in a dance-party and drum-circle rally. There is nothing like a weekend in the woods with a group of your friends!

### **Solitude Mountain Resort**

*March 23*

Spring skiing and riding in Big Cottonwood Canyon is always a treat. The jagged white-capped mountains, framed by the blazing sun and blue sky, naturally make for a great day to be going for a ride. Solitude definitely lives up to its name. The mountain offers great riding, challenging slopes, and nobody is there!

Ryan Pergola (nickname: Toast)

Ryan has been having such a great time at W@W, he actually transferred to Westminster! His primary reason for transferring is Westminster's economics department (he digs the professors!), and he just can't leave the mountains. So far, Ryan has ridden 50+ days this season. Like Grey, he ranks The Canyon's park #1 and prefers Snowbird for those epic powder days. His favorite event was bobsledding with a side of extreme rafting.

Lauren Wenzel

Home School: Whitman College (nickname: nothing yet...got any ideas?)

Lauren is just one of those cool chicks. She is a ripin' skier, loves a good time and is always up for any adventure. She has clocked in 61 days so far, many if which were at Alta. Lauren's favorite class has been Classical Guitar. To no one's surprise, she loved yurt camping, especially the après ski fiesta! She would like to tell all of her friends, "What a swell bunch of people we have here."

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