



Winter at Westminster February '07 Newsletter



The Vibe

The '07 Winter at Westminster class now has the lay-of-the-land. Everyone is getting settled into his or her routine: going to class, hitting the slopes, and spending Fridays and Saturdays going on Winter at Westminster adventures. January was filled with unique activities such as riding 1st tracks at The Canyons, attending the US Freestyle World Cup, trying biathlon and cross country skiing, and getting our first taste of avalanche awareness training. February events will focus on backcountry touring, avalanche safety within the resorts, and red necking on snowmobiles!

1st Tracks at The Canyons

There is nothing better than being on the slopes before they're open to the public (and, yes we were there legally!). The Canyons hosted W@W on January 19th for 1st Tracks. It was a bluebird morning, not a cloud in the sky. Even though Utah has been hit with an Arctic blast over the past few weeks, the cold didn't stop us from bombing the mountain and ripping up the freshly groomed corduroy. A few of us had to catch some z's in the lodge when the "commoners" started hitting the slopes around 9:00 a.m., but we all pushed hard to get as many turns in before we had to head home. Nothing like starting your day hitting the slopes at 7:00 a.m!

Big Air

On January 12th, we went to Park City Mountain Resort (PCMR). For the most part, we split into two groups: some headed for Jupiter Peak (10,000 feet!) in search of pow-pow stashes, and the rest were park rats and played in PCMR's famous terrain parks. This was a very cold day, and many

- **Craig Gordon, Educator, Utah Avalanche Center.** Craig gave a dynamic and persuasive presentation on the importance of knowing and assessing the snow conditions before heading into the backcountry. The award-winning video, *Know Before You Go*, was shared with the crew, and then Craig taught us how to read the signs of a potential avalanche and how to venture into the backcountry prepared. We all walked away with an enormous respect for Mother Nature!
- **Todd Burnette, VP of Marketing for The Canyons Resort & Diane Murphy, VP of Marketing Services for American Skiing Company.** After an early morning with 1st Tracks, Todd and Diane engaged us in an interesting presentation and conversation about the state of the resort industry, and how resorts play the tourism game to capture market share.

W@W Profiles

Hannah Bowling (nickname: Hans)
Home School: Montana State University, MT
Major: Environmental Studies
Internship: The Canyons Resort
To date, Hannah has skied 17 days, and loves the fact that when Sundance Film Festival is in town, the slopes are empty!

Trevor Frank (nickname: Pigpen)
Home School: Whitman College, WA
Favorite Class: Philosophy of Religion
Internship: Norwegian School for Outdoor Exploration
Trevor is all about simple pleasures, and shredding

of us practiced the 2:1 ratio; two runs for every cup of hot cocoa. Around 4:00 p.m., the entire crew headed to Park City's Main Street for pizza until we were all filled with dough and cheese. Then we hitched a ride on the bus and headed to Deer Valley's Freestyle World Cup. Friday night was the aerial event and Saturday was moguls. It was exciting to watch the events and cheer on the US Ski Team athletes, some of whom are actually our classmates!

The Hardest Sport

We can all brag about how good we are on skis and snowboards, but few can say they kick butt in biathlon! Biathlon is the Olympic sport where you cross country ski race on a track and have to stop along the way to shoot a rifle and hit a very small target that is 164 feet away. We all had a humbling experience as we learned to lower our heart rate and control our breathing in order to aim the rifle and hit the target. Needless to say, next time we watch the Olympics, we'll have a new respect for biathlon athletes.

Lecture & Learn Series

So far, we have had two Lecture and Learn events. This series offers the W@W students a unique opportunity to meet outdoor industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and Olympians.

a ton has kept him a happy camper. He doesn't want "the part to stop!"

Greg Adams (nickname: Grizzels)

Home School: Brookdale Community College, NJ

Favorite Class: English

Greg has hit 20 days on the slopes (which is pretty respectable considering he has been in Utah for only 28 days). His choice W@W activity so far was 1st tracks at The Canyons, and he is looking forward to riding in the backcountry this weekend.

Dan Witter (nickname: Dan)

Home School: Messiah College, PA

Major: Finance

Internship: Center for Applied Media

So far Dan has gotten in 15 days of riding, and his favorite resort has been Brighton. But, Dan is somewhat of a renegade, as his favorite W@W activity so far has been shooting guns in the biathlon.

Stephen Fox (nickname: Fox)

Home School: Roger Williams University, RI

Favorite class: Macro Economics

OK, Fox takes the cake this month, with 43 days logged in on the slopes. No surprise, The Bird is his favorite resort. What does Fox want to tell his fans, "My snowboard snapped and my ski's got stolen in the same day last week...I have not been to happy since, but it has not stopped me from riding thanks to some good friends and backcountry.com."

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