

Your 2008 - 2009 Snowdays

Total snowdays: 50

Day #50 - Whistler

2009-04-26

Yay! Day 50! That's a new record for me.

Skied a lot of pipe today, and finally learned how to ride it correctly (thanks to Gareth). I actually went out of the pipe today! It was scary!

Also did some threes, and a new "grab": the cat grab. I need to get a photo of it for you to understand though.

Gareth and I called it early and said goodbye to Whistler. Until next year!

0 remarks

Day #49 - Whistler

2009-04-25

Met a guy named Simon from South Africa today, and skied with him almost the entire day. It was really fun to just have a ski buddy--someone to chat with

We skied pretty much all of the groomers on Blackcomb. Favorite groomer was down Jersey Cream. Least favorite was 7th heaven. At the end of the day I headed into the parks--first mini, then big, then mini. I was feeling good about my threes so I took them into the bigger park, and was sticking them! I did the biggest 3 I've ever done today--something like a 10 or 15 foot step-down. It was so much fun to fly like that.

I hurt my bum at the end of the day working on 270s on. The one day I didn't wear my crash pads, I got hurt. How silly of me.

I love how the snow can be rock hard one run, and slushy the next. I guess that's how this mountain works--so unpredictable.

0 remarks

Day #48 - Whistler

2009-04-24

Beautiful day on Whistler/Blackcomb, if a bit bulletproof. Spent the day with Maddie, Marcus and Gareth. In the morning we demoed some skis and I realized just how much I loved my flexy nancies which can charge anywhere. In the afternoon we headed over to blackcomb to hit the park. I had a fun time, though I spent most of it getting used to the jumps. I also did a down-flat-down rail, which was fun. I also found the minipark (thanks to Marcus and Maddie), and have a lot of fun popping 3s off of the small jumps. I found I like slower threes much more than small threes.

Ended the day with another peak-to-peak ride and a slushy ski to the bottom. A good day.

0 remarks

Day #47 - Good Day

2009-04-18

Beautiful, sunny, slushy day in the park with Steve and Peter. Bobby was nursing a sore knee this week :-)

Steve was throwing down today. Was doing mute 3s and 5s. Go Steve! I did my first mute 3 today, pretty happy about that too. All in all not my best skiing, but still had a ton of fun.

And, I learned something, so I have nothing to complain about.

0 remarks

Day #46 - Snoqualmie

2009-04-11

Rainy today, but still had so much fun. Did a 3 off of the first big kicker. Threes felt so good today. I really wished I had grabbed more though. My knees are bent, but I'm not grabbing. Did a 7 off of the step up. Didn't quite land it though :-)

All in all, I had a fantastic day today.

0 remarks

Day #45 - Snoqualmie Park

2009-04-04

Epic day today. Sunny, the park was PERFECT, and slushy.

Bobby KILLED IT today, landing a 900, a bunch of 720s, and nearly getting a 10! I did all right, but not nearly as well as him (no new tricks :-). I did another 720 (should have done more), and got smoother 3s and 5s. Also did a switch on, 270 off, but didn't get any switch ups. I wish I was braver so I could progress faster. Bobby also filmed like a madman (thank you, Bobby!), and I got good shots of almost all of my tricks. Now, it's time to progress on to more difficult boxes and rails!

This was definitely one of the best days of the season.

0 remarks

Day #44 - Snocrummy

2009-03-31

The park (which looks amazing) was closed. The snow was HEAVY SLUSH. Very hard to ski. Bobby and I made the best of it on the TINY jumps in minipark. We got some fun tricks:

Japan 360

Japan 180

Tail 360 (well kind of)

540

Sumersault

Can't wait to ski the park!

0 remarks

Day #43 - Alpy BC

2009-03-10

Interesting day today, involving Mark taking me down a 45+ degree sideslip with rocks + ice to mandatory 15 foot air to FLAT. It was fun. To his credit, Mark did tell me not to follow him...

The rest of the day was less fun. A super long line at chair 2, and Bobby and I got into the wrong one. So we got ditched at the top due to being about 100 chairs behind everyone. So instead of going out back I decided to duck a rope and do a small air (~5 feet) to what I thought was a great landing. Sadly my DINs weren't high enough for the heavy snow at the landing so I popped out over my tips and flew down the slope.

Unfortunatly, when I looked back up, my skis were nowhere to be found. I spent the next 2 hours looking for them. Finally, Bobby found my skis. Thanks to Mark and Bobby for helping me look! I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have found them if it wasn't for those two.

All in all, I have to conclude that riding park with no lines on a sunny day is way more fun than getting two runs in the BC. I feel like i get to ski more, and spend more time in the air when I'm in the park. Plus, there are no boxes or rails at alpental.

1 remarks

Mark Sena wrote

I think with reliable gear you will find technical lines, challenging drops, and succulent powder much more exhilarating than park. I have definitely felt the same way you do before (my skinny park skis and crappy bindings used to come off all the time in NW snow--ask Fifel and Teague to tell you horror stories of my struggles). Having gotten used to thick snow and fat skis, I now would take alpi BC over park any day (by the way, the park is by no means a safe place to try out new tricks. The only progression I've made in the park before trying it in powder has been 360 -> 540.)

Just my thoughts

on Wed Mar 11 19:46:53 -0500 2009

Day #42 - Central

2009-03-08

Today was all right. My lesson never showed, so I skied mountaineers with Steve. Got a nice video of Steve tearing up what was left of the pow. I almost got caught for a run. I was filming Monica 2.0 and suddenly I hear someone yelling 'hey! this is out of bounds'. So, M 2.0 and I booked it out of there as fast as we could go. I still had my camera in my hand.

Had the level 2 clinic with Brad (thank you Steve!). I really liked that. It was great to have someone critique me on bumps, and great to see another perspective on skiing. We also practice MA a lot, which was awesome.

Rounded off the day with a few park runs. I had the nicest C-box slide I've ever done that day. I slid it all the way, was in control, and had style. Sadly, nobody saw it. That's all right though, I still had fun. Nothing special on the jumps, just a 3...not even any 5s this weekend :(

Can't wait to jump into the park again.

0 remarks

Day #41 - Central

2009-03-07

Pow pow POW! So much powder! Today was awesome, even though I didn't get to go to Alpental :(The park was surprisingly fun, especially because nobody was hitting the trees. So was triple 60. Of course, the best part of the day was hitting some natural features and kickers on mountaineers. Reached another important milestone today--backflips and front flips. I attempted both, and landed a backflip. It's so much fun to have this much powder because you can do whatever you want and not get hurt. I can't wait to go try backflips again!

0 remarks

Day #40 - Alpental

2009-03-06

First day in the BC all season. It was really fun, even though I had no poles. I was struggling to keep up with the boys on the traverses. It was really fun to pop off of small drops and fall into the powder. The snow was so forgiving today! Didn't do anything big today, sadly. The view was amazing, though.

After 3 runs in the BC the boys decided I was too slow and ditched me. So, Molly and I did nash for one run (good snow up top), and then hit shot 6 which was fantastic. Afterward I was exhausted, so went over to central to do a few laps on the park.

I felt really good on boxes, but towards the end my 3s were off axis and I kept landing on my back. It actually really sucked. I left dissapointed in myself, but nevertheless had a great day!

0 remarks

Day #39 - Central

2009-02-22

Today was fun. I have been feeling all weekend that although I haven't learned much, I've been feeling a lot more comfortable with my tricks (especially hitting tricky boxes), and that's a good thing.

Got a few runs in the morning with Jess which were fun. Lessons were awesome, I had a girl who was a daredevil and a really fast learner. I was amazed to find out she was only 3.5!

Afterward skied the park with a bunch of random people. I worked up to my 3s in the small line again, and did another 5, nearly hitting some snowboarders chilling at the bottom of the jump (I feel pretty sure I could do a 3 off the big

jump...I don't know why I didn't do it...mostly because I wanted to hit 3 jumps instead of one). Felt good on the lift tower, tried my 180s/270s off of that again. I've been feeling very comfortable on boxes, which always feels good.

Rounded off the day with a couple of runs with Jess in the big park, and then headed over and did mini park with Jess, Tiffany and Kenna. Filmed Tiffany a little

0 remarks

Day #38 - Central

2009-02-21

Today was very tiring. It was a long day. For me it started at 9 am with a couple of great laps in the park before it got chewed out. By the end of the park session I was doing 3s off of each of the 3 small kickers without being scared or having much trouble.

I got lucky today and didn't have lessons, so instead I went to the mini park and learned how to do switch ups. Then, I went and juggled while skiing. That was a LOT of fun. I was able to go down green slopes, and juggle while sliding a box. I think it would be cool to do a park line and juggle in between hitting boxes and rails...maybe even jumps.

At night we did a pressure and tucking clinic, inspired by Sarah Brones' amazing tuck. The tucking part was fun, but I wish I could have taught people different things relating to pressure. Sadly, I didn't really know what to teach.

0 remarks

Day #37 - Central

2009-02-20

Had a quiet evening with Mary. We started skiing at around 3, and ended at 10. I had a very interesting double ejection on my first run. I came up short on one of the kickers and just left my skis at the top of the landing.

We did bump skiing for our clinic, which ended up being very bad for my skis. I don't know why but for some reason I ended up hitting the bumps very hard, and falling a lot, losing a ski in the process. Both times I lost my ski it just shot off because the brakes weren't working. The second time, I would have totally lost it if it wasn't for Sarah's amazing tuck. After my ski broke I was pretty bummed, though I got to ski on Alex's skis, which were actually pretty fun!

Alex and I lapped the park a bit to round the night off. I think I started to realize how Mark S was doing those 270 offs. I

landed a 180 off and skied away, so called it good.

0 remarks

Day #36 - Central

2009-02-16

Mark S and I are now officially accredited to teach freestyle! And, we got a years worth of PSIA credit! The clinic was fun today. However, I wish I could have ridden better.

I was working on switch 3s all day, and didn't get a single one :-). In the end I stopped because I ended up spinning too early and falling on my shoulder, which sucked. Did a lot of straight airs, finally did 270 ons again, some fun down rails and boxes, and a few 3s and 5s. Nothing notable, though. Mark S was doing CRAZY tricks at the end of the day, including 5s and 7s off the first big kicker, and a 270 off the lift tower (pretzeled!). I wish I could have stepped up to do stuff like that, but I was so hungry by the end of the day I had no energy left. Everything was so slow and hazy at the end of the day...

However, this weekend I did overcome a few fears I had:

1. The first big kicker.
2. 270s on.

So, the day was not totally wasted! Also, it was really inspiring to see Mark progress so much in one day. Next weekend I think I will...

1. Do a 360 off the first big kicker.
2. Do a 5 off the first big kicker (that or the second little one)
3. Do a switch 3.
4. Do 3s with grabs off of all the small kickers.
5. Do a 270 off of the lift tower (or at least try).

We will see how much of these I get!

0 remarks

Day #35 - Central

2009-02-13

Mellow day. I really wasn't feeling it for the first 3 hours, sadly. I don't really know why. Mostly I just lapped the mini

park and big park.

I worked mostly on my style today. Trying to make doing boxes look easy instead of awkward. I played around a little with digging my heel and edges into boxes in order to get more control. I got the banked c-box a few times, which was really fun. Things started picking up at the end of the day, when I put my music on. I pumped out some nice slides on the lift tower, one or two switch threes (depends on how you count) a BIG three off the second of the small kickers (those jumps are getting to be fairly large; ~five ft from the ground, with a 10 foot transition). I did a sketchy 270 onto a box again, braving the possibility of re-bruising my hip, and some stylin' grabs (haha, not really). All in all, a fun day.

You know, I really miss skiing in the trees.

0 remarks

Day #34 - Sunny Central

2009-02-08

Nothing much happened today. I did the banked c-box again, which was cool. Oh yeah, and Tiffany got boxes down, which was fun to see. Other than that, I taught a lesson, we had a kids clinic, I did some nice safety grabs and 5s. I hit the first big kicker again, and started casing. Casing is even more frustrating for me. I wanted to keep going to get the jump, but my legs and bum were hurting so much I could barely ski. So I decided to count my losses and save it for another day.

Also, Paul, Mark and I did some bump skiing. It was so much fun! I miss just skiing...

Oh and we had a really fun kids clinic today. I felt like I learned a lot about how to teach kids. I'm glad we did the clinic.

0 remarks

Day #33 - Sunny Central

2009-02-07

Another beautiful day at Central. Another day in the park. Tommy brought his camera today, so we filmed for a bit. I don't think I got a single good thing on film, though. I landed a lot of washed out threes and some sketchy 5s. It was pretty disappointing. I did learn several things today, however. First, I figured out the giant banked c-box which was a fun challenge. Second, I landed my first switch 3. It was a lot of fun, but I still haven't gotten another one yet. Finally, I learned 270s off of rails. They were pretty challenging for me to learn, but once I got one I was able to get 7 out of 11.

At the end of the filming session we filmed the big jumps, and although my speed was good for the jump, my balance was not. I landed way far backseat. It was fairly dissapointing, actually. I hate being afraid of the jumps. The weekend after next will change all of this, I'm sure. This is so silly; I'm not a big fan of jump 2 but should be able to get jump 1 no problem.

These days are wonderful, but I can't help but think of the melting snow that is already beginning to uncover rocks and the imminent early end to the season that this fantastic weather will bring.

0 remarks

Day #32 - Central

2009-02-03

Beautiful day. The weather was just perfect. I forgot my pass, but that was okay. Some of my favorite moments were when Bobby landed a 720, and then when he tried again his ski came off midair and spun like a top beneath him.

It took me a while to get a feel for the jump line today, but eventually I got it, and landed some big (4 ft) 3s and a few 5s. Nothing new. However, I was beginning to feel out a switch 3, which I think I will get next time. 270s on were on, as was skiing backwards. Oh yeah, and I finally tried skiing up the massive car. I didn't really do anything off of it, and sort of just fell off. But it was still fun.

Bobby brought his camera and we took some pictures. I think that they turned out pretty awesome.

0 remarks

Day #31 - Central

2009-02-01

Today was short but fun. Clinics were awesome. Luke led the funnest gaper clinic ever. We learned how to do gaper tucks. Next week we're doing gaper jumps. Also did a little bit of pivot slips and engaging the edges. Oh yeah, and Katie Flad did a box and rocked it. This is so exciting! Almost all of the girls are hitting boxes and doing jumps. Kenna also stomped a 180 today.

At the end of the day Steve and I hiked the jump a few times. It was so much fun! Steve and I both learned tail grabs, and I did the smoothest 360 with a grab I've ever done.

All in all, a good day.

0 remarks

Day #30 - Central

2009-01-31

Ladies clinic in the morning was awesome. Got some cool and fun videos of the girls hitting the park. Don't remember much from today because my legs hurt so much. Met another Julia S. who rips.

0 remarks

Day #29 - Central

2009-01-30

Beautiful day today. It started off amazing (skied with this kid named Kevin who was a really good skier...and only 15). Landed my first 720 ever. But then, it all ended terribly when I cased on a 40 foot jump. I bounced off of the flat landing like a ragdoll, and when I got up noticed I had a bloody nose and my thumb hurt. The worst part came later though, when I realized my shins and achilles tendon were really badly hurt. It was such a stupid thing to do, to try that jump. I didn't have nearly enough speed.

0 remarks

Day #28 - Snowy Central

2009-01-27

It snowed!

Jumps were super fun, speed was just right (no need to speed check much). Bobby did some sick truck driver 3s, and even did that truck driver cross grab Sena talked about.

I also learned a truck driver! Only I grab closer to the boot than the tip. Don't know if that makes a difference...I worked mostly on safetys and mutes. Sharfed my nose on a 3, but then landed a 5 off the step up! Also, they built the big kickers. Excited to hit those this weekend.

Oh, and of course Bobby and I hit some "pow" however, it was more like dust on crust for us. Should have just gone to mountaineers, maybe.

0 remarks

Day #27 - Central Park

2009-01-25

Big day today. First ones on again. Taught a really tough lesson, 2 adults and 2 kids. A family. Could have done a better job. I think that lesson squeezed all the enthusiasm out of me. I was so exhausted that I didn't want to lead a clinic. Nobody else wanted to clinic either. So we had an optional park clinic. Sadly, not many people came.

Regardless of who came, I had a good time. It was so great to see people progressing so much! Mark and Steve both got 270s onto boxes, and Molly and Kenna were KILLING the boxes. So was Monica. I think Molly even did a rotation on a box...so cool! Everyone else is learning things so quickly it's amazing. It's really encouraging to see everyone else progress so much. It motivates me.

My day also ended pretty well. I got a 270 onto a rail (finally!), and also landed 4 540s. I was actually starting to feel a little in control towards the middle, and didn't just feel like I was hucking myself and hoping to land. Mark did some fun boot stuff, and I followed suit. Jonah also stopped by and showed us his tele park prowess (really impressive!). It was a great ending to a day that started less than fantastic. We were last to leave the mountain again (Jess's car). So wonderful.

0 remarks

Day #26 - Central

2009-01-24

First ones up to the mountain in Flad's car. It was great! Had some discount coffee and proceeded to the park. Had a lot of fun hitting the freshly groomed park with Mark. Pretty soon others joined us, which was even better. We filmed a bit, and just skied. I was pretty happy at first, clearing the jumps with my 3s, doing mutes (not very good ones though), and getting a 270 on to the c-box. Then, I fell on a rail and things went downhill from there. I proceeded to attempt a 540 and only get 450 around (that hurt). Fell on 270s onto rail attempts and 540 attempts. Then I started falling on my 3s and almost lost my ski for good.

But, things picked up after lessons. Led my first clinic ever, which was intimidating. I rushed through too much at first, but thanks to Mark's feedback things went okay in the end. Went back with Jess, last ones off the mountain. So wonderful.

0 remarks

Day #25 - Central

2009-01-23

Maddie joined us for our ski clinic tonight. We wiggled our skis and jumped around poles, which was all right. Mark's

tripod illustration was pretty funny. At the end of the clinic we tried to apply what we learned to our jumps, and it worked! Molly and Brones did an especially good job with their jumps.

A few skiers stayed after clinics to hit the park, which was fun as always. Pretty soon the crew had dwindled down to just Jess, Mark, Alex and me, and we lapped a bit. I conquered my fear of the lift tower thanks to Alex, and Jess and I worked on clearing the first kicker with our 3s. Alex also got me to do the down box at the bottom. Tonight was sort of a bummer though because Mark's skis broke, and then Mark did a 360 onto his face. That was really scary.

Jess and I were the last ones off the mountain. We hiked the down box (super fun!) until the patrollers kicked us off. The mountain was so silent as we skied back. How peaceful.

0 remarks

Day #24 - Central

2009-01-20

It was sunny everywhere else EXCEPT central, but Bobby and I still had fun. We had the park to ourselves once again, and it was very nice. Everything was groomed, the jumps were nicely shaped (good transitions), and the snow was pretty smooth (no ice!).

Highlights included Bobby's really nice truck driver 360, his front flip over the bomb (landed a little flat), and my doing 270s onto bigger features in central park. I mostly just worked on threes. They were nice until the very end, when I started landing backseat. I tried a 270 onto the C-box at central, but that didn't work out too well. The other 270 ons were half decent though.

Bobby hurt his wrist at the end. I really hope it isn't sprained or broken!

0 remarks

Day #23 - Central

2009-01-18

Too many days at central... :-)

Morning clinic was foggy, but we did MA and filmed anyway after a confusing shuffle which was a result of miscommunication. My fault. Skipped lunch and went to the park to play on that small jump again. So much fun. Did a few more grabs. Paul was laying down 5s and 3s with grabs. Very fun.

Our second clinic was about MA and a little bit of park. At the very end of the day I got my first 540 ever. It felt so good! It feels great to get a 540 so early in the season (relatively early, anyway). Maybe I'll even be able to get a 720. Hopefully the park crew will build some bigger jumps.

Alex thinks I should enter a rail competition at Stevens. Maybe I should focus on rails so that I don't look like a complete doofus in the competition...

0 remarks

Day #22 - Central

2009-01-17

Hired Weekend, Day 1!

The weather wasn't great this morning. Should have skied Alpental, above the clouds. I led a clinic in the morning. Highlights were skiing backwards and skiing on one ski. Then at night Steve and I hiked the mini park. It was really fun. First, we hiked some boxes. 270 ons are now one of my favorite tricks, and I learned how to get onto a rail switch. Steve and I both worked on our 360s. I worked on 360s with grabs, and Steve just worked on getting the 3 on balance, and doing 180s with grabs. It was really fun to do MA on each other. I felt like I learned quite a bit, and got more comfortable doing 360s on larger jumps.

Came home exhausted.

0 remarks

Day #21 - Central at Night

2009-01-16

It was a cold night, and I was so exhausted from Thursday! But, made the best of it with Brones and Eric by hitting the big park (found a new dragon box I want to get), then clinicing with Horje. We did some fun sideslipping drills and played a bit in the park.

Also, we saw the cabin for the first time. It's nice! There's an extra bedroom, which is great since I can cuddle up there if I'm tired or just feel like being quiet and sitting down for a bit.

0 remarks

Day #20 - Sunny Central

2009-01-15

Another sunny day with Bobby. The inversion made it warmer at the mountain than it was down here!

Another beautiful day. This time I didn't delete the videos we took, which is a good thing. Learned how to do a 270 on, and worked some more on the down rail. Also hit the transition on the smallest jump, and did 3s off of all the jumps in the park. I'm starting to feel fairly comfortable doing 3s in the park, which is really nice.

0 remarks

Day #19 - Central

2009-01-13

Had one of the funnest park days EVER with Bobby. The weather was gorgeous, and we had the park almost entirely to ourselves. The park was so nice, too! The jumps were really well-shaped, there were tons of new features (two really fat boxes, a bomb jib, really cool hip with a pipe on top, a giant car you could jib), and the usual stuff. So many fun things happened, but here were the highlights:

1. Finally getting the long down rail at the bottom of central park.
2. Finally getting a 270 on (along with a 270 off).
3. Nailing the c-box (I love that thing!).
4. 3 360s in a row on the jump line at the bottom.
5. Amazing weather and getting to ski with Bobby.

I remember being so afraid of park just a few years ago, because I couldn't hit anything. I'm so happy that I've finally learned how to do boxes, rails and jumps. Park is so much fun once you learn how to play in it.

Unfortunately I accidentally deleted all of the videos we so painstakingly took (Bobby took some really great ones of the c-box), so no video from the day. It's all right, this day will certainly stay in my memories.

Bobby was so fun to ski with because he is such a good sport. He tried 5s all day, and almost landed one. But regardless he would always jump up and keep trying. I thought that was awesome.

Can't wait for Friday!

1 remarks

Molly Barth wrote

awesome!! This weekend's gonna be great, even if it doesn't snow (but I hope it will!)

on Wed Jan 14 02:30:30 -0600 2009

Day #18 - Central

2009-01-12

Evals day two. Not much riding really, just finishing up evals. Even though we don't get to ski much evals is exhausting because you're constantly thinking and analyzing people's teaching.

Got to play a little in the park, however. Nothing interesting. Haven't progressed much this weekend, and more importantly didn't get that 270 on I wanted. I fell pretty badly on a 360 after spinning way too early, but then did a decent three afterward which got my confidence up. There are some really good prospective instructors this year. I think four of them can already do threes. That's pretty good! They will certainly push me. One good thing from this weekend is that I feel pretty comfortable hitting the down rail with my right foot forward. Hopefully will get that long rail next weekend (or on Friday).

It rained all day today, but the rain wasn't so bad because it made the jump landings nice and soft. The rain was a lot less horrible than I thought it would be.

0 remarks

Day #17 - Central

2009-01-10

Evals day 1.

It was supposed to rain, but instead it snowed! Everyone left early instead of doing a clinic :(I skied with Molly, Steve, and Dan instead. It was pretty fun! Down rail was a bit better today. Also did some more threes. But the best part of the day was getting to ski some untracked pow (sort of pow...) under central express. Everyone was skiing park, nobody was skiing the powder. The snow was actually pretty decent! So funny how the run was right in front of everybody's eyes, yet people would rather ski the snow-covered boxes and slow jumps.

Very funny indeed.

0 remarks

Day #16 - Central

2009-01-09

I almost didn't go. My friends cancelled due to bad conditions and a lack of place to sleep up top (a very reasonable thing to do, I must admit). But then I took a look at the weather (clear skies + full moon) and road conditions (bare), and got an email which inspired me to just do what I love (aka ski). So I decided to go skiing anyway.

I had a lot of fun. Lapping park by yourself isn't actually that bad. I started off kind of out of shape, but by the end was able to do most of my tricks. The jumps at central were much nicer today than last time. Even though the landing was very hard, the transition was so nice that you could hardly feel it. Maybe I was just taking off better. I learned the c-box (big one at top of central) with my right-side forward, and severely bruised my hip after many 270 on attempts combined with some nasty crashes on features that were too advanced for me (also had some gnarly falls on features I was hitting well before).

I also got a surface 360 on the fat c-box at the mini park. I think that's my new favorite trick. Did a little 360 practice on the jumps, but not much because I was too tired by the end of the day (and didn't want to fall on the haaaard ice).

At the end of the day I skied a bit with Gareth. He is actually a pretty decent skier for being a snowboarder. Told him what I tell all of my students--hands forward!

The mountains on the ride back were so beautiful--the full moon illuminated the snow so that there was a white glow amongst the mountains. Really nice.

All in all, I'm very glad I made the impulse decision to go skiing today.

0 remarks

Day #15 - Summit Central

2009-01-04

On-Snows day 2. Took the morning off (thank you Flad!), got a park pass, and hit the kickers in the park for the first time this season. Couldn't figure them out most of the time (I kept landing back seat!), but a few times I had some decent airs. The landing was kind of hard. I kept hurting my shins doing straight airs so I decided to go for 360s instead. They went much better. Did one good 360 on the first of the kickers, and a couple backseat ones. Did some better 360s on the tiny jumps up top. Can't wait to be able to do big, stylish and smooth 360s. There was also a giant

C-box at the top of central which was SO much fun to hit. Did a down rail for once without falling, which was nice. Other things of note were trying to do a 360 on a wide c-box. That was fun, but I never actually got it to work. Tyler and John were really fun to ski with!

It got really cold at the end of the day for the last on-snows session. Kind of sucked because I did a bad job leading the clinic (i.e. I lost my students...). Also, fell really hard off of parachute (caught an edge, banged my head hard). Thank goodness for my helmet! Wish I'd done a better job being a clinician.

0 remarks

Day #14 - Snoqualmie Central

2009-01-03

On-Snows day 1. Had fun with the prospective instructors. Taught human slalom, Tiffany and Sarah came up with interesting tasks. Learned "I love you" turns from Sarah. Also got to freeride a little on teardrop and in the park. Did first filming of a clinic for MA. Hop turns, noticed that I hunch over a lot and that my butt hangs far behind my bindings. Will work on bending my knees less. Mark H's clinic was a lot of fun!

0 remarks

Day #13 - Alpental

2008-12-30

Skied Alpental with Erick and Lia. Beautiful day. The sun was especially wonderful after all of th snow we've been having. Had a mellow day. Did about 10 360s off of tiny jumps. Heard Nash was good in the morning.

0 remarks

Day #12 - Stevens

2008-12-29

<wonderful day>

Well, backside opened today, which is of course a precursor to an awesome day. We got two runs where we were skiing untouched tracks, so nice! Unfortunately I managed to lose my skis twice on the very first run, and this kind of killed my morning. I didn't ski nearly as well as I should have, and fell a lot. Had a few near-misses with some trees.

Discovered big chief bowl with some rippers who randomly offered me and Ian to ski with them. This was the first time I got to ski with a girl that ripped. She was the best girl I'd ever skied with. She would go off of jumps and was pretty good in the powder (certainly better than me). At the end of our run I found out she and her friend were sponsored,

which was even cooler! Something to work towards.

Had some bizarre falls today. One involved a 5 foot rock, a flat landing, a knee and my eye. It was not fun. Another freaked me out. It was your usual go too fast and hit an unexpected bump fall, but for some reason my knee got really compressed and I felt something pull. I thought I'd really hurt my knee, and this freaked me out. Luckily nothing seems to be hurting right now.

All in all, an excellent, very fun, if frustrating at times, day. Worked on skiing powder by keeping my knees together, being centered and bouncing up and down. Oh, and Ian and I worked a bit on our jumping form and did some MA. Fun to do MA on each other! Ian also showed me how wonderful hand warmers are.

</wonderful day>

0 remarks

Day #11 - Summit Central

2008-12-25

Hiked boxes. Learned some new tricks: 270 off a box, and a switch up. I really like going onto boxes switch, it's so funny because I think people think this is harder but it's so much easier for me! I tried this really long rail like 5 times and never got it. So bummed about that :-)

I was impressed with France's rail skills. He got a 270 off a loooong down rail that I couldn't get.

0 remarks

Day #10 - Picnic Table at Cascade Park

2008-12-24

I built a really fun jib at my local park. It was a jump built over a picnic table. At first I would just jump onto and off of the table, but then I realized if I got more speed I could just jump over it. My mom took some video. It was so much fun!

Didn't learn any new tricks today, but I did get to do a 180 over a picnic table!

I just wish my friends could have been there to jib with me...but I don't think anybody would want to head all the way over to Redmond.

0 remarks

Day #9 - Stevens Pass

2008-12-23

Went up on the Sultan Shuttle with Georganne. No fresh snow, but it was still lots of fun! We lapped 7th 4 times in a row, got some nice groomers on big cheif. Then I went to train a little in the park. Got this really fun c-box down after 3 tries, did my first rail of the season (biggest rail I've ever done!), and hit the big jump 3 times (~6 feet, 20 foot transition?). First time I landed about 6 feet short, the other times I knuckled it every time (but it didn't hurt!). No grabs or new tricks today, except maybe the c-rail :-(Scraped my shin on a rail that I approached too slowly, but that was all right.

Worked on my bump skiing again...I suck at skiing bumps. I prefer just jumping over them. But, I have to work on my technique to get better!

0 remarks

Day #8 - Cascade Park

2008-12-21

Set up the PVC pipe and played on it for about an hour. Learned how to do a 270 off, and worked some more of getting onto the pipe switch, as well as just riding normally. Exhausting!

0 remarks

Day #7 - Summit Central

2008-12-20

Had the second best ski day ever at Snoqualmie. The snow was deep and light. The lightest snow I've ever skied in Washington. Every single run was good. Even though some runs had been skied before it still felt like you were getting first tracks because there was so much snow. Did the drop above X chair twice. The first time the landing was great, the second time it was all skied out and so I ate it.

In this cold weather falling was not very fun, but for some reason I fell a lot today. Best runs were by far on silver fir. The runs there were closed but we ducked the roped and found ourselves thigh deep in light, fresh white stuff. The low coverage provided for many little ridges that you could just drop over. You'd feel a moment of weightlessness before falling once again into soft, light snow. I lost a ski and spent about 10 minutes looking for it in the powder, which was not much fun. So much snow had fallen so quickly that we were digging all the way to the ground. I had another good fall today--racer style on Alpine. I hit a bump, lost a ski, got turned around backwards, and tumbled. It must have looked good from a distance.

The drive back sucked. Awful conditions all the way to Seattle. But this fantastic day was more than worth it.

0 remarks

Day #6 - University of Washington

2008-12-19

Set up a few jibs with Keala, Woody, Gareth, and Matt. Was so much fun! First, the pvc pipe in red square. Then, the pvc pipe on some stairs in the quad. Third, a 10 foot bomb drop to rail off of Kane hall (my first cliff of the season...it hurt!). Finally went over to the hill in Material Sciences and set up a pvc pipe (failed, and really hurt), and a table (was fun!).

Afterward I went home and skied the hill at my house. Learned how to do a switch 180. Just gotta pop!

0 remarks

Day #5 - Whistler

2008-12-16

Had a beautiful half-day in the park. Hit all of the usual stuff, and worked on crotch grabs, mute grabs, hitting the big kicker, and skiing switch. Hitting the big kicker was intimidating though because there were some really good skiers there. I looked like a total idiot the second time I hit it. I got a mute down, however, and my crotch grabs were okay. Skiing backwards was really fun. I definitely am not carving yet but at least my skis are parallel. Skiing backwards is really helping me feel more comfortable hitting boxes switch, which is incredibly fun. I'm starting to feel okay about the park. Can't wait for Snoqualmie's park to open!

I'm glad I decided to take peak to peak and then Whistler gondola down because the blackcomb gondola broke just after I got down. When we left Whistler we passed the fire trucks which were heading to save the stranded people there.

0 remarks

Day #4 - Whistler

2008-12-15

Today was bluebird and cold. Mike let me borrow his bandanna which was a lifesaver because I needed to protect my already frostnipped face. I was exhausted, but lapped the park anyway. Did a few 270s off the hip, some backseat off the small kicker, and a few boxes. Did two switch to boxes in a row, feeling good on the rainbow rail and the gap box. Super fun. We also found that we could get a good run in by taking a run after going to the park, and going up to solar coaster. Found a good run on last run. Peak to peak was fresh.

0 remarks

Day #3 - Whistler

2008-12-14

Today was a fantastic day. Another bluebird day in the park on Blackcomb. With no coverage on the mountain there was little else to do. Some people stayed inside, but I went out and had fun. Landed 3 360s, fell on the big kicker, and practiced my switch onto boxes some more. Also did some 3s off of hips. Park is so much fun once you know how to ride it!

I tried to learn 270s onto boxes today, but to no avail. I kept sliding backwards. By the end of the day I had earned a giant bruise on my calf for all of my hard work. And also some frost nip on my chin.

0 remarks

Day #2 - Whistler

2008-12-13

Skied with some prospies today (Ben, Ian, Mike). They were all awesome. I don't know how I'm going to pick teachers this year, because I like all the instructors! We did some exploring over on red and green chairs on Whistler. I wanted to hike a bit to check out stuff on Harmony but didn't because I'm lame. Still, we found some fun runs. I tried to hike and hit a small rock (4 feet), but failed as the inrun ended up also having a boulder. Still, it was fun.

For the second half of the day we hit up peak to peak and skied the park. It was so freezing outside that we decided to just hike boxes. It was so much fun! I learned how to hit a box switch, which was fun. Also relearned a 360 on a box, thanks to Ian.

Ben hit a box for the first time, and killed it. He didn't even fall! By the end of the day he almost was 90 degrees. Mike and Ian were also killing it--Mike hit the down box, and Ian nailed some 360 spins on top of a box. Good times!

0 remarks

Day #1 - Whistler

2008-12-12

We left at 2 am, arrived at 8 am, and went skiing. The coverage was low, but the park was so much fun! Training on the PVC pipe this fall has really helped. I was able to get back to boxes very quickly, and by the end of the day was better than I'd ever been at boxes! How encouraging. I spent a while figuring out the speed on one of the small jumps, but finally got it, I think.

In the middle of the day France decided to go try out Glacier. An unfortunate series of events led us to ski down through a field of rocks. It was awful. At one point we even had to take our skis off and walk down. We came out with a few core shots and some injured bottoms. But no matter! It was still a fun adventure.

0 remarks
