

OUTDOORS

Super
Dave
facts

Dave would like to thank you for taking the time to read his weekly Westcoast Outdoors column. All the best to you and your family throughout the holidays and may all your outdoor dreams come true in 2007! Dave's hot sites this week are: www.snowest.ca, www.biglines.com and www.avalanche.com.

Snow adventure

By DAVE NORONA
for Metro Vancouver

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CRISP cold morning when my girlfriend and I arrive in Squamish. The early morning sunrise creates the most breathtaking views of Diamond Head and Brohm Ridge where we will be heading.

While thousands of people scramble to the resorts to get a share of the fresh snow, we turn off the highway at Cat Lake where we share the parking lot with only five other trucks. After unloading our snowmobile and mounting our skis and equipment to our Cheetah Rack System, we are off up the road into the backcountry.

Over the last few years sled skiing has become the norm for skiers and snowboarders looking for untouched powder lines without the crowds. Most

of the areas between Squamish and Pemberton require a long logging road traverse just to get to the good ski and snowboard terrain. A snowmobile provides you with quick access to the backcountry so you can save your energy for the awesome powder you will experience when you get there.

Brohm Ridge is one of the smallest snowmobile areas in the Sea to Sky corridor but it offers incredible views, easy access and great snow conditions just a short drive from the city.

Sledding past the Black Tusk Snowmobile Club Cabin, we approach the high alpine and No Name Peak where we drop our sled and gear up for our first run of the day. No Name Peak is a steep pitch that faces the Squamish Valley and before we know it, we are up to our knees in light, fluffy powder. I'm

sure our hoots and hollers could be heard right down into the valley.

Upon reaching the bottom, we apply our skins, shed some of our clothing and set a nice easy traverse track back up to the top to do it all over again. The best part of skiing in the backcountry is that you never have to rush to get to all the powder. Instead your group is more than likely the only one skiing or snowboarding in that area, which allows you the time to pace yourself and enjoy the day.

If you want to try snowmobiling with your friends this holiday season, check out Cougar Mountain at www.cougar-mountain.ca. They have incredible terrain from easy to expert and their awesome guides will take you on a wild adventure.

For those with more experience, check out Coast Mountain Snowmo-



PHOTOS BY JOHN SPYLA/KFOR METRO VANCOUVER

Dave smiles from ear to ear as he dials another line down No Name Peak at Brohm Ridge, above. Dave also enjoys carving his snowmobile in the deep snow at Brohm Ridge, right.



biles where you can rent your own machine for the day and head out to explore terrain from Squamish to Whistler. Cory has all the latest machines and proper backcountry equipment that you will need. Check out www.coastmountain-snowmobiles.com for details.

For the ultimate snowmobile vacation, check

out Fresh Adventures just past Sicamous, B.C. They will take you into the incredible Monashee Mountain Range for some easy trail riding or some epic sled skiing/boarding. Their professional guides know

all the safest and best terrain and their on-mountain accommodations make it a true mountain holiday. More information can be found at www.fresh-adventures.ca. Happy Holidays!

GEAR *guide*

FRITSCHI FREERIDE PLUS AT BINDINGS

Description: Whether you ski on a traditional hill or venture into the backcountry these new Fritschi Freeride Plus AT bindings are the bomb. They easily switch between ski and tour mode, have an excellent heel release system and have built in climbing lifts for when the terrain gets steep.

Price range: \$485

Where to find it:

www.roirecreation.com



SKI-DOO REV 800HO

Description: If you want your own backcountry machine to ride or if you need one in order to get into those epic ski spots then look no further than the Bombardier Ski-Doo Summit 800HO. It is easy to ride and has enough power to get you through the deep stuff. **Price range:** \$12,000

Where to find it: www.gvps.ca

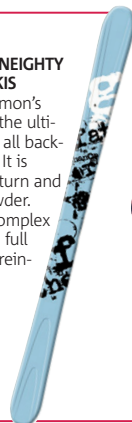
SALOMON TENEIGHTY GUN SKIS

Description: Salomon's TenEighty Gun is the ultimate weapon for all backcountry warriors. It is light, fat, easy to turn and a blast in the powder. Twin tip, isocell complex construction, and full width total edge reinforcement.

Price range: \$899

Where to find it:

www.salomon-sports.com



CHEETAH FACTORY RACING DUAL SKI RACK

Description: Cheetah Factory Racing makes the best ski and snowboard rack for getting your equipment into the backcountry. The lightweight Double D rack supports a snowboard or dual ski holder system that is easy to use and makes carrying your gear a snap.

Price range: \$325 **Where to find it:** www.cheetahfactoryracing.com



Boxing Week Sale - Dec 26 to 31

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40% off 2006 Bell & Giro Helmets

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2006 Fork Blowout from Rockshox, Marzocchi & Manitou

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