

Bardsley Ski Season 2007-08

Since Thanksgiving our focus in our free-time has been on skiing; as I write, we've all skied over 30 days, with Alex and I pushing 40 days. Most of our skiing was done at Discovery Basin, where we all have season passes, but we also had a weekend at Big Sky, an end of the season day at Lost Trail Powder Mountain, and Jen and Alex had a big powder day at Missoula's Snowbowl in March. Oh, and Alex also got days in at Lookout Pass and Snowbowl with a buddy, and I skied 7 days in April at Copper Mountain, Colorado, where I was for a research conference. Finally, Jen and I each got in about 15 days of cross country skiing at our local tracks up Pattee Canyon.

It's been a great season. Both kids made great strides in their abilities, and while Jen and I continue to improve, our bodies have proven less resilient to weekend-only-pounding. In future seasons, some cross training during the week will be necessary if we're to keep skiing hard for years to come.

I must admit that I sometimes wonder if it's worth it: all the time spent away from home—we were away from Missoula for 10 weekends in a row during one stretch—and all of the extra money on gas and gear. But then I remind myself that it's a great way to spend a weekend: there's an excess of fresh air, no TV, the days are filled with activity, and it's just so darn fun. And I firmly believe that one ought to cultivate passions that have no usefulness other than that they are healthy and fun-as-hell.

It was an epic snow year in Montana, though strangely our home hill (Discovery) didn't get much snow relative to other resorts, but the snow was always good and we made a countless number of good turns.

Some highlights were Ellie's 1st place in the Discover Open ski race in late March and Alex's ballsy "pond skim" yesterday at Lost Trail. Looking back over the year, it has definitely been our best season ever. I'm grateful, but also tired. It'll be good to have some weekends at home; the chores have piled up. Also, I'm looking forward to summer and a new season of play.

Cheers all, and long live winter and skiing!



John telemark skiing on Guns and Roses, a double black diamond on Discovery's backside.



Ellie with her winner's trophy and Jen on the backside.



Alex riding the rail at Lost Trail.