

BOARD

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wasn't even permitted at most ski resorts until 10 years later. Today, it's virtually impossible to ski a run or two without seeing a snow-boarder fly by.

"I think the reason it caught on with people is because you feel a lot freer," said Dave Skinlow, snow boarder and co-owner of Infinity Snow Board Shop in Springfield. "You have no poles and no hard-shell boots.

It's the same way (as skiing) to have fun without having to conform to all the extra equipment."

about it is that people try to fight the board instead of letting it do what it is supposed to (turn on it's own)," Skinlow

get people making good, controlled turns in about an hour."

The first day of snow

'Borrow a friend's board and go with someone who knows what they're doing and who will be patient.'

-Dave Skinlow

Many people tend to shy away from snow boarding due to myths about it being difficult to learn, Skinlow said.

"The only thing that's hard

said. "Just relax and let the board go."

"I don't think it's even close to as hard (to learn) as skiing is," Daluiso said. "I can

boarding seems to be the worst in terms of frustration in learning.

"It's harder to learn to start skiing than snow boarding, I

think," Skinlow said. "But once you get through that first day, it's easier to advance and get to a good intermediate stage."

For those interested in taking professional snow boarding lessons, both Willamette Pass and Mt. Bachelor offer lessons at moderate prices. Willamette has one and a half hour lessons daily for \$15. Bachelor offers three hour lessons daily for \$26. Snow board rentals are also available at both mountains.

The University officially gave birth to a new Club Sports snow boarding team last Wednesday, openly recognizing the gaining popularity of the sport.

The club, consisting of 53 members, plans to enter three competitions this season, and is even hosting one of its own in early March at Willamette Pass, titled the Northwest Collegiate Snow Boarding Competition, said club coordinator Lea Waymire.

The racers will compete against four other collegiate club teams from Oregon and Washington.

"Hopefully the team will help a lot of people progress," said club member and snow boarder of six years Chad Barczak. "Maybe next season we will make it to the National Collegiate Finals in Vermont."

As far as cost goes, it is not any more expensive than skiing, Skinlow said. The necessities for snow boarding include snow board and bindings (about \$450), goggles, gloves, jacket, pants and warm boots.

The closest ski resorts from Eugene, Willamette Pass and Mt. Bachelor, both permit snow boarding, but Bachelor is a definite favorite among many boarders.

"At Bachelor, any set day you can go anywhere on the mountain and find the terrain you want," Skinlow said. "You can go on one side of the mountain and find killer groom or go to the other side and you'll find powder. It changes that fast, going to one side of the mountain or the other."

Just because snow boarders have fun with their sport doesn't mean that they're any different from skiers, and the general consensus is that the two groups need to learn to share the mountain and not stereotype.

"Snow boarders aren't just kids with raging hormones anymore," Barczak said.

Skinlow said he believes snow boarders are singled out because they are different from skiers.

"I wish all the skiers and ski patrol up at Bachelor would mellow out about us," Skinlow said. "We get a lot of crap up there and it's lame because we pay the same amount for lift tickets."

For those desiring to get out this Christmas break and sample a taste of this wild, relatively new sport, a few tips might be of some use.

"A lot of people don't realize the board will turn by itself," Daluiso said. "Relax and don't force the board to turn."

"Most importantly, go out there with a good attitude and don't get frustrated. Just keep trying and you'll have the best time."

-Colleen Pohlig

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