



Photo courtesy of Mavis Hartz

Equipping a mountain bike with fat tires running very low air pressures — typically from 1 to 5 PSI — allows riders to float over surfaces, such as snow and ice, that would bog down a typical bike. Fat bikes also reduce erosion.

FAT TIRES

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Keep warm and dry by using layers of wicking clothing and seasonal boots and gloves. Carry extra food and a heat source in case you get lost or are out longer than planned. Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.

Rule number three: Have fun. Fat biking takes advantage of the changing surface that ranges from frozen mud, soft fluffy snow, dirt, to packed in snow. Each day is different with some days requiring immense amounts of effort to go short distances and others that feel like mountain biking on a monster truck. If the rider is lucky, the bonus of a serene, almost glissading, feeling on the downhills can happen on the snowier days. If the rider is timid there are also studded tires to bring tractions to a whole new level.

Rule number four: Be thoughtful. Many of our beautiful public lands are closed for use during the winter months to discourage humans from interfering with the wildlife. Animals built to survive heavy winters have mostly adapted by being fat in the fall and skinny in the spring. During the late summer and fall the animals eat and build up the fat reserves they

need to exist on very little to maintain themselves through the winter months. During the winter they generally move around very little, foraging on what diminutive food can be found. If the animals are forced to move frequently or hurriedly by numerous explorers over the span of the winter, those fat supplies will be used up in evasion. This loss of stored fat results in them starving to death weeks or even months after whatever encounter forced them to use the

energy.

To avoid the cabin blues or going stir crazy, check out fat biking, the new type of cycling that is here to stay. Mount Emily Recreation Area is the perfect place to test out your fat biking chops. Fat bikes can be rented from Mountain Works Bicycles if you are curious but not yet willing to commit to a brand-new bicycle. The last two years there have been great plans to pack a trail in for fat biking using mechanical means, but it has not been necessary. The trails have been rideable due to the lack of significant snowfall and other riders and users packing in a track when needed. Help the riders of the area meet their goal this year of keeping Red Apple and Parent Trap rideable 95% of the time by using your winter mode of transportation, or fat bike, to keep everyone rolling.



Photo by Tom Claycomb
Using a hand auger to drill a hole in the ice.

FISHING

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You need to get some actual ice fishing set-ups and not your regular rods. They're too long.

So what lures/bait do you use? Like all fishing it varies lake to lake and hour to hour but here are some popular set-ups.

They make some little ice fishing jigs. In the old days we'd hook on a wax worm and drop it down and fish it a foot off the bottom. Now I use

regular earthworms. You can also jig little Kast masters.

To prompt a bite and to help them find your jig, use scents. I use Pautzke Fireballs. Fish don't feed in the winter as much or as aggressively as they do in the summer so you need every trick you can get.

Due to the cold water, fish will be slower-moving so don't work your jig as fast as normal. A lot of the fishing is on the bottom but still, work the water column to determine where the school is. If you've ever fished high mountain

lakes in the summer then you've noticed that trout cruise the bank in search of food — they almost look like sharks on patrol. So I picture them moving around like that under the ice. To catch perch, you need to find the school.

The good deal about ice fishing, you don't have to worry about your catch spoiling, just throw them in a pile of snow as you catch them. They are being drug out of cold, crystal-clear water so they should be superb eating. Have fun and be safe out there.

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1	\$34,100	\$32,200	\$33,050	
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3	\$43,800	\$41,400	\$42,500	
4	\$48,650	\$46,000	\$47,200	
5	\$52,550	\$49,700	\$51,000	
6	\$56,450	\$53,400	\$54,800	

6) Meet other requirements of the program.

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