

Mt. Hood Adventure

Story and Photography
By Peter Nelson

The snow was on, the conditions great, but melting fast. The time was now. So much in life comes down to just doing it. I charged it solo. Prefer to have a partner, but you got to take risks in life, chase the dream, or you'll never get there. This was something talked about for years, but never happened. Coordinating with reliable partners is always so tough.

Another solo climber, a lone cowboy from the Utah backcountry, joined me at the summit. He'd skied Mt. Hood many times. He said, "It's the best it's ever been this year." "That's why I'm here,!" I said.

I watched him drop into the gnarly steep Cooper Spur line, solo. The guy is good. And he was gone, down the other side of the mountain.

I sat alone on the summit for a good hour. A



highlight of my life! Totally unexpected. Serious quiet. On the summit thinking of the million people running around Portland, wow. It's great to see Mt. Hood from Portland, and think of sitting on top alone.

My summit descent was gnarly. Icy and steep. Sketchy. Hop turns with the ice axe off the top.

And later, just amazing to fly down the mountain through thousands of feet of snowfields, all alone, back to Timberline lodge. Untracked! First tracks in July!

The parking lot was hot and sunny and I was melting. Strip off all the gear, grab a brew, and walk around barefoot and shirtless as the tourists gawk. Life is good.

Peter Nelson is a Photographe/Artist who lives in Vernonia. His work is available at Portland's Saturday Market and at Made in Vernonia. To see more of Peter's work go to PNPART.COM,

including more summer adventures: Gorge waterfalls, the Coast, Three Sisters, Solar Eclipses. He also offers 35mm natural light portrait / people / pets photography. You can contact Peter Nelson at 503-429-5906 or peter@pnphotoart.com



Images from Peter Nelson's Mt. Hood climb and snowboard descent this year. July 13, 2012. Friday the 13th. Left above: at the summit. Left below: getting ready to descend. Above: Palmer Glacier Below: Trillium Lake.



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Prizes donated by West Oregon Electric
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Play it safe this fall.

Fall is the best time of year to get outside and play, whether you're with your team, your friends or your family. It's also a really important time to brush up on some key safety plays.

- wear layers so you can stay warm or cool down easily
- drink water to stay hydrated, even when it's cool outside
- wear the right equipment for the game or activity: helmets, pads, vests, shin guards, and shoes or cleats
- be aware of more people, cars and bicycles out near schools, fields and parks

Review the numbers: 9-1-1

Even when you plan ahead for safety, emergencies happen. That's the time to call 9-1-1. The highly trained staff at Columbia 9-1-1 is always there to answer your call and help make sure help is on the way as soon as possible.



Columbia 9-1-1:
Safety is the name of the game.

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