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PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF HEILMAN

Left: Jeff Heilman catches some air at Anthony Lakes. Right: The one and only chair lift at Anthony Lakes, which is located approximately 300 miles from Portland.

## Bustin' out Anthony Lakes-style

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Staff Writer

When I finally realized exactly how good a snow season Mt. Hood was having this year, I took my thoughts and opinions east to a very wintry town called Baker City. This town is very small, and I would probably never find myself there if, in fact, I wasn't born there. That's right, I was a small-town kid for only six months of my life. Baker City is very cold and dry in the winter and very hot and dry in the summer, a place of extreme, natural beauty. About 45 miles west of Baker City you will see a sign that says, "Anthony Lakes Ski Resort 30 miles." This particular resort is known for beautiful scenery, constant, dry snow and great riding.

I took off on a Wednesday afternoon at 3:35 p.m. on a Greyhound bus. The bus was headed east from Portland to Colorado. Baker City, Oregon,

was one of the stops. The ticket costs \$44 from Portland to Baker City. The ride was okay, nothing good or bad happened. I arrived in Baker City at about 10:30 p.m. My cousin picked me up with a friend. They would not shut up about how good the snow was. So on that note I got some rest, to prepare for the first day of snow riding.

The only way I will wake up at 6:00 a.m. with a grin on my face is when I can expect the beauty of nature and board sports to harmonize. My expectations were correct. The snow was falling, and the mountain was beautiful.

The differences between every Mt. Hood ski area and Anthony Lakes are that the humidity content of the air at Mt. Hood is a lot higher than at Anthony Lakes. This means that the snow at Mt. Hood is a lot wetter, causing ice to form easier, and causing a very hard, painful base. This year at Mt. Hood

there is constant snowfall. That means icy conditions are not as likely, but the snow still remains very wet and easily packed.

The humidity content at Anthony Lakes is the complete opposite, extremely dry and cold. This is a very good quality at a ski resort. The snow stays soft and fast the entire season. Another difference is that Anthony Lakes has only one chair lift that covers the whole resort. This means that the resort is a little small. In my opinion the dry snow makes up for it. The price is \$22 for students. All day! The rental prices vary, but you are in good hands in the rental shop due to the fact that my cousin Lloyd, and friends Shawn, Cody, and Jack run the rental shop.

As the day progressed the snow fell harder. The visibility was very slim by the end of the day, but I still had a lot of good runs.

Day two was very busy due to the

fact that some racing competitions were taking place, such as border x for snow boarders, and the slalom for skiers. These events and this mountain seemed to be a lot more popular than I thought. I had never seen this resort anywhere near that crowded, and I have been snowboarding there since I learned how to snowboard six years ago.

During one of my rides up the chairlift I met a couple of guys from Portland who publish a snow riding magazine called "Volcano." They told me they were covering the races and the mountain.

The day was good, but busy, so I left the mountain to prepare for the next and last day at Anthony Lakes but I didn't go far. A friend of mine owns a cabin about five miles down the road from the resort, a beautiful snow covered sight and stay.

I slept until nine and woke up to the

sun shining and the snow glistening. This was the best day I encountered during the stay. Fluffy, fresh powder and gorgeous views boosted my spirits and needs to fly at top speeds down this natural phenomenon known as Anthony Lakes.

After this beautiful day had to end, I left the mountain with my cousin and headed back to Baker City so I could pack and get ready for my departure from this mystically beautiful countryside.

The next day I was extremely lucky to find a couple of friends who were headed to Albany with extra trunk space and an extra seat. I was extremely grateful.

If you are ever headed directly east from Portland with intention of finding good ski or snowboard conditions, you will want to make sure to stop at Anthony Lakes Ski Resort for dry, fluffy snow, great views and good people.

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