



Above: Casey House and Blaine Gobler, of ASG, help Susan Nisbet and other students prepare for the trip to Mt. Hood, loading up their gear for the fun that's in store.

Left: Richard Amy stops to put snow chains on the tires on the way up to the mountain.

Right: Ben Beyers waits by the lodge for his fellow skiers and snowboarders. Beyers had over 20 runs down the mountain during the trip.



All photos by Brad Heinke The Clackamas Print

SKI BUS: Skiers unite with snowboarders for frosty trip

Continued from Page 1

By the time the bus and its passengers passed through Sandy, they encountered the first snowfall of the day. The driver caught the attention of trip organizer Casey House. He had been notified by radio that the bus may have to stop slightly short of the resort and the group shuttled up due to road conditions. As the bus continued, the snow deepened, forcing the bus driver to pull onto the roadside near Government Camp to put on tire chains. A few helpful men offered to help, but the driver gratefully declined and proficiently got the job done in about 20 minutes.

The bus continued to within four miles of the ski resort where traffic was halted, sitting for nearly 45 minutes without

any movement of the vehicles. As levels of boredom grew, text messages were received by students who announced them out loud.

"Less than desirable conditions; one lift open at reduced speed," said someone from the rear of the bus.

"My mom text[s] me and says 'There are gusts up to 28 mph and it is 12 degrees. With wind chill, it's below zero.'" said Kassandra Watson-Steel.

Back underway some time later, the bus pulled into the Mt. Hood Meadows parking lot. The group got into their snow gear and made ready to hit the mountain. House announced that everyone needed to be back on-board by 8:30 p.m. for the return trip.

Excitement quickly turned to apprehension for many as they stepped out into what

seemed like blizzard conditions. The wind was whipping the snowfall and blowing it from the trees, rooftops and the ground. Still, many headed straight for the lifts. Once they reached the top of the ski hill the wind got faster and snow became harder as it pelted exposed faces. The visibility was low and at times seemed like a white out. The conditions held this way throughout the day and night.

David "Yoshi" Mirrot said he hadn't snowboarded in four years. "This is a tough way to get back in the groove," he said.

"In 12 years of skiing, this is the first time I have felt cold," said Ben Beyers as he lowered his face to the wind while riding up the Mt. Hood Express chair. This didn't seem to slow Beyers though, as he got in the most runs of the group, shredding down over 20 runs.

Many people took extended breaks in the lodge and some quit early. However everyone seemed to agree that it was still a great time. As the bus left the mountain, several asked about the

possibility of another trip in March or early April.

"It was the best snow and slope conditions I have ever skied, but the worst weather conditions," said Kyle Vuksich with a smile as he unloaded his snowboard back at CCC, "but I would definitely do it again! I'm going to recommend these college trips to anyone interested in getting on the slopes. It is like getting there for free, plus it's funner and a relaxing ride."

There is a lot of skiing left this season. There is currently 123 inches of snow at mid level Meadows. It is a La Nina year and we will get much more snow fall on the mountains. The resort just made spring passes available: \$149 for unlimited skiing from March 12 through the remainder of the season. This spring break don't be bored, grab your boards and head for the mountain!



Ski trip participants wait to take a ride on the Mt. Hood Express back up to the top of the ski trail. The lift gave skiers and snowboarders a faster trip up the mountain, rather than walking back up.