



FUN ON THE MOUNTAIN

BY COLLIN BEREND

As winter looms over the horizon, Mount Hood has started packing snow for snowboard and ski lovers alike to take to the slopes for enjoyment.

With the end of fall term, students will find themselves with much less stress of the heavy anchor that is academia. Mount Hood provides a great opportunity to enjoy oneself. For ski and snowboard activities, Mount Hood Meadows and Timberline Lodge stand out as quintessential starters.

"We're open daily for the season now, with lifts scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily," said Dave Tragethon, Vice President of Marketing and Sales at Meadows. "These great power conditions are driving visits right now as well as building our snowpack up for a great season."

Timberline Lodge, which is also open, was constructed by the Works Progress Administration in the mid to late 1930s and was opened by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The WPA was wrought from his executive order and part of the New Deal to bring unemployed American denizens back to work. Timberline Lodge was one of the resulting creations.

The outside of the lodge was also used for Stephen King's "The Shining," starring Jack Nicholson.

Right from there, Mount Hood glimmers brightly as a historic landmark of our nation's history during a time of crisis and part of pop culture by being a film

location for a movie.

"Start with skiing," said student Dylan Mekel who participates in winter sports. Mekel also recommends cross country, where skiers walk up the mountain and ski down rather than using a lift.

Many variables contribute to the conditions, so be aware of what you're doing and don't assume the pipe you're wanting to grind across is anything based on the conditions you read online.

When it comes to safety, Mount Hood Meadows warns patrons on their website, "Please remember that you are responsible for your own actions."

For incidents, Meadows highly suggests contacting the Ski Patrol.

Associated Student Government member Johanna Young, who is a beginner, suggested not going to the mountain alone, but bringing someone along.

"I can see why people love it," said Young. "It is beautiful and fun, but it's scary as heck."

Frequenting the mountain can be expensive. David Kline, who snowboards, suggested using Groupon for season passes and that you should buy it before late November. After a certain deadline, season passes rise in prices. Kline said the Fusion Pass is the best option for winter and spring.

When choosing between Timberline or Meadows, Kline acknowledged that there

are many factors. For one, Timberline doesn't have a halfpipe like Meadows, but it does have the most vertical slopes. Meadows, however, is bigger.

"Sixty inches are what you want for a good year," said Kline. He suggested checking the websites to see the current levels when considering if there's enough snow to go.

There are a number of ways to get to the mountain, including driving or utilizing public transportation. For those who choose to drive, remember that a parking permit is required. Timberline Lodge recommends to the highest degree that vehicles have chains. Prepare for black ice or any possible emergency on the mountain.

Tragethon of Meadows echoes that warning. He said the roads are, "snow packed and icy and being plowed and sanded," and that traction devices, such as chains, may be required.

There is also transportation through TriMet and switching to the Sandy Area Metro bus at the Gresham Central Transit Center, which costs \$5 for an all-day pass and must be paid with cash. This will take those on board to the Sandy Transit Center. The Mount Hood Express, the bus that goes up to Timberline Lodge, picks riders up there. The all-day pass will cover the fee to ride, but without it there is an additional fee.

photo by Victoria Tinker