

And Another Thing!

# Slope Magic

By Matt Scharf

What a strange winter it's been. It was far less than a snowy season here in the 'Boat. The 2011-2012 season ranks as one of the lowest in precipitation in decades. It was truly a heroic effort by everyone in our slope crews on both mountains. Long hours pushing snow, smashing snow, sculpting snow, putting lipstick on a dirty mogul. Those crews made it safe, and most of all, fun with the conditions at hand. Look, I'm just like the next powder hound wanting to make glorious turns. It just wasn't in the cards this year. It was still fun none the less. Some days I would go up with a heavy head knowing the conditions were going to hurt. I wanted to burn days just to keep my pass in working order. So the trick early in the season was not to rush, take a deep breath and wait for things to soften up.

Thanks to all our slope crews, they kept a smile on my face. Icy? Yes. Icy conditions tend to make me a better skier even after 45 years.

We can't always have those days of fluff, groomed or not. Catching an edge on ice, completely out of control, puckered up, and you pull it off with out hitting the rink. So when those deep days come, you ski like an A rider.




(Who can forget President's Day? 27" - are you kidding me? There was only 7" on my deck rail that morning! Simply amazing!) There is nothing better. I have to say when I hear people complain of bad conditions, I just want to hand them a glass of something half full. I am sure you have heard someone on the lift from far, far away that doesn't have the kind of conditions Steamboat brags about, but just loves what we have and how lucky we are to be here. True. But somebody has to shovel it.

So in short. Thank you slope crews! You made a weird winter not so weird. My helmet is off to you.



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## Rants...



- Sucker punches at 7th and Lincoln
- To Frack or not to Frack
- The Steam coming up from the delicious mug of coffee left behind on the counter...
- Riding trails before they're ripe
- Peak flow in April
- Fire bans in April

## Raves...



- To all the folks who helped us launch this "newsgazine"
- President's Day 2012
- Mailbox money!
- Getting the hook up
- Shorts in April
- Moab

## Say What?...



- "Jack Daniels comes in a square bottle so it won't roll down the hill when you drop it off your horse."
- "If serendipity was a woman, she would be a babe."
- "Vans are totally dress shoes."
- "How much are the tickets to the acid pools across the street?"
- "Kitties and bacon."