Freerider’s Union of CC Kicks off Season with Rail Jam

On Friday, December 9th, Rail Jam hosted by The Freerider’s Union of Colorado College (FUCC) kicked off the snowboard ans ski season. Despite the freezing temperature, the event attracted hundreds of spectators to the annual event. Over the course of six hours two semi truck-loads of snow, a hundred hay bails, and the Winter Park Crew were built the rail course. Featuring a box, a flat-down kink rail, wall-ride, kegs of local micro-brew, and a healthy dose of competition, Rail Jam effectively energized all those in attendance.

The FUCC began about 15 years ago as a rag-tag group of Colorado College riders that wanted to create an inclusive riding community. Driven by their initial goal of securing funding for a trip to Jackson Hole, the group grew into the established club that it is today. This year, Daniel Hovanscek ’13 and Jordan Yeager ’12 head up the presidential duties with help from other members of the club. During 5th, 6th, and 7th block the FUCC runs buses on Saturday and Sunday up to the mountains, mainly going to Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, and Breckenridge. The 43-person capacity is almost always reached and no one has ever been left at the mountain after the day. At only $3 per person, the round-trip ticket is well worth the price for a day of riding.

Besides Rail Jam, the FUCC plays host to two other large student events throughout the year: Winterfest and Burgers on the Beach. Winterfest takes place during the closing weekend of Crested Butte, with the entirety of the Plaza Condominiums rented out for CC students. The price of around $100 per person includes two nights of lodging and two days of riding. This highly anticipated event is punctuated by beautiful spring riding and raucous good times. For the other event, Burgers on the Beach, the FUCC partners with Carnivore Club to provide a grill-out in the parking lot of Arapahoe Basin. Taking place during 8th block, this event allows students to enjoy the waning days of the season while soaking up the sun and enjoying some great food.

The FUCC provides CC students with the treasured privilege of easily accessing the epic riding that the Colorado mountains have to offer. Furthermore, as Danny Hovanscek noted, “Being part of the FUCC puts the Colorado ski community at our fingertips. We have come to know many local Colorado riders, as well as members of other college’s riding clubs. We definitely feel part of something larger than ourselves.” The community enjoyment could be fully felt at this year’s Rail Jam. The spectators’ support, as well as the competitors’ encouragement for each other, embodies CC’s passion for pushing the boundaries and taking advantage of all things outdoors. So, this coming winter, grab your skis or board, book a ticket on one of FUCC’s buses, and take pleasure in the ride.

-Helen Rascher

Happenings

MEETINGS:
Outdoor Recreation Club: Tuesday at 12:15 pm in the WES Room

Climbing Association of CC: Thursday at 12:15 pm in upstairs Worner

Kayak Club: Roll Sessions and club meeting every Monday  8 pm—9:30 pm at the pool—All skill levels welcome!

GEAR HOUSE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday: 4 pm-8 pm
Friday: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

RITT KELLOGG CLIMBING GYM HOURS:
Monday-Thursday: 4 pm-10 pm
Sunday: 6 pm-10 pm
Women’s Wednesday’s: 4 pm-6 pm

TRIPS:

BreakOut Saturday: Volunteered at Festival of Lights Parade 12/3

ORC: Leader Training Trips abound! Festival of Lights Parade Float 12/3

SPECIAL EVENTS:

BreakOut: Celebration and Recruitment Dinner 12/6

FUCC: Rail Jam 12/9

ORC: Ski Day 12/18—43 people headed to the hills partnering with the Office of Minority & International Students

Snow Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>24 hr</th>
<th>48 hr</th>
<th>Mid-Mtn.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wolf Creek</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>55.0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arapahoe Basin</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>23.0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loveland</td>
<td>0.5&quot;</td>
<td>0.5&quot;</td>
<td>25.0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper Mountain</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>20.0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Park</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>21.0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telluride</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>31.0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breckenridge</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>0.0&quot;</td>
<td>25.0&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current as of Dec. 19, 2011 from coloradoski.com
I am sure that this trip would win the ORC prize “Trip with the heaviest backpack.” We could not have walked a lot more than the 1-2 miles to our campground, as the 10 of us had so much food in our backpacks...We had so much nice food that everyone carried a bag in the hands to make sure that we certainly would not starve in the backcountry. We all agreed that our trip was very active and strenuous: Finding the hot spring with the perfect temperature, going on two part-of-a-day hikes, and cooking and eating a lot of food, of course. One of the highlights was our Thanksgiving feast with a turkey from the campfire and many delicious side dishes. Another really important part of the trip was sleeping. I would not have thought that you could actually sleep in a tent for more than 10 hours. One of us decided to sleep outside every night and have a frozen sleeping bag every morning. For the rest of us, only our bathing suits and towels froze, which made it a challenge to go into the hot springs in the morning.

Since my time at Colorado College I have been working at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo as an Education Interpretive Zoo Keeper. This means I spend each day taking care of animals with the kids that visit my building. We feed, train and meet all types of critters up close and teach kids about biology, conservation and living with wildlife. While at CC, I spent a lot of time working in the Center for Service and Learning as BreakOut co-chair, NSO intern, ASPIRE Intern, Engagement Coordinator, and Public Relations Intern. I led Saturday trips, BreakOut Trips and ORC trips. I also was involved with organizing the Empty Stocking Shuffle for two years. My focus on service throughout college gave me the heart and passion to work for what I feel is important. My thesis was research but also service based. After spending years traveling and giving back I couldn't visit Namibia to study cheetah conservation and not help clean cages and throw meat too. The center gave me drive and commitment to serve my community. Of course, I learned how to make the best out of torrential rains, wind storms that flatten tents, ice breakers gone wrong, pounds of mystery meat, and unforeseen blizzards. Service and outdoor trips were always an adventure and I am planning a new adventure this fall. I hope to attend graduate school at the University of Washington to receive a MAT with a focus on environmental education. I want to help kids learn they can make a difference in their world just like I did through service learning at Colorado College.