



## **SNOWMASS BECKONS MOUNTAIN BIKERS**

### **Extensive trail system, new competitions and women's camp are season highlights**

**Snowmass Village, CO (Spring, 2008)** – Over the past few years, mountain bikers far and wide have discovered what Snowmass locals have always known—this mountain resort in the heart of the Elk Mountains is simply packed with incredible mountain biking. Whether bikers crave white knuckle terrain, the jumps and teeter totters of freeride trails, gorgeously scenic single track, or a leisurely cruise on pavement, Snowmass has it all.

Snowmass is the only Aspen/ Snowmass mountain open to mountain bikers in the summer and includes terrain that winds from high desert to high alpine. The Burlingame Chairlift (\$10/adult) takes on bikes at no extra charge and offers access to a wealth of trails such as the famous Government Trail and the new 5 acre B.C.-style free ride and downhill trails.

#### **Mountain Biking News:**

**New Trail:** The new Brush Creek trail has opened up valley-wide possibilities for bikers. This \$2 million paved trail winds down the Brush Creek Valley and connects to the Rio Grande Trail, which runs the length of the Roaring Fork Valley from Aspen to Carbondale. Road bikers can now easily connect to Aspen, Basalt, or Carbondale, and those worried about the return trip can catch a ride back on public transportation buses that regularly run to Snowmass.

#### **Event News:**

- As a new stop on the prestigious 2008 Mountain States Cup series, The **NEW Snowmass G3** (Aug. 8-10) pits riders against gravity in challenging downhill and Super D races on the slopes of Snowmass. The event is kicked off by a special free Snowmass G3 Concert on August 9 by a major national act TBD. ([www.racemsc.com](http://www.racemsc.com) and 970.333.1159)
- **The NEW 12 Hours of Snowmass** (Sept. 14). This dawn-to-dusk twelve-hour mountain bike race on Snowmass' trails is part of the prestigious Rocky Mountain Ultra Regional Endurance Series and benefits local youth organizations. Racers can participate in solo, team, or corporate divisions. ([www.12hoursofsnowmass.com](http://www.12hoursofsnowmass.com) or 970.544.4130)
- **The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Blast the Mass (July 11-13)** offers UCI Level 1 downhill and mountain cross races, the highest ranked courses in the nation, as part of the prestigious Mountain States Cup series. ([www.racemsc.com](http://www.racemsc.com) and 970.333.1159)
- **The annual Aspen/Snowmass Ride for the Cure (Sept. 6)** celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008. ([www.komenaspen.org](http://www.komenaspen.org) or 970.920.0250)

#### **Snowmass Trails:**

Over 40 miles of multi-use trails, including over 25 miles of single track, are maintained just within the borders of the town of Snowmass Village, along with a hundred miles of trails additionally available throughout the valley. Twenty-six trails can be mixed and matched into hour-long, morning-long, or day-long rides for all levels of bikers. Favorites include The Rim Trail, the Tom Blake Trail, the Ditch Trail, and the Government Trail.

Ten downhill trails, including the Banzai, Double-Down, and Eureka Trails, will entice gravity enthusiasts, while 16 cross country trails range from easy dirt roads to difficult single track. The spectacular mountain scenery, wildflower meadows, and emerald aspen groves are sure to inspire riders to challenge their skills or slow down and dawdle over Snowmass' unexpected mountain beauty.

Those preferring not to leave the pavement can enjoy approximately 5-6 miles of paved trails, including the scenic Owl Creek Road to Aspen or new Brush Creek Trail, which connects with the Rio Grande Trail, a paved path along the old railroad grade that heads down to Basalt. In the other direction, bikers can continue to ride the trail up-valley into downtown Aspen, but be forewarned that the path turns to gravel and includes a steep climb before returning to asphalt near Aspen. In either direction, bikers can catch the RFTA public transportation buses back to Snowmass with their bikes for \$2/bike.

### **The Snowmass Mountain Bike Terrain Park:**

Snowmass recently expanded its challenging park filled with tracks, trails, and tricks and now has over 3 miles of B.C.-style freeride and downhill terrain. For the truly courageous, the Trench Town Mountain Cross Course/Bike Jump Park offers five glorious acres of elevated terrain, jumps, whoops, tabletops, doubles, teeters, berms, and drops.

Located below the top of the Burlingame Chairlift on the Velvet Falls ski run, the park includes an official National Mountain Bike Series mountain cross course, the Coney Drop Zone, which boasts drops of 2 to 10 feet for all levels, and new trails such as the Eureka trail, which is northshore-style and features elevated sections, rollercoasters, teeter-totters, and jumps. If the terrain park sounds too intimidating, mountain bikers can warm up and test out their skills at the Discovery Zone beginner terrain park, which is located next to the bottom of the Burlingame Chairlift.

### **Further Afield: Day Trip Delights:**

Snowmass is an ideal home base for more extended day trips into the surrounding regions where a vast network of trails spiderweb across mountains, mesas, and valleys. Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, and other trail systems are all easily accessible from Snowmass, while new mountainbiking hub Fruita is only 2.5 hours away. For more information on the best trails around, stop by Gene Taylor Sports on the Snowmass Village Mall. A few local favorites include:

- For the ultimate technical day ride, take the Government Trail from Snowmass to Aspen and you'll get there in time for a late lunch. Stop by the Butcher's Block deli for take-out sandwiches (\$10) or kick back for a siesta at the outdoor patio at La Cantina.
- For an easier ride, try the new Brush Creek Trail down to the Rio Grande and zip down the old railroad grade to Basalt for lunch at the Riverside Grill, where you can watch anglers catching gold medal trout while munching on a grilled trout sandwich (\$10). If you don't want to head all the way to Basalt, stop by the famous Woody Creek Tavern for one of the best burgers in the state instead. Not in the mood to bike back? Not to worry: public transportation back to Snowmass from Aspen or Basalt is only \$3.00, plus \$2/bike (Call RFTA for info on where to catch a bus with your bike. 970.925.8484).

### **Guided Tours:**

Blazing Adventures offers a variety of bike tours from scenic downhill rides from the Maroon Bells on pavement to more extreme single track tours that also come with instruction to gentle dirt road treks across high mountain meadows and mesas. [www.blazingadventures.com](http://www.blazingadventures.com) or 1-800-282-7238

### **Bike Rental Companies:**

Don't feel like lugging your bike on an airplane or car roof? Whether you need to replace a pavement cruiser or full suspension sweetie, Snowmass offers half a dozen shops with a variety of bike rentals and gear to choose from:

- Aspen Sports at the Snowmass Center, (970) 923-6111.
- Gene Taylor in the Snowmass Village Mall, (970) 923-4336.
- Christy Sports in the Snowmass Village Mall, (970) 923-2717.
- D&E Ski & Snowboard in the Snowmass Village Mall, (970) 923-2337.
- Snowmass Mountain Outfitters, (970) 923-8647.

### **Mountain Biking Packages**

#### **Mountain Biking Special: Singletrack Minds, (6/1/08 – 7/1/08 and 7/7/08 – 8/27/08)**

Bring your bike to Snowmass and stay at The Crestwood condominiums, conveniently located close to over 21 miles of singletrack, freeride and downhill trails and a huge network of trails throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. \$40/person/night based on quad occupancy. Some restrictions may apply. Please call 800-356-5949 or [res@thecrestwood.com](mailto:res@thecrestwood.com) to book your package today.

**Mountain Biking Package: Adventure Package, (6/1/08 – 7/1/08 and 7/7/08 – 8/27/08)** A mountain bike tour into the spectacular Elk Mountains is part of your stay at The Crestwood. Book your adventure today. \$110/person/night based on quad occupancy includes room and one adventure per person. Please call 800-356-5949 or [res@thecrestwood.com](mailto:res@thecrestwood.com) to book your adventure package.

#### **Mountain Biking Package: Summer Riding, (6/1/08 – 8/27/08)**

Right in the heart of mountain biking action and within walking distance to the chairlift and trails, the Snowmass Inn and the Pokolodi Lodge offer a special mountain biking rate of 10% off for those staying two or more nights. Guests also receive 30% off bike rentals at Gene Taylor Sports and a Snowmass water bottle. To book, contact The Snowmass Inn (800-635-3758 or [www.snowmassinn.com](http://www.snowmassinn.com)) or The Pokolodi at (800-666-4556 or [www.pokolodi.com](http://www.pokolodi.com)).

For more information, visit the official Snowmass Village website at [www.snowmassvillage.com](http://www.snowmassvillage.com) or call 1-800-SNOWMASS.

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