

— FEBRUARY 20 - 23 2009 —

This is the ultimate grassroots winter gathering where both experienced and debutant backcountry skiers and snowboarders can celebrate the culture of backcountry snow amongst amazing scenery and world renowned snow.

The origins of the Kootenay Cold Smoke Powder Festival grew from the backcountry skier's obsession with choking on powder snow. This grassroots gathering in Nelson B.C. Whitewater Resort, the wholesome haven of all things blissful. Where snow and psyche are rolling in early to the West Kootenays, setting up the sport surface, for this third annual celebration of backcountry glisse. This year's event is even better! Centered around; workshops on backcountry skiing and snowboarding. There will be competitions; in ski mountaineering, slope style, a banked dual slalom, a ski touring poker run, and the king and queen of the Kootenays (which rewards for the best in all the comps). Then there are the nightcaps... socials, films, images & tunes mixed in with lots of great food, Nelson Brewing Company Beer and scenery.

A variety of clinics are on the schedule, designed with all in mind, from experienced to novice backcountry skiers and snowboarders. Clinics will be available for telemark skiers, alpine tourers, backcountry snowboarders, and avalanche awareness aficionados. Programs on snow study, terrain assessment, route finding, or skiing/snowboarding skills improvement.

We have tons of comps;

- The ROAM Randonee Rally. A ski mountaineering comp, in which you will see these skiing thoroughbreds ascend and descend through the "Scottishness", traveling up to 5000 vertical feet total (for the pros) in a skiers version of the pony express.
- The Valhalla Pure Powderkeg Booter Slopestyle which will feature a timed and judged spectacle that takes athletes up a short 100 foot climb, then descend through an in-bounds run on preserved powder with natural kickers and features. Huckers will be judged on their faculties of "smooooooth", vision, and descending prowess.
- The Backcountry Access Avalanche Beacon Olympics is where contestants will "rescue" buried beacons pulsing away in the Beacon Basin. Prizes will be awarded to those who thread a labyrinth of distractions, finding the buried beacons in the shortest amount of time.
- SCARPA Poker Run - "5 Card STUUUUUD". It's a ski tour that's a poker game that's a ski tour... but it's not a race! Teams of two ski tour along a predetermined course via map and stop in at 5 checkpoints to get an ID card stamped. Teams will draw cards for every checkpoint made. In the end, the top 3 poker hands win.
- The "new-and-improved" Gerick's Banked Dually Slalom. Adrenalin ski, snowboard or telemark junkies will embrace speed through a gauntlet of slalom gates in this wacky pro-style dual slalom, complete with banks, jumps and a few surprises!
- G3 Ski Graphics Challenge invites aspiring and working artists and designers to submit designs for a ski graphic contest. The winner will receive a special edition 2009/2010 pair of G3 skis with their winning graphic emblazoned across the topsheet. Winner announced at the Cold Smoke Buff-eh party.
- And lastly... the crowning of King and Queen of the Kootenays Comp. Athletes must complete 4 on-slope comps—a winter Quadruple Crown, so to speak: 1) The ROAM Randonee Rally; 2) Valhalla Pure Boondocks Booter; 3) SCARPA POKER RUN; and 4) Gerick's Dually Banked Slalom. Each combined female and male winner will be crowned Queen and King of the Kootenays.

What did we tell ya? Tons of cool comps, eh!

The real mainstays of the Festival are all in the whip-ups. Friday night's Cold Smoke Opener, held at the Capitol Theatre, is the famous "off piste" film festival. Films from all over the universe, or at least from our back yard, will be shown. Saturday night, the Selkirk College Mary Hall will host the Kootenay Cold Smoke Buff-eh and Cold Shot Foto Face-off, ending the night with the some tunes and partying into the wee hours. The theme of this gala is "Back to the Beach"—because without snow + rock we'd all be surfers. So dress-to-impress as though goin' to the beach. The Kootenay Mountain **Cold Shot Foto Face-off** profiles five photographers and their chosen athletes who will shoot for four days leading up to "Face-off". They each will compile an ultimate slide show from their images, set them to music, and the dueling pictures begins. Cash and gear prizes for the judged best and people's choice award are up for grabs.

Complete festival packages and info on the Cold Shot Foto Face-off are available on-line at www.coldsmokepowderfest.com or at the Whitewater Downtown office. You can also buy tickets to individual festival events if you can't join in the whole experience.

For details visit; www.coldsmokepowderfest.com or contact;

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