

Bogus Basin – Boise's backyard playground

Resort adds yurt, parking

By **KEN LEVY**
SPECIAL TO THE IBR

What could be better, especially during tough economic times and uncertain gas prices, than having a first-class ski area right in your own backyard?

Boise's backyard playground, Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, offers just that. Less than 17 miles from downtown, Bogus offers both downhill and cross-country skiing and snowboarding for all levels and abilities, and the nonprofit resort plans to stick around for a while.

"We have more than 25,000 season pass holders for 2008-09 and we are financially stable. We're not going anywhere," said Gretchen Anderson, Bogus Basin spokeswoman.

At Bogus, you'll find 2,600 acres of skiable terrain with 900 acres groomed, night skiing opportunities on 165 acres and 67 groomed alpine runs. Terrain parks include Sunshine, for beginners, the Playground freestyle terrain park designed for intermediate and advanced-level skills, and Claim Jumper, for intermediate to advanced riders.

Lessons are available for all ages and abilities with an eye to learning skiing as a lifetime sport, and equipment is available for rent or purchase, with full-service repair onsite.

The mountain's base is at 5,800 feet, rising to 7,582 at the top. Snow enthusiasts can choose between two

detachable high-speed quads, four double chairs, a triple chair and a people mover.

Day lodges at the base, mid-mountain and Nordic ski area offer snacks and meals, and a chance to warm up with the camaraderie of good friends and family.

That camaraderie can now be extended beyond a day's experience at Bogus. New this year: Opportunities for overnight stays. Bogus has added a new yurt on its Nordic trail system.

"The Bogus Basin yurt will have some comforts, but is definitely rustic, overnight lodging," said Jesse Murphy, spokesman for Ski Idaho.

Bogus' version is 27 feet in diameter and, like others available in Idaho's backcountry, sleeps up to 10. The yurt is furnished with bunk beds and a futon, propane cooking stove, kitchen utensils, tables and chairs and a wood stove for heat.

There is an outhouse and a woodpile, but no running water or electricity. Guests must furnish their own food, propane, sleeping bags and drinking water. Like all backcountry yurts, Bogus Basin's is a pack-in, pack-out facility. In winter, access is only by ski or snowshoe. From it, skiers can access 37 kilometers of groomed Nordic trails.

The yurt rents for \$100 a night and can be reserved online at <http://www.bogusbasin.org/the-mountain/yurt-rental/index.aspx>.

Bogus also added 150 parking



PHOTO BY KEN LEVY

Snowboarders run the corduroy at Bogus Basin.

spaces to its Bogus Creek parking lot, located off of Pioneer Road with ski-in/ski-out access to Silver Queen. Access behind Simplot Lodge has been widened to alleviate congestion. The resort also added two snowplows with de-icing capabilities.

"The St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center Foundation donated a new ATV for the Ski Patrol fleet to provide access to difficult terrain," said Anderson. The ATV is equipped with year-round track capabilities.



PHOTO BY KEN LEVY

A skier heeds caution signs while approaching the base at Bogus Basin Ski Resort.

Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area

Where: 16.5 miles north of Boise on Bogus Basin Road

Ticket info: (208) 332-5162 or online at <http://www.bogusbasin.org/the-mountain/tickets/lift-ticket-prices.aspx>

More info: (208) 332-5100, info@bogusbasin.org

ALPINE HOURS (REGULAR SEASON WITH NIGHT OPERATION)

Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Weekends and holidays: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

NORDIC HOURS (REGULAR SEASON WITH NIGHT OPERATION)

Saturdays and Sundays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Mondays and Fridays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Holidays: Open 9 a.m. and close at regular times.

LIFTS

Two detachable high-speed quads
Four double chairs
One triple chair

SKIABLE TERRAIN

2,600 acres with 900 acres groomed
165 acres for night skiing
37 km. groomed Nordic trails