

Ski Season 2009-10: The Dry Year



Lone Peak, Big Sky Montana

I just finished reading the Ski Season 2008-09 entry and was struck by the tone and sentiment. Back then I seemed to think that alpine skiing was on its way out for me and Nordic skiing on its way in. This was due in large part to the knee troubles I was having.

But with this year's poor snow, Nordic skiing was thin close to home, and so I never hit a groove, only getting out a handful of times. Moreover, I hit the weights this year for stronger legs and more solid knees and it worked. Although, my days of skiing with reckless abandon have ended, I was able to get out, ski the terrain I like, and have a ball weekend after weekend. In the end, I got out about 25 times, which is a number I'm satisfied with.

Both Ellie and Alex progressed tremendously this year. Ellie won a ski race at Discovery late in the year – she loves speed – while Alex surpassed Jen and I as an all-mountain skier. One of the major events of the season for me was skiing off of the Lone Peak Tram at Big Sky in early April with Alex. He brought me down some double black diamond terrain that had me tense, but that he didn't think twice about. I was simultaneously pissed off and proud. We've also had to start saying, "No, that's too dangerous."

Jen remains as enthusiastic about skiing as anyone I know. It's my family that keeps me going to the hill. The fun of skiing is spending time together. It was a great year.



Jen and I at Big Sky



Left: Ellie's trophy, Disco in the background; Right: Ellie with the Pintlers behind.



There's something about this picture that captures the essence of Alex right now.