

12th ANNUAL

WHAT'S IN YOUR PARK

BY LISSA MAIATICO

It's remarkable that this is the twelfth year we've put out the call for entries to our annual terrain park contest. We received numerous submissions from all corners of the earth, and the creativity continues to be next-level. We hope these interesting and elaborate ideas will once again inspire terrain park crews to keep pushing the envelope and progressing.

Please VOTE online for your faves. The winner from each category will receive a prize pack from Burton and 12 months of bragging rights. To see the complete list of entries and VOTE, visit: saminfo.com/terrain-park-contest



01 THE ROCK

Since the 2008-09 winter season, Killington, Vt., has been home to The Stash. Most of the features found in this terrain park are built from natural materials, such as trees, stumps, logs, and exposed rocks. To the untrained eye, this six-foot-by-six-foot boulder just looks like a large rock. But to the savvy skier or rider, it allows for endless options of creativity using the snow transition as the approach point.



02 BUCK OFF

The folks at Mountain High in SoCal spent four weeks building this crazy feature for the second annual Buck Off pre-season contest. Combining six different features into one setup, the left side has a pyramid box and a flat ledge. In the middle is a flat-down round rail, and on the right side are three ledges. The feature can also be split down the middle, turning the left and right sides into two separate features. The construction tools needed to complete this job included a steel frame, Lexan top sheets, plywood siding, Astroturf, and a vinyl wrap.

03 GOLDEN HOUR

For the 2015-16 winter season, the crew at Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows built a creative and fun progression park for riders of all ability levels. The Gold Coast jump line included five jumps of various sizes. The first jump was roughly 25 feet, and the second set of angled takeoffs ranged from 30 to 35 feet. Jump three was approximately 40-45 feet. The two angled takeoffs on the fourth jump ranged from 45 to 50 feet, and the fifth and final jump was 50 to 55 feet. The jump line also offered several creative features, including a road-gap step-down, quarterpipe side transitions, and a hip-style takeoff. Led by grooming supervisor Brandon Dodds, this project took one week to complete using a robust hand crew and three cats.



Photo credit: Blake Jorgensen



04 HEAVEN'S SAKE

Each year, Whistler Blackcomb seems to outdo itself. In the spring, park builder Charles Beckinsale built a huge four-jump-to-table feature in the 7th Heaven area on Blackcomb. While Matchstick Productions came up with the rough idea for the feature, Beckinsale brought it to life after eight days and 85 hours of grooming with two cats. The two side jumps were about 65 feet to the knuckle, and the inside jumps were roughly a 25-foot gap to the butter box, then a 20-foot step down to the landing. The unique thing about this feature is it allows for several athletes to hit it simultaneously.

05 THE THUNDERDOME

Built for versatility, the Thunderdome at Mt. Hood Meadows allows riders to access it from any angle. This massive feature contains two double c-rails on the left and right side, and has four rideable surfaces. While the Meadows park staff came up with the Thunderdome idea, Kurt Heine constructed the rails. Overall, it took two months to complete this 20-foot long, 12-foot wide, 6-foot tall feature. It took one night for Meadow's lead groomer and a five-man hand crew to build the table and deck using a Pisten-Bully, and place the feature in the Forest terrain park.



06 RUSTY TEETH

During the winter of 2016, Australia's Mt. Hotham Alpine Resort teamed up with the Rusty Toothbrush crew—a group of pro snowboarders, filmmakers, and photographers—to create a next-level terrain park. Located in the central hub of the resort, the park included features such as a 25-foot hip and 32-foot tunnel combination. Several wooden features were also built, including a six-foot rainbow rail and a six-foot flat bar. Using shovels, rakes and a push cat, the Rusty Toothbrush terrain park took four days and two nights to build with a crew of 10 people.

07 BACK TO NATURE

Sierra-at-Tahoe pro athletes Mad-die Bowman and Nick Poohachoff were featured in a private photo shoot that took place in a custom, top-to-bottom, natural feature terrain park at the resort last spring. Relying on natural terrain to help shape and build the features, the park included several rock gaps, a 70-foot-by-40-foot hip, a replica of the Holy Bowl, an 18-foot halfpipe, plus numerous jib and natural features. Twelve staff members spent two weeks bringing it to life with one cat and lots of handwork. Their hard work paid off, and the shoot was a success.

VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.SAMINFO.COM/TERRAIN-PARK-CONTEST





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10 BOING BOING

With 170 features spread across eight terrain parks, the staff at Mount Snow's Carinthia Parks in Vermont is pretty creative when it comes to building new things to ride. Rory Bruder, the head feature fabricator, repurposed some springs from an old chairlift by welding them to a rail. Using tools like a plasma cutter and a grinder, a week of trial-and-error testing produced this one-of-a-kind, 24-foot spring rail. Needless to say, this wobbly feature caught a few riders by surprise and definitely kept them on their toes.

11 LET IT FLOW

At Timberline Ski Area, Ore., the Paintbrush trail was a less than ideal area to build a flow park due to its inconsistent grade, strange cants, and holes—but that area of the mountain gets a ton of snow, so the park crew persevered to create the Paintbrush Flow Park last winter. Influenced by Portland's concrete skate parks, Logan Stewart and Caleb Hamilton came up with the idea. Using a park cat and an 18-foot Zaugg, the grooming crew built rollers, spines, tables, hips, and bowls, all within one week. Once complete, the Paintbrush Flow Park was full of features rarely seen on snow allowing riders to have numerous options when choosing their lines.

12 ONE STOP SHOP

Aiming to create the ultimate technical feature with sections linked by a single takeoff, two staff members from Mountaineer Parks at Snowshoe Mountain, W. Va., brought this baby to life. Located in the area's medium terrain park, the feature includes an 8-foot-by-12-foot wall with a creeper ledge, a 24-foot down tube with expanded metal skirting, a 10-foot jersey barrier rail sided with perforated metal, and a six-foot-by-four-foot perforated metal fence. Total build time once on snow, including transportation, setup, installation, and shaping the takeoff, took just four hours.

08 JUMPING JF

In April, Stoneham, Que., hosted a private video shoot featuring freestyle skier JF Houle, Olympian Sebastien Toutant, and a dozen of their closest friends. JF had dreamed about doing a private shoot at Stoneham for a few years, and with the help of his brother Nicolas—Stoneham's snow parks manager—the idea came to life. This 60-foot jump and 50-foot hip setup took roughly 36 hours to complete using a two cats and three diggers/shapers, who built the spine landing by hand. Stoneham's terrain park consultant, Today's Park, designed the jump with the side hip option, and added some personal touches to the shape and cut.

09 ALL WELCOME!

Erik Clark, terrain park manager at Wyoming's Snowy Range Ski Area, had always wanted to build a welcome-sign feature that looks like the sign marking the entrance to Medicine Bow National Forest, in which Snowy Range operates. With the help of his friend Nick Roma, the idea became a reality. With Nick's fabrication work, they spent 24 hours creating a 70 percent scale model of the sign, but changed the text to read Medicine Bow Terrain Park. To build it, they used one- and two-inch square steel framing and a variety of lumber, along with a welder, grinder, and some woodworking tools. The sign itself is roughly eight feet long and five feet wide. The rainbow box on top is one-foot wide and 24 feet long, and is easily removable.



Over/
Under,
Okemo



Transfer Banked Slalom, Thredbo



Loon
Project



Red Bull
Nordix,
Lake
Louise

2016 EVENT ENTRIES

Fourteen unique event entries were submitted this year. They are profiled online, with full event details, photos, and videos. CHECK THEM OUT: saminfo.com/terrain-park-contest

- > Nightmare Before Christmas - Windham Mountain, N.Y.
- > Holiday Hammers - Wachusett Mountain, Mass.
- > Grom Fest - Ski Roundtop, Pa.
- > Cacti Jam - Arizona Snowbowl, Ariz.
- > Over/Under - Okemo, Vt.
- > Neff Land Space Jam - Killington, Vt.
- > Boarderstyle - Fernie Alpine Resort, B.C.
- > Showcase Showdown - Whistler Blackcomb, B.C.
- > Red Bull Nordix - Lake Louise, Alberta
- > Rhythm and Bruise - Stevens Pass, Wash.
- > Empire Games - Stoneham, Que.
- > The Loon Project - Loon Mountain, N.H.
- > Transfer Banked Slalom - Thredbo, Australia
- > Tow Up, Throw Down - Spirit Mountain, Minn.

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