

## Subaru Freeskiing World Tour set to kick off March 22- 25

BY EMILY STIFLER  
BIG SKY WEEKLY MANAGING EDITOR

It's the sole qualifying stop on the Freeskiing World Tour this year, and it will bring 90 world-class competitors to throw down in Moonlight Basin's headwaters terrain, showcasing the cirque's 1,000-foot fall line chutes, gnarly rock features and intense steep.

Locals have long known the Headwaters were a perfect place for this caliber competition, and last year the Freeskiing World Tour saw the light.

Due to the FWT's reputation, Moonlight anticipates drawing visitors both regionally and nationally. Prior to the event, the Freeskiing World Tour made stops in Las Lenas, Argentina, Ski Arpa, Chile, Revelstoke, B.C., Snowbird, Utah, and will wrap-up in Kirkwood, Calif.

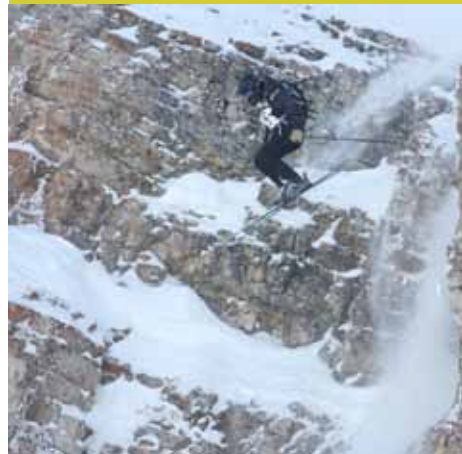
"We're hoping that we're going to see a lot more traffic, people coming up here and staying, checking out the event," said Erik Morrison, Moonlight's social media coordinator. He anticipates a regional draw, with spectators coming from Bozeman, Livingston, and

West Yellowstone, but also skiers from Salt Lake and Jackson following the tour and coming to see friends compete.

The event was initially planned for January, but the FWT postponed it because snow cover was lean. Morrison says it was worth the wait.

"The Headwaters are looking fantastic," Morrison said. "By the time the comp actually goes down, especially if these weather patterns continue, we'll be looking tip top."

### KEVIN CALLAHAN



DOB: 06/12/1980  
Years Skiing: 25  
Sponsors: Family and friends

**Powder pig or guinea pig?** I'll be the guinea pig to make sure it's alright for the powder pigs.

**Favorite Style?** Big mountain

**Favorite Quote?** "The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do." - Fortune Cookie

**Inspiration:** I am inspired by all people, laces and things.

**What are your goals for this season?** Base camping in Cedar Cirque with a tick list I've been working on. Competing in the FWT and the Spring Runoff at Moonlight Basin.

**What do you do when the snow is not flying?** Climb and bike

**What makes this place so special?** The Headwaters terrain pretty much speaks for itself. Many of us that have been competing in the Runoff and other surrounding big mountain comps have dreamed of this event taking place here for years. Now the dream is a reality.

**How have you been able to stay motivated and continue progressing?** I feel blessed to have been living in Big Sky for the last eight years. This place has a special energy necessary to be able to motivate and progress as a skier and as a person.

### COLIN STEMPEL



DOB: 3/2/88  
Years Skiing: 20  
Sponsors: Nada

**Powder pig or guinea pig?** little bit of both I guess...

**Favorite style?** I like goin' fast

**Favorite quote?** "There's no point in skiing if you're not having fun. If you stop having fun just tell me. We'll come back another day" - Joe Stempel

"Learn from your mistakes" - Pam Stempel

**Inspiration:** To have as much fun as possible, feel free and overcome challenges.

**What are your goals for this season?** Smile a lot and have as little time injured as possible

**What do you do when the snow is not flying?** Ride my bike, fish and relax

**What makes this place so special?** You realize why the Headwaters are special from the first second you see them. It's a huge, gnarly venue with long, steep couloirs that have some mandatory air and narrow pinches. To think it's accessed by a lift and a short walk is just plain rad.

**How have you been able to stay motivated and continue progressing?** Sounds like a lot of other resorts have been having a way worse season than us so the fact that it could be worse motivates me to get out and enjoy what we have. That, and I have a super awesome group of friends that challenge me daily whether it's skiing or not. We have some fun!

### DAN GREENE



DOB: 6/12/84  
Years skiing: 17  
Sponsors: Big Sky Resort

**Powder pig or guinea pig?** Powder

**Favorite style?** Dope style

**Favorite quote?** "It's not the years in the life, it's the life in the years." - President Abe Lincoln

**Inspiration:** Mom and dad, and lots of others. Live life large and to the fullest!

**What are your goals for this season?** Not get too injured, and try to throw down a lot more

**What do you do when the snow is not flying?** Fish, fish and I fish a little too

**What makes this place so special?** Its grialness

**How have you been able to stay motivated and continue progressing?** This season I've been motivated by the inspirations and spirit of my friend who I lost to this mountain last year.

### KRUIN SEIBERT



DOB: 7/5/87  
Years Skiing: I started at the age of three here at Big Sky then switched to snowboarding for eight years. I started skiing again six years ago  
Sponsors: Just me

**Powder pig or guinea pig?** Powder Pig of course

**Favorite quote?** "Nothing is impossible, we are only limited by fear and even that we can overcome." - Seth Morrison

**Inspiration:** Every big mountain skier, and anyone that loves the sport and strives to throw down as big as they can

**What are your goals for this season?** I have a few lines picked out that if the snow allows it I would love to hit

**What do you do when the snow is not flying?** I normally am looking for more snow. I also go kayaking and hiking

**What makes this place so special?** The terrain here is incredible. It's very steep, with a ton of different options for riders to choose their lines from.

**How have you been able to stay motivated and continue progressing?** I have been skiing every day and trying to push myself to be as good as I can.

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## LIZ WELLES



**DOB:** 3/2/1977  
**Years Skiing:** 32  
**Sponsors:** Smith Optics, LEKI USA, Powderhorn Apparel

**Powder pig or guinea pig?** Normally I'd say powder but this winter has been more of a guinea pig theme.

**Favorite style?** My style. I made it, I own it.

**Favorite quote?** "Just ski down there and jump off something, for crying out loud!" -Shane McConkey

**Inspiration:** My mentor, Team Duluth coach Scott Ransom; fellow Team Duluth alum Mike Mannelin; all the Team Duluth athletes I've competed with and coached throughout the years; the late and forever legendary Jim Jack who will be sorely missed at our upcoming event; Logan Schaezel-Hill for pushing me to try new things on skis even though I usually didn't want to; the 14 dudes usually in the tram with me; my brother Ryan for toughening me up; Mom and Dad for putting up with my antics; and all the girls out on the mountain who are shredding hard.

**What are your goals for this season?** Finding a way to "live" while skiing five days a week. I worked three jobs this summer so I could have just one this winter and continue to push my skiing to new levels. I spent time in the gym, mountain biked and hiked. Time with family and friends is so important to me; they are my true inspiration. Luckily most of them ski. My mom was out last spring for a visit, and I was stoked to be skiing the tram with her. She's 70 and still skis like mad!

Volunteering for Eagle Mount has been a great opportunity to share the enthusiasm. I'm always open to new ideas for how I can contribute to skiing.

**What do you do when the snow is not flying?** Last winter seemed to last forever, so I got to do a bunch of spring and summer backcountry skiing. I worked my butt off and treated each day off like a mini vacation with day hikes, river floats, hot springs, bike adventures, or just getting together with friends and cooking dinner.

**What makes this place so special?** The Headwaters is home to some of the steepest, most exposed, hair-raising in-bounds terrain in the entire country. A few years back I showed FWT head judge Jim Jack around the venue. He'd skied all over the world, so when you hear someone like him say, "I can't believe this is in-bounds!" you know you've got something special. The FWT venue at Kirkwood is permanently closed. You can't even sign out for it; the only way to ski it is to be in the competition, or risk jail time by poaching it. When you factor in all the hard work that the Moonlight Basin Ski Patrol does to keep this open to the public, this place is truly one-of-a-kind.

**How have you been able to stay motivated and continue progressing?** Even a low-snow year in Big Sky is better than an epic snow year in Minnesota, you get my drift? You can always find a way to challenge yourself on Lone Peak, even if it hasn't snowed in weeks.

## LOGAN SCHAEZEL-HILL



**DOB:** 5/6/1984  
**Years Skiing:** 21  
**Sponsors:** Smith Optics, 4Fnt Skis, Bridger CrossFit

**Powder pig or guinea pig?** Guinea pig!

**Favorite style?** Fast and clean

**Favorite quote?** "Go that way, really fast. If something gets in your way, turn." - Better off Dead

**Inspiration:** My dad taught me how to ski, and has always been a positive influence in my life. Skiers like Shane McConkey, Seth Morrison and Pep Fugas. But the skiers that have influenced me the most have been local rippers at Big Sky and Moonlight. I wouldn't be the skier I am without an awesome crew to shred around with.

**What are your goals for this season?** To become a better skier while having fun and scaring myself a little along the way. It was my goal this summer to get stronger so that I could ski lines the way I envisioned in my head. I wanted to be able to charge bigger lines and features with more fluidity, greater precision and more confidence. I spent a lot of time doing Olympic lifting and interval training.

**What do you do when the snow is not flying?** In the summer I ride mountain bikes almost every day. It's a good workout, plus after charging through the woods on dirt and rock all summer, snow doesn't seem scary.

**What makes this place so special?** Moonlight is straight up GNARLY. Big vertical drop, sustained pitch and lots of exposure riddled with big technical features. The Headwaters have it all.

**How have you been able to stay motivated this winter and continue progressing?** I was in school for the last three winters so staying motivated hasn't been a problem. Skiing rocky hard pack is way better than homework. With 5,532 acres at my disposal it's hard to not find something fun and different to do.

## PATRICK GANNON



**DOB:** 05/26/1983  
**Years Skiing:** 26  
**Sponsors:** Team Human, KuruLife, VodkaSki.com

**Powder pig or guinea pig?** You get the best powder by going first, so is this like a chicken and the egg kind of question?

**Favorite style?** Big mountain playground, the art of having more fun

**Inspiration:** Shane McConkey, Seth Morrison, Tanner Hall, Eric Pollard, Peter Pan

**What are your goals for this season?** To find a new perspective on the mountain, every day. To further explore new visions of features and terrain and different ways of riding them.

**What do you do with yourself when the snow is not flying?** Explore the almost endless peaks and rivers of the Rocky Mountain West with my backpack and raft.

**What makes this place so special?** The Headwaters are very special. They have some of the steepest, most technical inbounds terrain in the U.S. The ease of accessing the Headwaters makes this place a perfect big mountain training ground. The lack of crowds plays a big role here as the Headwaters hardly if ever get skied out. You can lap to your legs' delight and still be finding great snow every run.

**How have you been able to stay motivated and continue progressing?** Skiing is what I love to do. It's my passion to explore what is possible on a pair of skis. Ninety percent of the time I ride alone, and it's my creative interaction with the snow and the mountain that drives me. No matter if there are six inches or 60, there is always a way to find fun and push yourself on the mountain. After growing up racing on the ice coast, every day in the Rockies is a powder day. If you aren't having fun then you aren't trying hard enough.

## SCOTTIE WILLIAMS



**DOB:** 12/01/89  
**Years Skiing:** 10  
**Sponsors:** VOKE tabs, Phar North, Family and friends

**Powder pig or guinea pig?** Powder hog for sure but you can find me playing "Guinea Pig" every now and then.

**Favorite style?** Meat Hucking!

**Favorite quote?** "Ski down there and jump off something, would ya?" Shane McConkey

**Inspiration:** CR Johnson and Shane McConkey. Without them our sport would not be where it is today. I am one of those skiers who never met Shane, but he had the biggest influence on my life.

**What are your goals for this season?** Stay on my feet as much as possible.

**What do you do when the snow is not flying?** I spend most my time working on golf courses in the summer, I enjoy being on the lake and camping with friends.

**What makes this place so special?** Lone Peak is unlike any other mountain home to a ski resort. Moonlight Basin has some of the gnarliest inbounds terrain, I hope some of the competitors come here for the first time and pucker up a little bit. It's been a challenging season for many resorts across the nation.

**How have you been able to stay motivated and continue progressing?** We really cannot complain about our season up here in Big Sky. We are a lot better off than the rest of the country. It has been great for big mountain progression because lines that we have been skiing in recent years are skiing much different.



### One Grand Prize Winner Will Score:

- 2-night stay in slopeside luxury lodging from Moonlight Lodging in Big Sky during Subaru Freeskiing World Tour weekend (March 23-25, 2012)
- 4 Moonlight Basin Lift tickets valid only for the 2012 season
- Access for 4 to VIP area during the Subaru Freeskiing World Tour events on March 23-25, 2012
- 4 tickets to the athletes/sponsors-only party on March 22, 2012
- 4 prize packs of Moonlight Basin/FWT swag

Contest ends March 13, 2012.  
Enter online - [facebook.com/MoonlightBasin](https://www.facebook.com/MoonlightBasin)