

6 KILLER  
GLOVES  
PAGE 46



# SKIING

GO BIGGER//LIVE BETTER

## CHARGE!

10  
Pro  
Skiers  
Show  
You  
How

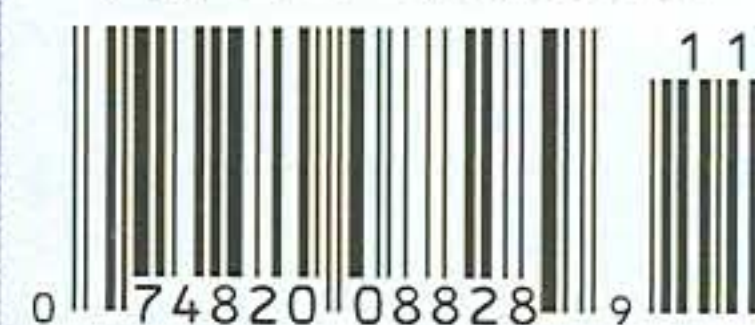


+ Telluride  
Impeaches  
Bush  
PAGE 34

CAT-SKIING ON EVEREST PAGE 96  
BODE UNLEASHED PAGE 160  
BACKCOUNTRY JACKETS PAGE 85

NOVEMBER 2007

\$4.99US \$5.99CAN



WWW.SKINET.COM





Tail guide Andy Field ain't skeered of tight trees, but prefers steeps like these.



## White Grizzly Adventures

IF YOU HAVE TO ASK HOW TIGHT THE trees are at White Grizzly, you should probably cat-ski somewhere else. Owners Brad and Carole Karafil live by the mantra "Ski good or eat wood." And they expect their clients to buy in too. You should. With a permit area that spans 12,000 acres and a client-to-guide ratio that never tops four-to-one, your chances of finding an untracked hallway are better than good. They're guaranteed.

White Grizzly is high-consequence wilderness skiing—complete with man-eating tree wells, concealed rock gardens, and branch bombs (VW-size clods of hanging snow) like the one that nearly flattened an unsuspecting Frenchman in my group. Every day—even when it was nuking—we ripped the biggest pillow lines I've ever seen. To access all that goodness, the Karafils customized a cat that devours terrain, loads and unloads quickly, and has plenty of room to hang your swamped gear between runs. So if you're still worried about those tight trees, pack a mouthguard. Or book a trip somewhere else.

**WEATHER AND SNOWPACK:** Storms off the Pacific head east across the Okanagan Valley and blanket White Grizzly in 510 inches of Kootenay gold annually. The snow is typically 30 percent lighter than coastal dumps, and relatively little wind means great powder preservation and no crust. Come in January, when low temps lock in and consistent dumps line up.

**TERRAIN HIGHLIGHTS:** Snow stability, weather, and group dynamics dictate the day's lineup. If the combination's right, ask to spin laps in Bu Bu Bowl, an 800-vertical-foot elevator shaft that the marshmallow man frequently visits. Most days, you'll ski 40- to 45-degree trees and northeast-facing pillow lines that spill onto a low-angle clearcut before noodling through flat, sometimes abusive, second-growth forest to the road.

**GUIDES:** Lead guide Tom "The Bad Cad" Cadwallander is HeliCat Canada-certified. He captained our crew through intricate terrain and let us ski monster lines, while dispensing guru-style wisdom. ("The mountains

don't move. We move around the mountains." Seemed profound at the time.) Two tail guides bring up the rear of your party.

**LODGE:** The grizzly den is a 3,200-square-foot log cabin with double- or triple-occupancy bedrooms. Roast your dogs over the fireplace in the common room; then move to the hot tub to marinate your entire body. An on-site massage therapist will roll the leg burn out of your quads for a buck a minute.

**CHOW:** Meals are French-Canadian affairs complete with slabby bacon and grade-AA maple syrup for breakfast; sandwiches, tarts, and hot drinks for lunch; and buffet-style dinners with tasty apps to get you through the night. The lodge doesn't serve alcohol, and bars are nonexistent, so BYO if you like to sauce it up at day's end.

**MUST KNOW:** White Grizzly has 3,000 permitted acres of high-alpine terrain on the White Grizzly massif that it just can't get to with the cat. Experienced backcountry skiers can add extra days of cat-assisted touring to their trip for C\$430 per day. —MARK LESH

MARK LESH

**MAX ELEVATION:** 8,200 feet **MAX VERTICAL DROP:** 3,200 feet **AVERAGE DAILY VERTICAL:** 16,500–20,000 feet **PRICE:** C\$2,750 low season, \$3,300 high season for the recommended five-day stay (meals and accommodations included). **INFO:** whitegrizzly.com