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<<< SNOW, continued from previous page

In the mid-90s Dirk Collins, Corey Gavitt, and brothers Steve and Todd Jones were skiing some huge lines for the camera. The only problem was that the camera crews couldn't keep up, hauling the gear, for that better angle. The foursome took matters into their own hands and, after fishing in Alaska for a season, pooled their money to invest in the necessary equipment to create their own films, their own company, and live their dream of being true to themselves and their lifestyle. Teton Gravity Research was born. The boys of TGR have gone on to produce over twenty films. You can bet that they're still skiing and riding every chance they get.

Bringing it a little closer to the Cascades and passing the filmmaking flame to an even younger generation: local Mount Baker snowboarder Nate Lind had been riding professionally for years before stepping behind the camera and co-producing *Sentimental Values* last year with another local Jeremy Dubs, of Funner Films fame. This season Lind is releasing his first solo project—*Winter Renaissance*.

Others in the cult of snow flick makers? How 'bout Jonah and Noah Howell out of Utah, with PowderWhere? These guys—and their films—bend to the telemark god and feature some of the most audacious and skilled skiers around.

And then there's Matchstick Productions, the brainchild and passion of Steve Winter and Murray Wais that began with a short called *Nachos and Fear* in 1992

and turned into something international. This year's show is entitled CLAIM! with the world premier on September 14 at Whistler.

There's the cult of the ski flick maker, and there's the cult of the ski flick fest. One of bigger traveling ones is the Banff Mountain Film Festival. And in Bellingham there's the annual Mt. Baker Film Festival, now in its ninth year, featuring film shorts of skiing and boarding from throughout the Pacific Northwest and every other snowy place in the world. Maybe you'll see the snowboard flick my friend's 12-year-old daughter just posted online. Who knows? Submissions for Mt. Baker's Film Fest are being accepted until October 1. The festival is on October 23.

The commonality that runs through all these directors is the desire to share their experiences, and nothing beats sharing with a live audience. Snow film fests are the place of worship for the devout and faithful who look to these flicks for ideas and inspiration, to get that instant high of seeing fresh deep pow being sliced and diced. Of watching the jump, hang and landing as the drops get bigger and bigger. These films have moved beyond documentary and have, instead, taken on a life of their own. They're not a record of life, they *are* life. A celebration of the movement through that moment when everything on the mountain is right on.

Pray for snow.

Many dates and locations for the 08/09 snow flick season are yet to be confirmed; what was confirmed at press time is listed in the r|ple calendar beginning on page 50. **Watch for an update online at adventuresnw.com**

gear & qarb EPIC Action Sports Video Camera



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