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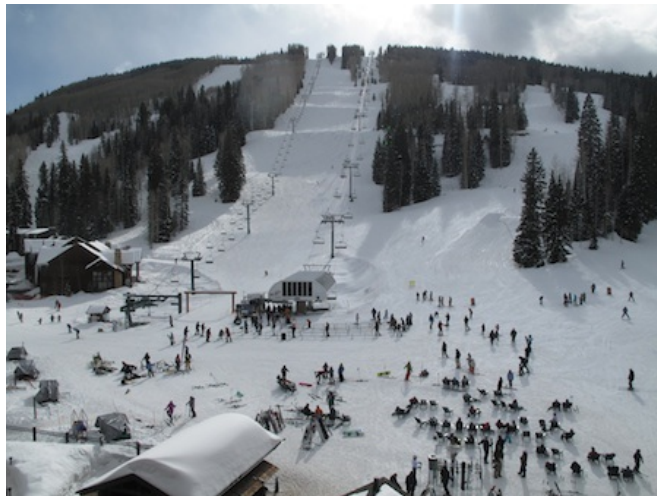


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## Colorado Dispatch: Snow Biking Just Outside of Hell

By Jimmy Im

February 28, 2011

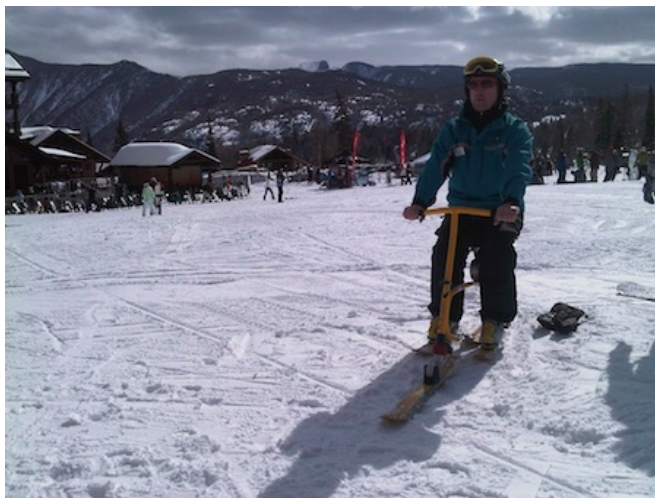


Due to a shoulder injury, skiing or snowboarding was out of the question when I pulled into **Purgatory at Durango Mountain Resort**, a ski resort almost the size of Telluride in Colorado. In between Durango and Telluride in the San Juan National Forest, the resort was dubbed Purgatory because back in horse-riding days, this snow-bound territory wasn't the easiest to get through. The slopes are wilder and the powder this morning was fresh thanks to an early snow storm. So what's one to do when they can't ski or snowboard? Snow bike.

Snow biking (or ski biking or winter biking or ice biking) is a relatively unknown winter sport that's rather common in the state of Colorado. Or, if you saw the movie *Help*, you'll remember the Beatles **gliding down a slope** on these contraptions back in '65.

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I just so happened to arrive during the Durango Ski Bike Festival, so I thought I would give it a shot. Consider snowbiking the Segway of skiing. You sit on an apparatus that's modeled like a bike, only it has skis instead of wheels. It's like the lazy man's version of the downhill sport, though it's a thrilling ride. From the top of the slope—about 11,000 feet high—to the base of the camp is nearly two miles, and I shredded snow like a wild, white Christmas. It's sort of like dirt biking on snow and

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Tucked into the Brown Palace hotel,...
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easier to master than snowboarding or skiing. The only caveat is that you look like a total douche. So put on those snow goggles and embrace anonymity.

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