



Kevin Giffin

Kevin Giffin, who has worked as ski patrol at Fernie Alpine Resort in British Columbia for the past 10 years, says filming for Warren Miller alongside world-class athletes was “an opportunity of a lifetime for a guy like me.”

What got you interested in ski patrolling and what drives you each day as ski patrol director at Fernie?

Like a lot of people, I started in the industry as a liftie. I loved being a liftie, but I thought ski patrolling looked like a pretty fun job, so after a few years I got the certifications. In my opinion, it's the best job at the resort. You put your ski boots on in the morning when you get to work and you're in them all day. Like any other job at the resort, you've got to go do your work, but half of ski patrolling is skiing. That's what's so awesome about it.

What's the craziest thing you've ever seen as a ski patroller?

There are endless stories, from antics that happen at work to the funniest way people have gotten hurt. Most of the crazy, crazy things that have happened at the resort are long gone. Between liability and social media, a lot of those things have gone away.

So, it's not like *Hot Dog...The Movie* anymore?

Well, we actually have a Hot Dog day at Fernie and some of the most awesome stuff that happens on the mountain happens on that day. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of snowboarders and skiers come dressed up in old-school gear. It's incredible.

Which would be worse - falling while working ski patrol or while being filmed for Warren Miller?

Definitely falling while working on ski patrol. At least if I fall during a Warren Miller shoot, maybe they'll cut it out! If I fall in uniform, especially if it's under a lift, two things will happen: 1) I'll owe people a whole bunch of beers; 2) there will be endless ridicule I'll face in the pub afterward. — ERIC SMITH



FROM TOP: Richardson and Caston on a mission to sample some of the fresh snow above the town of Lyngseidet; pro big-mountain skier Caston soars above the Lyngen Alps. “When it finally cleared, it’s so mind-blowing here,” Caston says. “It’s hard to explain. There’s really nothing like it ... just how intense the beauty is.”