

Scott Barady

Extreme Dedication

By Susan Schnier

Scott lets loose a trail of Taos' trademark martini-dry snow crystals.
Photo by Mike Holmquist



Scott Barady gave up alpine skiing after his first day on telemark skis 12 years ago. On a pair of skinny 205's in Snowbird, Utah, he spent more time rolling in the snow than skiing, but his learning curve skyrocketed when he moved to Taos in 1993. Scott took a job as a breakfast cook, started freeheeling every day, and found an outlet for his contagious high energy in competition. He entered his first telemark freeskiing competition at Arapahoe Basin in 1996, taking 29th place. But the feeling captured him, said Scott, "I saw a lot of great skiers and very cool people and knew I wanted to spend more time in that kind of thing. I competed every year after that."

Scott won the overall series in 2002, but he holds his dedication with the greatest pride. He boasts the best attendance record, having missed only two competitions in the past seven years. "I'm the old man on the tours now, but I ski a lot wiser at 33 than at 23," says Scott.

Visible not only on the competition circuit, Scott tours many of the same mountain towns, skiing and performing with the hippie-punk, bluegrass-funk band, Last to Know. With national appearances in three Tough Guy Productions movies, Scott also works locally as a freeheel ambassador at Taos, giving clinics and working to promote telemark skiing with the mountain and the media, including photo shoots for the resort's brochure. "They used to run my picture only if the snow was deep enough that they couldn't see I was telemarking, but times have changed," he says.

Though Scott pounds through the bumps of Taos and can slide rails with young jibbers, he excels at steep slopes. Scott seems to find his place on sketchy lines like Bamboo—a rock face between two chutes in the West Basin that requires an 85-foot-plus base to ski—his most hairball line to date. Though inverts are illegal at Taos, Scott can't resist throwing a back or front flip when he's out of sight. Undoubtedly Scott's enthusiasm for such adrenaline-packed skiing enabled his freeskiing competition success.

His breakfast cook days long gone, Scott now serves as chef at the five-star El Monte Sagrado, one of the first eco-resorts in the world, which features a "living machine" that turns gray water into drinking water without chemicals. But like any true skier, Scott hasn't let his professional success interfere with his turns; he still skis with his wife Andrea every morning and shows up for work at 3 P.M. every afternoon.

