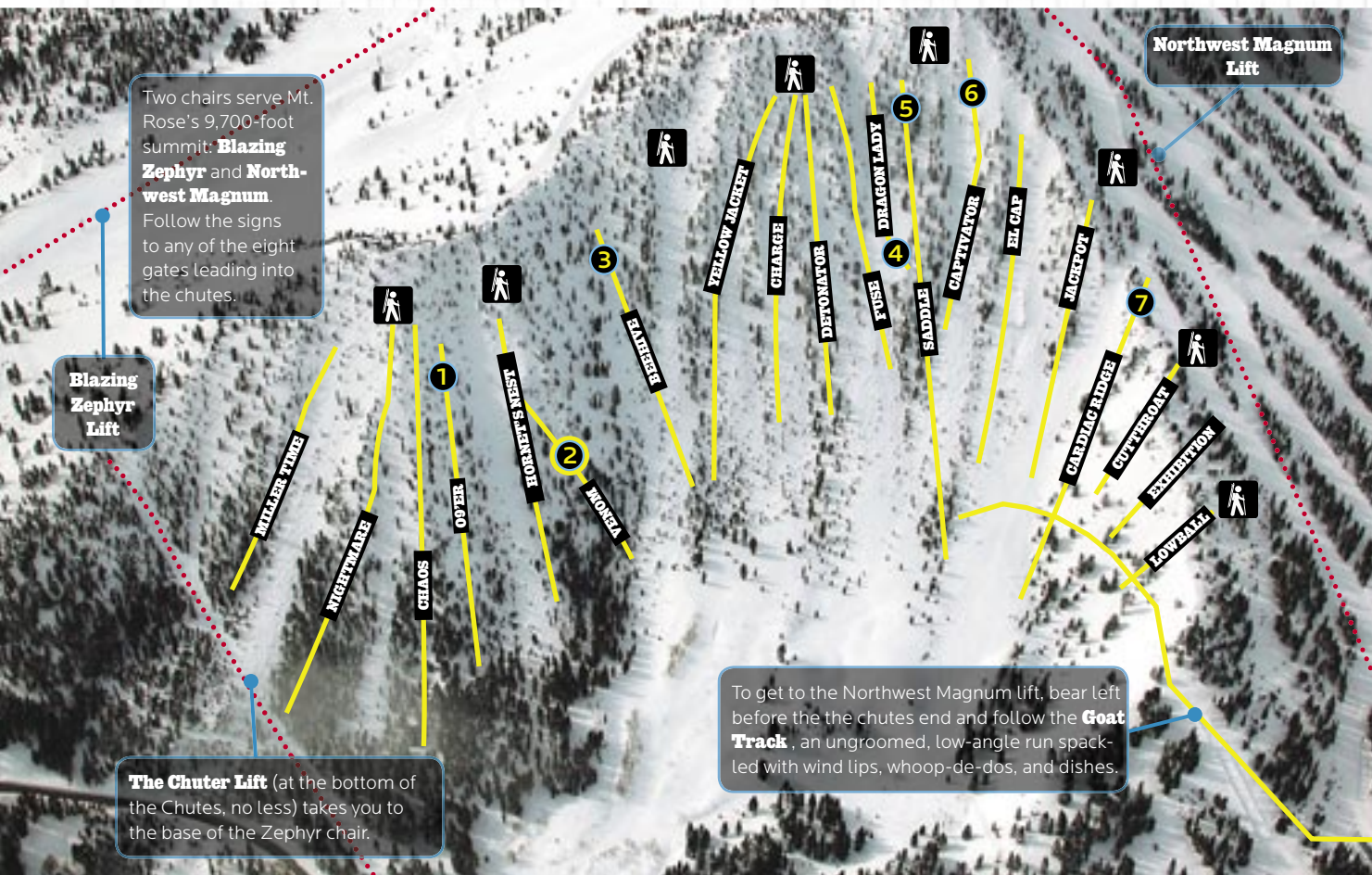


NEVADA

The Chutes at Mt. Rose

Until Tahoe's Mt. Rose formally opened its chutes last year to the renegades who've been poaching them since the '60s, the sleepy ski hill was a family favorite. Now that this collection of in-bounds, 1,500-vertical-foot, 45-degree shots is fair game and avy-controlled, you can rip them without fear of getting buried—or having your ticket yanked. —SUSAN SCHNIER



Two chairs serve Mt. Rose's 9,700-foot summit: **Blazing Zephyr** and **Northwest Magnum**. Follow the signs to any of the eight gates leading into the chutes.

Blazing Zephyr Lift

Northwest Magnum Lift

The Chuter Lift (at the bottom of the Chutes, no less) takes you to the base of the Zephyr chair.

To get to the Northwest Magnum lift, bear left before the chutes end and follow the **Goat Track**, an ungrooved, low-angle run spackled with wind tips, whoop-de-dos, and dishes.

1 O9'ER

Slip through the Nightmare gate—the lowest on the east side—and ski roughly 100 yards down the ridge. Head left toward Chaos, but don't enter the chute. Instead, continue to angle left to O9'er for tree skiing at its finest: double-wide-spaced trees that fall away at a 40-plus degree pitch.

2 VENOM

Stay skier's left through the Hornet's Nest gate till you hit cliff-strewn Venom, one of the most technical chutes. Hang

left above the cliff band—one of the few in the chutes—into the trees.

3 BEEHIVE

Mellow 30- to 35-degree slopes fall off from the Beehive gate, accessible via the Mine Train Traverse. It's one of the shortest, easiest chutes.

4 DRAGON LADY

Sandwiched between two cliff bands, Dragon Lady sucks you in and spits you out. Enter through the Yellow Jacket gate, and then turn left and head

down Fuse for about 50 yards. Look for a sign on a tree to take you to Dragon Lady, a 350-foot, 45-degree chute.

5 SADDLE

Enter through the El Cap gate and wrap to the right to the top of the Saddle, an open bowl funneling into a narrow, 40-degree chute with a pinched choke that barely allows two ski lengths.

6 CAPTIVATOR

Test your ski legs on this 45-plus-degree, 1,500-foot-long

section of the chutes. To avoid the mainstream rush, go straight through the El Cap gate (follow signs from Northwest or Zephyr) and angle right into the tight, treed ramp. That's Captivator.

7 CARDIAC RIDGE

If hucking's your thing, hit the chutes on the ridgeline under Northwest Magnum. Follow the signs through the Jackpot gate, then head skier's left and traverse a narrow path. Cardiac Ridge drops off dramatically on your right. Jump in for a sustained 45-degree pitch.

MIKE PIERCE