

### **Vertfest @Crystal Mountain, March 3rd 2007**

Rando Race Men winners:

1st Peter Svätojánsky  
2nd Andy Traslin  
3rd Scott Coldiron  
4th Mike Traslin

Freeride Blitz Men Winners:

1st Peter Svätojánsky  
2nd Andy Traslin  
3rd Mike Traslin  
4th Scott Coldiron

### **Vertfest @Hyak, March 10th 2007**

Men Winners:

1st Scott Coldiron  
2nd Kevin Curd  
6th Greg Louie

### **Vertfest @Alpental, March 18th 2007**

Race Men Winners:

1st Peter Svätojánsky  
2nd Andy Traslin  
3rd Scott Coldiron

Race Women Winners:

1st Monika Johnson  
2nd Molly Grove  
3rd Erin Spiess

Recreational Men Winners:

1st Stano Faban

Recreational Women Winners

1st Gina Völken

From randosaigai.com:

March 11, 2007:

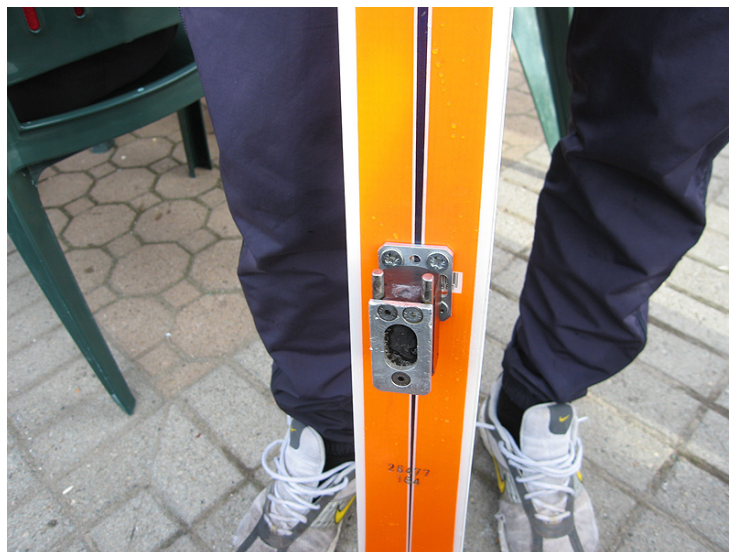
Randonnée racing is starting to look like a real sport in the Pacific Northwest, with a series of well-received "citizen" races going on this month - the first two, Vertfest at Crystal Mountain on March 3rd and Telefest at Hyak on March 10th, have already come and gone, but perhaps the most challenging of the trio is next Sunday, March 18th at Alpental. All three have received primary sponsorship from Seattle-based Outdoor Research, which has moved on from the gaiter-and-glove days and is rapidly becoming a major player in the quality outerwear market with a line of excellent hardshell, softshell and insulating garments.

Vertfest took advantage of a break in the weather to host two human-powered competitions last Saturday. The first was a "traditional" randonnée race of approximately 4,900 vertical feet, with the ascent path tracing the ridge of Silver Queen and the descents veering slightly into both Silver Basin and Powder Bowl. Jeff Huber was kind enough to supply me with both photos and commentary from the races.

Peter Svätójánsky, a veteran World Cup competitor and Slovakian National Team member who is living in Vancouver, BC for the winter, joined the cast of usual Northwest suspects (Canadian National Team members Andy and Mike Traslin, and Washington stalwart Scott Coldiron) to raise the level of the competition in both the rando race and the Freeride Blitz, stomping the field to win both events. The 2-3-4 order (Andy, Scott, Mike) for the randonnéé race changed slightly for the freeride event (Andy, Mike, Scott). Word had it that the organizers, who had designed the "freeride" event for crossover skiers with big skis and boots, were a little surprised when the "light-is-right" group charged the uphill and ripped the downhill off Silver King on their feather-light-and-skinny 160's.



*Anybody who's anybody had a booth at Vertfest, and plenty of ski and boot demos were on hand, including the real NTN telemark binding and new boots like the F3 from Scarpa*



*Peter Svätójánsky shows Jeff Huber his custom race TLT heels*



*The elite class winners, from left: Scott Coldiron (3rd), Peter Svätójánsky (1st), Andy Traslin (2nd)  
All photos from VertFest courtesy of Jeff Huber*

The OR Telefest at Hyak was a low-key affair notable for a persistent drizzle, clouds of hemp-tinged smoke, and the scent of patchouli oil (just kidding). I showed up half an hour late, hoping to catch some shots of the transitions and the finish, and saw the lead racers about halfway up chair # 1. After snapping off a few shots of the pack, I thought about taking the chair up the the top for more photos, but after a bit of indecision I decided to slap my skins on and chase the racers up the hill.

After the first lap Joe from OR came over and took my name, "officially" entering me in the race, so I figured I may as well make a second lap. I ended up passing a few people and finishing around 6th - so much for my plans to not race this year due to broken leg/lack of fitness!





*The main pack heads up chair # 1 - the leaders were already at the top of the run!*



*Francine Curd (far left) introduces the second place finisher, Kevin Curd (far right) to the PR people from the Summit*



*Race winner Scott Coldiron jokes with Joe from OR after completing a third lap "cooldown"*

March 25, 2007:

## ***Rando Race Season in the Northwest***

The OR/Life-Link Randonnée Rally at Alpental went off under a light drizzle on Sunday, March 18, and did not disappoint. Alpental is the "granddaddy" of rando races in the Pacific Northwest, having been held five times over the past six years (the 2005 edition was cancelled due to lack of snow). This year the traditional course up International was changed for better visibility and the safety of non-racers by charging straight up looker's left of the Armstrong Express lift, across the creek over a made-to-order snowbridge, and following the most direct line possible up Chair 2.





*They're off! - Frank at rear in the sea-green coat, Gina V. in bandana, and Rick the Ski Trab rep in the orange-black-white one piece rando suit Photo: Andrew Gorohoff*

A steep mandatory boot-up up the left side of the Fan and a boot up with an aluminum ladder and fixed rope through the Rollen cliff bands made the uphill portion particularly spicy this year, prompting myriad humorous comments from the competitors. I didn't do the race this year, citing the same tired excuses (broken leg, lack of fitness) I've been using for the last couple of months, but friends Frank Neumann, Monika Johnson, and Rick Knowles each gave me detailed reports of the race, and Andrew Gorohoff generously sent me some photos of the event to post.

A core group of really fast guys - Peter Svätojánský, the Traslin brothers from Vancouver, BC, and Scott Coldiron from Spokane - shot off the front immediately. Kevin and Molly Grove fought hard for position, and Monika J., (in her first competitive rando effort), made her fitness level obvious from the start. Frank commented that he probably had twenty years on the next oldest person in the race (well, ten years anyway - we all know backcountry skiers tend to look younger than their years) but had entered with the goals of having fun and not finishing last.



*The ladder was a big hit, and right under Chair 2 so everyone could watch Photo: Andrew Gorohoff*

Everyone I spoke with had good things to say about Martin Völken's "creative" course, and the "obstacles" made a big impression on the spectators as well. As with Crystal Mountain's Vertfest events, holding the race in the middle of the ski area during operating hours is a great way to show lift skiers what the sport is all about, and I hope the trend continues.

After reaching the top, the descent went down Upper International and Snakedance to the bottom, where the Rec Division race ended. The Race Division went on for another lap up to Piss Pass, with a higher return traverse than last year (skins were left on) before descending to the finish.

The finish order for the Men's Race Division was the same as the Vertfest Rando Race - Peter Svätójánsky, Andy Traslin (last year's winner at Alpentel), and Scott Coldiron. Monika Johnson went on to win the Women's Race Division, followed by Molly Grove and Erin Spiess. Stano Faban of Slovakia won Men's Rec, and Gina Völken took first in

Women's Rec. As in years past, the amount and quality of the schwag given away by Outdoor Research, Life-Link, Dynafit and others was phenomenal. Monika was especially tickled with her new set of Race Ti Dynafit bindings! Here's a link to the full [results](#).

Thanks to Andrew Gorohoff of InitialPhotography.com for the above photos - for those interested in purchasing prints of the race, here's a [link](#) to his website with the complete collection of pictures from the race, as well as a price schedule.