

Taosvision

WINTER - 2008

AN INTERNET / TV / VIDEO NEWSLETTER OF TAOS PEOPLE & ACTIVITIES

VOL. 1. NO. 2



Live Video Webcast draws thousands of viewers

TO TAOS SKI VALLEY'S SALOMON EXTREME FREERIDE
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008 - A FIRST FOR TSV

www.its-happening-in-taos.com/tsv

Glenn Pike/Taosvision Studios in conjunction with TaosNet, and in cooperation with Taos Ski Valley Events Coordinator Alejandro Blake, provided live video streaming of the highly popular extreme freeride ski competition hosted by TSV for the third year for more than five hours each day of the event's final two days.

The 2008 Championships attracted 127 skiers who registered for the first series of qualifying runs down the rugged slopes of TSV's West Basin Ridge on Thursday, March 6. Only 50% of the field advanced to Friday's runs.

The live video webcast began a little after 9am on Friday and continued

throughout the day with a mixture of skiing commentary and skier interviews until the last run around 3pm. One of the Senior Mens competitors, Jake Cohn, even stepped up to the mike with Rudy Baca and provided his take on several of the skier's performances as they attempted to make it down the rugged slopes with a winning score.

The live webcast drew almost 5000 page views the first day and ended the weekend with visitor hits nearing the 12,000 mark. It was a huge success for the participating skiers (many of the skiers watching were calling friends and family from cell phones alerting them to the live webcast), the web viewing audience, the Ski Valley, and Taos.

Continued on page 2



Alejandro Blake opens the event.



Adriana Blake during opening interview.

TSV Events Coordinator Alejandro Blake and Marketing Coordinator Adriana Blake kicked off the webcast in interviews with Taos-Sports.com announcer and host Rudy Baca.



Skier Ryan Banker navigates the rocky terrain on the slopes of the West Basin Ridge as he freerides his way to a successful run, a two day score of 31.875, and entry into the finals.

TaosNet Provides Broadband Service for Webcast

NEW MOBILE RELAY CONCEPT DEPLOYED



John Batis sits near a makeshift covered computer within a few feet of the successful mobile broadband receiving unit as he monitors the webcast and his company's internet resources from his laptop.



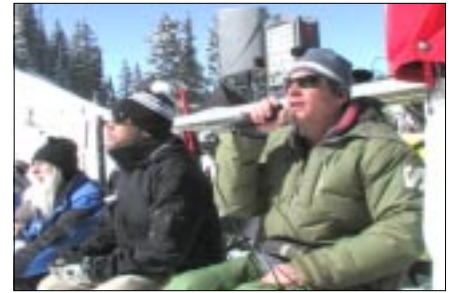
Sam Lambie, TaosNet, participates in an on-the-air interview with Rudy Baca and explains how the company was able to reach into the West Basin and Kachina Peak bowls from its originating offices in Taos.

Continued from page 1 Thousands of Viewers

TaosNet conceived and created a mobile relay concept which made it possible for the company to provide broadband internet service to ski area's remote West Basin and the Kachina Peak bowl locations enabling Glenn Pike and his webcast crew to provide the live programming.

TaosNet has served the Taos Ski Valley area with internet service for several years from signal locations set atop Highline Ridge.

However, it had not been until a service request for this potential webcast that the company began exploring the creation of a mobile concept.



Freerider Magazine's Tom Winters narrated runs for the hundreds who viewed the races from the sidelines.



Men's Masters entry, Scott Kennett, gives an interview after finishing his successful run and calls a ski run with announcer/host Rudy Baca.



The tough job of the event was shouldered by the five judges who needed to objectively rate 127 skiers' line, control, form, fluidity, and aggressiveness.

John Batis and technician Sam Lambie spent the better part of several days enduring wind and snow to arrive at a possible solution. The concept was tested one week before the event was to be webcast - on a sun bathed Lone Star spot below Kachina Peak. The test was positive. According to Glenn, it was a Champagne moment.

During the first day of broadcast, the program was momentarily interrupted four or five times due to loss of power, contact with the camera, or computer.

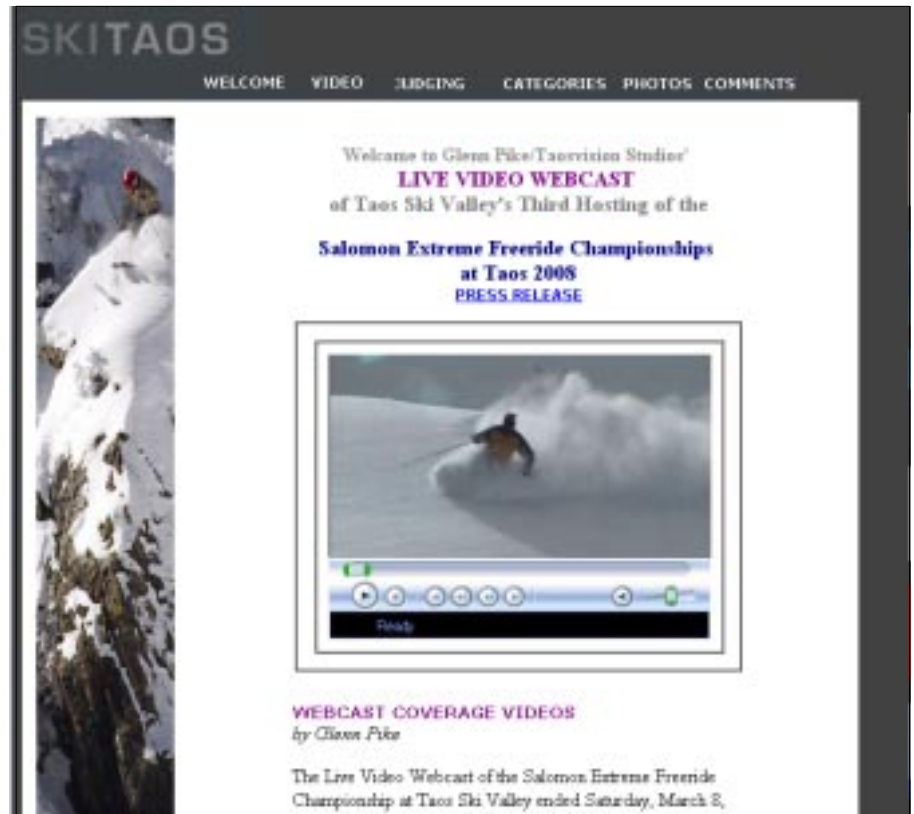
But on the final day of the Salomon Extreme Freeride Championship, filming from the base of Kachina Peak, the live video webcast ran the full five hour and ten minutes --- uninterrupted.

Web pages provided streaming player “Helps” and how to’s for PC & Macs

Mark Moos, TaosNet Customer Support, worked during the pre-testing phase to recognize any complications a visitor might encounter (whether they were using a PC or a Mac) when arriving at the Live Video Webcast page.

At one point in his testing sessions with the various video media players, Mark had three different players running a live streaming test video on his Mac laptop - all at the same time.

The solutions he arrived at from his personal experiences were added to the website on a “Help” page for all viewers, regardless of platform or available media player.



View of Live Video Webcast home page which provided visitors with overall view of the event. The page has been updated to include the final runs down Kachina Peak on Saturday of 31 skiers in place of the live video. See videos at: www.its-happening-in-taos.com/tsv.



Rudy Baca



Julia Pyatt



Sam Lambie

Taosvision Studio's Webcast Team Welcomed Good Weather

Arriving at 7:30 am to catch the first snowmobile and snowcat up to the West Basin was a “cool” first-time experience for producer Glenn Pike and announcer/host Rudy Baca who began setting up equipment as early as possible for webcasting the 2008 Salomon Extreme Freeride Championships and were thankful for clear skies.

As the skiers started their runs, Julia Pyatt began lining up skier and coach interviews while also serving as co-host with Rudy Baca.

Sam Lambie, in addition to overseeing the receiving end of the internet connection, pitched in and did double duty behind one of two cameras.



Jake Cohn, a ski competitor entry, who ended the three day event on the podium accepting the top Senior Mens standing and its prize, assisted Rudy on both days as a commentator when he was not preparing to ski.



Several of the skier's Julia arranged to be interviewed joined in to provide descriptive analysis of runs which occurred during or following their interview including Winn de Burlo (above).



On hand for an interview was freeride founder Terry Miller of Park City.



Skier works way through trees and rocks



Watching Saturdays runs from Kachina Peak.



What is happening is all up on Kachina Peak's slopes, well almost all.



Webcast personnel and participants on snow cover hill at broadcasting point overlooking Kachina Peak bowl.

Taosvision

VIDEO INTERNET TELEVISION STUDIOS



Glenn Pike / Taosvision Studios produces feature and highlight length video programming for local television, the internet, Taos businesses, government entities, area educational institutions, and individuals.

Taosvision Newsletter
210 Camino de la Merced, Taos, NM, 87571
glennpike@taosnet.com

Glen Pike/Taosvision Studios: Live webcast services of Taos events for past three years.

Local webcasts by Taosvision Studios have included Taos High School sports (boys and girls basketball from Otero Gymnasium, Taos Ice Tiger Hockey from the Youth & Family Center Ice Arena, District 2 4A Tennis Tournament from Taos Tennis at Quail Ridge Inn, the Mayoral Candidate Forums from the Civic Center and the Sagebrush Inn and the Taos Chamber of Commerce's First Friday Forum series.

During the Mayoral and Candidates Forum at the Civic Center, a two channel webcast was provided for viewers in which they could select video streaming from Camera 1, or Camera 2, or both.

Glenn has been doing live webcasts for more than 10 years. "My first webcast," he said, "was of a Convention in Phoenix when 56k was 'high speed.'" The only video program available was one in development by the University of ULM in Germany. It provided a one-inch picture which was refreshed every 3 or 4 seconds, no audio, but did include a type-chat program with which to communicate with viewers."

"Broadband has been a boon to streaming live video."