

REVIEWS HIGH VELOCITY [SKI AND BIATHLON FILM]

www.xczone.com

High Velocity is a big step forward in cutting edge presentation of XC images and educational materials. Combining loads of hot shot footage and a pumping alt.rock soundtrack, both the video and DVD are a perfect presentation or backdrop to a club potluck, overnight trip, or snow dance party. Mostly promotional in nature rather than oriented to technique, that is enough right there to separate this beast from the pack. Although both products will probably appeal more to a younger crowd, there is something for just about anyone that likes lots of images and not a lot of talk (there is very little to be had). The DVD (again, the fact these guys even produced a DVD puts them eons ahead of the rest of the XC pack) has tons of extra goodies. A great time-eater on airplanes destined to get your whole area of the plane craning their necks (we know, we tried it :-). - Cross Country Ski World and American Cross Country Skiers

"High Velocity packs an adrenaline primed movie on
biathlon and cross-country skiing,
a smart instructional video, and
the comprehensive encyclopedia Tao of Skiing, into one
eXCiting high quality product."

Finalist at the Banff Mountain Film Festival and chosen by Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival in "Best of the Fest" tour.

“Awesome x-c ski video”

- Cross Country Canada

“High Velocity opens with a Bond/Matrix-like biathlon segment with some incredible helicopter shots, providing some never before seen viewpoints on cross-country skiing. It's a very stylized production, showing off the strong artistic talents of McMahon and Meloche. From there, they switch to a very scenic "off the beaten path" skiing segment. Again, some wonderful helicopter shots during the peak of fall foliage really punctuate the coverage. A third segment features Subaru Factory Team skiers on beautiful mountain trails. Some incredible boot level and ski pole "cam" shots really make you feel like you're on the snow with them! The video wraps up with a preview to the 2002 Winter Olympics by featuring some racing from Soldier Hollow last season. Jaw dropping impressive classical skiing is the highlight to this piece -- you literally can't believe how fast some of the elite skiers are sprinting up steep hills. Sadly, as this segment winds down you realize the actual television coverage this winter won't even come close to this level of excitement. Overall, another great production from David McMahon and Lise Meloche.” - Bruce Adelsman, skinnyski.com (reviewed VHS version)

“New super charged Biathlon / X-C Ski video”

- Biathlon Canada

"Technically, it's excellent. This video offers great angles and exciting action shots. It gives you an entertaining look at the world of cross-country skiing. While skiing converts will love it, it's sure to draw others to the sport." - Lynne Bermel, Ranked 3rd overall Ironman Triathlon World Cup

“Action; special effects; artistic, great script; actors Sounds like a Hollywood film, but those are what describe xczone’s newest action-packed X-country skiing movie High Velocity. There is no other like it!"

- Sharon Donnelly, Olympian, PanAm Gold Medalist Triathlon

“Another group that has been setting new trends in the sport is the combo of David McMahon and Lise Meloche with their new video called ‘High Velocity’. This is the second video they have produced and it is definitely changing the rules as to how XC ski vids should be made. This isn’t your dinky little XC ski video that shows you what good technique should look like in a wide open field, with lots of slow motion ‘analyse this’ shots. With some good tunes and great action shots, I would compare ‘High Velocity’ to an extreme skiing video version of Cross Country skiing. Check out

www.xczone.com to get yours. Good job guys.” - Philippe Villeneuve, Canadian National Ski Team

“I got mine this week and it is amazing!!!
Everyone should buy this DVD. Well worth the money.”

- Peter Plaunt, Ottawa

WHAT IS BEING SAID IN CYBERSPACE

The lack of "playfulness" was the point of Daehlie's implied criticism of the American xc scene in the Silent Sports article I gave the link to a couple days ago. The aspect of playfulness is also one reason I think the XCZone tapes are so entertaining and sell so well. In person most xc skiers are a pretty happy lot, at least when they're on skis and on snow. But viewed as a group by the non xc world the general impression is that we are a grim, driven, somewhat masochistic bunch. We shouldn't be surprised that more people aren't drawn to the sport. - Geo.C.

OK, I'm really enjoying the "High Velocity" video of the thrill, cool moves, action side of XC ski racing. Usually, in XC there is only race video and training video. This seems to be the same situation in the sport cycling world (road). But now XC has a couple cool "action" videos. (The XC Zone people have made two so far.) Are there any "action" oriented videos for cycling?

Ya know, there was no helmet cam in "High Velocity"---that woulda been a nice touch. I think I've seen helmet cam in cycling. Is cycling conducive to action photography? --Hey, that's the director's job, not mine. I think that ANYTHING can be made to look good!! :)

I can picture a great way to present the action---and variety---of cycling. "The Wild World of Cycling." Sheesh, kind of a lame title compared to "High Velocity" but what the heck, it's a start....

Man, I just bought this video and it ROCKS! Yeee-haw! Sign me up! Dang! Ya know, I just knew this sport had some kinda neat action to it...but shucks I just hadn't seen any IMAGE of that, especially on video, in, like, decades...so...WHEW! I'm glad this new movie just came out! FINALLY! Can we say FINALLY? Man, is it RIGHT ON. Finally some of our sport hits the big screen done right. Finally! Hot dog! This movie is about an hour of fully stoked up XC action. It has it all. (Can I say FINALLY again?) It even has a super-cranking soundtrack.

What I really liked was all the downhill bombin on those long long twisty pitch-changing runs. Where do they find trails like that! I want em! Now I know why I liked skiing so much. Criminy. And here I sit making my own trails in my backyard. Or skiing hacked up, chopped up, deerhunter trails out here in nowhereville. Dang, this movie has some PROPER SKI TRAILS in it!!! Down, down, down we go! ...And it has some great skiing. Did I say I liked the downhill action? There is some very fine cornering going on here. I just love bustin some angulation to keep on course at 30mph. Don't you? Man, I do remember some downhills like these. I always say that I love climbing the most, but, man, with a PROPER downhill one can really have some fun, show off, and MAKE SOME TIME.

This video is set up pretty much like 6 or so minimovies. Very fast-paced. So we have a minimovie about biathlon. Then crazy ski blastin'. Then coverage of the Pre-Olys World Cup. Great footage of Soldier's Hollow! Some more great long series of jamming---with low ski-mounted camera, pointing front, back, every which way. Heck, there's even chopper-cam. Then there's some nice old footage. Each sequence goes along with a great hard-rockin' or surf-beat song, with full MTV video-style credits. There's quite a bit of variety in the energetic music. No talking. Lots of great looking skiers! And gals!

There's about 10% of biathlon. Most is gunless action. In the Pre-Olys footage, I thought I saw Muehlegg (bib 1?) leading and looking like the unstoppable Monster there for awhile, but then we didn't see him again...maybe he wasn't skiing with anyone shortly thereafter and that wasn't so cinematic. :) Man, the steep uphill herringbone footage from the side was really cool, with the great full-blast body postures of animals just tearing up that hill.

It's so much better than a race or technique video. Editing is everything, right? These folks are showing us the feel and impact of highspeed XC. The speed, the air, the nice dyno-skid turns, the carved parallels.

There are a couple great "bonus" tracks as well. There's about 10 minutes of great Nokie crashes! And a neat overview of the Birkie.

It really gave me the feel again for why I liked racing so much. It's "purity of essence," man, as Mandrake said. :) It's just so cool to get fully dialed in and then let it all hang out on a GREAT race course! ...And have a bunch of spectators be there to see you at your peak moments...to watch where everyone is struggling the max and making their move...or jamming the max and making their move. It made me think about the best racing I ever saw in person---the Coors Classic bike races. You have your great scenery and a bunch of real fans waiting at, say, this really steep uphill corner after the racers had already been climbing in the sun for an hour....then you see your heroes blast on by, stokin', doing their thing. It's great to watch it. AND IT'S GREAT TO DO IT! Dang, if I start now....

- Jeff Potter

Sounds like two thumbs up ! - John Wilke

"On Snow" is like a first love. "High Velocity" is very good but has Lise Meloche sharing time with other skiers. I bought the DVD version of "High Velocity" and find the Sea to Sea clip which features "On Snow" segments one of my favorites.

The "Tao of Skiing" is interesting but not a beginner CD. Tao spends more time on skating than classical and Canadian's do not V-1 and V-2. In spite of its limitations, it is a good collection for a club library. The Tao also has some interesting segments including a "Behind the scenes" making of On Snow segment.

- Edgar

If you want to see "exciting", show your friend the "High Velocity" DVD from xczone. If that doesn't stir their juices, they should take up a ball & stick sport.

- Tim

ENHANCED DVD FEATURES

"Absolutely impressed "

- Gudrun Pflueger, 4x World Champion, Mountain Running,
World Loppet Cross Country Skiing Champion

"Excellent fun."

- Chantal Cote, Olympic Speed Skater

"The xczone technique video is excellent! The computer 3D models really give another dimension to it and with split screen images, and numerous other video techniques, a full clear instruction is possible. I loved it and only wish that I had it when I was learning how to ski!" - Sharon Donnelly, Olympian, Pan Am Gold Medalist Triathlon

"Motivating and powerful. "

- Johanne Lacas, Olympic Athlete, Volleyball

"I thoroughly enjoyed it."

- Shirley Lister, National Team, White Water Kayaking

"...good all round."

- Richard Weber, Skiing Hall of Fame Honor role.

"Awesome!"

- Sharon Donnelly, Pan Am Gold Medal, Olympian, Triathlon

"... great presentation"

- Rob Marland, Olympic Gold Medalist, Rowing

"Intriguing."

- Ski Trax - North American Skiing Magazine.

"It is wonderful
great piece of work!"

- Dominique Larocque, National Champion in Mountain Biking
and In-line skating

"Super Product"

- Patrica Konantz, National Biathlon Team

"Really cool."

- Peter Sudermann, National Team, Cycling