

THE BACON

HOW DO YOU BRING HOME THE BACON IN A MOUNTAIN TOWN? EACH ISSUE, WE'LL POLL PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS TO FIND OUT. THIS SEASON, WE TALK TO THE GODS OF SUMMER—GUIDES.



ABOVE (left to right): Tim Cohn, proudly sporting his Exum swag and a grin to rival the Cheshire Cat; Scott House riding good dirt; Guy Robins having a good day.

TIM COHN JACKSON HOLE, WY EXUM MOUNTAIN GUIDES

How did you begin guiding?

My first job in the valley at Teton Mountaineering turned out to play a crucial role. I met many of my mentors and idols at TM. After years of exploring the Tetons on my own, I was offered a position as a guide with Exum Mountain Guides following a trip on Mt. Moran during Teton Gravity Research's filming of "Almost Ablaze."

What do you enjoy most about being a guide?

My favorite part of the mountain experience, professionally and recreationally, is sharing in an adventure with many different and interesting people from all around the world.

Do you have a favorite trip to guide?

Moran Camp! A four-day trip across Jackson Lake that Exum offers each March. We establish a huge, styled-out basecamp on Mt. Moran and ski some of North America's classic lines like the Skillet Glacier. This trip will always be special to me because it's how I got my start at Exum and launched my guiding career.

Most memorable 'Oh-No' moment?

After an especially tiring stretch of guiding in the Tetons, I arrived in the City of Rocks, Idaho, for some restful rock guiding. After unpacking my stuff, I discovered I failed

to bring any climbing equipment at all. No rope, harness, shoes, rack—nothing. Luckily, what could have been a total disaster turned into a great reminder of just how lucky we are to have such an incredible climbing community. I tossed on my running shoes and went looking for the climbers belonging to the various 22 license plates (22 indicating Teton County) around the City and was able to borrow gear from Jackson climbers heading back to town after their weekend trips.

What's the biggest challenge about living and working in Jackson?

Four-figure rents and \$7 green beans. We'll have more people living in the Whole Grocer parking lot than can afford to shop there soon.

SCOTT HOUSE PARK CITY, UT JANS MOUNTAIN SPORTS/WHITE PINE TOURING

How did you begin guiding?

I started as most guides do—with a passion and desire to share my love for skiing and mountain biking with others.

What is the hardest aspect of guiding?

I think the hardest part is managing different personali-

ties and expectations while making sure your clients are all getting the most out of their experience. The technical part is hard/challenging, but the real work comes with managing humans.

What makes a great trip?

Attitude and not much else in my book. Of course, from the guide's perspective it should be well-planned and executed based on that plan. Great views, good snow or dirt, clear weather, and fun-loving people are always nice to have!

What's the biggest challenge about living and working in Park City?

Finding the balance between work and play.

Any advice for future guides?

Find a mentor (or a bunch of mentors). Also, don't get discouraged when you are low man on the totem pole. Guiding is a privilege in my book, and I feel honored to be a guide. It took a lot of busy work, tail guiding, and volunteer time to get to where I am, but it was all worth it.

GUY ROBINS KETCHUM, ID LOST RIVER OUTFITTERS

What kind of guiding do you do?

Fly fishing, rock climbing, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, rafting, and in the winter, snowboarding too. I guide for Lost River Outfitters, Mackay Wilderness River Trips, and Sawtooth Mountain Guides.

How did you begin guiding?

Growing up, I went to an outdoor school with a focus on leadership. So, my background in guiding started with primary school in Scotland as well as my father's adventure school. I then began traveling the world to guide.

What do you enjoy most about guiding?

Being in the wilderness and meeting interesting people during these adventures. Guiding is a lifestyle choice. Guides are not in it for the money but for the way of life. The opportunity to help people discover a passion they did not even know they had is rewarding in itself.

What makes a good client?

I think the best client is ready to come out and go with the flow and simply enjoy the experience—even if the conditions are not perfect. It's best to roll with punches and put aside previous expectations.

Do you have a favorite trip?

Definitely fly fishing the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. It is a six-day raft-guided fly fishing trip.

Do you have a memorable 'Oh-No' moment?

I am sure I have; I have guided all over the world. Guiding in the Himalayas, I often found some less than perfect situations with big water in remote locations, but I have never had a serious accident. Client safety always comes first.

Do you have any advice for other or future guides?

Enjoy it. Make sure clients have a memorable trip, and keep your ego out of it—safety first! Keep in mind that their adventure of a lifetime is your daily life!

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