Colorado Skier Breaks World Record - Chris Davenport Climbs & Skis CO's 54 14k-Foot Peaks Within One

Contributed by The Editors
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ASPEN, COLORADO (January 22, 2007) Professional freeskier Chris Davenport accomplished the seemingly impossible on Friday, shattering one of Colorado's (and the world's) longest standing records by becoming the first skier ever to climb and then ski from the exact summit (except Wetterhorn Peak which is a rock spire) of Colorado's 54, rugged 14,000 foot peaks – in less than one year. Only one other ski-mountaineer has laid tracks from each of these 54 peaks, the legendary Lou Dawson, who took twelve years to complete the task.

"I am relieved and overwhelmed to have worked so hard on this goal over the last year and to have actually pulled it off. Mother Nature deserves the most thanks, as these peaks would never be skiable without the ample snow and good weather that we had," said Davenport after completing the arduous task. "And Lou Dawson, the first person to climb and ski all of the fourteeners, was a huge inspiration for me on this project."

Aspen/Snowmass-based Davenport kicked off what he dubbed the "Ski the 14ers" project on January 22, 2006 when he summited Mount Lincoln at 12:15pm in temperatures reaching -20 degrees Fahrenheit factoring in the wind chill. Nearly one year and 53 additional peaks later, Davenport fulfilled his dream and set a new world record by summiting Longs Peak on January 19, 2007.

"Longs Peak is a big, tough mountain known for its ferocious winds. I tried to ski it on the 17th and was almost blown off the mountain by 80 mile an hour winds. I was persistent and came back 48 hours later to try it again, and this time Longs gave herself over to me and my team, and for that I'm grateful," said Davenport after completing the final peak. "When I began this project the end seemed very distant and maybe impossible. I have learned so much about the mountains and myself along the way, and am more inspired by the mountains than I have ever been."

Davenport's work in ski films and his success in big mountain contests rank him among the best alpine athletes on skis today. He has also made a career out of leading first descents in mountain ranges around the world. The uniquely-qualified explorer drew upon his backcountry savvy to assess avalanche danger and impending weather conditions before making any of the ascents. Descending just one of these mountains presented incredible risk: a single misstep or miscalculation about the snowpack could lead to injury or death. But like so many, he couldn't resist the allure of these wild peaks. As a husband and father of two, Davenport didn't take these dangers lightly.

The "Ski The 14ers" project has been documented in several interesting ways. On www.skithe14ers.com, viewers can find photos, maps, routes, and updates from each ski
descent during the project. Skithe14ers.com will remain a resource for anyone who wants information on skiing 14ers. It even has a first-of-its-kind ski descent registry, where skiers can log their ski descents for others to see and refer to. In addition, Davenport will be authoring a "coffee table" style book on the project with contributions from various professional photographers who've accompanied him on the mountains. To date, nobody has documented these peaks from a skier's perspective. Davenport hopes to inspire others with the imagery and writing in the book. The third creative element of this project is a 16mm documentary film directed and produced by award-winning cinematographer Ben Galland. The film is scheduled to be released later this year.

Colorado's 14ers are some of the highest, most remote corners of the Lower 48. Hiking these peaks in summer has become a national passion as hundreds of thousands of outdoor enthusiasts flock to Colorado searching for what can only be found way above tree line. By skiing these peaks in a single year, Davenport has heightened awareness about these natural treasures. Each 14er is a high-alpine refuge, and Davenport hopes that his journey into these backcountry ski sanctuaries will inspire a new generation of snow-sport mountaineers.

For the “Ski The 14ers” project, Davenport was supported by and used Red Bull Energy Drink, Salomon skis, boots and apparel, Smith Eyewear, Black Diamond gloves, poles, shovels and avalung backpacks, Clif Bar energy bars, Smith helmets and eyewear, Suunto watches, and Backcountry Access tracker DTS avalanche transceivers.

Davenport’s 14ers Schedule

Date	Mountain	Elevation
January 22, 2006	Mount Lincoln	14,286’
January 24, 2006	Quandry Peak	14,265’
February 4, 2006	Mount Massive	14,421’
February 10, 2006	Grays Peak	14,270’
February 11, 2006	Maroon Peak	14,156’
February 27, 2006	Torreys Peak	14,267’
February 28, 2006	Mount Elbert	14,433’
March 2, 2006	Huron Peak	14,003’
March 5, 2006	Mount Sneffels	14,150’
March 14, 2006	Mount Sherman	14,036’
March 23, 2006	Mount Belford	14,197’
March 23, 2006	Mount Oxford	14,153’
March 24, 2006	Missouri Mountain	14,067’
March 25, 2006	Mount Yale	14,196’
March 28, 2006	Mount Democrat	14,148’
April 2, 2006	Snowmass Mountain	14,092’
April 4, 2006	Redcloud Peak	14,034’
April 4, 2006	Sunshine Peak	14,001’
April 7, 2006	Culebra Peak	14,047’
April 8, 2006	Mount Lindsay	14,042’
April 10, 2006	Crestone Peak	14,294’
April 13, 2006	Pyramid Peak	14,018’
April 17, 2006	Castle Peak	14,265’
April 19, 2006	North Maroon Peak	14,014’
April 20, 2006	Capitol Peak	14,130’
April 22, 2006	La Plata Peak	14,336’
April 23, 2006	Mount Antero	14,269’

April 24, 2006	Tabequache Peak	14,155’
April 26, 2006	Handies Peak	14,048’
April 27, 2006	Uncompahgre Peak	14,309’
April 27, 2006	Wetterhorn Peak	14,015’
April 29, 2006	San Luis Peak	14,014’
May 1, 2006	Ellingwood Point	14,042’
May 4, 2006	Mount Wilson	14,246’
May 4, 2006	El Diente	14,159’
May 4, 2006	Wilson Peak	14,017’
May 8, 2006	Mount Eolus	14,083’
May 8, 2006	Windom Peak	14,082’
May 8, 2006	Sunlight Peak	14,059’
May 12, 2006	Mount Harvard	14,420’
May 14, 2006	Mount Bierstadt	14,060’
May 15, 2006	Pikes Peak	14,110’
May 17, 2006	Mount Columbia	14,073’
May 26, 2006	Mount Evans	14,264’
May 31, 2006	Mt. of the Holy Cross	14,005’
November 11, 2007	Mount Bross	14,172’
December 13, 2007	Kit Carson Peak	14,165’
December 22, 2007	Mount Princeton	14,197’
December 23, 2007	Humboldt Peak	14,064’
January 10, 2007	Little Bear Peak	14,037’
January 11, 2007	Crestone Needle	14,197’
January 14, 2007	Mount Shavano	14,229’
January 15, 2007	Blanca Peak	14,345’
January 19, 2007	Longs Peak	14,255’