



LIFTLINE

FOR OUR INAUGURAL LIFTLINE ONBOARD CAUGHT A RIDE UP THE HILL WITH NONE OTHER THAN SHAWN FARMER AT THIS YEAR'S LONGBOARD CLASSICS AND HAD A QUICK CHAT ABOUT CHANGE.

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PHOTO : MIRIAM WEIHERER

Seeing all the old school stuff around at the Longboard Classics, what has changed in snowboarding?
Shawn Farmer: Oh my god, you got to be kidding me...

Okay let's make it easier, what's the biggest change in snowboarding?
SF: Hmm.... [Thinking hard]

Looking back at everything and looking at how it is now...
SF: [Still thinking hard]... Man! That's such a hard question... Give me a minute... I don't know, it's just really blown up and sort of out of control. It's hard to say. I never thought it would become what it is now, it's wild to see how much energy is put in. I'm really blown away by all of this, it freaks me out but it's still fun.

What did you think it would be like?
SF: I don't know, I never thought it would be in the Olympics. Or that they would build snowparks like they do, they put so much time and energy in that. But I guess that's just natural progression. I don't know what the skiers were thinking all those years, they never had any of that stuff. I kind of liked it when it was just the mountain, but I'm also glad that they have parks and pipes and shit because it keeps all the dorks off the stuff I like to ride, which is the natural terrain.

Have you changed your approach to riding?
SF: I don't think so. I did a few gate race contests in the old days and went to pipe tournaments, but really all I ever did when I went to events was ride the backcountry and the steep lines until I had to do my run. I just loved to snowboard, I never really cared about the events. I hate waiting for my turn at events, which is really cool with the Longboard Classics because you don't really have to wait long. Everybody is hanging out on top of the mountain and it's not like you're standing there by yourself waiting all day. And the weather is really nice too so I'm really enjoying that.

Has your snowboarding changed after being a pro?
SF: My style hasn't changed too much. I used to try to do more tricks and jump off big stuff, even with a flat landing. Now I only hit a jump if it's perfect, I'm just not in for gnarly stuff; stuff hurts me for days now. I just enjoy myself more and I don't feel so much pressure to perform. When you're a professional, even though we didn't have any structure at all when I was doing it, you still had pressure to perform. Today I do whatever I want, I show off if I feel like it but just because someone has a camera doesn't mean I'm gonna break my neck. That's the difference. And back in the days when me and my crew did it, big mountain riding was coming on strong, right on the forefront of snowboarding. When the sport got more structured, had more events, more halfpipes and all that it fell back and faded. Today it's like nothing but that's fine with me...

You think so? I think big mountain riding is still pretty big.
SF: It might be big in Europe but it's not in the States so much. It's usually some jibber dude who went out for a day and got a good picture on a big mountain line. But the real big mountain riders don't get that much exposure I think.

What about Jeremy Jones and Xavier De Le Rue, guys like that?
SF: Those guys are both super good riders. I don't really know that much about Xavier but I know he's an awesome rider and I think it's good to see that he's out there killing it. But compared to how many freestylers there are it's still just a handful of people on the big mountain shit. But the Freeride World Tour and stuff like that is helping. It's a different world over here in Europe, there's so much stuff going on that we in the US don't even know about.
Yeah! Looking good man [to a dude in authentic 70s white and red ski outfit with race stripes], you're looking good! Can I take a picture with you? Oh awesome. Can you take the picture. That's a nice outfit. Perfectly matching my shades.

Sure...

