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The worse the weather, the better the deal

A mountain retreat on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula incentivizes winter visits

YOU MIGHT BE SHIVERING BUT your wallet will thank you. This winter, a canny hotel proprietor has announced a plan where cabins cost the same as the outdoor Fahrenheit temperature. Rob Snyder, owner of The Lost Resort, started this rate roulette to attract business during the area's mild but misty winters, when the mercury averages 45 degrees.

Snyder washed up on the Olympic Peninsula in the '70s. He

lingered, logging, fishing and eventually building 30 tent sites, three cabins and a general store. His cabins sit in the Hoh Rain Forest within the Olympic National Park, the largest swath of protected temperate rainforest in the American northwest. "People ask whether I'll pay them if it's below zero," he says, chuckling. "No way! I'll be in Arizona getting some sun." —AMANDA CASTLEMAN
lostresort.net



No steering leads to racing mayhem

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ACCIDENTS ARE FUN IN THESE OUTHOUSES

A unique race in North Carolina brings new meaning to toilet humor

"Now we're ready to potty!" yells the MC to the crowd. No, that's not a mispronunciation. He's announcing the start of the Great Outhouse Races, held each February at the Sapphire Valley ski resort outside Asheville, North Carolina.

Custom-built, creatively themed latrines, such as the Party Pooper and Taking Care of Business, carry brave "pilots" as they race down a gentle slope,

often wiping out. Outhouses must be at least five feet tall, on two skis and equipped with a toilet seat and TP. Otherwise, anything goes.

"We have rules we take very seriously," says participant Gary Van Florcke. "[Pilots] must maintain proper toilet etiquette at all times, which can be very difficult when you're flying down the mountain, screaming for your life."
skisapphirevalley.com