

JOHN "JG" GERNDT
Early competitive snowboarder, Burton product development guru

"He was fast and fluid. You see someone doing something so smooth—you know it takes a lot of energy to do it, but it doesn't look like they are exerting much energy, and that was Craig.

"I think Craig would be proud of the prototype facility we have in Vermont that is named after him—it shows dedication to R&D for the future of the sport and products. And that was what he was about, making things better for himself and everyone else. I think he would be in there making boards himself.

"A lot of kids these days don't know who he was or what he did, or what he accomplished. Obviously he was a rider, but he was also an innovator, an explorer, a mountaineer... I think he was the most influential snowboarder that ever was, and probably ever will be."

MARK LANDVIK
Northwest style revival spokesman, backcountry bandit

"I think Craig even had style before snowboarding had style. And that was almost his gift to snowboarding—especially in that time period when it was coming out of nowhere. Still to this day, I think his style stands true to everything that snowboarding is.

"I grew up in Alaska, but I moved down to Bellingham to be close to Mt. Baker. It had this mysterious vibe about it and Craig had spent tons of time there. And it's a trip now, riding all that same stuff, and coming up to Baldface, where Craig and Jeff started one of the coolest things in snowboarding now, in my opinion. I appreciate how he stepped away from things, removed himself and kind of found his home.

"I would tell kids these days to get out of the park and explore the mountains. That's what was so special about Craig's riding; he would go out and make the mountain whatever it was. Whether it be slashing gates, hitting cliffs, or doing pow turns, he would make it his own. I would say bring it back to the roots, slow it down, stop spinning so much, and kick out a method for Craig every once in a while."

JEFF PENSIERO
Baldface co-founder, Tao of pow disciple

"It was 1999 the first time I rode in a helicopter with Craig, we flew directly to the gnarliest, most exposed line in our whole area. And as we flew up it, I remember thinking to myself, 'Whoa dude you are so in way over your head right now.' So I'm looking over this cornice, and all I can see is the helicopter at the bottom, and this huge bulge of ice in the chute—there was nothing else, no wimpy line around it. And as my stomach was coming up in my throat, Craig looked at me and said 'Well, you're the one that wants to get a tenure in this place, I guess you're going to drop in first, yeah?' And I was like, 'Really?' I remember making one big toeside turn for life and just pointing it, and the next thing I remember is my jacket flapping in the wind and I was at the bottom, right to the heli. And I looked up and saw my line. It was super rad, and I got to watch Craig and Tex [Davenport] absolutely destroy that chute.

"When we were building Supernatural, he was at the forefront of my mind, I was wondering, 'What would Craig think about this?' And I kept coming back to the thought that he would love the Supernatural, for sure. I mean, that's the contest that he would have created. And I almost feel like an ambassador for him working on that with Travis.

"I've snowboarded with thousands of snowboarders since Craig, and I've never seen anyone ride like him. It wasn't really about the trick, or the slash or the line; to him it was about respecting the mountain. He wasn't really trying to accomplish anything. He was just expressing himself on the mountain. It would be cool if kids saw that for what it is, because that's the real progression, the one-ness—that's what is beautiful about that."

Top to bottom: John "Buff" Buffery, Dave Downing, Jeff Pensiero, Terje Haakonsen, John "JG" Gernt, Travis Rice, and Mark Landvik.

PHOTOS: CHRIS WELLHAUSEN



Mark Landvik paying homage to Craig by making the most of the mountain. PHOTO: CHRIS WELLHAUSEN