

John McCullough

Always seated in the back of the class, you would never guess [John McCullough](#), a journalism student, was an avid “dabbler” by just looking at him. From surfing to scuba diving, John has done just about everything. “A little bit of this, a little bit of that,” says John of his hobby hopping habits. He feels journalists need to know a little about everything and this is a good way to start. He never realized his philosophy would teach him a very valuable lesson.

John’s latest obsession is the exhilarating sport of snowboarding. He has been boarding for a few years, but not very seriously. He only hit the slopes about once every snow season. It was his roommate that prompted his sudden attention to the sport. John had made several trips up to Tahoe to snowboard at the many resorts it had to offer, but one trip sticks out in his mind for very good reasons.

John, his roommate, and a few other friends rented a cabin in Tahoe for a week during [Thanksgiving](#) break. They spent most of the week snowboarding at a nearby lodge. They spent the days out on the slopes, ate lunch, and rested in the lodge while their boards sat on a rack outside. “We didn’t think much of it,” says John. “Everyone put their boards on those racks.” And for a good reason, it was a convenient and easy place to put your board when you rested from being out on the sunny slopes for hours. John and his friends never had a problem when they left their boards outside on the racks. They were always waiting there for them when they got back.

They thought the same way when it came to the cabin they had rented. When they got home in the evening they would leave their boards on the front porch, again, not thinking much of it. Unfortunately, however, someone else saw this as a great business venture. When they woke up one morning their boards were gone. They searched all around the cabin hoping someone was just messing with them and hid the boards somewhere. They never found their boards, but luckily they were able to barrow a few for the rest of the week. John and his friends left Tahoe at the end of the week with no hope of ever seeing their boards again and not looking forward to the tedious task of finding a new board that fit them and their style when they got home.

A few weeks later they were back at the same resort, but with new boards. After a few times down the mountain everything seemed to be going great, until they saw a very familiar board fly by them. John’s roommate had a very distinctive board with miss-matched boot bindings, there was not another like it. When they got to the bottom they confronted the guy with his roommate’s board. He said he had bought it off a kid in front of a local grocery store. Obviously they could not ask for it back unless they were willing to pay for it again. Their experience on the slopes taught them a very valuable lesson. As much as we’d like to trust our fellow man, when it comes to very expensive snowboards it is better to keep them under lock and key.