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**SUPER STOKED: Thousands gathered in Union Square to watch New York City's first major pro snowboarding rail jam competition.**

**Mouse over the images for photo caption information.**

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A series of ramps, rails, and six inches (15 centimeters) of perfectly packed man-made powder transformed New York City's flat and snowless Union Square into a snowboard park on Thursday, February 8.

Add two dozen professional snowboarders into the mix—grinding on rails over 16 stairs, landing grabs off a funbox, and launching spins off a rail attached to a Jeep Wrangler—and you get the **Union Square Street Sessions**, the first professional snowboarding event in Manhattan.

"Snowboarding in downtown New York City is awesome," pro-boarder Chris Rotax said. "You see the skyscrapers instead of mountains, then you just hop on the subway instead of the chairlift."

**Eddie Wall** asserted himself early on, drawing comments from the announcers that he seemed to be taking two runs to everyone else's one. **His efforts paid off; at the end of the night Wall took home a \$15,000 check for first place.**

About 40,000 New Yorkers enthusiastically embraced this raucous slice of snowboarding culture, prompting **Mayor Mike Bloomberg** to declare Thursday, February 8, 2007 "**Union Square Street Sessions Day.**"

Apparently he, too, was stoked on the event.

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