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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WHITEFISH WINTER CARNIVAL SKI JORING PLANNED JANUARY 30 – 31, 2010

Whitefish, Mont. – Ski Joring is a sport that combines an interesting mix of two of Montana's favorites: horses and skiing. The public is invited to check out the continued revival of ski joring at the Whitefish Winter Carnival. Now in its 7th year, the weekend of January 30-31, 2010 will feature another exciting combination of horses, riders, and skiers mixed with speed, jumps, and of course, snow.

The event takes place at the Whitefish Airport from 12-4 p.m. on both days. Several local restaurants will offer a wide variety of food and beverage selections throughout the event. There is a \$5 parking fee (with a portion donated to the non-profit Human Therapy on Horseback) and entry to the event is FREE!

The Whitefish version of ski joring involves a horse and rider pulling a skier around a horseshoe shaped 800 foot long course at high speeds over jumps and around gates. The sport of skijoring began several hundred years ago in Scandinavian countries as a way to travel during the long winters. Ski joring found its way to North America, where ranchers attached a long rope to the saddle horn of a horse that was ridden at high speeds down a long straight-away. Currently, the sport of equestrian ski joring has become a highly specialized competitive sport, where competitors must navigate a course of jumps and gates.

This year's competition will have three divisions: Open division for the most experienced competitors; a Sport division for those who are less experienced, and a Novice Division which is for those new to the sport. There will be prizes for each division and approximately \$10,000 in cash for winners based on the event's entry fee purse. Registration will be January 29th, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at the Great Northern Brewing Company in Whitefish.

The Whitefish Winter Carnival Ski Joring Association encourages anyone who has a horse or skis, and interest in the sport to come try it out during upcoming free practice sessions planned at 1:00p.m. on January 17th and 24th, 2010. No experience is necessary and anyone interested can call Ski Joring organizer Scott Ping at 406-261-7464 or e-mail info@whitefishskijoring.com for more information and directions to the practice sessions.

After Saturday's competition, participants and spectators are invited to the Great Northern Bar in Whitefish to see the results of the day's event on video and have the chance to bet in the Calcutta, with payout based on the outcome of Sunday's competition.

At the close of Sunday's events, this year's champions will be announced, prizes and Calcutta money will be awarded at the Craggy Range Bar and Grill. For more information and video, visit www.whitefishskijoring.com.