



Schedule of Events

Friday - Feb 7th

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Competitor sign up

Back Room of the Hotel Wolf or
pre-register at saratogaskijoring.com

- **Registration Fees by Class**
- **Race Fees Due at Sign In**
- **Open 3-D - \$25 per participant (\$50/Team)**
- **Amateur/Novice - \$20 per participant (\$40/Team)**
- Youth - Under 18 FREE**

6:00 PM till close - Welcome Party

Back Room of Wolf

7:30 PM Calcutta

Back Room of Wolf

Saturday - Feb 8th

8:35 AM Race Volunteer Safety and Rule Meeting

Buck Springs Race Track
(meet at the timing booth)

8:45 AM Competitor Meeting

Buck Springs Race Track
(meet near starting gate)

9:00 AM Competitor Course Inspection

9:30 AM Races Begin

Buck Springs Race Track
(Novice Division will run first)

6:30 PM Concert and Party

Platte Valley Community Center

7:30 PM Calcutta

8:30 PM Chancey Williams & the Younger Brother's Band

Sunday - Feb 9th

9:15 AM Race Volunteer Safety Meeting

Buck Springs Race Track
(meet at the timing booth)

9:30 AM Competitor Meeting

Buck Springs Race Track
(meet at starting gate)

9:45 AM Competitor Course Inspection

10:00 AM Races Begin

Buck Springs Race Track
(Novice Division will run first)

Awards party following the Conclusion of the Races on Sunday Afternoon

Hotel Wolf Back Room

Course Design

In designing our course our main focus is to provide a safe venue for horses, riders, skiers and spectators. We will have a straight track approximately 700' in length. Our track designers work with what mother nature gives us, and typically includes 3 jumps, Leadville style rings, and multiple ski gates. The skier is offset to the right of the horse and rider. Horses run on a prepared dirt track. Horse track safety is our top priority and our organizations have been preparing dirt horse race surfaces for over 38 years.

Horse Boarding

Thanks to our local supporters and ranchers we have onsite horse boarding at the race venue. All boarding facilities have water available, please bring your own feed. Boarding is at no extra cost for participants and reservations are made when registering for the event.

Winner Payout

With the support of the Carbon County Visitors Council and local sponsors we have raised \$6,000 to be used as money added participant prizes. Winnings will be split between rider and skier!

Open 1-D with \$2,750 Total Money Added

1st Place: \$1,375 plus 25% of Open Class Entry Fees
2nd Place: \$550 plus 10% of Open Class Entry Fees
3rd Place: \$412 plus 7.5% of Open Class Entry Fees
4th Place: \$275 plus 5% of Open Class Entry Fees
5th Place: \$137 plus 2.5% of Open Class Entry Fees

Open 2-D with \$2,250 Total Money Added

1st Place: \$1,12 plus 17.5% of Open Class Entry Fees
2nd Place: \$450 plus 7% of Open Class Entry Fees
3rd Place: \$337 plus 5.25% of Open Class Entry Fees
4th Place: \$225 plus 3.5% of Open Class Entry Fees
5th Place: \$112 plus 1.75% of Open Class Entry Fees

Open 3-D with \$500 Total Money Added

1st Place: \$250 plus 7.5% of Open Class Entry Fees
2nd Place: \$100 plus 3% of Open Class Entry Fees
3rd Place: \$75 plus 2.25% of Open Class Entry Fees
4th Place: \$50 plus 1.5% of Open Class Entry Fees
5th Place: \$25 plus 0.75% of Open Class Entry Fees

Amateur/Novice Class with \$500

Total Money Added
1st Place: \$250
2nd Place: \$125
3rd Place: \$100
4th Place: \$75
5th Place: \$50

PARTICIPATION WILL BE HONORED ON A PRIORITY BASIS - REGISTER FIRST, RESERVE FIRST. ENTRY FEES WILL BE DUE AT SIGN-IN ON FRIDAY.

General Race Description Division and Competition Criteria

NEW FOR 2020 - A team consists of a horse, rider and skier and will get 1 run each day. i.e. a skier can not ski behind the same horse more than one time per day, a horse may only run 2 times per day and a skier can only run a maximum of 4 times per day

Skier - Open & Sort Rules and Recommendations

A skier can choose their division of competition.

A skier may compete in only one Division, unless assisting with the youth division. A skier may compete up to four times in a day.

All skiers must wear approved snow sport helmets.

Any Skiers under 18, must have parent/guardian sign parental consent forms.

Proof of insurance for minors is mandatory. Protective Eyewear and helmet must be worn during competition.

It is strongly suggested that bindings be tested by a professional prior to skiing.

Rider - Open 3-D Rules and Recommendations

A rider may compete in more than one division, but must compete on a different horse in each Division entered.

i.e. if a rider has 2 horses they may be entered in the same or different divisions, a horse may not cross divisions.

All riders must be on time for their runs.

Any rider that cannot be ready on time due to running to many horses or horse difficulty will be moved to the back of the order. Second failure to be ready on time will result in a DQ for that run.

Riders have four minutes to begin their run, time starts when the race is called by the Starting Gate Judge. If the rider has not started their run (forward progression towing the skier to the start line) by the four minute mark then the team will be moved to the back of the order.

Second failure to be ready on time will result in a DQ for that run.

Recommendations: Helmets and protective vests are recommended for all riders.

Any Riders under 18, must have parent/guardian sign parental consent forms. Proof of insurance for minors is mandatory.

Helmet and protective vests must be worn during competition.

For complete rules, see www.SaratogaSkijoring.com

\$6,000 added in prize money!

- **General admission is \$5 per person**
- **Kids 12 and under are FREE**
- **Concessions and beverages are available on sight for all to enjoy**



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Taking it to another level

Saratoga Skijoring enters 4th year



Saratoga Sun file photo

A skier and rider take to the course during last year's Saratoga Skijoring race. This weekend marks the fourth year for the races.

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By Joshua Wood

As Saratoga Skijoring prepares to enter its fourth year, it is already proving to be the place to be for competition. In those four years, the event competition has come a long way. In 2016, the Platte Valley Jaycees approached the Saratoga Lions Club about putting on a skijoring race. The Lions Club, looking for something to replace the cancelled chariot races, were more than willing to help.

"Initially, it was the Jaycees that had the idea and they said 'We have no idea how to put this stuff on. Would you guys partner with us?' We said, 'Absolutely, let's do it over the chariot race weekend.' We had, within the Lions Club, the history of knowing how to put on a big event; registration, calcutas, organization, that sort of thing," said Will Faust.

Faust, who is a member of the Lions Club, now also serves on the Saratoga Skijoring organization committee and handles the race logistics.

"In a matter of about four to five weeks, we threw together a skijoring event. Nobody in Saratoga had really ever seen it, outside of a few folks that had maybe been to Leadville (Colorado) or a couple of the other races. Now I think we're starting to get a more established event," Faust said.

Since then, both the committee and the races have evolved into an established event that draws people into the Valley

during the slow winter months. In the first year, according to Faust, nearly 75 percent of registrations were in the week leading up to the event. Over the past few years, that number slowly went down. This year, however, Saratoga Skijoring had to shut down registration 16 days before the event.

"We've got 100 races each day, plus the junior division. We are trying to be very mindful and respectful of our volunteers and our snow situation and not commit to doing too much," said Faust.

In addition to shutting down registration a little more than two weeks before the event, Faust stated that every hotel in the Valley is booked for the weekend with some of them having been booked months in advance.

"It's doing what we had envisioned, which is filling up town on what would normally not be a busy weekend. That's always been the goal. Push people into the stores, into the shops, into the restaurants, into the bars, into the accommodations," Faust said. "In a pretty lean time in February, try to give everybody a little shot in the arm."

Despite only having a few years under their belt, Saratoga Skijoring has already made a name for itself as being a premier race and joining the ranks of races in Colorado, including Leadville which is celebrating 72 years in 2020.

"Our is every bit as well

attended as all of those," said Faust.

This year, one of the factors that seems to be playing into such an increased attendance is the cancellation of a skijoring event in Helena, Montana. Normally scheduled the same weekend as Saratoga Skijoring, the lack of snow in the neighboring state kept the event from taking place.

"We've had a flood of calls from Montana. Folks that are coming down. We've got folks from the New Mexico border to Kalispell, Montana coming to skijor in Saratoga," Faust said.

Another likely draw is the return of Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band. Featuring Saratoga's own Wyatt Springsteen, the Younger Brothers Band will be playing for the second consecutive year in a row. Their return marks the third year they've played for the skijoring event.

"It takes our weekend to another level and we know they bring a crowd," said Faust. "So, our thought has always been, even if we can break even on the concert, that crowd is still buying a \$5 ticket out at the track. They're still having dinner, spending money, that sort of stuff. It makes it an even bigger event."

With 200 races lined up for the weekend, 22 teams on the waiting list and the return of Chancey Williams it would appear that Saratoga Skijoring has certainly established itself as an event to attend.

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Working Class Waugh

Local artist to show art highlighting the modern west



Photo by Joshua Wood

Jamie Waugh works on one of her pieces ahead of her Friday art show

By Joshua Wood

On Friday evening, people from across the west will be pouring into Saratoga as they head to the Wolf Hotel to register for Saratoga Skijoring. The two-day event is arguably a new past-time for members of the modern working class of the west and, just down the street from the historical building, a local artist will be highlighting those individuals.

Local artist Jamie Waugh, who also does business as Bandita Bones, will be holding an art show in the former home of Fishpaw at 120 E Bridge Avenue. The show, titled "Working Class Heroes: Portraits of the Modern West" will feature paintings from Waugh as inspired from growing up in the Valley.

While classic western art highlights one working class hero, the American Cowboy,

Waugh's art broadens its focus to the men and women who continue to work in the West. Waugh said that she is hoping that the timing of the art show will not only be to her benefit, but will show those familiar with her jewelry work that she is adept in other arts as well.

A modern take on the modern west isn't the only thing that will be featured at the one-night event. Along with the art, food prepared by Edge Powell of the Wolf Hotel will be provided along with beer, wine and cocktails.

Waugh's show will begin at 2 p.m. and will go until 9 p.m., allowing ample time for those registering for Saratoga Skijoring and taking part in the calcutta to attend the show. The art will be available for purchase and along with cash and check, Waugh will be able to take cards as well.

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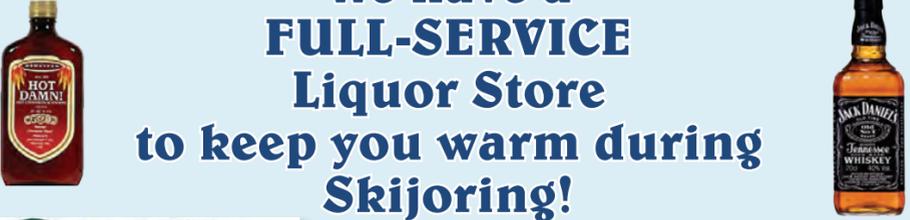
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Welcome Skijorers!

Friday Registration and Calcutta!

After race party Sunday!



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After the races



CHANGEY WILLIAMS
and the Younger Brothers Band

Platte Valley Community Center
8:30pm • Sat., Feb. 8
Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
Calcutta at 7:30pm



PLATTE VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
307.326.7822 ■ www.pvcenter.org

Tickets available at the Community Center (210 West Elm) or at pvcenter.org.





Engineering an accurate time

Jon Nelson has been instrumental in Saratoga Skijoring's timing system

Photos by Joshua Wood



The timing system is set-up at North Fork Engineering for a quick test.



Jon Nelson tests the infrared break beam sensors for the timing system.

SKIJORING PRINTS

Whether you are flying through the air, or taking one for the team, **WE CAPTURE IT!**

Look for our sign up table at the Skijoring event Feb. 8 & 9.
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By Joshua Wood

Part of the evolution of any event, especially one in which time is an essential component, is the timing system. The same goes for Saratoga Skijoring, which has gone from an analog timing system to one that removes human error.

While a timing system might normally set an organization back a few thousand dollars, the system used for Saratoga Skijoring comes courtesy of Jon Nelson of North Fork Engineering.

Nelson has been part of the timing for Saratoga Skijoring since the very first year. For those first races, three timers were placed at the finish line and they would start their stopwatch based on the movements of the flagger at the starting gate.

"The first year, all I had was a spreadsheet where you would just manually enter those three times from the stopwatches. So, the race would be over and I would say, 'Okay. Times' and somebody would say '32.21. 32.23. 32.41.' The 32.41 gets thrown out. Obviously they were late on the finish or they were early on the start," said Nelson. "We felt like that was fair and consistent, but obviously prone to

human error. Human error on behalf of the flagger, human error on behalf of the timers, human error on my behalf entering it into the spreadsheet. Three places you could get it wrong."

When discussion began about improving the timing system, Nelson briefly considered the purchase of timing systems used for downhill ski races. With a price tag of approximately \$8,000, however, the engineer began to look for other alternatives.

"I started watching some YouTube videos of people that had developed timing systems for different purposes," Nelson said. "I just kind of saw stuff online where people were using garage door infrared break beam sensors. So, I kind of built on that concept and used two different infrared break beam sensors as my switches."

The skier breaks the beam of the first sensor when the race starts. At the finish line, the beam of the second sensor is broken. Those analog signals are converted into a digital input through a USB switch convertor and the data is entered into a Google Spreadsheet. A formula in the spreadsheet gives the data a

timestamp while another formula subtracts the values of the start input and the finish input to generate the time.

"It's consistent for every race," said Nelson. "We do still use the stopwatches as backup. So, every race we still have the same protocol for using the stopwatches and, as long as the automated system functions, we don't use the stopwatches. If we have an error in one of the races ... then we'll use the old stopwatch system until we get it repaired."

Last year was the first year this timing system was used and the starting sensors were welded onto gates. This year, the timing system is much more portable as both the starting and finishing sensors are placed on tripods that will collapse should they be hit by a skier to prevent injury. In addition to the main timing system, Nelson has also created a backup system that can be transported to other races.

"He's our own mad scientist. I've been to races where the timing is a pain and it's never out on time and, with Jon, you never have to worry because he's smarter than everyone else and he can augment that," said Will Faust.

THE SARATOGA SUN

The staff of the **Saratoga Sun** welcomes you to Saratoga's fourth annual Skijoring event!

THE SARATOGA SUN

Want to keep up with the Valley while on vacation? Check out saratogasun.com!