

## **2008 CHAMA CHILE SKI CLASSIC RACE REPORT**

**by Nancy Dervin**

After several weeks of heavy winter snowfall, the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Chama Chile Ski Classic was held under blue skies. The 10K ski drew a bevy of athletes who were in training for the Mt. Taylor Quad. After skiing with a pack of seven, 40-year-old John Bernardin finally broke away to handily win the race. 31-year-old Tamara Kozulina skied into the finish with nearly a two-minute lead over her competition.

In the 5K ski, 38-year-old Deborah Kidd was the first skier to cross the finish line and went on to win the female division of the 5K Snowshoe Race. 52-year-old John Boland was the second place overall and first male to cross the finish line.

Seven athletes participated in the 5K Snowshoe Race including four, who also skied the 5K. 34-year-old Greg Hartman took the men's snowshoe race. Greg is an accomplished 100-mile endurance runner who finished the Hardrock 100-Mile Endurance Run last summer. Team High Country Restaurant continues to hold Perpetual Team Competition Trophy, displayed at High Country.

I would like to draw attention and give thanks to the volunteers who spent approximately 20-hours grooming the course. Bill at Cumbres Adventure Tours sent two snowmobilers, for two days each, to mark the course. Next Soni, at G-Force Choppers in Chama, spent several hours packing down the course with his snow cat. Finally, Clay from the Los Alamos Nordic Club spent two days dragging the course and laying tracks. The CCSC certainly would not be possible without their generous help.

The CCSC would like to thank it's sponsors: Art Gardenswartz from Sports Outdoor in Albuquerque, who donated \$500.00 in merchandise for the awards and raffle; Che and the gang at High Country for hosting late race registration, the pasta dinner, the breakfast buffet, the awards ceremony and for creating such a beautiful warming hut at the race site. Thanks to the Village of Chama, the Lodger's Tax Committee and the Greater Chama Valley Association for their support with event promotion. We acknowledge and thank our sponsors Chama Steam, Cumbres Adventure Tours, Cumbres Nordic Adventures, Buff Original Wear, High Speed Wax, Inc., Road ID, The Timbers, and Master Skier Magazine. Special thanks to all the race volunteers for their help with stuffing goodie bags, race registration, parking, working the finish line and sweeping the race course.

Several activities were added this year in an effort to build the Chama Winter Snow Fiesta as a new venue for tourism. The 2008 CCSC was expanded to include the 5K Snowshoe Race, the Chile Snowmobile Poker Run, and the Interact Club at Escalante High School hosted a Broom Hockey Tournament for middle and high school students. In 2009, the Chamber of Commerce will add a chili cook-off to the Snow Fiesta weekend. 2009 promises to be a fun Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend in Chama. We hope to see you all next year!