

# Families hit the slopes with style

More than 75 inches of snow have fallen at Dodge Ridge since Dec. 21, which opened the winter sports season at the favored spot for skiing and other winter activities. When the roads ice over and the snow piles as you drive up Highway 108, the possibility of staying indoors becomes tempting, even in dry, cold weather. But Amber Jenquin, the director of marketing and sales for Dodge Ridge, says the snow is so good that for folks who like winter sports, Dodge Ridge has an

answer to the winter blues.

Dodge Ridge holds its fifth annual Family Winter Carnival on Saturday and Sunday.

"We have absolutely incredible skiing and riding conditions," Jenquin said.

According to Jenquin, the winter carnival idea developed back in 1914 at Steamboat Springs, Colo.

"The Winter Carnival originally started as a way to help residents cope with cabin fever during the height of the Colorado winter season," Jenquin said. "The event con-

tinues to this day at a variety of ski resorts as a way to celebrate winter

## Dodge Ridge Winter Carnival

**WHEN:** Register from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday

**WHERE:** Dodge Ridge, 1 Dodge Ridge Road, Pinecrest

**COST:** Free (lift tickets required for many activities)

**MORE INFO:** [dodgeridge.com](http://dodgeridge.com)

and as an opportunity for ski and snowboard families and friends to gather."

Oriented toward both beginning and advanced skiers and snowboarders, the Winter Carnival includes a host of activities, the majority of which take place on Saturday. Find a detailed schedule at [dodgeridge.com](http://dodgeridge.com). Registration both days is from 8 to 11 a.m., with the first events starting at 11:30 a.m.

Activities include a Parent-Child Slalom Race – in which participants ski or snowboard between gates that require them to make quick, short turns down the hill – an Obstacle Course on one of the slopes, and a Kids' One-legged Race in which only one ski or strapped boot is used. The Kids' Freestyle Show – in which maneuvers on skis or snowboards are performed and participants are judged on their artistic expression, acrobatic skill and jumps – is a crowd pleaser. A Scavenger Hunt requires participants to use snow safety clues to navigate around the mountain and collect small items and letters to be unscrambled at the end of the hunt. Several of the events include contests and the Family Awards are presented on Saturday afternoon. Awards go to the top three finishers in each age group and event.

"The Family Winter Carnival celebrates families and fun on-mountain activities," Jenquin said. "The mountain and base area is decorated with balloons and includes entertainment including jugglers, face painting and live music. Anyone can enjoy this event, whether you want

## Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



to participate or sit on the Creekside Deck listening to music being a spectator. Make family memories for a lifetime."

Jenquin said the weekend's activities are one of the best ways to introduce children to skiing and snowboarding. Dodge Ridge offers children's snow sports lessons to little ones as young as 2 years old.

"The purpose of the Family Winter Carnival is to offer an event for families of all ages to come out to the mountain and celebrate their passion for skiing and snowboarding together," Jenquin said.

As for herself, Jenquin says she has her own reasons to enjoy Dodge Ridge.

"I have a passion for skiing, snowboarding and everything outdoors," she said. "I grew up in the Midwest before moving to California in 2008, when I started working at Dodge Ridge. What I enjoy most about Dodge Ridge are the culture and values with both the guests and employees. Dodge Ridge is a very special to me as it is my home away from home. Stanislaus National Forest is an amazing place to live, work and play. I'm very lucky to enjoy it every day."

Send your Tuolumne County events to Harmony Wheeler at [hwheeler@sierralodestar.com](mailto:hwheeler@sierralodestar.com) and [mtaylor@sierralodestar.com](mailto:mtaylor@sierralodestar.com).



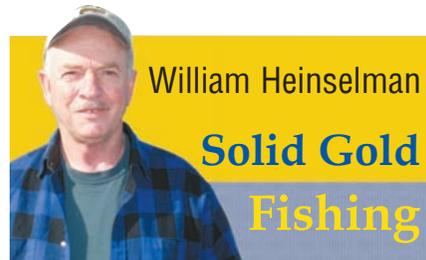
Courtesy photos

A family prepares to set off on the scavenger hunt at the Dodge Ridge Winter Carnival.



A one-legged race takes on a new level of difficulty on skis.

# That bend means action with a good rod



William Heinselman  
**Solid Gold Fishing**

As winter turns to early spring, bank fishing is at an all-time high. Every year at this time, the cold temperatures of winter have the trout moving from deep water to shallower depths along the shorelines of area lakes. The cold temperatures also allow weekly trout plants to

begin, and many limits are reported each week from Don Pedro, Tulloch, New Melones, Pardee, Camanche and Lake Amador.

Baits like worms, night crawlers, marshmallows, meal worms and PowerBait are in high demand and selling well at our area tackle outlets. Selling along with the baits are hooks, line, sinkers and bobbers. Easy-casting lures like the Kastmasters are popular with fishermen and women who are after trout feeding near the surface. After all, this is the time of year that offers the highest chance of filling stringers with trout.

Since a rod and spinning reel that will cast a great distance will easily increase your odds of putting more fish in your ice chest, let's take a look at how an angler can prepare for making those long-distance casts if needed.

Before I talking about rods and reels and making good to great casts, let me make it clear that most basic rod-and-reel combinations will work just fine for the majority of fishermen and women working from the shoreline. This is because most anglers get enough distance out of their casts simply because the trout

Continued on page 11

