

# Hi-ho Silverton

by Jennaye Derge

This last weekend, folks in Silverton witnessed history brought into a modern day arena. Skijoring, which was first used as a form of winter horse/skier transportation through Norway and Sweden, has now been turned into a spectator-friendly extreme sport. A record number of onlookers crowded onto Silverton's "notorious" Blair Street on Saturday and Sunday to watch the town's 6th annual skijoring spectacle. For the uninitiated, the game of skill and bravery (with perhaps a touch of invincibility) entailed skiers racing at top speeds behind galloping horses through an obstacle course, all while trying to land airs and gather as many rings as possible. Carnage was waiting around every twist and turn, with a close call involving an event photographer (human and camera emerged unscathed) and a skier who prematurely ejected but still managed to finish in crowd-pleasing monoski style. Fastest times won prizes; all competitors won bragging rights for life.



The panoramic view of Blair Street at the beginning of competition Saturday.



The object, aside from staying upright, is to collect rings, with teams assessed a penalty for missed or dropped rings.



Old West meets New West.



The take-off enroute to a 10-point landing.