

## RED RIVER WINTER CARNIVAL COMING

Red River Miner, January 6, 2012

The schedule for the 2012 Red River winter Carnival has been released and a quick glance shows something to look forward to as Red Riverites revive this wintertime tradition after a 20 year absence. Winter Carnival will be held on January 14-15, 2012, and coincides with the 3-day Martin Luther King weekend observance.

Over 25 events and activities are on the calendar, with most of them free of admission charges. Over 10 activities center around outdoor winter sports, while 9 events involve live music at different venues throughout town.

In addition to a variety of skiing events at the Red River Ski Area, there will also be a snowmobile racing contest on the Face. Participants must have their own snowmobile and there is a registration fee.

The Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Area will also hold an evening headlamp snowshoe tour for those looking for a special nighttime treat.

### Check Out The Park

Brandenburg park, located in the heart of town, between the Conference Center and Highway 38, will play host to several events, including snowshoe contests and obstacle races. These are open to competitors. The Snowman building contest

At the park set for Sunday afternoon will be particularly interesting, as temperature and snow quality will be crucial factors that will determine the level of sophistication and artistic daring contestants can achieve. If dry snow is the

prevailing condition, creative application of moisture will be vital.

For those individuals who prefer the warm comfort of indoor events, the winter wine and Beer Festival on Saturday and Sunday at the Red River Chalet may suit their taste. At least 5 venues in town will be offering live music, with a variety of styles and musical types to satisfy entertainment buffs who have come to appreciate Red River's reputation as a growing music mecca. Early acoustic shows and nighttime dances will be part of the fun.

For those who find the challenges of the art of Bingo to be more to their liking, the Red River Chamber of Commerce will be offering games on Saturday at Lifts west Condos with a \$200 cash jackpot.

Several local restaurants have hinted that they may have some unusual specials on the weekend menu. The Black Diamond Grill, a new eatery located in the remodeled Black Mountain playhouse building, is planning a Sunday night delight for sushi and sake fans.

For more info check out the web at [redriverwintercarnival.com](http://redriverwintercarnival.com).

### Everything Old Is New Again

Red River winter Carnival was first held in the mid-1970s, the result of cooperation between the Red River Ski Area, the University of New Mexico Ski team and the town of Red River.

According to news accounts from area papers in 1977, snow conditions that winter were the

best in the Rockies. Articles touting Red River Ski Area's new snowmaking system also helped promote the annual event.

In addition to a Snow Queen to rule the Carnival, a special tshirt contest drew rave reviews from startled onlookers. The early carnivals featured appearances by local dignitaries and TV personalities. Local businessman John Gill used his connections from his time as a Hollywood stuntman and actor to secure some movie personalities. Even a daytime soap opera actor made it to Red River.

Skiing and snowmobiles played a large part in those early winter Carnivals. A special Ballet skiing exhibition was planned at powder puff Ski Area, a small learner's area located on Red River's west side of town. NASTAR racing was part of the scene. Family races, Giant Slalom and Freestyle were favorites. Among the winners of the skiing contests were Randy Lyles, Ed Hampton and Ron Pockrandt, Mary Miller, Steve Smith who had yet to become Stevo, and Drew Judycki, the head of the Red River Ski School. It is unclear who won the "infamous" Red River Businessman's Misfit Slalom Race.

### Welcome To 2012

This year's revival of Red River's winter Carnival has been a combined effort of local businesses and is not a special event of the Red River Chamber of Commerce, although the CoC and the Red River Department of Economic Development have been active in the planning, as has the Red River Ski Area.