



Skijoring pops up at Paws Up as sport spreads across Western MT

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By Dennis Bragg **CONNECT**



GREENOUGH - After a week of near record cold, more snow in the forecast and Christmas a memory, you might be getting to the point where winter is already getting on your nerves.

But for participants in the growing sport of [skijoring](#) the fun is just beginning.

In fields all over Western Montana, the combination of horse and skis is growing in popularity. For many, competitions in places like Lakeside, Whitefish and Wisdom bring the ultimate expression of our western lifestyle.



In fields all over Western Montana, the combination of horse and skis is growing in popularity. (Dennis Bragg photo)

And by most accounts, the Resort at Paws Up is the only place where rookies are being given a chance to try the sport.

Paws Up Activities Manager Riley Egan came to skijoring through skiing, after getting together with a rodeo friend. He says it's easy to learn, but getting the horse with the right characteristics is key.

"Good stamina. Kind of cool, calm and collected. One with a little bit of athletic spirit to him. They kinda of want to compete you know. They really get the feeling of what you guys are doing after you've done it a couple of times," Egan said. "They know you want to go fast and they start to know their job. So you look for one that has the stamina to do it, to run the couple of laps we do and then one that has a good athletic spirit to it."

The rope handling takes concentration, but you can get the hang of it after a few laps. Monday we'll show you more about this growing sport, and how you can give it a try.

