



For Immediate Release

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**MIDDAUGH AND BALLENGEE CROWNED NORTH AMERICAN
SNOWSHOE CHAMPIONS IN 10K AT BEAVER CREEK RESORT**

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado—The hometown favorites and season-long front runners competed for cold hard cash under blue bird skies Saturday at the North American Snowshoe Championships in Beaver Creek as Vail's Josiah Middaugh and Danelle Ballengee of Dillon walked off with top honors and a significant slice of the \$5,000 cash purse in the Championship 10K event.

Middaugh, a three-time 10k champ this season, recorded a time of 46.56 minutes to claim the Championship title, just seconds ahead of runner-up Greg Krause with Team Atlas, while Silt's Bernie Boettcher placed third, just over 1 minute off Middaugh's winning pace. For his efforts on the day, Middaugh took home \$1,250.

Another familiar snowshoer in the series, Charlie Wertheim, nabbed fourth place with a time of 50.23, barely a hair in front of Taos, New Mexico's Simon Gutierrez at 50.39, who secured fifth.

No stranger to the podium, Danelle Ballengee claimed the women's 10K championship with a time of 56.13, a convincing victory margin of 4 minutes 57 seconds over second place finisher Lisa Goldsmith. Two-time 10k winner this season, Anita Ortiz of Eagle picked up third place honors on the day with a time of 1.01.23.

The win was Ballengee's second series victory this season and the second over Ortiz, who earned top honors in the first and third Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series races. Ballengee also took home a check for \$1,250.

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North American Snowshoe Championships

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Taking fourth place in the Female 10k race was Julie Hudetz racing for Team Atlas finishing with a time of 1.02.37. Under one minute behind Hudetz, Kerrie Wald secured fifth position.

In other race action on an incredibly warm spring race day, Ryan Goheen collected the men's East-West 5K Quest win ahead of runner-up Christian Fuller. Vicky Keleske, 5k winner in the initial Beaver Creek Snowshoe Series event, picked up the victory in the women's 5K division by a mere 11 seconds over second place finisher Alley Henerson, representing the Beaver Creek Resort Company. Matthew Hammel and Karen Opp captured the Beaver Creek "Dash For Cash" 100-yard sprints, while Christian Kloser and Breanna Gunnarson were victorious in the Kids K competition.

The North American Snowshoe Championships was the final race of the four-event Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series. For information and series results for the 6th Annual Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series, visit www.bcsnowshoe.com.

The 2003-2004 Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series has been presented by Beaver Creek Resort, Atlas Snow-Shoe Company, BMW and Nike ACG and sponsored in part by East-West Resort, Peak Dentistry, Beaver Creek Merchants Association, Nature Valley Granola Bars, The Vail Daily, KZYR-The Zephyr and KVBA-TV8.

For additional information and final series results for the 6th Annual Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series, visit www.bcsnowshoe.com.

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