



**For Immediate Release
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**SKIMMERS AIM TO STAY AFLOAT APRIL 18th AT THE 2009 TUACA WORLD
POND SKIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN VAIL, COLORADO**

- **Pond Skimming Champion Will Be Awarded \$1,000**
- **Registration Opens Sunday, March 15th**

VAIL, Colo.—March 13, 2009—In its seventh year, the World Pond Skimming Championships will return to the Spring Back to Vail weeklong festival on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 2-4 p.m. at Vail Mountain’s Golden Peak base area. Skimmers from around the world will test their buoyancy in hopes of becoming the 2009 Tuaca World Pond Skimming Champion. A legendary element of Spring Back to Vail, the #1 Spring Mountain Party in North America, the Tuaca World Pond Skimming Championships is a can’t-miss event. Registration will open to the public online at www.springbacktovail.com on March 15 and is limited to a field of just 75 participants.

The Tuaca World Pond Skimming Championships entails floatable (and sometimes sinkable) athletes launching themselves off an on-snow jump, into a 100-foot pond in attempt to successfully exist the pond on both feet. Competitors will vie for fame and glory in a showing that defies the laws of physics and perhaps even common sense. Judges will score each competitor on distance, style, creativity and water solubility. All eyes will be on the grand prize of \$1,000 in cold hard cash and the elusive Golden Skimmer Title.

“My brother Mark Sample is the 2008 reigning World Pond Skimming Champion and he recently got engaged so we’re throwing his bachelor party at this year’s event,” said Denver’s Brian Sample. “I have entered in the competition for five years now and plan to compete for the rest of my life if I have to, until I win.”

Highlighting the Spring Back to Vail festivities, the Tuaca World Pond Skimming Championships is open to brave souls who aren't afraid of a little water. It is guaranteed to be a wet, wild and splashing good time for participants and spectators alike. Registration is \$50 per person and is limited to a field of 75 participants on a first come, first served policy. Online registration, as well as detailed event information including rules is available at www.springbacktovail.com. Note that the event will sell-out quickly.

“The best advice I can offer competitors is to keep your eyes open and concentrate on the end of the pond,” said Sample. “I made it across the pond last year, but I don't think the judges appreciated my flavorful costume. I'm not going to give-away my costume for this year's championship, but I can tell you there is a mask and cape involved.”

It's all part of Spring Back to Vail, April 13-19, 2009. Each year, Spring Back to Vail brings end-of-season entertainment to Vail Mountain with on-snow events, headliner concerts, nightly parties, the ever-popular World Pond Skimming Championships and new for 2009, the Breitling All Mountain Film Competition. For more information, visit www.springbacktovail.com.

Vail Resort's lift ticket package includes the purchase of a seven-day lift ticket for \$199. The package is valid April 13-19, 2009 and offered on an advance purchase only. For additional package information visit www.vail.com. Vail Resort's '09-'10 Epic Season Pass is now on-sale for just \$579. The Epic Pass is the only ski pass that offers Unrestricted and Unlimited access to Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Heavenly. Visit www.epicpass.com to purchase the Epic Season Pass.

For the inside track on Vail this season including lodging deals, exclusive offers from the Vail Snowsports School, on-mountain dining, Adventure Ridge, and in-town restaurants and shops go to www.vailallthelove.com.

Spring Back to Vail 2009 is presented by Vail Resorts, Bud Light, Town of Vail, Amp Energy, Tuaca, Volvo, Breitling and SKI Magazine. Brought to you in part by Smith Optics, Liberty Skis, Army, Nature Valley Granola Bars, Vail Daily, TV8 and KZYR The Zephyr.

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