

# Bring on the best

## *Whitefish's Reid Sabin to defend world telemark championship on Big Mountain*

Reid Sabin will defend his world championship classic title at Big Mountain Resort in the World Telemark Championship races March 20-24.

The Federation of International Skiing sanctions the races and organizers are expecting up to 100 athletes and 20 coaches from a dozen countries including Sweden, Norway, Finland, Switzerland, France, Italy, Japan and Canada.

Sabin will defend his all-terrain classic title from the 2001 World Championships in Val Thorens, France. He was the first American to win a world championship telemark race.

Whitefish resident and U.S. Telemark team members include Sabin, Glenn Gustafson, Cris Coughlin, Peter McMahon, Natalie Angell, Matt Beedle, Neil Persons, Jef Elliot and Kris Carpenter. The latter three are also Big Mountain employees.

While the rest of the local team has been in Europe at World Cup races this winter, Sabin has been in Whitefish after the birth of his daughter. "But I'm motivated, I've been training, and I'm ready to give it a shot. I'm glad to have the world championships in Whitefish, but it's also a lot of pressure," he said. "My plan is to be first or last. It would mean a lot if I could defend the title."

World championship races at Big Mountain will include giant slalom, classic, sprint classic, and the new dual sprint classic. The giant slalom is a speed event with a mandatory jumping section. The all-terrain classic race includes giant slalom sections, banked turns, rollers, several skate sprints, and a Nordic distance jump where competitors launch up to 75 feet. The sprint classic is a shorter version of the full classic race. The dual classic is a new all-terrain



Lindsey Nelson / Whitefish Pilot

**The Whitefish-based telemark skiers who will be competing this weekend on Big Mountain include, front row from left: Jef Elliot, Cody McCarthy, Cris Coughlin, Carrie Johnson and Natalie Angell. Back row: Neil Persons, Matt Beedle, Chris Rice, Reid Sabin, Glenn Gustafson and Peter McMahon.**

race where competitors race head-to-head.

These races will decide the world champion in the three disciplines, plus an overall champion determined by the total time of all three races.

The championships happen every two years and is separate from the World Cup, which awards a season crown based on all World Cup results.

Norway is leading the charge this year

with an incredible year. Sabin reports that there are at least eight other athletes who have a shot at winning the title.

A complete schedule of events is on Page A-9.



# Telemark World Championships schedule of events and activities

*The Telemark World Championships schedule of events is as follows:*

## March 20: Opening Day

\* 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Master's and junior races/team training:

\* 6 p.m.: Parade of Nations in downtown Whitefish.

Public bib draw at O'Shaughnessy Cultural Arts Center with guest speakers and master's awards.

## March 21: Giant Slalom Races on Ed's Run

\* 10:30 a.m.: first run

\* 1 p.m.: second run

## March 22: Dual Sprint Classic Races on Ed's Run

\* 10:30 a.m.: first run

\* 1 p.m.: second run

## March 23: Classic Race on Big Ravine to Hibernation

\* 10:30 a.m.: single run format

## March 24: Dual Slalom Fun Race or Weather Contingency Day

\* 10:30 a.m.: Fun Race starts

\* 6 p.m.: Awards banquet at Great Northern Bar and Grill

Awards will be given out on the deck of Moguls Bar & Grille following the races each day.

Gatekeepers, crossing guards and course slippers are needed for all races. Volunteers will receive a free lunch and an all-day lift ticket voucher for another day of skiing within the next year. Volunteers should meet on the third floor of the Chalet building every morning at 8 a.m. during the run of the entire event.

To volunteer, for registration and updated event information, please call the events department at (406) 862-2911 or visit Big Mountain's Web site at [www.skiwhitefish.com](http://www.skiwhitefish.com).

Race results and photos will be available on the Mountain's Web site each day.

## Americans and Norwegians



Lindsey Nelson / Whitefish

The Norwegian and the American telemark teams pose outside O'Shaughnessy Center Tuesday afternoon. The Norskies had blue hair the occasion. The Japanese team showed up a little later.