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Twin Cities Own 2008 National Snow Sculpting Championship Team to Carve at The Budweiser Select International Snow Sculpting Championship and Returning to the U.S. Nationals

ST. PAUL, MN (12/10/08) – The local MN snow sculpting team and current 2008 U.S. National Champions “Minnesota Big Snow”, are headed to Breckenridge Colorado in mid-January 2009 to compete in the Budweiser Select International Snow Sculpting Championship. They are one of 16 teams in the world selected to sculpt and compete. Additionally, the team is defending their “U.S. Champion Title” in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin in February. Last February, the team, won the US National Competition and have been invited back to compete in 2009. This is the team’s third trip to the US Nationals, in 2005 they placed 3rd.

In the past 3 years, the team has sculpted snow at several different International events. In 2008, they represented the USA at the International Snow Sculpting Symposium, which was part of “The Festival du Voyageur”, held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. In 2007, they took 3rd place at the Snowfest International Snow Sculpting Competition held in Sarnia Ontario, Canada. In 2006, the team was invited to carve an exhibition piece at the Prestige’s Quebec Winter Carnival. In that same year, the team received 1st place honors at the Minnesota State competition held as part of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival.

The Minnesota team members have competed together for over a decade at the Saint Paul Winter Carnivals Snow Sculpting competition winning numerous awards and accolades. These events have refined their abilities and talents allowing us the opportunity to carve along side of some of the world’s best sculptors. The team is composed of highly talented friends with abilities that compliment each other. They are: Kelley Casey, a Roseville resident and architectural technician designer for Hammel, Green and Abrahamson; Paul Diekoff Jr. of Shoreview, car builder and artist; David White of Elk River, cardiovascular buyer for Allina Health Systems; Gerry Proulx of Robbinsdale, building code official for the City of Roseville; and Patrick Mogren of Maplewood, artist and stay-at-home dad.



“Shark’s Lair”
2008 1st Place Finish at the
U.S. National Snow Sculpting
Competition.

In past years, the team has been featured in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Minneapolis Tribune*, *Roseville Review* and *Shoreview Press*. Photos and articles of their past work have also appeared in *The New York Times*, *Mpls/St. Paul Magazine*, and *Ranger Rick*.

To help defray the cost of travel expenses, equipment, winter gear and transportation, the team is seeking corporate sponsors. This represents a unique opportunity for companies to be a part of national and international events, with visibility on the team banner. The team hopes to secure several monetary sponsorships or in-kind donations as they continue to carve a place in history.