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**PRESS RELEASE
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FOLLOW THE JOURNEY... AS THE NORTHLAND 300 EMBARKS IN HISTORY (PART 2 IN A 2 PART SERIES)

January 21-25, 2009 is right around the corner and Special Olympics Athlete Steven Eull and supporting coach Jason Reinsch are gearing up for their first ever Northland 300. This dynamic duo is ready to have the time of their life and you can certainly tell that they are "best buds" the way they feed off of each other's excitement when talking about their upcoming snowmobiling adventure. Neither one of these individuals is a quitter.

Eleven years ago Jason began coaching Steven in downhill skiing. Steven was petrified to go down a hill but instead of starting out on a "bunny hill," Steven and Jason took a chair lift and attempted the slopes. "The first time I took Steven skiing, I skied backward with Steven in front of me hanging on for dear life and it took us two hours to get to the bottom of the hill." Jason comments and laughs. Today, Steven skis Black Diamond and Slalom. Determination is in his blood.



Steven's mother Patsy Eull commented, "I was surprised when Jason came back for his second round of coaching Steven in Skiing." Jason has been a great influence on Steven's life and vice versa. In the winter they go ice fishing and snowmobiling and Steven was Jason and wife Lynn's groomsman for their wedding. It is truly a union of friendships and family.

Learning more about the ride, Steven asked "Are the trails nice?" The trails from Two Harbors to Ely are beautiful yet challenging. Learning about his role at the Northland 300 Opening Ceremonies, Steven's comment was simply "sweet!"

The Northland 300 invites the public to join as they embark in this historical moment and cheer Steven and Jason on as they begin their journey on the 21st Annual Northland 300. Opening Ceremonies begin at 8am sharp on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at Superior Shores Lodge in Two Harbors, MN. Steven and

Jason will be riding on the Voyageur (White) Team which will arrive at Grand Ely Lodge in Ely, MN at approximately 3pm that afternoon. Friday is a “free day” for all Northland 300 participants to snowmobile, ice fish, or just relax at the Lodge. Saturday, the journey continues departing Grand Ely Lodge at 8am, arriving back at Superior Shores Lodge at approximately 3pm.

Follow Steven and Jason’s journey on the Northland 300 Website and learn about Stevens Special Olympics team the Flames at www.northland300.org or email Steven and Jason to wish them well at nl300@northland300.org.

Special Olympics Minnesota provides year round sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities that contribute to life-long physical fitness, personal growth and achievements.

For additional information, visit www.northland300.org or www.specialolympicsminnesota.org or contact Kathy Karkula at 612-604-1272 or karkulak@somn.org.