

# PAW PRINTS & SKI TRACKS

*Annual ASPA membership dues are due. If you want to continue your membership, please complete the form included, and send it in with your dues. Thanks!*



**October 20  
Skate Clinic  
Birch Hill  
Joel Buth  
455-7148**

**October 27-29  
ADMA  
Symposium  
Jamie Marschner  
458-0462  
Volunteers  
needed**

**October 30  
Fall Membership Meeting  
Dog Musers' Hall.**

## Meet our new board members!

### Andy Warwick

Andy Warwick is a life-long Fairbanksan who resides in Fairbanks with his wife, Judy, and six dogs. He is a graduate of the University of Alaska - Fairbanks and is a CPA in private practice. Andy has been skijoring for four years and participates in the ASPA fun races and the ADMA races. Other activities include bikejoring, hiking, alpine skiing, riverboating, motorcycling and snowmaching.

### Sara Tabbert

I grew up in Fairbanks and to my great surprise somehow ended up moving back about six years ago. My carpenter friend Brandon and I are permafrost land barons in the bottom of Goldstream Valley, where we are constructing a compound in fine Fairbanks tradition (and along the fine Fairbanks

Timeframe). I'm an artist, trained as a printmaker, and for the last few years have had the good fortune to mostly just do art. Right now I'm finishing up a big piece for the new Army hospital at Fort Wainwright. I've got shows coming up at the Bear Gallery here in Fairbanks and at the Anchorage Museum.

I grew up on skis and the logical move as I got older was to get some help.

As someone who'd never had a dog until a few years ago, I've completely enjoyed starting from scratch. I now have four really fun dogs who range widely in size, intelligence, and motivation. We're getting there, though, and Team Couch is how about a quarter of the menace on the trails that we were a couple of years ago.

## Thank you Summer Volunteers!!!

A **HUGE** thank you to the ASPA board members/volunteers who worked this summer on the Program, Schedule and all the other behind the scenes things that help make the 2006-2007 season possible: Andy Warwick and Jamie Marschner worked on the schedule and Mike Malvick and Jamie worked on the program. Thanks to the board members for rounding up the sponsors!

Also a big thank you to the following ASPA members who answered the call to volunteer at non-skijor events by our "sister" organizations: Peggy Raybeck and Janet Smith for registration and lunch set up at the 6th Annual Puttin' on the Ritz Ladies Golf Tournament held this summer at North Star Golf Club; and, Don Kiely, Carrie McEnteer, and Duff McEnteer for Fair Booth Sitting for the Friends of Creamer's Field at the 2006 Tanana Valley Fair.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF VOLUNTEERS, once again ASPA will be putting signs out on the trails at Creamer's Field. It is a lot of work for one person. It is a lot of fun when 6-8 people volunteer.

We will start working when we have about 6 inches of snow. At the trailhead the buckets will be filled with snow and a little water and sign posts positioned in them to freeze. The signs will be put up on trees with a screw (cordless drill needed) on the trails that go through the woods and the buckets will need to be distributed around the field trails. These tasks have been done walking, on skis, skijoring, with a dog team, with your own snowmachine and with the "grooming" snowmachine.

We can meet as a group or an individual can go out and do a specific task. A few people have already let me know they are interested in helping. Contact Pat DeRuyuter at [patd@gci.net](mailto:patd@gci.net) or 479-7853 if you are willing to help.

Fall Membership Meeting Monday, October 30

Dog Musers' Hall on Farmers Loop

6:00 p.m. —Potluck

7:00 p.m. —Alaska Trappers Association speaker and video

Please join us for the Fall Membership meeting and yummy potluck! The potluck starts at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share: an entrée, side dish or dessert. Following the meeting we will show a video on "Sharing Alaska's Trails". Wendell Schiffler from the Alaska Trappers Association will be our speaker. This should be a very interesting talk!!

**ADMA Symposium**  
**October 27-29**  
**Pioneer Park**

Volunteers are needed for the ASPA booth at the ADMA Symposium. Two hour slots are available. Contact Jamie at marschne@arsc.edu or 458-0462 to volunteer. Thanks for your help!

November 3—6:30 p.m. Skate Clinic at Birch Hill taught by Joel Buth. For Beginner to Intermediate skiers (learn V1, V2). \$5 fee. Open to ASPA members ONLY. Contact Joel at 455-7148 or joel@goldstreamsports.com.

## TRAIL TALK

### North Star Golf Club trails

We have been offered the opportunity to groom and use the trails at North Star Golf Club again this year. The golf cart barn is done so we will have a heatable space (the clubhouse) to use for our events there. We currently have two events scheduled on these trails.

We need volunteers to both groom the trail and open the gate so skijorers can use the trails. A few people have already let me know they are interested in helping. Contact Pat DeRuyuter at patd@gci.net or 479-7853 if you are willing to help with these tasks.

### Creamer's Field

We will again groom the trails at Creamer's Field. The snowmachine is in the shed at Alaska Feed (Thanks you Alaska Feed ) so you do not need to trailer a machine. If you are interested in helping groom (Occasionally, once a month, once a week or as a backup when it snows a lot) contact Pat DeRuyuter at patd@gci.net or 479-7853.

Gas is more expensive this year and grooming takes a LOT of gas. If you use the Creamer's Field trails, the North Star Golf Club trails and/or the Isberg Trails, PLEASE donate to the ASPA trail grooming fund. For a frequent trail user, a \$50-\$100 donation would be appreciated. An occasional trail user should consider a \$20-\$50 donation. Mail your trail donations to ASPA, P. O. Box 82843, Fairbanks, AK 99708 or give them to an ASPA volunteer at any ASPA sponsored event.

## Golfing the Skijor Trails

by  
Don Kiely

Pat did a masterful job at scheduling the day to maximize the possibility of a pleasant experience if not great golf results. She had us come early and gently took us through Golf Shots 101: putting, chipping and pitching, and full-on swings. By the time our tee time came around, I was encouraged. Already I had taken a dozen or so golf shots and hadn't killed anyone, human or beast. How bad could I be?

As we headed to the first tee, Pat explained that we would be playing a form of the game where we would each take a shot, then for each subsequent shot on that hole play from whoever's ball had the best position. That proved to be a godsend, allowing us to finish the nine-hole round in under five days. With only one or two lucky exceptions, naturally Pat had the best shot each time.

I'll let Cindy tell her own tale, but my tee shots that day had an impressive range. Anywhere from five feet to oh, maybe 100 feet (if you squinted real hard and mistook that seagull for my ball). Tiger should have no problem sleeping soundly tonight. Playing our own balls would have meant inching down the course, no doubt leaving us thankful for the midnight sun.

Along the way, Pat gave us lots of tips and suggestions. I think that we actually improved a little with each hole, in my case from miserable to seriously embarrassing. But I'll take what I can get. Unfortunately, Cindy had to leave for an appointment a couple of holes before we finished, so Pat and I trudged on, one last long hole after passing the outhouse on the first loop of the skijor trail and the final hole to the clubhouse.

I was feeling less uncomfortable by the time we got to the last hole, and teed off. It was a surprisingly good shot (meaning not *too* far off the fairway and beyond the front of the tee green). My second shot, for which Pat loaned me one of her woods got me onto the green—gasp! And I sunk the putt for a birdie!! One under par! I'd love to say that it was my natural golf ability that allowed me to progress so quickly to such a fine performance on the hole. But I'm not *that* deluded! It was all due to Pat's patient and helpful coaching, encouragement, and patient tolerance.

(Later it occurred to me that maybe I was set up. Give the guy a great final hole, and he'll be back for more. This sucker is probably good for hundreds of dollars of greens fees over the years, and lord knows we can sell him some *real* golf clothes! But later on, sense returned to me. Pat is just looking for fellow addicts.)

During the round, I got to see the culvert where I and a couple of my dogs disappeared from the skijor trail last winter. Let me tell you, the skijor trail is a different world in summer! All in all, it was a fine day of golf with two friends. Thanks, Pat!



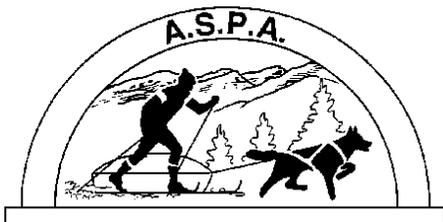
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