

# 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!*

**Skate Ski Clinic**  
January 12  
Birch Hill, 6:30 PM  
Joel Buth  
455-6520

**Make-up Fun Races**  
January 6 (North Star)  
and January 14 (Creamers)  
11:30 AM  
Don Kiely  
455-6749

**Fun Race #5**  
January 27  
Creamer's Field,  
11:30 AM  
Don Kiely  
455-6749

## **Fun Race #4, North Star Golf Course, 0° F**

by Carol Kleckner

I found myself humming “dashing through the snow” as skijorers lined up today for the first skijor race of the season at the North Star Golf Course. Everyone had big smiles on their faces and the dogs were screaming and anxious to go. Finally, the weather had cooperated with snow and warmer temperatures to bring out 18 skijorers and at least twice that number of dogs to skijor the front and back nine. Pat DeRuyter did a fabulous job of grooming the trails and was on the snow machine just minutes before the race started making sure the trail was in tip top shape.

The Evan's family has graciously let the skijor association groom and skijor the golf course.

We ran three classes of two, four, and six miles, with 1, 2 or 3 dogs in each class.

Only 2 skiers ventured out for 6 miles. Jeff Mann with Rosco and Pharro was first and Matt Bray with Gilbert and Sullivan was 2nd. I always want to break into opera when Matt runs by with his dogs.

Matt does get the award for the most acrobatic feat of the day. He did a wonderfully executed cartwheel when he went one way as his dogs decided to go another way. He got a perfect “10” from the judges.

Next out were the 3 dog teams going 4 miles. Alina Evans skijoring on her home turf was 1st with Coho, Sockeye, and Humpy. Andy Warwick with Zip, Licorice and Boots was 2nd and Sara Elzey with Ayla, Chert and Crowe was 3rd.

In the 2 dog class going 4 miles Greg Jurek set the speed record with Tar and Che. Carol Kleckner with Robin and Jazz was 2nd and Mike Malvick with Mesa and Ingrid was 3rd. Rounding out the class was Lisa Baraff with Hope and Luna and Mara Bacsujlaky with Frosty and Hershey.

Hilary Schwafel was the only entry in the 3 dog 2 mile race with Wizard, Frieda, and Ole.

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*Happy New Year!!*  
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(cont.) Mike Malvick with Victor and Billie was 2nd even though Billie is only seeing through one eye these days, and Janice Wiegiers with Trance and Mario was 3rd.

The last class to go out was the 2 mile 1-dog class. Hilary came back to ski again with Lena and she took the top spot. Kristan Kelly was 2nd with Hobbes and John Hallsten with Chipper took 3rd. Rounding out the class was Jim Altherr and his Golden Retriever Sophie and Molly Putman sped along on her classic skis with Cookie her border collie mix dog that was rescued from the animal shelter.

### **Volunteers**

ASPA races only happen because lots of people step up to help! Today we had great help from these people:

Race Director: Don Kiely

Registration: Don Kiely, Sara Elzey, Lisa Baraff

Starter: Pat DeRuyter

Handlers: Alice Stickney, Gail Davidson

Timers: Sydney and Yuri Morgan

Mathematician: Andy Warwick

Reporter: Carol Kleckner

### **Sponsors**

These sponsors provided prizes for today's race:

49er Feed, Beaver Sports, Howling Dog Mushing Supplies, Katahdin Mushing Supplies, Lead Dog Graphic Arts, Play It Again Sports, and Taku Graphics. For a complete list of ASPA's 2006-7 sponsors, please visit <http://www.sleddog.org/skijor/sponsorlist.html>.

A HUGE thanks to Roger Evans and the North Star Golf Club for letting us hold this event in their wonderful trail system, that I understand even golfers use during the summer!



**Carol Kleckner racing like the wind with Jazz on the left and Robin on the right (black/white dog).**

**Photo by Miriam Taylor Cooper**

Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
<b>6 mile, 2-dog</b>				
2	Jeff Mann	Rosco, Pharro	28:26	1
1	Matt Bray	Gilbert, Sullivan	29:20	2
<b>4 mile, 3-dog</b>				
6	Alina Evans	Coho, Sockeye, Humpy	15:40	1
3	Andy Warwick	Zip, Licorice, Boots	16:10	2
5	Sara Elzey	Ayla, Chert, Crowe	17:37	3
<b>4 mile, 2-dog</b>				
8	Greg Jurek	Tar, Che	14:40	1
7	Carol Kleckner	Robin, Jazz	16:50	2
10	Mike Malvick	Mesa, Ingrid	18:19	3
9	Lisa Baraff	Luna, Hope	19:32	4
11	Mara Bacsujlaky	Frosty, Hershey	22:28	5
<b>2 mile, 3-dog</b>				
4	Hilary Schwafel	Wizard, Frieda, Ole	9:45	1
<b>2 mile, 2-dog</b>				
14	Mike Malvick	Victor, Billie	10:34	1
13	Janice Wieggers	Trance, Mario	13:33	2
<b>2 mile, 1-dog</b>				
17	Hilary Schwafel	Lena	9:30	1
16	Kristan Kelly	Hobbes	10:39	2
12	John Hallsten	Chipper	12:28	3
15	Jim Altherr	Sophie	19:55	4
18	Molly Putman	Cookie	26:46	5

**Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association  
Fun Race #4 Results  
30 December 2006  
North Star Golf Club**

**Aurora  
Animal Clinic**



**Small Animal  
Veterinary Practice**

1651 College Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
(907) 452-6055 / (800) 478-4738

**Show 'N Go #2**, by Peggy Raybeck

I was the only participant, along with 7 dogs. Perhaps the scheduling on a weekday during holiday season had something to do with the lack of participation. I think the date just may have been carried over from the previous year and I recommend that future Show 'N Go's are scheduled on weekends. I skied the Compeau Trail, which begins at approximately MP 29.5 Chena Hot Springs Rd, north side. This is the new trail built last summer and described by Jon Underwood below.

I met an area trapper and he gave me some good information on the area. He cautioned me about letting any of my dogs run loose on trails in the area because he suspected there may be snares and traps set on both sides of the winter trail, and in a slough between the road and winter trail, west of the Compeau trail. I met another trapper a week earlier who told me that he has set near Compeau trail as well.

The Compeau trail has a decent hill. For anyone who doesn't want to skijor this hill, you can take the Winter Trail or a cut-off to the Twin Bears trail (also goes uphill) which both intersect Compeau trail close to the trailhead.

I really like the winter trail between MP 26.5 parking area and Chena Hot Springs. It's wide enough to skate ski. There are a few miles between the Colorado Creek/Stiles Creek trailhead at MP 31.7 to the gravel pit/shooting range at MP 36 that I haven't skijored, although I have been a couple miles East from MP 31.7. The Colorado Creek trail has been broken by snowmachines recently. Overall, I recommend this whole area to any skijorers who want a "back country" experience, but on well established relatively "safe" trails, which doesn't require great downhill skiing skills. I found the Compeau trail most challenging in that respect where I needed to slow my dogs down a lot to make the downhill turns.

John Underwood Trail Description (10/3/2006):

I am pleased to announce that as of yesterday, all the GeoGrid is in place, and construction of the Compeau Trail is complete. This new, state-of-the-art trail stretches from Chena Hot Springs Road through the uplands via the 2004 fireline, to the Colorado Creek Cabin. From the road, there are two trailheads, one at Twin Bears Camp at 30 mile and one directly from the road at approximately 29.5 mile. The first .6 miles utilizes existing trail, then there is 9.45 miles of new construction to the fireline. The trail follows the fireline (this part does NOT conform to modern trail specs) for 6 miles, then turns to 2.6 miles of newly constructed trail dropping the cabin. In all, approximately 18 miles of fun, beautiful trail appropriate for 4-wheelers, bikers, horses, walkers, snow machines, dog sleds, skijorers, skiers and snowshoers.

### Fairbanks Creek Show ‘n’ Go on December 3 by Mike Malvick

On a whim, I posted an impromptu Show ‘n’ Go message to the ASPA e-mail list to introduce this is a gem of a training area I only recently discovered. The location is high, so it’s warmer, the hills aren’t very steep, and the road is wide and infrequently traveled. Another virtue is how close it really is to town...only twenty minutes from my home on Skyline Drive above Farmers Loop. I found out about it after Tim Mowry’s article about where to find snow ran in the Daily News Miner and a woman I didn’t know called me at home and told me I didn’t have to be ski on the bike path because there was good snow to be found at Fairbanks Creek on top of Cleary Summit.

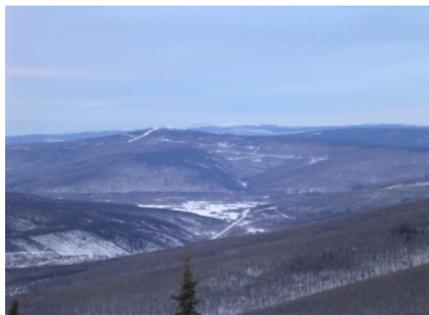
Peggy Raybeck and Dana Moudry responded to the note and met me at the beginning of Fairbanks Creek Road. We had fun racing down the road and getting some passing practice before tackling the narrower Fairbanks-Circle trail.

Directions: Take the Steese Highway from Fox toward Chatanika to the top of Cleary Summit. Turn right onto Fish Creek Road (toward Skiland). Continue about 3/4 mile to Fairbanks Creek Road which is marked by a standard green and white street sign. Park without blocking either Fish Creek or Fairbanks Creek Road.

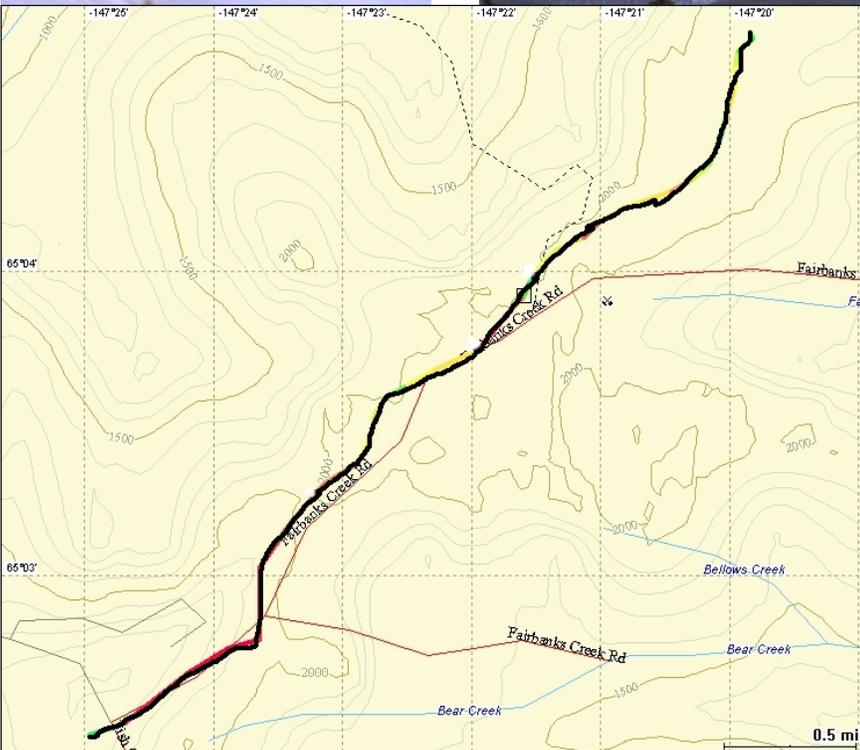
Route Description: The road starts downhill for about 1.6 miles, dropping approximately 300 feet (average grade is about 3.5%, just a little more than half as steep as the steep hill on Old Murphy Dome Road). Climb back up about 150 feet during the next 0.5 mile, and then drop more steeply to the historic Fairbanks-Circle Trailhead. Turn left at the wide spot to access the trail. You can stop and turn around here for an approximately five-mile round trip. Alternatively, you can continue about another 1.3 miles on the Fairbanks-Circle trail to a scenic viewpoint offering 360° vistas.

I look forward to exploring this area more once my dogs and I are in better shape. To get an idea of the potential for a longer trip in this area, visit the Fairbanks Bicycle Club's website and the route description posted there:

[http://www.fairbankscycleclub.org/cgi-bin/rides.cgi?ride=fairbanks\\_creek-fairbanks\\_to\\_circle\\_trail](http://www.fairbankscycleclub.org/cgi-bin/rides.cgi?ride=fairbanks_creek-fairbanks_to_circle_trail)



Photos (clockwise starting at far left): Peggy Raybeck’s dogs start the sprint down the long first downhill on Fairbanks Hill Road, view of Chatanika River Valley from the turn-around point, Dana Moudry comes to a stop on the Fairbanks-Circle trail near the turn-around point, and the map of the route (e-mail malvick@alaska.net for a waypoint file for your GPS).



# TRAIL TALK

To the great delight of so many people, the snow has finally fallen. No sooner than a couple of inches accumulated, then the dedicated volunteer groomers were out getting the trails into shape for skijoring. Both Northstar and Creamer’s trails look good. The trails have some soft spots, but will firm up. A BIG thanks to Pat DeRuyter, Andy Warwick, Mike Supkis, Peggy Raybeck, and John Hallsten for all of their work.

## New Membership Email List!

By Don Kiely

After long being hosted by UAF and sponsored by Tom McGrane of KUAC, we have moved the Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association email list to Yahoo Groups. We are deeply grateful to UAF for providing this service for free for so long and for Tom for managing the list!

If you were on the old email list, over the holidays you should have gotten an invitation to join the new Yahoo list. The invitation is good for 30 days, so if you still haven’t joined the new list, there still should be time. If you didn’t get the invitation or aren’t getting event announcements on the new list ([skijoring@yahoogroups.com](mailto:skijoring@yahoogroups.com)), send me an email at [donkiely@computer.org](mailto:donkiely@computer.org) and I’ll get you set up.



### Membership Form for the Alaska Skijoring & Pulk Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or P. O. Box  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in receiving the newsletter on-line? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**

- Individual \$15.00/year \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Lifetime \$150 \_\_\_\_\_
- Family \$25.00/year \_\_\_\_\_ (No lifetime available)
- Affiliate \$5.00/year \_\_\_\_\_ (If already a member of your local skijor club.)
- Trail Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5/day or \$50/season suggested)

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club Website \_\_\_\_\_

Mail membership form to: ASPA, P. O. Box 82843, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

\*Membership year is from October 1 through September 30.

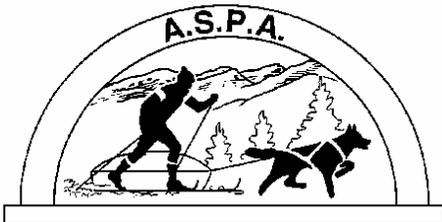
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**Paw Prints and Ski Tracks** is a monthly newsletter published during the winter season by the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association. It is printed by Mike Malvick, compliments of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The coordinating editor of Paw Prints and Ski Tracks is Lisa Stuby. Your comments, articles and pictures are greatly appreciated. Please e-mail any current information before the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month to lisa\_stuby@fishgame.state.ak.us.

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### Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association

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