

# PAW PRINTS & SKI TRACKS

## January Races

*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!*

Despite the lack of snow and bitter cold which caused many races to get cancelled in November and December, January saw nearly a race each weekend. Below is a collage of photos from Fun Race #2 and #3 on January 20th and 27th.

### Show 'n' Go #3

February 3

Call Peggy Raybeck  
for details

457-4775

### Wax Clinic at Raven Cross Country

6 PM ASPA members  
ONLY, preregistration  
recommended

456-5070

### Race Across the Valley

February 9-11

Pat DeRuyter

479-7853

### Training Clinic #2

December 9

Creamer's Field,

11AM

Pat DeRuyter

479-7853



**Fun Race #1** by Carol Kleckner

A temperature change of 50 degrees from the last couple of days brought out a number of skijorers for the second race of the season at Creamer's Field on a balmy Saturday afternoon. There were a variety of distances with 1, 2, and 3 dog classes.

Brian Charlton led the way with 3 dogs (Aspen, Wiggy, Clyde) on the 4.6 mile course. Following close behind them was a dog pulling a baby with a crash helmet in a pulka, as its parents watched hopelessly. But then when Jeff Mann with Faro and Roscoe came by, mom and dad retrieved the pulka with a still smiling child along for the ride. Jeff was flying along the course until he thought he had gone the wrong way, turned around, then realized he HAD been going the right way so turned around again and after making his dogs quite dizzy, finished the race with a few additional paw steps.

Two dog teams and skijorers raced the 3 dog 3.6 mile course. Sara Elzey led the way with Ayla, Chert and Crowe with Don Kiely close behind with Loon, Chance, and Daikon. Don had tried to throw off some various clothing items to distract his competitors. But apparently Notre Dame hats didn't interest most of the teams, although the hat has mysteriously disappeared.

Andy Warwick led the way in the 3.6 mile distance with Zip and Boots in the 2 dog class followed by Lisa Baraff with Hope and Luna.

Lisa Stuby and her overly friendly Elkhound took the top prize with 1 dog in the 3.6 mile distance and Kursten Hueffer with Grizzly was second.

4 teams started the 2.7 mile distance with 2 dogs. Peggy Raybeck with Carmen and Bronte beat the others even though she forgot to cinch her skijor belt and she had to pull it down from under her armpits all along the race course. Carol Kleckner was second with Chanel and Blackberry. John Schauer with Tsaina and Riley came in third and Andy Warwick racing a second time today was fourth with Licorice and Blue.

The most hotly contested race of the day was when six teams with 1 dog ran the 2.7 mile distance. Ted Wu with Ty was first, followed by John Hallsten and Chipper, Kimberlee Beckman and Iris, Brian Jackson and Josie, Kieran Gleason and Rusty Buffalo (yes this is the one dog's name!), and Laurie Hueffer and Suess.

Two teams ran the 1.4 mile 1 dog class. Katie Breen was first with Typha and Ted Wu doubled back for his second race was second with Lucey.

Race Director: Andy Warwick and Don Kiely

Registration: Don Kiely, Sara Elzey

Starter: Pat DeRuyter

Handlers: Karen Schauer

Timers: Judy Warwick and Kristi Downing

Reporter: Carol Kleckner

**Sponsors**

These sponsors provided prizes for today's race:

49er Feed, Alaska Feed/Pet Stuff, Alaska House Art Gallery, Apocalypse Design, Beaver Sports, Food Factory, Howling Dog Mushing Supplies, Lead Dog Graphic Arts, Mushing Magazine, Raven Cross Country, SkijorNow.com, and Taku Graphics. For a complete list of ASPA's 2006-7 sponsors, please visit

<http://www.sleddog.org/skijor/sponsorlist.html>.

Bib #	Skjorer	Dogs	Time	Place
<b>4.6 miles, 3-dog</b>				
1	Brian Charlton	Aspen, Wiggy, Clyde	20:54	1
<b>4.6 miles, 2-dog</b>				
2	Jeff Mann	Faro, Rosco	28:06	1
<b>3.6 mile, 3-dog</b>				
3	Sara Elzey	Ayla, Chert, Crowe	13:23	1
4	Don Kiely	Loon, Chance, Daikon	13:59	2
<b>3.6 mile, 2-dog</b>				
6	Andy War-	Zip, Boots	13:31	1
5	Lisa Baraff	Hope, Luna	17:17	2
<b>3.6 mile, 1-dog</b>				
7	Lisa Stuby	Killae	29:50	1
8	Kursten	Grizzly	32:14	2
<b>2.7 mile, 2-dog</b>				
11	Peggy Ray-	Carmen, Bronte	10:54	1
12	Carol	Chanel, Blackberry	11:07	2
10	John	Tsaina, Riley	11:54	3
20	Andy War-	Licorice, Blue	12:17	4
<b>2.7 mile, 1-dog</b>				
17	Ted Wu	Ty	13:07	1
15	John	Chipper	14:07	2
16	Kimberlee	Iris	14:13	3
14	Brian Jack-	Josie	14:59	4
13	Kieran	Rusty Buffalo	16:01	5
9	Laurie	Suess	24:37	6
<b>1.4 mile, 1-dog</b>				
18	Katie Breen	Typha	6:22	1
19	Ted Wu	Lucey	10:00	2

### Fun Race #2 by Carol Kleckner

The Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association held its second fun race of the season under sunny clear skies at Creamer's Field. A large turnout welcomed groomed trails and wonderful prizes in a new format for handing out the goodies.

Several stories headed up the day with Sara Elzey taking the biscuit award when her dog Blue (borrowed from Andy Warwick), stopped to upchuck along the trail after getting into a bag of dog treats in Andy's car shortly before the race. Sara still managed to hang onto third place in the 2 dog 2.6 mile race.

Emily Bernhardt with Clyde, Aspen, and Dusty held on to second place in the 3 dog 5.6 mile race even though she went a bit further after several signs were missing and she ended up on one of the longer loops. Mike Malvick won that race with Corky, Mesa, and Ingrid with Jeff Mann in third with Fen, Farro, and Fosco (did he plan those tongue twisting names?).

Only one team ran the long distance with 2 dogs, so Dana Truffer-Moudra took the top prize.

Andy Warwick took Zip, Boots and Licorice (all shelter rescues) to a first place in the 3.6 mile race with 3 dogs.

The 3.6 mile race with 2 dogs brought out 5 teams. Chad Carroll with Tico and Elvis was first, followed by Peggy Raybeck with Carmen and Bronte. Finishing out the field was Lisa Baraff (Hope, Luna), Steven Sheehy (Shriek, Sputnik), and Kimberlee Beckman (Ahi, Terri).

There were 2 entries in the 3.6 mile 1 dog race. Ted Wu with Ty (the shortest dog name of the day) beat out Kieran Gleason and Rusty Buffalo (the longest dog name of the day).

Mike Malvick came back for his second race of the day running Mons, Billie and Victor to first place in the only entry in the 2.7 mile 3 dog class.

Four skijorers and their pairs of dogs ran the 2.7 mile course. Carol Kleckner with Robin and Chanel were first, followed by John Schauer with Tsaina and Riley, Sara Elzey with Ayla and Blue, and George Aguiar with Brodie and Kiara. No one confessed to sliding through Blue's regurgitated biscuits.

In the 2.7 mile 1 dog class it was Peggy Rayback taking top spot with Masey. Kimberlee Beckman, back for a double-header for the day, was second with Iris. Completing the class was Katie Breen with Typha, Brian Jackson with Josie, and John Hallsten with Chipper.

Karsten Hueffer and Grizzly came in ahead of his wife Laurie and Suess in the 1 dog 1.4 mile race.

Sara Elzey ended the day with Shadow on the 0.5 mile loop taking home the biscuits for her 12 year old dog.

### Volunteers For Fun Race #2

Race Director: Don Kiely  
 Registration: Don Kiely, Sara Elzey  
 Starter: Pat DeRuyter  
 Timers: Judy Warwick and Sara Tabbert  
 Results/Math: Andy Warwick, Ted Wu  
 Reporter: Carol Kleckner

### Sponsors for Fun Race #2

49er Feed, Alaska Feed/Pet Stuff, Alaska House Art Gallery, Beaver Sports, Food Factory, Lead Dog Graphic Arts, Play It Again Sports, Raven Cross Country, Sara Tabbert, and Taku Graphics.

Bib #	Skjorer	Dogs	Time	Place
<b>5.6 miles, 3-dog</b>				
1	Mike Malvick	Corky, Mesa, Ingrid	22:20	1
7	Emily Bernhardt	Clyde, Aspen, Dusty	27:40	2
6	Jeff Mann	Fen, Farro, Rosco	29:44	3
<b>5.6 miles, 2-dog</b>				
8	Dana Truffer-Moudra	Mica, Saphira	32:54	1
<b>3.6 mile, 3-dog</b>				
2	Andy Warwick	Zip, Boots, Licorice	12:22	1
<b>3.6 mile, 2-dog</b>				
11	Chad Carrol	Tico, Elvis	12:44	1
4	Peggy Raybeck	Carmen, Bronte	13:34	2
10	Lisa Baraff	Hope, Luna	13:35	3
9	Steven Sheehy	Shriek, Sputnik	14:43	4
3	Kimberlee Beckman	Ahi, Terri	14:47	5
<b>3.6 mile, 1-dog</b>				
12	Ted Wu	Ty	16:20	1
13	Kieran Gleason	Rusty Buffalo	19:24	2
<b>2.7 mile, 3-dog</b>				
26	Mike Malvick	Mons, Billie, Victor	10:39	1
<b>2.7 mile, 2-dog</b>				
14	Carol Kleckner	Robin, Chanel	11:08	1
15	John Schauer	Tsaina, Riley	12:17	2
5	Sara Elzey	Ayla, Blue	14:13	3
16	George Aguiar	Brodie, Kiara	15:49	4
<b>2.7 mile, 1-dog</b>				
24	Peggy Raybeck	Masey	13:26	1
25	Kimberlee Beckman	Iris	13:58	2
18	Katie Breen	Typha	14:00	3
19	Brian Jackson	Josie	14:03	4
20	John Hallsten	Chipper	16:20	5
<b>1.4 mile, 1-dog</b>				
22	Karsten Hueffer	Grizzly	11:18	1
21	Laurie Hueffer	Suess	11:43	2
<b>0.5 mile, 1-dog</b>				
23	Sara Elzey	Shadow	3:45	1

**Fun Race #3** by Lisa Stuby

Fun Race #3 took place at North Star Golf Course. The overall turnout was a little smaller than expected, meaning all who participated had the chance to win great prizes. The temperature was between 5 and 10 degrees F and the trails were groomed to perfection. So overall, we had near perfect conditions for racing. Participants could choose from 8 to 1/2 mile distances with 1, 2, and 3 dog classes. At the conclusion of the races, I asked if there were any "stories" to report from the trail. All smiling participants reported today went smoothly.

Although the race went smoothly, there was some excitement on the trails prior to the race. While grooming the trail before the race, Pa DeRuyter spent 25 minutes at the #6 tee box waiting for a cow moose to move off the trail. Finally the moose stepped behind the "outhouse" and Pat drove by to complete the pre-race grooming. The moose finished her lunch of willow twigs and moved off the course before the start of the race.

Two people with 3 dogs each raced the 8 mile class. Emily Burnhardt won this class with Aspen, Clyde, and Dusty with a very impressive 30:32. Two of her dogs were adopted from the Fairbanks Animal Shelter. Mike Malvick with Corky, Ingrid, and Mesa came in a close second with 32:14, before quickly switching to his 11 year old dog Billie for the Canine Master Class.

Three people raced the 3 dog, 4 mile class, with Andy Warwick and his dogs Zip, Boots, and Licorice winning with 14:31. Sara Elzey and her fuzzy partners in crime Ayla, Chert, and Crowe came in second with 15:31.

Carol Kleckner with her overly eager to run dogs Borax and Jazz, won the 2 dog, 4 mile class with 15:07. Lisa Baraff with her also eager to run dogs Hope and Luna came in second with 16:58.

In a class of her own, Sara Tabbert and her enthusiastic and very friendly dog Rothko finished the 1 dog, 4 mile class with 22:03.

Katie Breen won the 1 dog, 2 mile class with her dog Typha with a time of 9:03. Andy Warwick, fresh from racing and winning the 3 dog, 4 mile class, came in with an impressive second with a time of 11:14.

Today we added a Canine Master's Class, encouraging those with dogs 10 years or older to come out and let them enjoy the thrill of racing again around a 1/2 mile course. Mike Malvick and Billie won this class with a time of 3:36. Carol Kleckner and Beans came in second with a time of 3:46, and last, but not least, was Sara Elzey with her dog Shadow at 5:36. I swear all three dogs had big smiles on their faces as they helped their exhausted owners, all who had raced previous races, across the finish line.

Four Course records were set on Saturday at North Star Golf Club trails. Emily Burnhardt (Aspen, Clyde, Dusty) set the 3-dog 8 mile record of 30:32. Andy Warwick (Zip, Boots, Licorice) set the 3-dog 4 mile record of 14:31. Sara Tabbert (Rothko) set the 1-dog 4 mile record at 22:03 and Mike Malvick (Billie) set the Canine Master class 0.8 mile record of 3:36.

**Volunteers**

This race could not have happened without the help from these folks:

Race Director: Lisa Stuby

Registration: Sara Elzey

Starter: Pat DeRuyter

Handler: AJ Sutton

Timers/Results: Pat DeRuyter and Lisa Stuby

**Sponsors**

These sponsors provided prizes for today's race:

49er Feed, Alaska House Art Gallery, Food Factory, Grub-stake Feed, Lead Dog Graphic Arts, Mushing Magazine, Raven Cross Country, SkijorNow.com, and Taku Graphics. For a complete list of ASPA's 2006-7 sponsors, please visit <http://www.sleddog.org/skijor/sponsorlist.html>

Bib #	Skjorer	Dogs	Time	Place
<b>8 mile, 3-dog</b>				
1	Mike Malvick	Corky, Ingrid, Mesa	32:14	2
2	Emily Burnhardt	Aspen, Clyde, Dusty	30:32	1
<b>4 mile, 3-dog</b>				
3	Sara Elzey	Ayla, Chert, Crowe	15:31	2
4	Andy Warwick	Zip, Boots, Licorice	14:31	1
5	Don Kiely	Daikon, Chance, Casper	15:50	3
<b>4 mile, 2-dog</b>				
6	Lisa Baraff	Hope, Luna	16:58	2
7	Iris Wood	Jake, Fox	17:28	3
8	Carol Kleckner	Borax, Jazz	15:07	1
9	John Schauer	Tsaina, Riley	18:26	4
<b>4 mile, 1-dog</b>				
10	Sara Tabbert	Rothko	22:03	1
<b>2 mile, 1-dog</b>				
11	Robin Eagan	Ivy	15:03	3
12	Jim Atherr	Sophie	17:44	4
13	Katie Breen	Typha	9:03	1
14	Andy Warwick	Blue	11:14	2
<b>Canine Master Class</b>				
15	Carol Kleckner	Beans	3:46	2
16	Sara Elzey	Shadow	5:36	3
17	Mike Malvick	Billie	3:36	1

## Race Across the Valley is scheduled for Feb 9-11, 2007.

Pre-registration is suggested for all days. Cost is \$10 per day (raised to help cover the cost of grooming extra trails) for ASPA members who pre-register. And \$15 per day for non-ASPA members and Race Day entrants. Participants racing all three days pay \$25 and should pay for all three days on the first day. Pre-register by sending your Name, days you are racing and class you are racing to [patd@gci.net](mailto:patd@gci.net) or call 479-7853 and leave your race information. Pre-registration closes at 5pm on the day before each Race. Stage Racers (racing all three days) must pre-register by 5pm on Thursday February 8.

The Format for the Race Across the Valley is:

- 1.) Stage Race Long distance participants will race all three days. You may have a pool of 5 dogs maximum. You may use up to 3 dogs any one day.
- 2.) Stage Race Short distance participants will race all three days. You may have a pool of 3 dogs maximum. You may use up to 2 dogs any one day.
- 3.) Day racers may participate in either the Distance or Short event. You may use up to 3 dogs in the Distance event and up to 2 dogs in the Short event.
- 4.) There will be day prizes for each class, as well as overall prizes for the Stage Race participants in each class.
- 5.) The Day One start order will be determined by draw, with the Stage Racers going out before the Day Racers in each class. The day two and three Stage Racers will go out in order of finish (first place will go out first, second place will go out second, etc.) followed by the Day Racers in random order. See more specific start order information below.

SCHEDULE: (course descriptions follow schedule below)

Day #1: Friday, February 9, 2007. Start at Henrik Court (off Farmer's Loop), trail on ADMA maintained trails. 4.5 mile loop for the Short Class. 7.8 mile loop for the Distance class. These are flat trails. 11:30 Race Day registration (check fees above). Noon Bib pickup. Start with the Distance class at 12:30pm, followed by the Short Class. We will use 1 minute intervals.

Day #2: Saturday, February 10, 2007. Use Isberg Trails. 4 miles for the Short Class and 7 miles for the Distance Class. There are hilly trails. 12:30pm Race Day registration (check fees above). 1:00pm bib pickup. 1:30pm Short Class Start with 30 second intervals. Distance Class will start at 2:00pm with 1 minute intervals.

Day #3: Sunday, February 11, 2007. On North Star Golf Club trails. 4 miles for Short Class and 8 miles for the Distance Class. These trails are open and curvy with some elevation change. 1:00pm Race Day registration (check fees above). 1:30pm bib pickup. 2:00pm Start. Distance Class followed by Short Class at 1 minute intervals.

ALL days (except the Short Class at Isberg on Saturday): We are starting at one-minute intervals. If you miss your start within 30 seconds, you may start (your time begins with your official start time). If you are more than 30 seconds late you will be sent to the end of the field. Your time begins with your official start time. For the Isberg race in the Short Class on Saturday, adjust the time accordingly for that class to 30 second start, miss by more than 15 seconds and you go out last in the class. Official start time is your assigned start time. Please line up in order of start. There will be tie outs available.

### TRY OUT THE TRAILS AHEAD OF TIME:

We plan to have signage up for the Race Across the Valley by Friday, January 26. Please visit each site to become familiar with the trails. There will be a practice session on Sunday, February 4 at 2pm at Isberg. We will try to have folks familiar with the trails on hand to help give directions and/or lead the way. North Star Golf Club is open for Practice sessions each Tuesday 11:30am-2pm and most Saturdays 11:30am -2pm. There will not be a formal practice session for Henrik Court. Please contact Pat at [patd@gci.net](mailto:patd@gci.net) or call 479-7853 with Henrik Court trail

Detailed trail information, driving directions to the trailheads, and race rules are available on the ASPA website or call Pat at 479-7853 or e-mail [patd@gci.net](mailto:patd@gci.net) for more information.

## Toenail Procrastination by Lisa Stuby

You've been putting it off night after night, but when your dog tries to sneak over to you while you are in the kitchen preparing a meal, the telltale "click-click-click" reminds you that it is that dreaded time again—time to trim your dog's toenails. Trimming is more than an ordeal; it is a necessary part of your dog's health. Toenails that are too long alter a dog's stance and gait by raising the toes and can make walking and running uncomfortable. Overly long nails can also cause a variety of problems including broken nails, which can be painful and bleed profusely.

Many dogs don't like to have their feet handled. It is important that dogs have their feet handled often during puppyhood. Massage his feet often and look at his nails, and offer praise when he is still. Get him used to the clipper and when clipping, offer up lots of praise and maybe a cookie or two. But then what do you do if you get an older dog who was never habituated to having his feet handled? In this instance, handle the feet for short periods, gradually increasing the frequency and duration, and always make sure it is a pleasant encounter. It might seem hopeless, but with time and patience, is doable. I once had a rescued sled dog that had spent his first year of life on a short chain with very little human contact. It took about a year, but he came around to enjoy being handled and eventually became quite the cuddler, but it took lots of time and patience. If your dog needs to have his nails trimmed, but his fear and dislike of the process is more than you can handle, consult with your veterinarian.

Now, you are ready to begin trimming. Some dogs will happily sit or lie down while you trim their nails, but many may require some form of restraint. You may want to sit on the floor with your dog or have someone hold your dog. If possible, exercising your dog prior to clipping his nails may also help calm him down. When you look at a white toenail, you will see a pink area in the center that comes from the base of the nail. This is the "quick" and is a vein in the nail that feeds the nail bed. You will want to avoid cutting the quick. Start conservatively. It is better to cut a little twice than cut too much and hit the quick. If you cut a nail and it bleeds, immediately apply some ferric subsulfate or a styptic powder and a small amount of pressure to the end of the nail. You could use a silver nitrate cautery stick but you must be sure to blot the blood away before applying the stick in a rolling manner. The cautery stick burns (cauterizes) the tissue and is quite painful. Its use will likely make your dog hate toe nail trimming even more. You can purchase the ferric subsulfate powder or pads at a pet supply store (Quik Stop is one brand and doesn't sting like silver nitrate). Silver nitrate and styptic are available from pharmacies as well as veterinary suppliers. In a pinch, use cornstarch and/or direct pressure for a few minutes with a cotton swab.

But, what if your dog's toenails are black as coal? If you turn over the paw and look at the underside of the nail you will notice a groove and if you stay toward the tip beyond its boundaries you will avoid the quick--hopefully. Another way to look at this is to imagine a plane from the bottom of the two pad straight to the nail, like a piece of paper held to the bottom of the toe pad and where it intersects with the nail. For very dark claws you may want to cut a little at a time. Trim very thin slices off the end of the nail until you see a black dot appear towards the center when you look at it head on. This is the start of the quick that you will want to avoid. When in doubt, consult with your veterinarian. It is important to only use nail trimmers that are designed for dogs and be sure to replace them when the blade becomes dull. A dull blade can cause splintering and you will want to make clean cuts.

The good news is, the more diligent you are about trimming, the more the quick will regress into the nail, allowing you to cut shorter each time. Likewise, the more you ignore this important part of paw maintenance, the more the quick will grow into the growing nail. I was told by the breeder of my current dog (whose nails are darker than coal) to trim every 4-6 weeks. Be patient, gentle, diligent, and work with your dog so nail trimming becomes a regular part of their grooming regimen.

Several years ago, Val Stuve, DVM of Aurora Animal Clinic, handed me "For the Want of the Nail" about nail trimming. The essay ended with, "Mushers beware-for the want of a nail the dog was dropped, for the want of a dog, the race was lost, for the want of a race, the sponsor was lost, and for the want of a sponsor, the musher had to get a second job to pay for dog food."

Sources used for this article come from websites: <http://www.PetPlace.com> and <http://www.DogChow.com> and from "For the Want of the Nail" by Val Stuve, DVM. Also, thanks to Kimberlee Beckmen, DVM for helping proofread.

### Husky Containment by Sara Tabbbert

I have to admit to having experienced “husky containment issues” firsthand. After a few epic escapes last spring, I realized I had a potential disaster on my hands. When I really stopped to think about it, I figured that the best case scenario would be for one of my dogs to be hit and killed by a car or shot by a neighbor – best case when compared to a loose dog on the road causing an accident, having one of my dogs kill livestock or wildlife, or having a dog hurt a child. It seemed like a good time for a better solution. Hence, the fence.

I wanted to put up a fence that provided my dogs with a large area to run, had a good level of security, and fell within my financial resources.

I decided to combine two fencing systems. I bought an “invisible fence” package that utilizes a boundary wire and shock collars (or “radio-static” collars – trust me, it’s a good shock!) These systems are designed to be buried around the edge of a yard. When the dog gets close to the wire, the receiver on the collar first beeps, then if they remain in the area, zaps. I knew I couldn’t trust this alone. Instead of burying the boundary wire, we strung it along the lower portion of seven foot high black poly fencing. The actual poly fence provides a visual barrier and some measure of protection; the shock collars are a reminder to the dogs to stay away from the fence. With our boggy ground it is nearly impossible to put in anything they can’t dig out under, aside from a small fortune in gravel and wire. I opted for the wire/receiver option over a standard electric fence for several reasons – one, it seemed simpler, two, the dogs wouldn’t have to touch the fence to get the message, and three, one of my dogs never runs away and might come unglued when confronted with an electric fence (Rothko, a sensitive fellow, knows nothing of the zap collars.)



Team Couch at a respectful distance from fence



Boundary wire attached to gate and fence

We mounted the poly fence on ten foot metal stakes using the wire ties used for rebar. The “invisible fence” wire is mounted to the “visible fence” using plastic coated twist ties. A box inside the house sets off an alarm if the wire is broken. (It can easily be spliced back together.) We built in some loops of slack into the wire so that if a moose crashed through, the wire wouldn’t break. There appeared to be one moose that got in and out this summer with minimal damage. I have seen several moose right on the edge of the fence, but they seem mainly to be deterred.

The black boxes that deliver the shock came mounted on rather flimsy collars with plastic buckles. I went ahead and re-mounted them on standard nylon collars and they have held up just fine. I don't always put the zap collars on, but I do it frequently enough to remind the dogs that the fence is not to be messed with.



Stake and fence



Remounted collar

In all, I have about an acre of fenced area. I enjoy having my dogs come in the house and into my studio, so we more or less enclosed the “living area” of our property. The fence went up in May, and there have been no escapes since. The batteries on the collars seem to last quite a while. I still switch out collars and tie up my dogs every time I leave home.

There are a few drawbacks to consider. Although my dogs won't go out, it is possible for loose neighborhood dogs to find their way in. It hasn't happened much, but it has happened. Also, my dogs dig. This doesn't really matter in my yard, but some of you with more civilized homesteads might want to consider the potential damage. Of course, an area separate from your front yard could be fenced off. I can expect to have to maintain the posts and fence when the ground thaws again and things shift around. (But that's true for everything in permafrost.) And last but definitely not least, it costs a good chunk of change.

The entire thing (“invisible fence,” two pre-built metal gate sections, four receiver collars, and fencing and posts for an acre) cost about \$1,600. The collars cost \$50/ each, making it a viable system for three or four dogs, but probably not for many more than that. This is a lot of money. It also took about two solid days of work to get the fence up.

At the same time, consider how much it can cost to repair an injured dog, let alone any of the other potential hazards I mentioned earlier. I still think I'm money ahead. It's a lot of fun to watch everyone run and play, and my dogs and I seem quite satisfied with our compromise. And to paraphrase the TV commercial – “Peace of mind that comes from knowing where your dogs are at 3 am – Priceless.”

### TRAIL TALK

With the advent of snow in late December/early January, the groomers have been great keeping the trails at Creamer's and North Star golf course in good shape. With every additional inch of snow and effort to smooth, they get even better. MANY THANKS Pat DeRuyter, Mike Supkis, John Hallsten, Peggy Raybeck, Carol Kleckner, David French, and Andy Warwick. Also, thanks to Aaron Hawkins who has plowed North Star parking lot and turnaround.

**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.**

### Aurora Animal Clinic



### Small Animal Veterinary Practice

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



#### 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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