

# 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!*

**January 26**  
Fun Race #5  
Creamer's Field,  
11:30 AM, Andy Warwick, 474-9148

**February 2**  
ASPA Show'n Go #3  
Contact Peggy Raybeck for location and details  
457-4775

**February 4**  
Ski Waxing Clinic  
Raven Cross Country  
6:00 PM, ASPA members only. Pre-register at 456-5070.

**February 15-17**  
Race Across the Valley  
Fun Class est. 3-5 miles (3 dog pool)  
Distance Class est. 6+ miles (5 dog pool)  
Location TBA

## 2007 ASPA Beginner's Clinic by Sara Elzey

A BIG thanks to Alaska Feed for hosting us for the classroom session of our annual Beginners Clinic, and to all the volunteers who came out on a chilly but beautiful Saturday afternoon to help out with the on-snow session! There were 30 beginners and an assortment of dogs who came out for the clinic and by all accounts everyone had a great time.

### Classroom Session:

- Jon, Mike, and the rest of the Alaska Feed staff for helping with registration and allowing us to use their classroom
- Carol Kleckner
- Sara Elzey (and Myst, aka Princess, the harness model)

### Handlers:

- Laurie Hueffer
- Alice Stickney
- Peggy Raybeck
- Lisa Baraff
- Carol Kleckner
- Sara Elzey

### "Rabbits:"

- Steven Sheehy (Blue, Sputnik, Shrike, Queenie, and Ahi)
- Andy Seitz (Ed & Mable)
- Chad Carroll (Tico & Elvis)
- Ted Wu (Ty)
- Janet Smith (Rascal & Pete)

Participants reported this was a very fun and informative clinic.



Photos of the classroom and on-snow portions of the 2007 ASPA Beginner's Clinic. All photos by Dave Partee.

More photos from the 2007 Beginner's clinic. All photos by Dave Partee.



#### Note from the Newsletter Editor

This will be your last ASPA newsletter if you haven't paid your 2007-2008 membership dues. In the past several years, ASPA was fairly lax about suspending newsletter privileges to past-due members because we had access to free printing. We currently have to pay for the newsletter printing and it is not cheap. The least expensive commercial printing I could find in Fairbanks is 0.09c per page (or 0.18c per double-sided sheet). I've been averaging 8-10 pages per newsletter. By adding in the additional 0.42c for a stamp, 7 yearly newsletters will cost ASPA approximately \$8-\$9 per member per year or almost half of the membership fee of \$15.00. If your address label states, "New Membership Year, Please Renew" this will be your last newsletter until your dues have been received. If you have paid your dues and still have this message on your sticker, did not receive a newsletter, and/or received a duplicate newsletter, please send an email to Lisa Stuby ([lisa.stuby@alaska.gov](mailto:lisa.stuby@alaska.gov)) and I will update and correct the errors on the mailing list.

Also, I welcome newsletter articles from our members. As newsletter editor my task is to mainly assemble, format, print, and mail out the month's newsletter and not to write most of the articles. Although I've skijored and skied for close to 20 years, I've never gotten involved in anything too serious in terms of racing or keeping a kennel, etc. My knowledge of gear is also limited. It has only been in the last year that I have purchased a half-way decent pair of skate skis and upgraded my skijoring belt from one I purchased at Apocalypse Design in 1988! In addition, my present skijoring dog is probably more skilled at jumping off of the trail after voles and pointing out where the moose are. So, I welcome articles on more technical aspects of gear, training tips, great places to skijor, etc. that you all have learned and experienced over the years and wish to share. Also, my camera is unfortunately showing its age and I welcome pictures of ASPA events, etc. Due to unforeseen travel due to family issues, it may be awhile before I can afford to purchase a new camera.

To submit an article and/or pictures, please send to [lisa.stuby@alaska.gov](mailto:lisa.stuby@alaska.gov) by the last day of the month. I usually try to get the newsletter to the printers during the first week of each month. Thanks and I wish you all a good 2008.

**Fun Race #1, North Star Golf Course, November 25, 2007** as reported by Pat DeRuyter

North Star Golf Club hosted the third Alaska Skijor & Pulk Association Fun race of the 2007-2008 season. Temperatures were chilly for the humans but ideal for the dogs and the trails were excellent from the recent dusting.

Seventeen teams took to the trails with Brian Charlton leading the 6-mile, 3-dog class with a time of 19:32. Chad Carroll was second with a time of 22:04 and Emily Bernhardt third at 22:12. Greg Jurek, running two dogs had a time in the 6-mile event of 20:07. Wallace Bandeff, running one dog came in with a time of 28:47

In the 3-dog, four mile Carol Kleckner placed first with a time of 13:53, followed by Karl Schauer at 14:34 and Sara Elzey at 14:54.

Peggy Raybeck took top honors in the 2-dog, four mile event with a time of 15:04 with Wes Graf second at 15:45 and Doreen McNeill third at 17:01.

The 1-dog, four mile event was won by Kimberlee Beckmen with a time of 19:32 followed by Laurie Hueffer at 20:42 and Gail Davidson at 24:53.

Nina Ruckhaus was the only entrant in the 1-dog, two mile with a time of 10:42.

Thanks to the following volunteers for making this race possible:

Race director and Starter: Andy Warwick

Registrar: Peggy Raybeck

Timers: Judy Warwick, Curtis McNeil, Janet Bandeff, John Schauer, Paula Ruckhaus, and Pat DeRuyter

Trail Groomer: Pat DeRuyter

Roger and Melinda Evans for the use of the North Star Golf Course.

Bib #	Skjorer	Dogs	Time	Place
<b>8 mile, 2-dog</b>				
1	Matt Bray	Gilbert, Rainy	31:58	1
<b>6 mile, 2-dog</b>				
2	Sara Tabbert	Pete, Irene	25:48	1
<b>6 mile, 1-dog</b>				
3	Wallace Bandeff	Finny	27:44	1
<b>4 mile, 3-dog</b>				
7	Jesse Warwick	Zip, Licorice, Boots	13:49	1
6	Carol Kleckner	Jazz, Blackberry, Misty	14:18	2
5	Sara Elzey	Robin, Chert, Millie	14:52	3
4	John Schauer	Tsaina, Riley, Willow	15:11	4
8	Don Kiely	Daikon, Chance, Casper	15:25	5
<b>4 mile, 2-dog</b>				
12	Kriya Dunlap	Zeus, Tommy	12:42	1
10	Greg Jurek	Che, Rib	12:54	2
11	Scott Campbell	Brahma, Ruby	12:58	3
13	Andy Seitz	Yeller, Waylon	13:41	4
9	Chad Carroll	Tico, Elvis	14:34	5
14	Wes Graf	Macy, Carman	15:24	6
26	Steven Sheehy	Ahi, Sputnik	18:10	7
<b>4 mile, 1-dog</b>				
15	Greg Jurek	Tar	14:59	1
16	Gail Davidson	Tobi	25:39	2
17	Jim Altherr	Sophie	30:38	3
<b>2 mile, 2-dog</b>				
19	Sara Elzey	Loon, Borax	7:34	1
20	Peggy Raybeck	Charlie Brown, Trakker	7:39	2
18	Jesse Warwick	Blue, Lady	10:04	3
<b>2 mile, 1-dog</b>				
21	Kimberlee Beckmen	Iris	9:48	1
23	Nina Ruckhaus	Tracker	9:54	2
22	Jarrold Decker	Mudder	10:58	3
<b>0.75 mile, 2-dog</b>				
24	Janice Wieggers	Mario, Trance	3:56	1
<b>0.75 mile, 1-dog</b>				
25	Kriya Dunlap	Boomer	3:38	1

<b>Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association Fun Race #3.</b>				
<b>26 December 2007, North Star Golf Course as reported by Andy Warwick</b>				
<b>Bib #</b>	<b>Skijorer</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>Six-mile, tree dogs</b>				
3	Brian Charlton	Wiggy, Bonnie, Clyde	19:32	1
1	Chad Carroll	Tico, Penny, Elvis	22:04	2
2	Emily Bernhard	Dusty, Coral, Calvin	22:12	3
<b>Six-mile, two dogs</b>				
4	Greg Jurek	Che, Tar	20:07	1
<b>Six-mile, one dog</b>				
5	Wallace Bandeff	Finny	28:47	1
<b>Four-mile, three dog</b>				
8	Carol Kleckner	Jazz, Blackberry, Misty	13:53	1
6	Karl Schauer	Tsaina, Riley, Willow	14:34	2
7	Sara Elzey	Robin, Millie, Chert	14:54	3
9	Don Kiely	Chance, Daikon, Casper	15:31	4
<b>Four-mile, two dog</b>				
13	Peggy Raybeck	Carmen, Masey	15:04	1
12	Wes Graf	Tolz, Arvil	15:45	2
10	Doreen McNeill	Rouen, Snowball	17:01	3
11	Karsten Hueffer	Addie, Callie	18:27	4
<b>Four-mile, one dog</b>				
15	Kimberlee Beckmen	Iris	19:32	1
14	Laurie Hueffer	Grizzly	20:42	2
16	Gail Davidson	Tobie	24:53	3
<b>Two-mile, one dog</b>				
17	Nina Ruckhaus	Tracker	10:42	1

North Star Golf Club hosted the second Alaska Skijor & Pulk Association Fun Race of the 2007-2008 season. Temperatures were ideal for the dogs and the trails were excellent from the recent snow. Twenty-six teams took to the trails with Kriya Dunlap leading the 4-mile, 2-dog class with a time of 12:42. Greg Jurek was only twelve seconds behind in second place with 12:54, and Scott Campbell in third place only 16 seconds out with 12:58.

Jesse Warwick led the 4-mile 3-dog class with a time of 13:49. Carol Kleckner was second in at 14:18 and Sara Elzey third with a time of 14:52.

Greg Jurek obliterated the field in the 4-mile 1-dog with a time of 14:59. Gail Davidson was second with 25:39 followed by Jim Altherr at 30:38

Kimberly Beckmen won the 2-mile 1-dog event with a time of 9:48. Close behind her was Nina Ruckhaus with 9:54. Jarrod Decker was third with a time of 10:58

Winning the 2-mile 2-dog race was Sara Elzey with a time of 7:34, followed closely by Peggy Raybeck at 7:39 and Jesse Warwick in at 10:04.

Thanks to the following volunteers for making this race possible:

Race director and timer: Andy Warwick

Registrars: Chad Carroll and Don Kiely,  
Timer: Judy Warwick

Starter and trail groomer: Pat DeRuyter

And as always, Roger and Melinda Evans for the use of the North Star Golf Course.

## **Spaying and neutering your dog** by Lisa Stuby

With the rash of e-mails recently with ASPA and affiliated members informing that a loose and usually unneutered male dog has been sighted and/or captured and taken to the animal shelter, I feel compelled to write an article on spaying and neutering your pets as a means of keeping unwanted pets out of the shelter. Below is some information I gathered from different sources and I couldn't help but add a little of my own opinion in spots.

Recent studies have come up with the following data pronouncing pet population as pet overpopulation.

- 50,000 puppies and kittens are born each day
- There's a ratio of 1 pet with a home to 4 who are abandoned, abused, and neglected.
- An average of almost 100 dogs find themselves in shelters within a single day
- Every year 30% to 60% of these animals have to be destroyed
- Euthanizing pets is a last recourse since shelters have no means to support an estimated 40-60 million animals.
- Most bites to humans, the largest percentage of roaming dogs, and the largest incidence of dog to dog aggression is in un-neutered males.

Below is a list of myths and truths about spaying and neutering

### ***SPAYING AND NEUTERING MYTHS***

#### **1. MY DOG WILL GET FAT AND LAZY.**

With the right amount of food and exercise, your pet will not become fat. He will require fewer calories to maintain proper weight and should be fed less - he will be less expensive to feed! A dog's laziness or inactivity depends on his personality and temperament (some breeds tend to require more exercise than others). **HOWEVER**, the biggest factor here is the **OWNER**. Your dog won't get fat and lazy if you are taking him for frequent walks, skijor runs, etc. and you'll work off the holiday binges.

#### **2. IT'S IMPORTANT TO LET A FEMALE HAVE ONE HEAT PERIOD.**

One season is one extra risk of unwanted pregnancy. She will be temperamental, will drip on your floor, and will attract a yard-full of waiting suitors. There is no proven benefit to waiting. I once took care of a female lab, who although normally very friendly, while in heat she was aggressive to my elder neutered male husky and a couple of times attacked him for no reason..

#### **3. SPAYING IS DANGEROUS.**

When done by a licensed veterinarian, routine spay/neuter surgery is actually less dangerous than the stress and danger of complications possible in pregnancy. Have the procedure done by an experienced vet.

#### **4. STERILIZED PETS AREN'T GOOD WATCH DOGS.**

If anything, they are more content with home and family and are more devoted. The "bad" watchdog would be "bad" sterilized or not. Breed is a bigger factor in watch dog effectiveness. For instance, Siberian huskies tend to love everyone and tend to make poor watch dogs, but German shepherd dogs tend to make excellent watch dogs.

#### **5. BUT MY DOG IS PUREBRED / UNUSUAL / SPECIAL**

If you think your pet should be bred for any of these reasons, visit your local shelters. See the many special, beautiful dogs and the large number of purebreds there. 70% of these dogs will be killed. There aren't enough homes for them all. For every puppy you place, another goes homeless. Don't add to the tragedy. My present dog is a purebred, special, etc. and I had him neutered at 5 1/2 months. He recovered very quickly and we can visit the dog park without too many worries. All he wants to do is play and socialize with other dogs and people and I can relax. Prior to getting neutered, even at 5 months he was starting to notice females in heat!

**6. BUT MY DOG IS A MALE!**

While a female dog can have two litters per year, a male could sire that many in an afternoon! He can sense a female in season within a 2 ½ mile radius and will do anything to get to her. Neutered males are far less quarrelsome and more content to stay home with you. Also, if your dog does accidentally get loose, at least you won't have to worry about unwanted litters and chances are he will be easier to capture.

**7. I WOULDN'T DO IT TO MYSELF, I COULDN'T DO IT TO MY DOG!**

Animals conceive and produce litters purely on biological instinct, and instinct which lasts for that moment alone. They don't feel deprived by sterilization, but an unsterilized dog will feel extreme frustration when in season or when they sense an in-season female is nearby. This frustration often leads to behavior problems and aggression. As silly as this may sound, I have heard a number of people mention this and criticize me for spaying and neutering my dogs and cats over the years. I will refrain from adlibbing here.

***THE BENEFITS OF SPAYING & NEUTERING:*****1. THE MOST IMPORTANT IS TO PREVENT THE BIRTH OF UNWANTED LITTERS.****2. YOUR PET WILL BE HAPPIER AND MORE CONTENT.**

An unsterilized pet is often anxious and frustrated. He or she may pace or whine, act aggressively or inappropriately to furniture or people. He is not happy inside or out, and is driven by something he cannot understand.

**3. IT CAN INCREASE YOUR PET'S LIFE EXPECTANCY.**

Spaying eliminates uterine infection and reduces the risk of mammary cancer. Neutering prevents testicular and prostate cancer. In addition to the health benefits, your pet won't face the danger of being in fights, run over or exposed to diseases while on the prowl in search of a mate.

**4. CAN'T AFFORD IT? - YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO!**

The cost of sterilization is minor compared to the cost of feeding and raising litters. If all goes well, the veterinary care of the dam and her litter will be substantial - and what if things do not go well? Problems in delivery could lead to Caesarian section, lost puppies or even the loss of the mother. A sterilized pet often requires fewer vet bills and, with the reduced food intake required, is less expensive to feed!

Sources for this article were taken from: <http://www.iheartpaws.com/articles/108/1/Overpopulation--The-Importance-of-Spaying-and-Neutering/Page1.html>; <http://www.inch.com/~dogs/spaying.html>; and <http://www.diamondsintheruff.com/whyspayneuter.html>

**December Show 'n' Gos as reported by Peggy Raybeck**

**December 23rd:** It was a beautiful, fun, above zero day, and Pat DeRuyter groomed the trails at the North Star Golf Course. She also managed to coax a cow and calf moose away and as a result we now have a "moose cutoff" for future reference, to use when they are at the far end of the lower trail (see Trail Talk).

Six people and 10 dogs participated: Karsten and Laurie Hueffer skied with Suess, Grizzly, Pence, Addie, and Mocha. Alena Evans and Bjørg Edberg both skied with Cindy Salmon's dogs (Coho, Chinook, and Humpy), Wally Bandeff with Finny, and Peggy with Charlie Brown and Trakker. Several other skijor club members also came out to enjoy the trails.

**December 27th:** It was a beautiful, relatively warm day for this Show 'N Go. Six skijorers and 13 dogs participated. The Waterford Trail in the hills above Goldstream valley was in great condition with a little new snow. The Waterford trail is 6 miles round trip. Brian Charlton with Bonnie and Clyde and Emily Bernhardt with Coral and Duffy skied up to the pipeline on Waterford trail and connected to the Eldorado Creek Trail from the pipeline for a total approximately 18 miles. Karl Schauer with Tsaina, Riley, and Willow skied up Waterford trail and along the pipeline before returning to the trailhead. Two skiers with one dog each skied the Waterford trail to pipeline turnaround and back with Wally Bandeff with Finny, Gail Davidson with Tobi and Maggie following. Gail had two exciting, successful passes on the steepest section. Peggy Raybeck skied with Smokey and Bandit first; then with Charlie Brown and Trakker.



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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. The coordinating editor of Paw Prints and Ski Tracks is Lisa Stuby. Your comments, articles and pictures are greatly appreciated. Please e-mail the information before the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month to lisa.stuby@alaska.gov.

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