

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!

March 1

8th Annual Birch Hill Races, Birch Hill Nordic Ski Area, Jim Herriges, 455-8007

March 5

Fun Race #6, Creamer's Field, evening time TBA, Andy Warwick, 474-9148

March 16

Orienteering Race, Creamer's Field, 3:30 PM registration, Pat DeRuyter, 479-7853

March 22-23

Lee's Cabin Race and Show 'n' Go, time TBA Sara Tabbert, 479-0456.

March 29

Fun Race #7 and year-end BBQ. North Star Golf Course, time TBA, Andy Warwick, 474-9148

Race Across the Valley 2008

This is the third year I participated in the Race Across the Valley and I swear it just keeps getting more and more fun. There were long and a short distance classes and participants could race all three days or just one or two, so there was something for everyone, even slow pokes like us. A hearty THANK YOU to the organizers and volunteers for their hard work and positive attitudes. Below are descriptions of the race, race results, and a few photographs of the events.

Stage 1 at Chena Lakes, February 15, 2008 as reported by Sara Elzey

After a roller coaster ride of weather in the past several weeks, the first day of the 2008 Race Across the Valley turned out quite nicely. There was a fairly strong wind and some drifted snow on the trails, but the sun peaked out from behind the clouds for the start of the race. Chris Jenkins and the Chena Lakes crew had the trails in good shape and even opened up one of the restrooms and turned on the heat so that no racers had to make clandestine trips into the woods. Most of the racers thoroughly enjoyed their runs. There were several different groups of ice fishermen along the trail and a large group of tourists in matching red parkas who watched with wide eyes as the racers skied by. No wildlife sightings were reported other than a few ravens riding the wind currents. Lisa Stuby provide hot cocoa and home-baked chocolate cookies for all the human competitors and the dogs got bags of treats. Thanks to Andy Warwick for timing the event at the last minute.

Fifteen skijorers and 29 dogs took part in today's event. Brian Charlton with his team of Clyde, Bonnie, and Wiggie handily won the 9.5 mile class with a time of 31:27. Emily Bernhardt and her team of Coral, Dusty and Calvin came in second place with a time of 33:50. Wes Graff, Matt Bray, Sara Tabbert, and Wallace Bandeff rounded out the competition in the Long Distance class. The 4.5 mile Short Distance class had nine competitors. Andy Seitz with Ed and Yeller outpaced Jim Herriges and Lena with a time of 13:11 over 13:52. Peggy Raybeck with her team of Carmen and Cheddar (in his first skijoring race) came in third in 14:08, while Carol Kleckner with Jazz and Chanel finished fourth in 14:38. Andy Warwick, Sara Elzey, Don Kiely, Gail Davidson, and Lisa Stuby rounded out the competition in the Short Class.

Thanks to all our volunteers today, including Andy Warwick (who almost single-handedly made the race happen), Lisa Stuby for the treats, and co-race directors Sara Elzey, Sara Tabbert, and Don Kiely. And a big thanks to the borough's Chris Jenkins for making the venue available and grooming the trails the night before!

A BIG Thank you to the North Pole Veterinary Clinic (488-2335) for the donation of 3 hooded sweatshirts as race prizes. In particular, Dr. Denali Lovely, Dr. Margaret Eastman, and Dr. Renee Rember.

Race Across the Valley 2008 - Day #1, Chena Lakes, 2/15/2008

Bib #	Skijorer	Dog(s)	Time	Place
9.5 mile, up to 3 dogs				
5	Brian Charlton	Clyde, Bonnie, Wiggie	31:27	1
3	Emily Bernhardt	Coral, Dusty, Calvin	33:50	2
4	Wes Graf	Spencer, Lucas, Prince	34:45	3
2	Matt Bray	Rainy, Sullivan	37:56	4
6	Sara Tabbert	Pablo, Rothko	44:55	5
1	Wallace Bandeff	Finny	53:20	6

Bib #	Skijorer	Dog(s)	Time	Place
4.5 mile, up to 2 dogs				
14	Andy Seitz	Ed, Yeller	13:11	1
7	Jim Herriges	Lena	13:52	2
10	Peggy Raybeck	Cheddar, Carmen	14:08	3
8	Carol Kleckner	Jazz, Chanel	14:38	4
15	Andy Warwick	Zip, Licorice	14:42	5
11	Sara Elzey	Ayla, Millie	15:05	6
12	Don Kiely	Chance, Daikon	16:17	7
13	Gail Davidson	Tobi	22:09	8
9	Lisa Stuby	Killae	30:00	9

Stage 2 at Two Rivers, February 16, 2008 as reported by Carol Kleckner and Don Kiely

Twists and turns, ups and downs, dogs careening through a course that was technically very difficult yet amazingly fun! This was the second day of Race Across the Valley as 14 skijorers and their dogs took to the Two Rivers Ski Area cross country trails. These trails at 18 mile Chena Hot Springs Road are the most challenging trails that the Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association races on.

Five racers did the longer 7.75 mile course with Emily Bernhardt and her 3 dogs coming out on top with a time of 31:36. Following her were Wes Graf (3 dogs), Matt Bray (2 dogs), Sara Tabbert (2 dogs), and Wallace Bandeff, who completed the course with only one dog (and a rescued shelter dog at that!).

The short course took the skiers and their dogs 4.65 miles, just once around the full course at Two Rivers. Andy Seitz took the lead with two dogs in 17:48 but Jim Herriges and his maniac pointer Lena were just 15 seconds behind at 18:03. Rounding out the field were Chad Carroll (2 dogs), Peggy Raybeck (2 dogs), Carol Kleckner (2 dogs), Sara Elzey (2dogs), Don Kiely (2 dogs), Gail Davidson (1 dog), and Lisa Stuby (1 dog).

Lisa thought the people with 3 dogs were incredibly brave to do this course with so many dogs pulling them at top speeds but we were all in awe of Wallace, Gail, Jim, and Lisa with only one dog to help them up some extremely steep hills.

A big thanks to our volunteers today. Andy Warwick started us off and got us out in order, Janet Bandeff helped with timing and results, Brandon McGrath-Barnhard helped at the start and the long distance cutoff turn, Tom McGrane got us across the road crossing, Laenne Thompson took some great and incriminating photos of skijorers in action, and Carol Kleckner and Don Kiely assembled the results and report. The co-race directors Sara Elzy, Sara Tabbert, and Don Kiely got it all together!

We are deeply grateful to the Two Rivers Ski Club and Kay Kindt for letting us use their trails and grooming them to perfection!



Left: Don and Andy expertly timing 'em in at Chena Lakes.

Right: A very happy Finny at the conclusion of the first leg of RAV.

Photos by Lisa Stuby



Race Across the Valley, Day #2, Two River Ski Trails, 2/16/2008

Bib	Skijorer	Dog(s)	2nd Day Time	Place	1st Day Time	Total Time	1st/2nd Day Place	Bib	Skijorer	Dog(s)	2nd Day Time	Place	1st Day Time	Total Time	1st/2nd Day Order
7.75 miles, up to 3 dogs								4.65 miles, up to 2 dogs							
1	Emily Bernhardt	Coral, Dusty, Wiggy	31:36	1	33:50	65:26	1	6	Andy Seitz	Waylon, Yeller	17:48	1	13:11	30:59	1
2	Wes Graf	Frugar, Max, Spencer	31:40	2	34:45	66:25	2	7	Jim Herriges	Lena	18:03	2	13:52	31:55	2
3	Matt Bray	Wrangell, Gilbert	37:34	3	37:56	75:30	3	8	Peggy Raybeck	Carmen, Masey	20:25	4	14:08	34:33	3
5	Sara Tabbert	Pete Irene	40:35	4	44:55	85:30	4	9	Carol Kleckner	Jazz, Robin	21:36	5	14:38	36:14	4
4	Wallace Bandeff	Finny	46:28	5	53:20	99:48	5	10	Sara Elzey	Ayla, Borax	23:49	6	15:05	38:54	5
								11	Don Kiely	Chance, Daikon	28:02	7	16:17	44:19	6
								12	Gail Davidson	Tobi	39:37	8	22:09	61:46	7
								13	Lisa Stuby	Killae	50:24	9	30:00	80:24	8
								14	Chad Carroll	Tico, Elvis	18:58	3	--	--	--



Running strong after a year off due to an injury, Lena is showing Jim Herriges that the "little" hill at Two Rivers was nothing!! Photo by Laenne Thompson.

Stage 3 at Creamer's Field, February 17, 2008 as reported by Brian Charlton

The 2008 Race Across the Valley stage race finished up with a fun and adventurous day at Creamer's Field. The warm Sunday weather made for many eventful encounters with unsuspecting skiers and dog walkers who were also enjoying the trails. Several loose dogs, a standard poodle pulling a pulk, and a mother pulling a baby in a sled resulted in many a tangle and several good stories at the awards ceremony. True to the nature of skijoring, everyone seemed to brush off any misfortunes and finish with smiles on their faces.

Sunday had the biggest turnout of the three day series with 19 racers and 37 dogs hitting the trails. The Race Across the Valley champions were Emily Bernhardt, winning the 26.5 mile distance class in 99:54, and Andy Seitz, with a time of 44:34 for the 13.4 mile short distance class. Second place went to Wes Graf and Jim Herriges, respectively.

Many thanks must go out to Andy Warwick who, in addition to finishing 7th in Sunday's race, was out at 10pm the night before repairing damaged trails to ensure a safe race. He was named RAV Volunteer of the Year by the race directors. Thanks to all of the other volunteers for timing, handling, and grooming; without them these races could not happen. Pat DeRuyter handled the start line, with timers Clarice Dukeminier and Janet Bandeff, and Sara Tabbert handling dogs. Laenne Thompson was the official photographer and Brian calculated and reported the results. Kimberlee Beckmen and Andy Warwick groomed trails during the weekend leading up to the race. The co-race directors were Sara Elzey (head race official who did most of the organizing work), Sara Tabbert, and Don Kiely.

Race Across the Valley 2008, Day #3, 2/17/2008, Creamer's Field

Bib	Skijorer	Dog(s)	3rd Day time	Place	2nd Day Time	Total time for 3 days	Order for all 3 days		Bib	Skijorer	Dog(s)	3rd Day time	Place	2nd Day Time	Total time for 3 days	Order for all 3 days
9.3 miles, up to 3 dogs								4.3 miles, up to 2 dogs								
1	Emily Bernhardt	Coral, Bonnie, Wiggy	34:28	2	65:26	99:54	1		8	Andy Seitz	Ed, Waylon	13:35	2	30:59	44:34	1
2	Wes Graf	Frugar, Max, Prince	43:17	6	66:25	109:42	2		9	Jim Herriges	Lena	13:21	1	31:55	45:16	2
3	Matt Bray	Sullivan, Rainy	38:03	4	75:30	113:33	3		10	Peggy Raybeck	Cheddar, Masey	14:33	3	34:33	49:06	3
4	Wallace Bandeff	Finny	45:08	7	99:48	144:56	4		11	Carol Kleckner	Robin, Jazz	14:47	5	36:14	51:01	4
5	Brian Charlton	Clyde, Calvin, Reuben	33:47	1	-	-			12	Sara Elzey	Borax, Millie	15:23	6	38:54	54:17	5
7	Chad Carroll	Elvis, Tico	37:11	3	-	-			13	Don Kiely	Chance, Daikon	16:48	8	44:19	61:07	6
6	John Schauer	Tsaina, Riley, Willow	41:59	5	-	-			14	Gail Davidson	Tobi	20:39	10	61:46	82:25	7
								15	Lisa Stuby	Killae	35:56	12	80:24	116:20	8	
								18	Lisa Baraff	Tsuga, Luna	14:39	4				
								17	Andy Warwick	Zip, Licorice	15:38	7				
								16	Kimberlee Beckmen	Terri, Iris	17:54	9				
								19	Jim Alther	Sophie	27:33	11				

Emily Bernhardt with another unbeatable team at Two Rivers. Photo by Laenne Thompson

ASPAs Has a New Web Address! by Don Kiely

Well, sort of. The ASPA Web site is still hosted on the ADMA Web server (thanks, ADMA!) and you can still get to it by laboriously typing in the characters h-t-t-p-://-w-w-w.-s-l-e-d-d-o-g.-o-r-g-/-s-k-i-j-o-r-/-i-n-d-e-x-.-h-t-m-l. But to save that tedium, the board of ASPA has decided to acquire a brand spanking new Internet domain, alaskaskijoring.org. When you go to either www.alaskaskijoring.org or just alaskaskijoring.org, you'll be taken straight to the ASPA site.

We've also set up an email address based on the new domain: info@alaskaskijoring.org. With that address, if you need to know something about ASPA and don't know who to address the inquiry to, send it to that address. Someone on the board will get your email and either respond or forward your email to someone who can respond.

It'll be so much easier to communicate our Web address, rather than telling people to go to the ADMA site, scroll down, find the link to ASPA (and not get sidetracked by the latest ADMA news), and finally arrive on our Web site. How cool is that?

ASPA Orienteering Event Open to Skijorers and Dog Walkers/Joggers

The challenging activities of skijoring and orienteering will be combined in the Sixth annual ASPA Orienteering event at Creamer's Field on Sunday, March 16, 2008.

This year we will have 4 classes of competitors. There will be 30 and 60 minute **skijorer classes** as well as 30 and 60 minute **walk/jog with your dog classes**. We encourage all the people who enjoy Creamer's Field with their dogs to come and join the fun. You may take one, two, or three dogs. All dogs must be on leash or line at all times. Registration will begin at 3:30pm and starts will begin at 4:00 p.m. and final start time will be 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$5. All participants will receive a prize.

The Format is to gather as many points as you can in the 30 or 60 minute allotment that you choose. Thirty "Controls"(sheets of paper with removable numbered tabs attached to wooden stakes) will be placed around the Creamer's Field and ADMA trails between the ADMA Musher's Hall and 19.7 mile turns on the "Outer Loop" and on parts of the "Inner Loop," (27-mile extension). The "Controls" will be assigned point values from 10 to 100 points each depending on how easy it is to find them or how close to the trailhead they are. Ten "Controls" will be for walker/joggers only; Ten "Controls" will be for skijorers only; Ten "Controls" will be for all participants. The controls will be color-coded.

The control locations and point values will be indicated on a map and score card handed out to each competitor. Competitors will choose to spend either 30 or 60 minutes on the course to score as many points as possible by collecting tabs from the Controls and bringing them back to the start area. A competitor does not have to go to the controls in a specific order or from a specific direction which means there is the possibility of two-way traffic on any of the trails. Creative shortcuts are perfectly legal if you can get your dogs to take them. Competitors who are late returning to the finish area will be assessed ten (10) penalty points for each minute after their designated finish time. The course will be set so competitors do not need a compass for navigation.

When you arrive at Creamer's Field, go to the Farmhouse to pay your entry fee and fill out a registration form. At that time, you will be given a map and a score card. Write your name and circle your class (30 minute or 60 minute) on the score card. You must start between 4:00 and 4:30pm. The starter will record your time when you start. You have 30 or 60 minutes from that time to return without penalty. The Starter/Timer must sign you back in when you return.

When you are finished, after checking in with the Starter/Timer, put your dog away and take your control tabs into the Creamer's Farmhouse for scoring.

Helpful tip1: You can put the race map in a gallon sized zip lock bag and pin it to the front of your jacket. This will keep your hands free. Safety pins and zip lock bags will be provided.

Helpful tip 2: Wear a watch and synchronize it to the "official" race clock. This is important so you know how much time you have spent on the course and know when to return to the finish area without being late and getting penalized.

Helpful tip 3: Wear a vest or jacket with a deep pocket where you can keep the Control Tabs. That will save you time compared to opening and closing the ziplock bag with gloves. Remember, the Control Tabs are the only means of verifying you visited a control, so you must bring them back to be scored.

To volunteer to help with this event, to pre-register or for more information, contact Pat DeRuyter at patd@acsalaska.net or 479-7853.



Passing, one-two-three: Peggy Raybeck and Andy Seitz having a clean pass during RAV at Two Rivers. Photo by Leanne Thompson



Brian Charlton with Clyde, Calvin, and Reuben rounding the corner during RAV at Creamer's Field. Photo by Leanne Thompson

Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association's 8th Annual Birch Hill Skijor Race Saturday, March 1, 2008, Birch Hill Nordic Ski Trails

Your one chance to enjoy the Birch Hill ski trails with your dogs this year! Remember, dogs are not allowed there outside of this one event.

Classes: Fun Races (interval start)

1-dog 4 km

2-dog 6 km

3-dog 6 km

Long Races: (mass start)

One-dog 9 km

Two-dog 13 km

Relay Event: Three one-dog teams per relay team, 3 km each.

May require more than just skiing!

Note to skiers: Race trails will be in use Saturday, March 1st, 10:00am- Noon. After 11:30 am, the White Bear Loop will no longer be used. Non-participant skiers are welcome to use trails. Please use non-race trails if possible, and use caution when crossing race trails. Thanks!

Check-in 9:00 a.m. at log warm-up hut, race meeting at 9:30, start at 10:00.

Save \$2 by pre-registering by sending an e-mail patd@acsalaska or calling 479-7853 by 5pm on Thursday, February 28. Include name, phone #, class and dogs' names.

These wonderful trails and facilities provided by Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks and Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Rec Department. Thanks!

Trail route: Same as '07. Maps will be posted at Birch Hill one week prior to the event.

Entry Fee: \$10 Fun Races, \$13 Long Races 9K & 13K. \$5 extra for non-ASPA members. \$2 extra for registering on race day. Relay free.

Parking and cleanup: Park in the lower parking lot. Special attention must be placed on cleaning up after your dogs in the parking and start areas. We highly recommend that you encourage them to do their business prior to the race, eg. take 'em for a jog.

Weather cutoff: A cancellation notice will be placed on the Skijor Hotline (45SKIJO, 457-5456) by 9:00 pm on Friday, February 29 if the race is cancelled. Once we set up the course on Friday evening, we'll ignore the thermometers and race on Saturday.

Contact: Check the Skijor Hotline for updates (45SKIJO, 457-5456), or call Pat DeRuyter, Race Director (479-7853) or Jim Herriges, Race Organizer (455-8007).



Timers Extroinaires!!

Clarice Dukeminier and Janet Bandeff helping with the third leg of RAV. Photo by Leanne Thompson



Carol Kleckner with Robin and Jazz, rounding the corner to the finish line at Creamer's Field, RAV. Photo by Leanne Thompson

A Cautionary Tale by Sara Tabbert

Sometimes I think that we focus so much on keeping our dogs healthy and safe that we tend to forget (or we choose to deny!) that skijoring is a potentially hazardous sport.

Last winter I learned a lesson. I came home after a February race at the golf course, looked at the remaining daylight, and decided that there was no reason not to take a second team out for a run around Goldstream Valley. At the end of a beautiful late afternoon run, I was cold, the sun was going down, and I came down the last leg of the trail that leads back to my house. All of a sudden, my right ski caught on something on the side of the trail, and the next thing I heard was a sickening crunch in my knee.

It didn't take long to figure out that I'd really done it this time. In addition to the problem of the pain in my leg, I could barely keep from passing out. I really did not want to black out in the middle of the trail at -5, attached to two very confused huskies. It took a huge amount of effort and a freezing twenty minutes to clear my head and hobble back to the house.

I don't want to over dramatize this event – chances are good that I could have hollered enough to raise someone's attention, or that some passing trail user would have come upon me in time to help. I was very lucky, however, that this injury happened literally within crawling distance of my home and not somewhere else out on the ten miles of trail that I'd just been traveling on. No one knew I was out skiing, or where I was skiing, or when I was due back. I am largely self-employed, don't particularly like to answer the phone, am not close to any neighbors, and the person I live with was working out of state. There would have been no reason for even my best friends to think twice about not hearing from me for a number of days.

With this accident now happily behind me, I've come up with a few suggestions for keeping safe on winter trails.

#1. Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back, at least if you are venturing out of well traveled territory. One of the best things about where we live is how little distance you have to travel to not run into anyone – unless you need someone. A skijor buddy is great if you can find one, but it can be hard to match schedules and speeds. If you live with someone, let them know where you're going and when you think you'll be back. If you live by yourself, make an arrangement with a friend who you can call and file a "flight plan" with.

#2. Dress warm, not well. This is Fairbanks, not Boulder, and nobody cares how you look. Consider whether or not you could maintain your body temperature if you had to stop and deal with a problem for fifteen or twenty minutes. Carry handwarmers in your pocket, and make sure your head, hands, and feet are well taken care of. If you're like me and can't keep warm if you don't eat all the time, carry a snack.

#3. A cell phone might not be such a bad idea. I never thought I would own such a thing; I hate them with a passion. I still hate them, but now I have one for my pocket when I ski. They won't get you out of trouble everywhere, but a phone could be a great help in a lot of places. There are cheap pre-paid plans out there, and you never ever have to give anyone else your number. You never know – you might be the one who helps someone else out of trouble.

#4. Tag your dogs! If you are injured or get into a standoff with a moose, you might have to cut your dogs loose. I am always surprised at how many lost and found dogs are listed with no ID. Put your phone # on harnesses too, in case a dog slips a collar.

#5. Shorter skis for narrower trails. I haven't had the budget to follow up on this, but I think it's a good idea. There are a few options out there for "skateable" short skis. They will help keep your tips out of the grabbing hands of the bushes and trees.

#6. Adjust speed to your surroundings. Thankfully, this wasn't an issue in my accident, but I've lost my previous nonchalance about going too fast for the conditions. Take fewer or less powerful dogs if you're not sure what you're getting into. If I ski with my two biggest dogs, they together weigh nearly as much as I do. There's **no** stopping that train if they choose not to listen. I try and think hard about conditions and terrain when I make my plans for a run.

I ski a lot on narrow trails and when we hit a steep hill, I have no shame about sitting down and riding the back of my skis on my rump. (I perfected this technique on Tolovana trips!) I look like a dork, but I won't get hurt. It's way better to sit down before you fall down. I also have these marvelous Fisher "BC" backcountry touring skis that perform almost as well as metal edged skis in terms of control and ability to stop. I can't skate gracefully in them, but I can stop on a dime.

#7. Got an extra key to your car hidden somewhere (on the car. .)? It's going to get pretty cold hanging around waiting for help if you're out at Cache Creek.

#8. Can you make noise? Whistle? "Bear Bangers?" Bells on your line? Can you make enough noise to get help, or make noise to scare a moose?

I am the last person to advocate for paranoia, and I certainly don't follow ALL of these rules ALL of the time. The best skiing I've ever had has been in the middle of the night in the dead of winter, totally alone on silent trails. In our over-connected society there's something sweetly subversive about the moments when you know nobody knows where you are. I **don't** think you should always choose the safest choice. At the same time, the better you plan, the more you get to play. I try and weigh my choices a little more carefully these days.

FUN RACE #5, Creamer's Field, 2/2/2008,
by Pat DeRuyter

Twenty-two skijorers braved the -10 degree weather to participate in the ASPA sponsored Fun Race #5 held at Creamer's Field on Saturday, Feb 2, 2008. The moose that was wandering down the skijor trail in the East field at the 10am trail check had disappeared into the woods by race time.

Andy Warwick and Andy Seitz were both double winners. Andy Warwick won the 3-dog 5.6 mile race in a time of 20:38 with dogs Zip, Boots and Licorice and Andy won the 1.4 mile 2-dog race with Blue and Lady at 6:29.

Andy Seitz won the 2-dog 5.6 mile race with Waylon and Yeller with the best time of the day for that distance of 20:05. He won the 3.6 mile 1-dog event with Willie at 13:59.

Peggy Raybeck came in second in the 5.6 mile 2-dog event with Macey and Carmen. Kimberlee Beckmen with Iris and Terri was third with a time of 25:37.

Wallace Bandiff with Finny won the 1-dog 5.6 mile event with a time of 26:40. Julie Morse with Caz at 37:05 was second and Gail Davidson with Tobi was third at 45:43.

In the 3.6 mile event, John Schauer with Willow, Tsaina and Riley won the three dog event at 14:16. Nina Ruckhaus with Tracker and Sam won the two dog event with a time of 18:35. Following Andy Seitz's first place finish in the 1-dog class was Bruce Miller and Roy at 15:55 for second and Nina Ruckhaus and Tracker at 20:13 for third.

Peggy Raybeck came in first in the 2.7 mile 2-dog event with Charlie and Tracker with a time of 10:03. Janna Miller with Roy and Lilly was second at 14:26. Ted Wu with Ty won the 1-dog class at 18:52 with Lisa Stuby and Killae finishing second at 27:43.

Nina Ruckhaus with her two dog, 3.6 mile team provided some head-on training for the rest of the field as she missed the first turn and completed the course backwards. Thanks to Lisa Stuby for stopping and picking up the hat she lost in one of her tangles.

Thank you to the ASPA trail groomers Peggy Raybeck and Mike Supkis for the trail work this week. Thanks to Pat DeRuyter, Janet Bandeff, Judy Warwick and Kimberlee Beckmen for volunteering at this race. Thanks to the Friends of Creamer's Field for the use of the Creamer's Farmhouse visitors center.



Andy Warwick with Zip, Licorice, and Boots and many helpers, and timers getting ready for the start of the race. Photo Lisa Stuby

Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
5.6 mile, 3-dog				
1	Andy Warwick	Zip, Boots, Licorice	20:38	1
2	Andy Seitz	Waylon, Yeller	20:05	1
7	Peggy Raybeck	Macey, Carmen	23:36	2
3	Kimberlee Beckmen	Iris, Terri	25:37	3
6	Kieran Gleason	Kenzie, Rusty Buffalo	26:13	4
4	Susan Seitz	Ed, Mabel	27:09	5
5	Steven Sheehy	Ahi, Sputnik	27:11	6
1-dog				
8	Wallace Bandeff	Finny	26:40	1
10	Julie Morse	Caz	37:05	2
9	Gail Davidson	Tobi	45:43	3
3.6 mile, 3-dog				
11	John Schauer	Willow, Tsaina, Riley	14:16	1
2-dog				
12	Nina Ruckhaus	Tracker, Sam	18:35	1
1-dog				
16	Andy Seitz	Willie	13:59	1
13	Bruce Miller	Roy	15:55	2
17	Nina Ruckhaus	Tracker	20:13	3
14	Christy Gleason	Suka	25:47	4
15	Jim Altherr	Sophie	29:55	5
2.7 mile, 2-dog				
20	Peggy Raybeck	Charlie, Tracker	10:03	1
19	Janna Miller	Roy, Lilly	14:26	2
2.7 mile, 1-dog				
18	Ted Wu	Ty	18:52	1
21	Lisa Stuby	Killae	27:43	2
1.4 mile, 2-dog				
22	Andy Warwick	Blue, Lady	6:29	1

2007/2008 Alder Award

Do you have an exceptional dog whose accomplishments you want to share? ASPA's annual fifty dollar Alder Award is meant to distinguish the most improved skier/dog combination during the 2007-2008 racing season. It is an ad hoc award that encourages record-keeping and the canine resume. It will be awarded at the spring barbecue and membership meeting. The winner will be determined on the basis of the ASPA Dog Resume submitted by each competitor for each dog (or number of dogs) entered. The dog resume forms require a detailed account of your dog(s) skijoring ability and hopefully, improvements, over the 2007/08 season. The Alder Award forms are now accessible on the web site at: <http://www.sleddog.org/skijor/forms.html>

Last year the award went to Sara Elzey and her dog Shadow, who won on entering retirement after a ten year career with more than eighty recorded events. Shadow came in Sara's care as a four months old pup from the Animal shelter in 1994, and has since then done it all as a fabulous skijoring dog. Like many of us who have aged with this sport, this dog's heart is still willing but the body just can't do it all anymore.

This is the third season for the Alder award initiated by Chuck and Tone Deehr in honor of Aspenlair's Alder, their 80 lb AKC Siberian Husky, who patiently gave his strength and endurance to ASPA events for a number of years. Like so many of the dogs we often take for granted, he was quiet in the starting gate, broke two Apocalypse skijor harnesses on the word "GO", encouraged other dogs while on the trail, and squabbled with no one.

Gas is even 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.

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.

Payments can also be made on the ASPA Website using Pay Pal at <http://www.sleddog.org/skijor/join.html>

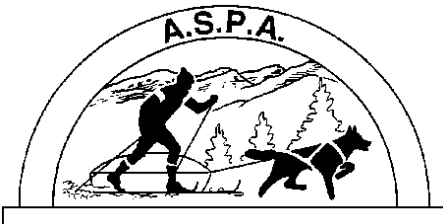
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Paw Prints and Ski Tracks is a monthly newsletter published during the winter season by the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association. The coordinating editor of Paw Prints and Ski Tracks is Lisa Stuby. Your comments, articles and pictures are greatly appreciated. Please e-mail the information before the 25th of every month to lisa.stuby@alaska.gov.

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Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association

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Hotline: 907-457-5456 ♦ Website: <http://www.sleddog.org/skijor>