

PAW PRINTS & SKI TRACKS

If you haven't paid your annual ASPA membership dues, this is your LAST newsletter. Thanks to all those who have renewed their memberships!

January 7 (cancelled due to cold, TBA)

Skate Ski Clinic

Birch Hill

Joel Buth

455-7148

January 24

Fun Race #5,

Creamer's Field

11:30 AM

Andy Warwick

474-9148

January 31

Show 'n' Go #3

Place TBA

Peggy Raybeck

457-4775

February 4

Ski Wax Clinic

Raven Cross Country

ASPAs Members Only

Pre-register at

456-5070

2008 Beginner's Clinic by Sara Elzey and Carol Kleckner

The December 6, 2008 annual ASPA Beginner's was a great success. Twenty-seven people signed up and attended the classroom session. Many thanks to John Underwood and the rest of the gang at Alaska Feed for hosting us during the classroom session and providing the coffee and sweet treats. You would think that in 3 hours we could cover everything we wanted to...but with all of the questions that the students had we end up having to breeze through some of the material. Luckily ASPA had great handouts to give to the class. Since Sara's dog Myst, our long time harness modeler and schmoozer, is now a tad old and not really wanting to be the model any longer, Carol's dog Ivy played the role to the hilt.

We wish to also thank the following volunteers who helped us with the on-snow portion at Creamers Field in the afternoon: Steven Sheehy, Karsten and Laurie Hueffer, Lisa Stuby, Peggy Raybeck, Kimberlee Beckmen, and Greg Jurek.

2009 IFSS World Championships in Quebec, Canada

This Year's IFSS World Championships will be held in beautiful Quebec, Canada. Per the website, the **L'International de traîneau à chiens de la Rivière Daaquam** will host the 2009 International Federation of Sleddog Sports (IFSS) winter World Championships in sprint, mid-distance, nordic skijöring, and pulka categories. The event will take place from January 16th to January 25th for the first time in history of winter sleddog sports in the province of Quebec, Canada.

The event will take place on the actual site of the business enterprise [Villégiature et Pourvoirie Daaquam](#) along the Daaquam river located in the village St-Just-de-Bretenières, in the touristic region of Chaudière-Appalaches. Trails used for the competitions cover the territories of two different counties, which are the county of Montmagny and the Etchemins, passing through the Appalachian Regional Park. Imagine a pure and enchanting landscape, with large spaces of peat land (traditional North American tundra relief), iced lakes and rivers and snowy trees in the Boreal forest.

More than 400 teams and 2500 dogs coming from 5 continents are expected during 9 days of competitions. There will be a total of 18 events in the sprint, mid-distance Nordic pulka, and skijöring categories. Fairbanks skijörers Kriya Dunlap, Greg Jurek, as well as musher Jennifer Probert are planning to attend. In addition, Becky Voris from Anchorage is also planning to participate.

I remember when this event was held in Fairbanks in 2001. ASPA organized and hosted the Nordic-style portions of the 2001 IFSS World Championships at Birch Hill in cooperation with ADMA who hosted the overall event and the Nome-style portions later at the Jeff Studdert Racegrounds. It was a lot of fun from a volunteer standpoint. Race results can be tracked via the event's website.

<http://www.daaquam2009.com/english/menu.html>

ASPA Fun Race #3 as reported by Andy Warwick

Twenty-seven teams braved the sub zero temperatures and showed up at Creamers Field for the Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association's third fun race of the 2008-2009 season. Andy Seitz had the fastest time of the day finishing first in the 3.8 mile race with a time of 11:47. Carol Kleckner won both the three dog, 3.8 mile and the two dog, 1.5 mile races. Thanks to race director Andy Warwick and timers Paula Ruckhaus and Judy Warwick. The next ASPA race is scheduled for December 27, 2008 at the North Star Golf Course.

Although as the newsletter transcribes this from the "free" internet while flying in a very full Alaska Airlines jet from Oakland, CA back to Fairbanks, I noticed that the late December race had been cancelled due to extreme cold. So stay tuned for make up dates that aren't -40°F!!!!

Happy New Year Everyone!!!



Here's Hoping for a Happy,



Healthy, and Safe 2009!!



Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association				
Fun Race #3, December 14, 2008				
Creamers Field				
Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
3.8-mile, three dogs				
1	Carol Kleckner	Jazz, Jenny, Blackberry	12:05	1
2	Sara Elzey	Millie, Misty, Zorba	13:34	2
3	Don Kiely	Casper, Chance, Raja	13:45	3
3.8-mile, two dogs				
4	Kriya Dunlap	Boomer, Ruby	12:21	2
5	Peggy Raybeck	Carmen, Chico	12:57	3
6	Jim Herriges	Ole, Lily	15:01	5
7	Steven Sheely	Ahi, Sputnik	16:34	6
8	Chad Carroll	Tico, Elvis	13:24	4
9	Andy Seitz	Waylon, Yeller	11:47	1
3.8-mile, one dog				
10	Gail Davidson	Tobi	20:35	6
11	Sara Tabbert	Pete	16:19	3
12	Jim Herriges	Lena	13:58	1
13	Bruce Miller	Roy	14:14	2
14	Sunnifa Deehr	Sparky	16:32	4
15	Jim Altherr	Sophie	31:46	7
16	Nina Ruckhaus	Tracker	19:39	5
2.9-mile, two dog				
17	Peggy Raybeck	Charlie, Trakker	10:36	1
2.9-mile, one dog				
18	Ted Wu	Ty	12:56	1
19	Kimberlee Beckmen	Iris	16:24	4
20	Bill Carter	Annie	17:24	5
21	Janna Miller	Lilly	15:44	3
22	Rachael Saumweber	Nina	15:29	2
1.5-mile, three dog				
25	Don Kiely	Borax, Loon, Izzi	5:53	1
1.5-mile, two dog				
23	Carol Kleckner	Chanel, Shaman	5:21	1
24	Sara Elzey	Robin, Ayla	6:24	2
1.5-mile, one dog				
26	Nina Ruckhaus	Sam	7:21	1
27	Diane O'Brien	Trixie	dnf	

Show 'n' Go #1, November 30, Chena Lakes by Lisa Stuby

On November 30, 2008, Peggy Raybeck led the first ASPA Show 'n' Go of the 2008/2009 season at Chena Lakes. Lisa Stuby and Killae, Lisa Baraff with Hope and Luna , Jamie Marschner with Bree, Peggy Raybeck with Chico, Smokey, and Bandit; Edel Agersborg with Duke, Freia, and Carmen; and Sara Tabbert with Pablo and Rothko showed up for an afternoon of fun on the snow. We met at the trailhead to the Mike Agbaba trails at Chena Lakes. These consist of 12 miles of groomed, multiple- use trails along Chena Lake and surrounding park areas. This trail system consists of 3.8 mi, 5.1 mi, 6.5 mi, 9.5 mi, and 12 mile loops. The Mike Agbaba trailhead is located at the Lake Park near the children's playground equipment.

Jamie and myself have slower dogs and we did the 5.5 mile loop somewhat successfully, although we did miss one turnoff and were briefly lost. As we were debating the "correct" way Peggy showed up and got us back on track. She gave herself and her dogs a good workout that day trying to keep tabs on all of the participants both fast and slow. The rest of the participants did the 9-mile loop. The trails had just been groomed and were in fairly decent shape. Peggy's second Show 'n' Go, which was to take place on December 28, has been cancelled due to extreme cold and will be rescheduled at a later and warmer date which Peggy will announce via e-mail. Peggy's Show 'n' Go's, as can be seen from the below photographs, are a lot of fun and a good way to discover the myriad of trails in and around the interior of Alaska.



Off and running, Sara Tabbert and her dogs Pablo and Rothko lead the way.



At the trailhead to the Mike Agbaba Trails at Chena Lakes.



Jamie and Lisa thoroughly enjoying not having to ski too hard as their dogs Killae and Bree compete for the leadership position. Jealousy can be a powerful motivator!!

Keeping Warm

As I arrived in Fairbanks from CA on January 3rd a little after midnight, the flight attendant gleefully announced, "Happy New Year everyone, the current temperature is -40°F !" As I gasped and wondered how I could stow away and head back south, someone on the plane shouted, "Great, it's warmed up!" With races and show and go's cancelled, I asked the question to the ASPA Board of what they were doing to keep their dogs warm and happy when such temperatures preclude much skijoring. Killae and I took a couple of walks at Petco, AK Feed, and Cold Spot and as a spoiled house dog, has been getting lots of tummy rubs and has been useful at helping me keep warm since my little toyo stove won't keep my cabin above 57°F when it is -40°F outside. Below is how others have been coping with the cold.

Carol Kleckner: Don Kiely and I have a dog barn for these cold temperatures. We have 15 dogs in the barn and 16 in the house. The house dogs can go in and out whenever they want. The dog barn dogs are a bit more complicated. All of the boxes are huge. They can stand up, turn around and lay completely stretched out. We usually just keep one dog per kennel area. In the morning after letting everyone out to run and do their business we hook them up and feed a warm meat broth. Then it is right back in the barn. In a couple of hours we go out and let the dogs out in small groups to pee. They usually don't want to stay out very long. Around 1 pm Don has been taking 4 dogs for a walk down on the area trails. When he comes back I usually take 1 or 2 dogs for a walk up the hill. Then it is time to let everyone out again. The dogs usually get at least 45 minutes running around. I open all the gates to the adjoining fenced in yards (probably an acre and a half) and we just all march around for that time. The dogs follow me and play and run and get their energy out. Then it is feeding time. Back in the barn they go. We let them out 2 more times before the last 11 pm pee. Then they are good until 6:30 or 7 am. While they are in the barn each dog has a bone or a chew hoof in their box. I will switch these around all of the time until I have to put a new one in. Some dogs really chew on them, others don't. So for us it is a routine. They are rarely chained up during these temperatures and they get fairly good exercise time although we are ALL getting out of good skijoring shape.

Brian Charlton: When it's below -30 we bring all 9 dogs into the house while we are home, letting them out every couple of hours. They all sleep inside and only one has to sleep in the kennel (we let her try out of the kennel once, oops). They share 3 dogs beds and an old comforter and love it. Last year we had 3 kennels inside, over time they have all become good house dogs and can be trusted (as long as the trash is up and there is no meat in the sink). Dusty ate 5 lbs of moose burger a few weeks ago. We're hoping to find somewhere warm and in the hills to run soon.

Hopefully the cold snap will be over soon. In the meantime, be sure to keep your pets safe and comfortable from these potentially lethal temperatures.



How Sara Tabbert and her aptly named "Team Couch" deal with temperatures below 40°F .



Brian Charlton and Emily Bernhardt's house on a cold night.

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