

PAW PRINTS & SKI TRACKS

If you wish to become a member or to renew, membership form is on page 5. Thanks to all t who have renewed their memberships!

FUN RACE #5, CREAMER'S FIELD, 1/25/2009

by Andy Warwick

Eighteen teams enjoyed a break from extreme temperatures of -45°F and +45°F and participated in the Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association's fifth scheduled fun race of the 2008-2009 season at Creamers Field. Race volunteers were race director Andy Warwick and registrars Lisa Baraff and Sara Elzey. Below are some photographs from the start of the race. All photographs were taken by Lisa Stuby. The make up for Fun Race #4, originally scheduled for December 27th at North Star Golf Course, was rescheduled and again cancelled from January 31st due to extreme cold. For a third make-up date for this race, stayed tuned to your e-mail.

February 4
Ski Wax Clinic
Raven Cross Country
ASPAs Members Only
Pre-register at
456-5070

February 8
Training Clinic #2,
Creamer's Field,
11:00AM
Lisa Stuby
458-7657

February ???
Show 'n' Go #3
Place TBA
Peggy Raybeck
457-4775

February 13-15
Race Across the Valley,
Various Venues
Don Kiely, 455-6749,
see Page 3



Lisa Baraff with Luna and Hope getting some direction from the Race director, Andy Warwick (Left). Megan Hoffman with ready to run springer Ares and Pukik (Above).



Sara Elzey (Above) with Millie, Ayla, and Zorba and to the right and immediately above John Schauer with Willow, Tsaina, and Riley at the start.



Janna Miller and Roy anxiously await the start of Fun Race #5.



Woah Doggies!! Sara Elzey with Millie, Ayla, and Zorba head to the starting line.



Not feeling left out of enthusiasm, Don Kiely with Casper, Chance, and Raja try to keep steady before Andy Warwick gave them the signal to go.

Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association				
Fun Race #5, January 24, 2009, Creamer's Field				
Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
5.4-mile, two dogs				
1	Lisa Baraff	Luna, Hope	24:45	1
3.8-mile, three dogs				
2	Carol Kleckner	Blackberry, Shaman, Jenny	10:55	1
5	John Schauer	Willow, Tsaina, Riley	11:50	2
3	Sara Elzey	Millie, Ayla, Zorba	12:03	3
4	Don Kiely	Casper, Chance, Raja	12:51	4
3.8-mile, two dogs				
6	Megan Hoffman	Ares, Pukik	24:20	1
3.8-mile, one dog				
9	Janna Miller	Roy	13:48	1
7	Gail Davidson	Tobi	19:57	2
8	Jim Altherr	Sophie	30.04	3
10	Lisa Stuby	Killae	35:57	4
2.9-mile, two dog				
11	Rebecca Gilbert	Sharlee, Pepper	15:44	1
2.9-mile, one dog				
12	Bruce Miller	Lilly	13:08	1
13	Lisa St Clair	Felix	13:13	2
1.5-mile, three dog				
14	Don Kiely	Borax, Loon, Izzi	5:50	1
1.5-mile, two dog				
15	Carol Kleckner	Chanel, Jazz	5:22	1
17	Gail Davidson	Tobi, Cocoa	7:38	2
16	Sara Elzey	Robin, Misty	dnf	
1.5-mile, one dog				
18	Quinn Vinlove	Polly	24:42	1

Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association Show 'n' go #3

The second ASPA show 'n' go took place on Sunday, January 25th at North Star Golf Course. Peggy Raybeck and participants enjoyed a warm and overall beautiful afternoon. Pat DeRuyter groomed the trails beforehand and they were excellent! Four Skijors and 15 dogs participated: Don Atwood (Coho, Suka, Chico, and Masey), Kimberlee Beckman (Terry, Iris and Lily), Tom McGrane (Bean, Viking, Nalley), and their leader, Peggy Raybeck (Charlie, Trakker, Carmen, Smokey, Bandit).

Peggy's next show 'n' go was to take place the afternoon of January 31st at the Waterford Trail off of Goldstream Road. Unfortunately, the same bitter cold that cancelled the earlier Fun Race #4, also led to the cancellation of show 'n' go #3. The Waterford Trail is 6-7 miles in the hills above Goldstream Road. The trail can be characterized as a gentle uphill climb from the trailhead to the top of Waterford Road to the Pipeline with a turnaround loop at the pipeline. It is a general use trail, wide enough in some sections to skate with a short stride. Usually it is smooth since a musher with a toboggan sled uses it regularly. So, stay tuned to your e-mails for a make up date for the ASPA show 'n' go #3 when the temperature warms up...but hopefully not to an extreme. Hopefully the next "Chinook" will be on our dinner plates.

2009 ASPA Race Across the Valley

The Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association announces the 2009 Race Across the Valley Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 13-15.

This year we'll again have two race course distances each day, a Long Distance Class and a Short Distance Class. Racers may participate on all three days in either class as "stage racers" or on one or more individual days in either class as "day racers." Long Distance Class stage racers may use a pool of up to five dogs, with up to 3 dogs on any given day. Short Distance Class stage racers may use a pool of up to 3 dogs, with up to 2 dogs on any given day. Day racers may use up to 3 dogs in the Long Distance Class and up to 2 two dogs in the Short Distance Class.

Entrance fees are \$10 per day for ASPA members or \$15 per day for non-members. Pre-registering for all three days in advance costs \$25 for ASPA members or \$40 for non-members. To pre-register, send an email with skier name, distance class racing each day, and the names of the dogs in the pool to Don Kiely at don-kiely@computer.org NO LATER than 5pm on Wednesday, February 11. Fees will be collected on the first day of competition.

As of this writing, the course and schedule details are still being worked out, so stay tuned to the ASPA listserv, hotline, and the Web site for the details as they are finalized. But we're exploring the possibility of both old and new trails, so it should, at the very least, be fun and interesting!

We need volunteers for each day, to help marking trails, post-race cleanup, registration, timing, and more! To help, contact Sara Tabbert at (907) 479-0456 or stabbert@hotmail.com.

See you there!

Sara Tabbert, Brian Charlton, Don Kiely
2009 Race Across the Valley Race Directors



Sara Tabbert with Pablo and Rothko at the conclusion of Stage 1 of Race Across the Valley at Chena Lakes (Left, Photo by Lisa Stuby). Jim Herriges and Lena blaze the trail during Stage 2 at Two Rivers Ski Trails (Above, Photo by Laenne Thompson).

Is Fun Race #4 *CURSED*? by Lisa Stuby

As I assemble this newsletter I was hoping to have at least two races to report given one was scheduled for December 28th and another for January 24th. However, -45°F weather caused the cancellation of the first race, Race #4, which was then rescheduled for January 17th and had to be cancelled again due to bad icing conditions due to extreme Chinook winds which caused an approximately 90°F warming trend as temperatures rose into the high 40's (the ones without the minuses) and snow began to melt rapidly. I went from being happy that my pup made the connection that wearing booties means warm paws to being concerned he may overheat and forcing numerous rest breaks when we went skijoring. Happily snow fell, temperatures dropped, and trails were regroomed. The latest make up for Race #4 was cancelled on January 31st due to -23°F temperatures. All I could think of was, okay it is cold, but I hope when this cold snap breaks, it will "warm" up to between 10°F and -10°F. So, with space to fill I guess I could have written a story on how to keep your canine not only warm (subject of last newsletter) but entertained when unable skijor, but instead I'll talk about the weather. The early to middle January weather of Alaska in 2009 got me asking, "What are Chinook winds?"

As big of a bummer as it was to experience a 16 straight-day cold snap where temperatures hovered around the -40°F mark, within three days after the cold snap broke the temperature warmed up 88 degrees! Few other places in the USA can "brag" about such extremes. No other place in the USA would folks whine about the endless cold and then REALLY whine about the warming trend causing the snow to melt and trails and roads to become icy. The blast of warm air is the result of strong south winds pushing across the Alaska Range and the warm air sinking to the ground. According to the Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia, the Chinook is a foehn wind, a rain shadow wind which results from the subsequent adiabatic warming of air which has dropped most of its moisture on windward slopes (orographic lift). As a consequence of the different adiabatic rates of moist and dry air, the air on the leeward slopes becomes warmer than equivalent elevations on the windward slopes. As moist winds from the Pacific are forced to rise over the mountains, the moisture in the air is condensed and falls out as precipitation, while the air cools at the moist adiabatic rate of about 3.5°F per 1000 feet. The dried air then descends on the leeward side of the mountains, warming at the dry adiabatic rate of about 5.5°F per 1000 feet. The turbulence of the high winds also can prevent the normal nocturnal temperature inversion from forming on the lee side of the slope, allowing nighttime temperatures to remain elevated.

Chinook is falsely claimed by popular mythology in Alberta and Montana and similar inland areas to mean "snow-eater" but it is really the name of a people in the region where the usage was first derived. The reference to a wind or weather system, simply "a Chinook", originally meaning a waring wind from the ocean into the interior regions of the Pacific Northwest (the Chinook people lived near the ocean, along the lower Columbia River). A strong Chinook can make snow one foot deep almost vanish in one day. The snow partly melts and partly evaporates in the dry wind. Chinook winds have been observed to raise winter temperature, often from -4°F (obviously not written in Alaska) to as high as 50°F to 68°F for a few hours or days, then temperatures plummet to their base levels. The greatest recorded temperature change in 24 hours was caused by Chinook winds on January 15, 1972, in Loma, Montana; the temperature rose from -56°F to 49°F.

2008/2009 Crash Pool

Hi everyone, don't forget to keep up with your "crashes" for the First Annual and really First EVER Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association Crash Pool! Happy skijoring and stay upright!!

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