

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!*

**October 9-11
ADMA
Symposium**

**October 28
Fall Membership
Meeting**
Dog Musers' Hall.
Jamie Marschner
458-0462

**November 15
Fun Race #1
North Star Golf
Course**
Andy Warwick
474-9184

Welcome to a new Season!!

Hard to believe after a busy summer that a busy winter of skiing and skijoring is upon us. As I type this, the snow is in the forecast and thoughts are turning to my skis with their storage wax still on them and the projects I've been putting off all summer and now realize I should complete. Despite the lack of snow, ASPA has already had "events." ASPA held its second annual Dryland race on September 26th and adopted a trail at Birch Hill for the second year in a row.

And once again ASPA will be putting signs out on the trails at Creamer's Field once there is enough snow. Hopefully we will have an early snow year like last year. Many hands make light work. Like previous years, we will start working when we have about 6 inches of snow. At the trailhead the buckets will need to be filled with snow and a little water and sign posts positioned in them to freeze upright. Additional signs will be put up on trees (cordless drills needed) on the trails that go through the woods and the buckets will need to be distributed around the field trails. In previous years, these tasks have been done on foot, on skis, skijoring, with a dog team, with a personal snowmachine and with the "grooming" snowmachine.

A message will go out to the skijor list when the snow is deep enough. Volunteers can meet as a group or an individual can go out and do a specific task. Contact Pat DeRuyter at patd@gci.net or 479-7853 if you are willing to help.

Fall Membership Meeting Monday, October 28

Dog Musers Hall on Farmers Loop

6:00 p.m. —Potluck

7:00 p.m. —Speaker TBA

Please join us for the Fall Membership meeting and yummy potluck!
The potluck starts at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share: an entrée, side dish or dessert. Afterwards there will be a presentation TBA that will be announced on the skijoring e-mail list. See you all there!!



Birch Hill Adopt A Trail Evening

On September 24, a small group of ASPA volunteers organized by Brian Charlton, met in the early evening and volunteered for the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks' new "Adopt-a-Trail" program at the Birch Hill Recreation Area. According to Andy Blossy, one of the trail groomer extraordinaires at Birch Hill and organizer of the Adopt-a-Trail program, the trails can be more easily groomed, especially initially with the first snows, if the brush is removed from the edges. The Adopt-a-Trail program was started last year as a replacement for the annual Trails Day at Birch Hill. Rather than have a bunch of volunteers show up for a one day brush removal of the trails, certain trails and sections of trails are allotted to different user groups for some "sprucing" up (actually DE-sprucing and de-birching, etc.). The ASPA work party successfully cleared brush from the edges of much of the Black Cross. Normally I avoid this trail when I ski at Birch Hill because it is so steep and scary and I am so chicken, so it was nice to hike it with little worry of falling down. Last year we cleared brush off of the White Bear Access.

This year Brian Charlton, left his brush mower home so he and his daughter, Emma, could converse with the rest of the trail de-sprucers as we clipped and raked away. Helping out was a way for ASPA to say thanks to the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks for letting us use the trails for our Annual Birch Hill Skijor Race. Now, if I could only get up the nerve to ski down this trail this winter!

Hardworking members in attendance were: Peggy Raybeck, Gail Davidson with her sidekicks Toby and Cocoa, Lisa Stuby, Brian Charlton, Emma Charlton, and Carol Kleckner. Andy Blossy of the Nordic Ski Club helped and directed our efforts. Thanks to all for your hard work.

Trail Tours 2009-2010 (Formally known as "Show 'n' Gos")

The club wants to encourage more people to take up skijoring. We see the same (fabulous) faces and know there are others who would enjoy it if they were exposed. Toward that end, we're reworking the show 'n' go program a bit and need your input. Some of the things we'd like your opinion on include:

- preferred day of the week for a group outing
- preferred time of day
- preferred trail distance
- preference for in town or farther out
- interest in overnight cabin trips
- groomed versus single track (snowmachine) trails
- minimum temperature to participate
- suggestions for routes
- any other comments

Peggy Raybeck and Janna Miller look forward to your input and ideas. What else can we do to encourage more people to take up skijoring? Please take a few minutes to jot down your ideas in a e-mail to Janna Miller at janna@alaska.net or Peggy Raybeck at paycheck39@hotmail.com.



ASPA's Second Annual Dryland Race, September 26, 2009, Chena River Flood Control Project

Apparently the surest way to get a good dump of September snow in Fairbanks is to schedule a dryland skijoring race! Despite several inches of sloppy snow and below freezing temperatures, sixteen competitors, twenty-eight dogs, seven volunteers, two photographers and an unknown number of spectators turned out for the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association's 2nd Annual Dryland Race. To add to the overall atmosphere of excitement, the local Boy Scouts were having a camp-out near the start/finish area. They offered additional encouragement and cheers to racers. The race course even traveled a few feet from the porta-potties making it a bit of an obstacle course for racers and porta-potty users alike! The several inches of overnight snow turned the usually firm gravel trail on the Army Corp of Engineers Chena Flood Control Project into a sloppy, wet, muddy slog. Racers traveled out to their designated half-way point, turned around and returned to the start/finish line, giving dogs and drivers lots of challenging head-on passings. There were three events, with two classes in each event.

The first event, Canicross or Run-joring, featured a mass start of runners using 1 or 2 dogs. Runners could do two, four or six miles. Hilary Schwafel with Wizard & Frieda easily outdistanced the competition in the 2-mile class with a time of 14:13. Sara Elzey with Ayla and Carol Kleckner with Ivy and Yanert rounded out the class. Yanert, wearing a harness for the first time refused to pull the entire way! The 6-mile class was more closely contested. Janna Miller with Roy and Lily finished ahead of Jodi Bailey and Jake with times of 42:03 and 43:52 respectively. Lisa Stuby and Killae also completed 6 miles but due a stop watch malfunction their final time was not recorded. But Lisa testifies that it "felt really good, maybe 50 minutes or so." Bruce Miller took Roy and Lily for a second run after his wife Janna finished, completing "around 4 miles" in 19:57. Having completed the Equinox Ultra-marathon last week he was just out for a "casual fun run."

The Bike-joring Event had the most competitors. In this event bikers competed in an interval start race using 1 or 2 dogs. There were two distance classes, 3 or 6 miles. In the 3-mile class Curtis McNeill with Rouen and Brown raced away from the competition in a time of 11:30. Hilary Schwafel with Oliver finished second in 15:19. Sara Elzey with Dylan, competing together for the first time together, had a miscommunication a few hundred feet out from the start line. Sara headed down the trail on the right-hand side of the porta-potties while Dylan thought that going around the left-hand side looked like a better choice. Fortunately (depending on your perspective) the first porta-potty was occupied so it did not tip over when they "clothes-lined" it! According to spectators it was a spectacular crash! But thanks to God, both Sara and Dylan were not injured and continued on in the race finishing in 17:39 to take third place. The rest of the McNeill family, Doreen with Snowball and Charlie with Little Guy traveled part of the race course together finishing in 19:53 and 21:29 respectively. Tom Bachert with Duke rounded out the class in 23:37. Tom vacillated between taking 1 or 2 dogs, deciding at the last minute that Duke would run better without his buddy. The 6-mile Bike-joring class had only two competitors brave enough to battle the mud for the full length of the course. Tom St Clair with Indy and Ben Good with Bull and Piper finished in 27:32 and 37:45 respectively.

The final event of the day was the Cart Class. There were no competitors in the 6-mile class. Competitors in the 3-mile class could compete with up to 4-dogs pulling a non-motorized, wheeled vehicle or cart. Andy Warwick and his enthusiastic black and white team of Zip, Boots, Licorice, and Joba finish first in 13:01. Don Morton with his three chocolate labs, Cocoa, Reeses, and Toffee, finished second in 24:35. With his tall, upright cart, Don managed to keep his bib nearly free of mud. Lynn Orbison with Scooby Doo and Regime was not quite as lucky. Her Sacco dog cart rode low to the ground with Lynn riding in a seated position. Her face, goggles, and bib were coated with mud by the time she finished. In spite of that, she said that she was "having so much fun" that she went an "extra mile or so" and finished in 19:55.

This event could not have happened with the work of volunteers! Thanks so much to race organizers; Andy Warwick and Sara Elzey, event timers; Sara Tabbert, Janet Smith, and Lisa St Clair; handlers and helpers; Wallace Bandeff, Tom & Tanka and to Cindy Bachert for helping with registration. Also thanks to Scott Chesney and Cindy Bachert for taking photographs and to the Army Corp of Engineers for hosting the event. Race prizes were donated by Alaska Skijoring & Pulk Association sponsors, Howling Dog Enterprises, Cold Spot Feed, and Canine Caviar. Scott Chesney's prints from this event can be purchased at Scott's website at: <http://loco-lobo.eventpictures.com/>



ASPA Dryland Race Results and Photographs

Class	Human	Canine(s)	Time (min)
Canicross – 2 mile	Hilary Schwafel	Wizard & Frieda	14:13
	Sara Elzey	Ayla	16:03
	Carol Kleckner	Yanert & Ivy	20:40
Canicross - 6-mile	Janna Miller	Roy & Lily	42:03
	Jodi Bailey	Jake	43:52
	Lisa Stuby	Killae	50:00ish
Canicross-??-mile	Bruce Miller	Roy & Lily	19:57
Bike-jor – 3-mile	Curtis McNeill	Rouen & Brown	11:30
	Hilary Schwafel	Oliver	15:19
	Sara Elzey	Dylan	17:39
	Doreen McNeill	Snowball	19:53
	Charlie McNeill	Little Guy	21:29
	Tom Bachert	Duke	23:37
Bike-jor - 6-mile	Tom St Clair	Indy	27:32
	Ben Good	Bull & Piper	37:45
Cart Class - 3-mile	Andy Warwick	Zip, Boots, Licorice, Joba	13:01
	Don Morton	Cocoa, Reeses, Toffee	24:35
Cart Class-?-mile	Lynn Orbison	Scooby-Doo & Regime	19:55



Volunteers, Sara Elzey and Cindy Bachert smile for the camera. Photo by Lisa Stuby



Tom Bachert and Duke before the 3-mile Bike-Jor race. Photo by Cindy Bachert.



Momma!!! Within spitting distance of the finish line, Cocoa, Reeses, and Toffee stop to say hi to Don Morton's wife. Photo by Lisa Stuby



Yahoo, Lynn Orbison (left) with Scooby-Doo and Regime have FUN.

4-Dog limit, NO Problem for Andy Warwick (right) and team. Photos by Scott Chesney.



Ben Good with Bull and Piper (far left), Jodi Bailey with Jake (left), and Charlie McNeill with Little Guy (right). Photos by Scott Chesney.



October Trail of the Month - Chena Lakes by Jenna Miller

Elsewhere in this newsletter, we ask for your thoughts about the Show 'n' Go program, being renamed "Trail Tours". Please take a few minutes to send your thoughts so they can be incorporated into the November program and throughout the season.

We want the non-racing aspect of our club to be more accessible. To that end we are starting a "Trail of the Month". Each newsletter will highlight a trail people can explore independently or with a group on a scheduled date posted on our calendar.

October is a bit early to guarantee snow, so this month we feature the Chena Lakes trail system. It can be run, biked, or skied with dogs and is flat for a great early season tune-up. There's nearly infinite distance flexibility, depending on your energy level and time.

If you participated in the Dryland race on September 26, you already know a great starting point. If you weren't there, here's how to find it. Drive toward the Chena Lakes Recreation Area. When you begin to parallel the dike on your right, take the second road that climbs the dike, about a mile in. There's a large parking area on the opposite side of the dike. A road starts there just past a locked gate. The area is open to non-motorized vehicles (snowmachines are allowed November 1 through March 31) and all foot traffic.

A series of gravel roads traverses the area, predominantly heading south but also east. There's very limited information and maps on the Army Corps of Engineers'

website at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/co/chena/ch/intro.htm>. Note that winter trail maps won't be useable until the lakes freeze.

There's no scheduled group adventure to check out these trails in October, but feel free to jot me an e-mail at janna@alaska.net and we can get together.

Note from the Newsletter Editor

As winter looms and thoughts go to waxing our skis and our canine friends catch the excitement of the first snow fall, it is also that time of the year when I remind folks to PLEASE renew your membership with ASPA. Membership remains \$15.00 per year, which is a real bargain in today's inflated world. The benefits of membership are discounts on fun races, 7 newsletters, an invitation to join the skijor e-mail list, training clinics, trail tours, etc. If your address label states, "New Membership Year, Please Renew" please don't procrastinate and get your membership renewed. You can mail in your membership renewal using the form attached on page 7 and/or use Pay Pal which can be made on the ASPA Website at <http://www.sleddog.org/skijor/join.html>. 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) and I will update and correct the errors on the mailing list.

I had mentioned in previous newsletters of sending out the newsletter online in pdf form. Because of rising printing and mailing costs, we had discussed raising yearly membership fees to \$20.00, but given quite a few ASPA members have mentioned that they would like to save trees and receive the newsletter in color via e-mail, that option will be given and implemented in the upcoming November or December newsletter. When you renew via mail or pay pal, please state whether or not you would like to receive future newsletter via hard copy in the mail or online and if so the latter, please provide a legible e-mail address.

As always, 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 of sled dogs, etc. My knowledge of gear is also limited. 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.

To submit an article and/or pictures, please send to 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 lets hope for much snow!!

Beginner's Clinic, November 21, 2009

Calling all dog lovers! Are you looking for something to do in the winter to exercise yourself and your dog? Have you tried skijoring? Skijoring can be fun for skiers of all skill levels and all breeds of dogs (well maybe not a Chihuahua!). Come to the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association's annual Skijoring Beginner's Clinic. In the morning, attend a 3-hour classroom session (without your dog) and learn about the necessary equipment for skier & dog, training tips, and trail etiquette. In the afternoon participate in a half hour "on-snow" session (trail conditions and weather permitting) to practice skijoring with your dog. Experienced skijorers and dogs will be on hand to help out.

Pre-registration is required! Sign-up at Alaska Feed on College Road. The cost is \$20 per person. Attendance at a classroom session is required to participate in the "on-snow" session.

Classroom Session: Saturday, November 21, 2009, 10am-1pm at Alaska Feed.

On-Snow Session: Saturday, November 21, 2009, between 2pm-4pm, at Creamer's Field. Sign-up for one, half-hour time slot during your classroom session.

Questions? Call Alaska Feed at 451-5570, the ASPA hotline at 457-5456, or email Sara Elzey at skijorex2@hotmail.com or Carol Kleckner kleckner@ptialaska.net.

If you are NOT a beginner and would like to volunteer to help with the "on-snow" sessions, please email Sara Elzey at skijorex2@hotmail.com.

Also, if you have any skijoring equipment (in working order) that you no longer use please consider donating it to ASPA for beginners to use at the clinic. Contact Sara Elzey to donate.

Skijor With your Dog Book

The Skijor With Your Dog book by Mari Hoe-Raitto and Carol Kaynor is back in print, with the 4th printing published by OK Publishing and distributed by the University of Alaska Press and University of Chicago Press. Copies will be available for sale at the upcoming October 28th ASPA Fall Membership meeting with 40% of the proceeds going to support the ASPA Trail Grooming Fund.

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. Gas doesn't look like it is going to be getting any cheaper in the future. 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.



Canine Humor

A man and his dog walk into a bar. The man proclaims, "I'll bet you a round of drinks that my dog can talk."

Bartender: "Yeah! Sure...go ahead."

Man: "What covers a house?"

Dog: "Roof!"

Man: "How does sandpaper feel?"

Dog: "Rough!"

Man: "Who was the greatest ball player of all time?"

Dog: "Ruth!"

Man: "Pay up. I told you he could talk."

The bartender, annoyed at this point, throws both of them out the door. Sitting on the sidewalk, dog looks at the guy and says, "don't look at me, you were asking the questions!"

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 Club: \$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>

2009-10 ASPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

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Vice President: Carol Kleckner, 479-0430. kleckner@ptialaska.net
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Trail Grooming: Pat DeRuyter, 479-7853, patd@gci.net
Beginner's Clinic Coordinator: Sara Elzey, 378-5024, skijorex2@hotmail.com
Stage Race Coordinators: None so far!!
Board Members at Large:
Sara Tabbert: 479-0456, stabbert@hotmail.com, Don Atwood, dkatwood@alaska.edu; Rebecca Gilbert rgilbertmchs@yahoo.com

Paw Prints and Ski Tracks is a monthly newsletter published during the winter season by the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association. Computer and photo shop consultancy has been provided by Bud Marschner. 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

P. O. Box 82843 ♦ Fairbanks, Alaska 99708-2843

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