

# 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!*

## **December Sunday Trail Tours**

Janna Miller  
479-5585

## **December 10 Wax Clinic, Raven Cross Country**

Fred Raymond  
456-5070

## **December 11 Race Across Valley Series #1**

Location TBD  
Sara Elzey  
378-5024

**December 18  
Practice Clinic  
Creamer's Field**  
Lisa Stuby  
458-7657

## **Fall Membership Meeting, October 26, Musher's Hall**

Twenty one skijorers showed up for some very yummy food and a fascinating talk by Dr. Tamara Rose on her Iditarod race earlier this year. Prior to the Iditarod talk, the membership formally voted in the new board, followed by some announcements. Don Atwood told the members of the expanding trail tours which will take place every Sunday. Don, Sara Tabbert, and Janna Miller will be taking turns leading trips around the interior. A number of members are not into the "racing" aspect and more into just getting out and having fun with their dogs. The Sunday Trail Tour locations will be announced on the ASPA e-mail list.

Sara Elzey reiterated her latest e-mail to the ASPA membership list re. the upcoming Race Across the Valley which will have a different format from previous years. The biggest change is that RAV will not take place over three days, but over three months. More details are given on the next page. Also, Sara Elzey is looking for race directors.

We also discussed suggested changes to our name. The "Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association" is the first skijoring organization in North America. However, ASPA can be very confusing and it has been a very long time since pulks have been used at fun races. It has been suggested to shorten our name to Fairbanks Skijor Club which would make it more consistent with what we do and as a way to possibly garner more membership. The big question and concern about this change is how much of a hassle would it be to do this and how much of a change would this really make. This may go for a membership vote at the end of the year BBQ and race in March 2011.

Dr. Tamara Rose's talk was fascinating. Preparing for the Iditarod is a LOT of work. Prior to the race, she was told you need to start with 24 dogs and in the end 16 will make the grade and not be too sore from training. The Iditarod is a very popular, well-known race. After picking up her number at the pre-race banquet she was met with a 200 yd line of autograph seekers. The Ceremonial Start was a lot of fun, relaxing, with no pressure, yet. Joslyn Mott, a veterinary internist from Los Angeles, rode in the attached sled. Afterwards, it was very nice to get on the actual trail. Tamara talked about trail conditions, checkpoints, and scenery. She encountered very nice people all along the trail. She also encountered very beautiful scenery, but sometimes the trail could be scary. She found one of the worse trail parts was through the Farewell Burn, which is located north of Nicolai. This area has HUGE tussocks and one didn't dare tip the sled in this. Sleep deprivation was typical with her and most mushers doing this race. Tamara finished with 9 dogs. Her dogs were completely awesome and always enthusiastic about running. Overall, Tamara did have a good time on the Iditarod and felt a little sad when it was over. This year she will try the Yukon Quest.



## **The NEW 2010-11 Race Across the Valley Needs Help!!**

*We have revamped the format for the Race Across the Valley to make it easier on volunteers & competitors both. Instead of 3 days in a row of racing we have spread the 3 days out over 3 months. So now it is really a race series rather than a stage race.*

**But we still need lots of volunteers to make the race happen.**

*Please note that many of the positions allow you to still participate in the race.*

General Race Information: The race is scheduled for Saturday, Dec 11, 2010, Jan 22, 2011 & Feb 12, 2011. There will be three classes each day, the Sprint Class racing less than 5 miles, the Mid-distance Class racing less than 10 miles, and the Endurance Class racing over 10 miles. The race will start around 1pm each day.

### **VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTIONS:**

Race Director: This position is responsible for making sure that all necessary aspects of the race get done by overseeing the volunteer positions below. You can do some or many of the tasks yourself or better yet, recruit others to do the various jobs. If you recruit a lot of good assistants you can even race!

Race Trail Coordinator: Pick location for race. Coordinate with the host organization; make sure trail is groomed and marked; (and swept after the race if necessary); get map of race course to Website Master, Don Kiely for posting; and/or recruit additional volunteers to perform these duties. Explain race trail to participants during pre-race meeting.

Pre-race publicity: Write up race information for ASPA newsletter, Fairbanks Daily Newsminer and email to ASPA email list. Make sure information is on hotline & website.

Pre-registration taker: Accept emailed pre-registrations. Fill out registration forms with information received.

Registration Coordinator: Recruit 2-3 volunteers each day to register racers & accept payment of fees, record dog names, fill-out timing sheets with racer & dog info, conduct bib draw and pass out bibs. These volunteers need to be at the venue 1 hour before the race starts. These volunteers could also participate in the race. Submit list of volunteers to person doing thank-you's to be thanked.

Conduct Pre-race Meeting: Explain passing rules and trail etiquette, and relay any specific information relevant to the venue. Set starting time after bib-draw is complete. This volunteer can be a racer.

Timing/Starting Coordinator: Recruit 2 timers and 1 starter for each day. These volunteers need to be at the venue approximately 15 minutes before the race starts and should plan to be at the venue for an hour to an hour and a half. These volunteers cannot be racers. Submit list of volunteers to person doing thank-you's to be thanked.

Results Calculator: Recruit 1 volunteer for each day (or do it yourself) to calculate the total elapsed race time for each racer and determine the place standings. This job takes about 15 minutes after all racers have finished. Announce places and times to group of participants. Give complete results to Reporter. This volunteer could also participate in the race. Submit list of volunteer(s) to person doing thank-you's to be thanked.

Photographer: Recruit a photographer for at least 1 day of the race (or do it yourself). This volunteer cannot be a racer. We would expect photographer to be willing to share photos with ASPA Newsletter Coordinator, Lisa Stuby, to be used for publication along with the article. They may be used by the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer in conjunction with the race results. Submit list of volunteer(s) to person doing thank-you's to be thanked.

Handler Coordinator: Recruit 1-2 volunteers each day to help hold dogs at the start line. These volunteers cannot participate in the race. These volunteers need to be at the start line a few minutes before the race starts and plan to be there for 20-30 minutes helping racers get started. Submit list of volunteers to person doing thank-you's to be thanked.

Reporter: Recruit 1 volunteer each day (or do it yourself) to write up the race results and a short article each day and submit it to the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer and to ASPA Newsletter Coordinator, Lisa Stuby, and to Website Master, Don Kiely. Bring copy of previous day's results to next day's stage for racers to look at. This volunteer can be a racer. Submit list of volunteer(s) to person doing thank-you's to be thanked.

Post-race Snack Coordinator: Recruit volunteers (or do it yourself) to bring some sugary snacks and hot drinks for the post-race festivities. This volunteer can be a racer. Submit list of volunteer(s) to person doing thank-you's to be thanked.

**To volunteer for any of these positions or if you have any questions, please contact Sara Elzey at [skijorex2@hotmail.com](mailto:skijorex2@hotmail.com).**

### Crash Pool 2009/2010 by Sara Elzey

I challenge all my fellow skijorers to join me in the CRASH POOL again this season! There were only a few participants last year so I double dare you all to join us!!

Here is how it works: (I'm relying on the honor code here!)

1. Log each skijoring adventure on the log sheet provided, or use your own method. See the sample log sheet below. Note: if you take more than one trip on any given day log each trip, not just the day. If you know your distance, log that too, estimating is okay.
2. Set aside \$0.25 per skijoring trip to contribute to the pool.
3. Log each time you CRASH on the log sheet (be honest!)
4. Set aside an additional \$0.25 per CRASH to contribute to the pool.
5. Turn in your log sheet and your total contribution to the pool to Sara Elzey by the end of the season (exact date to be determined, depending on snow conditions!) *All entries will be kept strictly confidential!*
6. I will take your total number of CRASHES and divide it by your total number of skijoring adventures to find out your CRASH percentage *per trip*. I will also calculate the CRASH percentage *per mile traveled*. For example; if you skijored 50 times during the season and crashed 10 times, your crash percentage per trip will be 20%. If you skijored 100 miles during the season and crashed 10 times you will have a crash percentage per mile of 10%. I will then average your two percentages (20% + 10% divided by 2 = 15%) I promise not to reveal anyone's crash percentage except the winner!

The skijorer with the **lowest** CRASH percentage (fewest # of crashes) wins the pool.

If you have any questions please email me! [skijorex2@hotmail.com](mailto:skijorex2@hotmail.com).

May the best skijorer win! Good Luck everyone! Sara Elzey

**SAMPLE LOG SHEET:**

**SKIJORER NAME: Sally Skijorer:**

DATE	LOCATION of Skijoring Adventure	Distance	# CRASHES	Trip	crash	Total
11/1/09	North Star Golf Course	4	1	.25	.25	.50
11/4/09	Creamer's Field	6	0	.25		.25
11/6/09	Goldstream Valley	8	2	.25	.50	.75
4/01/10	TOTAL Contribution to CRASH Pool	18	3	.75	.75	1.50







## 2009-10 ASPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

**President:** : Jamie Marschner, 458-0462, marschne@arsc.edu

**Vice President:** Carol Kleckner, 479-0430. kleckner@ptialaska.net

**Treasurer:** Sara Elzey, 378-5024, skijorex2@hotmail.com

**Secretary:** Mara Bacsujlaky, 474-5741, mara.bacsujlaky@alaska.edu

**Trail Tour Coordinators:** Don Atwood, dkatwood@alaska.edu and Janna Miller, Janna@alaska.net, 479-5585

### **Race Coordinator: Looking for new Race Coordinators**

**Hotline:** Carol Kleckner, 479-0430, kleckner@ptilaska.net

**Newsletter Coordinator:** Lisa Stuby, 458-7657, lisa.stuby@alaska.gov

**Program Coordinator:** Jamie Marschner, 458-0462, marschne@arsc.edu

**Website Coordinator:** Don Kiely, 455-6749, donkiely@computer.org

**Trails & Development:** Jim Herriges, 455-8007, herriges@gci.net

**Trail Grooming:** Pat DeRuyter, 479-7853, patd@gci.net

**Beginner's Clinic Coordinator:** Sara Elzey, 378-5024, skijorex2@hotmail.com

### **Board Members at Large:**

**Sara Tabbert:** 479-0456, stabbert@hotmail.com; Don Morton, donaldjmor-ton@gmail.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 25<sup>th</sup> of every month to lisa.stuby@alaska.gov.

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