

# 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 21**  
**Fall Membership Meeting**  
Dog Mushers' Hall.  
Jamie Marschner  
458-0462

**November 19**  
**Beginner's Clinic**  
**AK Feed (class)**  
**Creamer's Field**  
**(on snow)**  
Sara Elzey  
378-5024

**November 20**  
**Fun Race #1**  
**Creamer's Field**  
Time To Be Determined  
Volunteers Needed

## Welcome to the 2011/2012 Season!!

Another summer has past and soon, hopefully soon, snow will be falling and we will be skiing. As I type this, a little "magic dust" fell on the ground and more is forecasted. Despite the lack of snow, ASPA has already had its first event, the now FOURTH annual Dryland race on September 24th. Our second event will be our annual Fall Membership Meeting with details given below.

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 (editors note: my skis are waxed and ready!). 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 Friday, October 21

Dog Mushers Hall on Farmers Loop

6:00 p.m. —Potluck

7:00 p.m. —Speaker Matt Sprau

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 Matt Sprau will give a presentation on the ins and outs of skijoring with pulks.

See you all there!!



### Annual ASPA Dryland Race 2011, Chena Lakes by Sara Elzey

Well, it wasn't snowing this year! And it hadn't snowed the night before, but the weather could have been better. After a beautiful, sunny week, Saturday was dark & gloomy with a light drizzle off and on, and the temperature hovered around 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Not the greatest for a Dryland Race! But ten brave skijorers and 16 dogs came out for some friendly competition.

The out and back trail was well marked and no errant 4-wheelers took out any signs overnight like last year. The 3 mile trail was a bit longer this year with a loop at the turn-around making it much easier for 2-dog biking teams to get turned back towards the finish. The advertised 6 mile trail actually ended up being only about 4.5 miles! Oops. The turn-around sign was placed a bit too early! The trail didn't seem too muddy but all the bikers finished with a fine coating of mud splatters covering their front sides. Hopefully someone took pictures!

Five folks ran or walked, each choosing one dog to accompany them. Don Kiely & Chance and Adele Wiejaszka & Sierra went the farthest completing the approximately 4.5 mile course in 34:52 and 34:47 respectively. Mollie Murray & Maggie ran just over 3 miles in 25:31. Janice & Ira Golub with Gilbert & Sirius did the 2 mile course in 16:27.

Five folks biked the approximately 3 mile course, two of them biked the course twice using different dogs. Andy Warwick w/ Zip & Joba was the fastest team, finishing in 10:21. John Carlson & Rev were the next fastest team, finishing in 11:15, just 6 seconds ahead of Mike Ruckhaus & Sasha. Sara Elzey raced two teams, the faster team was Faero & Kate with a time of 12:23. The second team of Ayla & Dylan finished with a time of 12:39. Dale Griffin with Zammie & Koho finished in 14:44. Mike Ruckhaus did a second trip with Sam finishing in 15:27.

The race was full of adventure and fun. John broke his bike chain, fortunately right *before* the race, so he ended up borrowing Andy Warwick's bike. Dale brought his own personal cheerleader – his Mom, Katie, who was visiting from Colorado. Canine competitor, Sasha, who usually races with Nina Ruckhaus, brought her "mom" as well. Susan decided to come out and watch Sasha do her thing. The runners & walkers mass started a few minutes before the bikers so they got to watch the bikers race by them. Most of the passes were fairly uneventful although there was often a bit of yelling & barking from human & canine competitors at the excitement of it all. Canine competitor, Kate, racing with Sara & Faero for the first time thought it was pretty fun! She was disappointed that Faero got tangled in the gang-line at the 3-mile turn so they had to stop so Sara could unwrap it from his leg. Andy Warwick claimed he wasn't in very good shape (despite the fastest time) and flopped on the ground after he finished.

Carol Kleckner, Peggy Raybeck and Paula Ruckhaus timed the racers and commented that they wished they had worn warmer clothes! Unfortunately, the race box with bibs & stop-watches was MIA from the end of last season so they had to make due with sports watches and remember peoples' names. Their efforts were much appreciated! MANY thanks to Sara Elzey for again coordinating this years Dryland race.

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Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association Annual Dryland Race			
Saturday, September 24, 2011			
Chena Lakes Flood Plain			
Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
<b>Two mile, Cani-cross, 1-2 dogs</b>			
Ira Golub	Sirius	16:21	1
Janice Golub	Gilbert	16:22	2
<b>Three mile, Cani-cross, 1-2 dogs</b>			
Molly Murray	Maggie	25:31	1
<b>Four and a half mile(-ish), Cani-cross, 1-2 dogs</b>			
Adele Wiejaczka	Sierra	34:47	1
Don Kiely	Chance	34:52	2
<b>Three mile, Bike-jor, 1-2 dogs</b>			
Andy Warwick	Zip, Joba	10:21	1
John Carlson	Rev	11:15	2
Mike Ruckhaus	Sasha	11:22	3
Sara Elzey	Faero, Kate	12:23	4
Sara Elzey	Dylan, Ayla	12:39	5
Dale Griffin	Zammie, Koho	14:44	6
Mike Ruckhaus	Sam	15:27	7

**Photographs from the 2011 ASPA Dryland Race. All photographs from Janice Golub**

**New for the 2011-2012 Season**

A couple of changes are in store for the 2011-2012 season. With the rising price of gas and having to maintain THREE snowmachines for grooming Creamer's, North Star, and Isberg trails, the ASPA board has decided to raise membership rates by \$5.00 this year. This means that individual rates are now \$20.00 per year and family rates are \$30.00 per year. Donations to help offset the cost of putting in and maintaining trails are still appreciated. Renewal form is on page 5 of this newsletter. You can also renew online on the ASPA website ([www.alaskaskijoring.org](http://www.alaskaskijoring.org)) using paypal if you prefer.

Also, due to liability concerns, we are requiring that ALL participants in our events be ASPA members.

Similar to previous year's, all ASPA events will be listed at our website and in our annual program which will be debuted at this year's ASPA Membership Meeting on October 21st at the Musher's Hall.

Here is looking forward to a great 2011-2012 season!!

### Halloween Horrors

**Please remember this Halloween that what you might find cute and inventive or delicious and chocolaty can be downright scary and bad for your dog. Keep all candy away from hungry, sneaky canines and put your dogs in a safe space if goulsh goblins (i.e. neighbor kids) come a trick or treating. Kids in costume can be scary for a dog not used to seeing such things. If you dress your dog up, make sure the costume does not stress out the dog. That said, I'd better get working on my own dogs costume.**

## What's in a (nick)Name? By Sara Elzey

I originally wrote this article in 2005 and sadly two of the three dogs I had at that time have passed on. But I have acquired 3 new dogs fairly recently so I've been thinking about the evolution of nicknames again. As with the old dogs, the new dogs seem to lend themselves to certain nicknames. I figured many of us were in the same situation so it was probably time to update! Here is some of the original article with new, funny names.

*2005: It all started after skijoring race. Some of the skijorers were gathered around, giddy from oxygen deprivation during the race, doing what we all seem to do best, "talking dog." My memory fails me as to how we got on the subject (oxygen deprivation) but somehow the conversation turned to doggie nick names. As we went around the group it turned out that almost everyone had nicknames for their dogs. I thought about this more as I drove home. My three dogs (and cat too) all have nicknames and many of my non-skijoring friends have nicknames for their dogs, maybe this was a common thing. And wouldn't it be fun to share the names and the stories behind the names. I sat down at my computer and sent out an email plea for the "true" names of your dogs. The responses were varied and quite interesting. And the funny thing is that many folks said that their dogs actually answer to their nicknames as well (or sometimes instead of) their given names. I know that mine do!*

Here's what people shared.

There were two basic categories of nicknames this time around. The first category includes those that were based on the actual given name but rhymed with it or were some silly term of endearment. For example: my female pointer mix, Dylan, answers to *Dill* or *Dillie*. My newest dog, Kate, hasn't fully evolved a nickname yet, but she goes by *Katy* or sometimes *Katy-clark* (don't ask me why this seems to fit!) Erin & Matt have Tarsis, also know as *Smarsis*, or *Smar-ma-lar* or *Smarty-Smar*. All of Amanda's dogs have a "special" song complete with actual singable musical notes that rhymns with their name, ask her to sing them for you sometime. Doreen acquired a Golden Retriever with the name Bear Dog but she says it didn't seem to fit so he evolved into *Berry*. Gail's dog Cocoa also goes by *Coky-boo* or just *Boo*. Gail calls Tobi (already short for Toblerone) *Punkin* or *Punkin Pie*. Sara G says that her lab is *Laboradorable*.

The second category of nicknames seem to stem from specific behavior on the part of the dog. That's where some of my nicknames come from. My male dog, Faero, is really clutzy so we call him *Dufus* or *Big Horse*, but mostly just *Big Dog*. Some of your nicknames were far more creative. Erin & Matt call Itty Bitty *Little Miss Bitchy-Pants* – you can guess why! Chris says his black lab Equinox goes by *Monkey* because of how he tears thru the woods like a monkey in the jungle. Nina says Tracker was nicknamed *T-Boy* by a friend because of his manliness. She also calls him *Mufasa* from the [Lion King](#). Lisa's dog Killae is a total cuddler so she calls him *Killae-bear* (as in teddy bear). Although she said sometimes he is also *Lazy Boy* or *Naughty Boy* depending on the day. Sara G's nicknames were quite creative. She has Jose *the Counter Terrorist* because of his tendency to steal stuff off the counter, and Hoover (the lab) whose given name is quite appropriate for his behavior! Nina calls Sasha, *Sasha-fierce* after the cover of a Beyonce CD because she is fierce & sassy.

Some nicknames don't seem to actually have any real purpose or hidden meaning, they just come to us. Doreen has a black dog whose name is Brown! Sara T had the most interesting dilemma – one of her dogs has always been nicknamed *Puppy* but this summer she got an actual puppy which has cause some confusion for her and Brandon – It goes something like this: "have you seen the puppy?" "Yea, he's out in the yard." "No I mean THE puppy, where is she?" "oh, I'm not sure!"

Thanks to all of you who sent me your nicknames, I got a kick out reading them! We are a silly twisted bunch aren't we!?! Ever wonder what nicknames our dogs would give to us could they talk?

### 2011 ASPA ANNUAL BEGINNER'S CLINIC

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 \$30 per person and includes an annual membership in ASPA. Attendance at the classroom session is required to participate in the "on-snow" session.

Classroom Session: Saturday, November 19, 2011, 10am-1pm at Alaska Feed.

On-Snow Session: Saturday, November 19, 2011, one half-hour time slot between 2pm-4pm, at Creamer's Field. Sign-up for time slots will occur during the classroom session.

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

### 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 \$20.00/year \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Lifetime \$175 \_\_\_\_\_
- Family \$30.00/year \_\_\_\_\_ (No lifetime available)
- Affiliate Club: \$10.00/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.alaskaskijoringl.org>

## 2011-12 ASPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

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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. 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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