

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

ASPA Trail Tours
Every Sunday,
meeting times and
destinations TBA.

March 24
Orienteering Race
Creamer's Field
Pat DeRuyter
patd@acsalaska.net

March 25
Fun Race #4 & BBQ
ADMA Musher's Hall
Jamie Marschner
marschne@arsc.edu

April 1
Ski For Women
NOT an ASPA Event,
but still a good cause.
Nordic Ski Club of
Fairbanks
See NSCF website at:
nscfairbanks.org
for more information

12th Annual Birch Hill Skijor Race by Jim Herriges Race Director

An inch of cold, slow, fresh snow fell on Saturday morning, March 3rd at Birch Hill Recreation area. An experienced skijorer from Anchorage and a Fairbanks newcomer took top spots in both of the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association mass-start skijor races. In the biggest class, the one-dog 7.5K mass start race, with 11 teams starting, Anchorage skijorer Rebecca Knight and her dog Clyde came out on top, with a time of 17:37. There was a very tight group of skiers and dogs until teams reached the Biathlon Range Hill, where the stronger teams began to pull away. Knight finished 24 seconds ahead of second place finisher Greg Jurek with Che. Emily Entrikin finished third in 19:09 with Rika.

In the two-dog 9K race, three teams stayed close together through most of the race. In her first ASPA skijor race, Jamie Johnson with Wrangle and Kiska gained a slight lead near the finish. Erin Trochim and her dogs Itty and Tarsis closed the gap on the final hill but couldn't quite pull ahead in a sprint to an almost photo finish. Melissa Smith, with Ayanna and Kilarny, finished third, just seconds back.

In the shorter interval start classes, Sara Elzey, with the only three-dog team (Dylan, Daria, Kate), had the fastest 6K time (14:01). Mike Ruckhaus who switched classes on-the-fly, covered 6K with one dog (Sasha) in 19:00. At the 4K distance, Lisa Allen finished fastest with two dogs (Indy and Piper) in 10:03, and Don Atwood travelled the 4K course fastest with one dog (Harley) in 15:09. Kimberlee Beckmen and Lily were second in that class in 16:08. The Yellow team of Lisa Allen, Bruce Miller, and Nina Ruckhaus won the team relay in 14:35 and the Rainbow team of Sara Elzey, Jesse Warwick, and Jim Herriges were second in 15:31. Jesse Warwick and Zip had the fastest split time of the day, followed by Bruce Miller and Roy.

Race Organizer Jim Herriges would like to thank all the people who made the race possible: Jim Altherr--White Bear trail setup and post-race trail sweep with his personal snow-machine, as well as timing; Pat DeRuyter--Race day coordination of registrations, race starting, and timing; Lisa Stuby--trail setup marking (for the umpteenth time in a row); Liz Kane--Registration, timing, goodies; Penny Parker--dog handling; Paula Ruckhaus--timing; and Gail Davidson, Bruce Miller, Lisa Allen, and Nina Ruckhaus--post-race cleanup; Bud Marschner and Don Atwood--photos and videos; Ricky Borland and the Parks and Recreation Department--facilities, permit and coordination; Tom Helmers and the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks--grooming and excellent trails. Thanks to Don Kiely for posting website results for this and all previous races.

Bud Marschner's most excellent Birch Hill photos can be found at:

http://budsalaskaphotos.smugmug.com/Skijoring/2012-Birch-Hill/21759610_HBhMRZ#



ASPA 12th Annual Birch Hill Race, March 3, 2012				
Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
9K 2-Dog Mass Start				
23	Jamie Johnson	Wrangle, Kiska	21:13	1
22	Erin Trochim	Itty, Tarsis	21:15	2
21	Melissa Smith	Ayanna, Klarney	21:20	3
20	Sara Tabbert	Pete, Rothko	23:40	4
7.5K 1-Dog Mass Start				
19	Rebecca Knight	Clyde	17:37	1
13	Greg Jurek	Che'	18:01	2
17	Emilie Entrikin	Rika	19:09	3
12	Bruce Miller	Roy	19:24	4
18	Jim Herriges	Lena	19:38	5
9	Jesse Warwick	Zip	20:55	6
14	Eric Schoen	Lefty	23:46	7
16	Mara Bacsujlaky	Tansy	29:34	8
15	Jenny Fish	Angus	32:53	9
11	Lisa Stuby	Killae	43:28	10
6 K 3-dog Interval Start				
1	Sara Elzey	Dylan, Daria, Kate	14:01	1
6 K 1-dog Interval Start				
10	Mike Ruckhaus	Sasha	19:00	1
2	Gail Davidson	Cocoa	28:23	2
4 K 2-dog				
3	Lisa Allen	Indy, Piper	10:03	1
4	Kristin DeGroot	Finnley, Galena	12:39	2
4 K 1-dog				
5	Don Atwood	Harley	15:09	1
7	Kimberlee Beckmen	Lily	16:08	2
8	Kim Harle	Itchy	19:00	3
6	Ryan Ruesch	Parker	19:18	4
3 X 2K Relay Race				
Yellow	Lisa Allen	Indy	4:54	1
	Bruce Miller	Roy	4:30	
	Nina Ruckhaus	Sasha	5:11	
		total time	14:35	
Rainbow	Sara Elzey	Faero	5:16	2
	Jesse Warwick	Joba	4:23	
	Jim Herriges	Ole	5:52	
		total time	15:31	
Purple	Erin Trochim	Itty	5:11	3
	Sara Tabbert	Rothko	7:04	
	Liz Kane	Black Bart	4:57	
		total time	17:12	
Green	Jenny Fish	Angus	8:50	4
	Gail Davidson	Cocoa	7:42	
	Don Atwood	Harley	7:25	
		total time	23:57	
Blue	Greg Jurek	Rib	DNF	DNF
	Emilie Entrikin	Licorice	6:13	
	Rebecca knight	Cedar	6:12	

ALL photos below by Bud Marschner



White Mountains Event

This years White Mountain's Event was too much fun for words. Below are some photographs I took during the weekend of 10-11 March 2012 on our overnight trip to Eleazars Cabin. MANY thanks to Don and Erin Atwood who organized the venture, made yummy chili, brought wood and kept the cabin warm and provided snow machine support. Sara Tabbert made genuine breakfast burritos Sunday morning. Killae and I primarily enjoyed ourselves.



ASPA Orienteering Event Open to Skijorers and Dog Walkers/Joggers

The challenging activities of skijoring and orienteering will be combined in the Tenth annual ASPA Orienteering event at Creamer's Field on Saturday, March 24, 2012.

This year we will have 8 classes of competitors. There will be 30 and 60 minute SKIJOR classes as well as 30 and 60 minute WALK/JOG with your dog classes. Each of the classes will have adult and child divisions. Children are under 16 years old and will need a parent or guardian to sign his/her permission slip. More than one child may accompany a single dog. If you do not have a dog, a "virtual" dog will be assigned to you.

We encourage all the people who enjoy Creamer's Field with their dogs to come and join the fun. You may take one, two, or three dogs All dogs must be on leash or line at all times.

Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. and starts will begin at 11:00 a.m. and final start time will be 11:30 a.m.

The cost is \$5. All participants will receive a prize.

The Format is to gather as many points as you can in the 30 or 60 minute time allotment that you choose. Thirty "Controls"(sheets of paper with removable numbered tabs attached to wooden stakes) will be placed around the Creamer's Field and ADMA trails between the ADMA Mushers Hall and 19.7 mile turns on the "Outer Loop" and on parts of the "Inner Loop," (27-mile extension). The "Controls" will be assigned point values from 10 to 100 points each depending on how easy it is to find them or how close to the trailhead they are. Ten "Controls" will be for walker/joggers only; Ten "Controls" will be for skijorers only; Ten "Controls" will be for all participants. The controls will be color-coded.

The control locations and point values will be indicated on a map and score card handed out to each competitor. Competitors will choose to spend either 30 or 60 minutes on the course to score as many points as possible by collecting tabs from the Controls and bringing them back to the start area. A competitor does not have to go to the controls in a specific order or from a specific direction which means there is the possibility of two-way traffic on any of the trails. Creative shortcuts are perfectly legal if you can get your dogs to take them. Competitors who are late returning to the finish area will be assessed ten (10) penalty points for each minute after their designated finish time. The course will be set so competitors do not need a compass for navigation.

When you arrive at Creamer's Field, go to the Farmhouse to pay your entry fee and fill out a registration form. At that time, you will be given a map and a score card. Write your name and circle your class (30 minute or 60 minute) on the score card. You must start between 11:00 and 11:30am. The starter will record your time when you start. You have 30 or 60 minutes from that time to return without penalty. The Starter/Timer must sign you back in when you return.

When you are finished, after checking in with the Starter/Timer, put your dog away and take your control tabs into the Creamer's Farmhouse for scoring.

Helpful tip 1: You can put the race map in a gallon sized zip lock bag and pin it to the front of your jacket. This will keep your hands free. Safety pins and zip lock bags will be provided.

Helpful tip 2: Wear a watch and synchronize it to the "official" race clock. This is important so you know how much time you have spent on the course and know when to return to the finish area without being late and getting penalized.

Helpful tip 3: Wear a vest or jacket with a deep pocket where you can keep the Control Tabs. Remember, the Control Tabs are the only means of verifying you visited a control, so you must bring them back to be scored. To volunteer to help with this event, to pre-register or for more information, contact Pat DeRuyter at patd@acsalaska.net or 479-7853.



2012 ASPA Alder Award

Chuck and Tone Deehr are again sponsoring the 2012 Alder Award, named after one of their special Siberian huskies. This award honors progress in any form in the working relationship between you and your skijoring dog(s).

This does not necessarily imply improved speed and race results. The emphasis is on your dog's improved ability and skijoring focus, overcoming adversity, and, of course, trail courtesy. How are those passings going for you? How many miles did you travel together this season? Did your canine counterpart celebrate "tails up" your improved skating ability after that recent ski clinic you may have attended? Maybe those extra pounds have changed into muscle, on either side of the bungee cord, while you all explored the Fairbanks' winter wonders together. Did you and your dog work through some challenges together that helped cement your relationship?

Share your success story with us in a short essay: how you and your dog handled it better this season. Just a love for your dog and his/her progress and wonderful attributes over the last year is fine too. If you can, please keep it under 500 words or so, but use as many words as you need to describe the relationship with your dog and what you've accomplished together. This isn't a writing contest, but a celebration of our skijor dogs. Sincerity and passion count more than a clever turn of phrase.

The entry deadline is Wednesday, March 21st at 5 p.m. The winner will receive a check for fifty dollars which will be presented at the season's last Fun Race and Barbecue at the Mushers Hall on Sunday, March 25.

Our Alder Award judge this year is the companion of last season's Alder Award winner, Casper: Don Kiely. Please email your essay with your description and raves about your dog to Don at donkiely@computer.org. Easiest is to include your essay in the body of the email, but Word documents and PDFs are fine too. For any other formats, please check with Don to make sure he can handle it.

A nice digital photo of your dog, with or without you, would be a nice addition, but don't sweat it if you don't have a decent one.

We congratulate the previous Alder Award winners:

2006 Blue with Andy Warwick. Honorary mention went to Boone with David French.

2007 Shadow with Sara Elzey

2008 Chanel with Carol Kleckner

2009 Tobi with Gail Davidson. Honorary mention went to Casper with Don Kiely and Rothko with Sara Tabbert.

2010 Zephyr with Alice Stickney

2011 Casper with Don Kiely

Thanks for participating!

The ASPA Board

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. Thank You

ASPA Wednesday Evening Skijor Race at Creamer's field, March 14, 2012 by Sunnifa Deehr, Race Director

Twenty-five teams turned out for ASPA's annual Fun Race #3 Wednesday night at Creamer's Field. The trails were well groomed, the sun was shining and temperatures were warm. Sara Elzey and Kim Tinker ran the 3.6, 3-dog with times of 12:05 and 12:49 respectively. The 2-dog, 3.6 mile class was a tight race between 4 teams, but Michael Sheriff (Taiga and Clyde) nosed out the others with a time of 12:21. Bruce Miller and Roy trounced the competition in the 1-dog category running 3.6 miles in 13:21. Carol Kleckner, together with Jenny and Pixel, glided to victory in the 2.7 mile two-dog with a time of 9:53. The largest category was the 2.7 one-dog, won by Jim Herriges and Lena with a time of 12:14. The 1.4 1-dog and 2-dog were captured by Judith Levy and Sally (6:18), and Iris Sutton with puppies Enya and Lingon (5:17). Paula Ruckhaus with Sasha was the single half-mile entrant, running the upper field in 2:15.

A very big thank you to our tireless volunteers, Lisa Stuby, Sara Tabbert, Penny Parker, Chris Burrow, and Charles Deehr. All appreciated the special edible prizes provided by Tone Deehr. All photographs below by Lisa Stuby.

ASPA Fun Race, March 14, 2012, Creamer's Field				
Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
3.6, 3-dog				
1	Sara Elzey	Dylan, Daria, Kate	12:05	1
2	Kim Tinker	Ikuma, Toa, Gola	12:49	2
3.6, 2-dog				
3	Andy Warwick	Zip, Joba	13:03	3
4	Jamie Johnson	Kiska, Wrangle	13:06	4
6	Michael Sheriff	Taiga, Clyde	12:21	1
7	Jake Turman	Nicky, Sparky	12:56	2
3.6, 1-dog				
8	Janna Miller	Lilly	16:14	3
9	Nina Ruckhaus	Sasha	14:46	2
10	Bruce Miller	Roy	13:42	1
	Lisa Stuby	Killae	33:00	4
2.7, 2-dog				
11	Carol Kleckner	Jenny, Pixel	9:53	1
12	Erin Atwood	Coho, Suka	20:29	6
13	Sara Elzey	Katrina, Avril	10:43	3
14	Sunnifa Deehr	Simon, Clyde	10:09	2
15	Jim Herriges	Ole, Lilly	12:17	5
5	Judith Levy	Sally, Boss	11:34	4
2.7, 1-dog				
16	Kathleen Boyle	Tipi	16:10	6
17	Don Atwood	Harley	15:13	5
18	Suzanne Burke	Pepper	16:42	7
19	Liz Kane	Black Bart	14:03	3
20	Rebecca Gilbert	Sharlee	14:33	4
21	Mara Bacsujlaky	Tansy	12:39	2
15	Jim Herriges	Lena	12:14	1
1.4, 1-dog				
23	Jim Altherr	Sopie	11:37	3
24	Judith Levy	Sally	6:18	1
25	Michael Sherriff	Taiga	6:42	2
1.4, 2-dog				
26	Iris Sutton	Enya, Lingon	5:17	1
.5, 1-dog				
22	Paula Ruckhaus	Sasha	2:15	1



ASPAs 2012 End of Year Fun Race and BBQ

Please join us for the annual spring membership meeting, barbecue and fun race scheduled for Sunday, March 25, at the ADMA Musers Hall! All ASPA volunteers for this season will be honored, celebrated and thanked!! The Volunteer of the Year Award and the Alder Award will also be presented.

The fun race director will be Andy Warwick and he will be sending out email with times and distances. (Registration usually starts at 10 a.m. and the race at 11:00 a.m.).

The fun race will be followed by a barbecue which will begin about noon and then by a short membership meeting.

ASPAs will provide the main course (burgers, veggie-burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, etc.) and drinks. Please bring a side dish to share.

We need grillers and grills. Please let me know if you can bring a grill or help with the grilling!!

Hope to see you there!

Jamie Marschner

Membership Form for the Alaska Skijoring & Pulk Association

Name _____
Last First

Mailing Address _____
Street or P. O. Box

_____ City State Zip Code

Any and

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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Board Members at Large:

Sara Tabbert: 479-0456, stabbert@hotmail.com; Sunnifa Deehr, sdvio-lin@hotmail.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 las@acsalaska.net.

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Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association

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

Hotline: 907-457-5456 ♦ Website: www.alaskaskijoring.org