

# 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!*

**November 17  
Beginner's Clinic  
AK Feed (class)  
Creamer's Field (on snow)**

Sara Elzey  
378-5024

**November 23  
Fun Race #1  
Creamer's Field**  
Sunnifa Deehr,  
deehrsunnifa@yahoo.com

**December 3  
Wax Clinic at  
Raven Cross  
Country.**  
Pre-registration recommended.  
Fred Raymond  
456-5070

## Welcome to the 2012/2013 Season!!

Another summer has past and I hear so many moans and groans from folks unhappy to see the wet stuff fall. HOWEVER, this does NOT apply to US!! As I type this, about 3 or 4 inches has fallen at Creamer's and about 8" at Birch Hill. So, time to scrape off the storage wax. The first ASPA event was our very successful Fall Membership Meeting that took place at the Double Eagle on Farmer's Loop Road. It was a fun and informal event. During the event, Pat DeRuyter, our Groomer Extraordinaire told us that she has rolled the North Star Golf Course. These are popular trails and usually get more snow than those at Creamer's.

Also, once again ASPA will be putting signs out on the trails at Creamer's Field once there is enough snow. 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.

Upcoming events will be the Beginner's Clinic on November 17th (announcement following in the newsletter) and our first race of the 2012/2013 season on November 23rd which for now is scheduled to be at Creamer's Field. STAY TUNED to your e-mail and/or ASPA hotline (457-5456) for any date, time, or location changes. November 23rd is the day after Thanksgiving and racing is a great way to burn off calories from the night before.

Don Kiely announced that the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association has a facebook page for the membership. You will need to join this as a group. This will be a great way to share actual photos of trail conditions, trails discovered, photos of our dogs in action—or not, etc. So, please join and enjoy this great forum.

A calendar with all ASPA events is listed at our website (<http://www.alaskaskijoring.org/>) as well as page 2 of this newsletter and will be periodically updated, so keep watching.

Articles on skijoring, skiing, dog care, etc. are welcomed. Please mail all articles and article ideas to Lisa Stuby at las@acsalaska.net.

Here is looking forward to a great 2012-2013 season!!

### 2012-2013 ASPA Calendar of Events.

Please check our website at <http://www.alaskaskijoring.org/> or our facebook page or the e-mail list for any changes prior to an event or call the ASPA hotline at 907-457-5456.

Month	Day	Event	Contact
Oct.	7	ADMA Haybale Cani-Cross Trail Race	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Oct.	12-14	ADMA Sleddog Symposium	Amy Gjestson, 488-5621, <a href="http://sleddog.org">sleddog.org</a>
Nov.	4	<b>Fall Membership Meeting, Double Eagle, Farmers Loop, 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Jamie Marschner, 458-0462, <a href="mailto:marschne@arsc.edu">marschne@arsc.edu</a></b>
Nov.	17	<b>Beginner's Clinic Classroom Session at Alaska Feed, 10-1 p.m. On-snow at Creamer's Field 2-4 p.m., \$30 (includes membership)</b>	<b>Sara Elzey, 378-5024, or <a href="mailto:skijorex2@hotmail.com">skijorex2@hotmail.com</a> or Alaska Feed 451-5570. Preregistration REQUIRED!!! Sign up at Alaska Feed.</b>
Nov.	23	<b>Fun Race #1, Creamer's Field</b>	<b>Sunnifa Deehr, <a href="mailto:deehrsunnifa@yahoo.com">deehrsunnifa@yahoo.com</a></b>
Dec.		<b>Trail Tour every Sunday</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>
Dec.	2	ADMA Challenge Series #1	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Dec.	3	<b>Wax Clinic at Raven Cross Country, 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Fred Raymond, 456-5070, <a href="mailto:ravenxc@alaska.net">ravenxc@alaska.net</a>. Pre-registration is recommended</b>
Dec.	9	<b>Fun Race #2, Location TBD</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>
Dec.	16	ADMA Challenge Series #2	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Dec.	30	ADMA Challenge Series #3	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Jan.		<b>Trail Tour every Sunday</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>
Jan.	6	<b>Practice Clinic #1, Creamer's Field</b>	<b>Lisa Stuby, 458-7657, <a href="mailto:las@acsalaska.net">las@acsalaska.net</a></b>
Jan.	13	ADMA Challenge Series #4	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Jan.	19	<b>Fun Race #3, Location TBD</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>
Jan.	27	ADMA Challenge Series #5	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Feb.		<b>Trail Tour every Sunday</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>
Feb.	3	<b>Practice Clinic #2, Creamer's Field</b>	<b>Lisa Stuby, 458-7657, <a href="mailto:las@acsalaska.net">las@acsalaska.net</a></b>
Feb.	10	<b>Chena Lakes Race</b>	<b>Sara Tabbert, 479-0456, <a href="mailto:stabbert@hotmail.com">stabbert@hotmail.com</a></b>
Feb.	11	<b>Wax Clinic at Raven Cross Country, 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Fred Raymond, 456-5070, <a href="mailto:ravenxc@alaska.net">ravenxc@alaska.net</a> Pre-registration is recommended</b>
Feb.	16	<b>UAF Race</b>	<b>Brian Charlton, <a href="mailto:bcskijor@yahoo.com">bcskijor@yahoo.com</a></b>
Feb.	16-17	ADMA Gold Run	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Feb.	23	<b>Birch Hill Races</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>
Mar.		<b>Trail Tour every Sunday</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>
Mar.	1-7	<b>IFSS World Championships</b>	
Mar.	8-10	ADMA Limited North American	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Mar.	9-10	<b>White Mountains Event</b>	<b>Sara Tabbert, 479-0456, <a href="mailto:stabbert@hotmail.com">stabbert@hotmail.com</a></b>
Mar.	13	<b>Fun Race #4, Location TBD</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>
Mar.	15-17	Open North American	457-MUSH, (457-6874), <a href="http://www.sleddog.org">www.sleddog.org</a>
Mar.	23	<b>Orienteering Race, Creamer's Field</b>	<b>Pat DeRuyter, 479-7853, <a href="mailto:patd@acsalaska.net">patd@acsalaska.net</a></b>
Mar.	24	<b>Fun Race #5 and year-end barbecue</b>	<b>Jamie Marschner, 458-0462, <a href="mailto:marschne@arsc.edu">marschne@arsc.edu</a></b>
Apr.		<b>Trail Tour every Sunday</b>	<b>Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or <a href="http://alaskaskijoring.org">alaskaskijoring.org</a></b>

Anchorage Skijor Club dates may be found here: <http://www.skijoring.org/Calendar/Calendar12-13.aspx>

### HARNESS FITTING WORKSHOP COMING SOON! By Sara Elzey

I've always had an interest in harnesses. I was trying different styles right from the beginning, always searching for the ones that I felt fit each dog the best and enabled them to do their job as best as they physically could. Some of this stemmed from having a dog who should have retired from skijoring at age 5 due to a bad back & bad knees, but whose heart wasn't ready to retire until many years later. I was determined to help her and I was convinced that the "right" harness would do so. Some of this interest stemmed from my own background as a runner and realizing how critical the "right" running shoes were to my overall comfort, enjoyment and performance. For many years the harness selections were few and I had to be creative, even having a "walking" harness customized for one of my dogs - he wore it until he died. We know that poor performance or peculiar lameness in an otherwise enthusiastic, hard-working dog can often be from a poorly fitting harness, so what is the answer? In recent years the variety of harnesses has greatly increased. In fact, I count probably more than a dozen different styles on the market now! Many are designed for different purposes - sledding vs skijoring, wheel-dog vs lead dog, distance or sprint racing, husky vs hound. It can be overwhelming. So how do you decide? The first thing to consider is what you plan to do with your dog. That narrows your choices some. Next, consider the body type of your dog - is he more houndy in build or more husky or more couch-potato? Obviously, the best thing to do is try the harnesses on your dog! Just like people, dogs come in all shapes and sizes and every harness will not fit every dog body. The harness needs to fit snugly around the neck/chest where the dog is getting his pulling power from but not fit tightly along his back/hips/ribs or under his front legs. It should not pinch skin or pull or rub fur. So how do you know? If you've been struggling to find a harness that fits your dog, or you're not sure if the one you have is "right" or you want to try on some of the various styles on the market plan on attending the harness fitting workshop! We are certainly not an experts, but we'll do our best to help you find something that will work for you & your dog. We'll have a selection of styles on hand to try on. Call the hotline 457-5456 and/or check the website [www.alaskaskijoring.org/events](http://www.alaskaskijoring.org/events) for the date/time/place in the next couple of weeks. We'll also send a notice to the email list so if you are not a member, please join on the website & get onto the email list serve. See you there! For more information contact Sara Elzey at [skijorex2@hotmail.com](mailto:skijorex2@hotmail.com).

### TRAILS

We are so lucky living in Fairbanks with our easy access to good trails. For many people who love to ski in the Lower 48 and elsewhere, a skiing venture means many hours of trip preparation and driving to the ski trails. Here in Fairbanks, all we have to do is walk outside and/or drive a little ways and go. Remember, it costs money to groom many of the trails we've come to love. 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.

Sometimes, yes, it is nice to ski alone and to work on technique and speed. For this there are the world-class trails at Birch Hill and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. If you are frequent users of these trails, please support them by making a trail donation. PLEASE remember that dogs are not allowed on these trails.

Likewise, if you frequently use other dog-friendly trails like the Jeff Studdert Race Grounds at ADMA, Two Rivers ski trails, etc. please also consider a donation for trail upkeep. Can't afford to support all of these trail upkeep efforts, then the next time there is a trail clearing "party" at any of these venues, consider volunteering your time to help get the trails into shape for the winter. Of course, on dog-friendly trails please show respect and consideration for other trail users by yielding to faster dog teams, having your dog under control, etc.

And lastly, lets celebrate the advent of winter and snow by getting out and enjoying these wonderful trails!

**Hey all you dog lovers! We started this feature with the spring newsletter – the Dog of the Month. We invite you to submit a brief write-up (300 words or less) and photo of your dog by the monthly deadline. We’ll include one or two each month. We want to hear about your best pals and what makes them so special, unique or even a pain-in-the-...**

**DOG of the MONTH - AYLA**

Ayla came to me over 11 years ago. I knew the moment I met her that she would be an amazing dog - she was a bit shy, yet determined to greet me, an unusual combination of boldness & uncertainty. This has characterized her whole life. In the house, loose, or when meeting people or dogs she doesn't know, she is quiet, polite, and unassuming. But put her in harness and she is all LOUD & enthusiastic business! She would run with any dog(s) on any trail, lead any team, always take my directional commands even if her partners did not, pass any & everything, and always BARK her heart out waiting to go. She is the most solid, reliable dog I have had the pleasure to work with, and I can't believe our years together have gone by so quickly. She is going on 14 as this season begins and I don't think I'll be skjoring with her this year. She has done well on loose runs or bikes with my younger dogs all summer but I don't expect that she will be able to keep up with a fast skjoring team, even if she is loose. But I pledge to ski with her loose as long as she continues to want to go, hopefully several more seasons. So if you see a skier on a skjoring trail this winter, moving slowly, with a black & white husky running along barking enthusiastically you'll know that it is Ayla & me, still skjoring together in whatever fashion we can.



**Pet Photos with Santa**

It is that time of the year again The “pet photos with Santa” event, at \$15 per session, benefits the Fairbanks Animal Shelter Fund, a nonprofit that supports the Fairbanks North Star Borough’s animal shelter. The event takes place at Alaska Feed on 3-4 November (10:00AM-4:00PM and noon to 4:00 PM respectively) and again the following weekend on 10 and 11 November. This is a fun thing to do with your pet. My dog turned 8 this July and we’ve been doing this since he was 4 months old. Needless to say, Killae LOVES Santa and will bark his head off with excitement knowing what is to come. If your dog or other pet is less enthusiastic about jolly ole St. Nick, consider a donation to the Animal Shelter Fund.

### 2012 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 17, 2011, 10am-1pm at Alaska Feed.

On-Snow Session: Saturday, November 17, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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

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

**Vice President:** Janna Miller, Janna@alaska.net

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

**Secretary:** Kathleen Boyle, kboyle@ptialaska.net

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**Hotline:** Sara Tabbert, stabbert2hotmail.com

**Newsletter Coordinator:** Lisa Stuby, 458-7657, las@acsalaska.net

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

**Beginner's Clinic Coordinator:** Sara Elzey, 378-5024, skijorex2@hotmail.com; Carol Kleckner, 479-0430

**Website & e-mail list Coordinator:** Don Kiely, 455-6749, donkiely@computer.org

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

**Board Members at Large:** Sunnifa Deehr, sdviolin@hotmail.com; Lisa Allen, fier-ystitches@gmail.com; Jesse Warwick, harding247@hotmail.com; Jake Turman, jaketurman10@gmail.com

**Paw Prints and Ski Tracks** is a monthly newsletter published during the winter season by the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association. 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 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](http://www.alaskaskijoring.org)