

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!

Trail Tour Every Sunday

Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or the website:

alaskaskijoring.org

December 3 Wax Clinic at Raven Cross Country.

Pre-registration recommended.

Fred Raymond
456-5070

December 8 Fun Race #2 Location and Race Details TBD

Janna Miller,
janna@alaska.net

ASPA Fall Membership Meeting, November 4, 2012

The Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association held its annual Fall Membership Meeting on November 4, 2012 at the Double Eagle Restaurant located on Farmer's Loop. This was not a "traditional" meeting, but instead a fun and informal get together of folks in the skijoring community. Food and drinks could be ordered in a relaxed atmosphere. Snow flakes were falling from the sky, which also made for a happy group of skijorers. After awhile, Jamie Marschner, our club president, introduced herself and the other members of the ASPA board. Then she introduced all of the other committee members. Pat DeRuyter, who heads the trail grooming committee announced that she had rolled and performed an initial grooming of the North Star Golf Course trails to many cheers. Indeed with the low-snow conditions as of the writing of this article and cold, trail conditions at Creamer's are not so good and we can't skijor at UAF or Birch Hill. So, the expertly-groomed North Star trails have been really great to have and have been kept in good shape. However, everyone still needs to do snow dances as all of the trails in Fairbanks need some more of the white stuff. A post-cold spell Chinook could prove disastrous to trail quality and quantity.

As newsletter editor, I reminded folks to please submit articles and/or photographs. Sara Elzey announced that we would start incorporating a "Dog of the Month" article, which will allow us proud owners to brag up a storm about our furry friends. Also, there were reminders for members to please renew. There are many benefits to being a member of ASPA, including discounts on races where everyone gets a prize, joining a group of trail tourists, waxing and practice clinics, monthly newsletter from October to April, and the camaraderie of a great group of people.

Wax Clinic at Raven Cross Country, December 3, 2012

Fred Raymond of Raven Cross Country will be presenting the first of two ski waxing clinics for the 2012/2013 season to ASPA members on December 3rd at 6:00 PM at his Well Street shop. Fred is an expert on waxing and caring for skis and is a great source for advice on all things cross-country skiing. Space is limited, and pre-registration is recommended. Contact Fred at 456-5070 or e-mail at ravenxc@alaska.net. Come and learn how to best take care of those new skis you want to get yourself for Christmas--and give them the glide you and your dogs will appreciate! Clinic is for ASPA members only. Please pre-register.

ASPA Fun Race #1, North Star Golf Course by Sunnifa Deehr

Twenty teams turned out for ASPA's first Fun Race of the season at the North Star Golf Course on Black Friday. The trails were well groomed, the sun was shining, and temperatures hovered at around -6 F.

Sara Elzey glided to victory in the 4 mile and 3 mile 3-dog race. The largest category was the 3 mile two-dog, won by Kriya Dunlap with Boom and Ruby in 10:19. Greg Jurek and Emilie Entrikin battled it out in the 4 mile two-dog with times of 12:25 and 12:38 respectively. Bruce Miller and Roy took the 1-dog 4 mile with a time of 16:05. The 3 mile 1-dog was captured by Kriya Dunlap and Zeus. Lisa Stuby and Alice Stickney raced the 2 mile loop in 18:40 and 9:34. Pam Burton with Malu was the single .8 mile entrant, running the loop in 4:46, Stephanie Maggard completed the .8 mile with Tundra and Gunner in 4:02.

Thank you to our starter and tireless trail groomer Pat DeRuyter. The trails are the BEST in town because of her!

A very big thank you to our volunteers, Kathleen Boyle, Sara Tabbert, Brandon McGrath-Bernhard, Chris Burrow, Charles and Tone Deehr. The race would not have happened without them. Ally Burton took the excellent photographs.

Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association, Fun Race #1				
Friday, November 23, 2012, North Star Golf Course				
Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
4 mile, 3-dog				
2	Sara Elzey	Dylan, Katrina, Faero	13:16	1
4 mile, 2-dog				
4	Greg Jurek	Che, Jet	12:25	1
3	Emilie Entrikin	Rib, Rika	12:38	2
4 mile, 1-dog				
6	Bruce Miller	Roy	16:05	1
5	Janna Miller	Lilly	17:07	2
7	Sunnifa Deehr	Aksel	17:26	3
3 mile, 3-dog				
20	Sara Elzey	Kate, Daria, Lira	9:53	1
12	Andy Warwick	Zip, Joba, Freddie	10:22	2
3 mile, 2-dog				
1	Kriya Dunlap	Boom, Ruby	10:19	1
9	Lisa Baraff	Baloo, Yukon	11:04	2
13	Erin Trochin	Itty, Taiga	11:46	3
8	David Brooks	Sheriff, Monty	12:16	4
11	Lisa Allen	Indy, Senna	13:24	5
10	Luke Reece	Piper, Pinyon	17:36	6
3 mile, 1-dog				
18	Kriya Dunlap	Zeus	11:01	1
19	Emilie Entrikin	Licorice	12:07	2
2 mile, 2-dog				
15	Alice Stickney	Raven, Ullr	9:34	1
2 mile, 1-dog				
14	Lisa Stuby	Killae	18:40	1
.8 mile, 2-dog				
17	Stephanie Maggard	Tundra, Gunner	4:02	1
.8 mile, 1-dog				
16	Pam Burton	Malu	4:56	1



HARNESS FIT WORKSHOP by Sara Elzey

Are you curious about the many different harness styles available? Are you uncertain as to whether the harness you have is the best fit for your dog? Come on out to a harness fitting workshop put on by the Alaska Skijoring & Pulk Association. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, Dec 12th from 5:45-7:00pm in the annex building at Alaska Feed Company, 1600 College Road. Bring the harness you already have or try on a sample that we will have on hand and we'll do our best to help you find one that works. Bring your dog, on a leash, we'll allow 5 or 6 at a time to come into the building for a fitting. Cost is free but we welcome a \$5 donation to support the ASPA trail grooming fund.

Harness samples available to try on:

- Taiga
- Manmat
- Alpine Outfitters, several styles
- Dragratten
- Skijor Now

BEGINNERS' CLINIC 2012 by Sara Elzey

We had 24 "wannabe" skijorers sign up for the annual Beginners' Clinic this year! We spent the morning going over the many styles of harnesses available and most importantly - the correct way to put them on your dog! We also looked at the proper bungees & tugs to use and how to fit your skijoring belt. We talked briefly about dog booties & jackets, a necessity for many of the short-coated dogs that are trying skijoring these days. After a quick break we talked about how to set up a successful & productive training session (start & stop on a positive note, keep it short, treats are okay!) and what the necessary commands are to be able to skijor safely around other trail users (gee, haw, whoa, on-by). Before the newbies were completely brain-dead we talked about where to go skijoring (everywhere except Birch Hill & UAF). Ayla, Dylan, Faero, Kate & Miley happily modeled harnesses and offered love (and a bit of fur) to all the students. We then adjourned to Creamers' Field. The weather was not very cooperative this year. There was barely enough snow to cover the grass in the front fields and the dips were impassable! But thanks to Jesse Warwick & Pat DeRuyter's grooming efforts we had a fairly decent trail on the training loop & first half mile loop. Most of the students came out with their dogs, rotating through in 20 minute intervals, 5 or 6 at a time. Nina Ruckhaus & Sasha, Rebecca Gilbert & Pepper, Lisa Allen & Indy, Lisa Stuby & Killae, and Sara Elzey & Kate & Miley took turns playing "rabbit" for the new dogs to chase. Peggy Raybeck, Don Atwood, Kathleen Boyle, Carol Kleckner, Lisa Allen & Sara Elzey helped folks get their gear on, hold dogs, lead out reluctant dogs, and generally offer support. Most of the dogs did great! The light bulb clearly went on, and they were into it. Everyone made it around the loop at least once. There were a few spectacular crashes from the skijorers but everyone was up and on their way again. Hopefully we'll see all of these folks come out and try a Fun Race or Trail Tour this season! Their dogs would surely love it.

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

Hey all you dog lovers! REMINDER, 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-...

Harley

By Don Atwood

We met Harley In Nenana four years ago. He had been discarded by a musher and temporarily adopted by a kind soul. He was undoubtedly handsome, but high-strung and barely manageable. Yet he possessed some undefinable trait that made us take him on a trial basis. Upon getting home, he managed to escape with a leash still attached. No amount of cajoling would allow us to capture him, so we left it to fate as to whether we would see him in the morning. The next day, he appeared from the woods and followed my wife back to our house. Harley had decided to join our family.

The constant in Harley's life has been his passion for running, and few dogs can do it so well. He can effortlessly run at 28 miles per hour, and at the conclusion of any skijor trip always seems to want more. When we bike or snowmachine on remote trails, Harley charges through the woods, usually out of sight, but always knowing where we are. Whereas our other two dogs are content to stay with us, Harley needs to go double this distance to burn off his energy.

In Harley's bloodline, there are distinct hunter traits. He has shown skill in capturing hares and unfortunately exhibits a love of chasing moose. But despite this, Harley exhibits tenderness for the small furry creatures of our household. He and our Bengal cat have bonded in a remarkable way. At the sound of a motor-boat purr in the middle of the night, one can be sure that Harley and Cato are snuggling. And yes, a cat's head will fit inside a dogs mouth; the cat without fear and the dog without malice.

I have had many pets in my life, but none so dear as Harley. His prowess in pulling makes skijoring thrilling. His exuberance in running free matches my love of the outdoors. And most importantly, his evolution from an abused, fearful youngster to the most affectionate member of our menagerie, has taught me the power of love in bringing out the best in any creature.



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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. 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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