

PAW PRINTS & SKI TRACKS

Annual ASPA membership dues were due by January 31, 2013. If you want to reinstate your membership, please complete the attached form and send it in with your dues.

Sunday Trail Tours

Check Hotline (45-SKIJOR) or
alaskaskijoring.org

March 23

Orienteering Race

Pat DeRuyter
patd@acsalaska.net

March 24

Fun Race #5 and end of Year Pizza Party

Pat DeRuyter
patd@acsalaska.net

April 6-7

White Mountains Event

Sara Tabbert
stabbert@hotmail.com

Chena Lakes Race, February 9, 2013 by Sara Tabbert

The race at Chena Lakes Recreation Area took place on Saturday, February 9. Temperatures rose into the mid-20's, making it nice for racers if not a bit hot for some of the dogs. The recent fresh snow and excellent grooming by FNSB Parks and Recreation made for a beautiful trail.

We had 17 participants who ran 19 races (Sara Elzey and Andy Warwick both ran two teams.) There was some debate as to exactly where the 6.5 mile turn was located, but those who were attentive were rewarded. A few participants made their own adventures!

Kathleen Boyle, Alice Stickney, Paula Ruckhaus, Chris Burrow, and Brandon-McGrath Bernhard all helped out with timing and handling. Thanks as well to Janna Miller for helping to scout the trail earlier in the week.

Bud Marschner took a number of photos of the event. You can see them on Bud's Alaska Photos or http://budsalaskaphotos.smugmug.com/Skijoring/2013-Chena-Lakes-Skijoining/27940676_d2c4Rf#!i=2358261809&k=Mr3tLVh

ASPAs Chena Lakes Race, Mike Agbaba Trails			
Trails ASPA Race Saturday, February 09, 2013			
Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
9.5 mile 1 dog			
Bruce Miller	Roy	56:35:00	1
Mara Bacsujlaky	Tansy	56:49:00	2
Janna Miller	Lily	57:10:00	3
6.5 mile 1 dog			
Jamie Johnson	Kiska	25:40:00	1
Sunnifa Deehr	Clyde	30:22:00	2
6.5 mile 2 dog			
Greg Jurek	Jet, Rika	22:03	1
Emilie Entrikin	Che, Rib	24:23:00	2
Mike Ruckhaus	Mayo, Wylan	33:28:00	3
6.5 mile 3 dog			
Andy Warwick	Zip, Joba, Freddie	18:34	1
Sara Elzey	Kate, Dylan, Daria	24:49:00	2

ASPA Chena Lakes Race, continued			
Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
3.8 mile 1 dog			
Gentry Johnson	Wrangle	15:37	1
Swaesy Johnson	Hodgins	15:44	2
3.8 mile 2 dog			
Kriya Dunlap	Zeus, Boomer	12:40	1
Stephanie Maggard	Gunner, Tundra	16:18	2
Gail Davidson	Cocoa, Darna	16:54	3
3.8 mile 3 dog			
Sara Elzey	Rupert, Lira, Lucy	13:45	1
Self directed adventures			
Andy Warwick	Jack, Yogi		
Lisa Stuby	Killae		
Jamie Marscher	Bree		
Nina Ruckhaus	Sasha		

All Chena Lake Photographs by Bud Marschner, 2012



Bernard Marschner
North Pole Alaska 2013



Bernard Marschner
North Pole Alaska 2013



Bernard Marschner
North Pole Alaska 2013



Bernard Marschner

ASPA UAF West Ridge Skijor Race, February 16, 2013 by Brian Charlton, Race Director

Despite temperatures well below zero, 22 skijorers and 29 dogs showed up to race the annual ASPA West Ridge Skijor Race on the University of Alaska Fairbanks trails. A new reroute on the Big Whizzy Loop took the one to three dog teams on some thrilling hills. The most popular event was the 4.5 mile one dog event. UAF skier Wyatt Mayo, with Sasha Fierce, won in 17:44 followed by Jamie Johnson and Bode in 18:49. The 4.5 mile 2/3 dog race was won by Sara Elzey with Faero, Kate, and Rupert, with the fastest time of the day in 17:13. Second place was Michael Sheriff with Taiga and Clyde in 18:22. The longest race of the day was 9 miles with both participants fielding one dog. Bruce Miller and Roy sped through the course in 41:25 followed by Shawna Henderson and Penny in 54:32. The one mile beginner race featured 10 year old Gentry Johnson and Wrangle in 3:57, four seconds faster than second place Stephanie Maggard with Gunner and Tundra in 4:01. Many thanks to race volunteers Michelle DeVaul for timing, Janna Miller for clean-up, Jason Garron for grooming, set-up, and clean up, and Lisa Stuby for helping with registration.

1 Mile Beginner's Race		
Racer	Dogs	Time
1. Gentry Johnson	Wrangle	3.52
2. Stephanie Maggard	Gunner, Tundra	4.01
3. Emma Charlton	Clyde	5.06
3 Mile 1 dog		
Kathleen Boyle	Tipi	17.48
4.5 Mile 1 Dog		
1. Wyatt Mayo	Sasha Fierce	17.44
2. Jamie Johnson	Bode	18.49
3. Theresa Heckart	Oscar	19.57
4. Ted Wu	Ty	23.26
5. Lisa Allen	Indy	23.49
6. Janna Miller	Lilly	24.08
7. Mara Bacsujlaky	Tansy	27.06
8. Nina Ruckhaus	Waylon	29.51
9. Erin Trochim	Onion	40.02
10. Lisa Stuby	Killae	42.57
4.5 Mile 2/3 Dog		
1. Sara Elzey	Faero, Kate, Rupert	17.13
2. Michael Sheriff	Clyde, Taiga	18.22
3. Lisa Baraff	Yukon, Baloo	19.54
4. Mason Little	Otter, Crazy	20.51
5. Iris Sutton	Juneau, Raspberry	21.55
6. Alice Stickney	Ullr, Raven	24.51
9 Mile 1 Dog		
1. Bruce Miller	Roy	41.25
2. Shawna Henderson	Penny	54.32



The ASPA 13th Annual Birch Hill Skijor Race by Jim Herriges, Race Director

Great Showings by Junior Skijorers on a Three-dog Day! The ambient temperature was -6°F on well-groomed trails.

Although most skiers raced with the aid of only a single dog, the cold, fresh, slow snow left all skijorers wishing for a three-dog team at the Birch Hill Skijor Races on Saturday. And junior-aged skiers proved themselves capable dog-drivers—winning the 4K one-dog class and anchoring the first and second place relay teams.

Gentry Johnson (with Wrangle) won the 4K one-dog class in 9:36, followed by fellow junior Swaesey Johnson and Hodgins in 11:46. Greg Jurek, with Jet and Rika, cruised to a very fast 12:05 win in the 2-dog 6K class, followed by Emilie Entrikin with Apex and Che in 14:32.

Sara Elzey, the sole three-dog driver on this three-dog day, ran the 6K course in 14:15.

The tightly contested mass-start one-dog race ended in a mass finish of five teams. Jesse Warwick and Joba recovered from a spill early in the race caused by another team, and was leading a tight pack up the final hill, but caught a ski tip, crashed, and finished fourth. Bruce Miller and Roy put on a final sprint to finish first in 22:04, six seconds ahead of Erik Schoen and Lefty. Sunnifa Deehr and Clyde finished third in 22:14.

Erin Trochim’s leaders Tarsis and Onion did a little visiting with spectators near the finish, losing 12 seconds to winner of the 9K class, Matt Sprau, Itty, and Gremlin (27:24).

The Red Lei team of Jamie Johnson with daughters Swaesey and Gentry (and Kiska, Hodgins, and Wrangle) won the relay competition in handy fashion in 15:02, followed by the White Lei team of Erick Schoen with Lefty, Sunnifa Deehr with Clyde, and junior Leni Stolz with Foxy.

Thanks to Nordic Ski Club Fairbanks and FNSB Parks and Recreation Department for great trails and facilities. And much thanks to these great volunteers: Andy Warwick hauled his snowmachine to Birch Hill and marked and cleared trails, as well as timed. Sara Elzey and Lisa Stuby set up trails, Liz Kane registered and timed, Chris Burrow handled dogs at the start, Jim Herriges served as Race Director, and Judy Warwick took photographs.



ASPA 13th Annual Birch Hill Race Saturday, February 23, 2013				
Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
4K One-dog				
10	Gentry Johnson	Wrangle	9:36	1
8	Swaesy Johnson	Hodgins	11:46	2
11	Brian Charlton	Bonnie	12:15	3
12	Ally Burton	Malu	12:45	4
7	Emma Charlton	Clyde	13:00	5
13	Leni Stolz	Foxy	14:10	6
9	Phil Marshall	Skye	15:00	7
6K Two-dog				
6	Greg Jurek	Jet, Rika	12:15	1
2	Emilie Entrikin	Apex, Che	14:32	2
4	Jamie Johnson	Kiska, Bode	14:40	3
3	Staphanie Maggard	Tundra, Gunner	20:28	4
5	Gail Davidson	Cocoa, Darna	21:14	5
6K Three-dog				
1	Sara Elzey	Faero, Kate, Rupert	14:15	1
7.5K One-dog				
14	Bruce Miller	Roy	22:04	1
19	Erik Schoen	Lefty	22:10	2
18	Sunnifa Deehr	Clyde	22:14	3
20	Jesse Warwick	Joba	22:23	4
16	Nina Ruckhaus	Sasha	22:24	5
17	Amanda Byrd	Katrina	28:15	6
15	Lisa Stuby	Killae	50:03	7
9K Two-dog				
22	Matt Sprau	Itty, Gremlin	27:24	1
21	Erin Trochim	Tarsis, Onion	27:36	2
Relay 2K One-dog				
Red Lei Team	Jamie Johnson	Kiska	4:20	1
	Swaesy Johnson	Hodgins	5:40	
	Gentry Johnson	Wrangle	5:02	
		Total	15:02	
White Lei Team	Eric Schoen	Lefty	5:11	2
	Sunnifa Deehr	Clyde	5:06	
	Leni Stolz	Foxy	7:05	
		Total	17:22	
Purple Lei Team	Gail Davidson	Cocoa	8:29	3
	Nina Ruckhaus	Sasha	6:01	
	Bruce Miller	Roy	4:43	
		Total	19:13	
Yellow Lei Team	Sara Elzey	Dylan	4:50	4
	Amanda Byrd	Daria	6:51	
	Stephanie Maggard	Gunner	7:52	
		Total	19:33	



Dog of the Month by Sara Tabbert



I know we are not supposed to have favorites among our dogs, but I have to admit that I do. I'm pretty smitten with a 75 pound galoot named Pablo. You won't see him at races (too social and too stubborn) but he loves the trail tour aspect of ASPA and we've spent many hours rocketing around Goldstream Valley together.

Pablo is big, tall, handsome, and extremely conversational. I'll never forget walking him around downtown Anchorage and he had a "WOOOO" for everyone who passed us. I picked him because he was the prettiest of the litter – nobody knew he'd turn out to be the comedian.

Although racing with Pablo is usually a disaster, at times he is the strongest and fastest dog I've had the pleasure of running with. When he's fired up, particularly in combination with his much more reliable brother Rothko, it's a fun, fun ride. They are the ideal team for any place where unpredictable events might occur – there's never an issue with loose dogs, kids, people, anything. I've had a Great Dane jump in the middle of that team and all that happened was another "wooo." When we got a puppy two years ago he let himself be mauled and harassed without a single snap or growl. That now much larger puppy STILL can do things to Pablo that she could never get away with doing to another dog.

When Pablo arrived at our house as a puppy nearly ten years ago, the first thing he did was to get on the couch. He's never let that couch get too far away. This is likely where you will find him, often upside down with those

long legs sticking up in the air. He'd really like it if you'd build him a fire and bring him a couple more pillows.

ASPA Annual White Mountains Event by Sara Tabbert

We have reservations for Moose Creek Cabin in the White Mountains for April 6-7. We had hoped for a closer cabin to provide an opportunity for skijorers/dogs who don't do long distances to participate, but the cabins have been hard to rent this winter. Moose Creek Cabin is approximately 16 miles from the 28 mile trailhead.

Those who are interested in spending Saturday night at the cabin should email Sara Tabbert at stabbert@hotmail.com.

First come, first served. Moose Creek is a smaller cabin so realistically there is probably only room for 6-8 people, and participants should be prepared for and willing to have their dogs stay outside of the cabin if necessary. We'll figure this out as we know more about who is interested in going.

There will be very limited snowmachine support (unless we get another person who wants to drive a second machine) so participants should also be prepared to carry a pack or pull a sled. We can take a bit of gear, but not all your gear.

For those who want to make a day trip of it but are daunted by the distance, consider the length of the days that time of year. You could easily start early in the day, spend a relaxing afternoon resting with your dogs, and then head back in the late afternoon or early evening. I believe in prior years the skijor club raced out and back to Moose Creek in a day. It can be done! We ask that all participants contribute \$10 to help with the cost of the cabin

SKIJORING AT THE 2013 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - by Sara Elzey

This March I had the privilege of competing in the International Federation of Sleddog Sports 2013 Winter World Championships. It was an exciting several weeks of dog sled, skijor & pulk racing at various locations in Fairbanks, North Pole and Salcha. There were competitors & dogs from the Lower 48, Canada & Europe. The skiers were incredible, the dogs truly amazing & the competition challenging. Ideas for training (both human & dog), equipment, feeding, breeding, and racing were traded freely. There were many social events where the human competitors got to do what they love best - talk (or brag?) about their dogs! And like at all of these sorts of things I'm sure there were many conversations about poop. But the thing that impressed me the most was the camaraderie and positive, supportive attitudes of almost all of the skijorers, especially the USA team. It was really something special. I'm sure there was an occasional snip or a few tears of disappointment, but for the most part, at every event I saw big, big smiles. Everyone was truly enjoying themselves! And yet still able to compete with one another vigorously. In my nearly 20 years of skijoring I've witnessed this phenomenon over and over. There must be something about the fresh air, the sunshine, the skill it takes to avoid the brown clister, and the joy of being in the great outdoors with our beloved companions that brings out the joy in all of us. Thanks to all you skijorers who make this the greatest sport there is!

Photo by Bud Marshner



The IFSS World Championships Event, a Spectator's Perspective by Lisa Stuby

On Sunday, March 3rd I volunteered to help out with the IFSS in North Pole. The skijoring races had happened the previous two days, but unfortunately due to other commitments, I was unable to attend these. My volunteer job was to collect bibs at the conclusion of the races. This was not as easy as it looked as a few competitors, mostly from Alaska, wanted to keep these as souvenirs. However, they were needed for the skijor and pulka races at Salcha Elementary starting the next day on March 4th. So I was able to watch the races prior to running after each out-of-breath competitor. The 4-dog mass start was really exciting to watch. About 15ish teams (I don't quite remember) took off at break-neck speed and had to funnel themselves onto one course. There were a few spills and with world-class drivers, those that tipped over were able to right themselves back up again with no problem. However, with a race like this winning by just seconds all mishaps must have been disappointing. Afterward, most of the bibs in hand (minus two), I received a silver "volunteer" coin and then harnessed up Killae, who garnered many smiles from the Norwegian competitors, and off we went. After watching team after team race from the comfort of the front seat of the car, Killae was ready to do something. He loudly woofed to get everybody's attention and off we went. We ended up doing the 6.6 mile loop and he was feeling good. Trail conditions were excellent and the weather perfect. It was so nice to skijor a well-groomed, fast, world-class trail—with lots of "good" smells (from Killae's perspective).

On Friday March 1st after work Killae and I skijored the 15 km loop at Salcha Elementary. I had received the e-mail that for the week prior to the IFSS race that would be held here that for the first time it was okay to skijor these trails as part of "training". Well, I was nervous because, duh, obviously we weren't world-class competitors! As I parked at the school I was approached by a grounds keeper. I told him that I was, harrumph, training for the IFSS and he told me that my secret was safe, then wanted to know if I liked my Subaru Impreza, and to be sure to go into the school and sign my name to a list. So I went into the school and the staff person there told me that she watched me drive in. I told her the same thing I told the grounds keeper and she rolled her eyes and told me to not let my dog run free. I told her I wouldn't do that (and I wouldn't out of fear Killae could bark at a moose or cause an accident wanting to socialize with the real competitors). So, finally off we went. I've never been on these trails before and they were FUN. I'm glad we went.

ASPA Orienteering Event Open to Skijorers and Walkers/Joggers by Pat DeRuyter

The challenging activities of skijoring and orienteering will be combined in the Eleventh annual ASPA Orienteering event at Creamer's Field on Saturday, March 23, 2013.

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 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 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. in the Farmhouse 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. You have 30 or 60 minutes from that time to return without penalty.

When you are finished, 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.

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 End of Season Race and Pizza Party by Pat DeRuyter

Join us for the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association annual spring membership meeting, pizza potluck party and fun race scheduled for Sunday, March 24, at the ADMA Musers Hall! All ASPA volunteers for this season will be honored, celebrated and thanked! The Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented. Race day registration will be at 10am. The Fun Race will begin at 11:00am. The race will include distances of 8.0, 6.2, 4.8, 3.7, 2.0 and 1 mile depending on trail conditions and participant interest. There will be a 1 mile La Mans start event at approximately 11:45am. Pat DeRuyter has agreed to do registration and be the starter, but we need race volunteers to help with registration and timing.

To pre-register for the Fun race or volunteer, contact Pat DeRuyter at patd@acsalaska.net.

The cost is \$5 for ASPA members and \$10 for non-members. Membership forms are available and we encourage anyone interested in skijoring to join us for the race, meeting, and pizza party.

The fun race will be followed by a pizza potluck party which will begin about noon, and then by a short membership meeting.

ASPA will provide the pizza and drinks. Please bring a side dish to share.

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 September 1 through August 31.

Payments can also be made on the ASPA Website using Pay Pal at <http://www.alaskaskijoringl.org>

2012-13 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. 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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