

PAW PRINTS & SKI TRACKS

As I type this, it is late afternoon and the ambient temperature is 30°F, some of the trails are in surprisingly good shape, and it is almost May 1st! Many thanks to our dedicated trail groomers who have enabled us to skijor into late April and take advantage of warm, sunny, and colder than average spring weather. We've skijored so much that when we finally did our first run, my dog Killae was besides himself with joy. We've been able to skijor so much, that we are feeling a bit burned out, but what a good sensation!! Killae is definitely ready for the lazy, hazy days of summer and all the good smells spring and summer brings.

MANY THANKS to all of the dedicated volunteers for organizing so many fun events this season. Here is wishing you all a fun and safe summer. See you in the fall.

ASPA Orienteering Race, Creamer's Field, March 23, 2013 by Pat DeRuyter

Nine participants with dogs braved the -2°F degree weather and 2 inches of fresh snow at Creamer's Field for the 11th annual ASPA Orienteering Event on Saturday. Jesse Warwick and Joba won the 60 minute Skijor class with a total of 910 points. Jesse only used 45 minutes of his time but missed one "control" worth 90 points. David Brooks with Sheriff and Monty came in second with 670 points.

Andy Warwick won the 30 minute skijor class with a total of 370 points. Andy was running with Zip, a 12-year old dog and he admitted that neither he nor the dog were as young and fast as they used to be.

Don Kiely with Bonsai won the 60 minute walk/run class by collecting all 1000 points in 58 minutes. Don traveled 6.2 miles around Creamer's Field and the ADMA maintained mushing trails. Jim Altherr and Carol Davis with Sophie tied for second with 680 points.

Orienteering results

60 minute Skijor

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Jesse Warwick (Joba) | 910pts |
| 2. David Brooks (Sheriff, Monty) | 670 pts |
| 3. Kathleen Boyle (Tipi) | 460 pts |
| 4. Barb O'Donnell (Buddy) | 420 pts |

30 minute Skijor

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 1. Andy Warwick (Zip) | 370 pts |
|-----------------------|---------|

60 minute Walk/Run

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. Don Kiely (Bonzai) | 1000 pts |
| 2. Jim Altherr (Sophie) | 680 pts |
| Carol Davis (Sophie) | 680 pts |
| 3. Carol Kleckner (Ivy) | 320 pts |

Fun Race #4, Creamer's Field, Lisa Allen Race Director

Normally the weather is pleasant for the very popular annual mid-week fun race during mid-March. This year the weather was beyond belief windy and cold. However, 19 hardy souls with their dogs competed. Some commented that getting out of the fierce wind and into the warm farmhouse was the best prize they could have received. All had fun and many thanks to Lisa Allen for coordinating the race and all of the volunteers for helping with registration, timing, and Peggy Raybeck for trying to groom when the wind would just fill the trail back in with snow.

Alaska Skijor and Pulk Association Fun Race #4				
Creamer's Field, March 13, 2013 6:00 PM				
Bib #	Skijorer	Dogs	Time	Place
13 mile, 3 dog				
1	Erin Trochim	Onion, Gremlin, Itty	54:34:00	1
5.4 mile, 3 dog				
2	Sara Elzey	Dylan, Faero, Kate	20:35	1
5.4 mile, 2 dog				
3	Sara Tabbert	Dora, Rothko	22:21	1
4	Janna Miller	Roy, Lily	27:07:00	3
5	Gail Davidson	Cocoa, Darna	26:24:00	2
5.4 mile, 1 dog				
8	Mara Bacsujlaky	Tansy	32:52:00	3
9	Karen Koehler	Bundle	31:44:00	2
10	Patrik Sartz	Ty	27:06:00	1
3.4 mile, 2 dog				
16	Mark Effmert	Zip, Freddie	14:45	1
3.4 mile, 1 dog				
12	Lisa Stuby	Killae	DNF	
13	Jessica Larsen	Domingo	17:05	3
7	Nina Ruckhaus	Sasha	15:01	1
14	Tia Condon	Kiska	17:15	4
15	Gentry Johnson	Hodgins	15:52	2
2.7 mile, 2 dog				
17	Rebecca Gilbert	Sharlee, Pepper	15:03	1
2.7 mile, 1 dog				
6	Luke Reece	Indy	23:20	1
1.5 mile, 1 dog				
18	Ally Burton	Malu	7:45	1
.5 mile, 1 dog				
20	Paula Ruckhaus	Sasha	2:11	1
21	Aubrey Johnson	Wrangle	8:15	3
22	Sara Elzey	Ayla	3:19	2

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!

NONE of the events that took place during the 2012/2013 season would have happened without the dedicated ASPA volunteers.

2012-2013 ASPA Volunteers**Groomers Extraordinaire**

Pat DeRuyter

Seth Adams

Lisa Allen

Jim Altherr

Kimberlee Beckmen

Brian Charlton

Jim Herriges

Carol Kleckner

Peggy Raybeck

Andy Warwick

Jesse Warwick

Krista Wilkinson

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Tabbert, Jesse

Warwick

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Permits – Sara Tabbert

Birch Hill Race Coordinator - Jim Herriges

White Mountains Event – Sara Tabbert

Beginners Clinics - Sara Elzey

Training Clinics – Lisa Stuby

ASPA Schedule and Sponsors

Jamie Marschner

Pat DeRuyter

Sunnifa Deehr

Sara Elzey

Janna Miller

Matt Sprau

Lisa Stuby

Sara Tabbert

Jesse Warwick

Chena Lakes Race

Sara Tabbert

Kathleen Boyle

Brandon McGrath-Bernhard

Janna Miller

Paula Ruckhaus

Alice Stickney

Fall Membership Meeting

Jamie Marschner

Jesse Warwick

Creamer's Trail Signs/Snow Filling

Pat DeRuyter

Chuck and Tone Deehr

Trash Bags/Trash Cans

Peggy Raybeck

Beginners Clinic and Practice Clinics

Sara Elzey

Carol Kleckner

Kathleen Boyle

Peggy Raybeck

Matt Sprau

Lisa Stuby

Erin Trochim

North Star Golf Course

Melinda Evans

Roger Evans

Fun Races

Kathleen Boyle

Chris Burrow

Amanda Byrd

Chuck and Tone Deehr

Sunnifa Deehr

Pat DeRuyter

Brandon McGrath-Bernhard

Peggy Raybeck

Sara Tabbert

Jesse Warwick

White Mountains Event

Sara Tabbert

Brandon McGrath-Bernhard

Birch Hill Race

Jim Herriges

Chris Burrow

Sara Elzey

Liz Kane

Lisa Stuby

Andy Warwick

Orienteering Race

Pat DeRuyter

UAF Race

Brian Charlton

Emma Charlton

Michelle DeVaul

Lisa Stuby

Fun Race and Pizza Party

Pat DeRuyter

Jamie Marschner

Sara Tabbert

Brandon McGrath-Bernhard

Andy Warwick

Mara Bacsujlaky

Kimberlee Beckmen

Carol Kleckner

Chris and Carol Davis

Bud Marschner

End of Year Fun Race and Pizza Party, ADMA trails, March 24, 2013

Twenty-two skijor teams participated in the Final ASPA Fun Race on Sunday at the ADMA trails.

Lisa Baraff with Yukon and Balto won the 8 mile race with a time of 34:11.

Sunnifa Deehr with Clyde, Moose and Aksel ran the fastest 6 miles with a time of 22:12. Sunnifa Deehr with Katrina and Lira came in second at 23:41. Nina Ruckhaus and Sasha finished third overall and first in the one dog class with a time of 26:54.

In the 4.8 mile class, Sara Elzey with Dylan, Faero, and Kate finished with a time of 17:20. Bruce Miller and Roy came in second overall and first in the one dog class with a time of 21:00. Janna Miller with Lily were third with a time of 24:57.

Jim Herriges with Ole won the 4 mile class with a time of 19:34.

Kimberlee Beckmen with Gemma and Lily won the 1.7 mile race with a time of 6:05. David Lokken with Skye and Taiga were second at 8:26. In the one dog 1.7 mile race Lisa Allen and Indy came in first at 6:55 and Kathleen Boyle and Tipi were second at 14:17.

In the one mile old dog race, Sara Elzey with Ayla (14 years old) and Jas won with a time of 4:58. Paula Ruckhaus and Mayo (a young 9 years old) won the one dog class with a time of 6:25. Mike Ruckhaus with Tracker (14 years old) finished second at 12:54 and Jim Altherr with Sophie (nearly 13 years old) finished third at 14:36.

In the Mass Start 1 mile race, Bruce Miller and Roy came in first followed by Mark Effmert and Jack edged Nina Ruckhaus and Sasha by a nose for second. Jim Herriges (Lena) were fourth and Janna Miller (Lily) were fifth.

The volunteers who made it all possible were Race Director Pat DeRuyter, Andy Warwick, Mara Bacsujlaky, Kimberlee Beckmen, Carol Kleckner, Brandon, Chris and Carol Davis. Bud Marschner photographed the event. You can see Bud's photos of the event at <http://budsalaskaphotos.smugmug.com/Skijoring>. Contact Bud if you'd like any of them.

At the ASPA annual meeting all volunteers were recognized and Sara Tabbert was named the 2013 volunteer of the year.

8 miles

1. Lisa Baraff (Yukon, Balto) 34:11

6 miles

1. Sunnifa Deehr (Clyde, Moose, Akeel) 22:12
2. Sunnifa Deehr (Katrina, Lira) 23:41
3. Nina Ruckhaus (Sasha) 26:54
4. Mark Effmert (Jack) 27:07
5. Gail Davidon (Cocoa, Darna) 29:12

4.8 miles

1. Sara Elzey (Dylan Faero, Kate) 17:20
2. Bruce Miller (Roy) 21:00
3. Janna Miller (Lily) 24:57
4. Kimberlee Beckmen (Iris) 25:54
5. Lisa Stuby (Killae) 47:21

4 miles

1. Jim Herriges (Ole) 19:34
2. Sara Elzey (Daria Rupert, Lucy) Did not finish

1.7 miles

1. Kimberlee Beckmen (Gemma , Lily) 6:05
2. Lisa Allen (Indy) 6:55
3. David Lokken (Skye, Taiga) 8:26
4. Kathleen Boyle (Tipi) 14:17

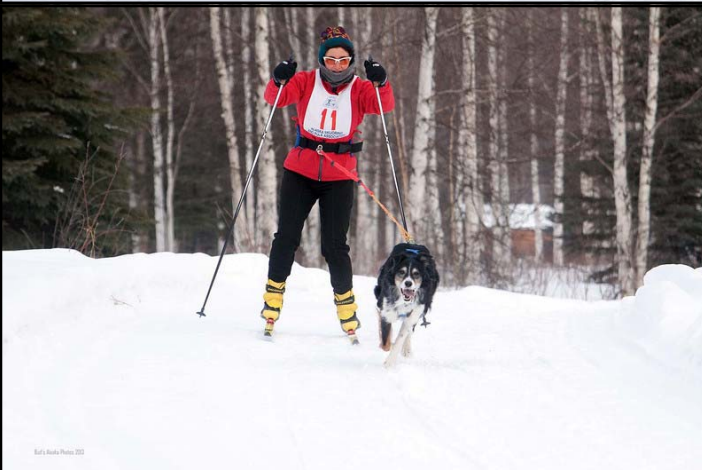
1 mile (Old Dog)

1. Sara Elzey (Ayla , Jas) 4:58
2. Paula Ruckhaus (Mayo) 6:25
3. Mike Ruckhaus (Tracker) 12:54
4. Jim Altherr (Sophie) 14:36

Mass Start 1 mile

1. Bruce Miller (Roy)
2. Mark Effmert (Jack)
3. Nina Ruckhaus (Sasha)
4. Jim Herriges (Lena)
5. Janna Miller (Lily)
6. Kimberlee Beckmen (Lily)
7. Phil Marshall (Scott)
8. Dave Lokken (Tiaga)
9. Sara Elzey (Avril)
10. Gail Davidson (Daria)

Photographs from the final ASPA race of the 2012/2013 season. All photos by Bud Marschner



Dog(s) of the Month by Jamie Marschner

We picked up Kazan at six weeks old from a breeder in Chugiak on a snowy weekend. The drive took longer than usual due to the snow and Kazan slept on his back on my lap the whole way. About 18 months later, the breeder contacted me about Bree, another member of the litter, and she was shipped here by plane. Bree definitely did not remember Kazan was her brother, as she drew blood when she first met him. However, about two weeks later, she decided to accept him as her housemate and they've been fast friends since. Bree has always been more dominant, even though her brother out-weighs her by at least 15 pounds. Kazan has been the one who puts his head in your lap if you're feeling down but Bree is always at my heels around the house.

They learned how to skijor mostly by following me as a rabbit on skis while they were attached to Bud. We entered a few races but they lived up to their "slow-berian" status and never won anything or placed higher than fourth. They have always enjoyed skijoring the many miles of Creamers and ADMA trails and hiking many trails in Alaska. One of their favorite things in the summer is searching for bears on the road in Denali. Unfortunately, their warning signals for a bear and a squirrel are extremely similar!

Kazan and Bree are classic Siberians. They have no loyalty (the last person who pets them is their best friend), they dig in the lawn (there must be many treasures out there), they can't be let off leash or they run (it's always a game to keep just far enough away so the leash can't be grabbed when it's dropped), and they don't get along well with other dogs (that dominance thing and little dogs look like rodents). But give them time and they get used to living with cats (they're great toys) and they always sing to us when we get home (the whole family howls together).

The years have gone by fast and they're now 13 and a half. Bree still skijored this winter but Kazan could only do about a mile. (He had both back knees redone a couple of years ago). They still love to "go", but the "going" is much slower. Hopefully, we'll be able to "go" for awhile longer.



Such Cuties!!! Kazan and Bree the April 2013 Dogs of the Month.

ASPA 2012/2013 Volunteer of the Year

The 2012/2013 Volunteer of the Year goes to Sara Tabbert. In addition to serving on the ASPA board for many years, she has coordinated the Chena Lakes Race, White Mountains Event, and has led some super fun Trail Tours. Sara also does the ASPA hotline and permits. She has found the time to do all of this in addition to having a busy schedule. She also understands that our dogs can be more than just "working animals" but also precious pets and companions.

Sara Tabbert has coordinated several races in the past and drew up our current t-shirt design a few years ago from a wood block carving. Sara has helped acquire sponsors and has also been an important long-time sponsor. And Sara has also helped with numerous ASPA Fun Races. Sara Tabbert is very deserving of this award.



Sara Tabbert at the End of Year Pizza Party and Fun Race with Rothko and Pete tearing up the trails in 2012.

White Mountains Event Weekend, April 6 and 7, 2013

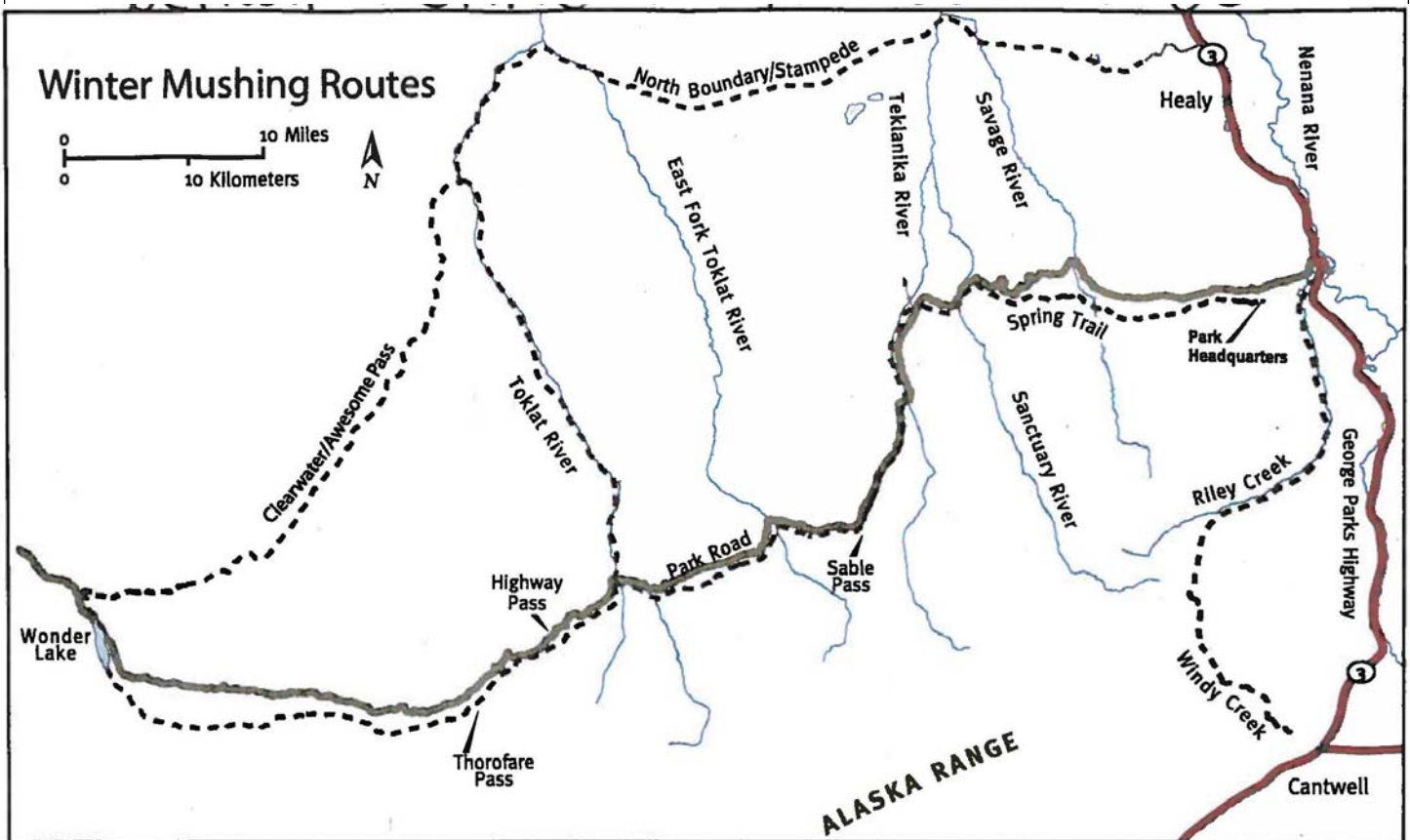
Sara Tabbert and Brandon McGrath-Bernhard organized an awesome weekend trip to Moose Creek Cabin in the White Mountains. In addition to Sara and Brandon, Lisa Stuby skied out solo (she was worried that the distance of 16 miles might be a bit too much for Killae), Sunnifa Deehr arrived with Moose and Clyde, Brandon drove a snowmachine carrying most of our gear and dinner, and Sara skijored with Rothko and Dora. Dora, Clyde, and Moose are littermates and once at the cabin, despite a 16 mile one-way run in, spent hours playing and running around and around the cabin. Trail conditions were surprisingly good considering the date. At the time we were worried that the trails could be icy or melted away in early April. Given we may be experiencing the 2nd coldest April in Alaska history, good chance these trails will be good the first week of May! The weather was a bit chilly, in the low single digits and a little below with some wind, not good weather for a trail picnic, but not too cold to enjoy the trip.

Dinner for the night of April 6th was very yummy chili with double chocolate brownies for dessert. Brandon and Sara arrived the night beforehand and after a long day of skiing and skijoring, lots of hot food and a warm cabin were so welcomed!

A Thought for the upcoming 2013/2014 Season by Lisa Stuby

Although the 2012/2013 skijor season has come to an end (or has/will it?), I am proposing an idea for a future ASPA event. During the long drive from Fairbanks to Talkeetna to ski the Oosik, I had a lot of time to think. I stopped for a rest break at the Murie Science Center in Denali National Park and started talking about winter activities with a park volunteer. In March 2003, Amy (can't remember her last name, sorry) who was our Trail Tour coordinator led an awesome overnight into the park. We stayed at a University of Alaska cabin, which she had access to at Cantwell, and we skijored the Windy Creek trail into the park. What a beautiful ski and adventure! It was one of the last skijors I did with my husky Bears, so it was special. During earlier years, I and my two huskies, Bears and Moon, had skijored up the Spring Trail to near Savage River to some awesome views and up Stampede Trail, which is also very beautiful. I've not skijored the park with my current dog, Killae, who is almost 9 years old. Killae isn't getting any younger, and I would like to have a Denali National Park adventure with him while he is still youngish—at least at heart.

So, I may propose a weekend of Denali National Park fun sometime in February or March 2014. We can camp out for a night at Riley Creek Campground. Cost is free, and the park service keeps a loop plowed through the winter and there are porta potties. Water can be procured at the Murie Science Center. We could meet up in the afternoon on a Saturday at the Murie Center, drive and park at the trail entrance at mile 3.5 (park headquarters), and skijor one way as far as anybody wants to. Afterwards we could make a good camp fire and camp out. Next morning we could drive up Stampede Road and skijor the Stampede Trail as far as folks wish and then drive home. If the weather gets too cold for camping, I could look into cheap accommodations in Healy or down Stampede Road where a few mushing guides reside. Unfortunately, I don't have any ties to the University of Alaska, so no way could I reserve the cabin in Cantwell, but there might be other ASPA members out there reading this thinking, hmmm, I could get permission for us to stay there. Anyway, want to get the this thought out there as, well, summers always go by too fast and the winter of 2014 will be here before we know it. **Here is wishing you all a good, fun, and safe summer!**



Photographs of the Moose Creek Cabin Trip. All photos by Lisa Stuby



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>

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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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