



*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!*

**January 17**  
**Fun Race #3**  
**Location TBD**  
Check hotline (45-SKIJOR) or  
alaskaskijoring.org

**February 6**  
**Ski Practice Clinic for Beginners**  
Creamer's Field  
Lisa Stuby  
371-6460  
lstuby@gci.net

**February 8**  
**Wax Clinic at Raven Cross Country, 6:00 PM**  
Pre-registration recommended.  
Fred Raymond  
456-5070

**Another Successful Beginners' Clinic by Sara Elzey**

This year the weather cooperated with our scheduled day for ASPA's annual Beginners' Skijoring Clinic! We had snow AND warm(ish) temps. We held a 3 hour classroom session in the annex at Alaska Feed in the morning. Over 20 students showed up and listened to the presentation. The first topic covered was the in's and out's of harness fitting and the many styles available. Faero, Katrina & Kate modeled several different styles & begged for attention & snacks. The presentation then went over the rest of the equipment needed for skijoring - bungee & tug lines, skijor belts, dog jackets & booties, winter clothing & ski gear. After taking a short break, students then heard training suggestions and proper trail etiquette. The class then adjourned for an hour for students to get their dogs. The class reconvened at Creamer's Field for the "on-snow" session. Students were split into groups of 5-8 for half sessions. Experienced skijorers were on hand to help hold dogs, check harness fit, encourage uncertain skiers, and occasionally, *gasp*, RUN down the trail in front of reluctant dogs! Not all of the students from the morning session participated in the afternoon, but almost all who did were really getting the hang of it by the end. There were a few dogs that thought pulling was beneath them, but most enthusiastically leaned into their harnesses and did their best to pull their humans around. There were a few crashes & tangles but everyone behaved themselves - no cursing or growling was witnessed. We hope that all of these beginners will continue their pursuit of the world's greatest sport to do with your dog! We also hope that some of them will join us at a Fun Race or Trail Tour this season.

Thanks to Alaska Feed Company, Sunnifa Deehr (Moose & Clyde), Kathleen Boyle, Kriya Dunlap (Zeus), Peggy Raybeck, Sarah Tabbert, Sara Elzey (Faero, Kate & Katrina), Alice Stickney (Raven & Uler), Melanie Flamme, Amanda Byrd (Sabrina), Penny Parker, Scott Jerome, Chris Burrows, and Pat DeRuyter for helping to make the clinic a success!

OF Course MANY THANKS to Sara Elzey for coordinating and leading the Beginner's Clinics for 10+years!

### Late and Sparse December Newsletter

My apologies to the membership for what has turned out to be a very late December newsletter. I had to deal with a fuel leak in my cabin, followed by visiting family in California, and returning to deal with the latter stages of the fuel cleanup in my cabin. However, as newsletter editor my job is to not write or find articles, but to incorporate articles from the membership. After all this is YOUR newsletter and club! So, please send articles, ideas, photographs, etc. to Lisa Stuby at [lstuby@gci.net](mailto:lstuby@gci.net). In the meantime, the majority of the December 2015 newsletter will be photographs of the November 29th fun race that Bud Marschner took at Creamer's Field. I asked him to send me his favorites from the hundreds he took. The next three pages are these photographs. Many thanks to Bud and other ASPA volunteers who helped with the December fun races. Here's hoping you all have a Happy New year and good 2016.



More Photographs of the November 29, 2015 Fun Race at Creamer's Field by Bud Marschner





**Wax Clinic at Raven Cross Country, February 8, 2016**

Fred Raymond of Raven Cross Country will be presenting the second of two ski waxing clinics for the 2015/2016 season to ASPA members on February 8th 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. A good wax job like knowing proper technique can make a WORLD of difference that will make skiing more enjoyable!

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Contact Fred at 456-5070 or e-mail at [ravenxc@alaska.net](mailto:ravenxc@alaska.net). Come and learn how to best take care of those new skis you may have received for Christmas and prepare to give them the glide you and your dogs will appreciate! Clinic is for ASPA members only.

### Photographs from the December 20th Fun Race at Creamer's Field

Here are some pre-race photographs of Fun Race #2 taken at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse by Lisa Stuby.



### Ski Practice Clinic—February 6th, 2015 10:00 AM, Creamer's Field

A ski Practice Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th at Creamers Field. This clinic will emphasize the basics and is meant for novice skijorers. We are going to discuss and practice SKIING basics and I will share some tips and tricks to skiing and skijoring. I will have both my skate as well as classic skis on hand. The biggest thing I've noticed keeping owner and dog from being able to skijor is the owner's inability to ski or stay upright. Having good balance and confidence in skiing is a very important first step to successful skijoring. It is important when starting your dog in skijoring to not be frustrated when you fall. The most important thing for your dog as well as for you is to have FUN!!

We will meet at 10:00 AM at the Creamer's Field farmhouse and have a 30-minute question and answer session. Afterwards, we will practice skiing basics, using the skijor training trails at Creamer's Field across from the Creamers Farmhouse. The clinic will be cancelled if the temperature at 458-3745 extension 1113 is colder than -15 at 9:30 am.

The Practice clinic will be fairly low-key compared to Sara Elzey's very comprehensive and detailed Beginner's Clinic that she held in late November 2015. Nevertheless, since this clinic is geared to beginners please be cognizant of the other novice participants. In past years I've gone out after discussing skiing basic with my dog, who used to play "rabbit". He is now 11 years old and pretty slow these days. However, if I end up with a SMALL group with slow couch potatoes, we could practice skijoring with our FRIENDLY, social dogs.

So come and practice skiing in preparation for skijoring. If you would like to help out please contact Lisa Stuby at 371-6460, or e-mail her at [lstuby@gci.net](mailto:lstuby@gci.net).

REMINDER, your ASPA dues are DUE for the 2015/2016 season. If you are like old-fashioned like me, you can use the below Membership Form and mail it in to ASPA per the instructions below. OR you can use Pay Pal and pay online at the ASPA website at:

<http://www.alaskaskijoring.org/about/store/>

Also, 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. 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

**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>

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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 25<sup>th</sup> of every month to lstuby@gci.net.



### 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)

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