



### **Another Season of Skijoring Comes to an End**

Hard to believe spring is here and the snow is almost gone. I'm still calling the 2015/2016 ski and skijoring season a "Miracle Season" because due to the unseasonably warm weather and lack of sufficient snow, it is a miracle that us, Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks, Alaska Dog Musher's Association, etc. were still able to hold races. The only race that stands out in my mind that was cancelled was the Tanana River Challenge. I mentioned in the last newsletter how the Chena River was starting to break up during the Sonot Kkaazoot. I managed to fulfill a bucket list item and flew to Juneau in very early April to ski in the Buckwheat Classic, which took place at the Log Cabin ski trails in upper British Columbia. Log Cabin used to be a small town along the White Pass Trail during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896-1899 and is a current stop along the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad. The trail was very wet and skiable—if barely. There was a Star Wars theme, so lots of good costumes! We were all glad the race actually happened despite the wet conditions!

Per the March newsletter, we had our end of year race and Pizza Party. Trail conditions weren't great for the race, but doable, and everyone had fun. It was Easter Sunday, so we raced later in the afternoon, then ate pizza. From what I remember, there was a good turnout, about 30ish people. I also announced in last month's newsletter that we were looking for an additional new board member. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members on the last page. All current board members agreed to come back, including our very long-term ASPA President, Jamie Marschner.

The ASPA Volunteers of the Year were announced. One was me (Lisa Stuby) for doing the newsletter for so many years, I've lost count (not as long as Jamie has been president, though). The second was a VERY deserving Kathleen Boyle. The comments submitted show how deserving she was. "Kathleen has helped coordinate and do registration at many if not all of the races this year, and she is on the board and rarely races herself. She is very positive and welcoming for the new comers and fun to work with! She has done sooo much for the club this season. I think she has volunteered for every event, been to every board meeting, faithfully kept meeting notes, and agreed to take over UAF for next season. We need more ASPA members like her!" CONGRATULATIONS Kathleen and THANKS to those who nominated me. We will receive black vests with the ASPA logo imprinted on the side. I'll wear mine proudly!

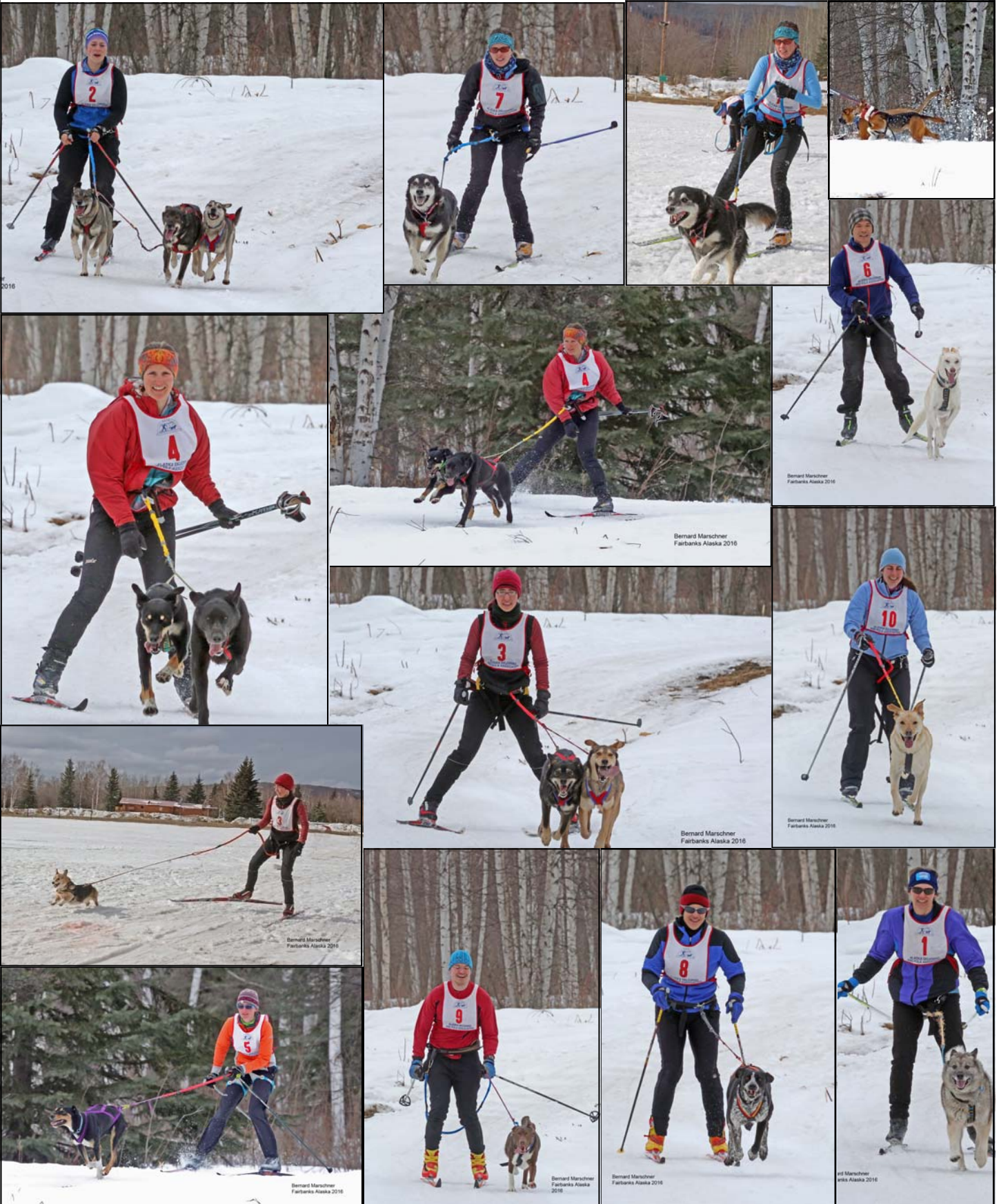
As newsletter editor I will be looking for article submissions on what you and your dogs will be doing over the summer. Most of us have skijoring PETS and the summer means different activities. At ASPA get-togethers I hear about folks doing agility, hiking, dryland races, etc. Killae and I always try to do the fun races that allow dogs like the Mosquito Meander, Water Walk and Run, Jingle in July, and Run for the Refuge and sometimes the Mutt March. We always lose skijor races, but last year we WON the Jingle in July costume contest as Killae presented himself as a very convincing Santa Paws! He was later able to run sans costume of course.

I always consider the April newsletter to be the ASPA Volunteer Edition and will copy and paste names of those volunteers who helped out during different races, led trail tours, helped mark trails, etc. I do apologize if I forgot someone. Without volunteers all of the fun ASPA events would not happen and ASPA itself would not EXIST! Many MANY thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who made this very fun and successful season happen! Here is wishing you all a great spring and summer. See you in the fall.

## **THANK YOU 2015/2016 ASPA VOLUNTEERS!!!**

<p><b>Groomers Extraordinaire</b>            Pat DeRuyter            Jim Altherr            Brian Charlton            Jim Herriges            Greg Jurek            Peggy Raybeck            Leroy Wiedeman</p>	<p><b>Beginners Clinic and Practice Clinics</b>            Sara Elzey            Kathleen Boyle            Chris Burrows            Amanda Byrd            Sunnifa Deehr            Pat DeRuyter            Kriya Dunlap            Melanie Flamme            Scott Jerome            Penny Parker            Peggy Raybeck            Nina Ruckhaus            Alice Stickney            Lisa Stuby            Sara Tabbert</p>	<p><b>Fun Races (Continued)</b>            Lisa Stuby            Sara Tabbert            Pauline Tise            Drew Warf            Jesse Warwick</p>
<p><b>Board members and Coordinators</b>            President – Jamie Marschner            Treasurer - Sara Elzey            Secretary – Kathleen Boyle            Trail Tour Coordinators –Mara Bacsujlaky, Sara Tabbert            Fun Race Coordinators –Kathleen Boyle, Chris Burrow, Brian Charlton, Sunnifa Deehr, Nina Ruckhaus, Sara Tabbert, Pauline Tise, Jesse Warwick            Hotline Coordinator – Sara Tabbert            Newsletter Coordinator - Lisa Stuby            Website Coordinator – Don Kiely            Beginners Clinics - Sara Elzey, Sunnifa Deehr, Carol Kleckner            Training Clinics – Lisa Stuby</p>	<p><b>Chena Lakes Race</b>            Sara Tabbert            Kathleen Boyle            Alisha Kottwitz            Alice Stickney            Drew Warf</p>	<p><b>Birch Hill Race</b>            Jesse Warwick            Kathleen Boyle            Chris Burrow            Chuck and Tone Deehr            Sara Elzey            Melanie Flamme            Bruce Miller            Nina Ruckhaus            Lisa Stuby            Andy Warwick</p>
<p><b>ASPA Schedule and Sponsors</b>            Mara Bacsujlaky            Kathleen Boyle            Pat DeRuyter            Chris Burrow            Sunnifa Deehr            Sara Elzey            Jamie Marschner            Nina Ruckhaus            Hilary Schwafel            Sara Tabbert            Jesse Warwick</p>	<p><b>Creamer's Trail Signs/Snow Filling</b>            Pat DeRuyter            Chris Burrow            Chuck and Tone Deehr</p> <p><b>Fun Races</b>            Kathleen Boyle            Chris Burrow            Chuck and Tone Deehr            Sunnifa Deehr            Pat DeRuyter            Jamie Marschner            Bud Marschner            Brandon McGrath-Bernhard            Nina Ruckhaus            Alice Stickney</p>	<p><b>UAF Race</b>            Brian Charlton            Kathleen Boyle            Chuck Deehr            Kathy Dudek            Sam Friedman            Jan Lokken            Nina Ruckhaus</p> <p><b>Final Fun Race and Pizza Party</b>            Sara Elzey            Pauline Tise            Kathleen Boyle</p>
		<p><b>Trash Bags/Trash Cans</b>            Peggy Raybeck</p>

Below are some photographs Bud Marschner took at the end of year race and BBQ on March 27, 2016



**Here are some photographs of the volunteers for ASPA events throughout the 2015/2016 season. Photographs were taken by various—well—VOLUNTEERS!**



Bernard Marschner  
Fairbanks Alaska 2016



### Lee's Cabin Invite

Every year ASPA has an overnight trip usually to a BLM cabin in the White Mountains. This year I reserved Lee's Cabin and invited the ASPA membership to come out and spend a day or evening during March 13-14. Lee's is very difficult to reserve in March, particularly during Spring Break. In past years the organizer would often coordinate someone to bring out a snowmachine with gear. I didn't have any support, so I made it an "invite" rather than an "event". Sadly, no takers and it was just Killae and me at Lees. One guy with a team of about 6 Siberian huskies woke us up around 11:00 PM thinking that no one was staying at the cabin. Other than this and a few fat bicyclists out training for the White Mountains 100, we had Lees to ourselves. It was very quiet and peaceful. There were lots of bicyclists, mushers, skiers, etc. on this trail. Below are a few photographs I took of Killae and I on the trip. Killae will be 12 in late July 2016 and I tried to do as much as I could this winter in case 7.5 miles might be too far for him to travel next year. And yes, I brought and ate a salty Mountain House meal so I could save weight, BUT brought Killae's bed out! He still wanted to lay instead on my sleeping bag and insulate pad. The trail was in good shape for the ski out and even better with two inches of snow for the trip back to the car. One photograph is us collecting wood. It is always polite for cabin users to try and collect dead wood and restock the pile. This is especially true for Lees cabin, which is popular with skiers who can't haul large stacks of wood. A group of snowmachiners followed with a big pile of wood and I thanked them for all of the skiers who would follow!



And to fill out some space, here are some photographs of the 2016 Open North American Race I took at Creamer's Field on March 19, 2016



### Quotable Dog Quotes

Blow Blow Blow the coat, all across the living room—comb comb, shedding blade, finish it up with a Zoom Groom. *Lisa Stuby after two hours of grooming a very content Killae*

If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience. *Woodrow Wilson*

The average dig is a nicer person than the average person. *Andy Rooney*

No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does. *Christopher Morley*

The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too. *Samuel Butler*

A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor, big or small, young or old. He doesn't care if you're not smart, not popular, not a good joke-teller, not the best athlete, nor the best-looking person. To your dog, you are the greatest, the smartest, the nicest human being who was ever born. You are his friend and protector. *Louis Sabin*

### 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>

## 2015-16 ASPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

**President:** : Jamie Marschner, marschne@arsc.edu

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Sara Elzey, skijorex2@hotmail.com

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

**Trail Tour Coordinators:** Sara Tabbert, stabbert2hotmail.com; Mara Bacsujlaky, mbacsujlaky@acsalaska.net, Janna Miller, janna@alaska.net

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

**Beginner's Clinic Coordinator:** Sara Elzey, skijorex2@hotmail.com; Carol Kleckner, kleckner@ptialaska.net

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

**Trail Grooming:** Pat DeRuyter, patderuyter@gmail.com

**Board Members at Large:** Sunnifa Deehr, sdviolin@hotmail.com; Pauline Tise, puckspazz@gmail.com; Jesse Warwick, harding247@hotmail.com; Mara Bacsujlaky, mbacsujlaky@acsalaska.net; Sara Tabbert, stabbert@hotmail.com, Nina Ruckhaus, noruckhaus@alaska.edu

**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)

## ASPA SPONSORS

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Cold Spot Feeds  
Don Kiely Consulting, LLC  
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North Pole Veterinary  
North Star Golf Club  
Raven Cross Country  
Splash n Dash  
Warwick and Schikora, CPAs

### Swing Dogs (\$100 to \$149):

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Santa's Vagabond Travel

### Wheel Dogs (\$50 to \$99):

HooDoo Brewery

### Couch Dogs (<\$50):

Marmot Press  
Stony Hollow Woodworking

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
THANK AND SUPPORT THE  
BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDU-  
ALS WHO SUPPORT ASPA**