

10/22/2006

Volume 1

Issue 3

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Line in



Greetings Scooterers!

So currently I am sitting in a shed (yes, a shed) about a mile away from Fred's beautiful unfinished log cabin. With a puppy at my feet. :)

Life here in Wetmore is a process. There is no electricity where I am staying. Everything is powered off battery banks that are periodically recharged with the truck. However there is running water. Trails of PVC pipe line the walls from the bathroom, kitchen, etc. The house is pretty remote, you turn off Forest Highway 13, and head back into the woods for a mile. Coming here for the first time, driving down what appeared to be a never ending winding road I wondered just what I had gotten myself into! But the most important thing here is that life revolves around our 70+ sleddogs!

Here is a typical morning for me:

I wake up around 6:30 and lay in bed waiting for the sky to get light. This usually takes until about 7:30. Then I will get up and meet Fred outside. He gets up at 4 to stock the woodstove, and fill buckets of water. Then we head over to the racing dog kennel.

To train Fred has a Yamaha Golfcart, and hooks dogs up to that. It has gas, and a brake, and probably weighs in the 450 lbs region. Each team has it's own Gangline, and they are kept spread out on the ground for fast access.

Dogs are kept on spinning stakes with chains, each dog has a large circular radius to live in. Most of them are pretty large, around 60-70 pounds. There are two litters that predominanty make up the racing team. The Dwarfs (all large white and orange dogs, some with blue eyes) and The Demons (all largeish brown/black dogs, with brown eyes). The Long Distance racing team is all males. In total there are 16 racing males, and 10 racing females. Each gender has it's own kennel yard. For the boys Fred uses long distance harnesses, and for the girls amixture of those and the traditional x-backs.

Feeding is a process! The dogs get raw meat, fat, and dogfood every day.

Hook-up is very relaxed. Here's how it goes: You walk up to a dog, and and say it's name and ask it to "Take a break". The dog will sit down, and stay while you harness it, ask for it's feet (left and right) then say okay and lead it to the gangline. Then you say "Take a break" again, and the dog will either lay down or sit while you get the rest of the team. Alot of the dogs are trained where you can just let them loose and they will find their spot. When they get back you can just cut them loose and they will go back to their house. They are very obedient here, and also are not allowed to bark. And if you tell them to be quiet, they will be. I have never seen Alaskan Huskies trained like this. Fred starts it when they're puppies, and he definetly gets results! The advantages to this calm is amazing. No tangling, and no stress related issues.

When hookup is done, Fred hops into the Golfcart, says "Ready?!" and all the dogs jump up barking and lunging, then he says "Allright!" and away they go! It's quite a sight to see.
cont. pg 3

Hello Scooterers,

I am just back from a weekend in the high desert of British Columbia. Thank you Becky, Joe, and Carmen for organizing the Pinewood Poker Run. What a lot of details went into making this event so delightful. Oddly, the long drive was a big part of the fun. Being a garden designer and environmentalist, I loved driving through the various geographies and finally arriving in aspen and lodgepole pine country. Being a single person, I enjoyed the camaraderie of caravanning from Marysville to Princeton.



The long drive gave me time to think about our club as well as to ponder climate change and forests turning brown from pine bark beetle. What a shocking sight.

Our new club has activities that are already happening. We have the Annual Tunnel Run. We have fun runs each month unless other activities are scheduled. Informal runs are happening every weekend among friends within the club. I am behind in organizing Dogs Across America but we do have it and it will be mountains to farmlands to suburbs to city and to Gasworks Park. Our web site is just a home page so far. I am eager for it to be completed and then used actively for organizing events, growing the club, and selling club items such as my wonderful hunter orange sweat shirt.

Thanks to Jeannine Takaki, we have received our determination of tax-exempt status under category 501(c) (7). Thank you, Jeannine.

We have a board and officers.

What next? Should we organize a race or two in following years? Or should we go to races put on by other clubs? Should we join ISDRA - International Sled Dog Racing Association? I think we should offer a pull training work shop. How many? One in fall and one in spring? A pull clinic could be a fund raiser for us and a good way to recruit new members. Should we host a Beginners' Fun Run several times a year?

Who should sell the sweat shirts and paraphernalia? Should Natalie, our treasurer? Should we buy a bunch from Becky and take them to events for sale? Should these items be sold on line?

I look forward to scootering and bikejoring with you guys in the coming months. And I very much look forward to working with our board.

Daphne

Line in from Danielle Palacios

I am Manager of the Trail-dog Kennel. The Trail-dogs are quite different from the race dogs, still Alaskan Huskies, but not in the same genetic pool of excellence. Most of these dogs have Goldrush/Village dog days backgrounds. Most of them are smaller than the race dogs, only 40-50 lbs. They are trained to be slower, steadier, and strong as oxen! These are the dogs that we take people on tours with. There are probably around 30 of them now, we just got 14 newbies the other day.

Trail-dogs are not much different from the race dogs in terms of care and hookup. Except they do get fed differently. Meat in the morning, and "dog-food soup" at night. The "Soup" is a slurry of soaked dog food, fish meal, brewers yeast, and powdered egg, lots of excess water. It's pretty disgusting to make, and smells.. Off. But the dogs like it and perform well on it.

I don't have any good pictures yet, but when I do I'll try and forward them.. This computer has slower than average dial-up (I think because we're so remote, the nearest civilization is about an hour away, Escanaba. And it isn't all that much. Almost like Ellensburg.)

Anyway I've got my clothes soaking in a bucket (yup, that's how laundry gets done, because we only head into town once every 2 months for supplies, then we stop by someone's house with laundry facilities) and the second round of dogcare for the day needs to be started. And I'm flying solo this weekend, Fred is downstate at a wedding.

Take care, and good luck in the races for those of you waiting to tear up the track in my neck of the woods (Roslyn/Cle Elum),

Danielle Palacios

Today's Trucks, Yesterday's Trailor and Tires....



Experiencing a flat tire on the trailer proved somewhat problematic as none of us had the cross bar lug wrench needed to change the trailer tire. We all were in our new trucks, with the specific jack and wrench needed for that vehicle. All had left our tools in the 'other' vehicle. Luckily, our 'gear gal' Donna Morton had a small air compressor which got us to a service station. Check your equipment before you depart, insuring that you have the basic tools to handle an emergency repair on all the equipment you might be carrying.

Photo left: Joe Loveless gets plenty of advice on how to change a tire.

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Dogs Loving to Run



October 28, 29 Pacific Northwest Championships in Roslyn.

November 4,5 Spokane Dirt Ronly Dryland Races
check www.sleddogcentral.com for info

Dogs Across America Alaska and Canada

November 18-19 Dogs Across America Northern States

In 2006 another important dog powered event occurs on Nov 18 and 19, dog scooter and bikejor races at Brainerd International Speedway in Minnesota. These races are organized by ISDRA, the International Sled Dog Racing Association. Many people who scooter with their dogs will be traveling to Brainerd for this first large dryland event ever. Miles raced will count towards home state Dogs Across America mileage. We are excited that ISDRA is promoting dryland mushing, as do we. For more information on this race, see [ISDRA dryland racing](#). (from DAA website)

December 9-10 Dogs Across America Southern States and Mexico
www.dogsacrossamerica.org/

Sunset Beach Run

At the K9 scooter club meeting following the tunnel run, I suggested it would be fun to do a beach run along the WA coast between Westport and Tokeland on an evening when the low tide coincides with the sun set. At low tide, the sand close to the water is packed enough to run bikes and scooters along the beach. Imagine racing along the sand with the color and glow from the sunset shimmering in the wet sand. On Saturday, December 2nd, the sun sets at 4:29 pm and the tide is low at 4:42 pm.

There are two state parks available for camping, Twin Harbors State Park and Grayland Beach State Park, and a run along the sea between the two state parks is @ 4 miles. Between now and the next newsletter, i will scout out the run to provide more details.

The weekend of December 2nd also features the annual Grayland Holiday Bazaar from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. There is a good selection of restaurants in the Westport Grayland area.

As in all Washington winter time events, the term "weather permitting" is relevant.

anne flynn

Heat Stroke

Heatstroke occurs when normal body mechanisms cannot keep the body's temperature in a safe range. Animals don't have the efficient cooling system (like humans who sweat) and are overheated easily. A dog with moderate heatstroke (body temperature 104-106 F) can recover within an hour if given prompt first aid. Allow the dog to drink ample cool water and walk around. Severe heat stroke (106 F) can be deadly and immediate veterinary assistance is needed. Signs of heatstroke include; a bright red tongue, red or pale gums, thick sticky saliva, rapid panting, weakness, imbalance, vomiting, diarrhea and shock. In case of severe heatstroke, transport your dog to the veterinarian immediately. If you are not close to the veterinarian hospital and your dog is conscious, lower the temperature to at least 106 F before going to the vet. Submerging in water is recommended. If limited water is available, apply water to the belly area, groin, behind the ears, the neck and feet. Check the temperature every 5-10 minutes. Stop the cooling process once the temperature reaches 103 F. Do not allow the temperature to drop further. Keep the dog comfortable. You may need to put a blanket or towel over the dog.



Dogs with moderate heatstroke often recover without complicating health problems. Severe heatstroke can cause organ damage that might need ongoing care, such as a special diet prescribed by your veterinarian. Dogs who suffer from heatstroke once, increase their risk for getting it again and steps must be taken to prevent heatstroke on humid days. Keep a rectal thermometer (digital or glass) in your first aid kit and use it when in doubt.

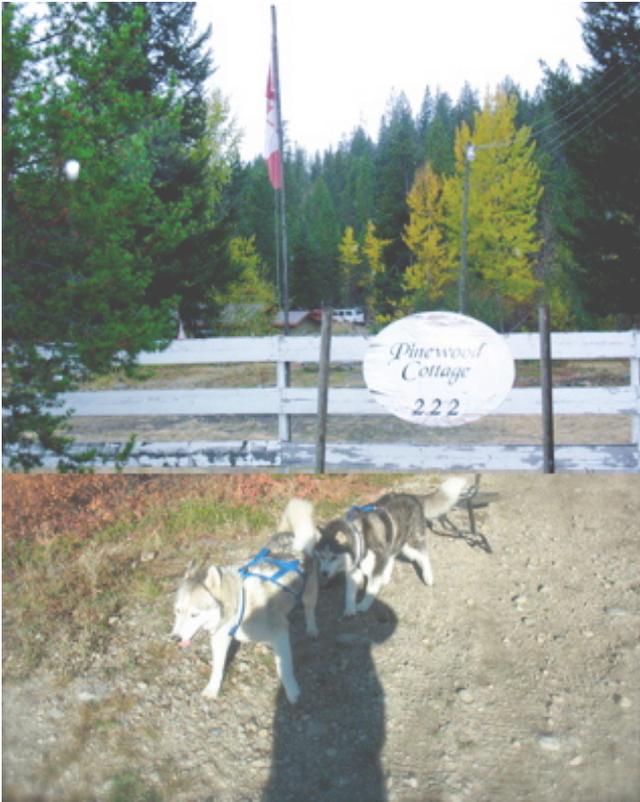
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Rimadyl Alert for Dogs

The biopsy of the liver of one of the dogs I lost this summer showed a long-term chronic liver infection (hepatitis), which we were in the dark about. I had just begun to treat him with Rimadyl for arthritis. This was an 8 year old Siberian with some spondylosis, which I now believe was masking the liver problem. Another point here is to watch this. The humped back look may be indicating an issue that is not evident from blood work. In Nemo's case, he also had the arthritis of the spine. There were pre existing liver issues that went acute from the administration of this drug. Of course, any medication might have had the same effect. Nemo had just received his well dog check, liver values were normal. The Rimadyl had him running around the yard like a pup...but the liver could not handle it. One other thing was that two weeks in, Nemo developed a hot spot on his flank. My dogs do not normally get these. I immediately stopped the Rimadyl, but my vet indicated that this was not related, so I began treating again. This was because of his behavior. He seemed to feel so much better....until he threw up. And proceeded to jaundice...and had to be euthanized. I will never know the answer to this one. There were other variables, but I wonder. After much pathology through the Washington State University Vets, we eliminated leptospirosis (all my dogs are vaccinated) as the source of the long-term infection. Nemo came out of rescue so his past was a shadow.

I have used Rimadyl for years and never had problems. This was the 1% dog. Now I am wary. I would have blood work done by the second week of usage...and continue to follow up. There is no question that in most cases, Rimadyl makes the quality of life so much better for the lame or post surgical dog. Speaking only from my own experiences, of course. Years ago, I treated arthritis with Vitamin C, buffered aspirin, alfalfa and B12. The NSAID's do a great job but now my tragic experience has taught me to be very careful

Sue Scofield
Stargazer Siberians
Rainier, WA



By Saturday morning, the skies were brilliant blue, the fall colors were radiating hues of scarlet and gold, and the trail was beckoning. Alpine Outfitters, the sponsor of this poker run, had organized volunteers to be waiting at designated stops along the trail where participants would select a playing card, hoping to build that winning hand. The trail was sandy dirt, wide and well kept. On this section, ATV's were allowed and the drivers were very considerate of the dogs and their drivers. In the evening, we all gathered back at Pinewood for a banquet and prizes which Alpine had donated. All had great fun and next years event is already being planned. The following morning dawned cold and gray, 25 degrees with wet snow falling. A quick run on the trail, good byes, and we were all headed back home to the States. Thank you to Becky, Joe, Carmen, Richard, Paula and all the others who made this event such a success.

Pinewood Poker Run

Traveling to Pinewood was an adventure in itself, as several of us caravanned through British Columbia. After managing to secure new tires for Carmen's trailer, we all headed through Manning Park where I was shocked to see so much of the forest dead or dying as a result of the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation. http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/faq.htm#15

Paula and Richard welcomed us at Pinewood cottage with accommodations for dogs and people along with an ample supply of good food. Some chose to camp at one of the local campgrounds, while others stayed at cabins available near the trailhead of the Trans Canada Trail, which extends from Canadian coast to coast. While it was quoted with authority, "that it never rains here," the heavens chose to open and let forth on Friday night which dampened the campers somewhat.



Alert!! Plastic bags can cause suffocation

My dog Athena died earlier this year after poking her nose into a plastic corn chip bag and suffocating. This is not an isolated occurrence. Although unusual, I have since heard of other dogs that have passed in this manner. The dogs get the bag stuck on their head, continue to breathe in until they pass out. In Athena's case, I was too late to revive by performing artificial respiration. Keep a good eye on what you leave within your dog's reach. Tear those chip bags so they cannot form a tight seal around the dog's muzzle, be aware of containers such as plastic tubs that a dog might be unable to dislodge from his head. Constant vigilance is required on the part of the pet owner.

Elizabethan collars- Monitor your pet carefully when they are wearing one of these. In Athena's case it may have contributed to her inability to remove the bag but in the other cases that I heard about, an e collar was not involved. Please be aware of the dog or cat's limitations when wearing the collar and do not leave unattended.



The editors of LineOut wish to offer you the opportunity to share your pet loss stories in this section. This can be done anonymously if you choose. Send to barnstormer@ywave.com

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Stargazer Siberians lost another friend last night. Pyro was put down as she had gall bladder/liver cancer. Pyro was my honorary Siberian, as she was an Alaskan out of Herbie Nayokpuk lines. She came here last Spring from the kennels of some local musher friends. Pyro wanted to be a house dog immediately and soon came to call the laundry room area her Queen's Quarters. She loved to hoard the tennis balls and considered every new item in the yard her personal property. I had begun a photo shoot of Pyro's items which included Pyro and the lawn mower, Pyro and the weed eater, Pyro and the garbage bag, Pyro and the shovel, Pyro and the dog cart...and oh my...her largest prize..Pyro and the dog trailer. Being an experienced sled dog, she jumped right in and claimed it as hers. Her favorite spot to lay in the yard was underneath the outside dryer vent as that too was hers, along with all the lint. Recently she had been groomed and sported those two pretty pink bows right next to the big hole in her head from a fight with PitterPatter. That was my Pyro. Dear sweet PyPy with the Sammy smile and canines that matched. She was born on the 4th of July and thus I am having her cremated and I may make her spot right there by that dryer vent.

After experiencing the loss of three dogs in less than three months I have a deeper understanding of a few things. One, like the dogs... I choose to live in the now..every moment precious until the time is over. As a friend of mine has tattooed on her arm, "No regrets." Also, as I take in rescues I realize that sometimes I have to give them in a short time, the same experiences, my other dogs have had in a lifetime. But this is all that matters, that they got to know the love of a family that wanted them, that worked them, that cared for them, that CHOSE them. After Athena and Nemo, I had been paranoid about anything and everything happening to the dogs. The what ifs and the should ofs were paralyzing me..but with Pyro's passing...I have come to a more profound sentiment..that the life was full...and that I am a good steward to my dogs. I can do no more than that. I do not have the timetable.

Godspeed dear Pyro. Run swiftly across the Rainbow Bridge and howl with your full voice under those starlit skies. Some friends are there, some will join you later. Guard them all well.

Sue Scofield
Stargazer Siberians
Rainier, WA

I have found that creating a memorial for your lost pet is a great help in the mourning process. If you would like some suggestions on how to move through the grieving process and hon or your friend, please feel free to contact me, Susan, at barnstormer@ywave.com It helps to share the story and mark their passing with some small ceremony.



MINUTES - SEPT 23, 2006

The meeting followed a fun run hosted by Jim Mallick at Spring Lake. The trails are east of Renton and west of Maple Valley just north of Petrovitsky Road. We lunched at a pizza place near there. Had a nice long table where all could sit. Attending: Becky Loveless, Natalie Head, Jim Mallick, Cheryl Reehill, Daphne Lewis, Brad Rasmussen, Jeannine Takaki

Web site: Jim Mallick, web master, will post:

1. Trail information given by Donna Morton and others. He will contact Bruce Crawford for additional trail information. Eventually every trail we run will be described and posted with written info plus a photo. Bruce's web site is http://www.nwlink.com/~brucec/bkjr_trails.htm. Bruce is a great resource.
2. Photos with names will be available on a members only page. Brad pointed out that he would not want his daughter Brielle's photo and name on a public page. Photos of runs will be posted in the public sector without identification of the people, just the trail. Jim is making a photo gallery. Please send photos of our events.
3. Jim will post fun run and trail information.
4. At the moment there is a home page but the other pages are not yet posted.

Dogs Across America: We decided to have east of the mountains trails as well as those west of the mountains. Daphne and Donna are behind in getting the trail information collected and posted. This Sunday looks like the time we can compile, organize and post the DAA info. Daphne to ask Megan for input on the trails east of the mountains. The basic route is Iron Horse Trail, Snoqualmie Valley Trail, Tolt Pipeline Trail, Sammamish Valley Trail, and Burke-Gilman Trail. Most sections will be 10 miles. Burke-Gilman will be shorter sections so beginners and sulkies can join us. The shorter course will be Rattlesnake Lake to Gasworks Park (Mountains to Seattle). The longer course will start east of Rattlesnake Lake and go to Gasworks Park (More Mountains to Seattle).

Fun Run on the Beach: Natalie said that Anne Flynn has chosen a date when sunset occurs at the same time as low tide. I think she said the first or second week in December. Anne, please send the information to Jim to post on the web site and to me to post on DogScooter and to forward to my "ScooterDogWashinton" email list. We also can announce it on DogsLovetoRun@yahoogroups.

The format for posting on a web site is:

Name and location of run; Date and time of run; Driving instructions; Description of run
Host of run with contact info such as phone, email and cell phone (request a RSVP so you know who to expect)
Where are the toilets? Additional info such as lodging and camping Any thing else?

Race Update: The last 3 weekends in October have dry land events hosted by Northwest Sled Dog Club in Roslyn. The trail is good. Parking is good. Becky to send race info to Jim and Daphne for posting on web sites.

Profit or Non-profit: Sue Scofield was not there with her questions and Jeannine had not reviewed this question and was rusty on it so we had only a brief discussion of this serious topic. We all felt that non-profit was the way to go but since our treasurer said that the bank account has \$250 in it (it became \$275 when Cheryl joined), we have too little money to pay taxes anyway.

Thank you gift to Jeannine: Jeannine did A LOT OF WORK getting our non-profit status in motion and talking and writing to bureaucrats. We are very grateful and admiring. Natalie brought a thank-you gift to Jeannine: A doggie cookie jar full of dog treats and one of those nifty floating kongs on a rope. You can throw those a loooong way.

The meeting was adjourned and I got to take the last slice of pizza home.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne Lewis

Membership Development

More Members & brochures If scooterers scootered with a pack of brochures, they could hand them out as people ask questions. Jeannine brought two CDs with logos, brochures, promo stuff as she promised. She gave one to Cheryl and one to ? Jim said he would mail the pdf of the brochure to each club member. Perhaps instead of emailing the pdf, Jim should email that it is available for downloading on the web site. It is a big file that can be a problem for home computers.

The following list for Jim (and everyone else) includes non-members who have come to fun runs but did not pay dues and join.

William Bloxom	williamb@fcbloxom.com
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Tammy Haldeman	tampnwe@nmlink.com
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Daphne Lewis	daphne@dogscooter.com
Becky Loveless	alpinehsky@aol.com
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Donna Morton	LikeSalt@aol.com
Nikki Puhich	midnight_wolfy_wolf@yahoo.com
Brad Rasmussen	rasbrad@comcast.net
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Cheryl Reehill	RogueAPBT@comcast.net
Susan Scofield	barnstormer@ywave.com
Jeannine Takaki	jeannine_nelsont@hotmail.com

More members would mean more scooters and bikes lined up, waiting for the signal to start the run.



We could ask Cascade Sled Dog Club for a list of the Washington participants in their Pull Clinic and put them on our mailing list. Perhaps Donna could ask for that list since she is a member of that Club. Becky suggested contacting Jill Christianson or Kim Tinker to ask for the list. Does anyone want to talk to a TV station and have them cover a fun run? A race? Once the web site is up and running, people will find us.

We did not talk about this at the meeting but I think we as a club could put on a pull clinic next spring. This would bring in more members also.

K9 ScootersNW Board

President:	Daphne Lewis	daphne@dogscooter.com
Vice President	Donna Morton	LikeSalt@aol.com
Treasurer & Membership:	Natalie Head	gnat_head@yahoo.com
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Thanks to Daphne Lewis for all her writing and creative effort to share her love of dog pulling activities. Below she rides in style in her dog cart.

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