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Issue 4

Line O U T

www.k9scdooterNW.com

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Hey Scooterers!

Wow. I just have not been able to get away. Training! Training!
Training!

Line in



Since my last report quite a few things have happened, including one very sad incident. We had parvo ravage the kennels just days after my report. We lost 9 puppies, all of them potential racing candidates.

To answer your question about "The Boys" long distance racing teams, that's just Fred. And he never has to deal with females coming on heat and distracting the rest of the team. And no, none of them are neutered. It's actually pretty cool to see so many intact males get along so well. We had 13 of them in the house the other day under the stay command on the couch and the floor for a photo-op. that ended up being Fred's Christmas present. Can anyone imagine 13 40-50 pound male dogs in the house? The cabin is already small, so it looked REALLY cramped with that many dogs milling around. It was fun though. :)

For your other question, about the stress free hook-ups, it all comes down to training. The racing teams are trained for obedience starting when they are puppies. We have a litter on the ground, and I'm seeing this in progress. The pups are 11 weeks old, and have been able to "take a break" on command for a while now.

So what's been happening, I'll have to be brief because so much time has elapsed! I think we got on sleds around the first week of December. And we experienced lovely "warm" temperatures of 0 - 19 for about a week. The first tour of the season was a complete success, we even ran into (and successfully on-byed) a porcupine! This is a hilarious story.

After that we lost all our snow, and we're still freakishly warm for this time of year. It's been 20s-30a-40s!

The other day we got 2 inches of snow, over a bed of ice, and were able to take out a tour, a group of ten. Visualize seven teams from 5 - 7 dogs a sled. You cannot understand the word "chaotic" until you have lived this.

CHAOS continued on page 3, under Caedmon's Corner.

Talking about Dogs

by Les Van Brunt

All I ever talk about is my dogs.....with everyone...My boss came by to day to discuss a couple of printing projects, we ended up talking about my dogs. I have pictures and posters all over the shop...Dogs, most of them my dogs.....everyone who comes in has to hear about dogs, my dogs.....I called home today to get a phone number, one of my dogs, Sasha, was out of the dog yard and in the main yard, all I could think about was.....is the gate going to the street closed.....Dogs.....The only friends I have left are dog friends, but that's OK...I probably drove the rest off talking about dogs, all I can think is...if they don't like dogs...I don't need them..... I had a rough night last night, couldn't sleep, too much pain...I dreamed about....Dogs, and dog sledding..Penny said she even dreamed about dog sledding.....Dogs, I HAVE GONE TO THE DOGS, in less than 6 years...I don't care I love it...Dogs.....all I think about is dogs, do I have enough dog food, do I need dog treats, am I giving them enough food, I see a dog and my first thought is...will that dog pull....Dogs, can I get off next week to go dog sledding....Dogs.....The head custodian stopped me in the hall today, wanted to talk about dogs, my dogs.....Can she bring her son to see my dogs in March, could I show him my equipment and how I work them....He has a pitbull that pulls him....Dogs... gotta love them dogs....

Can you tell....I can't sleep tonight.....
Dogs....I ordered a book yesterday....
Dogs and dog sledding.....I go to a family reunion....Dogs...can I take my dogs???
Not sure I want to go if I can't take my dogs.....I take a ride in the woods, see a trail and I think, wow...bet the dogs would love that trail. I see something with wheels...will it hold me and can my dogs pull it....Most of my favorites on my home and work

computer has something to do with dogs.....Today I was researching video surveillance cameras, Dogs.....need one so I can sit at the computer and see the dog yard.....then I can interface it to the computer and see them from work....My wall paper and screen saver is dogs...my dogs.....well maybe I can sleep now that I got that off my chest....Dogs...



Les, Buster, Kia, Sasha and Nook



Caedman's Corner

by Natalie Head

On Saturday, January 14th, members of K9ScootersNW met at Crystal Springs snow park for a time of fun with our dogs. Some people went sledding, others skijored. Caedmon and I had fun trying out Les's Canadian kick sled. Welcome to newbies Jonathon, his wife Mandy, and their playful Malamute Shuksan! Les had his 4 huskies. Brad arrived with his homemade Stroller sled and hooked his 3 dogs to it. He and Les did 2 runs. Donna had a good run with her Alaskan huskies as they practiced for their upcoming race. Caedmon seemed to really enjoy pulling his small sled. We met several members of the Samoyed Club who were up there having their own fun day. They are interested in scootering as a summer sport. Many other local mushers were out on the trails with their teams. Caedmon and I had a close call with one 6-dog team, but all in all it was a fun day of fellowship and running dogs.

Line In,,,,cont. from front page

Fred took off as the main guide with 8 of his racing boys and met us at the beginning of the trail dog chutes. Three teams were hooked up. Now the trail dogs are not as obedient as the race dogs. And they are allowed to bang, bark, and cause havoc. The first team goes, a six dog, then the next, another 6 dog. The first team stops in the chute for unknown reasons and the second team runs right into it, dogs tangled in each other's ganglines.

It's a mess. There are three handlers, including me. We all run out to get the dogs sorted out. I was bitten (not badly, just bruised), and then, when we finally got them all sorted out, the two teams took off at the same time (bad!) and the 2 handlers got knocked over, one fell into a ditch the other got run over by the dogs. And both the drivers fell off. I ran down one team and tackled a wheel dog

to get the sled stopped; Fred caught the other sled where he was waiting up the trail. Order regained, the sleds take off and we run back to hook up two more teams. I was hooking up a team, and turned around to hear the other handler yelling that Hunter, the guide team's leader (and smartest leader EVER) has gotten loose; the line broke.

Now we have no leaders for our team. So we had to swap some dogs, and finally made it out of the chute, but one dog kept turning around towards the sled, so more swapping had to be done. Finally we settled on a match that worked until later on when the third handler met us up the trail with our lead dog Hunter, whom had been captured up in the hills. After that things went smoothly. But it sure was exciting! Two inches of snow means absolutely NO braking power.

A few more people have been out since then, but nothing quite as exciting. Mostly it's just been feeding, and maintaining the kennels. Which is a full time job in itself.

Hope you're all well, happy scootering! Good luck in the events to come, wish I could be there.
-Danielle

Reminder by Judy Carrick

Last weekend, being frustrated about not being at the dirt race, I took Toad and Tuko to our new trails to measure out a cart course in mileage with the bike. I did everything wrong. The weather was drizzly and the weather report said it would let up shortly. Well, the trails are horse trails and logging roads on a tree farm that is basically in the foothills, in another climate! I don't mind rain or we would never go anywhere, but it hailed, poured rain and the wind blew. I had not brought any cold weather clothes, no gloves, just a t-shirt under a windbreaker, jeans, and tennis shoes. We were going to measure out a nice five or six mile loop to start with, we were not going to go that far or fast. Lots of puddles for the dogs, I did not put my water bottle in my pocket. I also left the map in the truck, I knew where I was going:} The road starts out under power lines, but the wet weather made those big lines pop and crackle so we went into the trees on a dirt road to follow around and come out on the powerline road farther up and then double back. After about two windy hilly miles later we started up, and up and up. I was no longer cold, but could have used some water. The dogs did great and loved the cold weather. After a steep drop, we had already gone six miles with no power line road anywhere. A main dirt road headed the right direction so I geed the dogs over, but Toad wanted to go back up the steep grade we had just come down. I told him to gee again and he swung around and headed down the new road. In the back of my mind a little thought flickered, "trust your dog." But Toad is young and not that experienced so I didn't listen. We followed the new road for about two more miles and it took a sharp turn in the wrong direction. No powerlines, no crackling, no anything but rain and trees and roads going every direction. Around we go and head back to the big hill. It is starting to get dark.

Toad was very happy to see the hill even though at this point we were all pretty wiped out. Halfway back up the mountain a buck hopped across about 20 yards ahead. That was the only sign of life we saw the whole trip. The road down the backside of the mountain was crushed cinder, my dogs booties were in the truck. We made it back just before dark. Never! Ever! go out into the woods unprepared, even if you are sure it will be a quick trip. A lot of things could have gone wrong. As it is, Toad has a bruised pad that is still a little tender from the cinder rock. I'm hoping a few more days will take care of that so we can go back up there and try again with a handlebar bag with supplies and warm clothes. We were so wet and muddy that I would have been in serious trouble if we had been out after dark.

LESSON LEARNED!!!



Burn Out

by Becky Loveless

"Why is my dog is not happy about working in harness anymore"?



There are no simple answers and not every answer applies to every dog but this is my 2 cents worth.

Burn Outespecially for breeds that are not bred to pull and run in harness.

I read that folks are running their dogs in harness everyday. Even Iditarod champs don't run their dogs everyday in harness. During training they run the dogs with more days off then on. And these are dogs that are physically and mentally very tough.

I have seen burn out in my own dogs. Especially the cross breed mixes, meaning dogs bred to do other things. It can take **weeks and weeks** to get a **GOOD** running dog back to wanting to run in harness. **That is after Rest and Rehab.** Rehab meaning for me slow walks, then loose fun runs, focusing on rebuilding mental stamina. Mixing up the activities based on daily evaluation.

That can be very frustrating during race prep, but if you push too much you end up with a dog that **WON'T** run with enthusiasm and may **NEVER** want to run in harness again.

My advise is to match your **DOG** i.e. Breed to what they can do comfortably and with enthusiasm on a steady basis. Be honest with your self about what **your goals** are and then accept the dog for what they are and can do.

Get a dog that will meet your goals and it will make it fun and rewarding for both of you.

Becky Loveless Dashaway Kennels Working Alaskan Huskies Roy, WA

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Events

K9Scooters NW Fun Run
Lake Wilderness Park,
Maple Valley, WA
Saturday, February 17, 2007
10am



I will host K9ScootersNW February Fun Run on February 17th 10am <http://www.k9scootersnw.com/> At Lake Wilderness Park (Maple Valley, WA). Meet at the upper gravel parking lot near the Arboretum We can run Lake Wilderness Trails and down to Cedar River Trail to run a few miles there. There are bridges, tunnels, river views and lake to enjoy. **RSVP: Brad Rasmussen rasbrad@comcast.net**

DIRECTIONS:

From Renton take Maple Valley Hwy 169 toward Maple Valley, once in Maple Valley turn right on Witte Road (past McDonalds next light). Just under 1 mile turn left on SE 248th St toward the Park. The upper parking lot is straight in from 248th rather than following the paved 248th around to the right. from the South you might come Hwy 18 to Maple Valley exit. Turn right twice to get on Maple Valley Hwy South bound. You will past the McDonalds and find Witte road just as the hwy starts up a hill. Turn right on Witte Road. Just under 1 mile turn left on SE 248th St toward the Park. The upper parking lot is straight in from 248th rather than following the paved 248th around to the right.

See you there! Brad, Brielle 'n Crew

IMPORTANT NOTE: There will be a K9 Scooters NW Board of Directors' meeting at the restaurant chosen for lunch after the run. All are invited to attend and help plan for 2007!

Tentative Events

March fun run sponsored by Carmen of Alpine Outfitters AlpineOutfitters@aol.com : March 3 Saturday - the P5000 road - it's a gated forest service road that goes up to up to Spada Lake Reservoir. It's outside of Granite Falls. It would be an out and back - maybe 4 miles out, 4 back or something like that.

April- Eastern Thurston County, Sue Scofield barnstormer@fairpoint.net

May- Low Tide Beach Run: weekend of May 5&6. Minus low tides on Sat. 9:27AM and Sunday 10:07 AM; sunsets Friday 8:34 PM-low tide 8:34PM (not minus low tide) ;Saturday 8:32 PM-low tide 9:10 (not minus low tide). Sue Scofield barnstormer@fairpoint.net

September 28, 29, 30- Carole and Jeff Parsons malamute77@aol.com are putting on a weekend Scooter and Cart Fun run in the Fish Lake area. This will be a campout with acres of beautiful trails to run. There may also be a weight pull demonstration.

Pull Workshop in Bothell, WA

Sunday, March 18, 2007

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Academy of Canine Behavior in Bothell
4705 240 th St SE, Bothell WA 98021

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- * \$20 (1 person or 1 family plus one dog) includes sack lunch
- * Maximum class size is 20 dog/person teams.
- * If there is an overflow, we will schedule a second workshop.
- * Much of the time will be spent working with the dogs outside, so dress for the weather.

Instructors:

- * Daphne Lewis, owner of DogScooter
- * Carie Taylor, senior trainer at Academy of Canine Behavior
- * Ginger Corley, Rain Mountain Chinooks
- * Carmen Rasmussen, Alpine Outfitters

Alpine Outfitters is a sponsor of this event, providing harnesses, tuglines, and snacks.

Equipment:

We will supply equipment. However, if you have your own harness and tugline, please bring them. Also you are encouraged to bring scooters and rigs to show to classmates and to practice with at the end of the workshop.

Description:

Class begins with harness fitting and displays of scooters, sleds, skijor equipment, rigs, sulkiies, weight pull cart. There will be handouts. You can buy the "Dog Scooter" book if you choose.

There will be brief discussions of the various dog pulling sports. We will go outside for the class exercises in how to teach a dog to pull on command and how to teach a dog to line out. Lunch will be in the training center where it is dry and warm. After lunch there will be time for questions.

Then the class will go back outside for more pull training using drags. We will do some on-by exercises. The last activity will be pulling the scooters. We will go back inside for more questions and answers.

REGISTER:

Register by writing a check for \$20 made out to Carie Taylor and sending it to:
Carie Taylor, Senior Trainer, c/o Academy of Canine Behavior
4705 240th St SE, Bothell, WA 98021

If you wish to buy Daphne Lewis' book on scootering, "**Dog Scooter - the Sport for Dogs who Love to Run**", add \$17 to your check. (You can also buy the book at the class.)

Please BE SURE TO include your name(s), phone number, cell number, email, address, name of dog, preference for lunch (vegie or meat), and comments.

If you do not own your own harness, please arrive early to give us time to fit your dog.

NEW chapter of K9ScootersNW forming on the Olympic Peninsula

Pending approval by the BOD, Lynne Angeloro is putting together an Olympic Peninsula Chapter of K9ScootersNW and has tentatively planned their first meeting for Saturday, March 10. ALL club members are encouraged to attend. Details will be forthcoming on the K9ScootersNW website.

PULL CLINIC in Sequim, WA

A tentative date has been set for the first Pull Clinic (read: fund raiser and excitement builder) on the Olympic Peninsula. Tentative plans are to hold the clinic, with club participation, on Saturday, April 15, either at the Sequim Bay State Park or the Carrie Blake Park (where the NEW dog park will be opening April 7).

VERY TENTATIVE PLAN:

Friday afternoon/eve: Setup for the clinic. Camping at Sequim Bay State Park, which has access to the Olympic Discovery Trail. Will try to book the group site area. RV's also welcome with full hookups available, for a fee. (<http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Sequim+Bay&pageno=1> <<http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Sequim+Bay&pageno=1>>)

Saturday 9a-3p: Dog Pull Clinic (ALL club members are encouraged to attend to help out)

Saturday 7p-??: Fun run in the cooler evening air along Sequim Bay

Sunday EARLY: Fun Run on the Olympic Discovery Trail (<http://www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com/>) and (<http://www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com/>)

Sunday afternoon: break camp and head home, or hang out and run again in the evening?!

More information on both events will be posted on K9ScootersNW.com
Lynne.



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Let's send up a welcoming **W00000** to our new Webmaster Lynne Angeloro and check out our updated website, www.k9scooterNW.com. Then stop by Daphne's website, www.dogscooter.com and see the fine work Lynne has done for her.

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Sue's Woo

Siberian owners out there know the woo as the special song of the Siberian Husky.

Having weathered three dog deaths last summer, I have been a bit edgy concerning dog illness. When TinkerBelle, my 10-year-old Siberian female began a cycle of vomiting, not eating, recuperating, and becoming dehydrated, I feared the worst. After some hospitalization which included surgical biopsy, and the keen expertise and intuition of my vet, Dr. Rhonda Snyder and staff at Mt. View Veterinary Clinic in Lacey, WA, it was determined that Tink had Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). This is not a good thing to have. It requires scrupulous attention to diet along with a regimen of steroids, which have their own assembly of side effects. IBD dogs have an allergic reaction to proteins in their body so one must control the inflammatory response in addition to finding a protein that the dog has never had before. Tink is on a hypoallergenic diet, in which the hydrolyzed proteins are metabolized to the degree that the immune system does not recognize the protein and trigger a response. Being on the steroids suppresses the immune system so normal infections become problematic. Currently Tink is fighting severe urinary and vaginal infections, which are being treated with Simplicef, a Cephalixin family member. But she is looking good and I hope for the best. We even went on our first run since November 14, 2006.

A second member of Stargazer Siberians, PitterPatter, a yearling female, also became suddenly and critically ill last month. She had an episode of "spontaneous bleeding." Within a few moments of being let out of her kennel, prior to dinner, she was going into shock. The symptoms were hunched over (abdominal pain); gray and sticky gums (internal bleeding causing dehydration) panting, weak pulse. I called the vet and delivered the all too familiar words, "I have a sick dog." Icy roads slowed my normal half hour drive to the vet in the dark. When we arrived, Dr. Joanne Saloom determined that Pitter was bleeding internally, but why? Probable causes were rodenticide, which actually is less common these days and generally takes a repeated daily dosing; a tumor, which would be unlikely in this young dog and trauma as in being hit by a car. Dr. Karen Hook who has been learning to run the ultrasounds for Mt. View graciously came in after hours, and it was discovered that Pitter had bleeding around her left kidney. The bleeding stopped that night. Numerous tests were completed; the dog was rested for a month and is now back in the yard with the other dogs. No answers were found. If indeed it was trauma, it most likely came from rough housing. Becky L. has a story of a musher that lost a dog from a head on collision in the dog yard as the two dogs raced around the dog barn in opposite directions. How could this happen? It does!

Every unusual event in the dog yard puts me into crisis mode these days. There is no middle ground. Because my world was rocked by seemingly inconsequential events, I lost faith in the ordinary. A dog vomiting meant impending death. I am working on that response. Time will help me with that as crisis becomes less common. As always, the lesson is, Live in the Moment, as do the dogs. Know that the next meal is on the way and the next run is as near as the harness by the door. Hope lives in the heart of the dog and in mine as I live with them.



**PitterPat on the left
Tinkerbelle on the right**



Membership

The following listy includes non-members who have come to fun runs but did not pay dues and join.

Lynne Angeloro	langeloro@earthlink.net
William Bloxom	williamb@fcbloxom.com
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Carmen Rasmussen	AlpineOutfitters@aol.com
Cheryl Reehill	RogueAPBT@comcast.net
Susan Scofield	barnstormer@ywave.com
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K9 ScootersNW Board

President:	Daphne Lewis	daphne@dogscooter.com
Vice President	Donna Morton	LikeSalt@aol.com
Treasurer & Membership:	Natalie Head	gmat_head@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Jeannine Takaki	jrnt@earthlink.net
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	Nikki Puhich	mps_sleddogs@yahoo.com
Newsletter Co-Editors:	Susan Scofield	barnstormer@fairpoint.net
	anne flynn	globalaf@yahoo.com
Webmaster:	Lynne Angeloro	langeloro@earthlink.net

**Scruffy male....
neutered, debarked. 4 years old.**

**He is a big boy... LOVES TO RUN!
Comes with his own custom
harness.**

**Current on shots and free to
approved home**



contact Becky Loveless Dashaway Kennels Working Alaskan Huskies Roy,WA