

# Arizona Mountain Mushers



[www.azmmm.org](http://www.azmmm.org)

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- First off – Welcome to our newest members- Cindy Mc MClung, Frank Loro and Kate Reschner!

The 1st Pulling clinic is scheduled on Sat. **September 24th in Flagstaff.** It will be at Bushmaster Park from 8:00am to 12:00pm on Locket and Linda Vista. Dave Eckert our Alaskan skier is giving his tips for all to learn. We are advertizing this event to the public in Flagstaff and Phx. Volunteers are appreciated!

The clinic will be Mushers yes that's you showing the participants how to do one aspect of our sport in stations. There will be harness application, tire pulling, weight pulling, biking with your dog and other activities for the folks to try. Mushers can instruct kids and folks over twelve one on one for that lesson then they can move to the next station with a new musher. Mushers can pick your lesson, come on and show off your skills. All hands on deck! Please come out and help us with this event it should be fun and we had a lot of interest at our summer activities so we should some curious folks. Bring one dog out to use as your demo dog, but be sure you can leave them to help your novice person (ie) leashed to the picnic table or handler holding your dog if 2 Mushers want to work together.

Come for the weekend and run on Sunday morning. This season should be a good one and we should have a howling good time. For more information give **Cheri a call at (928) 266-5537**

## Mushers meeting notes August 7 2011

Flagstaff Mayor Sarah Pressler has expressed a great deal of interest in having a dog race as part of the Winterfest in February. The intent of this meeting was to begin the process of organizing a race. The committee that was formed included; Gery, Val, Frank and Cheri, Denise, Charlie, and Dave. The committee decided to focus its efforts on area of the Crowley gravel pit off Hwy 180 as the staging area after a discussion of the issues of parking and where we would likely find the best snow conditions. Crowley has proven most successful in the past.

The discussion also included other races being considered by the club as it narrowed down a weekend for the race to **February 4 - 5.** These include the potential for putting on a race at Mormon Lake the weekend of **January 7-8.** There is also the anticipation of a White Mountain race **the last weekend in January.** In addition, there is potential for a race at Happy Jack possibly **the last weekend in February.**

In discussion of the Winterfest race some of the issues that would need to be addressed in the race planning included the permit from the forest service, cooperation with ADOT for plowing the parking area, working with the state on traffic control, and parking control within the lot. The race format could include a drivers meeting on Friday night, a race Saturday morning, a weight pull Saturday afternoon in town, and the final race on Sunday morning.

There was also discussion of the possibility of including a skijoring race and whether a kid's race would be feasible. Some possible initial sponsors for the race could include Purina, Finley Toyota, and Olsen's.

The committee checked the trail on August 14 and it went very well. There was a lot of enthusiasm for what could be a great season for racing! Did you hear what I just said, racing, dogs, sleds, snowing, howling, hot coffee, oh and maybe falling down once or twice. Ok the next steps would be to begin the process with the forest service to acquire a permit and let the mayor and the Winterfest planning committee now we have a location.

**On September 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am - Noon**, there will be a clinic for people interested in training and working with their dog and learning to skijor at Bushmaster Park. There will be a follow up meeting of the race committee on this day also.

Good grief! - My daughter informed me she was coming home to visit that weekend. Yes, as shallow as I am I'm tried to gently hint I might not be home. Ok, she flipped out - as she lives in Austin Texas----argggghhhh - guess I won't be there September 24 unless a dog-napping occurs.

### **NEWS FROM THE WEIGHT PULL CORNER**

**August 2011**

By Canine Correspondents, Taki and T.J.)

Here we are again; Woo, Wooing to all you four-legged weight pull enthusiasts, your handlers, and friends. We hope you have been relaxing and not having to get up early to go for a run with your handlers. It has been a rather warm summer, and we all deserve a break. After all, the handlers do get a vacation or break sometime, don't they?

Well, so much for our usual rousing greeting! We were told to keep it short and sweet, and pass the podium to our sponsors. (We don't even know what a podium is! but here is a word from our sponsors.) "Listen up"

Wooing out for now  
Canine Correspondents  
Taki and T.J.



**Words from the Human Sponsors**

**Greetings to all of you!**

Yes, it has been a hot summer. It seems we have all experienced some extreme weather conditions. It will be interesting to see what fall and winter bring for us. Unfortunately, we do not have really good weight pull news for you since our July note. Yes, we are still in contact the Arizona Dog Sports, with the possibility of hosting a Canine Weight Pull 101 demonstration/seminar. As the weeks slip by, our options for space on their calendar also slips. Regardless of the date, any demonstration/seminar at their site will be on a Sunday, since those are the days on which they do not conduct specific trainings within their group.

We have received at least one request from a canine group in the southeastern part of the state to assist them in getting a canine weight pull started. That would also give us a boost in visibility.

However, the truth is that not much has changed.

1. As you know, the prospect of transporting the big trailer from one end of the state to the other, is not safely realistic, unless we suddenly identify a hugely gracious benefactor who can provide new tires, brakes, and other needed equipment which would make it safer to travel such distances. We (the current human sponsors) are still planning to clean up the big trailer; do repairs/fix-up to the electrical work and welding.

2. The trailer is still parked at Gery Allan's place. It must be moved to a new home in the fall before the rains or snows come. Remember, last season it was stored at a storage facility in Flagstaff - at the cost of \$38.00 per month.

3. If we actually want to build an Arizona Mountain Musher weight pull presence throughout the state to assist other groups interested in weight pulls, and to potentially increase our membership and reputation, we need to locate/develop a second inventory of weight pull equipment which can be housed in the central part of the state, and possibly transported in a smaller trailer or the back of a truck. That inventory would include an appropriately sized piece of carpeting, weights (which could be cement blocks - we could considering limiting the number of weights/pounds, which would be ok since we do not conduct sanctioned weight pull events.), fence webbing and stanchions (to line the pull carpet area) walked into it.

4. Do you know who is in possession of the previous weight pull cart? (the one we used early on.)

We know, this sounds like a broken record - playing the same song over and over .....

It is the same old song - some of the verses are keeping us from moving on.

We are still looking to the AMM membership and friends for feedback and assistance.

THANK YOU!

Respectfully,  
Shirley and Dave Hendricks  
Weight Pull Coordinators

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RANDOM dog JOKE!

If a beagle can't play a bugle in the marching band, what's his other favorite instrument to play? A trombone.