

Arizona Mountain www.azmm.org Mushers



Newsletter

November 2013

Ok everyone the Campout at Leupp Road was a big success, but where do you want to go next time!!!! Email Cheri at Cengelhardt@uesaz.com or call her 928-607-7520!!

Check out this great article about training a great sled dog!

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/07/100721194758.htm>

What do you do when you are not mushing??? Here are a few of the answers I got.

Gery (Ph.D.) is a biologist!! Amy Weibel (Ph.D.) – teaches biology Lorna is a Student

Amanda- Administrative Officer -

Paul - Ph.D. Astronomy, Exoplanetary Astrophysics Director - I'm not even going to touch that one! I wasn't sure what I could delete on his title and not get in trouble!!!

Marlaina ---- Swim- dance, cook, read love & care for dogs & others' pets

Denise – Artist and Blacksmith (how cool is that- to be able to do what you love!)– Oh yes, she makes hybrid scooters for people who want to run 1 or 2 dogs

Debra – Real Estate Broker Property Management Cheri- Construction Inspector

Frank- Cycling/skateboarding and dog boarding - hanging out drinking good beer!

Deanna – homemaker Innerest kids – Students excel extrodinare!!!!

Cindy – CEO ABRiO CARE Mary - Mentor and Siberian Husky encyclopedia of information!

Thomas- Driver Shirley – retired and David working!

Frank – driver BIG TRUCK!! Val- medical something or other!!

From Cheri Engelhardt:

CAMP OUT



November 2013

Hello all as I am writing this it is snowing in Flagstaff!!!! Winter is here!!!!

We had a great campout in the cinders with a good time had by all. Howdy, Hello and Good to meet you with the new faces we have found on the trail! It's a new season and we are on the right paw so to speak. Year after year and I have to say YOU the mushers have worked so hard on socializing your athletes, this is an amazing group to work with.... When we can have all these rigs, dog teams, adults, kids and spectators pass, run, watch and play with not one growl or frown, we are living the dream!

The 5.2 mile trail was a huge success just sealing the deal for our dreams of mid-distance this year. Watching those teams head out at 7:00am with low temps just gets that addiction of winter fun going on for everyone! The 2 mile runners are taking commands better and better as the season goes on the miles will come.

A special thanks to Lori and Stephan as they have again out done themselves with a delicious breakfast and morning coffee. Frank Brown with his fantastic line making abilities and patience to share the art! Thanks for making our weekend a howling success Cheri

From Denise Edwards:

I've been running sled dogs for over 25 years. All of those years alongside of my good friend Cheri! That being said I want you all to understand what a valuable resource we have in Cheri. As many years as I've been doing this I still look to her for advice. This year Cheri has me stepping back and rethinking my training for these new pups I have from a breeding I did last year. The main word for this training season is patience! I don't know if many of you are familiar with the term soft head but 3 of these dogs have very soft heads and one kind of soft. A dog with a soft head is very easy to ruin. This is where patience comes in. It is the number of hookups these dogs receive this season. Any of you who have seen these dogs will agree, the speed will come. Fast dogs are great until you have no control. My main goal is to have these dogs listening to me when we are out on the trail. A fast team is no good at all if you have tangles and/or loose them! Thank you to all of you who have been helping me get "out of the hole" this year. When we get back the dogs are tired so we make them stand for their water and a bit longer to get them used to standing "lined out". Hopefully this will eventually carry over to when we are hooking up to go out. I am not interested in crazy dogs jumping and chewing lines when they are ready to go. My older dogs are very good examples



of very well trained dogs that stay relatively calm when being hooked up. This has not hindered their success in coming in 1st, 2nd or 3rd place. I find that they wear out more when crazy behavior happens.

So if I have to hang out at the start to get a dog straightened out or calmed down, that's what we will do. Another thing I will do is stop every once in a while on the trail to make them wait while I walk up the line to check on them. If you have an issue on the sled you have to make sure you can do this so they don't break away your hook and take off. Unfortunately it has been getting warm early so it limits the teams I get out. Also the lack of lead dogs is an issue. I run my leaders twice on the short trail with new young ones each time. I have to remember to only hook up as many as I can control from tangling as well. We all make mistakes, as I have this season, and will continue to make mistakes. Take it slow and double check yourself and your equipment! This should limit your mistakes. It's much easier to fix these things before you head out on the trail, esp. with young dogs, than to deal with it out there. I also recommend taking extra equipment i.e.: leash, neck line and I even take a multi-dog tie out line with me in case I have a problem with equipment failure out there on my own. This has happened. Safety for you and your dogs is of the up most importance!! Hope this helps!