

# Arizona Mountain Mushers



www.azmm.org

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## ***Don't Forget!***

**Our 4<sup>TH</sup> annual Flagstaff campout is scheduled for Nov 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

- ✓ Please bring items to AUCTION off at dog camp! Auction items can be anything that is dog-related!
- ✓ Please bring some extra firewood to share at the group campfire!
- ✓ Bring your stories, sonnets, poems, entertaining skits about sled dogs, mushers or just fun adventure stories you've had with your dogs.
- ✓ Please bring a dessert for auction night (Sat)

For more information, directions and a map check out the September Newsletter at [www.azm.org](http://www.azm.org).



## ***From the Editor***

Hi fellow mushers, weight pullers and skijorous!

Fall is here and we are all ready to hit the trail. The cooler weather brings out the personality in my dogs. During the hot weather, they lay in the yard and let the rabbits run by. Just too dog gone hot. However the first day I hooked up the trailer and ATV, the dogs gathered around like wagons on the prairie. They knew – they remembered – the excitement began.

The night before, I had loaded the truck. Supplies – harness, gang line, water, collars, water bowls, tug lines, shovel, head lamp, coffee, light sweater, extra dog crate...now the dogs. Ranger ran left...and Trooper jumped in the back of the truck. Charlie (the golden retriever) jumped in the back seat of the truck. I dragged him out. Rowdy couldn't jump in the back seat...so he jumped on the hitch of the trailer and then into the back of the truck. I carried him out. Trooper jumped out of the truck. Scout jumped on me and I

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## ***AZMM Dues are Due!***

AZMM dues are \$25. Please mail your checks to:  
Cheri Engelhardt  
12400 N. Peaks Pkwy  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004.

### **AZMM OFFICERS**

President	Denise Edwards
V.P.	Gery Allen
Secretary & Skijor Chair	Dave Eckert
Treasurer	Cheri Engelhardt
Weight Pull Chair	Shirley Hendricks
Newsletter	Deborah Carson

put him in the back of the truck. I whistled for Zany and here she came. Bless her..no don't run off now. Right now I'm asking myself am I loading dogs or herding cats!!! (<http://tinyurl.com/3q8l8to>) Cowboy jumps into the back of the truck and I lift him out. Ok, now I got you Ranger- your hooked in. Scout in the crate..gotcha! Zany ...sweetie come to momma...got you... in the truck. Did I get Trooper in the truck yet? Where is Isis? We need Isis? No Cowboy and Rowdy stay home.. Rowdy get out of the trailer! Charlie get out of the truck!! I'm leaving... Hi Isis, get up darling. Don't roll over on your back, be a woman – stand your ground. Ok good girl. I give and put Isis in the back seat of the truck.

Now I'm off for the first run. Actually I am not sure if I have sled dogs in this truck.... Or a golden retriever, 2 siberian husky puppies and the neighbor's cat! But, I do know that I am happy.

## Trivia Section

**Skijoring** - The sport of ski joring began several hundred years ago in Scandinavian countries as a way to travel during the long winters. Laplanders skied on Nordic skis holding the reins attached to reindeer. Ski joring found its way to North America, where ranchers attached a long rope to the saddle horn of a horse that was ridden at high speeds down a long straight-away. Currently, the sport of equestrian ski joring has become a highly specialized competitive sport, where competitors must navigate a course of jumps, gates and sometimes spear rings. Competitive ski joring competitions are currently taking place in more than five states in the USA, and in several countries worldwide. In some parts of the world, skiers are pulled behind dogs, mules and snowmobiles. Whatever the means, the sport of ski joring is growing rapidly, and is just as much fun for spectators as it is for competitors. Courtesy of the North American Ski Joring Association.

**Weight Pulls** - Dogs have pulled sleds and carts for humans throughout history. In small towns around the world, owners proudly boasted of how strong their dogs were, how much they could pull and how far. "Yeah? You wanna bet? My dog can pull more than your dog!" That's probably how the sport of weight pulling started. Now there are several organizations that have established rules and regulations for formal competition.

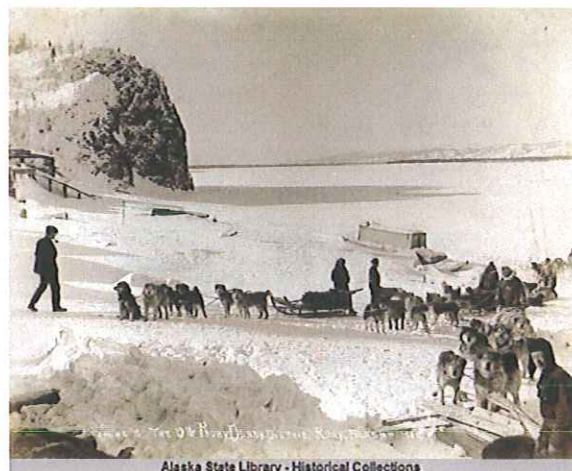
**Dog Sledding** - The use of dogs to pull sleds goes back centuries, but formal dog sled racing dates back to the early 1900s. The first race took place in Alaska in 1908. The winner of the All Alaska

Sweepstakes completed the 408-mile race from Nome to Candle and back in just over 119 hours. The sport quickly evolved and by 1910, the same race was completed by the winning musher in just over 74 hours. Sled dogs for transportation pre-dates racing. For many living in the great white north, it was their only transportation and key to survival. In 1925, sled dog history was made after an outbreak of diphtheria happened in the remote, icebound village of Nome. Natives had no immunity and the closest supply of serum was 670 miles away in Anchorage. With no roads and available aircraft dismantled for winter, the situation seemed dire.

## Iditarod Quiz

- In 1973 35 mushers set out from Anchorage in the inaugural race. How many mushers finished?**  
a. 21    b. 15    c. 38    d. 11
- Who has won both the Fur Rendezvous World Championship and the Iditarod?**  
a. Joe Redington    b. Carl Huntington  
c. George Atla    d. Jeff King
- Who was the first woman to win the Iditarod?**  
a. Libby Riddles    b. Susan Butcher  
. Mary Shields    d. Lolly Medley
- During even numbers years is the Iditarod run on the northern or southern trail?**  
a. Northern    b. Southern

Answers:



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

Here's a great site to play with <http://vilda.alaska.edu> It has some great old photos and movies of sled dogs. Go to search and put in Dogs; Sled dog racing; Dogsledding, whatever. Have fun!