

Arizona Mountain Mushers

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Weight Pull

March 2013

The William's Chamber of Commerce and the entire city of Williams invited us to participate in a Meet the Musher's and Weight Pull event President's Day weekend. The weekend was a smashing success for all. The weather was beautiful, the crowds were in awe of our dogs and our sleds and community members participated with us in our weight pull.

Saturday was our Meet the Musher's Event. The day started with all of the musher's parking at the Visitor's Center and dropping our dogs as we do at a typical race. We pulled a few sleds off our trailers so people could take pictures of their kids on the sleds. People milled around and asked questions, petted dogs and just had a grand time. Some of us fed dogs at the end of the day and the crowds got to watch this and then, of course, the never ending poop scooping chore helped to bring back the realities of mushing. The Pine Country Café hosted a dinner for the AZ Mushers that evening and people had to opportunity to eat with us or just stop by and say Hi or ask questions. The restaurant has two specialties, hospitality and pie. I think all of us were recipients of the amazing hospitality and most of us partook of the amazing pies. One young man I sat across from chose to forego the pie and eat a T Bone steak instead. With my sweet tooth and the delicious pie options I don't know if that would have been my choice but he sure seemed to enjoy it. The restaurant went above and beyond making special menus with pictures of mushers and dogs commemorating meet the Musher weekend.

Later that evening, there was a showing of Snow Dogs at the Sultana. Many of us have seen the movie before but still rocked with laughter at all of the funny parts, especially the spills and falls learning to mush. I myself was thinking been there and not done yet with all of that yet.

Sunday was Weight Pull day. Before the weight pull we had demonstrations by our junior mushers, Makalya and Maddie Innerest and Mali Waldo. They demonstrated scootering with one and two dogs so the crowd could see what possibilities exist for them without having to own and operate an entire kennel of dogs. One of our not so junior mushers, even though his fantastic feats keep him younger than our juniors, Frank Loro, knocked the crowd's socks off by having one of his dogs pull him around the parking lot on a skate board. It was just amazing. Remember kids; don't try this at home without your parent's permission and lots of protective gear.

The Weight Pull was sure a crowd pleaser. Lots of dogs, lots of weight and lots of cheering and encouragement from the crowd. We had 15 dogs entered and we were very pleased that we had several entries from the community and the musher's dogs were

on their best behavior. Val Dockter and her dog Desi Rae stole the show in this event coming out overall winner. Little 30 pound Desi pulled 1210 pounds making her pull weight to body weight ratio 40.3 pounds. We were all so proud of that little lady and ecstatic for Val. Gery Allen's dog Nuvak, weighing in at 69 pounds pulled the most weight, 1570 pounds. Thank you to all of the weight pull entries, it was a fantastic event. Look under the Weight Pull tab for all of the scores.

Last but not least, thank you to all of the wonderful people who helped with the weight pull, it would not have been a success without you. Lori Natseway our Weight Pull Chair put a lot of time into having everything ready and running smoothly. Dave and Shirley Hendricks drove up from the south to help with timing and getting the dogs off the start line without a hitch. Dee and Tony Innerest and their entire family worked tirelessly throughout the entire event helping wherever they were needed without being asked. Denise Edwards kept the crowd's attention as our dynamite announcer. The Piece de Resistance is that Williams will be hosting a Dog Sled Race next year, thank you Williams! There is talk that it will take place the same weekend, President's Day. Watch next year for details. Thank you again to the City of Williams, the community members and the Arizona Mountain Musers for a wonderful weekend.