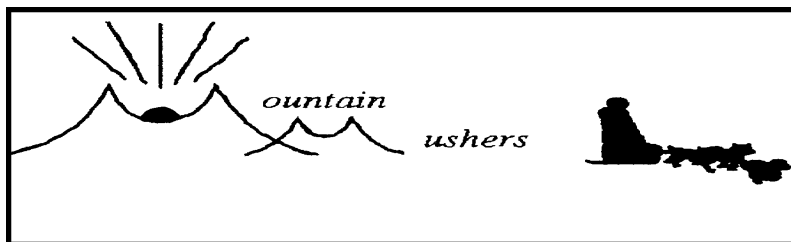


Arizona Mountain Mushers News



Vol. I No. 3

Holiday 2006

Officers for 2005-2006.....

President:	Denise Edwards	928-527-0887
Vice-President:	Ron Miller	928-368-4515
Secretary:	Gery Allan	928-853-4037
Treasurer:	Valerie Docktor	928-635-5216

Newsletter	Jann Schmohl	520-742-2929
Events Chair:	Ron Miller	928-368-4515
Weight Pull Chair:	David Koerner	928-853-4037
Backpack Chair:	Reignie Farley	siberianwing@yahoo.com



Dues are now due...They are \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family!

Please make payable to:

Arizona Mountain Mushers

Mail check to: Valerie Docktor
P. O. Box 50752
Parks, AZ 86018

Want to join a "Race Committee?"

Ron is in charge of the White Mountains and Gery will chair the Flagstaff.....but they need help with all the details. Call Ron or Gery.

Dave's Forum:

<http://www.astrobio.nau.edu/azmushers/>

Our website:

<http://www.azmm.org/>



HEART TO HEART

No one knew what her real name was. But there she was, huddled in the front yard-wet and shivering from the rain. Ron and Judy brought her into their home, warming her and offering her some food. She looked like a Shih Tzu, much like the ones they had raised years before. Surely someone would be looking for her tomorrow and she would be home again, they thought. But no one came for her. So she stayed and was named "Ginseng". She thrived in her new home. Then one day Ron Brought ginseng into the veterinary office. "Ginseng's getting pretty big." he stated, "I think something's going on."

He was right. Her abdomen was noticeably enlarged. An X-ray showed that his one good deed was about to be multiplied times seven! Ginseng was pregnant. Two weeks later all seven puppies were delivered healthy and happy. All the puppies thrived and for awhile Ron and Judy relived the joys of watching galloping puppies playing in their home. Ron and Judy kept two of the puppies and all the others went to wonderful homes and are loved and cherished by their new owners.

A single moment of kindness and expression of love saved one life and brought love into the lives of five other families. Love is like that-it comes without asking and more you give away, the more comes back to you.

God bless all in this holiday season.

WHITE MOUNTAIN WINTER GAMES

January 27 & 28, 2007

Ken and Marsha Cheeseman will be the **Sled dog Ambassadors** to the Games. They are retired Tucson teachers who now live in Showlow. They will take dogs and equipment to schools or other areas and show off our wonderful animals and mushing way of life.

Ken and Marsha no longer mush but still have huskies. They taught many of us in Tucson what the sport was all about. Every time we do a practice run, on the far eastside of Tucson, we wish Marsha were here to tell us the length of our runs....she always knew to the tenth of a mile!

The Cheeseman's have agreed to set up a booth where they can talk with folks and show off their dogs while we are racing. We wish to give a Big Thanks in advance!

Now all we need is SNOW!!!!

Jann Schmohl



Get ready for mushing season:

1. Visit your local butcher and pay to sit in the walk-in freezer for a couple of hours.
2. Soak your gloves and begin storing them in your freezer.
3. Fasten a small, wide-rubberband around the top half of your head before you go to bed each night. If you wear glasses, begin wearing them with glue smeared on the lenses.
4. Slam your thumb in a car door. Don't go see a doctor.
5. Find the nearest ice rink and walk across the ice several times holding two leaping, lunging, screaming, 80 lb. Sleddogs by the back of their harnesses.
6. Buy a new pair of gloves and immediately throw one of them away.
7. Secure one of your ankles to a bed post and ask a friend to run into you at high speed. Repeat several times.
8. Fill a blender with ice, hit the pulse button and let the spray blast your face. Leave the ice on your face until it melts. Let it drip into your clothes. Do this in a walk-in freezer if possible.
9. Dress up in as many clothes as you can and then proceed to take them off because you have to go to the bathroom.
10. Throw a \$100 bill away—right now.
11. Repeat all of the above every Saturday and Sunday until it is time for the real thing.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A STAR IN FRONT OF YOUR LAST NAME THEN YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES. THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER.! WE MUST ASSUME YOU ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED. WE WILL MISS YOU!

The Barbara Hupe Award....

The Barbara Hupe award is for the club member/s that have gone above and beyond during the year. They must be good to their animals, have represented the club with sportsmanship, enthusiasm and a great attitude for the year.

For outstanding leadership in managing all weight pulls for several years ...the recipients are:

**DENA ANDERSON
and
GRACE WHITE
2006**



Flagstaff Fall Campout:

This year's Flagstaff campout was well attended with representatives from all over Arizona including Phoenix (Bill Coan), Tucson (Marty and Eric and Jann and Howard), the White Mountains (Davey Meredith), Parks (Val Docktor), Sedona (Reignie) and Flagstaff (Frank and Cheri, Denise and Dave and Gery).

The campsite was WAY better than last year, with plenty of parking for mushers and their various trailers and accoutrements! Quite unexpectedly, it turned out that the campsite was the secret stomping grounds of Reignie and her Dad from past summer vacations – who knew! The dirt trails were nicely graded (with a few bumps, mind you) and traversed approximately 3 miles of twisty loops and turns that made for great gee-haw training.

'Round the campfire on Saturday night Frank, Cheri and Denise regaled us with stories from campouts past, while we munched on the most amazing pumpkin-cream cheese spread and crackers provided by Val Docktor, and chocolaty brownies cooked up in a Dutch oven by yours truly. Even nicer were the two new members that joined us for their first campout, Jason and Meg. Meg was a budding protégé from Cheri and Frank's Beginner's Mushing class, and who also graduated from Sled Dog training 101 while on the camping trip. Congratulations Meg!

On Sunday morning mushers and dogs were treated to a light covering of "the white stuff!" Yes, SNOW! Imagine that, right here in Flagstaff, even in the age of global warming! All in all, everyone seemed to have a great time and we all vowed to make this camping site the "perennial favorite" for future campouts and mushing/training adventures. Thanks to all for helping make this event a safe, fun and enjoyable experience!

Gery Allan

Book Review:

Yukon Alone by John Balzar

Yukon Alone chronicles the adventures of erstwhile musher and Los Angeles Times columnist John Balzar as he covers the "world's toughest adventure race," the Yukon Quest. Traversing some 1,023 miles, the trail of the Yukon Quest snakes its way between Whitehorse, Yukon Territory and Fairbanks, Alaska. Although not quite as long as the famed Iditarod (1,150 miles), it is considered by many to be the most physically challenging of long distance races for both musher and dogs.

John Balzar does an amazing job of bringing the reader right into the thick of the race with his personal, first-hand involvement and engaging prose (he actually runs a team of dogs on one leg of the race). Every chapter is filled with details that one wouldn't normally get from journalists who cover the race, but don't actually participate. In this sense, readers receive the best of both worlds: talented writing combined with personal insight into the difficulties and nuances of running the Yukon Quest.

For me, this book represents the pinnacle of mushing books describing one of the world's greatest sled dog races. From insightful descriptions of the mushers and their dogs to the politics behind sponsoring the race, Yukon Alone provides a truly unique account of long-distance mushing in the Far North. This book is thoroughly engaging and I heartily recommend it to anyone interested in running sled dogs, whether competitively or recreationally.

Gery Allan



*Think Snow, Think Fun, Think
Mushing.....*

*The White Mountain Winter Games
January 27 and 28, 2007*

Three Times the Fun:

The upcoming White Mountain Winter Games (January 27 & 28th) should not slip through the cracks in cyber space. Besides our Club's web site be sure to check out our announcement in www.sleddogcentral.com and updates in www.sportszoneneaz.com Who says that mushers' only skills revolve around cleaning up dog poop!
Ron Miller

Book Review:

Running North, A Yukon Adventure

by Ann Mariah Cook

Ann Mariah Cook tells the tale of what it would be like to run the Yukon Quest from a decidedly feminine perspective. In fact, her account of running this race is based not on her personal experience of driving a team of huskies across the frozen North, but of assisting her husband, George Cook, in their mutual quest: to quit their jobs in New Hampshire, move to Two Rivers Alaska, train a team of 14 Siberian Huskies, and run "The Quest."

Ann Cook's writing is both captivating and nicely paced, two traits that clearly come from her years of experience as a magazine article writer. She knows how to draw her readers in and provides a very intimate account of her personal involvement and emotional challenges.

One of the more interesting aspects of this story is Ann's account of her interaction with their handler, Sandy (Ann's 18 year old niece), who comes to Two Rivers to help run and train their dogs, and assist at checkpoints. Although Ann seems to have managed the difficult parts of this interaction reasonably well, one wonders if these two still talk to each other!

Another very intriguing aspect of this book is how Ann seems to provide a very intimate account of George's struggle on the trail, even without having experienced it herself first-hand. Undoubtedly, George related his experiences to his wife in technicolor detail, but I was nonetheless impressed by her ability to write as if she had been there: climbing and cresting Eagle Summit in the middle of snowstorm; struggling mightily over miles of jumble ice on the frozen Yukon; and fighting to stay awake after days of sleep-deprived mushing.

Indeed, this inspiring story is aimed at a wide audience and one that I believe will be enjoyed by musher and non-musher alike.

Gery Allan



Val's Pumpkin Dip Recipe

1 pkg of cream cheese (8oz)
2 c pumpkin pie filling
2 c of confectioners' sugar (can use the baking splenda)
1tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground ginger
1/4 tsp nutmeg

You may add a little Cool whip to thin it out if you like.

Serve with ginger snaps or crackers.

I have even used it as a frost between to spice cakes and then frost the rest of the cake with the cream cheese frosting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of October 2006	1687.94
Expenses:	returned check fee 5.00
Income:	dues 60.00
October 31st Total	1742.94

November 2006	
Expenses:	Newsletter 5..45
	returned check fee 5.00
Income:	dues 70.00
November 30th Total	1802.94

December 2006	
Expenses:	Port-a-potty 85.00
Income:	Dues 65.00
December Total	1782.94

Balance as of Dec. 16, 2006	1782.94
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Respectfully submitted by Val Dockter

FROM DA PREZ—

Howdy everyone! Looks like winters shaping up and might start acting like it should! I keep hearing El Nino or is it La Nina(?) is going to bring us some well needed snow.

I am looking forward to another fun **White Mountain Winter Games** this year. I want to thank Ron and all his helpers for going to all the effort to put this race and weight pull on. Frank, Cheri and I know first hand all of the work that gets put into these races. Our main goal is to put on a fun and safe race for all levels of competitors and their dogs. Anyone who can help with any aspect of this endeavor is encouraged to step forward and help. It is a perfect opportunity to learn what it takes to put a race on and to keep the people who do the work year after year from getting burned out. Speaking from experience, it is hard to go to a race and work on the trail system to make it safe and then try to drop dogs, feed, get your equipment ready and take care of yourselves. Thank you ahead of time for anyone who jumps in!

I would like to say a big thank-you to Cheri for taking time out of her busy life and doing some puppy and beginner musher classes over the years. This is quite a service to our club and to the sport. It helps recruit new people to our club and helps people to get involved with their dogs in a very healthy way. Cheri has the knowledge to get people started with their dogs. When these new people show up at our events let's do our part and welcome them in to our big dog family! Thank-you Cheri for still teaching me with my pups too!!

I guess this is a thank-you letter! Thank-you David for getting some good pictures onto our website and maintaining it. This is also very helpful to our club. All of these things that I've mentioned have helped keep our club going over the last 18+ years.

Ron has also inquired about and will enter our club into membership of the **MUSH WITH PRIDE** organization. I believe this organization was started by Susan Butcher or she was at least instrumental in the evolution of it. This will only benefit our club and carry on the vision of the icon of mushing, Susan Butcher. Thankyou Ron! As a side note any individual can join this organization too.

Happy snowy trails to all of you and hope to "on by" you somewhere.... (or you can "on by" me!)

Denise

The mission of the Arizona Mountain Musers is to promote dog sled sports by sponsoring cart races, sled races, weight-pulling contest, backpacking trips, behavior classes, obedience classes, and nutritional development classes. And to engage in any other activity relevant to those listed above intended to promote the welfare of dogs and persons associated with dogs.

President	Denise Edwards
Vice President	Ron Miller
Secretary	Gery Allan
Treasurer	Val Docktor
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ARIZONA MOUNTAIN MUSHERS NEWS is published as needed and is free to all members. Advertising for charitable causes or purposes, and for certain not-for-profit activities is free.

Advertising rates:	Full page	\$20.00
	Half page	\$10.00
	Quarter page	\$ 5.00
	Business Card	\$ 2.00

Mail non-newsletter correspondence to: Arizona Mountain Musers, P.O. Box 30983, Flagstaff, AZ 86003-0983.



Spay/Neuter Certificates

Spay/Neuter certificates are available in the Flagstaff area from:

- Coconino county Animal Control, \$30.00 certificate, dogs only, must have county dog license, 774-4518.
- Flag PALS, 25% of cost of s/n, 526-3415.

In the Phoenix area:

- Az. Animal Welfare League, \$50.00 for spaying, \$40.00 for neutering. They will mail you a discount card and give you a list of participating vets, 273-6850.

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