

Arizona Mountain Musers News



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WINTER GAMES RESULTS (Races and Weight Pull)

**will be found at the end of
this newsletter!**

2009 White Mountain Winter Games Go International!

This was the year that the White Mountain Winter Games really took off! A record 23 sled dog teams entered the Games! Two of those teams barked in Spanish since they arrived with their owner from Guadalajara, Mexico. We were very pleased that Cristobal Aguilar saw our race in Sled Dog Central and was willing to spend the better part of a week driving with his team to join us for our 7th Annual White Mountain Winter Games.

The Games, too were expanded to include a bunch of festivities on Saturday afternoon at Hon-Dah Resort and Casino. Besides the well-attended weight pull event, there was a band, a chili cook-off, live radio coverage, and ice sculptures---one of which depicted a musher and team making their way through a coniferous forest. (Foresters with dog teams loved that part!).

A wolf sanctuary from New Mexico also brought one of their arctic wolves along with information about their important work and the White Mountain Apache Tribe provided their wolf biologist to inform visitors about the Tribes' active wolf management program.

Hon-Dah also provided a great prime rib buffet that stuffed mushers and made sled dogs wonder what their owners had gotten in to!

The 2009 Winter Games held another big surprise when Anne Groebner was able to race due to the incredible generosity of Frank and Cheri. Anne, has given her heart and soul to the Winter Games for the six years since its inception and was able to join the fun by racing herself this year. She was thrilled!

Results of the sled dog race are listed below. There was some incredible mushing going on over the two day event.

A final first for this year's race was the awarding of the "Togo Award" to dogs owned by mushers who won gold or silver in this year's event. Frank Englehardt honored Garbo with his choice while Denise Edwards honored Sophie and Macy. As we all know, the dogs really give their all in this sport called mushing!
--- Ron

KUDOS FROM A SPECTATOR AT OUR WINTER GAMES!

Hi Ron,

Thank you so much for all that you did for Elizabeth before and during the races. Because of her involvement by email beforehand and then her participation during the races, she really made herself a part of the whole experience. While we waited at Sunrise for Travis and Bob, she told everybody how she cheered for the teams that were racing. She also told them how she got to ride in the basket for the kids' race, and how EVERYBODY won the race, not just one kid. She is so proud of her certificate and stuffed dog. On the way home she asked if she could grow up to be a musher. I told her she absolutely could. Then when we got home she wanted to hitch up our dog Tim.

You all did such a nice job of putting the races together and educating the public about the dogs and the lifestyle mushers live. I talked to a few race onlookers who were really impressed by the event. There is so much work that you guys do to make something like that happen. I think what the AZ Mt. Mushers did for the kids will touch them all for a lifetime. As you say, it's a 51-week preparation for a week's worth (or few days) of racing. It's definitely a labor of love! I'll never forget watching the news a few years ago as they talked about sports results- winner of some golf tournament got a million or so dollars and some endorsements, and in the next breath, the winner of the Iditarod got a Ford truck. Quite a difference both in winnings and sport intent.

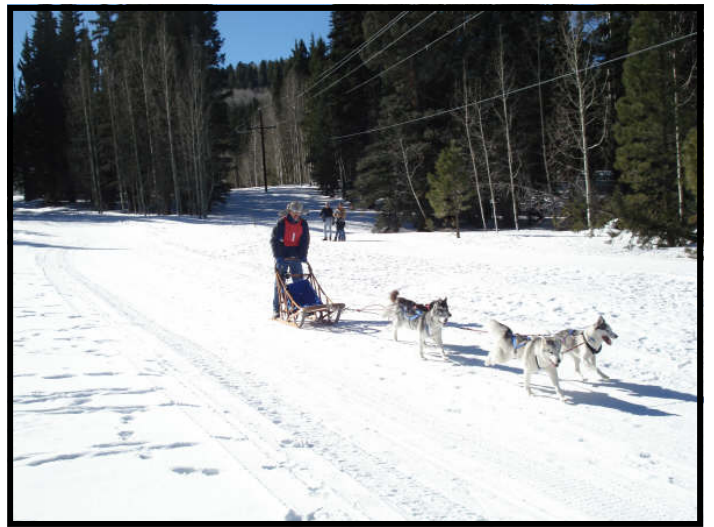
Kelly



Name that Musher!!!



Continued.....



Have you made your reservations for the Mormon Lake Sled Race?
It is Feb 21 and 22, 2009...hope to see you all so we can do it over again!

Catch Gery Allan on Youtube....
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZvkZHTdELg>

The Weight Pull...

SABLE



ALY



**The Kids Race....
A good time was had
by all!!**



The mission of the Arizona Mountain Mushers is to promote dog sled sports by sponsoring cart races, sled races, weight-pulling contest, back-packing 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.

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