

# Arizona Mountain Musers News



Vol. IV No. 2

March 2009

## Officers for 2007-2008.....

President:	Cheri Engelhardt	928-527-9442
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Weight Pull Committee:	Dave/Gery/Beth/Jim/Val	

Have you paid your dues for 2009??  
See the attached member list and check if you  
have a star in front of your last name!  
Dues are \$25.00 per household and may be sent to:  
Val Dockter  
P.O. Box 50752  
Parks, AZ 856018  
Make checks payable to AMM

Do you have a favorite dog that deserves a tribute?

Can you compose a short, concise piece of writing with a photo?

This newsletter is going to feature a special dog each month...the first will be Ron Miller's Snowflake.... If you want to hear about dogs other than mine...ahem...email me with your award winning testimonial commemorating an outstanding canine member of your household. They do not need to have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Whatever you send will be saved and entered in a newsletter.

Email me: [sonrisa6@comcast.net](mailto:sonrisa6@comcast.net)

## The Awesome Majesty of Mormon Lake!



## From the Race Marshall.....

Well, we did it. It seems we pulled off the first Flagstaff sled dog race in 10 years with just the usual rookie glitches. Some neat things came out of the race that bear mentioning: Budweiser talked to Mormon Lake Lodge and basically said they'd pay whatever it took to be one of the major sponsors for next year's race. Bigger purse anyone? How about cabin subsidies for the mushers? Step up Bud, we're all ears. Coke has also agreed to come on board again for next year. Nice. Finally, there's an idea floating around that we should stage this race on the weekend before the White Mountain games. Wes Widener, our Colorado racer (who took a chunk of our purse, dammit) thinks we could attract more out-of-state mushers with this approach. I'd love to hear all of your thoughts on this.

More importantly, I'd like to say that, during race week, I received thanks from numerous individuals on numerous occasions. After a few days of this it occurred to me that anyone doing this kind of planning is, really, only as good as the people they steal from; and I stole all the expertise and knowledge I could from all of you. Charlie kept me in line on awards protocol and Van not only gave me the thumbs up on the track but also offered to help with next year's planning. Denise toured the course with me in its early phases and offered invaluable suggestions-- as did Frank Englehardt. Frank Brown picked up virtually all weight pull duties and alleviated a huge amount of worry from my head. My dear wife Elizabeth did all the bib sewing and helped Val-- that invaluable jewel-- with calculations and registrations. Cheri gave her usual 110 percent by supplying materials, sponsors, and basically anything that 25 years of experience told her to tell me. Ron Miller gave credibility as Race Marshall and helped devise the pay-off structure. We also had fun together each race morning when we toured the track on snowmobile-- marking potential hazards, on the fly, with an orange stake. Ron, simulating an Inuit whale hunter during this process, was priceless. Knowing what I know now, I hereby nominate Ron for sainthood. How does anyone do this for 6 years in a row? Lastly, and most under appreciated, was Gery and Dave. We were, quite literally, in hourly contact with each other via email during the last week prior to the race. They picked up duties where needed and never failed in any task asked of them. I sometimes think Dave quickly responded to my requests to update our website simply to calm my anxiety.

I'm tired of taking all the thanks. We all know that this race was a success because people were willing to take on any job that was required at any time. So, it's my turn to thank all of you, and I do with all the sincerity (don't laugh) I can muster. Thanks.

Don't get too warm and fuzzy, we've got to do it all over again next year!

Jim

# RACE RESULTS

## Mormon Lake Feb 21-22, 2009



Place	Name	Day One	Day Two	Total Time
3 Dog (4.3 miles)				
1	Carson Pete	15.41	22.33	38.14
2	Beth Rinaldi	20.45	26.03	46.48
3	Scott Neuman	22.38	31.11	53.49
4	Daniel Neuman	22.40	31.55	54.35
5	Thomas Mangano	24.50	37.15	62.05
4 Dog (4.3 miles)				
1	Charlie Odegaard	12.59	14.55	27.54
2	Justin Yates	13.33	16.51	30.24
3	Denise Edwards	14.42	16.38	31.20
4	Frank Engelhart	16.42	20.04	36.46
5	Ron Miller	16.33	20.17	36.50
6	Wes Widner	16.55	22.59	39.54
7	Jim Rinaldi	22.30	27.47	50.17
8	Bill Coan	26.14	30.44	56.58
9	Daniel Neuman	31.57	40.51	72.48
	Marty Rotter	29.15	DNS	
6 Dog (4.3 miles)				
1	Denise Edwards	12.21	12.26	24.47
2	Charlie Odegaard	12.29	12.50	25.19
3	Justin Yates	12.51	13.30	26.21
4	Wes Widner	14.34	14.31	29.05
5	Frank Engelhart	14.26	15.34	30:00
6	Daniel Neuman	16.32	18.19	34.51
7	Gery Allan	19.46	21.15	41.01
8	Don Uhlir	22.33	23.49	46.22

A howling good time was had by all.....



# Weight Pull Results

Mormon Lake, Arizona February 21, 2009

Pull Surface - Snow/slush with a wheeled Cart

	Dog	Handler	Dog Weight	Weight Pulled	Weight/pound Pull/weight ratio
<b><u>Light Weight Class</u></b>					
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Aly	Jann Schmohl	47.0	300	6.38
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Cirra	Frank Brown	53.2	300	5.64
<b><u>Middle Weight Class</u></b>					
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Thunder	Gary Allan	62.0	450	<b>Overall Winner</b> 7.26
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Wuhti	Gary Allan	62.2	400	6.43
<b><u>Heavy Weight Class</u></b>					
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Cooper	Luke Brazdys	100.6	350	3.48
					<b>Pull Time in Seconds</b>
	Monte	Diana Abele	35.8	250	46.7
	Nemo	Tim Gales	82.2	450	8.32

THE CHILDREN HAD THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES!





## A NOTE FROM RON AND HIS TRIBUTE TO A GREAT SLED DOG AND COMPANION ...

### *“SNOWFLAKE”*

Well, 2009 is just beginning but it has already turned out to be quite a year for our club. Two sled dog races! In the White Mountains, Cristobal's arrival from Mexico put us into the international race category. And, at Mormon Lake, Wes became the first Colorado musher to make the trek south across our northern border in many, many years.

Thank you Jim and everyone who helped, for seeing the Mormon Lake through to a successful completion. It was a great race and it is neat to see results on Sled Dog Central for two Arizona sled dog races. Thanks also to those who put on the Weight Pulls at these two events. It was great to see a full calendar again!

As many of you know, 2009 also holds some bittersweet memories for me since Snowflake, my main leader for almost a decade, has now retired. She was a young pup in my 1998 four-dog team the last year that we had a race in Flagstaff. It was a family affair then, as she was racing with her mother, father, and brother in that team. In later races at Grandby, Snowmass, Redstone, Norwood, and of course, the White Mountains, Snowflake earned her ever-present place at the head of the team. She, more than most of the dogs I've owned seemed to always know what I was thinking and always be there to please. She took great joy in racing and ran even faster when there was another team to catch and pass. It was a game to her, but she also seemed to be proud when she accomplished something great.

In training, she liked to run free just outside the driver side window of my truck and show me just how fast she could run. She is housebroken and has, in fact, spent this winter sleeping in my daughter's room each night. So much for the tough life of a sleddog!

However, she has more than earned an enduring spot in my heart which will be there the rest of my life. Now as I contemplate her twilight years, I can only pray that I will be as much of a companion to her for the rest of her days as she has been to me for these twelve glorious years. Here's to you, Snowflake!

--- Ron

Snowflake pulling the children



**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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Secretary	Gery Allan
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*ANNA says hello*  
*(A Hurricane Siberian Puppy)*



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