

Spring Sledding

Born to Pull

SPRING 2017

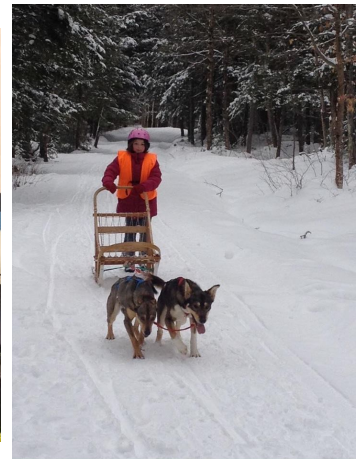
Tara takes on...

Our young friend Tara never ceases to amaze us! While many of us have culminated years if not decades of experience that we try to share with the public, Tara has decided to jump right in with both feet. With a 5th grade presentation that left her peers cheering at a level that we usually hear at the Can-Am and Iditarod... good thing... because I think we might see her at those races sooner than later!

The importance of educating our peers about dog-powered sports is not lost on us. The fact of the matter is, we are a rare breed... who put our dogs on pedestals as the Olympic level athletes they are.

The other, rather sad fact is that mushers are finding ourselves fewer and farther between. Dog-powered sports are tons of fun but require a level of dedication beyond what school aged children are used to committing to. This isn't baseball or soccer practice a few nights a week, it's a life long love of the dogs and the sport. Tara is an amazing young lady who is not only showing her continued dedication to Mingo.

We would also like to wish Tara a very happy belated 11th Birthday! Lucky musher that she is, she welcomed the best birthday present ever with a new sled dog!



Thank You!

To all of our volunteers that have reached out to positively promote dog-powered sports in their communities, we thank you. This year, our club went above and beyond at the Maine Sportsman's Trade Show, we had a great turnout dog, and human alike! Our youngest member is sharing her knowledge with her peers in school, we could ask for nothing better than to inspire the next generation. Colby Brigg's and the Heywood Kennel Sled Dog Adventure's Crew gave rides at the Ring Farm Make a Wish Fundraiser Event in Canaan. This is just a small list of the wonderful community outreach our club and community participates in. Thank you for your dedication to the sport, the club and community. Keep up the great work!

A Musher's Dream Vacation

Rico & Paula Portalatin

For our 20th anniversary we went to Alaska. Initially we considered visiting other locations but Alaska was eventually unanimous between the two of us.

Of course one of our goals was to visit as many kennels as possible and we did well. We traveled from Anchorage to Wasilla to Willow then up to Cantwell, Denali and Two Rivers.

While on route to the Denali National Park, Paula and I stopped in Cantwell where we visited Mike and Caitlin Santos of The Wolfsden Kennel. We go way back with them so it was nice to visit and see there 3 yr old son for the first time (Max). The kennel was looking great and appeared to be ready for another Iditarod finish.

Our trip to Fairbanks included a bit of a shopping spree at Cold Spot Feeds (yes, the actual store) and a visit with Jacob Witkop (owner/editor Mushing Magazine) who bought one of our pups several years ago. Both he and the pup were doing well and enjoying life in Fairbanks.

Without a doubt the crown jewel of our trip to Alaska was a visit to Husky Homestead, the kennel of 4 time Iditarod champ Jeff King in Denali where a yearling was waiting to be taken home. Jeff was getting ready to leave for the Kobuk 440 race but I was fortunate enough to catch him before he left and introduced him to Paula. After several minutes of dog talk we were able to watch Jeff prep and depart for his last training run before leaving for the race.....it was a nice treat to see the dogs in action. I can't say enough positive things about the experiences we've had with his dogs...they are great.

Other highlights included a brief visit with Aliy Zirkle and Alan Moore of Two Rivers. Both were some of the nicest people we've ever met and Aliy's knowledge of dog care is completely off the charts. Both were very gracious in allowing us to stop by last minute and we appreciated it. While in Willow we stopped at the kennel of Dallas Seavey (another 4x Iditarod champ) and while Dallas was off racing the Kobuk 440 his handlers gave us a nice tour of the kennel. They only recently had several litters so there was a plentiful supply of pups to greet. The last thing we saw was a giant treadmill Dallas uses in the off season to maintain some fitness for the dogs. It is about 50 feet long and was really cool to see.

From the office of the President

Greetings Highlanders,

I think it's fair to say that Mother Nature was once again good to us this past season. Lots of snow allowed us to have three successful race events in Brownville, Milo and Bradford. Another planned event in Bradford had to be cancelled due to the timing of snow falls. It's not enough to have great snow; you also need to have time to prepare the trails, which is a challenge when you only have a few days to groom a foot or better of snow. A huge thank you goes out to Valerie who put on the first annual Bradford sprint race, and organized our club participation in the Sportsman's Show in Orono, both were very successful! Thanks also to all the volunteers who took part in club activities this past season, I know we say this a lot, but it cannot be overstated how critical member participation is to the ongoing success of our club. We had dozens of volunteers this winter which was nice to see. Many volunteers sign up because they participate in dog powered sports activities, and see it as their duty to help out when needed. Others came to be volunteers through different means. Take Val's husband Ed for example. Early on in Ed and Val's relationship, Val had about five dogs. They married, and a few years later, well let's just say, they have a few more dogs than five. However you arrived at TMHSDC, we're glad to have you. Thanks Ed!

Keep up to date with ongoing club activities, schedule of events, and pictures of dogs and their people on our website, and by following us on Facebook.

Regards, Jill Carter