

The Maine Highlands Sled Dog Club

Let the Training Begin!

BORN TO PULL

Fall, 2015

The Howl

- Basics & Beyond is around the corner, have you signed up yet?
- Fall Meeting will be in Augusta November 8th!
- Mark your calendars, the 2015-2016 Race Schedule is in full swing!
- LIKE us on Facebook and stay up to date with all the club news on our website: mainesleddogclub.com

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A message from the kennel of the President...

Greetings Highlanders,

Time to dust off the sleds and count up the harnesses, it's almost sled season! Our club schedule for the upcoming season is posted on the website, please take a look and mark your calendars. New this year will be a two day event for Brownville-KI and Beyond on January 30th, this is in response to feedback from club members, and we listened! The second day will be a 20 mile fun run, the club will provide timing, but no awards will be offered. This will be a good opportunity for mushers and skijorers to try a few miles, or all twenty. We are also working on organizing a skijor clinic with Down East Sled Dog Club to be held in January or February. This will be geared towards the beginner skijorer, and I will post updated information on our website and Facebook as it develops. We had a great turnout at our annual auction and potluck this July, and raised a record \$1000! A

HUGE thank you to everyone who donated auction items and participated in the fund raising. Thank you to Margie and Terry for once again hosting this fun event, and of course, our auctioneer George for finding new homes for everything.

This summer was a tough one for mushers in Willow, AK, several of whom have ties to New England. Thousands of acres burned due to wildfires, and about 12 mushing families lost their homes, personal possessions, and dog houses. The Willow Dog Mushing Association has been coordinating relief efforts, and our club made a \$200 donation towards this effort. If anyone wishes to make a donation to the Willow mushers, you can contribute via the WDMA. Please note they are also helping non-mushing families affected by the fire,



about 26 families in all, so please designate for your donation to go to a musher if that's your preference.

Lastly, thanks to all our members for your participation in club activities, we would not be a club without you. Our theme this year is have fun and volunteer! Hope to see you all at our fall meeting and rig race on November 8th at Viles Arboretum.

-Jill Carter, President



2015-2016 Season Schedule

Basics & Beyond

Oct. 10-12, 2015 in Brownville— There are still spaces available, visit our website for registration information!

Fall Meeting, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015 in Augusta

Sprint Race, Milo Race, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016

Mid Distance, Brownville-KI and Beyond Sled Dog Race and the Dog Days of Winter, Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016

Sprint Garland, first choice Saturday Feb. 13, 2016, second choice Feb. 20, 2016 (TBD)

Spring Meeting, Sunday, Apr. 17, 2016 in Newport

We can be sled dogs too!

Several years ago now I was lucky enough to be introduced to some fantastic friends, who just happened to have a dog sled kennel. Now, four years later, I find myself and my two hooligans signed up for Basics & Beyond! This has been an exciting adventure to embark on, dogsledding being something I once would have only seen in the movies.



My dogs are excited too, well at least one of them is. Bingley is my French Brittany, 9 years old and still full of spunk. He tried on his first harness the other day and leaned right into it! Brisbane is my 10 year old Collie/Aussie Shepherd mix... she on the other hand, is a princess who is wondering what exactly I mean when I say "pull," if it were up to her, my guess is that she would be expecting to ride in

the sled!

I am clearly a newcomer to the sport, and have greatly appreciated the motivation and support from my friends in the Club. From words of inspiration, borrowed harnesses and even some borrowed dogs! I consider myself very lucky to have this opportunity and hope the Club can help bring dog-sports more to the mainstream and accessible to people

who otherwise would never know what it feels like to be pulled by the paws.

I look forward to getting to know all of

the many club members who will be at Basics and ask for all the advice you have to give. Brisbane and Bingley may not be your traditional sled dog breeds, but put them in harnesses and they can be sled dogs too!



-Julie Bjelko,
New Member



Spooky Rides at Heywood Kennel

The first time that Kevin dressed up as a life sized Dr. Seuss “Cat in the Hat” the dog yard broke into an unfamiliar alarm bark. This kind of fear barking is not usually heard in our kennel. Strangers visiting is common place around here and when people arrive they are usually greeted with a more excited bark—the kind of bark that precedes the joy of going to work. Not one of the dogs knew what to think of this extra-large cat wearing a tall striped hat this particular cool evening just before Halloween.



The idea of “Spooky Rides” came about as we were thinking of ways to generate some cash flow a little earlier in the season before snow. A somewhat “scary” walk through a dimly lit barn to a path leading to a dog team was the answer. Fake cob webs, ghoulish sounds, huge spiders, and a dog box filled with fake glowing eyes seemed to please the young and old. We insisted that this event remain family friendly. If our two year old granddaughter could enjoy it anyone could. “Spooky Rides” was born.

The dog team pulled brave riders down a dark path through grave yards and spooky figures.. Screams of delight were heard through the field followed by giggles. As the line grew longer and longer and smiles bigger and bigger we decided the first annual “Spooky Rides” by dog team was a hit. And as far as the dogs were concerned, the next two nights that “Cat in the Hat” came to the kennel bearing harnesses, they burst into their normal excited pre-run ruckus that all mushers recognize as they knew the fun was about to begin.

Here’s to another successful season

On behalf of the Down East Sled Dog Club (DESDC), I’d like to take this opportunity to wish all of our friends and members of The Maine Highland Sled Dog Club (TMHSDC) a great upcoming season. I appreciate the effort that both of these clubs make to develop schedules for events that do not conflict. It is always a pleasure to see friends participating in events

hosted by either club. Our seasons are only so long (and never long enough it seems) and we like to take advantage of as many events as we can no matter which club is the host. You will find that our clubs are very similar in our goals and objectives that center around what is fun and best for our canine athletes. Great comradery, sportsmanship and being good ambassa-

dors of our sport take center stage. I commend the TMHSDC for their accomplishments towards these goals and know first-hand the effects of the effort.

Here’s to another successful season. Happy Trails!!

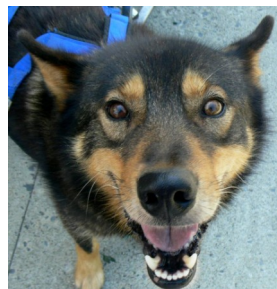
-Kevin Quist, DESDC President

Raising awareness



Our own Savanna Rodrigue recently took part in a meet and greet along with our friends from Heywood Kennel at Tractor Supply in Waterville. The idea was to raise awareness for

dog-powered sports. Savanna and her trusty lead dog Burgess were on hand to help demonstrate the dedication and love that goes into dog sports. It certainly didn’t hurt to have some of the Heywood



puppies on hand... but Burgess held his own for attention getting.

We all know how important it is to maintain a positive image for dog-powered sports, kudos to the Heywood Team, Savanna, Nana... and of course the fur kids for representing us so well!

SPOOKY RIDES

HEYWOOD KENNEL SLED DOG ADVENTURES

25 Church Hill Road, Augusta

www.heywoodkennels.com



OCTOBER 30 & 31

Stay tuned to our
Facebook page for
more details or call

(207) 629-9260

The Maine Highlands Sled Dog Club (TMHSDC) was formed in 2002 for all mushers, especially recreational mushers. We are a family-oriented club. Our “races” are fun get-togethers. We encourage all levels of mushers to join us. TMHSDC’s main focus is to provide a place to learn and to run with other teams. Kids are always welcome. We hold yearly educational events for dog care, kennel management, and hands-on training for dogs and mushers.


The Maine Highland Sled Dog Club

“Born to Pull”

Like us on facebook!

www.mainesleddogclub.com

We’re routing for you!

“Learning how to use commands to get the furry kiddos to go where we want them, and not in the woods.” *-Lewis & Rema Mitchell, Ellsworth, ME*

“Hoping to get some longer distance races on some of my up and coming younger dogs this year, such as Greenville 100 Mile, Eagle lake 100 miler and maybe Can Am 100 miler or 250.” *-Kasey McCarty, Lexington, ME*

“Our goal will be to attend the Can-Am/Fort Kent Skijor event in March, and there is talk of acquiring a new dog next Spring.” *-Neil Fisher, Old Town, ME*

“To develop good leaders from our yearlings this year.” *-Kevin Quist, Augusta, ME*

“My goal is to get through this already fully booked tour season with all of our veteran dogs gone for the winter with Colby. That will mean training training training brand new yearlings to take over the job!” *-Lindy Howe, Augusta, ME*

“To get all the dogs into a race this year. We have the numbers for 3 teams or more depending on the class of dogs allowed. We’re hoping to get into as many Maine races as possible.” *-Jessica Marie, Portage Lake, ME*



Wishing Olive a speedy recovery!