

MUSH WITH PRIDE News

Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment * Number 25, Spring 2003



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By David Monson

I am happy to be able to write to you via the Newsletter again. We have new people full of energy to make certain that the projects we have tried to finish these last years will be completed. They will also make sure that the organization lives up to it's responsibilities to our members.

I am most pleased to announce that Cathy Dimon is the new Business Manager and backbone of our organization.

Pride sponsored Mush For Kids is thriving. For it's 6th consecutive year we have hosted over 5,000 people and introduced them to dog mushing all the while raising money and awareness of child abuse and neglect in conjunction with Alaska Children's Trust.

The First Aid Manual, a pet project of mine, will finally become a reality. It is in the final edit process and then off to the printer to be ready for this year's Symposium in the fall.

I am confident that the new Board Member's vitality and Cathy's office skills will assure a bright future for the organization. I feel comfortable handing off the Presidency to a new administration. I have decided to resign now after 7 years as President and 12 years on the board to allow someone new to lead this organization to even better things. It has been an honor to serve all of you. I encourage you to continue to support Mush With Pride and give your time to the Board or one of their projects if you can.

Thank you for your support over the years.
David Monson

TO CONTACT PRIDE:

Website: www.mushwithpride.org

E-mail: info@mushwithpride.org

Mail: PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Phone: (907) 490-MUSH or toll free 800-50-PRIDE

Liability Insurance

By Scott Chesney

"You have dogs. We can't write a policy for you."

"We won't be renewing your policy because you have dogs."

If you haven't heard these words yourself, it's almost a certainty that you have a friend or acquaintance that has. What that means is that many of us have had to choose

between keeping our sled dogs and getting liability or homeowners insurance.

The PRIDE Board has started looking into the possibility of finding and working with an underwriter to build on the PRIDE kennel certification program so that kennel owners can obtain reasonably priced insurance coverage. As it's envisioned now, the kennel would have to get and maintain a "plus" certification on

at least a yearly basis to qualify. The requirement may change once we find an underwriter who is willing to work with us. At this point, we haven't got any contacts in the insurance industry. The Board welcomes anyone who can help us out with this project. Feel free to contact any of us individually, send email info@mushwithpride.org, or postal mail to P.O. Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708-4915.

Mush with PRIDE Board of Directors

President:
Ken Severin

Vice-President:
Lynn Orbison

Secretary:
Scott Chesney

Treasurer:
Bridget Schwafel

Business Manager:
Cathy Dimon

Helter Skelter Shelter Race

By Lynn Orbison

The Alaska Dog Musher's Association (ADMA) hosted a weekend of races in February at Chena Lakes as a benefit for The Shelter Fund, a nonprofit organization that supports the work of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Animal Shelter.

Everyone that participated, as musher, volunteer or spectator, had a glorious weekend of fun. The race marshal (myself) posted the second fastest time in the 10-dog class. (Hey, you wanna report the results, you make up the lead!) But actually, I do believe that is unprecedented...in a real race I would have probably had to DQ myself! But then, a lot of what when on that weekend was rather unique. Thanks to all for playing.

There were nine entries in the 4-dog class, 13 entries in the 6-dog class and five entries in the 10-dog class. (Two of them double sledding.)

The Europeans discovered why one should never train from the Public Parking Lot at Chena Lakes, but rather train from the holding area as every one of Christian's teams, and Wolfs, and a few others, ran straight across the start chute in an attempt to climb into the truck where the PA system was set up...some time lost by all of them but our spectators and volunteers learned to become more of a human wall to guide the teams to stay on the trail.

Mush with PRIDE Order Form

Membership \$ _____
\$15, individual; \$20, family or club; \$5, youth under 18; \$10, associate; \$100, business; quarterly newsletter & a copy of Sled Dog Care Guidelines included with membership.

Sled Dog Care Guidelines \$ _____
Basic sled dog care and training advice from dozens of the most respected mushers. Includes information on dog yards, feeding and watering, training, husbandry, puppies and more. 36-page book, \$5 each or \$3.50 each for 10 or more.

Equipment Safety Guidelines \$ _____
Based on a survey of experienced mushers, covers the basics of safe equipment choices and use. Includes chapters on dog gear, lines, sleds & rigs, skijoring, dog yards, traveling, etc. 36-page book, \$5 each or \$3.50 each for 10 or more.

Rookie Distance Mushing Video \$ _____
Professionally edited video based on a PRIDE rookie distance mushing workshop in Alaska. Experienced distance racers and veterinarians discuss kennel safety, husbandry, nutrition, goal setting, qualifying races, paperwork and race rules, and checkpoint procedures. 6 1/2 hours. \$30 NTSC (U.S.) format, \$40 PAL.

Mush with PRIDE Patch \$ _____
Navy on sky blue background, gold highlights, \$5 each

Jon Van Zyle 1995 "Mush" Poster \$ _____
PRIDE edition signed by Iditarod winners Swenson, Butcher, Buser, King, Swingley. 13"x24" full color. \$85

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Prices include postage in the U.S. If ordering from outside the U.S., please include an additional 15% for postage (except on memberships). Please include payment with your order, and allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Mail orders to: Mush with PRIDE, PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708 USA.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Country: _____ Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Questions? Call 1-800-50-PRIDE or e-mail info@mushwithpride.org
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

P.R.I.D.E. Education Program

By Bridget Schwafel

The P.R.I.D.E. Education Program (PEP) at the Fairbanks Junior Dog Musers Association meetings during the 2002/2003 season proved to be popular and helpful to junior musers. Mush with P.R.I.D.E. will sponsor a long-term project to get this program into a format that will be informational to young musers, and can be instituted as the basis for education programs in other junior mushing clubs. The goal of the booklet is to provide information on basic topics that are essential to all musers in caring for their dogs and themselves. The P.R.I.D.E. Education Program booklet at present includes the following topics:

- Be prepared. What to do before a race.
- Training tips. Teaching gee and haw. Puppies. Timing your dogs.
- Feed your dog right. How to adjust diet to the needs of your dog. Why good food is important. What kind of food when. Food for heat. Dog nutrition.
- Know when to call the veterinarian.
- When it's too cold to play. Frostbite and hypothermia. Keep your dogs warm.
- Use the proper gear. Learn how to hook up your team properly. Recommended gear for training and racing. Required gear for racing.
- Make a dog first aid kit. Learn how to care for your injured dog.
- Rules explained and discussed.
- Dog check up. How to tell where it hurts.

Topics may change as we begin work.

We are currently looking for help writing each chapter for these topics. Also if you think there are other topics that should be included, please email us at info@mushwithpride.org or write us at Mush with PRIDE, PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708. We are also planning to eventually be able to access the program topics at our website. The expected completion date for this project is by the end of next summer.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: www.mushwithpride.org

MUSH WITH PRIDE NEWS is published quarterly by Mush with PRIDE, PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708-4915 USA; telephone 1-800-50-PRIDE, 1-907-490-MUSH; e-mail info@mushwithpride.org; internet www.mushwithpride.org. Contents copyrighted 2003 by Mush with PRIDE. Submissions are gratefully accepted and considered for publication. Classified ads can be placed for 50 cents per word. Display ads are run for \$20 for a business card, \$48 for a 1/4 page, \$95 for a 1/2 page and \$190 for a full page (all US funds). Call or write for more information.

Membership in Mush with PRIDE is open to all. Rates are \$15/individual, \$20/family or club, \$10/non-voting associate member, \$5/youth under 18, \$100/business (includes four business card ads in the newsletter. Members receive the newsletter, 36-page *Sled Dog Care Guidelines*, and a ballot for elections. Memberships begin on Oct 1 each year. Those received on or after June 1 are good through the following membership year. **Your continued support is much appreciated.**

PRIDE stand for "Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment." Mush with PRIDE provides information to musers, the public, and the media about the proper care and training of sled dogs. We believe that modern sled dog owners are proud of their dogs as canine athletes that are bred and trained to do what they love – run as part of a team. Mush with PRIDE aims to keep them doing what they love and doing it well. The organization includes a wide variety of musers – recreationalists and professionals, long-distance and sprint racers, weight pullers, skijorers, freight haulers – as well as sled dog veterinarians and other concerned citizens.

Officers and Directors: Ken Severin, President; Lynn Orbison, Vice President; Scott Chesney, Secretary; Bridget Schwafel, Treasurer; Cathy Dimon, Business Manager.

Letter from the (new) President

By: Ken Severin

Dear Fellow PRIDE Members,

First and most important, thank you very, very much to David for the job he has done over the past seven years as PRIDE's president.

Second (and David might say more important), PRIDE is coming back to life.

During his term as president, PRIDE has become involved with Mush for Kids, all but published the First Aid Guidelines, revised the Care Guidelines, published the Equipment Guidelines, and started the Voluntary Kennel Certification Program. He is the first to say that he did not do all this by himself, but none of these things would have happened without him. Thank you for everything Dave.

Notice that I said "he did not do all this by himself." These things happened through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. I'm not even going to try and list them because the list is too long. The point is, they were there, eager, and working to further PRIDE's goals. But, as with every volunteer organization, people get tired, interests change, people move on. There is no doubt that this happened with PRIDE's crew. Things are still getting done, but there have been slips along the way. I can understand the comments that have been in some e-formats: "What is PRIDE? Sounds like a good idea? Is this yet another group that has some great ideas but does nothing?" To those of you who got caught in various kinds phone and mail limbo, please accept my sincerest apologies.

I think you can see from the rest of the newsletter that PRIDE is still moving forward. The First Aid Guidelines will be

available for the next (northern!) mushing season. And guess what? You, as an active member, can help PRIDE move faster.

To fill you in on boring, and all too necessary administrative things: The PRIDE board is down to skeleton levels. We have spent a great deal of time going through the bylaws to make sure that what we are doing is within the charter of the organization, and have decided to ask the board members whose terms have expired recently to come back on the Board until October 2003. We need several more active board members to officially conduct business. Being on the board in name alone is not enough. If we do not get enough people to do the job, we will appoint willing members. If you are interested, please contact PRIDE. We plan on submitting some changes to the bylaws to the membership. There are things in the existing bylaws that no longer make sense. I want to emphasize that **nothing** will be done under the table or outside the existing bylaws, and that PRIDE's dedication to enhancing the care and treatment of sleddogs has not changed.

I'm asking you as a PRIDE member and supporter to come forward and help PRIDE do even more to improve sled dog care than it has, and I thank all of you who have supported PRIDE in so many ways over the years. If there is anything at all you would like to discuss with me about this revitalization, please contact me directly either through email at fnkps@uaf.edu or at 907-455-6552.

Looking forward to getting PRIDE back on track, and thanks for ALL the help over the years.

Ken

Needed: Nominations for Board

Mush with PRIDE's nominating committee is gathering nominations for seats on the Board of Directors

The deadline for nominations is July 17th, 2003. According to our bylaws, nominations from members must be mailed to the secretary at least six weeks before the ballots are mailed.

Please obtain the nominee's consent. Also include the person's phone number so that we may reconfirm his or her willingness to serve on PRIDE's board. If you have any questions concerning the nomination process, please leave a message at (907) 490-MUSH (in Fairbanks) or toll free at 800-50-PRIDE. You may nominate as many people as you like.

Please mail nominations to Mush with PRIDE Nominations Committee, PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708, or e-mail the information to info@mushwithpride.org. Please include your phone number in case we need to clarify any information.

Thank you for your time and thought!

Nominations for Mush with PRIDE Board of Directors

Nominee Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominee Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominee Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominee Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Must be received by July 17, 2003

Please send to:

Mush with PRIDE, PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Mush with PRIDE will include any upcoming educational events in the newsletter.
To submit your event, send the event name, location, dates, times, and contact information to PRIDE by e-mail at
info@mushwithpride.org or by mail at PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708.*

October 3, 4 & 5, 2003

2003 International Sleddog Symposium

**Hosted by: Alaska Dog Musher's Association (ADMA)
Pioneer Park, Fairbanks, Alaska.**

For more information:

Trade Fair: Val Mackler -- (907) 488-1452

Pre-Registration: Bonnie Borba -- (907) 457-1016 or borba@mosquitonet.com

General Questions: Carol Kaynor -- (907) 455-9663 or kaynor@mosquitonet.com

April 3, 2004 --10 am to 3 pm

Seventh Annual Mush for Kids Day,

A fundraiser for the Alaska Children's Trust.

Pikes Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, Alaska.

For more information: contact PRIDE



**MUSH WITH PRIDE
PO Box 84915
Fairbanks, AK 99708-4915 USA**

*Visit us online at www.mushwithpride.org or
Send e-mail to info@mushwithpride.org*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!