



## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

In the last PRIDE newsletter I detailed the re-organizational plan for PRIDE. This began as a solicitation for new board members and an election. There was an over whelming response from individuals all over Canada, the Lower United States and Alaska for the open seats on the board. I had the task of over seeing the election and it was unfortunate that not all nominees were able to be on the board. Not surprising was that almost all who voted took an interest in seeing a diverse board with a variety of backgrounds and locations. Those that did not fill a seat have graciously accepted the invitation to work with the existing committee structure of PRIDE.

Since the election we have had two board meetings and we are now working together as a team. The first meeting, was somewhat akin to 10 dogs looking over a nice bone. All wanted to jump in but none wanted to take the risk of what might happen. Fortunately we have all been well socialized and quickly came to agreement on who, what, where and when. The time between the first and second meeting was best described as one's first dog run of the season. We were all ready to go; we were hooked up and off we went, we pulled hard, not always in unison some went faster some trotted, some ran and some loped but all knew the basic goal. The second board meeting was excellent. Leaders led, Swings corrected miss actions by the leader and stepped up, the Team pulled hard; Wheels dug in and did what they were expected to do: keep everybody from a catastrophe. We're now off, running at good pace, and ready for a long haul. All board members are a valuable asset to PRIDE; all have a clear defined purpose, individual goals and actions we will work on. Some are long term and some are short but the end result will be an organization that is responsive and adaptive to the needs of sled dog owners. We may have fallen short in meeting our charge in past years but my role as president is to make sure this does not happen again, and the rest of TEAM PRIDE will make sure I live up to that role by being active board members.

Our goal for the next year is to make PRIDE a nationally recognized dog care organization that supports its members and the mushing community. This is being accomplished initially by having board members as "warm body" spokesmen and women for PRIDE. Members should be proud to see PRIDE making appearances at various sled dog events in Canada and the US. This we hope will allow for greater access to PRIDE by its current members and encourage new members. In the future, we will review our care guidelines and you will see PRIDE becoming more accessible online. Most of our materials will become available online, which will allow for more timely updates and the development of new resource materials. We are a membership organization that gets most of our direction from individual members, from far and wide. If you need support from PRIDE in a dog care advocacy or in spreading the word on sled dog care, contact us. If you have ideas for mushing/dog care needs, let us know. We are here for you!

Mitch Michaud, President

## MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### KAREN RAMSTEAD, Vice President



My name is Karen Ramstead and I'm a 42 year old kennel owner from Perryvale, Alberta, Canada. I began mushing 17 years ago. My husband Mark and I maintain a kennel of about 60 purebred Siberian Huskies. I'm a veteran of the Iditarod (7x), Race to the Sky, John Beargrease Marathon, Knik 200, Copper Basin, Klondike 300, Grande Portage Passage, Taiga 300 and many more races.

I was drawn to mushing because it is a sport where the animal participants get as much enjoyment and pleasure as the human participants. I am pleased to be involved with Mush with PRIDE to ensure that remains the case for our canine athletes.

### BRIDGET SCHWAFEL, Treasurer



I got involved with PRIDE a number of years ago, and it was my daughter, Hilary, who dragged me (rather unwillingly at first) into the world of sled dog sports. As her handler for ten years, I've learned a tremendous amount about working with, training, and caring for sled dogs. Together we traveled all over Alaska and to Sweden for races. At one time we had 11 sled dogs in our kennel, and now that Hilary is off to college, we are down to 2. From what we learned together (the dogs, Hilary, and I), we put together the Sled Dog Care Coloring Book which many of you have seen. I've also just completed a sled dog care guide for junior mushers (currently sitting on a publisher's desk), based on the 10 Mush with PRIDE Basic Standards.

I feel very strongly that Mush with PRIDE is a credible and recognized voice for mushers, with a primary focus on advocating good sled dog care practices.

### JANE FUERSTENAU, Secretary, Business Manager



I was raised in Michigan, moved to Maine after serving in the US Navy, and have lived in Alaska for the last 9 years. I currently work as a librarian for the University of Alaska, and live with my husband, Mitch Michaud, and two kids in Soldotna. We have a free run kennel of Alaskan Huskies. I'm not a competitive musher, and tend to spend most of my time helping out at sled dog sports events and volunteering with many mushing organizations.

As chair of the PRIDE Membership Committee, along with Ben Woodward, we are working on fine-tuning our membership Policies and finding new ways to attract business and club memberships.

## BOB ANDERSON

Hi, I am Bob Anderson from Clio, Michigan. I have owned working breed dogs since 1987. My focus is on recreational sprint racing with some mid-distance races. My kennel consists of Alaskan Malamutes and Alaskan Huskies. Mush with PRIDE to me is a group taking on the role of creating and promoting a consistent and documented protocol detailing the relationship and expectations between musher and dogs.



## JOLENE GIESE

Hi, I'm Jolene Giese from Laramie WY. I've been involved with mushing for 11 years. Started as a handler and worked up to the racing aspect. I've now gone back to the handling aspect and let my daughter do the racing. I've been a PRIDE member for 2 years. PRIDE to me is education - educating the public on misconceptions about our sport, and educating mushers on improving their dog's quality of life.



As head of the Education Committee along with Bob Anderson, our goal for the coming year is to distribute what educational materials already created (dog care guidelines, equipment, first aid booklets) to more people for better understanding and so they can apply that information.

## NILS HAHN

I am a competitive musher and Iditarod veteran from Nome, Alaska. I am committed to the care of my dogs and constantly strive to learn the latest in dog care. Keeping with PRIDE qualities, I try to share my experiences with new mushers and tourists in Nome and I contribute dog care articles to the Nome Nugget newspaper.



As the Chair of the Guidelines Committee, along with Karen Ramstead and Thomas Swan, we hope to update the existing dog care guidelines as needed and possibly develop race care guidelines also.

## SHAWN LINENDOLL

I am Shawn Linendoll, a professional dog sled builder and kennel owner from New York. I have been in the sport over 15 years. I run mostly mid-distance races and also enjoy just training the dogs in general. I envision PRIDE to be one of the main voices for anyone involved in dog powered sports. I would love to see it become the largest group of mushers to be assembled. When we all unite we become stronger. Just because someone owns a single dog and someone else owns 60 dogs, we can still all work together for the enrichment of our sport. To me it is a lifestyle and something I hold very deep and dear to my heart.





## TC WAIT

I am a recreational and mid-distance musher from Morrison, CO with a team composed mainly of "recycled" dogs from shelters and cast-offs from other mushers. I joined PRIDE to learn more about dog care and to be a part of a global mushing community for advice and ideas. Being part of PRIDE and going through the voluntary kennel inspection is an added reassurance in the event that something arises like county inspectors, concerned neighbors, school groups, or other folks who might not be familiar with sled dogs and mushing.

I chair the PR Committee, which includes Shawn Linendoll, Donna Quante, and Jane Fuerstenau, and is tasked with coming up with ways of communicating with the public, media, and within the PRIDE membership so that concerns can be addressed promptly and effectively.



## BEN WOODWARD

I live in Norway, ME and have been in the outdoor industry for over 30 years as a ranger, guide, ski patroller, and manager of outdoor businesses. I became involved with sled dogs over 20 years ago. Along with my partner, Betsy McGettigan, we own Two Moon Kennels, a small kennel of large hound mixes. I have been a board member, officer, and race official of the Down East Sled Dog Club in Maine. My focus has been on safety, education, and dog health and well being.

Please take some time to fill out and return the PRIDE Membership Questionnaire on page 6!

### Mush with PRIDE Order Form

These and additional items are also available through the Mush with PRIDE website ([www.mushwithpride.org](http://www.mushwithpride.org)) through PayPal.

**Membership** \_\_\_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*\$15 individual, \$20 family, \$5 youth under 18, \$10 associate, \$100 business. Quarterly newsletter included for all memberships, a copy of Sled Dog Care Guidelines and Equipment Guidelines included with new memberships. PRIDE membership year starts October 1<sup>st</sup> (those received on or after June 1<sup>st</sup> are good through the following membership year). Don't forget membership for your local mushing club!*

**Sled Dog Care Guidelines** \_\_\_\_\_ **Quantity** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*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** \_\_\_\_\_ **Quantity** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*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.*

**First Aid Manual** \_\_\_\_\_ **Quantity** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*A guide for on-the-trail emergency care organized and compiled by Dr. Mark May with contribution from 6 veterinarians and 9 mushers copyrighted in 2003 by Mush with PRIDE. 51-page book \$5 each or \$3.50 each for 10 or more.*

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

**Mush with PRIDE Bumper Sticker** \_\_\_\_\_ **Quantity** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*\$2 each*

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Prices include postage in the U.S. If ordering 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Questions??

Call  
 1-800-507-7433

E-Mail:  
[info@mushwithpride.org](mailto:info@mushwithpride.org)

### Mush with PRIDE Membership Survey

PRIDE would like to get some input from its membership to help guide the Board for the next year. Please take some time to respond to this short questionnaire and return it to Mush with PRIDE. You can also email us your ideas at [info@mushwithpride.org](mailto:info@mushwithpride.org).

How long have you been a member of PRIDE?      0-3 yrs   4-8 yrs   >8 yrs   founding member (16 yrs)

Describe your mushing background (circle all that apply):

mushing supporter/fan      new musher      veteran musher      born to a mushing family  
 recreational musher stage/mid-distance races      distance races      long excursions/exploration  
 sprint races      skijor/pulke races      urban musher (dryland, weight pull)      equipment/food vendor  
 veterinarian      media/publisher/website

Approximately how many dogs are in your kennel?      <10      10-20      20-50      50-100      >100

Have you participated in the PRIDE Voluntary Kennel Inspection Program?      Yes / No

What geographic area do you reside?    Alaska      Eastern US      Western US      Midwest US      Western Canada  
 Eastern Canada    Europe      Scandinavia      Russia      S. America      New Zealand/Australia      Asia  
 Africa      Other \_\_\_\_\_

How often have you used any of the following PRIDE resources:

|                      | Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Often |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------------|-------|
| Website              |       |        |              |       |
| Email forum          |       |        |              |       |
| Newsletter           |       |        |              |       |
| Dog Care Guidelines  |       |        |              |       |
| Equipment Guidelines |       |        |              |       |
| First Aid Manuel     |       |        |              |       |
| Symposium Video      |       |        |              |       |

Please rate the following issues based on what you think PRIDE's role should be:

|   | Not important | Somewhat important | Very important |
|---|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Legal rights for dog owners/mushers & legislation         |               |                    |                |
| Responsible breeding & placement of retired/unwanted dogs |               |                    |                |
| Educational outreach about mushing                        |               |                    |                |
| Updating Dog Care Guidelines                              |               |                    |                |
| Creating Race Care Guidelines                             |               |                    |                |
| Supporting new mushers to run respectable kennels         |               |                    |                |
| Promoting responsible animal-human relationships          |               |                    |                |
| Developing new publications/videos                        |               |                    |                |
| Other:  |               |                    |                |
| Other:  |               |                    |                |

Return this questionnaire to: **Mush with PRIDE, PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708-4915, USA.**

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. As a Mush with PRIDE member, your ideas and thoughts are greatly appreciated and will help keep PRIDE moving in the direction you want. If you have other items for discussion, please let us know: [info@mushwithpride.org](mailto:info@mushwithpride.org)

Do you have a local issue Mush with PRIDE can help with?  
 Know about proposed legislation that may affect other kennels?  
 Got an idea to help get PRIDE's message out there?  
 Know a better way for mushers to share information and ask questions?

Please let us know at [info@mushwithpride.org](mailto:info@mushwithpride.org) - we are here to serve you!

Is your local mushing club a member of Mush with PRIDE?

Being a club member is a great way to support PRIDE's mission and a valuable information resource for your new mushers (and your veteran mushers!).

#### Geographic Distribution of PRIDE memberships

(based on membership data as of 6/07):

|               |     |            |      |
|---------------|-----|------------|------|
| Lower 48 USA: | 48% | Australia: | 0.5% |
| Alaska:       | 45% | Jamaica:   | 0.5% |
| Canada:       | 9%  |            |      |
| Scandinavia:  | 1%  |            |      |

#### Look for Mush with PRIDE at these Upcoming Events!

Northern New England Sled Dog Trade Fair & Seminar –  
 Contoocook, NH September 29-30

Alaska Dog Mushers Association 2007 Sled Dog Symposium –  
 Fairbanks, AK October 19-21

Special Thanks  
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**Thank you for supporting PRIDE!**