

CHUGIAK DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION
Board and General Meetings – January 4, 2006
6 pm and 7 pm at the Clubhouse
Hotline: 689-7899 Website: www.chugiakdogmushers.com

BOARD MEETING

Board Members

Present:

Ron Kilian
Val Jokela
Jeanne Carlson
Jackie Fabrizzio
Mary Lou Raychel

Excused:

Ellie Claus
Colton Seale
Dixie Waddell

Absent:

Bryan Bearss
Don Keller
Ed Wood

The club's gaming permit expired at the end of 2005. Melinda Miles will investigate and submit the appropriate paperwork to renew the permit. As long as the paperwork has been submitted, the club can continue with gaming activities.

The board agreed that the Classic banquet will be held at Bella Vista. Doors will open at 6pm and dinner will be at 7pm. There was discussion about holding the drawing on Friday at Bella Vista as well.

The club will use Alaska Trophy in Eagle River for trophies and plaques from now on.

Jeanne will re-email the revised by-laws to board members for their review. Computer glitches caused several board members not to receive the first email. If board members have not received a copy by email, let Jeanne know.

Ron agreed to be the contact for the Christmas tree chip delivery. Jeanne will contact ALPAR with this information.

Election ballots for new board members need to go out by the end of February. A nominating committee will need to be established. Ron suggested a board meeting for the last Wednesday in January.

The question was raised about requesting more dog food from Costco to sell as a fundraiser. In general, it was thought to be a good idea as long as the profits continued to go to Latseen Benson.

GENERAL MEETING

The meeting came to order at 7:05pm.

Meeting minutes for December 23rd were read and approved. No treasurer's report.

Trail Committee

Bill groomed the 2-mile and the 12-mile yesterday. The only bad spot was the swampy area at the bottom of 10-mile hill and a bump near the 6-mile turnaround. Someone mentioned that the 4-mile is great. On the inlet trail, the tide is coming right up to the trail.

The 12-mile is useable for the Classic.

Bill and Stan also brushed the 14-mile where the Railroad cleared. It still needs some shovel work and snow.

Bill suggested that Stan Smith be recognized in some way by the club for all of his work (now and in the past) in keeping the trails cleared. The club agreed and will pursue this.

Businessperson's Race

Jackie has possibly eight "musher sponsors" signed up so far, including First National Bank, C/ER Chamber, two from Northern Chiropractic, Northern Air Cargo, Bella Vista, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army. Several of these teams are working directly with Rex Jones. Jackie still needs dog teams so let her know if you are able to provide a 3-dog team for the race.

The board voted on Bella Vista as the location of the banquet. Rex confirmed dates and times for the banquet to communicate to Bella Vista and will check on holding the draw there too. On Sunday, January 22nd, the doors will open at 6pm, the dinner will be at 7pm. The draw will be at 7pm on Friday, January 20th. An auction will be held on both nights.

ASDRA requested using the trails for a race on January 14/15. The club said this was fine and ASDRA will meet on this topic tomorrow night. If ASDRA does not wish to use the trails, CDMA may hold a race.

Carole Comeau put forth a motion that, if ASDRA does not want to hold a race on Jan 14/15 on our trails, CDMA will hold a one-day race on Sunday. Denise Saigh seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

Elections for new Board members will take place during the last meeting in March. The ballot must go out by the end of February. The board will meet on January 25th at 7pm to create a nominating committee. Anyone interested in running for the board should contact a current board member.

The Gaming permit has expired but Melinda Miles will send in the application so there will be no gaps in our allowed gaming activities.

The Classic is set to go according to the Race Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Next Meeting

The next general meeting will be Wednesday, January 18th at 7pm at the clubhouse.

Education Program

Val Jokela and Carole Comeau presented "Rehabilitation & Recovery." Carole provided an overview of musher rehabilitation including tips on how to maintain physical and emotional health during this down time. Tips included getting away for a short break, whether it's a trip to Hawaii or a 3-day weekend away from the dogs; getting a SAD light; and maintaining some type of conditioning program that works for you. This may be yoga, stretching, physical therapy, weight training, or others. Avoiding repetitive movement injuries is important too. We all may be guilty of carrying dogs or scooping poop and food with one arm, and kicking or braking with one leg. Switch out occasionally to avoid hip, shoulder, and wrist injuries.

Val presents tips on dog care. She discussed a variety of products used to relieve swelling including Algyval (beware of peanut allergies), Arnica, and Traumeel. The latter two are homeopathic remedies and are available in topical and oral formulas. They also are good for humans and dogs. Traumeel can be used as a natural alternative to Rimadyl and it does not have the toxic side effects on the liver. Check Natural Pantry for some of these products. Arnica can be found at Carrs and Fred Meyer.

Other good products to keep in stock are generic Rimadyl (by prescription), non-coated baby aspirin, amoxicillin for foot injuries, and triple antibiotic ointment.

Warmth is a good healer. If a dog is recuperating, it will heal faster if kept in a warm (50 degrees) area. This may be a warm garage, crates in the house, or a heated barn etc. A new product is available for trail use -- shoulder warmers that incorporate heat packs. On the trail, dogs also can sleep in coats to speed recuperation.

Other tips included always checking nail beds for bruising. This type of injury can be overlooked and may appear to be a shoulder injury based on how the dog walks. Exercise pens are good for long-term injuries where the dog needs confinement but more mobility than allowed by a crate.