



THE INFORMER

The Newsletter for the Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers

May 2021

SNDD 2021 Board

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Inside this Issue:

Presidents Message	Pg 1
Katya – Devious Bitch	Pg 2-3
Upcoming Event	Pg 3
Meeting Minutes	Pg 4-5
First Fun Run	Pg 6
Winter Fun Run	Pg 7
Winter Fun Run	Pg 7
Mushing Clinic	Pg 8
Shopping	Pg 9-10
Membership Form	Pg 11

Training Trails

By: Hugo Antonucci

Let's talk training trails. I am fortunate that I live where I can train right out of my kennel. I have access to multiple trails without having to transport the team to another location. At the start of fall training I usually begin my training on Butte Creek Road which is a dirt road. I start with a 3.7 miles, just under two miles from my kennel to Mocks Ranch do a turn around and back to my kennel finishing with 3.7 miles ...yes I live six miles up Butte Creek Road. After our first few runs of 3.7 mile I will add another mile to our run making 4.7 miles. After doing a few 4.7 mile runs we start to increase runs to 10 and more miles. To increase the mileage we head two miles further south on Butte Creek Road to the Modoc NF where we train as many miles as we want. Once in the Modoc NF we get on Foster Draw Road. Foster Draw Rd. is 10 miles from end to end. In the National Forest we have access many more roads and can get in 40-50 mile runs if we want.

If you have a favorite training trail you would like to share you can e-mail me your info.



Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers

May 2021

Katya - Devious Bitch

by Preston Springston



Katya awaiting a treat - 2001

Fall will soon be here, so a story related to training is in order. This story is about how an incident that happened with Siberian husky, Katya, when she was about 11 months old shaped her career. Those of you who attended the July meeting at my place will remember Katya as the oldster grey/white Sibe who's now pushing 14 years of age and moving slowly about the kennel yard. She had a great running career and was large and powerful for a female. She typically ran at point and even ran co-lead in a few races when asked. At 11 years of age she ran her last race in 2010 at Foresthill on my 6-dog sprint-class team that placed second.

As a puppy Katya was slow to take to the idea of running in harness. At the time I was running a 6-dog "neighborhood" team comprised of borrowed Sibes that complemented my three . During the summer we ran short loops around the Oxnard Shores beach area on cool evenings. Katya was prone to neck-lining when first introduced to the team and even skinned her foot pads before I could hit the brakes when she tried to stop for a nature break during a run on the asphalt streets. For several weeks she wore pink booties as a result of her stubbornness. Fall finally arrived and I loaded the 6 dogs at 4:30 AM one late October morning and headed to the Los Padres National Forest for an early training run while the mountain air was still cold. The 4 mile long trail was about twice the distance of our typical beach neighborhood run. Katya was aloof during hook-up and showed her intent for mischief soon after the run's start.

The first part of the trail was a brief uphill section then there was about a mile long downhill that the team ran very fast. Katya was soon neck-lining and I rode the brakes to slow the team thinking she couldn't keep up. She was still neck-lining and I decided to unhook her from the team. She was all over the place. She ran in front of the team, she ran in the woods off to the side, she ran into the team – all while we were going at a very fast pace. She was a nuisance on the fly and she obviously had no trouble keeping up! After putting up with Katya's mayhem for a while, I stopped the team and re-hooked her. The neck-lining immediately resumed. By this time we were on a slight uphill and going much more slowly. I jumped off the cart without telling the team to stop, ran forward to Katya and, simultaneously, swatted her rear end with my hat while shoving her forward against her harness and commanding.

"HIKE". I hopped back on the cart as it went by and enjoyed the view of Katya's rear end working and pulling. The joy was short-lived as she went back to neck-lining after about a ¼-mile. The correction process was then repeated several times until we finally made it back to the truck. Some of you may recall this correction technique from Jim Welch's "Speed Racing Manual". Each dog was given a raw hot dog as a treat after the run per my usual practice. Katya got one even though her performance didn't really merit a treat.

The next weekend we were back in the same place at 7:00 AM ready to start our run. The dogs were all yapping, howling and banging against their harnesses while eagerly anticipating the pop of the quick release. Katya was the exception. I could tell from her body language, trying to get away from the gang-line, that she was going to repeat her performance of the previous week. At the last minute I made a snap decision. I unhooked her from the gang-line, hooked her to a drop-line on the dog trailer and took off with the team. Looking back I could see that she was not happy to be left behind. After the run each team dog received the usual treat, but there was no wienie for Katya. Amazingly, that was the defining point in her training. She never neck-lined again and became one of the hardest workers on the team. The change was abrupt and amazing. The "poor little puppy" had just been working me – deviously trying to get away with doing what she wanted. She was very aware and easily associated not getting the wiener treat with her not having run with the team. When matured, Katya became the alpha female of the kennel and is still trying to hold that position. I'm sure this relates to her early stubbornness in trying to exert her will over me. The whole episode revealed to me just how smart and cunning Siberians can be.

Upcoming Events

Fun Run #1 at Hobart Mills September Date 18 & 19
Fun Run # 2 at the Chester Race site October Date 16 & 17
Mushing Clinic at the Chester Race Site November 6-7 2021
Chester Race January 15-16 2022

SNDD Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 17, 2021

Place: Pizza Factory

Attendees: Hugo Antonucci, Terri Antonucci, Charlene LaBelle, Steve LaBelle, Shirley Austin-Peeke, April Cox

Hugo Antonucci called the meeting to order at 12:44 pm

Charlene led the pledge of alliance to our flag

Meeting minutes from 5/2019 were passed out, Hugo motioned to approve the minutes, Charlene seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor.

President Report:

Have been trying to get people to help at club events, races, mushing clinic, fun run.

Caitlin Flowers asked what could be done to help, Hugo: People don't follow through and complain.

Shirley, people meet with Mellissa, Truckee mushers, could be people from SNDD mushing clinic.

VP Report

None

Charlene mentioned SNDD is the longest mushing club still around.

Treasurer Report:

Hugo passed out copies of the treasurer report, mention Preston does a great job on many things,

No questions on the treasurer report.

Hugo mentioned that the SNDD page is now on a different site, he isn't getting requests for the MUSH book in a timely matter. One request was in December and didn't get it until Feb.

Charlene mentioned she has all the original MUSH books

Treasurer report was approved.

Secretary Report:

No report.

Races:

Jan. 19-22 Eagle Cap Race

Shirley, Chemult Race? They have been trying to bring this race back...we are hopeful.

Chester race: Jan 15-16, alternate Feb, will see how it goes

Chester, increase the mileage

Caitlyn, hopefully there will be enough snow

Hugo passed out a map of Chester trail for race

Proposed trail: 20 miles, checker at each corner

Won't have the race when snowmobile poker run

We may need Lassen National Forest permit with the mileage increase, Collin pines permit is also required .

Jan 15-16 for Chester Race, Caitlyn offered to contact people to help, Hugo said eventually May be able to get Verla to do food both.

Will plan on alternate dates.

Will need checkers/snowmobiles, helpers

Foresthill, Barbara handles this race,
Shirley and Charlene will help

Charlene, never gave gratuity to race secretary, was to be a onetime thing for race secretary, comp for room and gratuity . 2005-2996, April was not there, maybe in 2010

Fun Run, good way to start mushing

Fun Run #1 First week end of September in the Truckee area

Fun Run #2 Mid-Oct, before Mushing Clinic

Mush Clinic – Nov. 6/7 at the Chester Race site.

Other activities, any ideas?

April: Swap meet? Auction?

Rabies clinic in Susanville, Hugo & April attends and promotes sledding, the club, mushing events.

Hugo: Mushing clinic, Nov 6-7 at Chester, stay away from Halloween. Need instructors, Shirley, use Cedar lodge.

Will update flyer, last newsletter was July 2020, asked for peoples favorite trails to put in newsletter, do anything different on trails, not just training, anywhere you like to go.

What about elections, not at this time. Decided to leave as, no one was running against current positions

Charlene moved to adjourn meeting seconded by April.

Meeting adorned at 1:56pm

Steve LaBelle seconded the motion

All were in favor.



Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers

Dirt Fun Run!!!

Sept 18 & 19, 2021

- Hobart Mills -

Just minutes North of Truckee, CA

This weekend event is a fun get-together for all levels of experience. Come run your dogs, meet other mushers, learn more about the club and sign up for other upcoming events.....

**Plenty of places to camp!
Or go into Truckee and stay at the Hotel....**

Directions to Hobart Mills; Go north on Highway 89 from I-80, in Truckee. Drive about 3 miles to the Hobart Mills intersection. Turn right. Go past the Hobart site and just past the local shooting range. Make a right turn and look on the left after the first rise.

For questions or more information contact:

Hugo Antonucci:
Email: topaza@jps.net
(530)299-3512

Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers:
Email: sndd@sndd.org
Web: www.sndd.org
Facebook : Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers



Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers

WELCOME WINTER CAMP FUN RUN

Oct. 16 & 17, 2021

- Chester Race Site -

Just minutes outside Chester, CA

This weekend event is a fun get-together for all levels of experience. Come run your dogs, meet other mushers, learn more about the club and sign up for other upcoming events.....

We will hook up dogs and run out a few miles.....
And camp out along the trail!

Meet up at the site at 8 AM !

Directions to Chester Race Site –

North end of Lake Almanor on State Highway 36 near junction of Hwy 89
Go south on County Rd 324 just past Cedar Lodge

Don't want to camp?

Plenty of places to stay in town or at Cedar Lodge!

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Facebook : Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers



Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers

Annual Mushing Clinic

NOV. 6 & 7, 2021 – Chester, CA

This weekend event is an opportunity to have hands-on mushing training from some of California's top dog drivers & trainers! You will receive one-on-one personalized training in teaching your dog the basics of pulling in harness, how to safely experiment with different types of equipment (sled, carts, scooters, etc.) and have the opportunity to experience working with trained dog teams in action! Plus group mini seminars to learn even more!

All of this is followed up by a wonderful dinner and a chance to mingle amongst everyone for chance to get to know them better.

**We supply the equipment - you supply the dogs!
All breeds welcome!**

**COST: \$160 per person (includes Saturday night dinner)
Bring a 2nd team member to train with you for an additional \$80!!!!**

Space is limited so please register early!

For questions or more information contact:

Hugo Antonucci:

phone: 530-299-3512

email: topaza@jps.net

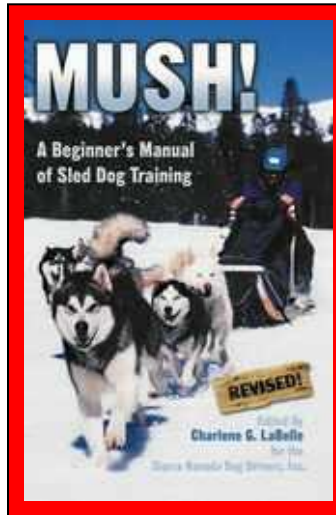
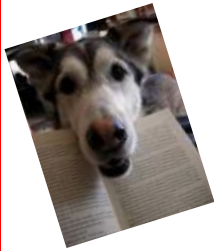
Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers:

email sudd@sudd.org

www.sudd.org

A must read for every musher!

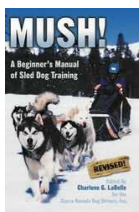
MUSH! Book has been recently updated and is now available at <http://sndd.org>, click on SNDD Store.



Makes a great holiday gift for friends and family who want to know more about your mushing experience.

Check out the SNDD store:

<http://sndd.org/store.html> Below are some of the great items you can purchase!



Below are a small sample of what you will find on <http://www.cafeepress.com/SNDD>



Aprons

Variety of Hats



Bags



Large Selection of T-shirts



Cool Sweatshirts

Clocks



Mugs



Yard Sign



SET OF 4



Teddy Bear

Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers, Inc. - Membership Application & Renewal Form

Regular and Associate memberships both include the newsletter and racing privileges. Regular members must be at least 18 years old and have voting privileges. Individuals who do not wish to have voting status, or who are under 18 years old and have written consent from their parents, may apply for an Associate membership. New members must join as Associate and then apply for Regular status after one year if they wish to have voting privileges. Membership paid at any time during the year are all renewable on October 1.

DUES: Same for either membership type: \$25.00 per year for individual + \$10.00 for each additional member at the same address, or \$35.00 for a family membership. Dues are due every October.

Membership enclosed for: _____ Associate _____ Regular _____ New _____ Renewal

Name(s) _____

Children (under 18 who are members) _____

Street address/P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone(____) _____

Email _____ ISDRA # (if applicable) _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Fill out above form and with check made payable to SNDD, mail to:
SNDD treasurer Preston Springston, 16410 Dog Valley Rd. Truckee CA 96161

THE INFORMER
c/o Hugo Antonucci
PO Box 79
Adin, CA 96006

