Hike!

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Hike!

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Musher Profile - Jacqui McNicoll

When did you start mushing?

I started mushing after rescuing our first Husky, Max, in 1994. We went to Havelock to see our first race, Max was measured up and a harness ordered. Training started immediately for the Tarnagulla race.

How did you find out about mushing?

I found out about mushing about 3 months after getting Max, who'd been through 4 previous owners in his 9 or so months, had been abused and starved (he was only 12 kg). Once we were able to get condition on Max, we couldn't work off his energy so after some effort, found out about the SHCV Inc. We went to Havelock 2 weeks later.

How many and what type of dogs do you have?

At present we have 5 adult Siberians and 3 pups (one for sale!).

Most memorable moments

The two best memories for me would have to be: My first race with Max and racing my own pups for the first time (even if Shane did go to say hello to all the marshals during the first heat).

Scariest moment?

This would have to be when I helped John Hynd train a couple of Jozsef Toth's dogs while he was away a few years ago. I had never run 2 dogs, let alone 'fast' dogs. We followed John on a new windy track and had a group of 'roos cut in front of us. The scooter went straight ahead, the roos and dogs went at right angles. We had the biggest crash and drag possible. I still don't remember how I didn't let go of the scooter.

Stupidest thing?

That would have to be taking a wrong turn at Bannockburn and Southern Cross. But hey! Its all in the name of fun.

What turns you on about sled dog racing?

Just being out with the dogs. Seeing them enjoying themselves, doing what comes naturally. It's the time (during training), where I feel like I am able to 'get away from it all'.

What are your personal goals?

To go out and have a good time. To have fun with my family and dogs. I see the sport becoming more professional as the prizes get bigger and more money is involved. I really like the more quiet and relaxed 'fun' races. I guess I'm not as competitive as some people. To keep the kids racing as it does help build confidence plus care and respec for our canine friends.

Advice for the unwary

Keep an open mind. Learn each dog's behaviour and movements. While you are continuously learning about your dogs, care, psychology and sport you should be prepared to give the time to help anyone else, without criticism. If you come off or crash your scooter/rig get straight back on – no matter how much it hurts (within reason).

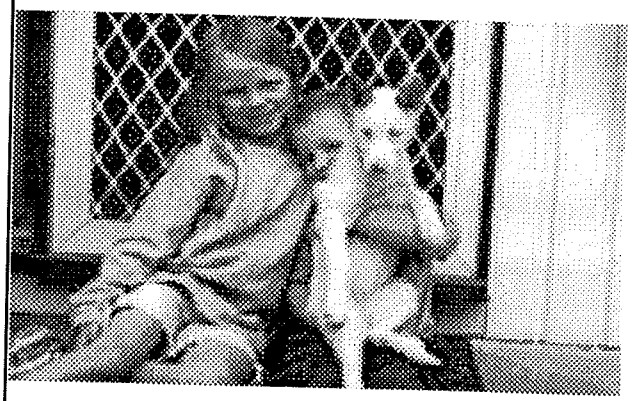
A training tip

Remember to always have fun. Make a fuss of the dogs after each run and check for lameness. Be polite and courteous to other mushers and always THANK your helpers.

SYDNEY SLED DOG SHIELD 2000 RACE NOTES

1. Due to the extensive logging in the Belangalo State Forest, all documented race distances are **approximate** and may be subject to minor changes.
2. This year we are introducing **seeding** to our race. Seeding will be based on the results of the 1999 Sled Dog Shield, and will be first ten places in the 1 & 2 dog clas, first five in the 3/4 dog calss.
3. Dont forget our Saturday evening Charity race (**the Dash in the Dark**) is on again and can be enetered on the day, some good prizes to be won and of course all proceeds will be donated to the Guide Dog Association of NSW.

Births Deaths and Marriages Notice



"…. and all the sled dogs say "I'm pretty fly for a white guy!"

Cyberhusky Kennels welcomes Howlingpines Fire Fly into the Web!

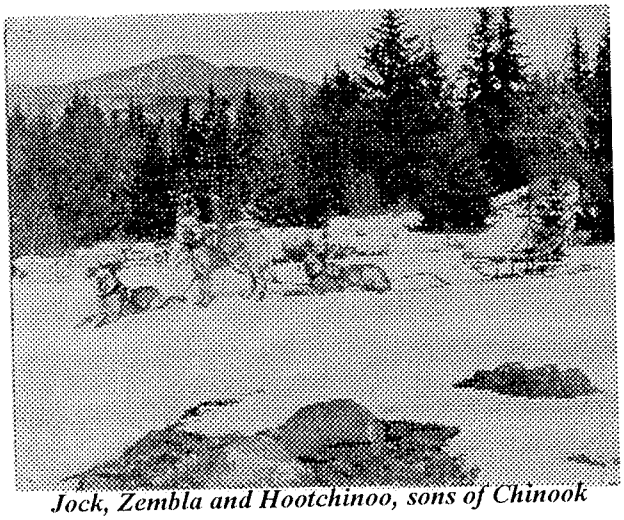
Chinook: Rare Sled Dog

Karen Allen

During the early 1900's polar explorer and adventure seeker Arthur Walden envisioned a breed of sled dogs that had intelligence, power, endurance, speed, and a friendly nature. He bred a large mixed breed Mastiff-type male to a direct descendant of Admiral Peary's infamous lead dog, Polaris, a Greenland Husky. Chinook was born in 1917, in New Hampshire, USA, and grew to become a massive 95-105 pound lead dog. Walden would stand upon his porch and give commands to Chinook and the team out in the field to illustrate Chinook's intelligence.

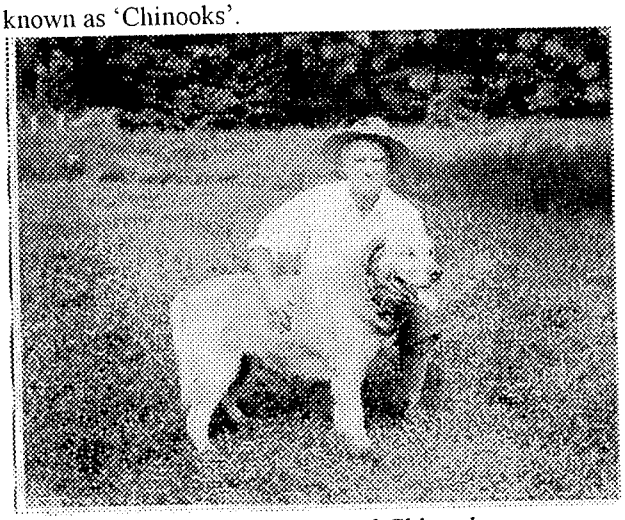
Chinook was bred primarily to German and Belgian Shepherd working dogs, and perhaps other husky-types. The offspring were bred back to Chinook to create the breed known today as the Chinook. Chinook himself was considered a sport of nature as his pups resembled himself in type, color, intelligence, and personality.

At the age of 56, Walden was appointed lead driver and dog trainer for Admiral Byrd's 1929 Antarctic Expedition. To prepare for the trip, Walden and three other trainers worked the dogs and tested equipment at Walden's home for one year. When the men reached Antarctica there was little time to unload the ships and prepare a living area. Walden's dogs were the backbone of transport. While on Antarctica Chinook disappeared on his twelfth birthday. Walden had wanted to bury his friend in harness, but Chinook was never found. News of Chinook's death was recorded around the world. When Walden returned home to Wonalancet, the people of New Hampshire honoured Chinook by naming a nearby road the 'Chinook Trail'. Today Route 113A still bears that name in Chinook's memory.



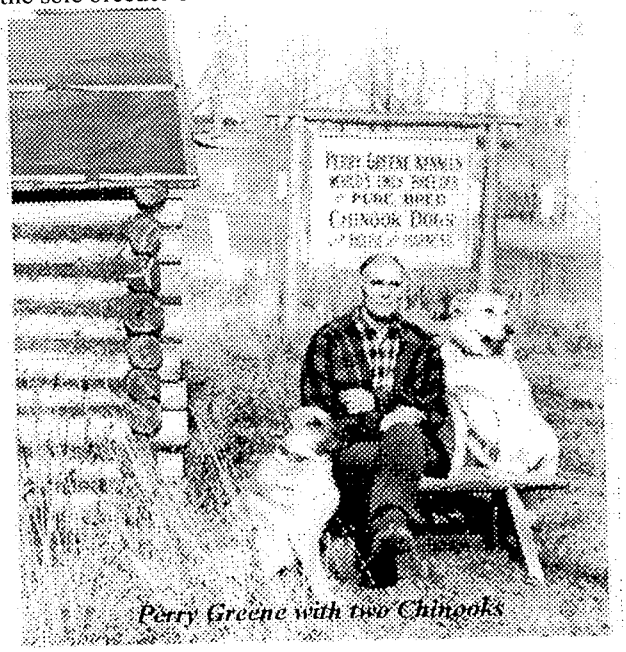
Jock, Zembla and Hootchinoo, sons of Chinook

Walden arrived home from Antarctica in great debt. He sold his interest of Chinook Kennels to Milton and Eva 'Short' Seeley. Walden gave much of Chinook's progeny to Julia Lombard, and together they continued to breed them for intelligence, stamina, and gentle temperament. It was sometime in the early 1930's the dogs were known as 'Chinooks'.



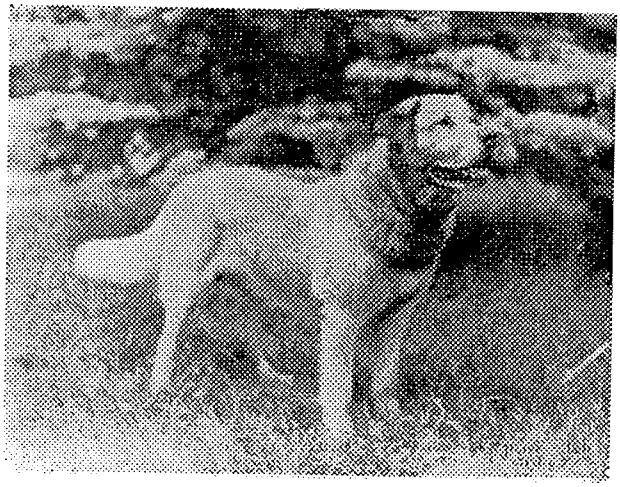
Arthur Walden and Chinook

In the early 1940's Julia Lombard sold the Chinooks to Perry Greene. In 1947 Greene moved the Chinooks to the Perry Greene Kennel in Waldoboro, Maine and became the world's only producer of Chinooks. During this time the Chinook became very popular as a pet. Perry Greene and his wife, Honey, promoted the breed for many years. They set up many unique requirements for a potential Chinook owner. If a person wanted to purchase a Chinook, he had to stay at the kennels for at least twenty-four hours. If Greene's house dogs did not care for the person, he went home empty handed. Should he need to wash his hands after petting the dogs, he did not get one either. Once a person passed this scrutiny, he was allowed a male, or unaltered female and no one person was allowed more than two Chinooks at one time. This insured Greene was the sole breeder of Chinooks.



Perry Greene with two Chinooks

Perry Greene died in 1963 and his wife tried to continue breeding. By 1966 the breed had dwindled to nearly sixty dogs. Honey Greene died in 1968 and the Greene's grandson, Peter Richards took over the kennels. Due to escalating costs, he sold the kennel to Peter Orne who moved the Chinooks to Sukeforth (Sukee) Kennel in Warren, Maine. Kathy Adams, a caretaker at Sukee, disbanded the remaining 12 Chinooks after two years to Neil and Marra Wollpert of Ohio, Peter Abrahams of California and herself. They took over the responsibility for continuing the breed and by 1985 there were 60 Chinooks.



Chinook, September 1928.
This photo was made into a popular postcard

In 1986 Harry Gray moved his Northdown Kennel to the abandoned Perry Greene Kennels. From 1986 to 1993 Gray continued to breed many Chinooks and Chinook crosses. Harry and Katy Gray started the Chinook Club of America and offered pedigrees, kept computerised databases of breedings, and published the first owners directory.

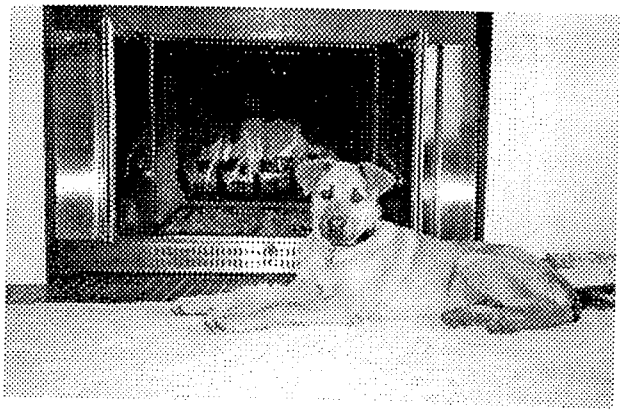
The Chinook continued to grow in numbers and popularity. By 1990 there were 140 Chinooks. The Chinook Owners Association, the United Kennel Club, the American Rare Breed Association, and a host of breeders were instrumental in achieving this successful comeback. An accomplishment after being listed three times in the Guinness Book of World Records as the Most Rare Breed.

In 1993 a new National Breed Club, Chinooks Worldwide (CWW) was started. Chinooks Worldwide maintains the worlds largest registry of purebred Chinooks and Chinook crosses.

Today the Chinook is a versatile family pet content to snooze on the couch or in harness as a sled dog. Recently they have gained popularity in scootering and skijoring. The Chinook is a loving all-around family dog with a gentle nature. They are beautiful, brainy, brawny, and gentle as a kitten.

For more information visit the Chinooks Worldwide website at **www.chinook-dogs.org**

All photos courtesy of Perry Greene Kennels and Rick Skoglund.



OOO

The Andirod 2000

Alberto Del Piano

Hello, I would like to introduce my self, I am Alberto Del Piano, and I am an organiser of the ANDIROD 2000 Race, together with Pablo Germann. We would like to give you the dates of this race and to extend an invitation to you to came to this event. It would be an honour for us to have you here.

The dates are August 3rd through to August 12th.

The programme is as follows:

Thursday 3/Aug. Reception for the participants (Mushers/Handler) in S.M.de los Andes.Welcoming Dinner and Press Conference.

Stage 1: Friday 4th/Aug.Opening of the event on Chapelco Mountain S.M. first race, total 15 km.

Stage 2: Saturday 5th/Aug.Caviahue to Copahue.(total 40 km)

Stage 3: Sunday 6/Aug. Copahue to Caviahue (total 40 km)

Stage 4 Monday 7/Aug.A total run of 46 km from Pino Hachado to the Pehuenia zone.

Stage 5 Tuesday 8/Aug.Alumine lake zone total 30 km.

Stage 6 Wednesday 9/Aug Pehuenia zone Indian reservation of Pulmari. Total 40 km.

Thursday 10th/Aug. Transfer back to S.Martin & rest.

Stage 7 Friday 11th/Aug.Nigth run on Mountain Chapelco. Totla 8 km.

Stage 8 Saturday 12th/Aug Last Lap of the Andirod 2000, round Chapelco Mountain.Total 15 km.

In the evening: farewell dinner and prize giving.

Sunday 13th of August Departure. Total run 234 km.

We also want to tell you, the national Asociation of Sled Dog Races of Agentina, has now been formed. The President is Pablo Germann and the secretary is Mr. Hernan Cipriani.

Best regards, and I hope to meet you at the race.

Alberto Del Piano.
lasvertientes@smandes.com.ar

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Kontroversy Korner
Muttering about the Kid & Mutt

Peter Komidar

The issue I want to address here relates to grey area where Race Organising Committees have to ask the question when is a kid a kid and when is the kid an adult. Now different races have different rules - based I suspect on their fears about legal action if they are sued when a kid hurts him/herself as the result of a race.

I think anyone who's watched young mushers such as Tracy Carter, Daniel Odgers and Jessica Baker and others over the years would agree that they are just as technically competent, sensible and caring for their canine partners as most adults. And there are quite a few adults I can think of that could learn a lesson or two from these champions of the future. But over the years they've often had to compete in the kids' class. Not because of their level of skill and proficiency - but because of their age. Of course, they are now old enough to compete with the big guys - and are kicking some serious hindquarters.

Now some enlightened races allowed these guys to compete in the adult classes over the years - provided they could be satisfied that these teens had what it takes to compete at that level - Southern Cross, the Sydney Sled Dog Sprint and the Canberra race come to mind. But at the same time these poor guys were at other races forced to race in the children's class. And we can all remember how sensitive we were as teenagers - I for one would have died of shame competing as a 15 year old against kids half my age

Now Im not arguing that all people over 12 should be allowed to compete in the adult class (even though I do have considerable sympathy for that view!). I recognise that it is up to the Race Organising Committee to determine the age at which individuals will be allowed to compete and market forces will determine how many people decide to turn up to race – knowing the rules in place. My argument here is once its decided that teens under a certain age cannot compete against adults, that does not mean they have to race the type of race that is safe for a 10 year old.

For those race committees who are uncomfortable allowing teens to compete in the adult class, there is another option. Rather than making them compete in a little 100 metre dash with the kids, why not allow them to race the full one dog or two dog course in their own special teens race. And if you are worried about their skills in passing – send them out in one or two minute intervals. That way if the teens can't compete against the adults they can still judge their race times against adults racing the same course. And as Tracy, Daniel and Jessica have shown – they can leave a large proportion of the adults behind them in the placings!

And come to that, why just limit the 'teen' class to the 1 and 2 dog. In the US, juniors often race in the 4 dog class – and at the full IFSS sanctioned 2km per dog - 4 dog class not a 100 metre dash up a straight track. And don't tell me racing on snow is easier than racing on dirt – they each have their own very special dangers – as we all know. So what I'm saying is if the US has had a time honoured tradition of allowing juniors to race 4 dog teams – I cannot think of a logical argument as to why the same cannot happen here. After all Jessica, Tracy and Daniel have all run 4 dog teams when training – and there are no track marshals, fellow competitors and spectators to assist in the event of any mishap when training!

And what about distance races – I can see no reason why not to extend the 'teen race' concept to distance events – providing the competitors can prove their skill and experience levels and the distances aren't so long that concentration levels are affected. Why not allow them to run say half of the adult distance? If they regularly do similar distances while training, I can't see any problem.

Sure its easy for me to say. This year I'm not responsible for organising any races. And Im not saying this should be done at all races. But rather its just an option for those races which don't allow teens to compete against adults and yet would like to see them do more than the 100 metre kiddie dash.

I reckon the concept is a winner all round. With a race like this as an option, teens too could accept their awards with the same amount of pride as every other winner at the race. Meanwhile, in choosing which races to attend, parents with teen racers are more likely to go to those races offering a real challenge for their kids – why travel 6 hours to a race to have your child run 100 metres? And finally, the sport in Australia has seen a significant reduction in new starters over the past couple of years – the 'teen' market is very 'underdone' in our sport. Perhaps races like these could help keep the sport thriving into the new millennium.

Alex does the dog at the '99 Canberra Kid'n'mutt
Photo: A& F Matthews

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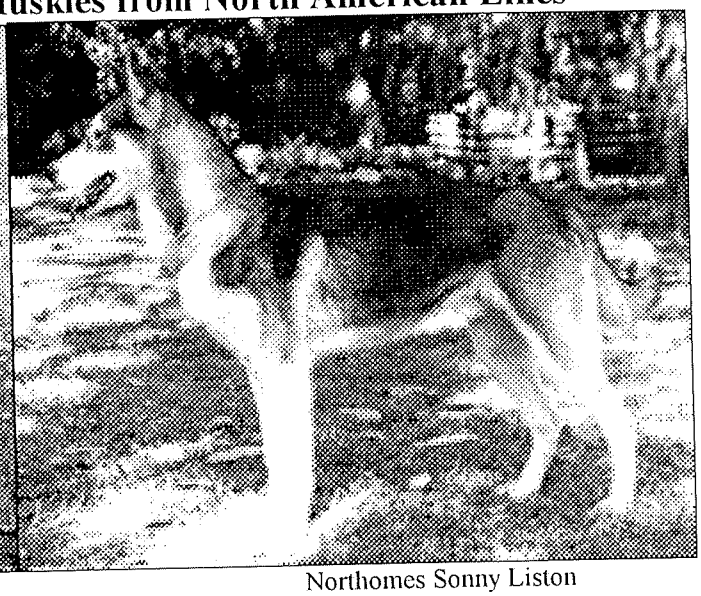

Igloo Pak's Kaltag
Lokiboden's Tango
Wing's Meshik (USA)
Lokiboden's Mr Snuffalupagus
Igloo Pak's Clyde
Igloo Pak's Sitka (USA)
Koonah's Spice

Northomes Sonny Liston
Northomes Jasper
Northomes Pepper
Northomes Cliff (Imp USA)
Northomes Chancy of Anadyr
Northomes Keki
Northomes Pepper

Lokiboden's Gucci (Imp Canada)

Northomes Spook
Northomes Snowmist Caper (USA)
Kuchin Ring Snowmist
Lokiboden's Waterloo (Imp Can)
Igloo Pak's Clyde
Igloo Pak's Sitka (USA)
Koonah's Spice

Chuvashkaya Ozzy

Northomes Yankee
Northomes Ed
Northomes Whitby
Northomes Lexi (Imp USA)
Lokiboden's Mr Snuffalupagus
Northomes Spot
Northomes Mimi Tschida

Both Snuffy and Loo were tog dogs in Leigh Gilchrist kennel, running on this main team for many years. Both have been SEPP evaluated.

Lokiboden's Mr Snuffalupagus (8/85) 25-26 Oct 1986 - rated GOOD-EXCELLENT
5-6 Nov 1988 - rated GOOD

Lokiboden's Waterloo (5/86) 5-6 Nov 1988 - rated GOOD

Both Cliff and Lexi were imported as young dogs from one the USA's top Racing Siberian Husky Kennels. Brothers and sisters of these two run on the main teams at Northome. Cliff's sisters run lead on their 10 dog team.

Gucci has just completed her second season of racing here in Australia, this year running lead on my 4 and 6 dog teams. Gucci also won Challenge Bitch and Runner Up Best of Breed at the 1988 Siberian Husky Club of NSW Championship show under Ali Koops (UK). Ozzy, even though he has had limited race experience, running in a few 2 dog races last season, I fully expect him to run on the 4 and 6 dog teams this year. And most likely in lead. He has the heart and desire to run and Run and Run.

Limited number of Puppies are available to suitable homes

For further information please contact **Karen McCarthy** **(03) 5962 6220** or email: chippewa@dragon.net.au

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THE VICTORIAN SCENE

SLED DOG WORKSHOP

With the very long absence of any sledding workshops in Victoria for some 2 - 3 years, the Victorian branch of Team Eukanuba will be running a sled dog workshop in conjunction with the Siberian Husky Club of Victoria. Team members: Owen Robertson, Darren Higgins and Lawrie Coutts will run the workshop.
The venue details are:
George Woods Reserve, Mordialloc.
Melways Map 92, Ref: G1
Start time: 10.00am.
A family fun day will follow the workshop and will also provide help in area's of obedience and showing. The fun day will have events such as, Fastest eater, waggiest tail, dog/owner look-a-like, egg and spoon and sack races. It should be a fun way to start the season. A gold coin donation to the Siberian Husky Club of Victoria for attendance would be appreciated. A sausage sizzle and drinks will be available ($1 a sausage).
If attending the workshop you should bring:
Your own scooter/bike.
A harness if you have one
2 X snap clips
2 metres of poly ski rope
1 x ockie strap
This equipment will be used to show you how to make a dog line. You will also need to bring the usual dog gear.
Hike subscribers are asked to notify people whom they may feel will benefit from the workshop (i.e puppy buyers). It should be a very informative day with a few laughs tossed in of course!!!
Enquiries to: Owen: 03 53417867
Lawrie: 03 59 429073

BEHAVIOUR SEMINAR

By Belinda Goyartz

I was very fortunate last week to attend a seminar put on by the S.H.C.V and given by Belinda Goyartz. I've had a dog all my life and kept a pack of dogs for about 7 years. A pack generally consists of 4 or more dogs who live together in a selected territory.
However these days a pack can consist of 2 humans and one dog. I've been an obedience instructor for nearly 10 years and thought that I'd attend the talk to brush up on some behavioural stuff. I have to tell you, I was amazed at some of the stuff she explained. Have you ever done a particular thing with your dog and wondered why you do it. For example, I never let my dogs wander about the house and they never go into our bedroom or sleep on the couch. I always interpreted my reason for this being a no no as being that I didn't want the dogs on my level (with regard to height). Belinda explained it like this. In a wild dog pack the pack will have a marked territory. The Alpha dog always takes up position in that territory in the very best spot. Any underlings (lower ranked dogs) are not allowed near that particular spot, however, the Alpha dog may go to any place he wishes in the packs territory, he may wish to choose to lay in an underlings place. If you relate this back to the house and your dog has free run of a house he will then interpret your acceptance of this behaviour also as acceptance of his Alpha status. Belinda believes that if you allow your dogs in the house then they must have one spot only in which they are allowed to lay. If they refuse to lie in that one spot then put them out. Do not allow a dog to roam around your home as he will mark it (wee on it) if he believes he is Alpha and that the territory is his.
Belinda had many other interesting information about the evolution of dog behaviour and the increase of dog attacks in recent years and the collaboration between the increase in attacks and the changes in canine lifestyle in the last 20-30 years. Belinda shed some very interesting light on this issue and it made so much sense. I will share this information with you in the next edition of Hike. Until then, keep your dog off the bed!!!!!

Only 30 sleeps until Southern
See you then.
Hayley

Kicksled Racing

Ketkupolkka Kicksled Racing Club

Introduction

The Kicksled is a traditional means of transportation in Nordic countries. However, its significance has decreased as the use of motor vehicles has increased. However Kicksledding is also a pleasant and environmentally-friendly sport for everybody. Snowy and icy winters offer unsurpassed possibilities for kicksledding even in areas without any specific sports facilities. The kicksled conquest of the whole world is now beginning from Finland as the new millennium starts.

You can kick in a variety of surroundings, on lake and sea ice, on outdoor paths or on ploughed roads. You can find places for kicksledding even during mild winters when snow is scarce. On bare ice or icy cross-country skiing paths you can gain astonishing speeds with a kicksled. Kicksledding is often a more convenient alternative for skiing or skating, especially in suboptimal winter conditions.

Icy ski skating tracks and hard-packed pedestrian paths are most suitable for kicksledding. One or two laps around the park with a kicksled is a superior alternative to walking or jogging in slippery conditions.

In snowy conditions you can attach plastic skis under the normal steel runners. They are not expensive and improve the glide also when there is sand or bare ground under the soft snow.

The unique rugged maze of islands and waterways off Finnish seacoast and inland waters gives outstanding possibilities for kicksledding. During wintertime the waters are for remarkable periods covered by sturdy ice but not by much snow. The Kicksled has traditionally been an everyday vehicle for moving around in the archipelago and lake areas. Still today many fishermen use the kicksled to get conveniently to the best fishing places. Perhaps even too conveniently, because use of kicksled is forbidden in winter fishing competitions.

Kicksled Racing

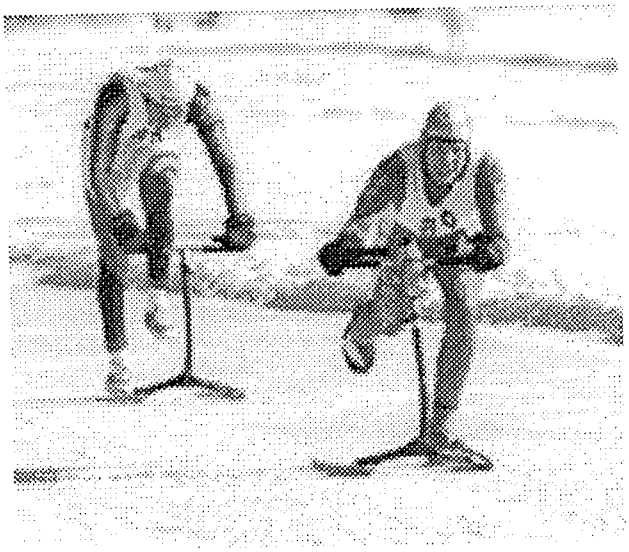
Kicksled is popularly familiar as a transport vehicle for elderly people, school children and ice fishermen. As race sport, on the contrary, kicksledding is still relatively unknown, not least because of relatively small number of participants. However, kicksledding is a traditional and challenging form of athletics that requires diverse talent and tough sport-specific training at top level.

The Kicksled Golden Age

Back in 1906 kicksledding was considered one of the three most significant winter sports in Finland besides cross-country skiing and skating. In Sweden the most prominent kicksled enthusiast was captain Victor Balck, a member of the first modern Olympic Committee. He founded the world's first kicksledding club in 1889 in Stockholm.

In 1891 the first Finnish club was established in Oulu. Founder of the club, colonel Edward Furuhielm arranged races within the military and promoted the use of kicksled also on soldiers' holiday trips from the garnison to their home areas.

There were road races on different distances. The most famous long-distance races were arranged in Sweden, for instance, on routes Stockholm-Uppsala and Stockholm-Södertälje-Stockholm. In the Nordic Games, the biggest winter sport festival in those days, kicksledding was introduced in 1901. All winners were Swedish. Astonishingly, however, kicksledding never became a major championship sport.



Alpo Kuusisto pushes away from Ville Vickholm to seize victory at the Multia Ice Marathon 1998.

The Modern Renaissance

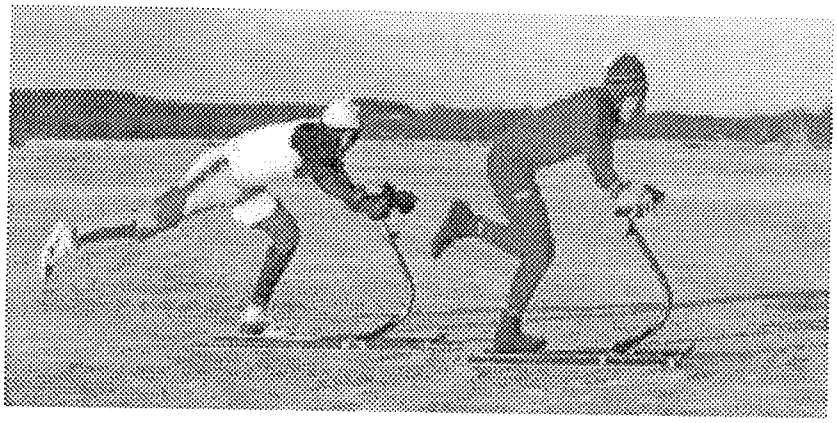
After many decades of stagnation race kicking started again in 1980's. There are races both on snow covered roads (also called terrain) and on ice. The distances vary from 200 m sprint to 100 km ice race. The most famous games are the annual Ice Kicksled World Championships in the small town of Multia that gather hundreds of participants of different age groups both in competitional and recreational events.

The most famous kicksledder of modern times is undoubtedly Hannu Vierikko, whose long suite of victories was broken only after 11 years in 1998.

There are races in many countries, besides Scandinavia also in Central Europe and North America.

Race velocities have improved substantially in 100 years. Besides kicksled development the main reason is that nowadays the record attempts are made on swift natural or prepared ice.

In road races the velocities are usually much more human. 10 km might take more than 30 minutes even for



Racing on a frozen lake
Photo C/o Ketkupolkka Kicksled Racing Team

or a top kicker in slow conditions. As record hunting has become more and more intensive, the popularity of road races has decreased. However, many kicksledders still consider races on hilly and curvy Finnish country roads the bread and butter of kicksledding.

The Traditional Kicksled

The kicksled originates from Northern Scandinavia, most probably from Jämtland. It got its modern structure in the end of 19th century, evolving from a water or timber sled that could be pushed more easily by elongating the runners backwards. The glide and durability was improved by applying iron coating on the underside. A horizontal handlebar was attached to the vertical supports for pushing stability. In 1900 technician Oskari Terhi from Salo built the first known kicksled with iron runners.

The Modern Race Sled

When race kicksledding started to revive in 1980's, quite normal standard sleds were used in races. However, as velocities increased on slippery ice circuits the most enthusiastic competitors began pondering how to make the sled faster and sturdier.

The first step was to make the kicksled stiffer, because the standard sled becomes unstable at high velocities.

In 1993 by Rauno Pylväläinen. He constructed a kicksled in which a ultra-narrow (<1mm) steel runner was encompassed in a carbon fibre profile. These kind of runners are extremely stiff, but yet flexible enough for swift kicking in curves of a typical ice circuit. Pylvälänen's creation, equipped with a light metal frame with optimised steering geometry, can indeed be called the first full-blooded modern racing kicksled.

Cooperation between ESLA and Hannu Vierikko in the late 1990's led to the birth of the first industrially produced racing kicksled. Its original name was Ketkupolkka, according to the Helsinki kicksled club that performed the practical testing of the product. Later the name was changed to the more international Kickspark.

The frame is basically one bent pipe that is attached to the runners and handlebar. You can adjust the height according to the size and style of the kicksledder. With this kind of a vehicle everyone can enjoy the enchantment of fast kicksledding at a reasonable price.

A sport for all

Kicksledding serves fitness enthusiasts as well as competitive athletes. It suits men as well as ladies. Any healthy individual can enjoy the activity without problems. You can start kicking already after a two-minute introductory course. Kicksled is at its best on long distances, where a kicksledder can easily move faster then s/he could run.

Kicking is a more diverse and softer physical activity than running, but equally effective training. Kicksledding employs all big muscle groups in your body. Besides aerobic capacity, kicksledding improves elasticity, so you can use it as supplementary training in many sports while recovering from injuries.

The kicksledder is responsible for 90 % of the speed, the vehicle only for the remaining 10%. In order to be successful in races, you have to concentrate on improving your sport-specific capabilities at homeostatic, muscle and technique levels.

If you feel bitten by the kicksled fever after reading the information above, you are welcome to contact the Finnish kicksled enthusiasts who have contributed to the creation of this primer. We all wish you a merrily kicking White Christmas and a happily gliding New Millennium

Check out the full unedited version of this article at:
http://www.saunalahti.fi/~kickbike/kepopas/kepopas_eng.htm#Icekick

The World's elite at a 10 km road race in Vihavuosi 1999. Photo: C/o Ketkupolkka *Kicksled Racing Team*

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National Sled Dog Sporting Organisation - Eligibility Criteria

Peter Komidar

The following is an extract from the Australian Sports Commission document *A Guide to the Australian Sports Commission's Grants Programs and Services to National Sporting Ogranisations*. What it shows is that a national sled dog sporting organisation can be formed - but that even if it were formed and gained IFSS recognition tomorrow it would not be eligible for recognition until 2003! But more importantly, it clearly shows that unless Australia can manage to get at least one top rating international athlete at a world championship then it will NEVER qualify for Australian Government financial support!

Categories for Assistance to National Sporting Organisations

The organisation responsible for an activitiy that the Commission accepts as a 'sport' may be eligible for assistance from the Commission. Such organisations will be assessed according to the criteria outlined below and placed into one of the following categories for assistance.

- recognised organisation (non-funded)
- funded organisations

Recognised Organisations

Recognised organisation are those that are accepted as the main body taking responsibility for the development of that sport in Australia. There should be no dispute that the organisation is the pre-eminent body responsible for developing the sport in Australia.

Recognition Criteria

The following criteria apply in determining whether an organisation may be eligible for recognition from the Commission:

- the activity must meet the Commission's definition of 'sport'
- the organisation must be able to satisfy the Commission that it is the pre-eminent organisation taking responsibility for the development of that sport in Australia
- the organisation has been an incorporated association or company for a minimum of 3 years
- the organisation has branches or affiliated state associations in at least four states/territories (ice sports in three states: snow sports in one state)
- the organisation produces annual audited financial statements and annual reports and copies have been provided to the Commission for the past three years
- the organisation has an operable and current three-year (or longer) strategic plan that addresses all aspects of the sport (including issues relating to access and equity)
- the organisation has a doping policy consistent with the Commission's doping policy or with the doping policy of the international sports federation responsible for the sport
- the organisation's international federation is affiliated to the General Association of International sports Federations (GAISF) or the International Olympic Committee or the sport must have been played in Australia for more than 75 years involving high participation numbers, and
- the organisation conducts annually, regional and/or state, and national championships in open and/or age groups, as deemed appropriate for the sport.

Funded Organisations

In addition to satisfying the 'recognition' criteria outlined above, the national sporting organisation must also meet at least one of the following sets of criteria for funding consideration:

Set 1

- Have in excess of 2000 registered and active competitors (evidence required), and
- have been incorporated for at least 5 years, and
- be affiliated to an international federation, and
- have entered teams or athletes representing Australia in international competition for at least 3 years, and
- have branches or affiliated state associations in at least five states/territories and
- conduct national championships involving at least five states/territories.

Set 2

- Be a member of an international federation which has a minimum of 25 active member countries, and
- that the international federation is a member of GAISF or the IOC, and
- obtain a top half or top 16 result for at least one athlete or team at a world championship or Olympic Games since 1990, which ever is higher.

Set 3

- Be the national sporting organisation of a sport on the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games program.

Set 4

- Be at traditional Australian sport in existence for more than 75 years with a sizeable number of active participants.

Clearly, the only criteria sled dog racing can ever hope to meet is Set 2. And to achieve this we would need to get IFSS recognition (the IFSS is a member of the GAISF, has the requisite number of member countries and holds a world championship). And then we would need to need to have a successful team in the world championships. Does this sound too far fetched. Well not quite. In fact, the IFSS is keen for Australia to do just that! More on the IFSS connection next month.

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Submitted by Robert Clive

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Fear of Loud Noises

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It's normal for dogs to be frightened by loud or sudden noises. They often express their fear in destructive behavior, barking, cowering, and throwing various fits. There are two mistakes we often make which only make the situation worse. First, never reprimand or punish the dog for his fear: He will only become more frightened. Secondly, never verbally or physically try to reassure or comfort the dog when he is acting fearful. If you stroke, cradle or hug your dog while saying things like, 'Oh poor baby, it's OK, there's nothing to be afraid of,' the dog doesn't understand your words, but he does understand that he is receiving a gentle, soothing reward by your actions and tone of voice. The dog usually concludes it is doing the right thing by acting nervous because you are so approving of it.

Sometimes simply stopping the unintentional reward stops the fearful behavior. But until the dog is over his fears, it is best to confine him to a place where he can't hurt himself or your property. A crate is ideal. Accustom the dog to his special place so that he feels comfortable and secure there. Don't wait until the storm has arrived to introduce your dog to his 'safe haven.'

Brush up on some obedience training and teach your dog a few tricks and games. It is difficult for a dog to be frightened when he is enjoying his favorite game of fetch. It is difficult to think about the storm outside when the dog is concentrating on a quick series of Come Here, Sit, Heel, Sit, Shake Hands, Down, Roll Over, etc. The idea is to distract the dog from the noise. You can then shower the dog with lots of affection and attention, but for obeying a simple command of sit-shake hands, instead of for actingfearful.

The key is patience and practice. Do not wait until the night before the storm or the third of July to begin teaching your dog a few tricks. Be sure he knows them well beforehand. He will probably have trouble concentrating at first, so the better he knows the games and tricks, the easier it will be for him to perform them under pressure.

Another method of helping your dog overcome his fear is to slowly and gradually accustom him to the noises that frighten him. This can be done by making a recording of the sounds and playing it back to the dog while he is enjoying everyday life and activities. Some record stores have soundtracks of thunderstorms and rain that you can purchase. Start by playing it back at such a low volume that you can barely hear it, but the dog's keen hearing will. The dog should show no signs of fear at this volume.

Gradually, over the course of weeks or months, increase the volume by tiny increments. The volume is increased so slowly that the dog hardly notices the change. Eventually he will be used to hearing the sounds at full force. If at any time, your dog shows signs of fear, decrease the volume again and proceed a little more slowly. This procedure will work more quickly if you combine it with distraction.

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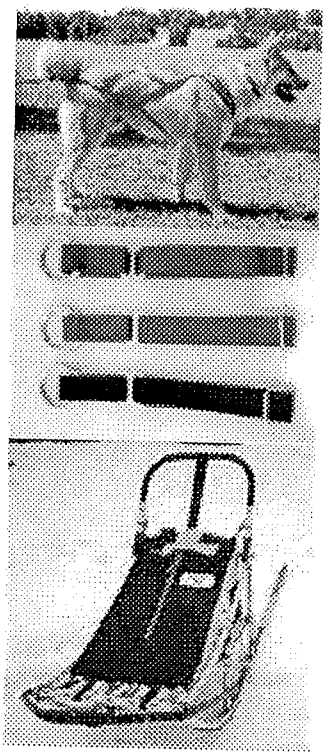


Canberra Race Distances Confirmed

Kate Ord has confirmed this year's race distances at:

- 1 Dog Class - 2 heats of 3.6km
- 2 & 3 Dog Class - 2 heats of 7.2km
- 4 & 6 Dog Class - 2 heats of 9.0km.

The 3 dog class will be run on the 2 Dog track and the 6 dog class will be run on the 4 dog course. (This is a change from last year where their was no 3 or 6 dog classes).

Kate also hinted that the club may run a distance race in conjunction with the sprint race. *Hike!* will keep you informed as more details come to hand.

The date for the race was discussed at a recent CSDC meeting following requests from some interstate mushers that it be put back to its usual slot a fortnight after the snow race. However the club voted to retain the previously advised date of the weekend of the 19-20 August.

Right: Paul Snibson and his English Pointer at Underra '99 Photo: Tam Hutchison

Its a Boy!

Congratulations to Jo and Jason Walkom and their new-born son Luke Walkom.

One Hike! reader has already suggested the middle name 'Sky'. Think about it .....

No doubt Luke will be a champion junior musher not too far into the new millenium.

Its a Girl!

Congratulations also go to Veronica and Clem Bittendorfer and their new-born daughter. As *Hike!* goes to print the happy parents are still debating names for the child.

I guess Luke has just come up against some serious competition in the junior musher stakes.

B60 Update

Steve Carrick was unable to divulge the venue of the B60 race as he is currently in delicate negotiations with the managers of his preferred site. However, he was able to confirm that the race would be over a 60 km course in two stages of 30 km with a mandatory 6 hour layover. He also confirmed a guaranteed $1000 purse for the winning team!

Steve has just returned from Alaska, having purchased two leaders (Stripe and Elly) for his 2001 Iditarod challenge. Steve returns to Alaska in November to prepare for the racing season.

Hike! would also like to thank Steve for conceiving and organising the Eagle Pack Sled Dog Photo competition. More on that elsewhere in this edition.

Degenerative Joint Disease

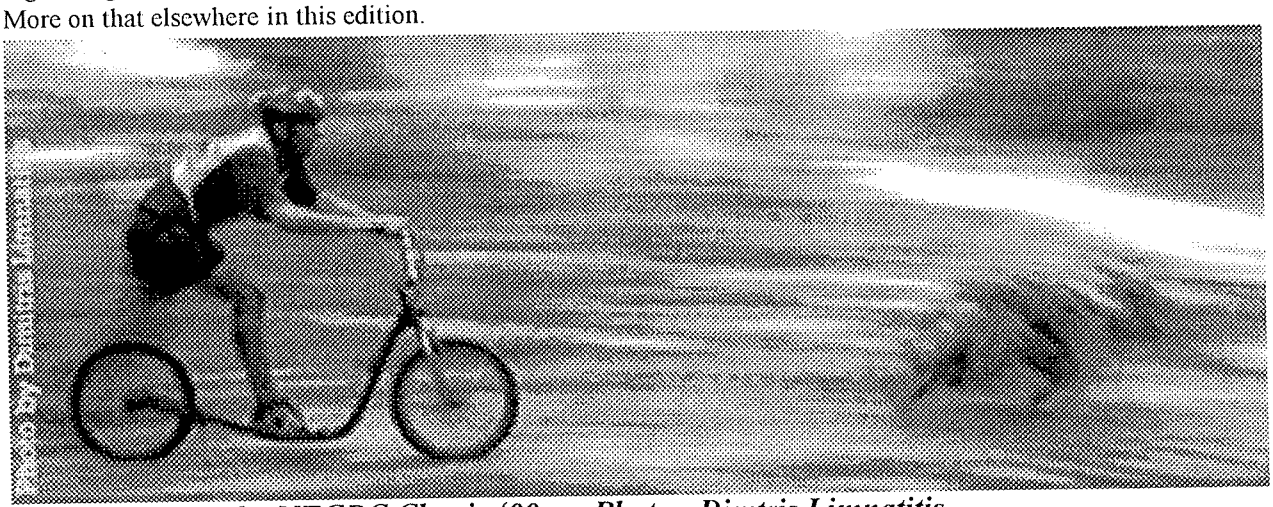
Dr Sandra Hassett

This condition occurs in older dogs as a result of mechanical wear and tear, injury, infection, poor joint conformation and hereditary conditions such as hip or elbow dysplasia. Arthritis is the common term. Where the ends of the bones come together to form a joint their surfaces should be covered in cartilage, a softer and more regenerative tissue than bone. In DJD this cartilage becomes inflamed and may even wear away. Loss of this protective layer is painful and often the unprotected bone reacts by producing spurs of new bone, called osteophytes. These in turn press on the tissue and the joint and cause further pain.

When DJD occurs in the joints of the spine it is called spondylosis. The vertebrae can actually fuse together and this causes pain both by preventing the spine from flexing properly and by placing pressure on the nerves which exit the spine at each intervertebral space. The pressure on the nerves can show as either a local pain and tenderness or, where the nerves that are being affected extend down into the limbs, it can show as pain or weakness in the affected limb.

There are many measures that can be taken to manage DJD. These include weight loss in overweight pets, soft bedding that keeps them protected from drafts, regular but not excessive exercise and chiropractic treatment to maintain mobility. There are medications that can improve the integrity and rate of repair of the cartilage and others that can reduce the inflammation and hence the pain. There are even dietary supplements, such as chondroitin and glucosamine, which may help in the long term management of DJD.

The balance between these treatment strategies varies and each patient needs to be assessed individually. DJD cannot be cured but it can be managed to provide an improved quality of life.



Karl Persson at the NEGRC Classic '99 Photo: Dimtris Limnatitis

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*RACE MARSHALL – ALF BABAZOGLI – N.S.W.

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*Veterans, Pee Wee's, Juniors, and Pee Wee's with Parent will be held at the conclusion of the 1 & 2 Dog Class.
*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DISTANCE OF THE JUNIOR CLASS THIS YEAR IS 2 HEATS OF 3.8KM.
*DRIVERS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 6.45am SAT & 7am SUN IF NECESSARY.
*RACING WILL START AT 7.30am ON BOTH DAYS.

RACE ORDER FOR FIRST DAY WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE ORDER OF RECEIPT OF ENTRIES – BIB'S AND DRIVER BAGS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THE DRIVERS MEETING ON SATURDAY MORNING.

*FOR A COPY OF THE RACE RULES PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.
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DRIVERS NAME - _____
DRIVERS NAME - _____

PARENT/GUARDIANS SIGNATURE_____

I enclose my entry fee and agree to run under the rules governing the race and shall abide by official decisions made at the race. I shall not hold the sponsoring/organizing bodies/individuals liable for injury or accident which may occur during the race. I agree to be responsible for my conduct and that of my helpers and my dogs.

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2000 Sled Dog Events Calendar

Sprint Races

Race	Distances	Date	Contact
Southern Cross Pro Am (Victoria)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 4.8km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 6.8km	20-21 May	Karen Johnson kazjohn@netspace.net.au (03) 9853 0193
Undera Sled Dog Dash (Victoria)	1 Dog Class 3 heats of 2km 2 Dog Class, 3 heats 4.5km 3&4 Dog Class 2 heats 7km + night heat 4.5km, Novice 2 heats of 2 km -no night heat	10-12 June	Helen & David Pettifer pettifer@bigpond.com
Sydney Sled Dog Sprint (New South Wales)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 4km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 8km 3 Dog Class 2 heats of 12km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 12km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 15km	24-25 June	Craig Turner ionamal@shoal.net.au (02) 4285 2457
Northern Exposure Classic (Queensland)	1 Dog Class 3 heats of 2.5 km 2 Dog Class 3 heats of 4 km 4 Dog Class 3 heats of 6 km	30/6 - 2/7	Donald Maillet d.maillet@mailbox.uq.edu.au (07) 3822 6427
Great Grey Bound (Victoria)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 2.4 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 6.5 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 9.0 km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 12.7 km	8-9 July	Terry & Narelle Mace weish@primus.com.au (03) 5782 2638
Wild Dog Derby (South Australia)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 5.9 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.6 km	15-16 July	Dave Brown davebrown@ozemail.com.au
Sydney Sled Dog Shield (New South Wales)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 4.6 km 3 & 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 8.2 km	29-30 July	Ivan Douglas skylaska@zip.com.au (02) 9824 7759
The Burn (Victoria)	1&2 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.5km 3, 4 & 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 15km Junior Class 2 heats of 3.8km	5-6 August	Lisa Hodgson lihuk@netspace.net.au (03) 5281 5283
A5000 Sled Dog Derby (Victoria)		12-13 August	Robert Stevens sleddogs@ssc.net.au (03) 5428 3285
Canberra Sled Dog Classic (ACT)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 & 3 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.2 km 4 & 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 9.0 km	19-20 August	Kate Ord kate.ord@ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111

Distance Races

Race	Distance	Date	Contact
CHA Distance Run (Victoria)	6 dog class (min 4 dogs) 1 heat of 25K	8 July	Terry & Narelle Mace weish@primus.com.au 03 5782 2638
Southern Highlands Freight Run (New South Wales)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.8 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 14.9 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km	8-9 July	Geoff Styche styche@pnc.com.au (02) 4784 2543
B60 (New South Wales)	6 Dog Class (min 4 dogs) 60 km	22-23 July	Stephen Carrick crack@ozemail.com.au
Kooyoora Challenge (Victoria)	2 heats of 25 km 6, 8, Open class (min 4 dogs)	5-6 August	John Hynd 03 5438 7451

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