

MUSH WITH PRIDE News

Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment * Number 32, Spring 2007



Letter from the Acting Director

Mitch Michaud

Time to get Moving...

Five months have passed since PRIDE attempted to have an annual meeting in Fairbanks. At that meeting the 6 members in attendance formulated a plan for the reorganization of PRIDE: see website for details. As a result of this plan, we are requesting nominations for the PRIDE board. From this board a new slate of officers will be elected next fall. The membership was informed of these changes, and the plan for an election was presented. But as most people know, most well nor not so well laid plans don't always work out, thus we now find ourselves running a month behind. Chores to do, dogs to run, and an unexpected resignation that resulted in me being the president of the local dog club once again... But move on we will because the need for PRIDE is as important today as when it was founded.

If nobody says a word ... there won't be anything to listen for

In Fairbanks the members present this fall discussed the future of PRIDE and if its purpose is still as relevant today as it was 20 years ago. The "dog news" is constantly filled with issues and actions being taken for the supposed benefit of dogs. California and Pennsylvania have or are enacting dog care statutes that directly impact dog mushers in these states and should concern all mushers. USDA attempted to enact dog care statutes that would have affected all dog musher in this country. Dog mushers have been vocal and have used PRIDE resources as examples of acceptable dog care standards. The PRIDE email account is constantly being presented with questions about dog care. With new information technology available to us, very little goes by without dedicated sled dog enthusiasts following every bit of online and print information. A role for PRIDE is in being a vocal and visible sled dog advocate addressing animal care and welfare. I followed the debate on tethering and found that I could quickly take great offense at some of the proposed rules, but being a recreational musher, whose dogs are in constant sight out of my living room window, I realize that the quality of life for these animals is not based on the size of their pen or length of their tethering chains, but is based on what they do when they are not on tethers or in pens. We have a unique role in society because we see what a sled dog's quality of life is when it is doing what it has been bred and trained for, and our task is to convey this to the public.

The world is becoming a smaller place.....

If you look in this issue you will see that some of our club members and sponsors are from the four corners of the world. PRIDE's membership is equally widespread. Having been a PRIDE member for five years and having attended a few annual meetings, I was under some false impressions concerning who could serve on the PRIDE board. According to the bylaws, there are no limitations as to where a director needs to be from and no distribution required of its board members. All the directors were once from Interior Alaska and the business of PRIDE was conducted out of Fairbanks. This need not be the case, though I think there is a value in having a constant business address and bank account in Fairbanks. PRIDE is incorporated in Alaska, though business could be conducted just about anywhere. This newsletter is being written in Soldotna. In the past it has been developed in Australia and as you can see by our business and club members, it circulates to far away places. Internet and long distance teleconferences are common place in the business world and PRIDE should follow suit. If you are located in Jamaica or in Healy, Alaska your willingness to contribute to PRIDE would be greatly appreciated and welcomed.

Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door.Ralph Waldo Emerson

PRIDE has a number of great publications that are continually requested. As new advances in technology and veterinary medicine make their way into dog mushing (or the other way around), the need to change our way of thinking and our presentation to the public is essential to PRIDE and its members. Inside this newsletter you will find a flyer on canine CPR. This flyer should become part of your dog First Aid Manual and be reviewed regularly. During the 2007 Yukon Quest, Aaron Burmeister administered CPR to a 4 yr old dog named Step. The dog apparently swallowed its tongue while running down hill. The account of the incident stated that the dog had no vital signs. Aaron used a similar procedure as described in the enclosed flyer and resuscitated the dog. This flyer can be down loaded at <http://members.aol.com/henryhbk/acpr.html> . Other sites for Canine CPR are <http://www.pga.com/canine/health/dogcpr.html> , and <http://www.rescuecritters.com/cpr.html> . Just a few keystrokes and you are now accessing three great resources. It makes this newsletter seem antiquated. Just as technology changes so does what is considered acceptable dog care. What was considered proper child discipline 50 years ago would now be considered child abuse. The same is true with dog care. This is not to say that I advocate changing our care standards, but as an organization we should be constantly looking at what we present to the public. We should be prepared to defend our practices with well thought out arguments or we should be willing to adapt and change to accept new insights.

Many hands make for light work.....

PRIDE has been functioning with less than furious vigor for the past two years. This year Jane Fuerstenau and I have been processing memberships, mailing requests for materials and discussing answers to questions being asked of PRIDE on the toll-free number and pride e-mail. Maureen English has been checking the mail, depositing checks and forwarding materials to Soldotna. This was decided as the bare minimum that must be done for PRIDE to continue and an effective way to distribute the work load. I appeal to you to take the time to nominate yourself, your spouse or kennel partner. If you know of someone who is dedicated to sled dog care ask them to step up to the plate and a take a few swings, they maybe waiting to be acknowledged and asked. I would like to tell you all how fun and exciting it is but the reality is that a minority eventually ends up doing the majority of the work. The pay is low, the criticism is swift and the work is never finished, but PRIDE continues. I will try to get a working board together as we approach the 2007 and 2008 mushing season, maybe spring (37 degrees in Soldotna today, 3-23-07) will allow for more time, but there is still snow on the ground, the mornings are cool and the dogs are wondering why I haven't taken them out today. Please consider lending a hand and enjoy dog mushing.

Business Members

FJELLBORG SLEDDOG KENNEL, Kurna, Sweden

RESHA SLED DOG EQUIPMENT, Waterford Pennsylvania

CHOCPAW EXPEDITIONS, South River, Ontario, Canada

Club Members

COLORADO MOUNTAIN MUSHERS, Conifer Colorado

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GREAT LAKES SLED DOG ASSOCIATION, Stanton Michigan

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MICHIGAN DOG DRIVERS ASSOCIATION, Mount Morris, Michigan

MUSH (MID UNION SLED HAULERS). Beulah, Michigan

PSDRA (PENINSULA SLED DOG AND RACING ASSOCIATION), Soldotna, Alaska

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 2007 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 ¼ page, \$95 for a ½ 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 stands for "Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment." Mush with PRIDE provides information to mushers, 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 mushers – recreational and professional, long-distance and sprint racers, weight pullers, skijorers, freight haulers – as well as sled dog veterinarians and other concerned citizens.

Officers and Directors: Acting Director, Mitch Michaud, Acting Treasurer; Maureen English, Acting Business Manager Jane Fuerstenau.

Thank you Theresa Daily and Daily Web Design

For maintaining our Web Site

Daily's Web Design
Theresa Daily ~ Web Mistress
www.dailysart.com

Thank you GCI!!

**For hosting the Mush with PRIDE
website & providing teleconference
capabilities for board meetings.**

*Visit our website at:
www.mushwithpride.org*

Mush with PRIDE Order Form

Membership **New** **Renewal** \$ _____
\$15, individual; \$20, family or club; \$5, youth under 18; \$10, associate; \$100, business; quarterly newsletter & a copy of Sled Dog Care Guidelines & Equipment Guidelines included with membership. PRIDE membership year starts October 1st. (Those received on or after June 1st are good through the following membership year)

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 pages, \$5.00 each or \$3.50 for 10 or more.

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

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 1-800-507-7433 or e-mail info@mushwithpride.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Directors Nominations

10 board seats will be filled during the next election. 5 will be for a 1 year term and 5 will be for a 2 year term. From the newly elected board; a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer will be selected at the 2007 annual meeting.

Nominated Directors need to be current PRIDE members by date of the closure of nominations, (April 30, 2007). Following certification of the nominees' willingness to be on the ballot, an election ballot will be mailed to all current PRIDE members on May 3rd.

Nominations maybe made by either Postal Mail or E-mail. Send nominations to Mush with PRIDE, PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708 USA. or to info@mushwithpride.org.

Name	Address	Telephone/E-mail
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

INDIVIDUALS CAN BE NOMINATED ON THIS FORM OR BY LETTER OR BY E-MAIL



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