

# Quick



# Release

Newsletter of the Pacific Sled Dog and Skijor Association

**Get Ready...Get Set**

**Fall 2015**

## **FROM *OUTGOING* PRES. POLLY**

As the seasons transition to cooler temperatures and time for more serious sled dog training, so too does the club continue its own transformation. We bid farewell to Kelly Barton, one of our most enthusiastic members last spring, followed this month by my own departure as well as that of long-time treasurer William Reid. The membership now has the opportunity to fill those vacant positions with new people who can bring fresh ideas and passion to the changing face of mushing in the Pacific Northwest.

The abundance of wild fires this summer, several of which significantly impacted members of our own extended community of mushers, underscores the transformation of our sport. Many wonderful people immediately stepped forward to help the unfortunate in Alaska and Washington. If you were one of those generous donors, we thank you. If you'd like to donate, please visit <http://SledDogCentral.com>. By the way, this amazing website went through its own transition this summer and is now run by Richard and Maud Hancock of Spokane after Judy and Steve Bergemann managed it for 18 years.

If the weather predictions hold true, we're facing another non-winter which translates to even worse conditions for next year's dry season. The

sled dog community must continue to shift its focus and evolve from snow events to dryland if we want to have the opportunity to test our own teams against others.

Sheryl O'Rourke has spearheaded the effort to hold the first PSDSA Pull Clinic at La Pine State Park on October 17<sup>th</sup>. She's put in a tremendous amount of time already and can use your help to ensure a successful event. Make an effort to come lend a hand, she needs you as do all the eager clinic participants who want to join the world of mushing but don't know how to begin. Thanks, Sheryl for all your hard work.

Wishing you the very best this mushing season.

~ Outgoing President Polly Riley

Remember to check the club's website ( <http://psdsa.org> ) and Facebook page ( <https://www.facebook.com/groups/296814790468300/> ) for the latest news.

We look forward to seeing you at:

- o Oct 17 Pull Clinic at La Pine State Park
- o Oct 24-25 PNW Dryland Championships
- o Nov 14 Fall Club meeting at LaPine
- o Nov 14-15 Fun Run at La Pine State Park (dryland)
- o Jan 16-17 Chemult Sled Dog Races (snow)
- o Mar 6-7 Bachelor Butte Dog Derby (snow)
- o Apr 2-3 Mush Without Slush in Sisters (dryland)
- o Apr 2 Spring Club Meeting at Sisters

### PSDSA Mission

Our mission is to encourage and promote the sport of running sled dogs and skijoring, both recreationally and competitively, by providing education on dog care, equipment, and training. Our focus is directed toward the safe and humane use of dogs in harness, good sportsmanship, and camaraderie among those who participate in meetings, demonstrations, gatherings and races.

## Spring Meeting Minutes

Pacific Sled Dog and Skijor Association Spring Meeting  
Saturday, April 11, 2015  
Mush without Slush  
Sisters, OR  
Agenda

- Meeting Call to Order
  - o Meeting was called to order at 2:08pm. In attendance were: Selina Witt, Polly Riley, Susan O'Rourke, Louise Goodman, Jane Devlin and Cyndi Smidt
- Minutes of Fall 2014 Meeting Approval done via email
  - o Minutes of Fall 2014 Meeting. The Minutes were published in the most recent QuickRelease Newsletter.
- President's Report-Polly Riley
  - o Chemult Sled Dog Races:
    - Polly Riley reported that the Chemult Sled Dog Races have been cancelled 3 of the past 4 years.
    - The forest service has been the driving force behind the races in the past. Given the recent years' weather...the forest is becoming lukewarm to the idea of being the coordinator/organizers of the race.
    - Could be a PSDSA event, particularly since it is PNC qualifying race.
    - The local snowmobile club is supportive of keeping the race as a winter event in Chemult.
    - Polly will continue to be involved with Chemult Sled Dog Races.
  - o Crescent Lake and the lodge would like to host an event, but the trail access is an issue because of the railroad tracks. The snowmobile club there is supportive of holding a race.
  - o Diamond Lake Lodge would like to host an event during the winter also.
  - o Bachelor Butte Dog Derby
    - The event was cancelled this year. There was discussion on a club organized dryland event that weekend, but there wasn't enough time to get it put together.
    - The club is looking forward to sponsoring the event next year.
    - Polly will continue to be involved with the Bachelor Butte Dog Derby
  - o Candlelighters also was cancelled this year due to lack of snow.
  - o PSDSA Club officers and board members.
    - Polly Riley's term as President of PSDSA will be over in October 2015 and she will NOT be President for next season. Polly had stated this when she accepted the nomination and election in the Fall of 2014.
    - She will stay on as a member of the Board of Directors.
    - William Reid's term as Treasurer of PSDSA will be over in October 2015. He will NOT accept nomination or election to be Treasurer for next season.
    - Selina Witt will continue through the summer as Secretary.
  - o LaPine Mushing Weekend 2014 was a club event. As in the past, it was an opportunity for mushers and teams to run different trails as appropriate.
  - o Mush without Slush 2015 was a club event. There were 15 mushers that participated this year.
- One sled dog/skijor club in Oregon.
  - o There was discussion of making one Oregon sled dog/skijor club because of the small number of members.

- o This would involve a merger with Cascade Sled Dog Club and maybe bringing in the Oregon Dune Mushers.
  - o No duplication of officers but maybe regional event organizational committees.
  - o Would cut down on insurance costs as only one policy then riders for the events with registration fees.
  - o Polly volunteered to initiate discussion with Cascade Sled Dog Club and the Oregon Dune Mushers.
  - o This could be put before the club members at the October 2015 annual meeting for a vote and effective for the season 2016-2017.
- Treasurer's Report-William Reid
  - Insurance Report-William Reid, Treasurer.
    - o Since there were no club sanctioned registration paying fee events (ie BBDD and Chemult) to help pay for the insurance costs, PSDSA absorbed 100% of the insurance costs for the year (\$800).
- Membership-Polly Riley/Sheryl O'Rourke
    - o Sheryl O'Rourke has the current list of members. She will provide when her computer is restored.
    - o Sheryl O'Rourke will continue to be the contact person for membership.
    - o Membership forms were distributed and available for all to complete for next season (2015-2016).
    - o Ideas for increasing membership and raising money:
      - Pull clinic sponsored by PSDSA that could be held in Spring and Fall.
      - Cascade Sled Dog Club and K9ScooterNW both hold Pull clinics that are successful and are ways to get people involved.
      - Learners (Novice) loop at LaPine Mushing Weekend and also at Mush without Slush with experienced mushers working with newcomers.
      - IronPaws Sled Dog Stage Race which allows participant to gather points during training runs and races has been successful in getting people and teams to different events and staying connected.
  - Communication:
    - o Newsletter – Kelly Barton
      - QuickRelease Newsletter. Kelly Barton, who has been the editor for the newsletter, QuickRelease and a Board member has started veterinary school out of the country resigned her positions effective in April.
      - Kay Lee Brown agreed to take over as editor of the newsletter, QuickRelease. Thank you, Kay Lee
    - o Facebook page-
    - o Website-
      - Renewal for website hosting is in September 2015.
      - Polly and Sheryl will work on finding a different hosting site for the website that is more user friendly. Polly has been exploring possibilities.
      - New site will be easy to post newsletter, link to Facebook and link to paypal for membership.
  - Events This season (2014/2015) for next season (2015/2016)
    - o Chemult Clean-up and Annual Meeting
      - Either October 10<sup>th</sup> or October 17<sup>th</sup>. Do not want to conflict with Pacific NW Dryland Championships sponsored by NWSDA
    - o La Pine Dryland –
      - November 14-15, 2015

- o Chemult Race-Polly Riley
  - January 16-17, 2016
- o BBDD –Polly Riley
  - March 5-6, 2016
- o Mush without Slush-
  - April 2-3, 2016
- New Business:
  - o PNC-
    - President of the PSDSA is automatically a representative.
    - Kelly Barton was the PNC representative last season. She has resigned her position as PNC representative.
    - Sheryl O'Rourke said she would consider it. Will let everyone know later in the summer.
    - If no one from the club steps forward to represent the club for next season, then PSDSA will not participate in the PNC.
  - o Club Officers-Current
    - President- Polly Riley
    - Treasurer- William Reid
    - Secretary-Selina Witt
    - Board Members- Kelly Barton, Karen Yeargain, Cyndi Smidt, Kay Lee Brown
  - o Volunteer Opportunities – Selina and Polly to discuss.
    - For events listed above
    - For officer position nomination and board positions listed below.
  - o Annual Meeting Chemult -
    - Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> Either October 10<sup>th</sup> or October 17<sup>th</sup>. Do not want to conflict with Pacific NW Dryland Championships sponsored by NWSDA
  - o Nominations for officers and Board Members (4) for October Meeting
    - Consider it and contact Polly or Selina
    - The following members will accept nomination for the following positions
    - President: Open
    - Treasurer: Cyndi Smidt
    - Secretary: Selina Witt
    - Members who are willing to be nominated for the Board for 2015-2016. There are 4 Board positions.
      - Polly Riley
      - Kay Lee Brown (current)
      - Karen Yeargain (current)
      - Sheryl O'Rourke
      - Jane Devlin
    - Newsletter: Kay Lee Brown
    - Kelly Barton rotating off as she has gone to Veterinary School (Newsletter and Board position)
    - William Reid will be no longer treasurer

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Selina Witt, Secretary, PSDSA.

## Pull Workshop Information

Hi PSDSA members and friends,

We are all set with a permit at La Pine for our workshop. It will be held at the South loop where the November mushing weekend is held. We will have the meeting room.



### Now it is time to get to the details.

**Registration:** I have received one paid registration so far. I've had verbal commitments from several others but no confirmations yet. If you are planning on attending, please get those registrations in to me. There is going to be a lot of work involved with making this a successful event and I'd like to see a minimum of 8 registrations.

### What and who we need:

**Trainers:** We need people willing to work with one or two participants during the morning training. We'll be doing harness fitting, pull-training with a training leash, passing and tire pulling. Karen Yeargain is willing to do a train the trainer session sometime the weekend of October 4th which we would like to have interested people attend. If that isn't possible for you but you are interested, please contact me.

**Handouts:** I'd like to put together a handout with our training content, with links to helpful sites and information. I really don't want to create this from scratch so if you have material you think would be useful, please send it to me.

**Equipment:** We are providing all needed equipment for participants. Here's what we'll need:

- Harness of various sizes
- Training leashes (the two part leash that connects to both the collar and harness)
- Belly bands
- Lines for scooters/tires
- Scooters
- Tires

**Equipment master:** It would be very helpful if someone could keep track of who has what equipment so we can make sure it all goes back to the owner.

### Schedule:

**Morning check-in:** We'll need one or two people to check in participants.

**Breakfast:** We're providing coffee and donuts/pastry. We need a few people to coordinate this. We do have a coffee pot.

**Lunch:** Selina Witt has volunteered to coordinate lunch. She is suggesting chili, salad, bread and dessert. She'll need help putting this together.

**Lunch mini-lectures:** We need three people to do 15-20 minute lectures at lunch time on different topics. I'm open to what you might want to do: training, different types of events, equipment, ski-joring, first aid, etc.

**Clean-up:** We need to clean up the meeting hall, pack up our supplies and make sure the lawn area is cleaned up.

I'm sure there's more but this is a good start. Please contact me if you can help and let me know what you'd like to do. This should be a fun event and great way to get more people interested in running dogs and involved in PSDSA.

Thanks!!  
Sheryl



## Pull Workshop

Dates: October 17th, 2015  
Where: La Pine State Park, La Pine, Oregon

In this day-long workshop, you and your dog will be introduced to training methods to prepare for dog-powered sports like scootering, carting, skijoring, and dog-sledding. The morning will be spent on one-on-one training including pulling, learning commands, passing other dogs, and dealing with distractions. At lunch, we will have presentations on training and dog care. After lunch, you and your dog will have a chance to try out dog-scootering.

We will provide harnesses and other needed equipment including dog scooters.

We will provide coffee and pastry in the morning. Lunch will also be provided.

This event will be held rain or shine, so dress accordingly.

We are looking forward to meeting you and your dog!

For more information: Call Sheryl O'Rourke at 208-920-0059

## Pull Workshop Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's name and breed \_\_\_\_\_

Previous experience/goals for workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

Agreement: I agree to be responsible for my conduct and that of my dog. Further, I shall not hold liable for any reason the sponsors of the event: Pacific Sled Dog and Skijor Association. Additionally, I agree to clean up after my dog and dispose of waste properly. No abuse of dogs will be permitted. Participants under 16 are required to wear a helmet during dog scootering.

Owner signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose the registration fee of \$85.00 (one dog per person). Make checks payable to Pacific Sled Dog and Skijor Association (PSDSA).

Mail registration to: Sheryl O'Rourke 8066 SW Millican Rd Prineville, OR 97754

Space is limited. ENTRY DEADLINE October 14, 2015.

Directions to La Pine State Park: From Highway 97: The park entrance is approx. 6-7 miles north of La Pine. Turn west off the 97 onto State Recreation Rd. The turn-off is well-signed. Continue on State Recreation Rd for another 4 miles until you come to the Park entrance. Follow signs straight back to the South Loop campground.

If you want to stay overnight, camping is available at the South Loop on a non-reservation basis. A small number of cabins may also be available and can be reserved using Reserveamerica.com. The park website is [http://www.oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp\\_parkPage&parkId=32](http://www.oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp_parkPage&parkId=32)



## LaPine Mushing Weekend

Dates: November 14th and 15th, 2015

Where: La Pine State Park, La Pine, Oregon

This event is a dirt run, so plan on carts, quads, bikes and scooters. We will be hoping for damp trails, cool temps, but no snow. Runs will be arranged to provide a variety of distances and training opportunities, including passing (from behind and head on), team weaving, directional command training, hills, etc. There is quite a variety of nice dirt trails to choose from. The event is open to anyone regardless of mushing style and experience (or lack thereof); bikejoring and scootering teams are welcome. Trails are suitable for all functions unless we get a surprise dump of snow that makes them dangerous for bikes or scooters, in which case we will combine efforts to make sure everyone gets to run their dogs.



Organized runs will be on Saturday, Sunday & Monday mornings; meet for breakfast at the conference lodge at 6:30 am or at the meadow about 7:30. (This is subject to change, without notice, if the weather looks to be on the warm side.) The staging area is in the big meadow about 1/8th mile before South Loop of the campground.

The event has the use of the meeting hall over the weekend. It has a refrigerator/freezer, microwave, extra electrical outlets, sink with hot/cold running water, tables and a heater. We will have a potluck meal on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at about 3 pm; other meals will be informal potluck at the participants' discretion.... We never lack for enough good food!

## PSDSA FALL MEETING PROPOSED AGENDA

Pacific Sled Dog and Skijor Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 14, 2015

2:30pm

La Pine State Park

Proposed Agenda

- v Meeting Call to Order
- v Minutes of Spring 2015 Meeting Approval
- v President's Report-Polly Riley
- v Treasurer's Report-William Reid
- v Insurance Report-William Reid, Treasurer.
- v Membership-Sheryl O'Rourke
  
- v Election of Officers/Board of Directors
  - Officers Nominees:
    - President: OPEN
    - Treasurer: OPEN
    - Secretary: Selina Witt
  - Board of Directors Nominees (4 positions in addition to the officers)
    - Karen Yeargain (Current)
    - Jane Devlin
    - Kay Lee Brown (current)
    - Polly Riley
    - Sheryl O'Rourke



- v Communication:
  - Newsletter – Kay Lee Brown
  - Facebook page-
  - Website-
  
- v Events This season (2015/2016)
  - Pull Clinic- Oct 17, 2015
  - La Pine Mushing weekend – November 14-15, 2015
  - Chemult Race- Date? On-going?
  - BBDD –Polly Riley  
March 5-6, 2016
  - Mush without Slush- Sheryl O'Rourke  
April 2-3, 2016
  - PNC

If you have any additional items, please let Selina know and she will include them.

## ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

PSDSA Executive Committee and Members of the Board of Directors are elected at the Annual Fall meeting. Please review the following Roles and Responsibilities for each of the positions and volunteer to fill a position. Without officers and board members, we can not exist as a club.

### **Pacific Sled Dog and Skijor Association (PSDSA)**

#### **Roles & Responsibilities of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors Members**

##### President

1. Call meetings (annual, meetings for Executive Committee, other meetings of the membership)
2. Set agenda for meetings
3. Run the meetings
4. Report of club activities at the meetings
5. Identify club things that need to be done
6. Newsletter input for a “message from the president”
7. Spearhead new ideas
8. Coordinate with other sledding clubs
9. Identify candidates for the Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors

##### Treasurer

1. Writing checks and balance checkbook
2. Prepare and account for any tax returns or state requirements to maintain the 501(c)3 status for the PSDSA
3. Manage Insurance for the club and club events

##### Secretary

1. Take minutes at each meeting
2. Distribute meeting minutes to Newsletter Editor.
3. Work with President to establish agenda for each meeting
4. Take care of correspondence for the club as needed (ie Thank you notes for event support).



## Board Members at large

1. Attend meetings
2. Provide input on items as presented by the Executive Committee that might come up between meetings
3. Volunteer for club events and other club activities

## Membership

1. Maintain the list of members who have paid for the current year and the two prior years (with consultation of the Treasurer).
2. Contact them regarding the upcoming events
3. Work with webmaster to maintain member only access on certain areas of the website

## Newsletter Editor

1. Solicit input from club members and others to be included in the newsletter
2. Publish newsletter 6 times a year (September/October; November/December; January; February; March/April; May/June/August)
3. Share newsletter with other clubs (near and far)

## **FROM JILL WILSON re:IESDA**

Hi all, I am sharing dates for our events this year. Are we having a PNC Circuit in 2015/2016? I was also retained as our PNC Representative. I am hoping to hear some clarification on who are PNC reps for other participating clubs also.

The 2015 Dirt Rondy which has not been a PNC event will be November 6-7. We made some changes to the classes for this year adding 8 dog mid, 1 dog bikejor, 1 dog scooter and canicross. Prior to we had 6 dog mid, 8 dog sprint, 6 dog sprint, 4 dog sprint, 2 dog Bikejor and 2 dog scooter classes. We will still have all of those classes. We should have entries on our website shortly.

The 2016 Priest Lake Race which has been a PNC event will be February 6-7. We have not discussed classes there but assuming they will be similar to what we had in 2015. We have not gotten to that level of detail with that event yet. More on that to come.

As you know Richard Hancock is now running the sled dog central website and he received a message from Judge Sullivan with the K9Scooters NW club to share information specifically about their race circuit. So in thinking about this Richard decided to create a new page which you will find on the home page of SDC for "circuits". There is currently a link for the K9ScootersNW circuit of event. Richards question to me, as the IESDA PNC rep was would we like to include similar information out the PNC Circuit.

Here is a direct link to the circuits page: <http://www.sleddogcentral.com/circuits/>

If you click on K9ScootersNW it will show all the events that are part of that race series. We could do the same thing very readily if we can provide him with that information.

I think it would be a very positive thing to do to provide more exposure for these events! Check it out. I think what this entails is one of us letting Richard know what our participating events are for this year. So we just need to fill out our schedule. From what I know now we have:

Oct 24-25:	Pacific Northwest Dryland Championships (NWSDA)
TBA:	Frog Lake (CSDC )
January 16-17:	Chemult Sled Dog Races (PSDSA)
Feb 6-7:	Priest Lake Sled Dog Races (IESDA)
TBA:	Chester (SNDD)?

~ Jill Wilson

## FROM THE BACK OF THE PACK



*Dasher* has joined Team Nookies

As I type, the thermometer is climbing toward another 85 degree day. Because of the Spring, Summer, now Fall's unrelenting heat, yesterday was Team Nookies' first run since early spring. We are woefully out of shape.

Paws crossed that Ma Nature will reset the seasons back to the 20th century with plentiful snow during the Winter months lasting well into the Spring for sunny runner riding.

Before the snow flies, PSDSA has the Annual Fall Meeting and two dryland events: a new Pull Workshop and the Annual LaPine weekend.

Please consider helping your club by filling a Officer or Board Position.

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