



Steve Riggs at Canine Fun Days



WELCOME to the first issue of the MMM Newsletter. If you would like to submit information for the next newsletter, submit to Pam Beckstrom, MMM Secretary, before the end of November. If you have friends interested in dog mushing, please have them to sign up for the e-newsletter today. Go to www.montanamountainmushers.org.

We hope you enjoy reading about Montana Mushers and the articles are written by mushers you know. This first issue will help us set up an e-newsletter mailing list, so sign today.

Pam Beckstrom

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HELP NEEDED

If you would like to be part of assisting our Montana races, please see the contact people. The Darby Fun Run, King's Hill Poker Run and Race to the Sky are all requesting volunteer assistance.

Race to the Sky, February 14-19, 2014, has three races including a 350 mile adult race, a 100 mile adult race and a 100 mile junior race. That means lots of volunteers and everything about the race is volunteer run including the board of directors. E-mail info@racetothsky.org.

The Darby Fun Run, January 18-19, 2014, is also in need of assistance at their two-day event. There will be a Mutt musher contest in Darby on Saturday and a 4, 14 and 25 mile dogsled race on Saturday and Sunday, plus the new skijor event. E-mail positivechangesllc@yahoo.com.

King's Hill Poker Run, March 29, 2014, will also need assistance. Currently, snowmobile club assistance is being sought to facilitate the race happening. It is in the planning stages still. For information, please e-mail Jean at jeanmwise@gmail.com or Terry at adkinsalaskanhuskies@yahoo.com.



Gear Check – Safety First

Now that the snow is here (for most Montana mushers), it is a good idea to check a few items before your first run on snow, if you haven't already done so. Here is a quick checklist so you have a safe first run on snow:

SHOCK ABSORBER BUNGEE	rotate it so it doesn't wear on the same spot each time you use it
CARABINERS	check for burrs that may make ropes or bungees wear prematurely
BRIDLE (on sled or 4-wheeler)	make sure bridle isn't brittle or frayed , replace if necessary
BRAKES (on sled)	check for wear and replace points and bushings, if necessary
TOWLINE/GANGLINE	check for fraying, chew spots and replace if worn or chewed
HARNESSES	check harnesses, body shapes can change over the summer
COLLARS	wash dirty collars (can cause collar rubs), wash collars and harnesses in cold water, air dry
RUNNER PLASTIC	check for scratches and abrasions and replace if necessary
DOGS	increase calories as weather gets colder
QUICK RELEASES	as you add dogs to your team, make sure you have an appropriate size heavy duty quick release



If you would like to place an ad in the next news-letter, contact Pam Beckstrom. If you would like to sell an item(s), you must be a paid member of Montana Mountain Mushers before submitting an ad. Thank you.



DUES are due for Montana Mountain Mushers Please send your checks for \$20 for an individual membership and \$30 for a family members to: Jack Beckstrom, MMM, P.O. Box 76, Olney, MT 59927 or e-mail questions to adanac@adanacsleds.com.