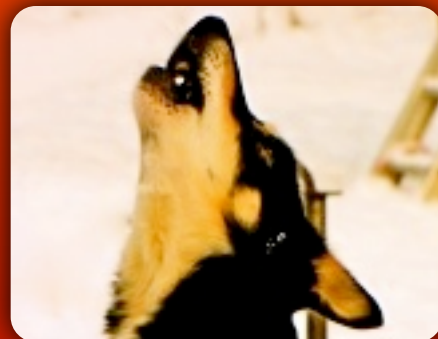


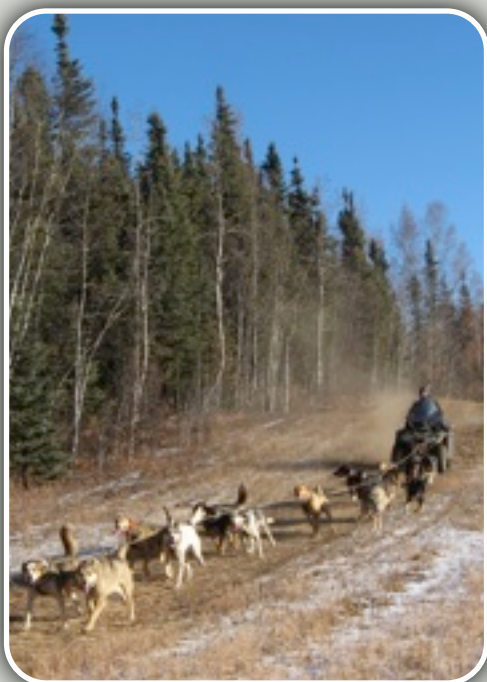
HOWLER



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SP KENNEL TRAINING: STEADY

In Two Rivers, temperatures are chilly and there's a dusting of snow on the ground. The dogs are eager to run and the mushers aren't lagging too far behind... It's training season 2010!



The Team out for a training run.

Training this season for the SP Kennel dogs has been steady. The season started with warmer than average temperatures effecting Interior Alaska. In order to keep the dogs cool during the warm days, the training runs were kept at a very slow, but steady, pace for nearly a month. Now, as October comes to an end and winter is just around the corner - conditions are GREAT!

The training schedule for the canine athletes is currently right on target. The first competitions of the season are fast, mid distance races, and the training program must coincide with these goals. "We like the dogs to start off with a slow speed work out before pushing them faster," Aliy says. "This way, they always want to speed up! The trick is to build them up physically, so that their bodies are fully conditioned and resistant to injury, then we can let them fly."



Meet Olivia!

Allen says: "The litter from 2008 is just phenomenal! Most of the boys were on the Iditarod Black Team last season. There's another standout however, and that's: Olivia!"
"She is a 40 pound ball of energy" Aliy says, "This season, she's more focused and I think she'll really shine as a SP Kennel lead dog."

**Energetic, loud and driven...
Olivia may be the dog to watch this season!**

Olivia is available for sponsorship.

RETURNING VETERANS ARE STRONG.

BUT YOUNG ENERGETIC DOGS ARE BARKING AT THEIR HEELS!

"We admire and respect all of our SP Kennel canine athletes," Aliy says. "But in order to train them appropriately, we must look at each dog in terms of their age and their individuality."

The Old Guard

The oldest dogs in training are Cha Cha and Teddy, who both turned 9 years old this summer. Their top speeds have naturally begun to slow. They aren't the "tough, hard bodies" that they were as 4 year olds. But, no one can replace an older experienced sled dog in terms of wisdom and knowledge. With their experience, these dogs can think their way down the race trail. They might not pull as hard or as fast in the first 200 miles, but they will always be there in the end. Additionally, three key dogs turned 8 years old this summer: Bullet, Tony and Oddball. Their collective experience is invaluable to SP Kennel.

Middle Aged Dogs

Currently, the core of the racing dogs are between the ages of 3 and 7 years old. These are "middle aged dogs" with speed, drive and race experience.

SP Kennel has a huge advantage with the fact that most of these dogs have at least limited race experience. "There is no substitute for race experience," says Allen. "You can train, train, train... but when you hook up a dog in a race situation, everything changes. Their adrenalin is pumping, they are barking like crazy and some of the youngsters just about lose their minds."

Once dogs have been in a race team they are much more comfortable with the whole racing experience. Over 90% of these middle-aged dogs raced in the Copper Basin 300, Denali Doubles or the Iditarod last season. The fact that SP Kennel has so many experienced dogs is due to the importance that we place on racing.

In most races we will enter a Red Team and a Black Team, one to win and one for experience. Last season, we were even able to enter a third team in the Copper Basin 300. Each race team requires a proficient and dedicated musher who knows the dogs and understands the specific race strategy for that team. Once again, this season, we hope to get as many dogs to the starting line as possible.

The Youngsters

Two year old dogs have no mid distance racing experience. SP Kennel has a litter of six siblings who fit in this category: Boondocks, Hank, Lester, Scruggs, Willie and Waylon. They all raced in the Two Rivers Tune Up last season, but their mid distance premiere is up coming. We hope they follow in the foot steps of their parents: Cha Cha and Oddball.

The youngest potential racers are yearlings. These are very young dogs. The primary goal for these seven dogs is to learn and develop into future SP Kennel racers. If they race at all, it will be in shorter races or spring time races.

How is Happy?

"Happy the Sled Dog" is once again in training with the rest of the SP Kennel dogs. She was originally found by Aliy when she was "just a sad homely mutt puppy" three years ago. Against all odds, that homely puppy has taken the sled dog world by storm and even finished Iditarod in 2009. Happy continues to amaze everyone with her fantastic attitude, "never quit" demeanor and her overall **HAPPINESS!** Whether she races every race or none at all she's a priceless gem here at SP Kennel!



Happy is sponsored by a Happy fan for Happy dogs everywhere!

"TRAINING..."

(From front page.)

In order to keep the dogs conditioned, this time of the year, they are fed two or three times a day. The dogs need this extra fat and protein because their metabolism is in high gear due to the training program and the colder temperatures. Also, most of the dogs are currently growing their winter coats which takes a great deal of energy.



Lil Deb is sponsored by Deb & Hunter Davis

Eagle Pack's Natural Pet Food MVP formula helps the dogs cope with these challenges.

Allen and Aliy are in "work out" mode as well. These SP Kennel human athletes push themselves to stay physically fit. Much of the early season dog training takes place with an ATV four wheeler. So, in order for the mushers to remain fit, they maintain a work out schedule as well. Each musher has a fitness routine that includes treadmill, Bow-Flex and stretches.

About SP Kennel

Skunk's Place (SP) Kennel is a premier sled dog racing kennel in Two Rivers, AK.

We are dedicated to the individual dog through excellent health, nutrition, training and specialized care.

We strive to be good-will ambassadors for the sport of sled dog racing, balancing winning performance with exceptional sportsmanship, community outreach and advocacy for the amazing Alaskan Husky.

Preliminary Racing Schedule:

- November 27th - Two Rivers Tune Up
- December 18th -- Sheep Mountain 150
- January 8th -- Copper Basin 300
- January 29th - Tustemena 200
- February 5th -- Yukon Quest 300
- March 5th -- Iditarod
- Other races may be added

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HOWLER: "Thank you!" to all our sponsors, friends, family and fans!

