

Der Hund Kennel



Yo! Der Hund Kennel Racing Fans!

Finally! Summer is over and Paul and I are back to doing the crazy dog thing. Fix the gear and put the chiropractors number on speed dial, the winter racing season is about to start. We are going to try and do the races in bold print at the bottom, if training goes well. Currently we are at 400+ miles logged, a little behind our 2000 Iditarod year, not to bad for No Snow! (I hate Indian summers!). The dogs look good, and as you can see on the enclosed list we have 22 still training to make the team. The 18 up and coming puppies also look very good. We had very good success with our breeding program again this year. And it will start to show this year. This year we had a litter of 6 from our Pinto/Swingley kennel cross breeding, for those of you keeping track.

Some new developments and additions to the team will make this year another one to remember. We still have some of the same sponsors with, Melrose Vet. and Greenwald Elevator as our big helpers. The kennel has maintained its size. At one point this summer we were feeding 62 mutts. The not so new office (Named "The Compound") is still getting cleaner; at least we can still walk from one end to the other. Paul is in good shape, and no new injuries during the year. The big news this year was the campaign. If you didn't know, Paul ran for office, Representative District 13A, as an Independent. That's part of why we got a slow start this year. Too much time on the campaign trail, not enough on the dog trail! It was fun, although Paul didn't get in, he did do the best of any Independent in the state. Which I thought was great for the first time out.

The crew makeup is the same as last year. John G., Joan, Sandy, Mary S. and the Pundsacks. Hopefully this year Joan and John will get more runner time in (If it would ever snow!). Samantha, my oldest at age 8, might do a kid race if mom say's OK. Most likely the Solon Springs 2 dog 2 mile or the 4 dog 4 mile.

Again, we are looking for pit-crew help, full-time and lots of part-time positions. The full time position usually takes a Sat. through Wed. commitment on race week. Part-timers can come and go anytime. No experience needed, always guaranteed to be an exciting trip. The work consists of taking care of 16 to 24 dogs for 3 _ days straight with little or no sleep in negative degree temperatures and no pay! If this sounds like fun, you either need professional help or you should be a handler working for us. But really, it's very fun and terribly addicting. As always room and board (floor space, Elk, Bear or Deer sausage and hot chocolate) is free for the full timers.

We will be doing races close to home this year. The team is very young and with the loss of our main leader Hunt to cancer this summer, we are working with a new front-end. And at this point I think the steering wheel is not quite connected yet, if you know what I mean! We will have 2 or 3 teams in the **Empire** and the **Mid-MN** races. Also in the **Grand Portage** race if time permits. Otherwise we will be running the **UP-200** and the **Beargrease** again. Then if all goes well, next year could be a big travel year, Race to the Sky, MT, Can Am, ME or even the Quest!

For all you surfers the races will be on the net again, with updates coming in as it happens. So if you can't make it to the race, the next best spectator spot is in front of the green screen, in a warm house with lots of hot liquids or Beer. The sites are <http://fp1.centurytel.net/sswi/sled.htm> ; www.grandportagemn.com/passage/index.html ; www.up200.org/ ; www.lapratt.com/midmn150/ ; www.beargrease.com/ ; <http://can-am.sjv.net/> ; www.yukonquest.org and www.iditarod.com

Hope all is well in your world and hope to hear from you soon!

Steve Rasmussen

Razz

Musher/Handler/Kennel Maintenance Engineer (Head Poop Scooper!)