

KRYSTAL KENNELS NEWS

From the paws of Joe & Robin Oberton

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Welcome to our revised newsletter format on our newly redesigned web site! We hope you like the changes. Please send your feedback. Your ideas are very important to us!



BEAUTIFUL YUKON JACK

This month we are highlighting Jack, a 4-yr old grey and white AKC Siberian Husky. You may think that his name is a bit effeminate for a hardworking male husky such as he is. But when he was a young pup and we were preparing to register him with the AKC, Robin wanted to name him Beautiful Yukon Jack because she thought he was SO pretty. Joe did not like the word “beautiful” attached to this male dog, so Robin struck up a deal. If Joe would let her name him Beautiful Yukon Jack, then we could just call him “Jack,” and then Joe would get to name one of the other puppies from this litter. So that’s exactly what we did.

Jack’s most interesting tale happened in January of 2006. Joe had entered the (approx.) 40-mile White Oak Sled Dog Race in Deer River, Minnesota, consisting of a run of approx. 20 miles north from Deer River to a location called “Gosh Dam Place,” where there was a mandatory 2-hr layover, and then another 20 miles north to Squaw Lake Community Center to the finish line. (It seems weird to say “Gosh Dam Place,” as I never talk like that, but this business is named after its location very near a dam on one of Minnesota’s larger lakes, Lake Winnibigoshish. This popular walleye fishing lake is locally referred to as Lake Winnie, and the dam is referred to as Winnie Dam.) So, Joe’s team of 6 dogs made good time from Deer River to Gosh Dam Place. We spent the 2-hr layover caring for the dogs and visiting with our friends Ed and Sue Harwood and Denean and Elliot Flower.

The interesting story about Jack began AFTER Joe left Gosh Dam Place and headed for Squaw Lake. It was now after dark, and Joe was traveling through a beautiful area called “Avenue of Pines,” named so because of many tall straight rows of Norway pine growing in that area. Suddenly, Jack decided he was tired (or lazy) and did not want to pull the sled any longer. He was not hurt or sick, he just kept laying down and making the other five dogs pull him and the sled! He had never done anything like this before, but now he did that for most of the next 20 miles! Joe averaged only 3 mph for that stretch of the trail! He later learned that he could have put Jack in the sled bag and continued on with a team of only 5 dogs, but he did not know that at the time. We were very grateful for the volunteer snowmobiler who followed Joe, very slowly, all the way to Squaw Lake, and kept in touch with us to let us know Joe was alright!

When Joe was within about 200 feet of the Squaw Lake finish line, Jack heard/saw/smelled the activity at the finish and very belatedly picked up the pace! He came trotting in as if everything was perfectly fine, and we should take his picture because he was so beautiful and such a hard-working

dog! Well, Joe was mystified, and when the judges at the finish asked him how he was, Joe said, "You got a gun?" Of course he was kidding, and Jack is still happily with us today. But from this picture taken at the finish line, you can tell that Jack's teammate and mother Sapphire was quite perturbed with her partner! She also thinks that Jack is pretty.....pretty LAZY!

Her ears are laid back, and **HE IS GRINNING!** If only dogs could talk!



ONE-YEAR CANCER SURVIVOR!!!!

I just had to let everyone know that I have passed the one-year anniversary of learning that I had cancer. Yes, that happened on October 31, 2006, so now it has been over a year, and I am still here, three major surgeries later! I feel good, and just sent in my entry fee and race application for my VERY FIRST dogsled race! It will start in Deer River, at the White Oak headquarters, on **January 12, 2008**. So please **mark your calendars** and come out and support me that day. I will be listening for your cheers at the starting line! Watch for more race details on our web site! *Robin*



THANK YOU VERY MUSH!!

This month our thanks goes out to the following friends who donated venison scraps after deer hunting season to augment our dog food budget: **Gene and Lou Lindquist, Marc and Karen Lindquist, Steve and Janice Moe, Ben Morales, and George and Marie Winckler.** **Thank you to all of you from the pack at Krystal Kennels!**

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