

# KRYSTAL KENNELS NEWS

From the paws of Joe & Robin Oberton

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1



JANUARY 2008

January was a very busy month for dogsledding! We gave rides at Marcell Community Center, and to our friends Keith and Vengie McCaslin and others, and trained hard for the White Oak races held on January 12.

**White Oak Classic Dogsled Races:** An exciting time was had by all at the races in Deer River! We are very grateful to everyone who assisted us that day, since we were both entered in the races and needed helpers at the race start, check point, and finish line. Thank you to the many friends and family members who sent their support and/or turned out to cheer us on. A partial (but not all-inclusive) list includes Tim and Kathy Cramer, Denean Flower, Sue and Ed Harwood, Holly Herschbach, Roger Koski, Corina and Micah Magnusen, Kirsten and Logan Mickelson, Guy Smith, and Jill Snetsinger. And a BIG THANK YOU to our dogs for their hard work, to the White Oak Society, and to all race VOLUNTEERS, especially those who served at road crossings to ensure our safe arrival at the finish line!

## **A SPECIAL "THANK YOU VERY MUSH!" TO OUR HANDLING CREW:**

Here is a picture of all of us just prior to the race... (from left to right) Duane Morelan, Laura Zimmerman, Bryan and Kelly Oberton, Diana Longenecker, Robin Oberton, Mike Shogren, Joe Oberton and Mark Longenecker. We could not have raced without their help!



**Congratulations to Joe!** He took 5<sup>th</sup> place in his race. Robin took 20<sup>th</sup> out of 20. Even though Robin came in last, she felt as if she had WON the race. Since her cancer surgeries last year, finishing this race had been one of her major goals. So at the finish line, she was greeted with balloons, a bottle of wine, two dozen roses and a **big pink banner that read "Love Ya! Rockin' Robin,"** which had been signed by many friends and family. It was a "banner" day! Pictures of the banner and others from these races won't all fit on this page. So please check out our web site for more priceless photos!

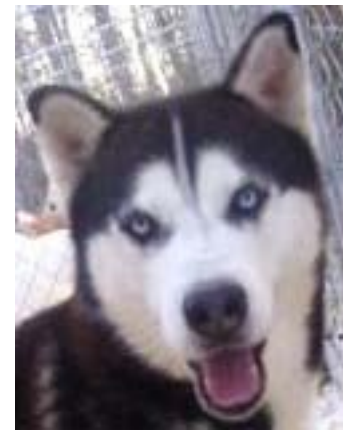


**Hitchin' A Ride:** During the race, Robin's dog team ran at a very slow pace, only averaging approximately 5 mph. (Joe was twice as fast, averaging approximately 10 mph.) When mushing, the saying is heard, "You can only travel as fast as your slowest dog." Robin's slowest dog was Koko. He had trouble with his front paws, so at the 13-mile mark, Robin loaded him on her sled and proceeded down the trail with a 5-dog team. As she went along, a 1970's song kept running through her head. It was, "Hitchin' A Ride" by Vanity Fare. Do you remember that one? Here is a picture of Koko hitchin' a ride as we arrived at the finish line. Click [here](#) to hear a clip of the song.

**Welcome December Sponsors!** Krystal Kennels welcomes new sponsors Dan Magnusen of D. C. Drywall, Tel 218-327-3476; Corina Magnusen, Independent Beauty Consultant, Tel 218-327-3037, (see Corina's web site at [www.marykay.com/cmagnusen](http://www.marykay.com/cmagnusen); and Mel Holmquist of Infinity Graphix, Tel 218-326-3224. We thank them for their sponsorship and highly recommend their services. Check out the Krystal Kennels canines they have chosen to sponsor on our web site "Sponsorships" page!

**Speaking of Sponsorships...** Have you heard about our sponsorship program? Just as race car drivers have sponsors, so do dogsled racers. Various levels of sponsorship are available, and it is an excellent way to advertise your business. Both cash and in-kind sponsorships are accepted. Annual sponsorships are available in the amounts of \$25.00, \$100.00, \$250.00 and \$500.00. Of course if you want to go higher, that is fine too! =) Each sponsor receives his/her name, family name and/or company name listed on our web site sponsorship page for one year along with a 5 x 7 photo of the sponsor's favorite Krystal Kennels sled dog. For sponsors at the \$100.00 level or higher, additional benefits include Krystal Kennels t-shirts and advertising on our web site and dog truck, depending on the level of sponsorship. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to sponsor one of our beautiful athletes! We look forward to working with you. Krystal Kennels reserves the right to refuse sponsorship status.

**Spotlight on Little Boy Blue:** As we promised to Jordan Dyck, this month we are featuring our 4-yr old black and white AKC Siberian Husky stud who we call Blue, named so because, before he was born, he was stuck inside his mom Sapphire for about 3 hours, and when he finally came out, he plopped onto the snow and was very blue! Blue from being stuck, and blue from the cold snow! But Sapphire and Robin rubbed him until he turned pink, and he revived very nicely. The "Little Boy" part of his name came about because he was the runt of the litter for a while, but not anymore! He now weighs around 70 lbs! He is very lovable and popular with school kids when we do dogsledding presentations. He has the most endurance of all of our Siberian Huskies and can do quite well in keeping up with our faster Alaskan Huskies, for a while. But he runs best when placed in wheel position next to Breezy (featured in our June 2007 newsletter) with a team of our registered Sibs. He is beautiful, hard-working and affectionate. Let us know if you would be interested in choosing him as the daddy for your next purebred Sib litter!



Blue

**Ask Jacque Le Flash: Question – How much weight can these dogs pull, and how far?**

**Jacque says:** When we give dogsled rides at Krystal Kennels, we are usually in six-dog teams. It is very common for these teams to pull up to 400 lbs. An average dogsled ride is approximately 10 miles long and lasts about an hour. We pull hard, and when we get back home, Joe and Robin give us a delicious meal of that yummy slump you have read about! Even though Alaskan Huskies usually have a smaller build than the purebred Siberian Huskies, the Alaskans are quite powerful and can pull many times their own weight. Some dogs win awards in weight pulling competitions, but I have never been to one of those. I have heard of a dog pulling 1000 lbs. by itself! To answer your question about how far we can go, some sled dogs pull over 1,000 miles during the Iditarod or the Yukon Quest races in Alaska and Canada. They are some awesome dogs! One of those dogs lives here at Krystal Kennels. His name is Stubby. (Read more about him in our July 2007 newsletter.) He is 10 years old now, but when he was four years old, he was the lead dog for the team that finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Iditarod. Krystal Kennels is his retirement home. He is SO INTELLIGENT and hardworking. I hope to learn a lot from him out on the trail! Thanks for sending in your question, and keep 'em comin'!

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