

KRYSTAL KENNELS NEWS

From the paws of Joe & Robin Oberton

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2



FEBRUARY 2008

We apologize for the tardiness of issuing this newsletter in April, when it is actually February's news! But we were having so much fun mushing that we couldn't stop to write about it until now!

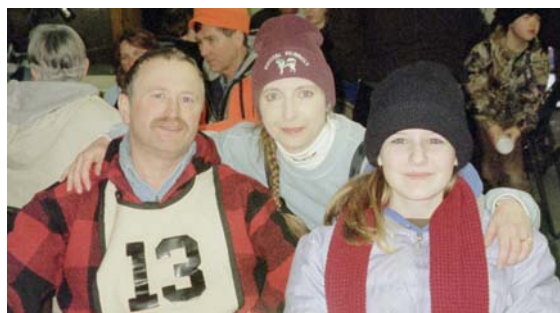
C J JAM DAYS – On Feb. 1, we started off the month with a great event at Conner-Jasper Middle School in Bovey, MN. We gave morning dogsled presentations to numerous classes (see class photo on our web site Photo Gallery page), and then gave dogsled rides after lunch. Thank you to Char Alto for inviting us! Here is a picture of Char and one of the students with Robin driving the sled:



SAFETY FIRST – We had the pleasure of meeting Laura Rucinsky and Richard Coffin on Feb. 2 when they went mushing with us. Then we took Zach Scherer, and Abe, Abby, Alex and Alaina Margo for rides on Feb. 3. Thank you Dan and Cynthia for trusting us with all the kids! Everybody had a blast, and we all came back safe and sound. No surgery by Dr. Margo was required. =) (See Rucinsky, Coffin, Scherer and Margo pics on our web site Photo Gallery.)



JOE OBERTON TAKES 2ND PLACE IN MID-MINNESOTA RACE! – At dawn on Feb. 9, winds were calm. But by afternoon, the **wind chill factor had dropped to nearly 50° below zero!** Imagine traveling on a dogsled for 30 miles in those conditions! Nevertheless, that is what Joe accomplished that day! He covered the trail from Outing to Remer in 2:49:40, averaging 10.6 mph. He was very glad that the Remer Fire Department and Chamber of Commerce held a chili cook-off at the finish line. *Chili* was a delicious way to warm up on such a *chilly* day! Congratulations Joe! We enjoyed having our niece Kailey as our assistant that day. See picture at right:



ALTO FAMILY GATHERING – Char Alto's annual family gathering included some new recreation this year. We gave dogsled rides at their property near Lawrence Lake on Feb. 16. They took turns alternating between rides and enjoying a bonfire, and then they fed us a warm meal at the end of the day. Everyone had a fun time and created lasting memories. They have asked us to return again next year. At left is a picture for their 2008 scrapbooking projects.

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE – Keewatin Elementary School gave that catchy name to their event held at O'Brien Reservoir on Feb. 22. Krystal Kennels enjoyed the company of approximately 120 students as we gave rides on three sleds. Thank you to all of the staff and parents for organizing and assisting at this event, especially Mr. Chris Lysaker. We appreciated the many thank you cards sent to us by the students and look forward to returning next year! A few of the group are shown here:



CUB SCOUTS AND A DOGSLED RIDE ON CRUTCHES! – From Feb. 24-29 we were VERY busy giving rides! **It's a good thing February had an extra day this year!** We enjoyed meeting Ryan Sutherland, Lori Sheedy, Bailey and Hanna Tillman, Tim Gold, Pam Gielen, Anthony Montana and Cassidy Villeneuve. Pam arrived at Krystal Kennels on crutches and successfully managed to get on and off the dogsled with a broken ankle! She was very brave, and we hope she can join us again next winter, but without the crutches! She should be all healed up by then! -- Two groups of Cub Scouts also received dogsled training during this time. You may have seen some of them pictured in the Grand Rapids Herald Review. Thank you to Renee Thompson of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce for suggesting dogsled rides to the Cub Scouts. We all had fun! Look for more pictures on our web site Photo Gallery at www.krystalkennels.com/page/photogallery.

EXPLORE MINNESOTA & VISIT GRAND RAPIDS – Brenda Smith and Cheri Zeppelin of Visit Grand Rapids invited us to have photos taken by professional photographer Paul Stafford of Explore Minnesota on Feb. 27 at one of our Cub Scout events. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon, so we look forward to seeing the results of that photo shoot on Shingle Mill Trail. We hope Paul enjoyed his dogsled ride as he stood on the runners with Robin to take pictures from the musher's perspective. Thank you to Visit Grand Rapids for making these arrangements. Please visit our web site home page for a link to their site.

WELCOME JANUARY SPONSORS! – The following sponsors joined the Krystal Kennels team during January 2008: Bob's Country Market, Carol Berghammer, Tel 218-245-1661; Tom Clusiau's Sales & Rental, Tel 218-326-9421; and Lee D. Jess, D.D.S. Tel 218-326-3231. See our web site sponsorship page for pictures of the dogs they have chosen to sponsor. **Thank you for your support!**

THANK YOU VERY MUSH! – Thank you to Dr. Howe and North Country Veterinary Clinic for their donation of Thuja ointment, which is used on sled dog's feet to keep their pads supple and healthy and to heal them if they become injured. Also, thank you to our sponsor Corina Magnusen for mentioning us in her February 2008 issue of Mary Kay News! You may read a copy of that article on our web site Sponsorships page at: <http://www.krystalkennels.com/sponsorships>.

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