

# Mushing Good Times!

Born to Pull

FALL 2016

## *The Howl*

- Fall Meeting & Gig Race is Sunday, Nov. 13th at Vile's Arboretum in Augusta
- The Fall/Winter Event Schedule is now up on the website! Mark your calendars!
- LIKE us on Facebook and stay up to date with all the club news on our website [mainesleddogclub.com](http://mainesleddogclub.com)

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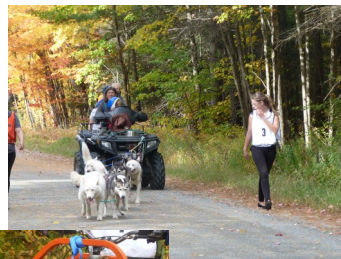
## Basics goes beyond

Basics and Beyond otherwise known as "bootcamp" was held in Brownville this October... and it did not disappoint!

Ten teams came from near and far to put their skills to the test and learn some new ones.

We were excited to see our old friends as well as newcomers to dog-powered sports. With multiple confidence runs each day we had excellent trail help as we all went *on by*. We learned from each other and were kept motivated by the young and young at heart... The club's very own William kept us energized as he ran laps between the teams, occasion-

ally hitching a ride on a rig. William, as young as he is, showed us his stuff, running canicross for the



final fun run and completed the course... no easy task.

We also have to send out our thanks to all of our handlers. Some came with their team, others volunteered as needed to help out. This offered a diverse amount of skill and support coaching the trainers

on... and kudos to Leah, who volunteered to handle for Shannon Rioux having no prior experience handling... and she was a champ, learned a lot and was even eager to get on a scooter with a borrowed dog from Run By Kennel for the fun run... she only made it part way, as her dog was eager to return to its usual musher... but her motivation, and the fearless attempt to try something she had never done is to be commended.

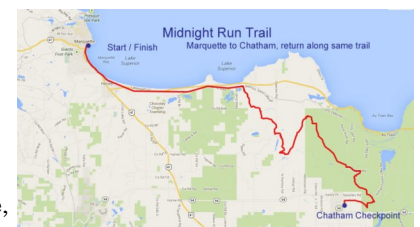
Julie did a spectacular job keeping the mushers and handlers fed... and she out did herself yet again!! We could not do this without her!

Finally, we have to thank Gary and Joan for graciously hosting this amazing event year after year!

## Rico goes west

Rico Portalatin, who placed third in the Can-Am Crown 100 this past season has announced his plan to spread his wings (and journey is awesome dog trailer) to the mid-west this season. He will be running a team in the Upper Peninsula Sled

Dog Association's Midnight Run. This is a 90 mile race starting in Marquette, Michigan, with a 5.5 hour mandatory layover. The race starts around 8:30 pm on February 12th, so all of those hours of nighttime training af-



ter work will be put to the test. We would like to send our best wishes to Rico and Paula on this new challenge!

## From the office of the President...

Greetings Highlanders,

Hope everyone had a great summer. We had the first snow flurries in Greenville on October 23rd, it won't be long! Things are gearing up for the season, please take a look at the club schedule on our website, and check back for changes as we go along. We had another successful Basics and Beyond this year, 10 mushers and their handlers participated. We are so happy to have the Knowles and Chapman's continued support for this course, and thankful for the many volunteers who came out to help. Basics and Beyond is central to our club mission of helping new and novice mushers learn the finer points of dog powered sports, and it would not be possible without the wonderful people who help with teaching,

helping on the trails, and preparing food. Thank you all!

We had another great turnout at our annual auction and potluck this July, and raised a record \$1255!



Thank you to everyone who donated auction items, and participated in the fund raising. Thank you to Margie and Terry for once again hosting this fun event, and of course, our auc-

tioneer George for separating us from our money in a most entertaining way. A big thank you to the Hibbs family for the sled donations, they went to good homes, and helped us

surpass last year's total.

Maine Highlands will be participating in the Eastern Maine Sportsman's Show in March for the first time. We are very excited about this, more information will be coming.

We are a recreational club, and welcome folks who are new to mushing and skijoring who are looking for fun, family oriented events to participate in. We appreciate that we have inexperienced people and dogs on the trails, and make every effort to help each other. Safety is more important than winning at Maine Highlands. We hope to see you to kick off the season at our fall meeting and rig race on November 13th at Viles Arboretum in Augusta.

Jill Carter, President

## Fall/Winter TMHSDC Event Schedule

The season's schedule is posted on our website, mark your calendars, see you at the races!

November 13, 2016 Fall Meeting & Gig Race @ Vile's Arboretum in Augusta

January 21, 2017 Sprint

race, Bradford

January 28 & 29, 2017 KI-Beyond Sled Dog Race, Brownville

February 11, 2017, Milo Race

February 18, 2017 Poker Run Bradford to Corinth



## Getting the bark out about dog-powered sports

As mushers in Maine, it falls to us to be ambassadors for dog powered sports. If we want our sport to thrive, it means introducing new people to what we do.



Recently Darlene & David Farr and friends from Church Hill Kennel gave a presentation at Lincoln Elementary in Augusta, showing off dogs, equipment, and having the student's

pull their teachers for a ride.

Colby Briggs and Erin Noll from Heywood Kennel Sled Dog Adventures brought their dog-truck, gear and pat dogs up to Tractor Supply for a demo.

Thanks for promoting dog-powered sports!

## Sled dog adventures

Heywood Kennel is now under new management! Colby Briggs has brought new life and a wide range of mushing experience to the Augusta area!

After spending a season running tours out of Bettles, Alaska (35 miles north of the Arctic Circle), Colby spent most of last season living and training with his team in Rangley, Maine despite the warm weather and disappointing conditions.

Looking forward to new adventures, Colby has moved to Augusta and taken over Heywood Kennel Sled Dog Adventures. With fingers

crossed, Colby is looking forward to a snow-filled season to offer his



guests sled dog rides, tours and customized adventures.

Colby has shown an excellent dedi-

cation to the dogs of Heywood Kennel and dog-powered sports in our community. He is planning a free, fun training weekend at the Heywood Kennel property on Church Hill Road in Augusta November 19-20. This is a great opportunity to run dogs, practice passing and enjoying the comradery of our dog-sledding peers... He is hoping for snow, but we can always use rigs and ATV's if Mother Nature doesn't comply... contact Colby/Heywood Kennel via Facebook for details.

In the meanwhile, spread the news, dog sled rides are available right in Augusta, with reasonable rates for a fun Maine experience!

## Be alert, accidents hurt!

Last season our club learned all too well how easily and unexpectedly accidents can happen while out on the trail.

The Maine Highlands Sled Dog Club wants to encourage all mushers to take responsibility for themselves and their teams by making safety a first priority when out on the trails this season. The key to this is to be safe all the time, not



just when you are at a race.

Consider what safety gear is right for you. Helmets are always advisable... but don't forget about the rest of you... chest plates, face protection, etc. can be just as important depending on

what you are doing. Talk to Jessica Johnson and Jeff McRobbie for suggestions about what safety gear is right for you.

Remember, it's not just for race day, it's for everyday... accidents can happen anytime anywhere, be prepared!

Let's remember to share the trails, we all want to have fun this winter, let's have a great time and make sure everyone gets home safely.

## Mushers in the rough

Basics and Beyond was excited to host multiple young mushers this year. In the spotlight was new musher, Tara and her dog Mingo. Tara and Mingo were diamonds in the rough. Showing up with little experience and lots of will, they were our most improved mushers this season! With her



mom, Andrea, working diligently as her handler, Tara took Mingo from pet to sled dog in a matter of days, successfully finishing the fun-run at the Brownville training weekend. Despite her young age, Tara on her scooter showed a level of maturity and dedication that we don't often see in such a new team.

We are excited to welcome Tara, Mingo and Andrea into our mushing community and look forward to the future of dog powered sports being firmly in hand.

Update: Tara and Mingo placed 3rd in their race at the Dryland Challenge, Congratulations, you are off to a great start!



**TMHSDC ENCOURAGES  
ALL MUSHERS TO USE  
APPROPRIATE SAFETY  
GEAR WHILE TRAINING  
AND RACING**

**HELMETS SAVE LIVES**



*The Maine Highlands Sled Dog Club (TMHSDC) was formed in 2002 for all mushers, especially recreational mushers. We are a family-oriented club. Our “races” are fun get togethers. We encourage all levels of mushers to join us. TMHSDC’s main focus is to provide a place to learn and to run with other teams. Kids are always welcome. We hold yearly educational events for dog care, kennel management, and hands-on training for dogs and mushers.*

## Okay, let's go!

Good luck to all of our mushers, dreaming big or small!

Rico and Paula Portalatin will be training for the Midnight Run in Michigan this February!

Jessica Johnson wants to represent Team USA in Poland next year, she is going to be busy!

Jeff McRobbie is getting back on the sled, after a serious collision with a snowmobile during last year's Can-Am, Jeff hopes to make it back to Fort Kent to finish what he started! Whether that is a short or long term goal, we are cheering for you!

Julie B. wants to start running teams out of Church Hill Kennel this season, let's hope Mother Nature complies!

Colby Briggs is looking to have a great first season of adventures at Heywood Kennel Sled Dog Adventures!

Savanna Rodrigue plans to enter the Milo Race!

Tara hopes to participate in some races, to do some recreational mushing, keep learning and maybe help out at a larger kennel!

Darlene & David Farr plan to train some of their younger dogs and spend time with their older dogs... they are looking forward to having fun with great dogs and great friends!