

SIBERIAN TALES

VOLUME 34

BAY AREA SIBERIAN HUSKY

APRIL 2014

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Time to renew memberships...
Individual is \$30
Family is \$35

Renewal of membership due
4/1/14

Upcoming Events

MARK Y OUR CALENDAR

April 12 BASH Meeting

May 31, June 1 Maddie's Fund

June 15 Northern Breed Fun Match

Dec 13 Christmas Party



APRIL SHOWERS
BRING
MAY FLOWERS...

Why we Foster?

By Arturo and Heron

My boyfriend and I have been fostering Siberian Huskies for over 5 years now. There have highs and lows, but through it all that we have never doubted ourselves for wanting to foster. Over the years people have asked us why we foster. This is our story ...

Kira is our 1st Husky, and was our first foster dog which also makes her our one (and only) “foster failure”. She was rescued by NorSled (Northern California Sled Dog Rescue), and an older dog they figured she would be easier for a first time foster home. Kira was then 8 years old, 30 lbs. overweight, with a dirty unhealthy coat and no idea what in meant living inside a home having been a typical backyard only dog. She was not affectionate, stubborn and took forever to house train. Over the course of 3 months she improved greatly, losing the excess weight with exercise, proper nutrition and medication. During that time nobody showed much interest in adopting her. When she finally became that healthy beautiful husky that people look for, someone finally contacted us about adopting her. But at that point we decided to adopt Kira ourselves rather than place her. In our defense, we did not come to that decision lightly. We had seen many other rescues in NorSled and BASH (Bay Area Siberian Husky club) foster homes during those 3 months that would not have suited us. And we definitely wanted a husky of our own. Kira has many good qualities that fit our lifestyle. She is calm, not clingy, and good with strangers and small children just to name a few. We also thought she would be a good role model for future fosters (and she is!). Once the adoption paperwork was signed, the first thing we did was look for the next foster dog (and we’ve been placing them in forever homes since).

Kira taught me that there was a lot to know about rehabilitating and training dogs, and if I wanted to be successful at fostering I needed to educate myself. I started reading books on behavior and training, talked to trainers and behaviorist whenever I met one as well as other husky owners because I want to equip myself with the tools to deal with whatever temperament or issue my next foster might have. One particular foster was so stubborn that I broke down crying on the sidewalk during leash training. Eventually he took to the training and I learned a valuable lesson in perseverance. Yet another foster escaped from his crate and ripped up some expensive blinds because of his anxiety. That taught us how to “husky proof” dog crates, but more importantly we came to an understanding that it’s not the dog’s fault. We knew he would try to get out and then calm down after a few minutes, but weren’t diligent in securing the crate door latch.

After a few years of fostering and placing many huskies, we were ready for our own 2nd Husky ... and so Diamond joined our pack. I am grateful that we have Diamond. He has his issues, but what he taught me is patience and understanding; LOTS of it as well as how to handle shy dogs. Sometimes I look back and I wonder how I managed to keep it together. But he made me a better person, and I will always be grateful for that lesson.

We buy pet stain remover by the gallons, and learned not to leave any clothing and shoes lying around the house. I have learned how to spot tension between dogs and attempt to de-escalate the situation before a fight breaks out, as well as how to administer first aid after a dog fight (Thank you Randee for always being so calm and patient talking me through different situations when I was either panicking or near tears). I have gotten bit a few times. I've learned about fearful dogs, and how to best rehabilitate those types. Experienced heartbreak when a foster we had placed had to be put to sleep, which taught me that some things are out of my control. I can only do my best with the dog and time I have.

Ok ... by now you might be wondering why the (you know what) would anyone want to put themselves through all that trouble, just to "give" that dog to someone else? Well, here's the answer:

We love each and every of foster dog, and treat them as if they are our own. It's never easy to let them go. However you get to see the joy, happiness and excitement of their new family. Then come the updates, and oh how we enjoy them!! You see how happy they are in their new home and how well they've adjusted. You get to hear about how their personality and character begins to blossom in a loving forever home, the mischief they've get themselves into, and the adventures they have. To know that you've taken part in providing a great life to husky in need is an indescribable feeling that warms your heart. We know that with every dog we foster that is one less dog that will be euthanized. We also know that you can't save them all but we do what we can; that's better than nothing.

Fostering is not for everyone. It is definitely a lifestyle change. You need to go in with the mindset that you are not trying to save every dog, but **JUST ONE** and understand that this dog is not yours to keep. You are not "giving him up" but giving him a family and a forever home.



Be mindful and prepared to accept that you may experience some property damage, disruption of your life, and at times loss of sleep. Foster not for recognition, but purely for helping a dog in need. If you can only foster one dog a year, then that is still one life you'd save and a big help to the cause.

So, if you have been wondering or thinking about fostering, try it! You may find out it's the sort of thing you've been looking for and not even know it. We are proof! Contact BASH bashrr@com-ctl.com for additional information

Iditarod 2014 by Marie Stevens-

Karen Ramstead announced that this would be her last Iditarod, and since Greg and I were there for her first start, we decided to go to Anchorage and watch her last start as well. We arrived the day of the big banquet, where all the mushers picked their start numbers. We met Karen there, and sat at a table with many of her other supporters. It was a long and sometimes boring night, but it had some high points. There were 4 past Alaska governors there, including Sarah Palin. Hobo Jim, who has written many, many songs about Alaska, including the famous Iditarod song, was there and entertained us for a while. (Better than the governors!) Then the mushers got up one at a time and picked their starting number. They each had an opportunity to say something; the most interesting (in my estimation) was made by the "Mushin' Mortician" (yes, he is a real live mortician) who said that he signs autographs with the same signature he uses on death certificates.

The next day we drove out to Talkeetna, a few hours drive, with a wonderful view of Mt. McKinley (or Denali) when it is clear. It was clear on and off that day, so we had a semi good view. On the way back to Anchorage, we stopped at the kennel where Karen was staying and went to her open house. It was a beautiful setting, back in the snowy woods. (There was snow there....not so much in Anchorage.) We had a good time there...got to pet her dogs, snacked on munchies, talked to other supporters. Then we drove back to Anchorage (stopping at every quilt store that we passed, of course).



The ceremonial start of the race was the next day. All night long workers were trucking snow in and plowing it into a single lane down the middle of 4th street, as there was no snow on the streets. They did an impressive job, ending up with a 6-7 foot wide strip about a foot deep. (That night, they had to cart it all away.) It was really fun to see those big teams taking off. The dogs were screaming and jumping in their determination to get started. We noticed that a few mushers were using harnesses that ended right behind the dogs' front shoulders/legs; nothing went down the back or over the tail. There were loops on the inside to hook the dogs to the center line. Others had regular harnesses, but weren't using neck lines. So the dogs could turn around to visit those behind them and not get tangled. Sure looked odd.

This year Fur Rendezvous overlapped the date of the Iditarod, so there were "Rondy" events going on too. One of my favorites was the "Running of the Reindeer". This is modeled on the "Running of the Bulls" in Pamplona, except with Reindeer. There were 2000 runners (not counting the reindeer), divided up into 4 batches. The reindeer were led down the street (on leashes!!) before each batch ran, and once all the human runners were off they were let loose. The runners were wearing all kinds of crazy outfits and were having a great time....the reindeer didn't seem quite as excited. (If we ever go back to see the start again, I am going to do this run!) They also had a helicopter giving rides, \$50 for about a 7 minute ride. I had never been in a helicopter before, and it was on my "bucket list", so off I went. It was short, but fun.... we just flew around the harbor and over a small part of Anchorage.



The following day was the re-start, out at Willow. We decided that we would use a shuttle that the Iditarod Committee had set up...round trip ride for \$20 each. (Parking at Willow is quite limited.) Turns out the shuttles were school buses! I hadn't ridden a school bus in MANY years, and had forgotten what little space there is for each seat!! Plus I happened to have a wheel well in my spot. I could barely walk by the time we got there 2 ½ hrs later (traffic was horrendous). It was a clear sunny

day...chilly but not freezing. The actual starting point is out on the lake, which thankfully was still frozen. (Those of us from CA aren't used to lakes you can walk on....makes me nervous!) There were lots and lots of people lined up on each side of the trail so it was hard to see the teams as they left. I kept walking out further and further, trying to get a better view, and ended up walking to the other side of the lake. I walked past one group of people who weren't even watching the teams....they had started a big fire (on the lake!!) and were barbecuing! Karen was number 59, so she was way at the end. But her team looked beautiful! We stayed until the very end, then got on the bus early and were able to get a little better seat. We were glad to get back to town without too much further pain.

The last day we drove to Eagle River, Wasilla and around Anchorage, going to every quilt shop we could find. Had a hard time getting everything packed to come home....material is very heavy! The weather was beautiful...if anything, it could have been a little colder. It was in the high 30s, low 40s usually during the day, 20's to high teens at night. So pretty perfect! We had a great time.



Race Update-

1 [Dallas Seavey](#) 14 [Nome](#) 3/11 04:04:19 7 8d 13h 4m 19s 4.70 2h 48m Safety 3/11 01:16:00
2 [Aliy Zirkle](#) 10 [Nome](#) 3/11 04:06:41 10 8d 13h 6m 41s 4.70 2h 31m Safety 3/11 01:35:00

Many very experienced mushers were not able to finish the race this year due to the bad trail in sections of it and a storm that hit at the very end.

It is very interesting reading the Iditarod.com website on the controversy this year. Watch this-
<http://iditarod.com/jeff-king-speaks-from-the-heart/>

Beginning March 25- April 4 you can watch parts of the race on SPORTSMAN CHANNEL



BASH General Meeting

Saturday April 12
6 pm

Marie and Greg Stevens
1924 Foxworth Ave
San Jose CA
(408)377-1180

Entrée' will be supplied by the club

Please contact Marie or Greg to find out what else needs to be brought.



Appetizer
Salad
Dessert

We will have dinner first for this meeting, and the meeting will follow....



Like us on Facebook

Using social media, like Facebook is a GREAT WAY to help bring awareness to Club Events, Fund Raisers, Adoption Fairs, and Dogs Available for Adoption!

If you haven't already, Please "Like" our pages on Facebook... Be sure to ask your friends and family to "Like" us as well!

We have two pages (Be sure to like them both):

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Bay-Area-Siberian-Husky-Rescue-Referral/154737834550732>
and

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Bay-Area-Siberian-Husky-Club/129080940474219>

Umunhum Runs

We will be having runs this year but will wait til later to decide when. Usually we do one once a month. With the cleaning up of the base it causes me to not set the dates far in front because it may be in conflict with something they are doing.

We will camp this summer. Farmers says it will be a hot summer but usually we can run them late at night and early in the morning.

We may do one in early April I will post to the list the Friday before if it looks like we can.

I will try to post some posted for the summer next month.



Husky Hike



On March 8th, 13 ½ BASH members took a deep breath and took a bunch of huskies on a mountainous hike. (The ½ BASH member was Gabriel, Karen & Brian's little tyke. I'm not sure how many huskies there were altogether...+ one German shepherd... but there were more dogs than people.) We went

to the Coal Creek Open Space Reserve, off Skyline above Palo Alto. None of us had been there before, so we weren't actually too sure where it was, but it was an interesting drive (very mountainous and winding) and we all ended up in the right place. It was a beautiful setting with some great views. But I also have to mention that it was kind of straight up and down. The first long stretch was pretty much all downhill...and it was still fairly cool. Then it was up and down for a while, through some very wooded areas, past a small waterfall and fern grotto, but then.....straight up!! And it was getting warmer. The dogs seemed to love it though. They all wanted to be up near the front so they were pulling a lot, none of them wanting to be left behind. We passed one man with a small dog; he felt compelled to carry his dog past all of our big dogs. There were a bunch of mountain bike riders who whipped past us too, while we held our dogs tight on their leashes. The dogs seemed to have a great time and probably could have gone a lot further. Some of us humans were a little tired (is that a word?). We're now thinking about where to go for the next hike. Greg and I were on vacation for a week, so nothing has been set up, but we have gotten a lot of suggestions and will be setting up another one. Hope to see you there!



Rescue March 2014

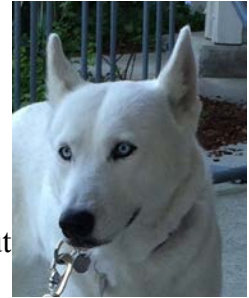


Pat Hannum
PatHannum@aol.com

Come meet the beautiful PELUSA!

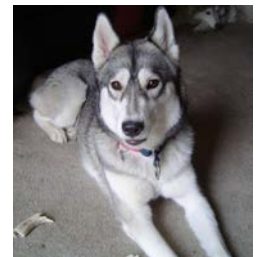
Pelusa means fluff and in this case, she is white fluff with ice blue eyes. She is between 4-6 years old, she is active, alert, and interested in her environment. She is good with both large and very small dogs..she is so easy going and has settled in with my family very easily..... she is a great mature siberian. She is very gentle with children. She loves to just hang out at the house.

She is laid back around the house and good with my female. She checks out the yard, but just likes to lay in the sun and has been good in the house.



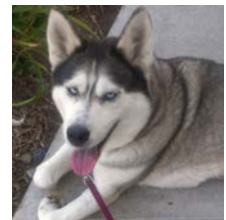
Bill Otto
408-258-9806
billotto1412@aol.com

She is very confident. She is very sweet, rides well in the car and wants to play with my other siberian (who won't play yet but give her a few days) She appears to be houstrained and knows how to use a doggy door. She knows sit and down and likes to go fast while walking on a leash. She learns things quickly. So far all the dogs she has been exposed to she has been good with. She is toy possessive and will need a person willing to work on that with her. She is not good with cats. She would do best in a home with an experienced dog owner. She wants to play so much she would be good as a companion to another dog.



Heron Ho
510-921-6424
snowlets8@yahoo.com

Rosie is a sweet beautiful 3+ year old 60 lb. female who came into the shelter with a wound in her side. Come to find out she had been shot with a BB that had entered her abdomen, but she has since made a full recovery. Rosie has soulful blue eyes and a lush oh so soft velvety coat. Her picture does not do her justice. She is friendly and affectionate. All she wants are pets and belly rubs!! Rosie is very mellow for her age, attentive, smart and vocal. She likes to lounge and nap but perks up when it's time for a walk. She is good on leash and will get better with continued training. Rosie is friendly towards other dogs but can sometimes get overly excited, so she may need to be reminded to mind her manners.



We will be working with Maddie's Fund again this year on May 31st June 1st

Bay Area Siberian Husky Club

Membership Renewal and Associate Application 2014-2015

Membership \$30.00

Family \$35.00

Date _____
Name(s) _____
Mailing address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Area code and phone _____
E-mail Address _____
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I would like the newsletter mailed to me.

Make checks payable to BASH. All memberships and subscriptions are valid through March 31, 2015. Send membership renewal form and check to:

Bay Area Siberian Husky Club, 2633 S Bascom Ave, Campbell CA 95008

Bay Area Siberian Husky Club

www.bayareasiberian.org

2633 S. Bascom Avenue

Campbell, CA 95008

Upcoming Adoption Fairs

First Saturday
PetsMart, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
850 W. Hamilton, Campbell
408-371-1841

Second Saturday
PetsMart, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
175 Ranch Road, Milpitas
408-258-9806

Third Saturday
Pet Food Express 11 am to 1 pm
15466 Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos
408-356-7600