

# Siberian Tales

Volume 16.2

February 1996

## SnoBASH I - 96 was GREAT

SnoBASH I was the most eventful one to date, and I don't think many could say they did not have a good time. A little cold and wet at times but we had a good time. We ended up with more than 40 dogs, 80+ people and 16 very happy kid mushers. We went through more than 170 hot dogs, gallons of hot chocolate and cider, bags of cookies and much more.

Many arrive in Angel's Camp by Friday night and we got together to have dinner. Since many of the restaurants are closed early the desk clerk at the Angel's Inn called a local diner and warned them we were coming. They called in an extra waitress and let us take over their banquet room.

Saturday started out with all of us watching the weather reports about the biggest storm of the season hitting the Sierra's. They were right, but we went anyways. We had all top off their tanks in Arnold and away we caravanned. Some members have radios that were shared so we could keep in touch with each other so 10 of the 14 cars were able to converse. Most put on chains outside of Arnold (two had to go back and buy them) and we trekked on. The usual 45-60 minute drive took almost 2 hours and we arrived to find the slopes closed and the Highway Patrol turning cars around just after the point where we were to be staying. The problem that arose was that there was not much parking. With radios we kept telling each other where we saw spaces and suddenly they plowed one of the lots

## Club Officers as of July 1, 1995

President: Al Oullette  
Vice President: Laura Morales  
Secretary: Randee McQueen  
Treasurer: Art Lassagne  
Members at Large:  
Nic Matulich  
Celine Tews  
Carol Oullette

out and most of us moved there and BASH took over the lot! The wind and snow was to great to set up where we had planned, so we set up the tents and food in the lot. All the kid sleds were pulled off of roof racks and they started having trial runs through the lot. A few adults tried the course that had been groomed for us but they had to wade through 6 inches + of soft powder. At one time we had more than 50 people in our group. We had hot dogs, beans, hot drinks etc to keep us warm and packed up around 4:30 for the trek back to the hotel.

Saturday night about 30 people showed up for pizza at Mike's Pizza. We had a raffle that included mugs, BASH hats, husky ornaments, etc... The raffle netted \$62.00 which will be used to help pay the grooming fees. We had charged \$5.00 per person for lunch for both days with any of the money left over after paying for the food to be used to pay the grooming fees. (We charged the \$5.00 on the honor system, so if you are one that forgot to pay send your money to BASH when you have time.)

Sunday started out as a beautiful day. Totally opposite from Saturday. The sun was out, chain controls were off and there was not any wind until late afternoon. The  
Cont. Page 5

## BASH Member Profile: Randee McQueen

Randee is the Secretary of BASH. She is single and owns two Siberians. Both are reds. Her first one was Maxx (named after the forgotten sheepdog in "The Little Mermaid" by her niece and nephew) and he is almost 6 and she just got Teruu (which means friend in an Alaskan Dialect) who is 4 months. Randee is a family member though as both her niece, Megan, and nephew, Ross, love to mush and do activities with the club along with her brother Scott and his wife Deb and her mom Marge. They all help with many of the activities that she is involved in with the club as they enjoy the breed but don't want to own one. Randee is the CFO of the family owned communications company in Campbell, teaches Special Education part time at Fisher Middle School and designs computer programs for use in Special Education programs.

Randee "got into" Siberians because she owned what she thought was a Siberian/Shepherd mix named Jackpot. When he died at 15, she wanted another dog and decided to get a Siberian as Jackpot had been taught to ride a toboggan down a hill and then help pull it back up the hill. After getting her Siberian she learned more about the breed and realized that Jackpot was probably part Malamute not Siberian. She learned about BASH from the breeder that she got Maxx from and started trying to learn more about ways to exercise and entertain him. Randee went to her first SnoBASH in 93 with some friends and was hooked. She bought a sled and started to learn  
Cont, Page 5

# SKYEWriting

by Alan Doyle

## Ole Blue Eyes Gets 'Em Every Time

By now, all of us have become situational Siberian Husky experts. We know the breed. We know when to sing praises of these singular dogs. And we know, for example, when to warn non-Sibe owners what they might be getting into. It's as much a part of life with Sibes as those twice-annual coat-blowing extravaganzas or the howling sessions that leave nervous neighbors wondering about those "dogs" in our back yards. But, speaking as a relative minority the single Siberian owner I believe there's one talent to this breed that doesn't get nearly the credit it deserves.

*Babes. (For our purposes, since this IS California and assuredly a politically correct newsletter, 'Babes' is used as a gender-neutral term, even if cruel vagaries of nature and genetics force me to write from a male heterosexual point of view.)*

Every Sibe I've had has been a people magnet. I wish it were the owner, but I know it's the dogs. Sibes are such beautiful dogs and for the most part have such outgoing, friendly dispositions that they're bound to make friends wherever they go no matter who's on the other end of the leash. If you have any doubts, try walking through the park with Manson the Pit Bull or Hitler the Rotti and see how many friends you make.

But I never really appreciated how Sibes could be Babe magnets until Skye adopted me. That's not to say Turk, my last Sibe, didn't have those skills. But I was involved in a long-term relationship (with a, shall we say, insecure) woman during most of the time I had Turk, and his choice in human female friends more often was a problem than a blessing.

Besides, Turk didn't have Skye's Babe Radar.

Wherever we go and we go 7-10

miles a day, every day Skye seems to have an unerring ability to be friendliest toward the women I'm most attracted to. I don't have to do much of anything except follow his lead. We get 15-20 feet away, and he flattens his little Sibe ears and begins wagging his tail and talking to them, and they're his, captivated. Then, occasionally, they notice me and start talking sometimes even about something other than "What a beautiful dog you've got." That gives me a chance to learn enough to weed out the three unacceptable types: Non-dog people; Yuppie Career Achievers and SMISDs (Single mothers in search of dads). What's left is the Skye Dating Pool, and a fine one it is.

This is basically a good thing for a single guy trying to meet the neighbors and re-establish a social life. But there are drawbacks.

For one thing, Skye isn't particularly discerning about age; he's an equal-opportunity attention sponge. As a Boomer who's looking at 50 just over the hill (and hoping he's not over the hill himself), I wish Skye would be a tad more discerning. I've been working with him on this, but can't seem to get beyond "Sit" and "Stay" to "Nobody Under 35."

Then there's the Little Gold Band problem. Skye can spot a cat at 100 yards and sniff a biscuit at the other end of the house, but just can't seem to get it through his little sled dog head that we need to rule out married women and those otherwise unavailable.

But the biggest problem of all isn't the follow-through the small talk, establishing mutual interests, getting a phone number or getting a date.

It's Skye himself ... Start with 24 hours in a day. Knock off 10 for job and commute time (chores and trips to the beach and woods on the weekends). Knock off another 6-7 for sleep. That brings us down to seven.

Knock off another three hours for

Skye's strolls through the neighborhood, an extra hour for doggie playtime and 30 minutes for grooming. That leaves less than three hours a day to shower and shave, cook meals, vacuum dog hair ...

So what Skye the Babe Magnet really brought me?

"Well, I'd really like to go out with you, but I just don't seem to have the time..."

**SKYLINES:** Judy Tamagni (Trailsibe@aol.com) of Calistoga, who's active in Siberian Rescue in Napa County, points out an important omission from my January column. Although I first contacted to Siberian Rescue when I had to place Cassidy in 1994, it actually was Cassidy's breeders, Lee and Tony Yarbrough of Reno, Nev., who found Cassidy in his new home. Judy makes the point far better than I could: "Siberian Rescue does a tremendous job, but I do believe that when a breeder or co-breeder takes responsibility for helping to place a dog that for whatever reason finds itself in need of placing, then that breeder should be given credit. Too many breeders are not willing to do this, and I believe this is a big problem within any breed."

My apologies, and my thanks to Judy, Lee and Tony for their efforts in finding a good home for Cassidy.

**SKYEWriting:** Comments, criticism, suggestions? Here's how to contact SiberSpace: e-mail: alandoyle@aol.com; voice mail and/or a real live person: 707/643-7975; mail.: 1029 Tuolumne St., Vallejo, CA 94590.

# BASH Trail Tales Highway 4 at Lake Alpine Sno-Park

## Novices take the Trail

Just above Bear Valley, as it climbs to Ebbetts Pass, Highway 4 runs along the northern edge of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. During the winter the highway closes here, and the Lake Alpine Sno-Park becomes a roadside staging area for snowmobiles, cross-country skiers, and--to our delight--dog mushers. At least that's the way we found it on an overcast Saturday morning shortly after Christmas when we met Nic Matulich and Scott Tilmont for our first experience of mushing.

I say our first experience, but that's not quite true. Melissa and I had arrived alone the day before in order to spend an hour or two trying out our freshly-varnished sled and seeing just how well our two Siberians, Juneau and Niki, would pull in the snow. We also wanted a little privacy for our first run, figuring that the first few times we dumped the sled, we might like to do it without a crowd. The dogs did well, better than we did, and we had a small taste of what recreational mushing could be: the shared exhilaration of drivers and dogs slushing almost soundlessly through fresh snow.

When we met up with Nic and Scott the following day, they had already prepared their toboggan sleds and were set to harness their own dogs. We followed suit, harnessing Niki and Juneau and planning with Nic and Scott how to distribute fifteen dogs into three teams. We put our two dogs behind Nic's Cody and Dozer and harnessed them to our sled--the lightest of the three. Nic assembled a six-dog team, Scott a five-dog team. Melissa and I decided that she would drive our sled while I would begin the trip riding the runners with Scott.

Throughout the day I would be impressed with the courtesy of passing snowmobilers, who usually waved as they pulled abreast and always smiled to see the dogs. But when we started out I had no experience of them. As we started out across a snow-covered field busy with snowmobilers, I could not be sure if they were staring because they wanted to keep us off their trails or if they were simply stunned by the unusual sight of three compact teams of Siberian huskies striding eagerly (I foolishly imagined) like veterans of the Iditarod. Whatever the case, we

quickly gained the closed-off section of Highway 4--our route for the day--and we left the sno-park behind.

The first section of the highway falls gradually downward toward the Lake Alpine Lodge on the left and campgrounds on the right. Some winter campers had a base there, the colors of their tents and camping gear bright against a dark background of snow-laden evergreens. Thanks to the downhill grade we passed through the area quickly, the dogs pacing effortlessly, tug lines taught. Soon after, we saw the highway flatten a bit and there the trees opened upon our first unhampered view of Lake Alpine, its surface sealed by slate-gray ice, dusted with the flakes of snow that had recently begun to fall--a scene at once beautiful and, in the dim light of overcast skies, one I found thoroughly forbidding.

Soon after, the highway begins a series of gentle uphill grades, each followed by relatively level stretches. It was just cold enough to allow the light, wet snow to continue falling. Most of the flakes melted, while some added their weight to the white accumulation on the surrounding trees. But most of all the snowfall enforced a kind of quiet. The landscape offered us perfect stillness, broken only by the occasional snowmobile's roar, our own conversation, and the swish of sled runners slicing through the snow. Certainly the dogs made no sounds as they strained against their harnesses and concentrated on following the trail.

Somewhere along the highway we began switching out, Melissa usually riding alongside Nic whenever I took a turn driving our sled. We had to work harder because of the occasional uphill, pedaling (rather gracelessly at first) and pushing the sleds in order to help the dogs negotiate the grades. We knew beforehand that mushing could be hard work, but no matter. We enjoyed it thoroughly even as we resolved to get in better shape for the next time. We stopped for lunch after traveling, Nic estimated, between four and five miles. Scott and Nic munched gorp and drank coffee from a thermos; Melissa and I ate sandwiches made from Christmas leftovers. The dogs enjoyed

their own treats--Melissa likes to reward ours with a little cheese. We talked about the trail, about sledding in general. Scott told us a bit about how his sled was designed; Nic showed us some of the equipment he always stows in his sled bag. As we talked, Nic's leads, Jiggy and Sue, curled up together like veterans who know when to rest. Our two, Juneau and Niki, remained impatiently standing the whole time. Just like their owners, they were too excited, and too inexperienced, to sit still.

After lunch, we turned the teams around to retrace the trail and return to the sno-park, a prospect the dogs seemed reluctant to embrace since they wanted to push on to new landscapes. Coming back was slower, of course, we drivers feeling a little fatigued as we pedaled and pushed our sleds. Even so, the easier pace allowed us a little more time to take in the scenery and a little more time to marvel at the work ethic of the dogs, the way that these Siberians seemed to fall to their task easily and with real pleasure. When we returned to the sno-park, finally retracing our trail through that field of snowmobilers, we were grinning like school kids.

Nic tells us that we have at least six dogs in our future. I can't say yet if that initially alarming prediction will come true. But after the fun we had on our first day of mushing, I certainly can't deny the possibility.

Terry Beers

If you have a Trail Tale to tell please submit it to;

BASH'S TRAIL TALES  
Nic Matulich  
1140 Nadine Drive  
Campbell, CA 95008

Please make it 2-4 pages single spaced. Include any photos or maps if available. All material become the property of BASH.

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## Book Review

**Dog Heroes**

by Tim Jones  
with illustrations by  
Jon VanZyle

Who says there are no more real heroes? This is a book chock full of nothing but heroes. The only difference is these heroes are canines not homosapiens. Twenty stories pay tribute to twenty heroes by relating their real life adventures about the lives they saved, crimes they thwarted, risks they took to advance the dreams of men, loyalty displayed in spite of overwhelming odds and more. In addition to the twenty stories there are vignettes at the end of each story that encapsulate the tale of other heroes. The last section of the book houses a dog almanac full of interesting facts and figures.

The subjects come from all over the globe. Among the featured dogs are: Buster, the family pet who saved thirty-five people from a burning inferno; Rags, the World War I hero of the battle field; and Winston the drug busting dog who was so effective that the bad guys put a bounty on his head. The illustrations alone are worth the price of this book.

Dog Heroes is hardbound and would make an excellent gift for the dog lovers. It is published by Epicenter Press, Box 82368 Kenmore, WA 98028 (206)485-6822. The book is available from major booksellers or through the publishers for \$32.95 plus shipping.

(reproduced from PETS USA, Holiday 1995)

## Ten Commandments of Dog Ownership

My Life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be painful for me. Remember that before you acquire me.

Give me time to understand what you want of me.

Place your trust in me. It's crucial to my well being.

Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your entertainment and your friends. I have only you!

Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when it's speaking to me.

Be aware that however you treat me, I'll forget it.

Remember before you hit me that I have teeth that could easily crush the bones of your hand, but that I choose not to bite you!

Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate or lazy ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food or I've been out in the sun too long or my heart is getting old and weak.

Take care of me when I get old. You too will grow old!

Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say I can't bear to watch it or let it happen in your absence. Everything is easier for me if you are there. Remember I love you!

(reproduced from PETS USA, Holiday 1995)

## Bay Area Siberian Husky Club Meeting Minutes Outline 1/6/96

The club is incorporated as of December 29, 1995. Our fiscal year is April 1 to March 31.

We are trying to set up a Fun day at Central Park in Fremont which will include Canine Good Citizen testing, carting and showing rescue dogs available. This is scheduled for March 30th or 31st depending on if the park is available and the judge for the CGC.

The Nominating Committee proposed their Board nominations as: Al Ouellette- President, Laura Morales- Vice President, Randee McQueen- Secretary, Kris Sihler- Treasurer, Angela Kwan, Dana Anderson and Melissa Beers - Members at Large. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the February meeting.

WWW page is up and running for BASHRR thanks to Melissa Beers and Kris Sihler is working on a BASH WEB page.

Future events- Siberian Husky Specialty Match- May 18th at Cal State Hayward. This will include carting and other fun stuff.

K-9 cruiser is giving us a deal on buying their product. Cost is \$35.00 with \$5.00 going back to the club. The owner is interested in us doing a K-9 brigade in a bike a thon or something similar.

Marilyn Lassagne made a suggestion to the Board that Nic Matulich be accepted as the Rescue Coordinator. Nic in turn suggested a meeting be set up the following week for those persons interested in the committee.

Braggs- Celine and Bryan bragged

that Shaman ran 6 miles on the k-9 cruiser the other day at Coyote park while the rest were carting. Melissa bragged that they had taken their dogs to the snow and mushed for the first time. They had a great time.

Nic bragged that he had gone sledding for the first time this season with Scott and the Beers and they all had a great time. He also bragged that they had made a full size sled that worked very well.

Nic also bragged that he placed the Wooly JOJO that had to be shaved down due to mats.

Marilyn bragged that she placed Cisco.

Next meeting February 11 at Santa Clara County Dog Show.

### Member Profile- Cont.

more about how to train her dog. In 94 she trained with the group that "carted dogs" on highway 85 before it opened and is now part of the "Umunhum 9" that train their dogs on Mt. Umunhum. Randee and Laura Morales exercise/train their dogs during the week by carting them around and near Payne Avenue in San Jose. Last winter, Randee put in more than 130 miles sledding with Nic Matulich. She was also able to "ride" the first 16 miles of the Iditarod last year with musher #30. She is the Timer of the Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers Association sprint races. Randee fostered 5 Siberian during the last year. After fostering all of those Siberians she decided that Maxx should be allowed to keep one and that is how she decided on getting Teruu.

Other things that Randee does work with Pet Assisted Therapy with Maxx. They visit Valley Medical Center once a month. Maxx and now Teruu will go with her to classrooms throughout the area to discuss and educate students about Siberians and other nordic breed dogs, sledding, carting and the Iditarod.

### SnoBASH cont.

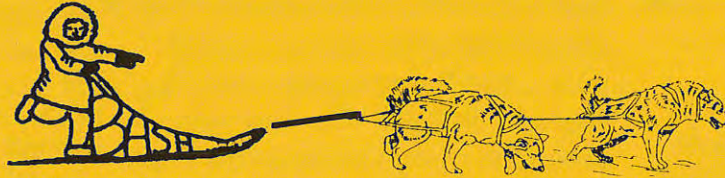
tent and food was set up where we had originally planned, the sweatshirts and BASH logo stuff was out, and PeeWee races were scheduled. Those that knew about sledding helped and took out those that did not. Any dog that had a harness went out at least once if not more and any child that was there had at least one ride. There were 16 kids that raced against the clock with adults lining the field and parents running around with the sleds. We talked to many people about the club, our dogs, sledding, rescue dogs, fostering and much more.

There are too many people (members and member's relatives) to thank individually that put in a great effort to make SnoBASH the success it was for individuals and for the club. Those that did the work prior to the weekend were: Nic Matulich who was the one that did all of the organizing of the location, putting in the trail, PeeWee races, making the basic kid's sleds for others to put together and much more. Randee McQueen for doing the organizing of the hotel, the food, tents, signs, raffle and with the help of Laura Morales the BASH logo items for sale. Scott Tilmant and Dana Anderson for hauling up the trailer that held all of the items for the club to use. There are many more that helped on one or both days. You know who you are and BASH thanks you for all you did. Try to attend SnoBASH II next month!!

BASHRR has a new phone number

1-800-437-BASH

This line is for Lost and Found Siberians in the Bay Area along with giving out information on the club and rescue. It is a voice mail service



Bay Area Siberian Husky Club  
**SnoBASH II**

March 2 & 3, 1996  
 Bear Valley

**Who:** Anyone who would like to have fun in the snow. If you have a dog we will find a harness, there will be plenty of sleds and some equipment (harnesses etc...) will be available for purchase. The dogs all know what to do. Those members that know what to do will help with those that don't. We will be offering sled rides for a donation to Rescue.

**What:** A Fun Day with the dogs, with sleds and friends, in the snow!

**Where:** Day 1 at the Cross Country Ski Chalet. Take Highway 4 to Bear Valley, 2 1/4 miles before Bear Ski Lodge you will turn Left onto Bear Valley Road. If the snow is not to high you can see a gas station and park just to the right of it.

11 am to 4:30 - play in the snow (They will put in parking and a groomed trail, gas station, restrooms and other facilities available, pack a picnic lunch or we will have hot dogs, drinks, etc...)

7 pm: meet for dinner at a location to be announced.

Day 2: Same place or change will be announced-  
 11 am to whenever

**For additional information contact : Nic Matulich (408)379-7253**

(last minute info or changes due to weather, check with Randee at (408)371-1841)

Call the following places for lodging: (some allow dogs in the room and some don't)  
 Angels Camp is approximately 45 minutes + from Bear Valley

Bear Valley Lodge (800)794-3866

Powder Bears Cabin (209)753-2060

Monte Wolf (209)753-2060

\*\*\*Angels Inn (209)736-4242 They allow dogs in the room (talk to Jennifer Berry, Manager) 10% discount for AAA (many club members stay here)

## Upcoming Meetings:

**February**- General Meeting Feb 11, Santa Clara Fair Ground, after BOB of Siberians. Time will be sent one week prior to meeting.

Feb. 3 & 4 th Golden Gate Dog Show at the Cow Palace.

**March** - to be announced- Meeting when we vote for the new Board. We are trying to schedule a Canine Good Citizen Fun Day for March 30  
SnoBASH II - March 2,3

**April** - installation of new Board

**May**- Siberian Specialty May 18, Cal State Hayward

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## BASH Logo Items-----

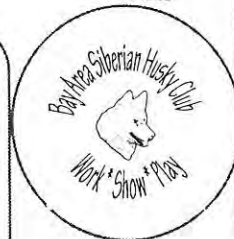
Sweatshirt/t-shirt

Bay Area Siberian Husky Club



Work \* Show \* Play

Pin



- Sweatshirts- L, XL, XXL** \$20.00  
Cardinal, Forrest Green, Black, Plum, Blue
- Long Sleeve T-Shirts- L XL, XXL** \$15.00  
Cardinal, Forrest Green, Stoney Blue, Black
- BASH Baseball hats** \$12.00  
StoneWashed Green, Blue, Maroon, Gray
- BASH pin (old logo)** \$4.00
- BASH pin (new logo)** \$5.00
- SnoBASH Coffee cups** \$5.00

Send \$3.00 per item if you want it mailed

If you want to purchase items contact:  
(408)377-2900  
Fax (408)559-7684  
Randee1@AOL.Com

Randee McQueen  
2633 S Bascom Ave.  
Campbell CA 95008

## SNDD Tentative Race Schedule

### February

- 3,4 Mammoth, CA**
- 10,11 Markleeville, CA**
- 17,18 Chester CA**
- 24,25 Forrest Hill

### March

- 3,4 Grande Lakes CO**  
(ISDRA sanctioned races are in **Bold**)

SNDD needs trail checkers and helpers for all races. It is easy work and alot of fun. Trail checkers go out on the course and keep races on the correct trail. If interested in helping contact: Randee McQueen (408)377-2900

## Upcoming Dog Shows

- Feb 3,4 Golden Gate Kennel Club  
Cow Palace, Daly City  
Siberians Show at 9:30 on Feb. 3rd
- Feb 11 Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club  
Santa Clara Fairgrounds  
BASH Meeting Time TBA
- Feb 18 Apple Valley Kennel Club  
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds,  
Victorville Closed
- Feb 24,25 Silver Bay Kennel Club  
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar  
Closes 2/7
- Mar 2,3 Kings Kennel Club of CA  
Kings County Fairgrounds, Hanford  
Closes 2/14

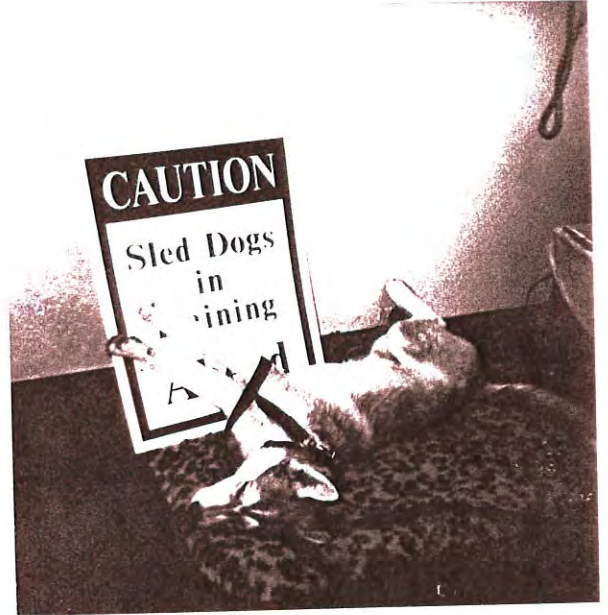
# Picture Page

Why you don't cross a Siberian with a Poodle!

Not really. JoJo had to be shaved when he came to rescue because of mats. He now has a wonderful new home with Matt (a rescued Samoyed) and a great family.

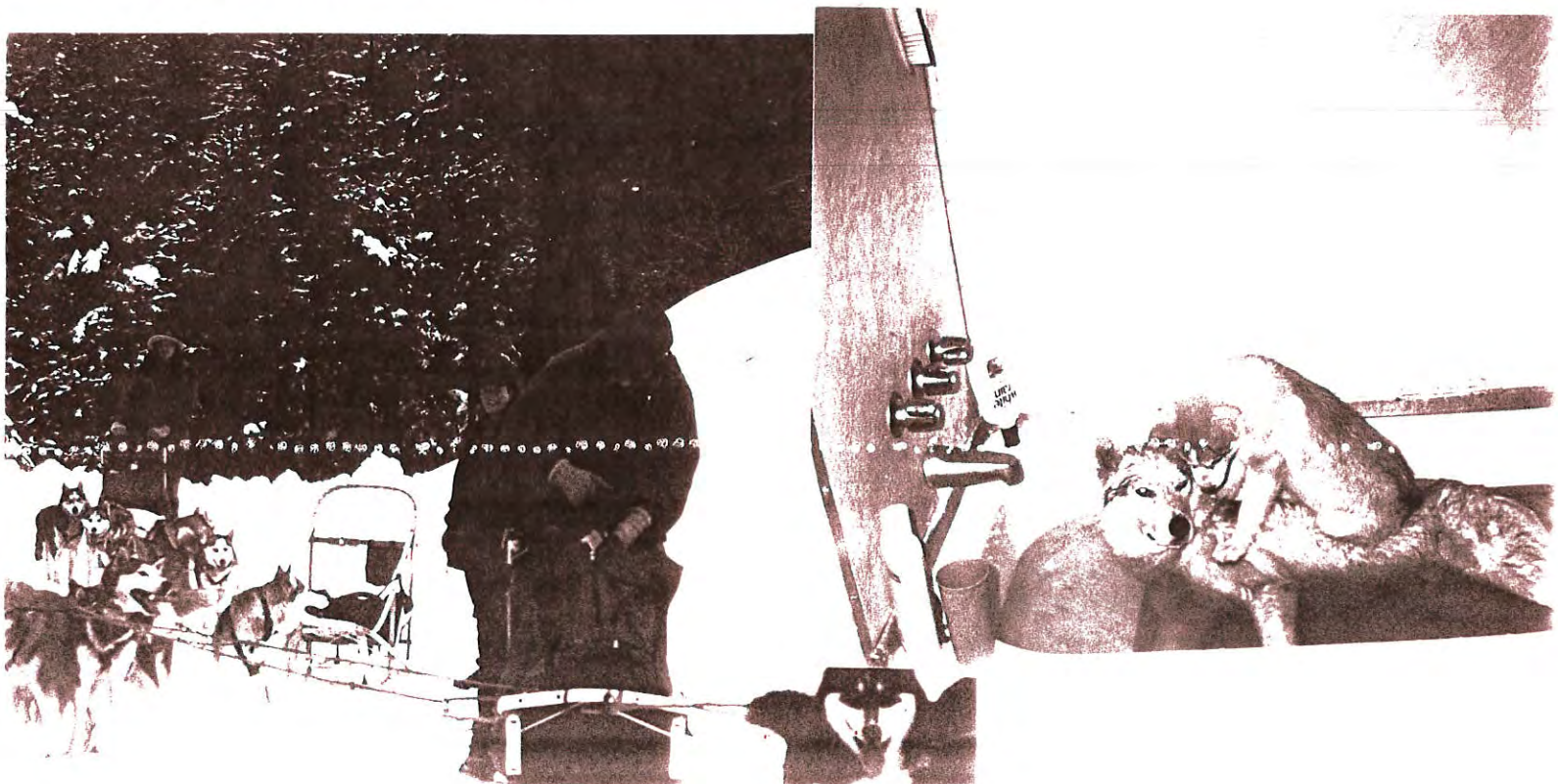


Sled dog in training?????



## Bath time

A picture from Trail Tales







# Bay Area Siberian Husky Club

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 1996

Single \$20.00       Family \$25.00       Associate \$15.00

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
home work

Kennel Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to BASH. All memberships and Subscriptions are valid through March 31, 1997. Send Membership Renewal form and check to:**

Randee McQueen  
Secretary, Bay Area Siberian Husky Club  
2633 S. Bascom Ave.  
Campbell CA 95008

## Bay Area Siberian Husky Club

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