



PULLING TOGETHER...

M I D - U N I O N S L E D H A U L E R S

That is what MUSH is all about.....*Pulling Together*, from the dogs to the volunteers and camaraderie of the club.

A Brief History of the Events

MUSH races are strictly amateur in nature with no prize money or monetary compensation. The MUSHERS and their dogs run for the love of the dogs and the sport. As in the beginning they love to test their dogs' abilities against others. It is friendly competition and all in good fun.

Sled Dog Teams:

The first formal sled dog race was held in Alaska in 1908, but that was far from the first competition. The Arctic climate heightened the demands of life on the tundra. A friendly rivalry developed between villages and drivers to prove who had the better team and the stronger dogs. Head to head racing of dog teams began and competitions spread from village to village.

Weight Pull:

Weight Pulling is an event that can also be traced back to early Alaskan history, when dogs were used to haul freight, mail, and other heavy loads to the last frontier. Similar to the team racing, as teams met in local villages friendly rivalries developed into challenges to determine the best pulling dog.

Ski-Joring:

On the other side of the world, where skis and pulks had developed as a common method of travel across the frozen landscapes of Scandinavia, the story was the same. The desire to test your dogs' abilities against others led to impromptu competitions.

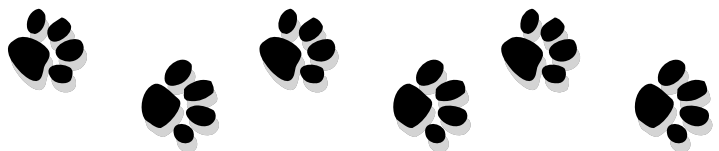
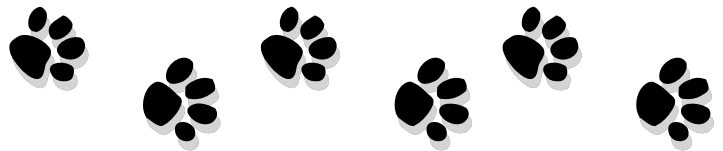
Competitions in these events are now held throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.



Photo by David Bardsley

Events are scheduled for both Saturday and Sunday.
Start times are:

11:00am Saturday
10:00am Sunday



**All photos by Carol Gerke unless otherwise noted.*

Suggested Dos and Don'ts

Spectators are welcome at all MUSH events, but as with any sport we suggest some basic do's and don'ts to help ensure you have a positive experience.

PLEASE DO

- **DO** dress warmly
- **DO** remain in the designated spectator areas during the start and finish of the race for the safety of you and the dog teams.
- **DO** stay clear of the trail.
- **DO** feel free to ask questions and take pictures, since the dogs and drivers love attention.
- **DO** keep toddlers and small children in hand to avoid any accident that is neither the fault of the dog nor the child.
- **DO ALWAYS** get permission before approaching or petting the dogs. (These dogs can get really excited at these events because they LOVE to run and may not be thinking about you).
- **DO** ask a driver for instructions first before trying to help.
- **DO** enjoy the race, ask for locations of future events, and join us again for all the excitement!

PLEASE DON'T

- **DON'T** bring your pets to the race. Please leave them at home or return them to your car.
- **DON'T** stand or block the trail when a team is approaching. The dogs will not be able to see the trail and could get confused.
- **DON'T** ask a driver questions while they are busy preparing for a race. Please wait until they are done, then they will be more than happy to answer your questions.
- **DON'T** feed the dogs- they are on special diets.
- **DON'T** be afraid to offer your help.



Want to learn more about MUSH?

MUSH offers a mentor program designed with you in mind.

With your paid membership to MUSH you will receive a membership packet that includes all the members that are currently MENTORS. These mentors are people approved by the Board of Directors, and are willing to help you with any questions you may have.

You will also start receiving our monthly newsletter, "The Sled Hauler." This informational newsletter contains sled dog related articles, items for sale, and contact numbers for MUSH officers.

You don't even need to own a dog! All are welcome! So come on, lend a hand, get involved, and maybe even learn something!

For more information contact:

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Or visit our website:

www.midunionsledhaulers.com