BASH's 28th Anniversary

I realized the other day that it is our anniversary and there are only a few members left who have been around since the start and that have been around more than 5 or 6 years. I thought it would interest members to hear why and how BASH was created along with how we have evolved over the last 28 years.

BASH was started by a number of members who had young kids and were also members of Northern California Siberian Husky Club in April of 1981 (N0rCal). NorCal does mostly AKC show events. They wanted an organization that was more focused on doing things as a family (Fun Matches, snow events, hikes etc) The only founding member still a member is Sue Adams. Then there is Marilyn and Art Lassagne and Carol and Al Ouelette that started within the first year. All are lifetime members of BASH.

So BASH started having fun events. They had SnoBASH, the Ice Cream Social, Halloween picnics, the infamous All Breed and other fun events. The All Breed was a "fun" dog show. No Points to big prizes but a chance to practice with your dog in a show environment. In its hey day there were 700 dogs in the show part and 300 in obedience. It was a big affair that was topped off with a great raffle. This went on until about 2001 when the location where we had it (Cal State Hayward) decided to build some buildings there. It was a much smaller event by then – 50 entries for the "show" and 400 for obedience. It was a lot of work and BASH looked for other spots to hold the event, couldn't find one and decided we needed to do something else. That is how the Fall Furry Flurry started.

Meetings were originally held at members homes the night before a dog show or at the dog shows. For those of us that didn't show, we had trouble figuring out when the meeting started. Meetings started ½ hour after the best of breed, but it wasn't known until the week before (this was before the internet and e-mail) when best of breed was going to be held; that was when the show published when the Siberians were showing.

The club started to change in the early 90's. The original members' kids had grown and new members were coming in. They were attracting more people that had adopted a Siberian and there were less people that showed Siberians. Meetings were changing to weekends that didn't have a show or were at club events. Many meetings were a great time to sit and talk about Siberians.

In 1995, BASH was asked to help with rescuing Siberians. Almost ½ the membership now came from people who had rescued and there were 3 or 4 people that did foster for other groups. BASH created a charter to organize a rescue and BASH Rescue/Referral was started. Everyone that adopted a dog from us or through a group in our area was given a membership to the club. Our club grew. In 2001 we peaked at almost 200 members.

We continued to do fun stuff with our dogs. We did beach hikes (until dogs were banned from most beaches), camping trips with the Malamute club, hikes at parks, BBQ's at parks, parades, holiday parties, etc...... The membership started to decline when more people came from farther away to adopt their dog. They didn't care as much about the membership as they did the dog, which was great for the dogs…but not so good for BASH.

Two groups were formed out of BASH. One was the Mt. Hamilton Siberian Husky club (closed down last year) and the other was Siberians Needing Owners Rescue. Mt Hamilton members wanted to do more on the AKC side again and BASH wasn't going that way. SNO rescue was of course set up as another rescue that was based farther south and eventually spread to Washington state.

Currently we have a hand full of members that have fun sledding, camping and doing things as a group. As more people want to help find places to hike and camp and run our dogs, we will again grow. We have fun, which is what counts. Come join us at one of the meetings or events. SnoBASH 2, Fun Match, Umunhum running dogs/Camping trips, the Ice Cream Social, Fall Furry Flurry, holiday parades, the holiday party………

Come and join us for meetings and events. We have a lot of fun with our Siberian Huskies…

SNOBASH II

April 19th and 20th

We will again be staying at the Tamarack Pines Inn. If you would like to reserve a room, contact Randee at bashrr@aol.com or 408-377-2900. A $100 deposit will be required. There are rooms that will hold 2 people and others that will hold a family or group up to 8. All rooms have their own bathroom. At snoBASH one they ranged from $175 to $250 for two nights. We assume they will be less for off-season but have not confirmed that yet. BASH picks up the cost of the use of the lower kitchen and great room. We had a great time at SnoBASH one at the Inn. (we have one large room and one small room as of now open)

SnoBASH is held no matter the amount of snow.

We usually hold SnoBASH 2 at Bear Valley Cross Country. It is a low-key event. We do a few rides but not many. Any we do, the proceeds go to the local elementary school. In past years we have also given rides to disabled adults that are brought to Bear Valley to enjoy all the different things you can do (skiing, snowmobiling, snow shoeing, dog sledding). Most of the time we do short runs in the morning and late afternoon and just kick back the rest of the day. 4 out of 5 of the last SnoBASH 2's we have been hit with one day of heavy snow.

Shaver Lake Dog Sled Race

By Marie Stevens

The Shaver Lake Dogsled Race went off as scheduled on the weekend of March 1st and 2nd. Hugo Antonucci was the race marshal, and a group of BASH members went up to help. Randee was the timer, and I helped with that on and off. Greg also helped at the starting line. Patty LaCava, Michelle Suarez and Dave Garibay drove up as well. The weather was great…..sunny mostly but cool. The snow was good out on the trail, and the trail itself was beautiful…..gliding off through the trees with lots of corners and hills. It got a little slushy in the afternoon but not bad, and was somewhat crusty and icy in the early morning. The turnout was pretty good. There weren't too many big teams (6 or 8 dog), but there were lots of 4-dog and 3-dog entries, and a fair number of juniors, plus one lone skijorer. Greg and I took our tent trailer, so we camped out at the site, along with the rest of the BASH group. We cooked our dinner in the trailer (Randee's mom made a dinner so we just had to heat it up), and had a relaxing evening.

The big teams went out first thing in the morning. As we had quite a while to wait for them to come in, the BASH members gave sled dog rides. We had our own little loop in a meadow. The first day Patty, Michelle and Dave did all the work, using all of our dogs. (Between us, we had 15 dogs.) The second day Michelle, Dave and I provided the rides. We had quite a workout because at least one of us would run around the circle with the dogs, to help if any problems came up. The local Chamber of Commerce sponsored the race, so riders were asked to donate to the Chamber of Commerce for the rides and we earned a fair amount of money for them.

It is time to RENEW your membership

BASH membership goes from April to March of each year.
If you choose not to renew, you will no longer receive a newsletter (or notice of our newsletter) after May.

If you have adopted a dog from or through BASH during the past 6 months and would like to continue receiving the newsletter, you will be given it for free but need to send a renewal form back confirming your address and phone and E-Mail address.

Check your address label for the date your membership expires and if we have the e-mail address correct.

Thank you from Junior Musher,
June Takagi

Dear The Bay Area Siberian Husky Club,

I am the junior musher than received 150 dog booties that you sewed. I successfully completed the 2008 Junior Iditarod and 2008 Junior Yukon Quest, secure in the knowledge that I had plenty of booties to last me through the races. Thank you to you and the Bootie Brigade for your support. I am attaching a picture of me with my lead dog, and one from the Jr. Iditarod start.

from Yuta Takagi and my dogs

Help with events

BASH puts on a number of great events that are fun for all. We need more people to help with these events. We have great fun planning these events. We need some help prior to the event but we usually just need more people that are willing to help on the day of the event.

Please try to attend the MARCH meeting to hear what events you can help with.

Team Stormwatch 2008 Iditarod

The 2008 Iditarod is now history. Wayne Curtis finished the race with 13 dogs, the most he has ever finished with. His time was 13 days, 13 hours, 25 minutes and 26 seconds. He came in 71st out of 95 starting teams of which 17 scratched. He said before he started that he was not going to push the dogs as this was mostly a young team. He wanted them to go out and have a good time. Again, the temperatures were in the 40's for a lot of the race, so Wayne opted to run at night and rest during the day. Kotz and Shak pulled muscles along the way, so Wayne stayed longer at checkpoints, trying to heal the injuries slowing him down some more. Unfortunately, this did not work and he was forced to drop both dogs. Kotz and Shak are now doing fine with no permanent injury. I saw Anvik standing on 3 legs at Finger Lake, and by the time she got home, she was running around feeling fine. Those were the 3 dogs that got dropped.

We are all very proud of Wayne and the great race he ran. At the finishing banquet, several of the mushers publicly thanked Wayne for helping them on the trail. In all, he is an exemplary good sport and is out to only do what is best for the dogs and the other mushers on the trail. I found out that during one of the warm up races that Wayne did, he came upon a musher having a seizure. Wayne stopped his race and returned to the beginning with the musher on tow in order to get medical attention for this person. All turned out well, but this is the type of person he is.

Once again, we are thanking all of you sponsors for helping out with this endeavor. Without your support, Team Stormwatch would not have been able to even begin this Iditarod. The increasing cost of the entry fee, food, equipment and shipping of drop bags has made it almost impossible for the working class mushers to race without some sort of outside support and sponsorships. For this we are very grateful for your support and donation.

I am enclosing a piece of trail memorabilia. Once again, the dog sponsors will receive "Mail from the Trail." These were carried along the trail in Wayne's sled. This year, they were stamped at the start with the original Iditarod stamp. They are also stamped with a Nome stamp, on the day that Wayne finished. Only 50 of these cachets were made. We hope you enjoy this token of appreciation. Again, thank you for your support to keep Siberian Huskies on the Iditarod trail.

Carol Preble
19005 Harmony Rd.
Marengo, IL 60152

Bay Area Siberian Husky Club
Membership Renewal and Associate Application 2008-2009

Membership enclosed for: $30 Single $35 Family $25 Associate

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, 2009. Send membership renewal form and check, or inquiries about becoming a voting member, to:

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

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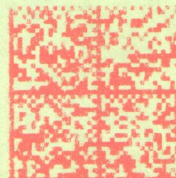
4/2008
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