

Crystal Dog Challenge

Crystal Springs Sno-Park Dog Powered Sports Parking Area

Sponsored by Northwest Sled Dog Association (NWSDA)

7th and 8th of January 2012

This first race will be geared towards the sportsman's class of sled dog racing. The trails are all loops of increasing lengths and difficulties. You and your dogs will have to make turns and on-bys without the aid of spotters. There will be spotters at two intersections where there is heavy snowmobile traffic. The 8 and 12 dog teams may have 1 or 2 spotter at the summit if the weather is bad. The trail will be well marked and detailed maps will be on hand. Most of the trails are marked with trail **numbers** and the intersections are marked with a **letter**.

SKIJOR and 2 DOG SPRINT

The race loop is about 4.5 miles long with a total elevation gain and loss of 193 feet. The trail starts at the start line and goes through the S turn at the end of the pond. Then there is a sweeping 90 degree turn within a few minutes. Continue for about ½ mile until you cross the NFD 5480 road, which is a heavily traveled snowmobile route. A safety spotter will be at this intersection. You will turn left and parallel the 5480 and climb up onto the John Wayne Pioneer Trail (JWPT). This is a major cross country ski route. Some skiers will not like the fact that you are on this trail but it is a non-motorized shared route open to dog teams. At the next road crossing, past a house, you will be turning right onto the NFD 5400 road. This is the main snowmobile route to Stampede Pass. A safety spotter will be at this intersection. At the first Y intersection you will be turning left onto the NFD 420 road. At the next Y you will be turning left onto the Iron Mountain cutoff. This section is slightly down hill and lots of fun. At the T intersection you will be turning left onto the JWPT heading west for the finish line. Continue for about a mile and cross the 5400 road then right at the first Y intersection. Turn right onto the Crystal Dog Trail. Your dogs may move over to the 5480 road before the turn but this will not disqualify your run. Watch for head on passing in this area.

4 Dog Sprint

The race loop is about 6.0 miles long with a total elevation gain and loss of 304 feet. The trail starts at the start line and goes through the S turn at the end of the pond. Then there is a sweeping 90 degree turn within a few minutes. Continue for about ½ mile until you cross the NFD 5480 road, which is a heavily traveled snowmobile route. A safety spotter will be at this intersection. You will turn left and parallel the 5480 and climb up onto the John Wayne Pioneer Trail (JWPT). This is a major cross country ski route. Some skiers will not like the fact that you are on this trail but it is a non-motorized shared route open to dog teams. At the next road crossing, past the house, you will be turning right onto the NFD 5400 road. This is the main snowmobile route to Stampede Pass. A safety spotter will be at this intersection. At the first Y intersection you will be turning left onto the NFD 420 road. Continue for about 1.5 miles and after the second creek crossing you will be turning left at the Y intersection. You cross a snow bridge and start a small climb to an open power line area. Follow the red plates and colored flags until you enter a

forested area. After you emerge into the open again there will be an easy left turn. You now drop down to the JWPT where you will be turning left. Continue without turning until after you cross the NFD 5400 road and pass the house on the right. Then right at the first Y intersection. Turn right onto the Crystal Dog Trail. Your dogs may move over to the NFD 5480 road before the turn but this will not disqualify your run. Watch for head on passing in this area.

6 Dog Sprint

The race loop is about 7.3 miles long with a total elevation gain and loss of 313 feet. The trail starts at the start line and goes through the S turn at the end of the pond. Then there is a sweeping 90 degree turn within a few minutes. Continue for about ½ mile until you cross the NFD 5480 road, which is a heavily traveled snowmobile route. A safety spotter will be at this intersection. You will turn left and parallel the NFD 5480 and climb up onto the John Wayne Pioneer Trail (JWPT). This is a major cross country ski route. Some skiers will not like the fact that you are on this trail but it is a non-motorized shared route open to dog teams. At the next road crossing, past the house, you will be going **on-by** across the NFD 5400 road. Continue for about 2 miles until just before the closed Whitter Tunnel where you will be turning left. Climb a steep hill and then start down a short distance to intersection **G**, where you will turn right and climb a short but steep hill. The trail side hills and you will be heading towards a power line tower. Follow the red plates and enter into the woods. Follow the trail down a fast run and a possible waster crossing/dip. Continue past the 3 dog cutoff, cross the snow bridge and the Iron Mountain cutoff. Blend into the NFD 5400 road (**watch for snowmobiles on your left**) and turn left onto the JWPT. Pass the house on the right, then right at the first Y intersection. Turn right onto the Crystal Dog Trail. Your dogs may move over to the NFD 5480 road before the turn but this will not disqualify your run. Watch for head on passing in this area.

6 Dog Mid Distance (most technical)

The race loop is about 9.6 miles long with a total elevation gain and loss of 410 feet. The trail starts at the start line and goes through the S turn at the end of the pond. Then there is a sweeping 90 degree turn within a few minutes. Continue for about ½ mile until you cross the NFD 5480 road, which is a heavily traveled snowmobile route. A safety spotter will be at this intersection. You will turn left and parallel the NFD 5480 and climb up onto the John Wayne Pioneer Trail (JWPT). This is a major cross country ski route. Some skiers will not like the fact that you are on this trail but it is a non-motorized shared route open to dog teams. At the next road crossing, past the house, you will be going on-by across the NFD 5400 road. Continue for about 2 miles until just before the closed Whitter Tunnel where you will be turning left. Climb a steep hill and then start down a short distance to intersection **G**, where you will turn right and climb a short but steep hill. The trail side hills and you will be heading towards a power line tower. Turn left as you see the red **6M** plates, the 6 dog sprinters (**6S**) will be going straight near this tower. The trail can be hard to follow in this area so there will be a series of colored flags to follow. After you climb a short steep hill you will see a hard left turn on the downhill, take it. Side hill until you enter the woods. Continue on Dave's trail until you cross the JWPT and then drop down past Cougar Point and Gwen's Pond. As you exit the woods you will turn right and stay very close to the tree line (may be out in the center due to low snow). Follow the colored flags and cross some wet areas. The flags will bend around and bring you to a wooded trail. Follow the colored flags through another power line area and enter the woods. This trail will continue to an intersection

with a slight left turn and an easy right. The dogs will want to go to the right but you must bear left and up **THE HILL!** At the top of this hill you enter the JWPT and you will turn right. Continue without turning until after you cross the NFD 5400 road and pass the house on the right. Then right at the first Y intersection. Turn right onto the Crystal Dog Trail. Your dogs may move over to the NFD 5480 road before the turn but this will not disqualify your run. Watch for head on passing in this area.

8 Dog Mid Distance

The race loop is about 15.5 miles long with a total elevation gain and loss of 2232 feet. The trail starts at the start line and goes through the S turn at the end of the pond. Then there is a sweeping 90 degree turn within a few minutes. Continue for about ½ mile to the NFD 5480 road, which is a heavily traveled snowmobile route. A safety spotter will be at this intersection. Turn right onto this road. Continue for about five minutes past the dam, the JWPT and a bridge. You will turn left at the big Y intersection and start your first set of climbs. This is a wide groomed snowmobile route for the rest of the race. After a few miles you will turn left on a well marked route. There are many small trails along this section that you will not be turning onto; you stay on the groomed trail. **ONLY TURN** if there is a set of red plates!!! The trail climbs, flattens, climbs, turns and climbs for a long time. When you come to an open area and a large trail to your left you are about 1 mile from the summit. Continue up hill and the trail can get narrow past this point for a while. When the trail flattens you may not be able to see the real trail, follow the colored flags to a slight left turn. The trail climbs again and the trees get very thin and small. Follow the colored flags and look for an orange X in front of you. **YOU MUST TURN HARD LEFT** just before this big X. The trail can drift over with snow for the next 50 feet. If the weather looks very bad there will be a spotter or two at this location. Once you have made this turn the trail will be mostly downhill and easy to follow. The next left turn is at Stampede Pass and another long downhill run to the JWPT. Turn left on the JWPT. Pass the house on the right then right at the first Y intersection. Turn right onto the Crystal Dog Trail. Your dogs may move over to the NFD 5480 road before the turn but this will not disqualify your run. Watch for head on passing in this area.

12 Dog Mid Distance

The race loop is about 19 miles long with a total elevation gain and loss of 2484 feet. The trail starts at the start line and goes through the S turn at the end of the pond. Then there is a sweeping 90 degree turn within a few minutes. Continue for about ½ miles to the NFD 5480 road, which is a heavily traveled snowmobile route. A safety spotter will be at this intersection. Turn right onto this road. Continue for about five minutes past the dam, the JWPT and a bridge. You will turn left at the big Y intersection and start your first set of climbs. This is a wide groomed snowmobile route for the rest of the race. After a few miles you will turn left on a well marked route. There are many small trails along this section that you will not be turning onto; you stay on the groomed road. **ONLY TURN** if there is a set of red plates!!! The trail climbs, flattens, climbs, turns and climbs for a long time. When you come to an open area and a large trail to your left you are about 1 mile from the summit. Continue up hill and the trail can get narrow past this point for a while. When the trail flattens you may not be able to see the real trail, follow the colored flags to a slight left turn. The trail climbs again and the trees get very thin and small. Follow the colored flags and look for an orange X in front of you. **YOU MUST TURN HARD**

LEFT just before this big X. The trail can drift over with snow for the next 50 feet. If the weather looks very bad there will be a spotter at this location. Once you have made this turn the trail will be mostly downhill and easy to follow. The next right turn is at Stampede Pass where you drop for about 1 minute and then a left onto another snowmobile route. The trail bends around a small lake on your right and then a 170 degree turns to your left. There is lots of room for the turn and not as bad as it looks. There is a little “shortcut” that will be blocked with orange fencing. The trail climbs up to a very large open area. This is a popular snowmobile play area and the trail may not obvious to you or the dogs. Follow the colored flags straight ahead and you will enter the tree line and the trail. The trail will climb up to the weather station then drop down to an easy left onto the trail you came up on. Watch for snowmobiles at this intersection. You will now follow the same trail back to Stampede Pass where you will continue straight ahead. Start a long downhill run and then turn left on the JWPT. Pass the house on the right then right at the first Y intersection. Turn right onto the Crystal Dog Trail. Your dogs may move over to the NFD 5480 road before the turn but this will not disqualify your run. Watch for head on passing in this area.

The 8 dog and 12 dog teams should plan to carry some safety gear. Face masks, goggles, snowsuit and down mittens are a life saver when the weather is bad up at the top. The visibility can be very poor since you may be in the clouds. Let’s hope for a clear cold day with no wind. Two snow hooks will be required and a third “leader” hook is highly recommended.

Skijor and 2 dog sprint go out first. The 8 and 12 dog teams go out 10 minutes after the last 2 dog sprint team leaves. The rest leave 10 minutes after the last 12 dog team leaves. This should eliminate any head on passing within the first mile of the trail. *Subject to change on Friday morning.*

PARKING: to park in the dog powered parking area you will need seasonal sno-park permit and the seasonal non-motorized grooming permit, \$ 80.00 plus agent fee of a few dollars. Another way is to buy the Discovery Pass and two 1 day passes. Look at www.parks.wa.gov for more information. For “big rigs” large dog trucks with trailers please call Michael Johnston at 425-466-4993 ASAP. There will be one or two snowmobiles to control the big teams. Parking just outside of the dog powered parking area you do not need the non-motorized grooming permit. We cannot save parking spaces so get to the sno-park early.