

Notes from Impromptu NWSDA Board Meeting
Camp Koinonia
May 1, 2021

In Attendance: Sue Scofield, Connie Starr, Michael Johnston, Don Duncan, Matt Hamel, Renee Lirette

The NWSDA Board was notified via Kevin Eichorn, Camp Director that the Camp Koinonia Board proposed NWSDA be charged for the use of the Camp (\$10,000!), as are other large user groups. We have enjoyed the use of Camp K for many years at a very reasonable cost. As in free, for the most part. Kevin said he was very appreciative of the amount of work we have put in maintaining and improving Dogtown and that can go towards defraying our costs.

Kevin stated that Covid changed the Camp's business model. Forced into opening the Camp to public Camping to survive, Kevin realized that there was a demand for this type of use, versus booking it for large groups like the Boy Scouts. He is using a reservation system and charges \$65 for sites with power/water (<https://www.hipCamp.com/en-US/washington/kevin-e-s-land-1/rv-loop-30-amp-service-water>.) Kevin has made sites in Dogtown available to the general public and in the future race/event attendees will need to reserve them. No more "this is my Camp site forever."

The Board agreed that it was not feasible nor fair that NWSDA gets the use of the Camp's land and facilities for free. We have been graced with the use of this beautiful place for many years and entering into a contract with the Camp will ensure that we will be able to enjoy it for years to come.

Kevin stated that he could work out a contract with us for roughly \$2500/year, or \$500/event. This would provide us with exclusive use of Dogtown for our races/events, including Camping in Dogtown. The fee goes up to \$5000 if we wish to include the RV Loop. Since Dogtown has over 20 Camping sites and we can develop additional parking/Camping sites we felt that we do not need that additional space, however we will need to reroute any race courses that run through the RV loop. We have 6 races/events per year (Fall Warmup, PNC Championship, Camp K Dryland Challenge, Dogtown Winter Derby, Joe Loveless Spring Celebration and the Spring Cool Down) but since Dogtown Winter Derby is held on the Camp's off-season he would throw that one in for free. This will not take effect until 2022.

We have use of the RV loop at \$65 for hookups/\$45 without for the 2021 Spring Cool Down. Camping fees at Dogtown will remain the same at \$10 per person per night. This will change in 2022 when fees will then be charged per site, like a State Park and sites will need to be reserved. These camping fees apply if a NWSDA member wants to camp on a date outside a NWSDA sanctioned event. If attendees want their preferred site, they will need to reserve it early.

Kevin mentioned the Camp is making several improvements to the trail signage and thanked us for all our hard work developing/maintaining the trails. He has included Dogtown on the map of the new sign going up at the start of Camp. There will also be a permanent sign at the entry of Dogtown. He discussed installing permanent race course markers to replace the plastic plates and asked us to build a shed to replace the club trailer. Kevin is giving PR tours throughout the camp, including Dogtown to prospective groups, which is the main reason why we need to clean up and continue to make improvements.

No details of a contract with the Camp were discussed and further meetings will need to take place to gain an understanding of what “exclusivity” means, what we get for our money, and the value of our volunteer work.

Now how to come up with the funds?

Volunteer work can considerably reduce our cash outlay of using the Camp. The more we do, the less it will cost. Kevin pays people to do work around the Camp and is very willing to let us use sweat equity. We discussed potential dates and venues for a work weekend. April/May and September/October are the best dates. We discussed incentives such as feeding volunteers, live music and a dance, presentations from volunteers (WA Iditarod mushers, Serum Run finishers), patches, t-shirts, and then the good ‘ol guilt trip. Historically a small number of mushers volunteer at the Camp, mainly due to their proximity and we need to increase that number to accomplish the amount of work that needs to be done.

Some ideas for fund raising were:

Presenter, like Dr. Jerry Vanek
Rabies clinic
Raffle
Patches/badges

We discussed a day use fee, like a State Park fee since people are parking in spaces that could be sold to Campers. The \$1 per dog per event fee will not change. This goes toward NWSDA-specific improvements to Dogtown.

NWSDA is currently in good financial shape to cover an initial outlay; we just need to retain a fund earmarked for Camp K.

Sue will call another Board meeting shortly to discuss further and will notify the club of this development.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Starr
NWSDA Secretary