



Selina Witt drives her dog sled team across the snow at Wanoga Sno-park Wednesday.

Dogs

Continued from B1

Mardesich brought six of her 15 dogs out to ride, and she tries to get out as much as possible, which is about three times a week, four with a bit of luck. She has done less training with the dogs on the sled because of the lower snowfall this year.

"Because the weather has been poor this season, the majority of our training has been with the ATV," Mardesich said.

The process of getting ready for dog-sledding is an extensive one. First comes getting the sled situated near the trail, followed by taking the dogs out of their kennels and attaching them to a metal wire secured to the car, which keeps the snow-loving dogs in place while the setup continues.

The huskies anxiously stand by to be harnessed and begin their run. The dogs are not shy about voicing their impatience with their mushers.

One by one, the dogs are harnessed up and moved to the sled. Hollering and begging to pull on the anchored sled, the excitement swells until finally, the anchor is pulled out of the ground and the sled starts to move.

The barking stops and all that can be heard is the sound of the sled gliding along the snow, reaching speeds up to 10 to 12 mph, depending on how many dogs are pulling. "Then it is heavenly," Witt said.



Dean Guemsey/Bulletin photos

Sled dogs howl with excitement as mushers hook up their teams.

If you do not have a small army of dogs, skijoring only requires one dog. Skijoring is a combination of cross-country skiing and dog mushing where a skier is harnessed and rigged to a dog that pulls the skier through the snow. Another important difference between dog-sledding and skijoring is that the sleds have breaks and can be controlled a little easier.

Skijoring is not just limited to dogs. Those who prefer horsepower to pawpower can harness their skis up to a horse. "My entire life I have driven horses and ponies in carriages and buggies. You can't really do that during the snow," Susan Sapp said. "I had stumbled upon putting on skis to ride with the horse. I had seen it but never tried it."

Growing up on the coast,

there were few snow-sport options to choose from. After moving to Bend seven years ago, Sapp found a sport that combined her love of horse riding and activities that fit her new hometown.

"Not a skier, not a snowboarder, not a winter sport-er," she said. "But I always had horses. This is my delving in the land of driving on snow with my horses."

But, pulling a horse is not the same as a dog Sapp found. After all, they do not measure a vehicle's towing power in dog power.

"The horse that I started with weighs 1,500 pounds and is stubborn. Having all that power pulling on your skis was difficult to control," Sapp said. "I started using my pony, which has made things better."

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See Bonus Club for Complete Details

WHEN ENTERING - All Guests and Team Members will have:

Their temperatures checked

Must wear a mask

Maintain a minimum of 6ft. distance from others

No smoking or vaping will be allowed in the Casino, Restaurant or the Sleep Inn Hotel.

Fire restrictions

Fire danger is currently listed as Moderate in the Deschutes National Forest. Fire danger is listed as Low in the Ochoco and Willamette National Forests.

Industrial Fire Precaution Level is currently at Level 1 for the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and the Prineville District — Bureau of Land Management.



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