

Take a ride on the wild side! Running Creek offers a howling good time

By Joe Blenkle / SSN Editor

Ever wanted to run with the dogs? Well, maybe it would be better to let the dogs run for you. It is through snow, after all! Running Creek Sled Dogs gives snow enthusiasts the chance of a lifetime as they can experience a sport that is generally associated more with places like Canada and Alaska than the mountains of California.

This will be Chris Miller's 13th year running his sled dog operation. Running Creek has nine sleds, although only about three are used on any given day, and their kennel has grown to 50 dogs strong. "We take our guests through Kirkwood Meadows on rides that last approximately 30 minutes," said Miller, who hopes Running Creek will be in operation for the season by the first week in December. "It all depends on Mother Nature," he said. "As soon as we have enough snow on our route, we will be able to open."

Running Creek operates daily from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and sled rides are by reservation only. There is a limit of 375-pounds per sled which can accommodate a variety of combinations - an adult couple, parents and children, etc. "Our riders range in age from 8 to 80," said Miller. "All are welcome, but it's really nice for those who can't get up on the mountain to ski or snowboard but still want an activity in the snow." Prices are \$45 for small children (under 60-pounds) and \$85 per person.

"We recommend people dress warmly," said Miller, who advises a jacket, gloves, glasses or goggles, and scarves and hats. "We also provide blankets to keep you warm on the ride."

Most of all Miller said, "bring your video and still cameras. We will make stops and take pictures for you."

And if you're really daring, Miller said that people are invited to jump on the back of the sled with him as he guides the dog team through the meadow.

Miller has big plans for Running Creek Sled Dogs this season. He has recently acquired some racing dogs and plans to start racing again after a layoff of several years. "I hope to get out on the race circuit this year in Colorado, Oregon and Washington." Running Creek also plans to offer backcountry tours this season. "We hope to put together 2-day tours," said Miller, who is still in the planning stages for those adventures. Running Creek will also offer Full Moon Rides this season. It may give riders a chance to howl along with their four-footed friends!

For further information on Running Creek Sled Dogs visit www.runningcreek.info or call (775) 266-4720. Reservations are required for all sled dog rides.



Photo by Sam Morishima

The giant Icer Air ramp at AT&T Park stretched from the scoreboard out onto the baseball field. It was 100-feet high and covered with 200 tons of man-made snow.

Over 25,000 fans attend Icer Air at S.F.'s AT&T

By Sam Morishima
Contributing Editor

Over 25,000 spectators descended upon AT&T Park in San Francisco as it was converted for one day into a slopeside snow big air event stadium on Nov. 4.

Packed onto the field was a music stage surrounded by several large tent size booths and in the center a monstrous 100-foot-high big air jump ramp laden with 200 tons of manmade snow with a gapping 20 foot mouth that boarders and skiers had to clear.

The structure could be seen from the Bay Bridge as it glowed in the night air before opening morning, Saturday Nov 4.

It towered up to the Stadium clock waiting for the athletes to mount it for a ride into another chapter of San Francisco's history.

The results of the event went as follows: In the skier category TJ Schiller took first with an awesome 1080 beating out Jon Olsson's switch 900.

Steele Spence came in third with a 900. The remainder of the men's ski division finished in the following order: Cory Vanular, Josh Bibby, John Spriggs, Peter Olenick, Chris Benchetler, Pep Fugas, Sammy Carlson, Simon Dumont, Sean Field and Tim Durtschi.

Regarding the snowboarding side, Travis Rice, took the title with little doubt, with a corked backside 7.

Andreas Wiig came in second performing a backside rodeo 900. Olympian Danny Kass hit a backside 900 placing him in third. Brent Meyer in fourth followed by Chas Guillemont, Andy Finch, Juuso Laivisto, Wyatt Caldwell, Louie Vito, Bjorn Leines, Tim Humphries and Corey Noble.

In the women's skiing Michelle Parker took the lead followed by Kaya Turski and Shiadasha Holmstead.

In snowboarding, Jamie Anderson captured first, followed by Laurie Currier in

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California Snow offers Gold Pass good at dozens of resorts

The 2006-2007 California Snow Gold Pass is now on sale.

This ultimate pass to skiing, snowboarding and cross-country skiing in California and Nevada is honored at participating California Ski Industry Association resorts.

The Gold Pass gives you access to the slopes all season without blackout dates and is fully transferable, so you can share it with your friends, family, clients and colleagues.

The Gold Pass is good for one lift

ticket or trail pass at one ski area every day of the season.

Only one person may use a Gold Pass each day. To use the Gold Pass, skiers and boarders must present it at the Special Tickets or Guest Services window where the Gold Pass number will be logged and a lift ticket issued for the day.

Northstar and Sierra-at-Tahoe allow Gold Pass holders to bypass the ticket window altogether and ski straight to the slopes!

The Gold Pass may be used up to a maximum of 50 times at each participating resort, with the exception of Squaw Valley USA.

For the 2006-2007 snow season, Squaw Valley will be honoring the pass for a maximum of fifteen visits.

The California Gold Pass is available on a first-come, first-served

basis.

Due to the high demand and limited quantity of passes, a total number of two passes may be purchased by one individual or company. Payment must be made in full with the application.

The regular price of the Gold Pass for the 2006-2007 season is \$2,450.

For information on how to get your Gold Pass, email info@californiasnow.com, or visit California Snow's web page at www.californiasnow.com.



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