

Fall 2010 Newsletter

Mahoosuc Guide Service and Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge

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Greetings!

I'm writing this newsletter in the comfort of our daylight basement surrounded by the sound of six contented puppies nursing on Mama Dougette. Their little squeaks and piglet-like grunts are the sounds of happy babies. It's amazing to think how fast they grow and they'll be big enough to go with the cross-country skiers this winter. Deidre also has a litter of four puppies that are only six days older. They are cute little white fluffballs.



Fall is in the air here. We are surrounded by the Mahoosuc Mountains, where we have bright orange, red, and yellow all around us as if we're living in a colorful salad bowl.

The dogs are happy to feel the cooler temperatures and are friskier running in their pastures. Soon it will be time to start training them with the ATVs. We always enjoy this one-on-one time with each dog and team before we start guiding in December.

We had a busy summer with many canoe trips, including one to Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec, with Cree guides, David and Anna Bosum. They are among the last generation of people who were born and raised in the bush. We always feel it is a special experience to spend time with them.

We had many family groups booking trips, wanting some time alone away from the hustle and bustle of their lives.



Our last canoe trip of the season will be on the Allagash River, October 5-10. It will be a quiet time of year to be on the water. We have a couple spots available.

We have a fan page on Facebook! To find us, search for Mahoosuc Guide Service. Then click the Like button to receive the latest news from the doggies and upcoming events.

Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge hosted two weddings this summer. Everyone had a great time! What a perfect place to make a commitment blessed by the beautiful Mahoosucs! We also hosted two Wellness Weekends, wilderness first aid courses, our annual barn dance, many Appalachian Trail hikers, and two hiker retreats. We think the lodge is an ideal place for a retreat, annual meeting, or family reunion. Contact us if you want to plan an event here.



We are counting on a nice cold winter with lots of snow. Umbagog Lake continues to be an amazingly beautiful area, and even after 20 years, we aren't tired of guiding on it. Because it is shallow, it freezes more quickly and provides a great place for beginner mushers and views of the Mahoosuc Mountains—even Mt. Washington. Our Cabin-to-Cabin trip and cultural trips in the north provide a longer experience for the more adventurous. People have started booking trips, so we know we will be busy!



Apprenticeship opportunities are available for two people who want to learn about dogsledding and traditional winter camping. If you are interested, contact us.

Hoping to see many of you on the trail this winter!

Polly, Kevin, and all the doggies



Upcoming events at Mahoosuc

- October 16-17—Wellness Weekend
- October 30-31—Wilderness First Aid Course with SOLO
- December 15-19—Winter Guide Training

From the Mailbox



Dear Polly and Kevin,

I just wanted to write you and tell you what an unbelievable time Jason, Danny and I had the weekend of March 14-16. It definitely was one of the most humbling yet amazing experiences of my life. To tell you the truth I did not know what to expect going into this trip, and it exceeded all of my expectations. Alana, Nandi, and yourself are three of the nicest, warmest, most genuine people I have ever come across. All of you made us feel so welcome and happy to be a part of your world, even if it was for only a few days. We all felt as if you really wanted to get to know us as people and friends, and that you were interested in our lives as much as we yours.

Little things such as Alana telling us about the different foliage while skiing and Nandi showing me how to tie certain knots with rope and cut a tree the right way, while it may not have seemed significant at the time, it went a long way in making this trip even more memorable.

The scenery was absolutely breathtaking, the camp and accommodations were perfect, and of course the dogs. No sooner did we get 5 minutes down the road when we left on Sunday did we say to each other how much we missed being around the dogs already. It is hard to explain really, I felt as if they had some calming affect (sic) and made me happier just being in their presence. While looking through all of my pictures last night I found myself able to recognize and name each dog, remembering each distinct personality they showed, which just proved to me even more what a strong impact they had on me. It was wonderful to see how loved and well cared for the dogs are, and it shines through in their disposition towards complete strangers. Not once was I even a bit nervous around them, they were all so affectionate and eager to be around people. I will never forget sledding with them and sharing that experience with my good friends from home and my new friends I have made in Maine.

I hope that all of you had as much fun as we did and enjoyed meeting us as much as we enjoyed meeting you. We are already talking about coming back next year, in fact I have no doubt that we will. Thank you so much again for one of the most memorable experiences of our lives and give the dogs a hug for us!

*James Mandanici
New York*

