

Winter 2014 Newsletter

Mahoosuc Guide Service and Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge

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We're celebrating our 25th anniversary!

I am sitting inside in a warm comfortable office writing this newsletter—a rare place to be these days. Our winter has been very busy with many dogsledding trips! We have excellent mushing conditions at the moment and welcome the cold and snow.

Our cold weather in January thickened the ice a lot on Umbagog Lake. When we're at camp, we're now breaking through about 20 inches of ice for water. It's very satisfying once we hit water and it gushes through the hole.



Camping in the snow



Polly mushing with Maeve in the lead

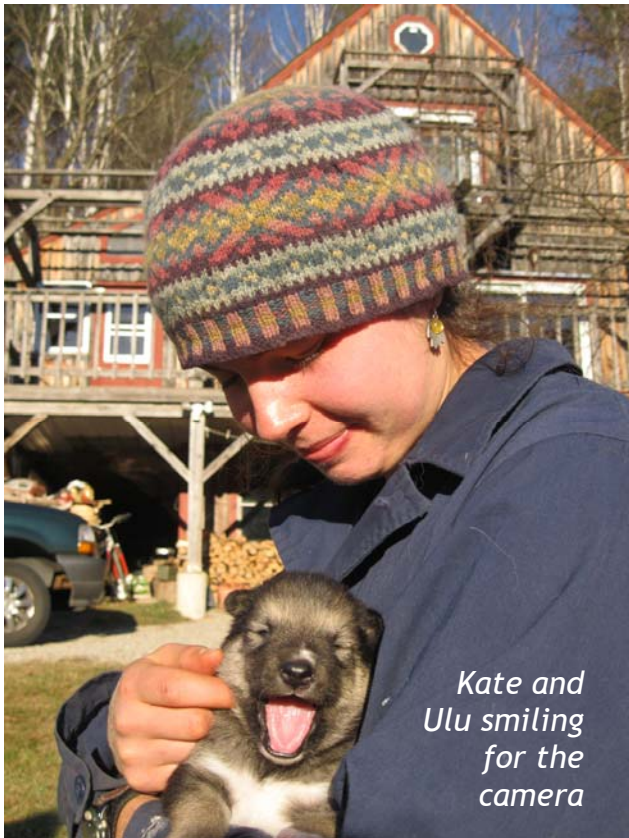
Both of our northern trips to Quebec are going this spring. The first takes us to Uje Bougoumou with Cree guide, David and Anna Bosum, and the second to Kuujuaq with Inuit guide Allen Gordon. These are always very memorable cultural experiences!

Dog News

Megan and Keefy's pups are growing like weeds, getting lessons on being tied for short periods of time, talking walks in the woods, hanging out with grandpa (15-year-old Mickey), meeting the rest of the dogs in the yard, and getting ready for their first overnight trip with the cross country skiers to our camps on Umbagog Lake. At a little over three months old they are very happy and fun to be with.

There's still room on some of our dogsledding trips in late February and March, so it isn't too late to get out this winter! Contact us for more information.

We kept five, and five are now in their new homes: two in New Hampshire (one as a sled dog), one in Massachusetts, and two in Maine.



Kate and
Ulu smiling
for the
camera

All four of Keefy and Dougette's pups are doing well in harness: Olga, Oonaugh, Amber, and Seamus Jr. Some are promising to be lead dogs one day.

We placed Weeko as a pet to one of our friends and guides and have four more to find homes for as they are not interested in being sled dogs but would be very nice devoted pets. If you are interested, please contact us. They are Kieran, Awnya, Jazel, and Bonnie Bee, and they range in age from one and one-half to five years.

Mahoosuc in the News

Mahoosuc Guide Service was featured in an article in the *Boston Globe's* Travel section in January about "What to do With Kids in the Winter."

We are featured in the Wheeler Insurance Partners Program this month. You can view the video on YouTube at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHDZ7tfLy2I&feature=youtu.be>

Canews

It isn't too early to sign up for a summer canoe trip with us. Our schedule is now on our website. Two popular trips this season are the West Branch of the Penobscot River commemorating the 150th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's book, *The Maine Woods*. We will be paddling part of his route that Thoreau traveled with Joe Polis, his Penobscot guide.

Here are some examples of the other trips we're offering this summer:

- The Allagash River remains a classic Maine canoe trip with six days of paddling, canoe poling, and wildlife watching in beautiful, wild country.



Canoeing on Umbagog Lake, New Hampshire

- For fly fishing enthusiasts, the Miramichi River in New Brunswick for Atlantic salmon and the Aroostook River for Native Brook Trout, both in June.
- For women, the Umbagog Lake Women’s Canoe and Yoga weekend with yoga instructor Sandee Conley. Also, our Grand Lake Region Women’s Canoe Trip/Native Plant Study ends with a stay at Weatherby’s Sporting Camp and a day at the 20th annual Grand Lake Stream Folk Festival.
- For anyone wanting the comforts of a traditional Maine sporting camp at night and canoe trips looking for wildlife in the day, we have another trip based out of Loon Lodge near Allagash Lake in northern Maine. This trip is in mid-August.

Thank you!

Thanks to our apprentices and helpers this winter who have made our job easier and helped provide memorable and safe experiences for many people: Kate, Zack, Bridie, Michel and Francesca.

We hope to see some of you on the trail!
Polly, Kevin, and all the doggies



JR and the team on the trail

Upcoming Events at Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge

- April 25-26—Wilderness First Aid Course
- April 25-27—Wilderness First Responder Refresher Course
- May 3—Old-fashioned Barn Dance and Concert with John and Ellen Gawler, the Buttermilk Hill Band

For more information about all of these events, go to our [Facebook page](#). And while you’re there, don’t forget to “Like” us if you haven’t already.

From the Mailbox



Keagan

Dear Polly,

It was such fun going on that mush this weekend! Thank you both! Kevin does such a great job, and it was so interesting to see that slide show and have him share stories of the Cree and Inuit. Everyone seemed to be encountering special moments to stash in their memory banks. I know I will savor the memories of those hard working, good natured dogs, and spending a little time to get to know them. Last night I drifted off to sleep with a vision of seeing the dogs pulling the sled across the snow...

*Susan
Maine*

Dear Polly and Kevin,

Thank you so very much for inviting us to come along on the dogsledding trip. It was triple fun having Rachel and Andrew to play with at camp. I hope that I can come on another trip soon. The puppies were the cutest! I enjoyed staying in the lodge better than the farmhouse because I didn't have to bundle up and walk to breakfast. I enjoyed every moment of our time together and it was hard to stop.

*Lots of love and best wishes,
Joyelle (10 years old)
Maine*

Dear folks,

Just wished to give you both (as well as Kate and all the dogs!) a resounding thank-you for such a splendid intro to your world. Everything was just as perfect as could be hoped. Am looking forward to having our paths cross again for more enduring memories.

*Rosie
Maine*



*Old Speck in the Mahoosuc
Mountains of Maine*