

Mariel Versluis, Director

Mariel Versluis has been skijoring since 1984, when she got her first dog from an animal shelter. Her subsequent dogs were all used for recreational skijoring, until 2004, when she adopted a large Australian Shepherd who proved to have particular skijoring prowess. It was with her Aussie, Pace, that Mariel began competing. They won the 2nd skijoring race they competed in that year at the MUSH Double JJ race. When Pace retired from mainly recreational skijoring in 2008, Mariel got two German Shorthaired Pointer litter mates, Blitz and Wiley, with serious competition in mind. They won the first MUSH event they entered, and then began competing both in Michigan and Minnesota. They have competed in the Snowflake International Classic, Kalkaska Winterfest (1st place 2 dog skijoring--3rd place combined with 3 dog skijoring), the Sweetwater Challenge, Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race (1st place 8 mile 2 Dog Skijor), as well as the Skijoring Nationals 2011 at the City of Lakes Loppet in Minneapolis, MN where they won third place in the Women's 7k. It is difficult to tell who is more obsessed with skijoring: Mariel or her dogs....all show equal enthusiasm for the sport.