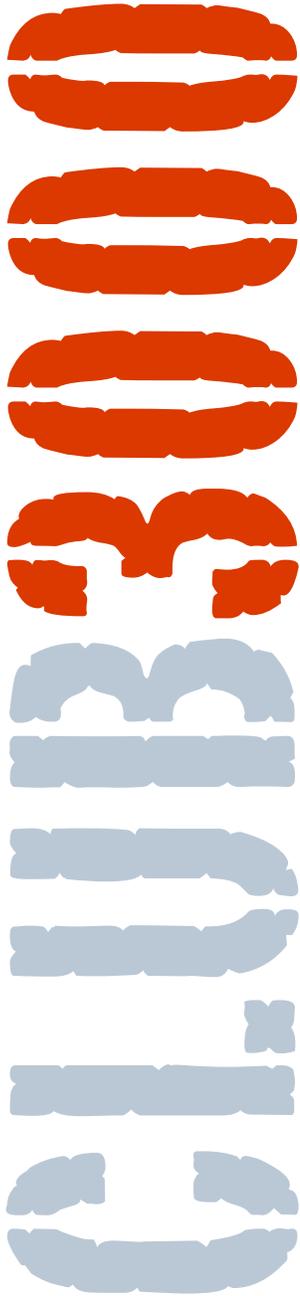


National News



Rarin' to GO
Jen Effler-Leveille's
veteran bitch Bella
competed in both pulls
enthusiastically.

Historical Events

The weight pulls at the 2011 National in Ann Arbor forged new records in attendance, weights pulled, and dollars raised for charity. Two tie-breakers for top honors kept all attendees alert!



POWER OF ONE



Weight Pull Judge John Podolak shares news of the 2011 AMCA National Specialty Weight Pulls

This year's AMCA National Specialty hosted two weight pulls. The participation was outstanding. Seventy-one (71) dogs competed in the Motor City (Regional) Weight Pull, and seventy (70) dogs competed in the Motown Charity (National) Weight Pull.

The Motor City (Regional) Weight Pull was an historic event. Let me give you a brief background. In November of 2006, after our dog ADAK pulled 3000 pounds at the AMCA National Specialty – Regional Weight Pull, I was approached by an elderly gentleman. He remarked that ADAK and another dog (JAMMER Schoesser, who had pulled 3240 pounds) had just joined an elite club. He explained that over the years, he had attended almost all of the AMCA National Specialty weight pulls. He could recall only three dogs that pulled 3000 pounds. JAMMER and ADAK now joined them.

At the Motor City (Regional) Weight Pull, five dogs joined the elite "Club 3000." RATCHET, owned by Connie

Powell, and RANGER, owned by Dave and Sue Gallagher, pulled 3332 pounds. Val Thawley's RAIDER, Matt Sautbine's PAOLO, and Keith and Linda Ping's CHRISSY all pulled 3002 pounds. CHRISSY is the very first bitch to pull over 3000 at the National!

Forty (40) dogs pulled WWPDX/WWPDA qualifying legs, and twenty-five (25) dogs pulled WWPDP qualifying legs at the Motor City Pull.

Motor City Weight Pull Special Awards

Most Weight Pulled:

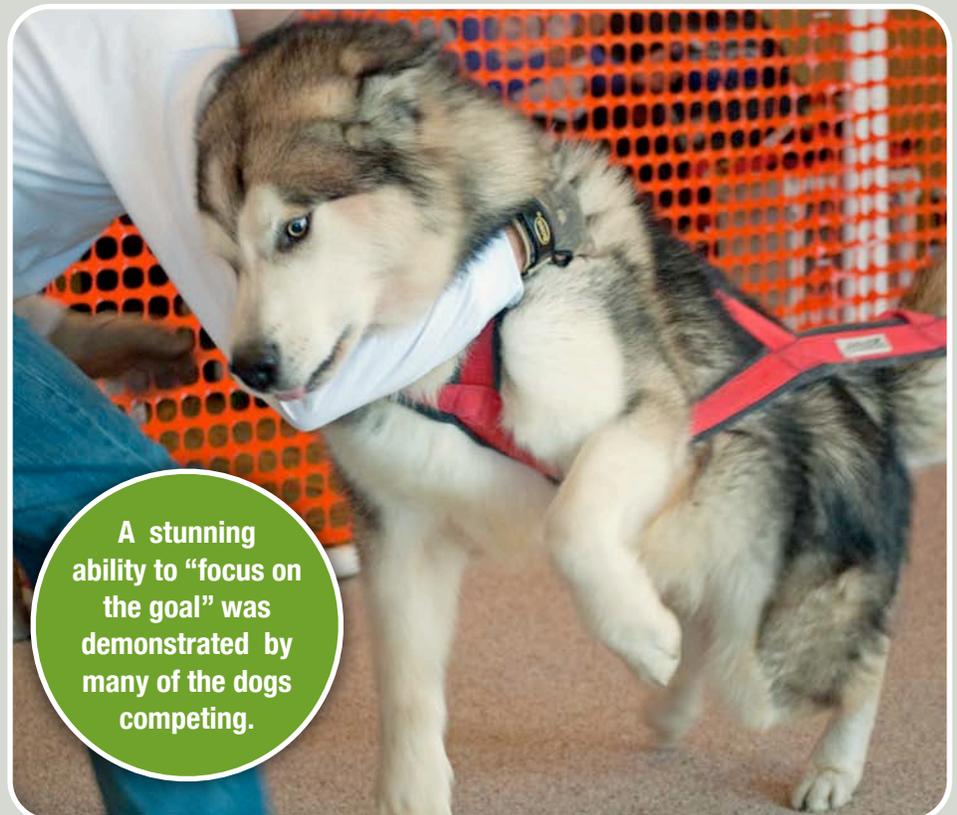
RATCHET* (Powell) 3332 pounds
RANGER (Gallagher) 3332 pounds

* Tie broken by the faster time

Highest % Weight Pulled:

RANGER (Gallagher)
37.86 times body weight

The Motown Charity (National) Weight Pull was held October 28, 2011. The "charity" in "Motown Charity Weight Pull" was the brainchild of Lucy Sanders, the 2011 AMCA National Specialty Show Chairperson. She wanted to do something special for the 2011 AMCA National weight pull, and decided on a charity weight pull to



A stunning ability to "focus on the goal" was demonstrated by many of the dogs competing.

support the "Vets Helping Heroes" organization.

Vets Helping Heroes is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the mission of America's VetDogs. America's VetDogs provides guide dogs for veterans who are blind, service dogs for those with disabilities other than blindness, physical therapy dogs to work with amputees in military and VA hospitals, and combat stress relief dogs that are deployed overseas with combat stress teams.

All dogs are a gift for life! Dogs, training, and a lifetime of aftercare are provided at no cost to the veteran. When the time comes for the dog to retire, a replacement dog and training are provided without charge.

Thank you for your participation in the 2011 AMCA National Specialty charity weight pull and making it a huge success! Vicky Jones' dog KARL received the most pledges, a whopping \$1500. The handlers and their sponsors raised over \$3595 for this worthy cause!

In addition, thirty-five (35) dogs pulled WWPDX/WWPDA qualifying legs, and twenty (20) dogs pulled WWPD qualifying legs.

Motown Charity Weight Pull Special Awards

Most Weight Pulled:

RATCHET (Powell) 2939 pounds

Highest % Weight Pulled:

BOOTSTRAP* (Hinman)

32.35 times body weight

BRISBEE (King/McClain)

32.35 times body weight

* Tie broken by the faster time

Thank You!

Weight pulls are labor-intensive events. A successful weight pull requires people to work the event, including hauling the equipment to the site, equipment set-up, registrations, weigh-ins, hooking the dogs, cart marshals (loading the cart and ensuring the proper weight increments are added), judges, timers and scorekeepers, and breaking down the equipment at the end of the event.

I would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance in chute construction, equipment set-up, judging, timing and computer score keeping: Dave and Colleen Belanger, Michelle Podolak, Mike and Eileen Barnes, Rob Pratt, Kathleen Dalton-Bray, Nancy Ward, Keith Ping, and Dave Gallagher.

Additionally, I would like to thank the handlers who stepped up to hook the dogs, work the cart, maintain the scoreboard, call out the "pulling order," and re-secure the plywood with new brackets. They include Karina Burger, Barb Pisch, Carol Simon, George Leveille, Dustin Warner, Dave Watts, Connie Powell, Pam Fusco, Dave McClain, Brenda Lemon, Tim O'Brien, Matt Sautbine, and Steve Anderson.

INTO OVERDRIVE



Editor's Note

Photographs for this story were graciously provided by Bob Wanamaker. Bob has terrific high-resolution photos of many of the dogs that competed and encourages you to contact him at bob@wanamaker.org if you would like copies.



The sound of applause came from both inside and outside the chute!