

HEAL CREEK DOG DASH

PHOTOS BY JAMIE TAYLOR | RIVER NEWS

The inaugural Heal Creek Dog Dash and Winter Fest was held on Saturday, Feb. 26 and Sunday Feb. 27 on the Heal Creek Trails located at Northwood Golf Club in Rhinelander. Photographs are from the races on Saturday.



Rhinelander's Jen Thompson found her team and sled in a little trouble after getting off into the deep snow on the side of the trail near the finish line Saturday. Despite needing a few moments to get herself out of the predicament, she went on to win the 6-mile, 6-dog sport class.



The course for the majority of the races included a turn near the clubhouse that was very spectator friendly.



Just feet into the 2-mile, 2-dog sport skijor race, Jay Schaefer and his lone dog have a difference of opinion on whether or not they will run the race Saturday. Schaefer finished fourth on the weekend in the class.



Mandy Collins gets away with drifting toward shoulder of the course Saturday during the 6-mile, 6-dog pro race. Collins won the division and the class overall for the weekend.



Brittany Behm and Rascal leave the starting chute for the 2-mile, 2-dog sport skijor race. Although terriers are not a typical skijor dog, Rascal and Behm finished the race.



Mary Lucas's canine teammate in the 2-mile Skijor eagerly waits for the starting line official to count down the last five seconds until they could start.



Hannah Johnson's four-dog team accelerates away from the starting area for the four-mile adult sled Class A Pro race Saturday. Johnson ended up winning the division by just over 21 seconds over Rhinelander's own Niina Baum, who was also preoccupied with running the inaugural Heal Creek Dog Dash this past weekend.



Jamie Perry's team digs for traction just a couple seconds after being released at the start the 6-mile, 8-dog Pro race.



A young sledder pauses to watch a competitor in the six-mile, six dog sled competition nears the finish line.



Daniel Moll's six-dog team reaches the bottom of the last hill before the finish line for the 6-mile Nordic breed race Saturday.