

2012 MEDIA GUIDE
MEDIA INFORMATION / TIPS



40th Race on 100 Year Old Trail



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Media Briefings.....	3
Important Phone Numbers.....	3
2012 Idita-Facts & Potential Story Lines.....	4
Iditarod Insider – GPS Tracking Program.....	6
2012 Musher Bib Auction.....	6
Interesting Fact.....	7
Checkpoint Etiquette.....	9
Trail Etiquette.....	9
Anchorage Starting Chute Layout	10
Directions from Downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip/BLM.....	11
Snowmachining the Iditarod Trail	12
Packing for the Iditarod Trail.....	13
Alaska Visitor Information.....	13
Accommodations Along the Trail.....	14
Trail Communications.....	16
Photographic Hints for the Trail.....	16
Pilot Information.....	17
Air Service.....	18

General Race Information and 2012 Race Information – Musher Bios can be found in the

IDITAROD HISTORY – GENERAL INFO / 2012 RACE INFORMATION GUIDE

Found at www.iditarod.com under Press & Media

MEDIA BRIEFINGS

ANCHORAGE MEDIA BRIEFING

MILLENNIUM HOTEL ANCHORAGE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012 @ 3:00 P.M.

- Pick up media credentials – this is the **ONLY** time you can pick up your credentials for Anchorage.
- Get information needed for covering the start, re-start and trail.

Important: If you plan to take a laptop on the trail, please bring it to the media briefing where GCI technicians will be available to configure your laptop for use on the trail.

NOME MEDIA BRIEFING

(Projected Finish Date - on or about March 13, 2012)

MINI-CONVENTION CENTER

- **SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE THE PROJECTED FINISH**
- Information about activity at the finish line
- Distribution of finish line badges **(The same badges that have been used along the trail and in Anchorage will not allow media into the finish chute in Nome, Alaska.)**
- Signs will be posted in the Mini-Convention Center once the time and date of meeting has been determined.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

The Iditarod Trail Committee operates its primary race headquarters in Anchorage at the Millennium Hotel, 4800 Spenard Road. A headquarters also operates in Nome to make accurate information available at the end of the race.

You are invited to drop in to any headquarters location for the latest race information and to purchase Iditarod memorabilia.

General Information, Updates & Race Business..... (907) 248-MUSH(6874)
(Anchorage Race Headquarters – Millennium Hotel Anchorage)

General Information & Updates..... (907) 443-MUSH(6874)
(Nome Race Headquarters -- Mini-Convention Center)

IDITAROD RACE HEADQUARTERS

Room 1004, Millennium Hotel Anchorage – 4800 Spenard Road

- Open throughout the business day Monday, February 27 – Friday, March 2, 2012
 - Open 24/7 from Saturday, March 3 – Monday, March 19, 2012
 - General Phone Number – 907-248-6874

Mini Convention Center in Nome

- Opens Monday, March 12, 2012
- Open 24/7 through Sunday, March 18, 2012
- General Phone Number – 907-443-6874

On Line

www.Iditarod.com

<http://insider.Iditarod.com/>

2012 IDITA-FACTS & POTENTIAL STORY LINES

- The Iditarod starts in downtown Anchorage, Alaska, on Saturday, March 3rd (10 am)
- The Iditarod Re-starts in Willow Alaska, Sunday, March 4th (2 pm)
- As of February 16, 2012 there are 66 mushers signed up for the 2012 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, including 52 veterans, 14 rookies and 16 women. To date eight mushers have withdrawn for various reasons. Entrants hail from 5 states - Colorado, Illinois, Idaho and Washington, as well as from Alaska and from 4 countries – United States, Canada, Norway and New Zealand. The record number of mushers starting the race was 96 in 2008.
- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing. In 39 Iditarod races, Iditarod has paid out a total of \$13,209,174 to 234 mushers. The 2012 purse is \$550,000 going to the first 30 finishers.
- This year's race slogan is: *40th Race on 100 Year Old Trail* - The 2012 Iditarod marks the 40th running of the dogsled race on the century old gold trail between Seward and Nome now known as the Iditarod. (See more information about this topic under *40th Race on 100 Year Old Trail* in the Iditarod History – General Info / 2012 Race Information Guide.)
- The team's average 15 dogs, which means over 1,000 dogs will leave the starting line in 2012. Each musher can start with a maximum of 16 dogs down to a minimum of 12 dogs.
- Six Iditarod champions will be attempting to regain the title. Many of the past champions from other long distance races are also racing including Yukon Quest champions, Kusko 300 champions and Beargrease champions.
- The race crosses two mountain ranges (including North America's largest mountain range, Alaska Range)
- It runs along Yukon River and over the frozen Norton Sound
- The route alternates every year. This year's route, the Northern Route, will run from Ophir through Cripple, Ruby, Galena, and Nulato before meeting up with the Southern Route trail in Kaltag.
- There are twenty-four checkpoints (counting Anchorage & Nome), three of which are uninhabited during the rest of the year.
- There are seven teams signed-up for the 2012 Iditarod that have also signed up for the 2012 Yukon Quest – Kristi Berington, Jake Berkowitz, Trent Herbst, Sonny Linder, Lance Mackey, Huff Neff, and Brent Sass.
- Volunteers are an integral part of the Iditarod. As of February 8th, 2012 there were 718 volunteers registered representing 46 states and America Samoa. This number does not include those who volunteer in communities along the trail or in Nome. The number of volunteers will continue to grow over the weeks to come and by the end of Iditarod 2012 there will be over 1,500 volunteers involved in some way or another. This number equates to over 35,000 volunteer hours. Simply amazing!
- In 2012 there are a total of 52 veterinarians – 3 for dropped dogs in Anchorage, 2 for dropped dogs in both McGrath and Unalakleet, 42 veterinarians dispersed along the trail and 3 consultants.
- The 2012 Idita-Riders represent 22 states and raised \$155,000 as compared to \$185,000 in 2011 (see more info under Idita-Rider Musher Auction Program in the General Race History-Information & 2012 Race Information Guide).
- There have been 695 finishers (grand total of 1,902 to cross the finish line) as of 2011. Mushers hail from 23 states, five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, & Australia) and 21 foreign countries (Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) have finished the Iditarod since 1973 including 103 women.

- Three generations of Seavey' s are running again this year since Dan Sr. refuses to act his age. Dallas, Mitch and Dan are running the Iditarod and Conway Seavey, 15, is running the Jr. Iditarod.
- Iditarod 2012 has its first set of twins, Mushers' Anna and Kristy Berington running this year.
- Musher Zoya DeNure has this amazing and wonderful lead dog, Sadie, on her team that is 10 years old. Sadie finished the Kobuk 440 in 4th last April with John Schandelmeier, ran two Iditarod races with friend, Tom Knolmayer in 2005 & 2006, has finished the CB300 in 14th and the Tustumena 200 in 6th last year with Zoya. She's like the energizer bunny, always spunky and eats for her entire team. She has a large fan base in USA, Norway, Germany, Poland and Prague. She made the final cut again for Iditarod 2012.
- Mike Williams, Sr.'s goals of running the 2012 Iditarod for sobriety were halted by his health, but Mike, Sr. is glad that his son, Mike, Jr. agreed to forego his second semester in college to jump on the runners in his stead to mush for "Youth in Alaska." Healthy lifestyles for their young people is very important along with obtaining a quality education. Mike, Jr. will run his 3rd Iditarod and he is looking forward to a good run to Nome from a small village on the Kuskokwim River, Akiak.
- Musher Coleen Robertia in the "off" season takes her sled dogs for daily group swims to keep them in shape as well as celebrates birthdays.



- Ed Stielstra is the only musher competing in this year's Iditarod from East of the Rocky Mountains. He and his wife, Tasha, own and operate their own kennel in the Upper Peninsula Michigan, and this will be Ed's 7th Iditarod race. There are very few mushers competing in the 2012 Iditarod from outside of Alaska or Canada, and he is proud to be one of them. Being from the lower 48 poses its own set of challenges in regards to training, preparation and logistics for competing in the Last Great Race.
- Rookie Musher Sylvia Furtwängler followed in the footsteps of Roald Amundsen and crossed the Hardangervidda with sled dogs instead of skis back in 2008. She completed the Yukon Quest in 2003, publishes books, is a mother and grandmother, operates her own tour business in Norway, and has been said to be the "nicest woman you'll ever meet" from fellow mushers.

IDITAROD INSIDER – GPS TRACKING PROGRAM

You can follow the race on the leaderboard and in the forums, but until you're an Insider, you won't know what you've been missing. To see a sample of the Iditarod Insider or to subscribe go to: <http://insider.iditarod.com/>

Iditarod Insider Video on Demand

\$19.95 Individual / \$39.95 Class / \$99.95 School

Brings you exclusive daily updates, expert analysis from the trail, musher interviews, behind the scenes footage, and live streaming video of the start, re-start, and always-climactic unpredictable finish. Quality and quantity you won't find anywhere else.

Hundreds of video on demand segments are generated over the course of the Iditarod, from pre-race behind-the-scenes interviews through the thrilling Live Finish in Nome. With Insider Video on Demand, you won't miss a minute of it.

Iditarod Insider GPS Tracker

\$19.95 Individual / \$39.95 Class / \$99.95 School

Let's you follow the entire field 24 hours a day until the last team reaches Nome. You'll know how fast teams are traveling, distance between teams and checkpoints along with current temperatures. Mushers change position, pull ahead, fall behind, take their 8 and 24 hour layovers ... just because a team is in the lead one minute doesn't mean it will be leading the next. The Insider GPS Tracker helps you keep tabs on everyone's position.

Ultimate Insider Video + GPS = 100% Awesome

\$33.95 Individual / \$67.95 Class / \$169.95 School

The Ultimate Insider package affords you access to all of the Insider Video on Demand content, as well as the real-time location tracking of Insider GPS Tracker. With the Ultimate Insider package, you'll know everything there is to know about the Last Great Race™.

IDITA-RIDER MUSHER AUCTION

One of a Kind Experience!

Not only is the IditaRider Musher Auction one of the largest fund raisers for the Iditarod, but definitely one of the most adventurous! The IditaRider Musher Auction, which opens on November 1st each year, offers the opportunity for fans to bid to ride in a sled as it leaves the Start Line in downtown Anchorage on Saturday. Riders from all over the world have been in sleds as well as famous names such as comedian Joan Rivers, actress Susan Lucci, astronaut Bernard Harris, Jr., Olympic Gold Medalist skater Dorothy Hamill, and many more. The ride goes 11 miles along some of Anchorage's beautiful trails through parks, cheering fans, snow covered woods and ends at the BLM Science Center. Never seeing a frown at the end of the ride declares being an IditaRider is the next best thing to being on the runners of a sled. Bidding opens at \$500 and generally ends with the average bids being over \$1,000 per sled, however many sleds have sold at the maximum of \$7,500.

2012 MUSHER BIB AUCTION

After the Race begins, an autographed bib worn by each musher from the Start line goes on auction until the end of March. Bids start at \$50. So, take a chance to own the bib of your favorite musher, champion, or rookie of the year. A great way to have a special piece of the Iditarod. Visit the auction site www.iditarodauction.com to see what this year's sleds sold for.

The Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. is a 501-(c)-(3) nonprofit organization. Winning bids may be used as a tax deduction. A contribution report is sent with the credit card receipt once the auction has closed.

INTERESTING FACTS

- The first Iditarod Race began on March 3, 1973 with 34 teams—22 teams finished 32 days later.
- The slowest winning time of 20 days, 15 hours, two minutes and seven seconds was recorded in 1974 by Carl Huntington. The fastest winning time was recorded in 2011 by John Baker in 8 days, 18 hours, 46 minutes and 39 seconds.
- The closest finish was in 1978—Dick Mackey beat Rick Swenson by one second, finishing in 14 days, 18 hours, 52 minutes and 24 seconds.
- The most finishers in one year occurred in 2008 when 78 teams crossed the finish line.
- Rick Swenson is the only five time winner, the only musher to win in three decades, and only musher to complete 34 of 39 Iditarod's.
- Susan Butcher, Martin Buser, Doug Swingley, Jeff King & Lance Mackey have each won four Iditarod championships. Mackey is the only musher to have won four consecutive races with Butcher and Swingley both winning three consecutive races.
- Dick Mackey, Rick Mackey & Lance Mackey (father and two sons) have won the Iditarod. All three won wearing bib #13 in their sixth race.
- Lance Mackey is the first 4 time Iditarod Champion to win all four races consecutively in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. He also won the Yukon Quest in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, making him the first musher to win both of Alaska's premier long distance races back to back in 2007 and 2008 within weeks of each other.
- In 2011 John Baker broke Martin Buser's 1992 record. Baker's team traveled up the Iditarod Trail in 8 days, 18 hours, 46 minutes, 39 seconds bettering Buser's previous record by more than four hours.
- Carl Huntington won the 1974 race with the slowest winning time, 20 days, 15 hours, two minutes, seven seconds.
- There are 24 checkpoints on the northern route and 25 on the southern route, including Anchorage and Nome.
- The closest finish was in 1978. Dick Mackey finished one second ahead of Rick Swenson. Mackey's time was 14 days, 18 hours, 52 minutes and 24 seconds.
- The most finishers in one year occurred in 2008 when 78 teams crossed the finish line.
- Rick Swenson is the only five-time winner of "The Last Great Race," having won in 1977, 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1991. He is now the only musher to have won the Iditarod in three different decades, a record that is not apt to be broken.
- Four-time winner, Susan Butcher, claimed Iditarod victories in 1986, 1987, 1988, and again in 1990. Doug Swingley became the second four-time winner in 2001. His victories were in 1995, 1999, 2000 and 2001. Butcher and Swingley have the distinction of being the only Iditarod champions who have three consecutive victories.
- The youngest musher to ever compete in the Iditarod was Dallas Seavey. Dallas turned 18 on March 4, 2005. He is the youngest musher to run the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race. The oldest musher to ever compete is Col. Norman D Vaughan who last competed in 1992 at the age of 86.
- Rick Mackey won the race in 1983 to become the first son of an Iditarod champion to match his father's accomplishment. To further set a record, both father and son were wearing bib #13 when they crossed the finish line in first position. Anyone superstitious? (Emmitt Peters was also wearing bib #13 when he won in 1975.)
- There are 695 mushers that are members of the "Finishers Club." They represent 23 states, five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, & Australia) and 21 foreign countries (Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan,

Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) have finished the Iditarod since 1973 including 103 women.

- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing. In 28 Iditarod races, Iditarod has paid out a total of \$13,209,174 to 234 mushers.
- Lance Mackey is the first 4 time Iditarod Champion to win all four races consecutively in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. He also won the Yukon Quest in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, making him the first musher to win both of Alaska's premier long distance races back to back in 2007 and 2008 within weeks of each other.

CHECKPOINT ETIQUETTE - IMPORTANT!

Please do not attempt any interviews with mushers at checkpoints until they have fed and strawed their dogs! This is a crucial time for each sled dog team, and members of the press are asked not to approach any musher until this process is completed. (This may take anywhere from 1/2 hour to an hour.)

2012 race rules require that mushers stay in a central location in every checkpoint, rather than scatter throughout the villages. There will be specific checkpoint areas in each checkpoint. Each area will have a designated mushers' sleeping area and we ask the cooperation of reporters, photographers and camera crews in not interrupting the mushers during their chosen rest times. Mushers will be available in other areas of the checkpoints for interviews and pictures.

Please understand that this is a race and the first priority for the mushers is the care of their dogs and their race. They will be much more apt to be cooperative if you cooperate with them from the beginning.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

The following is a list of recommendations for those of you traveling up the trail. The main thing to remember is that you are traveling through *RURAL ALASKA*, so come prepared to provide your own food and shelter.

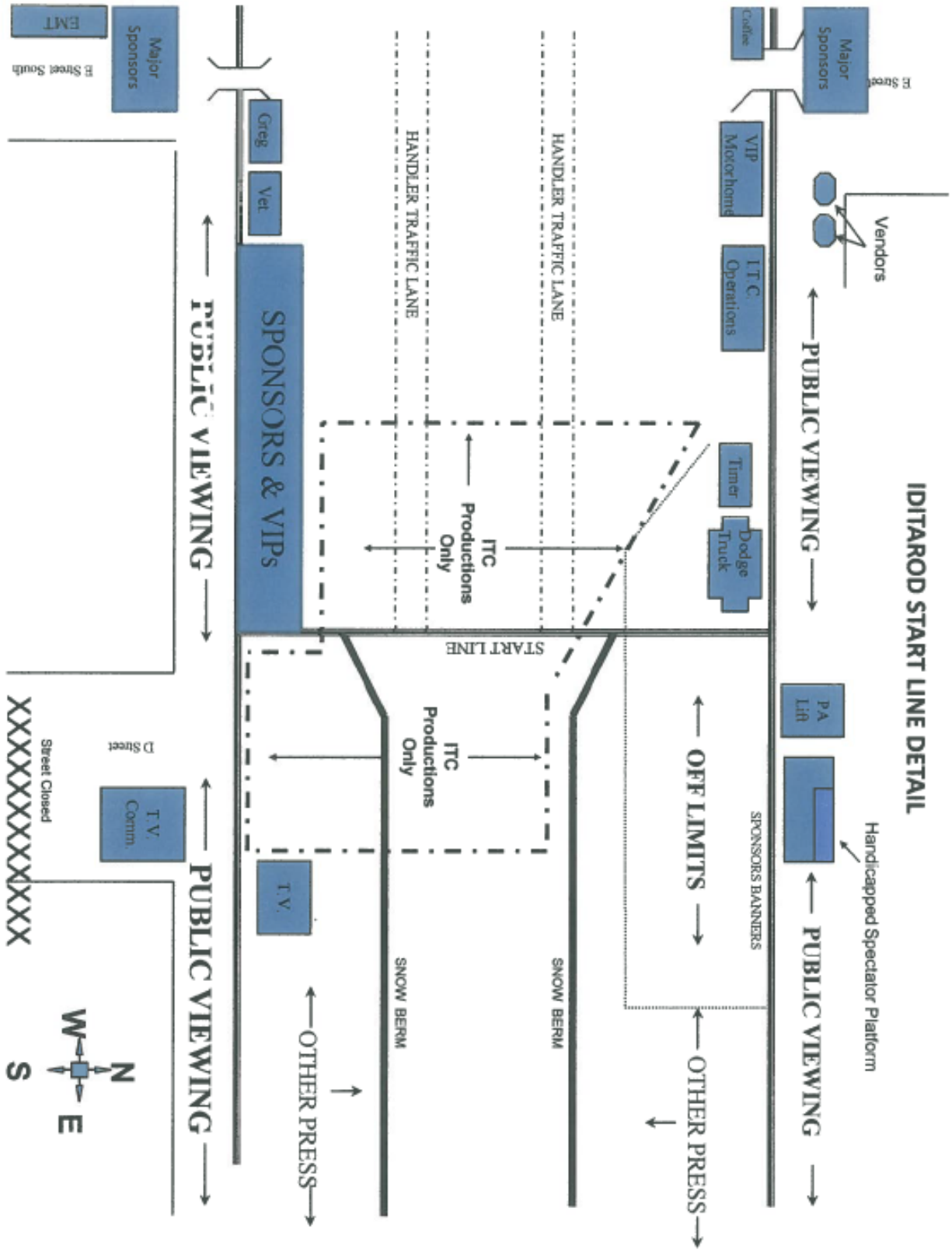
We recommend you:

- Offer to pay if invited to sleep in village school or community hall.
- Offer to pay for food that may be offered by villagers.
- Consider purchasing the beautiful Native works of art while in villages.
- Take the time to find out about the many wonderful folks in the villages along the trail who will make great human interest stories.
- Remember and respect the cultural differences you experience along the trail.
- Help the local economy by patronizing local restaurants and grocery stores.
- Stop in and visit at local schools. (It's a great way to learn more about the village you're in, and the students enjoy the interaction.)
- Use a telephoto lens to get close up still and video shots.
- Ask for permission from musher to take pictures of dog teams.
- Wait for interviews until mushers have had time to feed their dogs and to rest.
- Look for official race information from the checkpoints. The Iditarod Trail Committee's Communications Director is available to answer any questions you might have. Call anytime at 907-631-2989

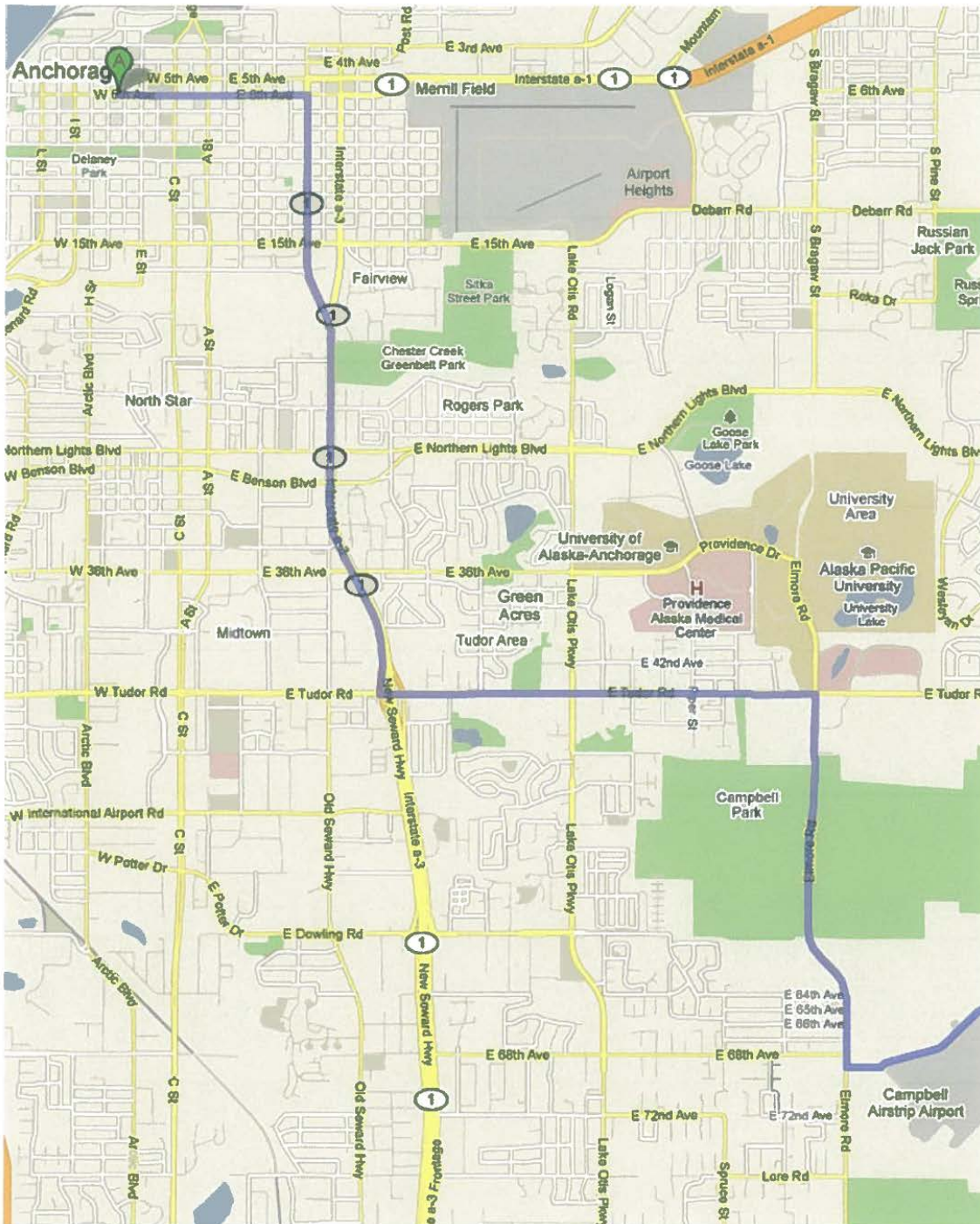
Please do not:

- Take alcohol to any of the village checkpoints. (It is against the law in most communities along the trail)
- Rely on someone else to take care of you, or avail yourself of the Iditarod food at checkpoint.
- Try to get lengthy interview as soon as musher pulls into checkpoint, or disturb a resting dog team.
- Let your story be influenced by "rumors." Please take time to contact a race official or the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Communications Director to verify the story you're working on.

ANCHORAGE STARTING CHUTE LAYOUT



Directions to BLM Headquarters



6th Ave East (toward the mountains)
Right at **Gamble St**
Take exit toward **Tudor Rd**
Left at **Tudor Rd**
Right at **Elmore Rd**
Left just past **68th Ave** and follow directions of Parking Crew

SNOWMACHING THE IDITAROD TRAIL

Things to consider in planning to snow machine the Iditarod Trail:

- **Make the Iditarod Trail Committee aware of your plans ahead of time to snow machine the trail.**
- The often harsh weather – plan accordingly.
- Prepare to be able to replace snow machine parts, purchase oil and fuel. No fuel is available in Rohn or Ophir and often hard to find in villages.
- Iditarod's fuel, oil and snow machine parts are not available for others traveling by snow machine.
- **The Trail is very fragile and designed for dog teams – excessive snow machine traffic can wipe out important snow bridges, knock out important trail markers and churn up hard packed surfaces. Impacting the trail and the ability for teams to compete is strictly prohibited by the Iditarod Trail Committee.**

PACKING FOR THE IDITAROD

Keeping pace with this event is a major challenge. This report will suggest a way to move efficiently in this unique environment.

Clothing choices and comfort are very important, but be aware that the logistics of traveling on the trail can be very labor intensive. Knowing how to pack and transport your gear to and from the airplane will save a tremendous amount of effort and will assist with everyone's logistics. Try packing so you can haul your gear in one trip. Here's how!

Baggage:

- One large duffel bag (preferably with 'U' shaped zipper)
- Daypack and/or fanny pack
- Camera bag
- Short plastic sled

Cinch sleeping bag and pad down between the handles of the duffel with snaps. Strap bundle down to the sled using bungees. Keep heavy clothing handy by snapping it under the bungees. This arrangement should be easy to drag around and stows well in an airplane. Rigid frame packs do not stow well in aircraft.

Clothing:

- Choose clothing that can all be worn together.
- Use layering in everything.
- Wear insulated boots such as "bunny boots" or open cell neoprene.
- Have a pair of "snow sneakers" for use in checkpoints.

40 above to 40 below selection (depending on combination):

- Polypropylene or cotton long underwear
- "Musher style" insulated hat
- Polar fleece shirt and pants
- Face mask
- Insulated scarf or cowl
- Windproof jacket and snow pants (bibs)
- Felt gloves with insulated over mitts
- Oversized heavy parka with hood

Other:

- Any good quality sleeping bag rated from -10 to -20 degrees
- Foam pad or therma-rest type mattress
- Avoid extra heavy duty weight bag unless you're at a tent checkpoint
- Small bag of high energy snack food
- Sunglasses
- Flashlight
- Camera gear

We suggest you don't bring:

- Hair dryers, curling irons, electric razors, etc.
- Large frame backpacks

ALASKA VISITOR INFORMATION

Alaska Travel Industry Association

www.travelalaska.com Telephone: 907-929-2200

Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

[www. Anchorage.net](http://www.Anchorage.net)

524 W Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501

Telephone: 907-276-4118 Toll free: 800-476-1255

Downtown Log Cabin & Visitors Information Center

4th Avenue & E Street

Visitor Information Center

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport

Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.alaskavisit.com

HC01 Box 6166J-21, Palmer AK 99645

Telephone: 907-746-5400

Nome Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.nomealaska.org/vc/

PO Box 240 H-P, Nome AK 99762

Telephone: 907-443-6624 E-mail: tourinfo@ci.nome.ak.us

ACCOMODATIONS ALONG THE TRAIL

(Checkpoints in alpha order)

Anchorage

- Stay with us at the "Official Hotel of the Iditarod" – the Millennium Alaska Hotel, 4800 Spenard Road, 907-243-2300 or 1-800-544-0553. Race operations headquarters is here!
- Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau – www.alaska.net

Cripple

- No Accommodations

Elim

- City Building – 907-890-3441
- Elim School – 907-890-3021

Finger Lake

- Winter Lake Lodge - 907-274-2710

Galena

- Aurora Borealis B&B - 907-656-1981
- Bungalows B&B - 907-656-2244
- Happy Puppy - 907-656-1951
- Huntington B&B - 907-656-2226
- Riverside Retreat – 907-765-2426
- Sweetsir's Guesthouse - 907-656-1245
- Whakatna Lodge - 907-656-1606
- Yukon Alaska Enterprise – 907-656-1334
- Yukon River B&B – 907-656-1642

Golovin

- No accommodations

Kaltag

- No accommodations

Koyuk

- No accommodations

McGrath

- Hotel McGrath B&B - 907-524-3949

Nikolai

- Village Council 907-293-2321

Nulato

- No Accommodations

Nome

- Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau – 907-443-6555
- Aurora Inn & Suites – 800-354-4606
- Bed for a Night – 907-443-3841
- Bering Sea B&B – 907-443-2936
- Chateau de Cape Nome – 907-443-7083 (after 5pm)
- Dredge No. 7 Inn – 907-304-1270
- Extra Dry Creek B&B – 907-443-7615 or 907-304-4061
- LLB LLC Bed & Breakfast – 907-443-2583
- Mai's Guest House – 907-443-4113
- Nome Sweet Homes B&B – 907-443-7368
- Nugget Inn – 907-443-4189

- Old Alaska Rooms – 907-443-4181 or 907-304-1333
- Polaris Hotel – 907-443-2000
- Solomon B&B – 907-443-2403
- Sweet Dreams B&B - 907-443-2919
- Trail End Apartments by the day
- Weeks Apartments 1-800-447-3194

Ophir

- No accommodations

Rainy Pass

- Rainy Pass Lodge - 907-248-7599

Rohn

- No Accommodations

Ruby

- River's Edge B&B – 907-468-4441
- Moose Camp B&B - 907-468-4489
- Wild Iris B&B - 907-468-4489

Safety

- No Accommodations

Shaktoolik

- Sunny Polar Bear B&B - 907-955-2487

Skwentna

- Skwentna Roadhouse - 907-733-2726
- Shell Lake Lodge – 907-733-2817

Takotna

- Checkpoint 907-298-2213 – Call about free floor space

Unalakleet

- Unalakleet Lodge - 907-624-3333
- Sleep Inn - 907-624-3035
- Covenant Church - 907-624-3361
- Unalakleet School - 907-624-3444

Wasilla

- Alaska Grandview Inns & Suites – 866-710-7666 – full service hotel
- Lake Lucille Inn – 907-373-1776
- Alaska Garden Gate B&B – 907-746-2333
- Alaska's Mat-Su Bed & Breakfast Association- www.alaskanbnbhosts.com

White Mountain

- City Hall - 907-638-3411

Willow

- Giggewood Lakeside Inn – 907-495-1014
- Sheep Creek Lodge – 907-495-6227
- Willow Trading Post Lodge – 907-495-1695
- Willow Winter Park B&B – 907-495-5884

Yentna

- Yentna Station Roadhouse 907-733-2746

TRAIL COMMUNICATIONS

IMPORTANT: Media access to communications methods varies from checkpoint to checkpoint.

While the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) does not have the ability to provide checkpoint internet access for the media between Anchorage and Nome, each year there are improvements in communities along the trail for public internet access. GCI, Inc., our official communications partner, has cellular coverage in many communities along the trail. Contact your local GCI representative to discuss cellular service availability and how it can be accessed.

ITC strongly advises journalists to have their laptop computers configured by GCI immediately following the Media Briefing on Wednesday, February 29th, at The Millennium Hotel, Anchorage, in the 3rd floor foyer in order to allow for greater success with internet connections when public internet access points are available along the trail. The Iditarod Trail Committee has wireless internet access available for media in Nome at Iditarod Race Headquarters in the Nome Mini Convention Center.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HINTS FOR THE TRAIL

Information provided by Jeff Schultz, Official Iditarod Photographer

So, you are going to shoot the Iditarod Trail Race at temperatures from 30 above zero to perhaps 30 or 40 below zero and in snowstorms and wind. Be prepared to minimize equipment problems.

Some of the most common problems are: short battery life in the cold, condensation on or inside lenses and use of phone connections for transmitting images especially Internet access. To combat these problems, I suggest:

Batteries: Use high-power rechargeable ni-cad packs when you can and recharge them often. Always have extra fully charged batteries on you, ideally warm ones. If it is extremely cold the best bet is to use dummy batteries in cameras, with coil cords leading to Quantum-type batteries in your pocket.

Condensation: I suggest you leave cameras outdoors during the shooting day and take along another to use indoors. At night, take the cameras and anything else you need from the camera bag and leave the cameras and lenses in the camera bag—then bring the whole bag indoors to stay warm. Do not open it up until the next morning or until it's had a LONG chance to warm up. If a camera does need to come inside it will of course condense – you'll want to have a chamois or something similar to wipe off the moisture or put it into a plastic bag and then leave it in until it's had a chance to warm up. That of course can be several hours. If you find condensation is inside of your lenses or your camera just does not seem to be operating properly, the best bet is to get the camera or lens in the warmest place available. On a drying rack above a wood stove or at the heater vent of the airplane. Leave it as long as you can to dry it out. A hair dryer works great too.

Phone/Internet connections: GCI does a great job to get you connections on the Race, but there are still some areas without internet access. Most schools have internet access. Call ahead to confirm.

Liquid crystal displays: start slowing down a whole lot when it gets to 20 or 30 below and if it's too cold they will not show up at all.

PILOT INFORMATION

Safety is of great concern to all of us. During the Iditarod trail Sled Dog Race increasing air traffic at remote landing sites creates a number of pilot safety issues. Please use radios around the landing sites. With regard to F.A.R.'s, while flying the trail, try to stay to the right hand side, decreasing the chance for a collision. When parked at these landing sites, keep your plane as safe as possible—as far from the landing area as is practical. Look closely and judge for yourself at all landing sites – **If you have doubt, DON'T!** The following is a list of conditions you may expect at the landing sites along the trail:

Willow – Good controlled strip-wheels

Skwentna – Usually good – skis. Good gravel strip – wheels. Temporary control tower --- 3/1 – ¾. Tower frequency is 120.8.

Finger Lake – Skis. Often deep snow and overflow off the packed runway and hard packed drifts.

Rainy Pass – (Puntilla Lake) Skis. Often deep snow and overflow off the packed runway and hard packed drifts.

Rohn – We would recommend that you not land here. If you do, use extreme caution the snow becomes hard packed and very slick from the crosswinds that usually blow down the canyon. Iditarod Air Force pilots always try to land uphill (NE) if possible. When the crosswinds are bad, aircraft are hard to control after touchdown – skis.

Nikolai – Good gravel strip – wheels. Snow covered sand bar—skis.

McGrath – controlled – skis and wheels

Takotna – Good gravel strip above town – wheels. River ice – skis.

Ophir – River ice and snow – can be tricky – watch for overflow and open water—possibly plowed 3,000 ft. strip, 1 mile north - skis

Cripple—Skis on the slough

Ruby – Usually good strip on river – skis, good gravel strip 1.5 miles from town – wheels

Galena – Control zone

Nulato – Good gravel strip, wheels – skis on river

Kaltag – Good gravel strip – wheels. Usually good strip on river – skis.

Unalakleet – F.S.S. Good controlled strip – wheels. Land on river ice – skis

Shaktoolik – Strip outside of town – wheels. No official strip along side of town – **use caution** – skis on lagoon behind town

Koyuk – Good gravel strip above town – wheels. Ice in front of village can be rough with pressure ridges, water holes and fishing holes. Wind can be very gusty – **caution** – skis

Elim – Good gravel strip – wheels. **Stay off ocean ice!!!**

White Mountain – Good strip above town – skis on river

Safety – Snow on lake, north side of checkpoint – **caution** – skis.

Nome – Control zone

AIR SERVICES

Pen Air is a major sponsor of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. For travel to McGrath and Unalakleet, contact PenAir:

- PenAir..... 800-448-4226

For travel to Nome, contact Alaska Airlines:

- Alaska Airlines 800-252-7522

Following is a list of air services which have taken an extra step in supporting the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race by becoming business members. We hope that, where possible, you will support these businesses.

- Litzen Guide Service 907-776-5868
- Sky Trekking Alaska..... 800-770-4966
- Talkeetna Air Taxi 800-533-2219
- Sheldon Air Taxi 907-240-5124

If you are unable to schedule your flights with one of the above mentioned businesses below is a list of other carriers:

Anchorage

- Alaska Sky Trekking..... 907-243-1649
- ERA Aviation 907-243-6633
- Ptarmigan Air 907-248-4421
- Rust's Flying Service 907-243-1595
- Arctic Air Transport..... 907-242-7766
- Alaska Air Taxi 907-243-3944
- Regal Air 907-243-8535

Wasilla/Willow/Talkeetna Area

- Alaska Bush Expeditions..... 907-495-1005
- Denali Flying Service..... 907-495-5899
- K-2 Aviation 907-733-2291
- Scenic Mountain Air 907-288-3646
- Susitna Air Service..... 907-495-6789
- Willow Air 907-495-6370

McGrath

- Tanana Air Service..... 907-524-3330
- Redline Air Charters..... 907-524-3733
- Magnuson Airways..... 907-524-3123

Unalakleet

- Bering Air..... 907-624-3175
- ERA Aviation 800-866-8394

Nome

- Bering Air..... 800-478-5422
- ERA Aviation 800-866-8394

Check local listings for additional information.