IDITAROD HISTORY – GENERAL INFO

2012 RACE INFORMATION



40th Race on 100 Year Old Trail

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INTRODUCTION

THE IDITAROD

You can't compare it to any other competitive event in the world! A Race of approximately 975 miles of the roughest, most beautiful terrain Mother Nature has to offer. She throws jagged mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forests, desolate tundra and miles of windswept coast at the mushers and their dog teams.

(**Note:** As of 2012 the Northern Route distance is approximately 975 miles. In prior years the distance was always over 1,000 miles. Three things factor into this adjustment: 1) The change in the Ceremonial Start (running from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip instead of Eagle River); 2) The change of the Restart location from Wasilla to Willow (loss of the Wasilla-Knik-Susitna River and some Yentna River mileage), and; 3) The actual year to year trail conditions can affect trail routing and the actual mileage will vary somewhat from year to year. "1,049 miles®" has been a symbolic figure from the inception of the race to signify the 1,000 miles or more of race trail and the number 49 depicts Alaska as the 49th state.)

Add to that the temperatures far below zero, winds that can cause a complete loss of visibility, the hazards of overflow, long hours of darkness and treacherous climbs and side hills, and you have the IDITAROD. A RACE EXTRAORDINAIRE, a race only possible in Alaska.

From Anchorage, in south central Alaska, to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast, each team of 12 to 16 dogs and its musher cover over 975 miles in 9 to 17 days.

It has been called the *Last Great Race on Earth*® and has won worldwide acclaim and interest. German, Spanish, British, Japanese and American film crews have covered the event. Journalists from outdoor magazines, adventure magazines, newspapers and wire services flock to Anchorage and Nome to record the excitement. It's not just a sled dog race ... it's a race in which unique men and woman compete. Mushers enter from all walks of life. Fishermen, lawyers, doctors, miners, artists, Natives, Canadians, Swiss, French and others; men and women each with their own story, each with their own reasons for going the distance. It's a race organized and run primarily by volunteers ... thousands of volunteers...men and women, students and village residents. They man headquarters at Anchorage, Nome and Wasilla. They fly in dog food and supplies. They act as checkers, coordinators, veterinarians and family supporters of each musher.

"THE LAST GREAT RACE ON EARTH"

The race pits man and animal against nature, against wild Alaska at her best and as each mile is covered, a tribute to Alaska's past is issued. The Iditarod is a tie to -- a commemoration of -- that colorful past.

The Iditarod Trail, now a national historic trail, had its beginnings as a mail and supply route from the coastal towns of Seward and Knik to the interior mining camps at Flat, Ophir, Ruby and beyond to the west coast communities of Unalakleet, Elim, Golovin, White Mountain and Nome. Mail and supplies went in. Gold came out. All via dog sled. Heroes were made, legends were born.

In 1925, part of the Iditarod Trail became a lifesaving highway for epidemic-stricken Nome. Diphtheria threatened and serum had to be brought in; again by intrepid dog mushers and their faithful hard-driving dogs.

The Iditarod is a commemoration of those yesterdays, a not-so-distant past that Alaskans honor and are proud of.

AN EVENT FOR ALL ALASKA

Anchorage is the ceremonial starting line -- a city of over 290,000 people, street lights, freeways and traffic. From there the field of dog teams, which varies in number each year, runs to Campbell Airstrip, approximately 20 miles. After a restart the following day in the Matanuska Valley at Willow, the mushers leave the land of highways and bustling activity and head out to the Yentna Station Roadhouse and Skwentna and then up through Finger Lake, Rainy Pass, over the Alaska Range and down the other side to the Kuskokwim River -- Rohn Roadhouse, Nikolai, McGrath, Takotna, Ophir, Cripple, and on to the mighty Yukon at Ruby -- a river highway that takes the teams west through the arctic tundra.

The race route is alternated every other year, one year going north through Cripple, Ruby and Galena, the next year south through Iditarod, Shageluk, Anvik.

Finally, they're on the coast -- Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Elim, Golovin, White Mountain and into Nome where a hero's welcome is the custom for musher number 1 or 69!

The route encompasses large metropolitan areas and small Native villages. It causes a yearly spurt of activity, increased airplane traffic and excitement to areas otherwise quiet and dormant during the long Alaskan winter. Everyone gets involved from very young school children to the old timers who relive the colorful Alaskan past they've known as they watch each musher and his team. The race is an educational opportunity and an economic stimulus to these small Alaskan outposts.

THE BEGINNING

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race first ran to Nome in 1973, after two short races on part of the Iditarod Trail in 1967 and 1969. The idea of having a race over the Iditarod Trail was conceived by the late Dorothy G. Page. In 1964, Page was chairman of the Wasilla-Knik Centennial. Her task was to find projects to celebrate the centennial year in 1967.

She was intrigued that dog teams could travel over land that was not accessible by automobile. In the early 1920's, settlers had come to Alaska following a gold strike. They traveled by boat to the coastal towns of Seward and Knik and from there, by land into the gold fields. The trail they used is today known as The Iditarod Trail, one of the national historic trails designated by the Congress of the United States. In the winter, the only means of travel was by dog team.

The Iditarod Trail soon became the major "thoroughfare" through Alaska. Mail was carried across this trail, people used the trail to get from place to place and supplies were transported via the Iditarod Trail. Priests, ministers and judges traveled between villages via dog team.

All too soon the gold mining began to slack off. People began to go back to where they had come from and suddenly there was less travel on the Iditarod Trail. The use of the airplane in the late 1920's signaled the beginning of the end for the dog team as a standard mode of transportation, and of course with the airplane carrying the mail, there was less need for land travel. The final blow to the use of the dog team came with the appearance of snowmobiles.

By the mid 60's, most people in Alaska didn't even know there was an Iditarod Trail or that dog teams had played a very important part in Alaska's early settlement. Page, a resident of Wasilla and self-made historian, recognized the importance of an awareness of the use of sled dogs as working animals and of the Iditarod Trail and the important part it played in Alaska's colorful history.

She presented the possibility of a race over the Iditarod Trail to an enthusiastic Joe Redington Sr., a musher from the Knik area. Soon the Page's and the Redington's began promoting the idea of the Iditarod Race to the extent that Joe and Vi Redington moved to the Knik area from their homestead at Flat Horn Lake and they have never moved back. (Flat Horn Lake is approximately 30 miles out of Knik.)

The Aurora Dog Mushers Club, along with men from the Adult Camp in Sutton helped clear years of over-growth from the first nine miles of the Iditarod Trail in time to put on the first short Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1967. A $25,000 purse was offered in that race, with Joe and Vi Redington donating one acre of their land at Flat Horn Lake adjacent to the Iditarod Trail to help raise the funds. (The land was subdivided into one square foot lots and sold with a deed and special certificate of ownership, raising $10,000 toward the purse.) Contestants from all over Alaska and even two contestants from Massachusetts entered that first Iditarod Race, but a new comer, Isaac Okleasik, from Teller, Alaska, won the race with his team of large working dogs. The short race (approximately 27 miles) was put on again in 1969.

The goal was to have the race go all the way to the ghost town of Iditarod in 1973. However, in 1972, the US Army reopened the trail as a winter exercise and in 1973, the decision was made to take the race the 1,000 plus miles to Nome. Redington and Page were instrumental in getting the first long Iditarod on its way to Nome in 1973, amidst comments that it couldn't be done. There were many that believed it was crazy to send a bunch of mushers out into the vast uninhabited Alaskan wilderness. But the race went! Twenty-two mushers finished that year and to date, there have been 695 finishers as of 2011. Mushers have come from Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Japan, Austria, Australia, Sweden, Jamaica and the former Soviet Union as well as from about 20 different states in this country.

The late Dorothy G. Page, the "mother of the Iditarod" is quoted in the October 1979 issue of the *Iditarod Runner* on her intent for the Iditarod: "To keep the spirit of the Iditarod the same. I don't ever want to see any high-pressure people getting in and changing the spirit of the race. We brought the sled dog back and increased the number of mushers. It is really an Alaskan event. I think the fact that it starts in Anchorage and then ends in Nome has opened up a whole new area for people in Alaska. I think they appreciate that. It puts them in touch with the pioneer spirit."

IDITAROD TODAY

The race has started in downtown Anchorage since 1983. The 40th Annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race will begin on Saturday, March 3, 2012. The teams will leave the start line at the corner of 4th and "D" at two minute intervals, starting at 10 a.m. About 69 teams are expected.

The mushers follow streets and bike trails through Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip. From there the dogs are loaded into dog trucks and taken home for the night. While the race actually starts in Anchorage, in 1995, the rules were changed so that the Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip (used to be Eagle River) portion does not count in the overall time to Nome.

On Sunday, March 4 mushers will again line up at the re-start area in Willow, Alaska about 70 miles north of Anchorage. At 2 p.m., the first team will depart on its way to Nome.

From Willow they start on Willow Lake and wind through typical northern forests of birch and spruce, cross frozen swamps and lakes before dropping onto the Big Susitna River and heading toward Yentna Station. The area between Willow Lake and Yentna Station, approximately 45 miles, has been dubbed the world's longest tail gate party on this day as spectators set up camps with bonfires, banners, food, and sprits to cheer the teams on as they make their way to Nome.

It is impossible to predict the exact day or time that the first musher will cross the finish line in Nome. However, we expect it to be between 8 and 10 days, making it on Monday or Tuesday. Last year's champion, John Baker, completed the race in 8 days, 18 hours, 46 minutes, 39 seconds.

BEHIND THE SCENES

It takes so much more than a field of willing mushers and anxious sled dogs to run the Iditarod Trail Race. With the annual budget of over 2.5 million dollars, the Iditarod Trail Committee depends on a hard working force of volunteers and supporters to raise the necessary money all year around. Our race sponsors supply over one million dollars in cash donations and/or goods and services. A semi-annual raffle is held as well as an Idita-Rider Musher Auction where bidders place bids of $500-$7,500 on entered mushers to ride in their sled at the Anchorage Ceremonial Start for the first 11 miles. Iditarod gift shops in the Anchorage/Wasilla area sell Iditarod merchandise year round. Merchandise is also sold at the Alaska State Fair and on other special occasions during the year. Banquets are planned in both Anchorage and Nome. This volunteer force and the loyal supporters from both the private and business sectors make the race possible each year.

Information headquarters are set up in Anchorage, Nome and Wasilla during the race to disseminate information and race standings to the public. Volunteers man each of the 20 plus checkpoints, some of whom spend their vacations on the trail. A complex communications net covers the course offering logistical support, emergency communications and an information source for race officials. The "Iditarod Air Force" is a fleet of small privately owned bush planes flown by volunteers, shuttling dog food and mushers' supplies to each checkpoint, moving veterinarians and race officials up and down the trail, hauling tired dropped dogs back to the major pickup points. A group of veterinarians from all over the United States, and sometimes even from other countries, take time out from their busy practices to assist with dog-care duties along the trail. Trail breakers on snow machines precede the field of mushers, cutting trail, marking trail, packing trail in windswept areas, trying to give each team a safe path to follow.

Without these volunteers, there wouldn't be a race. Their efforts save the committee thousands of dollars which would be impossible to raise. Their dedication and involvement is what this truly Alaskan event is all about.

ON THE TRAIL

Each musher has a different strategy -- some run during the day, some run at night. Each one has a different training schedule and method and his own ideas on dog care, dog stamina and his own personal ability. Each musher has a special diet for feeding and snacking their dogs.

The rules of the race lay out certain regulations. There are pieces of equipment each team must have -- an arctic parka, a heavy sleeping bag, an ax, snowshoes, musher food, dog food and booties for each dog's feet to protect against cutting ice and hard packed snow injuries.

Mushers spend an entire year getting ready and raising the money needed to get to Nome. Some prepare around a full-time job. In addition to planning the equipment and feeding needs for three weeks on the trail, hundreds of hours and hundreds of miles of training have to be put on each team.

FAMOUS NAMES

There are names which are automatically associated with the race:

Joe Redington, Sr. – co-founder and affectionately known as the "Father of the Iditarod"

Rick Swenson – the only five time champion, the only champion to win in three different decades and the only musher to have completed 30 Iditarod's

Dick Mackey – the 1978 winner in the only photo finish in Iditarod's history

Col. Norman D Vaughan – finished the race for the fourth time in 1988 at the age of 88 and led an expedition to Antarctica in the winter of 1993-'94

Susan Butcher – the first woman to ever place in the top ten and the first four-time winner

Libby Riddles – in 1985, the first woman to win the Iditarod

Emmitt Peters – set a race record in 1975 that wasn't broken until 1980, known as the Yukon River Fox

Rick Mackey – wearing bib #13, the same number his father wore in 1978, crossed the finish line first in 1983, making Dick and Rick the only father and son to have won the Iditarod

Joe Runyan – 1989 champion and the only musher to have won the Alpinrod in Europe, the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod

Terry Adkins – retired from the United States Air Force, the only veterinarian on the first Iditarod in 1973 and now one of only eight mushers to have completed at least 18 Iditarod's

Doug Swingley – the first Iditarod winner living outside Alaska and the second four time winner

Martin Buser – a four-time winner who holds the record winning time and was the first musher to break the nine-day barrier

Herbie Nayokpuk – the Eskimo from Shishmaref, the "Shishmaref Cannonball" who raced in eleven Iditarod's

DeeDee Jonrowe, **Charlie Boulding**, and **Lance Mackey** – all came back to race again after life threatening bouts with cancer

Robert Sørlie – first musher from out of the United States (Norway) to win the Iditarod

Lance Mackey – won the 2007 Iditarod after winning the Yukon Quest only 10 days earlier – first musher to have won both races in the same year and made Dick Mackey the only father to have won the Iditarod and to have two sons also win the Iditarod, all wearing bib #13. Lance Mackey repeated his feat of winning both the Yukon Quest and Iditarod in 2008. Lance is the first musher to ever win four consecutive Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in a row (2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010)

John Baker – first Eskimo to win the Iditarod and also set fastest winning time of 8 days, 18 hours, 46 minutes and 39 seconds in 2011.

THE 1925 SERUM RUN TO NOME

What might have been the most important “sled dog race” that will ever be run in Alaska ended in Nome on February 2, 1925, when Gunner Kaasen drove his tired dog team down an almost deserted First Avenue.

At stake were the lives of countless Nome children who had been exposed to the dread disease, diphtheria. Kaasen was one of the 20 drivers who took part in the record 674 mile relay race from Nenana to Nome. He delivered 300,000 units of antitoxin serum to Dr. Curtis Welch. The serum arrived in Nome in just one week from Anchorage and 127 1/2 hours from Nenana.

It was on January 21, 1925 that Dr. Welch first diagnosed the diphtheria outbreak in Nome, and immediately sent telegraph messages to Fairbanks, Anchorage, Seward and Juneau, asking for help. The only serum in Alaska was found in Anchorage, where Dr. J.B. Beeson had 300,000 units at the Alaska Railroad Hospital. The problem was to get it to Nome in the shortest time possible.

The only two planes available were in Fairbanks and had been dismantled and stored for the winter. A pair of pilots offered to attempt the flight if the planes could be made ready, but it was left to Alaska’s governor to decide. Many thought dog teams were the only reliable answer.

In Juneau, Governor Scott C. Bone decided on dog teams. He ordered an additional supply of antitoxin from Seattle. Then he called on the Northern Commercial Company, as the largest organization in the Yukon River area, to arrange for relay teams. Men of the Army Signal Corps, at their scattered telegraph stations, also assisted.

In Nome, Dr. Welch and the mayor, George Maynard discussed ways to get the serum to Nome. They suggested sending the serum to Nenana by rail and then sending a team to the rail line, or asking a fast team to start the antitoxin down the Tanana and Yukon Rivers and have a team from Nome meet it about half way.

At Anchorage, Dr. Beeson packed the serum in a cylinder, which he wrapped in an insulating quilt. The whole parcel was then tied up in canvas for further protection. The parcel left Anchorage by train on Monday, January 26, in the charge of conductor Frank Knight of the Alaska Railroad. It was at 11 p.m. on Tuesday that the train reached Nenana and Knight turned over the parcel to the first driver, William “Wild Bill” Shannon.

Shannon carried the serum 52 miles to Tolovana, where he handed it over to Dan Green. Green carried it 31 miles to Manley and handed it over to Johnny Folger. Folger went the 28 miles to Fish Lake. Sam Joseph picked it up there and carried it 26 miles to Tanana. Titus Nikoli carried it 34 miles to Kallands and Dave Corning carried it 24 miles to Nine Mile. Edgar Kalland picked it up at Nine Mile and went 30 miles to Kokrines and Harry Pitka carried it another 30 miles to Ruby. Billy McCarty carried it 28 miles to Whiskey Creek and turned it over to Edgar Nollner, who carried it 24 miles to Galena. George Nollner carried it from Galena to Bishop Mountain, 18 miles. Charlie Evans went the 30 miles to Nulato and Tommy Patsy went the next 36 miles to Kaltag. At Kaltag, Jackscrew picked it up and took it 40 miles to Old Woman. Victor Anagick carried it 34 miles to Unalakleet and Myles Gonangnan carried it 40 miles to Shaktoolik. Henry Ivanoff started from Shaktoolik to Golovin with the serum.

Leonhard Seppala left Nome intending to rest at Nulato and return with the serum. But Seppala met Ivanoff outside of Shaktoolik where he took the serum and turned around, heading back for Nome. He carried the serum back over Norton Sound with the thermometer 30 degrees below zero. Seppala had to face into a merciless gale and in the darkness retraced his route across the uncertain ice. When Seppala turned the serum over to Charlie Olson in Golovin, after carrying it 91 miles, he had traveled a total of 260 miles.

Olson turned the serum over to Gunnar Kaasen at Bluff. Kaasen took it the remaining 53 miles to Nome.

Balto, Kaasen's lead dog, owned by Seppala was memorialized with a statue in Central Park in New York City. Seppala always felt that his lead dog, Togo, didn’t get enough recognition for his 260-mile effort. After Togo died, Seppala had him custom mounted and he is now on display at Iditarod headquarters in Wasilla. Balto is on display in Cleveland at the Museum of Natural History.

HISTORY OF THE "WIDOW'S LAMP"

During the days of Alaska sled dog freighting and mail carrying, dog drivers relied on a series of roadhouses between their village destinations. Since these mushers ventured out in most all kinds of weather, for safety reasons they founded the idea that pilots rely on, known today as the flight plan. Word was relayed ahead that a musher and team were on the trail, and a kerosene lamp was lit and hung outside the roadhouse. It not only helped the dog driver find his destination at night, but more importantly, it signified that a team or teams were somewhere out on the trail. The lamp was not extinguished until the musher safely reached his destination.

In keeping with that tradition, the Iditarod Trail Committee will light a "widow's Lamp" at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 3, 2012, in Nome, the trails end. This lamp, which will be attached to the Burl Arch, or the official finish line, will remain lit as long as there are mushers still on the trail competing in this year's race. When the last musher crosses the finish line, officials will extinguish the "Widow's Lamp" signifying the official end of the 2012 Iditarod.

So often the media tend to think of the race being over once the "winner" crosses the finish line, yet the public still wants to follow the progress of the remaining mushers on the trail. We hope you will find this often overlooked part of the race worthy of your attention.

HISTORY OF THE RED LANTERN

Often, the "red lantern" is confused with the "widow's lamp." They are not the same. An article several years ago in *Alaska* magazine states that the first red lantern was awarded in the 1953 Fur Rendezvous Race. According to *Alaska*, "Awarding a red lantern for the last place finisher in a sled dog race has become an Alaskan tradition. It started as a joke and has become a symbol of stick-to-itiveness in the mushing world." Earl Norris said, "The idea was that the last fellow was so far behind, he needed to light his way home." In this tradition, Wells Fargo awards a red lantern to the last musher off the trail.

WHAT DOES THE WORD "IDITAROD" MEAN?

The following is from an article in the Anchorage Times following the 1973 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, written by Gordon Fowler, Times Sports writer:

Iditarod means clear water and was named by the Shageluk Indians for the Iditarod River.

The following came from one of the Anchorage papers during the 1983 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race:

The word comes from the Ingalik Indian word, HaIditarod, which was the name for the river on which the town was built. It means distant place.

And this one comes from James Kasri, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Native Language Center in 1979:

The name Iditarod came from an Ingalik and Holikachuk word Hidehod for the Iditarod River. This name means distant or distant place. This word is still known by elders in the villages of Shageluk, Anvik, Grayling and Holy Cross.

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race
Animal Welfare Facts

The Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) takes great pride in its role of providing excellence in canine athlete care, not only during the race, but through an extensive program of pre-race veterinary screening.

- A complete pre-race physical examination is performed on each canine athlete by a licensed veterinarian within 14 days of the race start. Within 30 days of the race start, each dog receives an ECG evaluation to check for heart abnormalities. Since the implementation of this measure, four canine athletes have not been allowed to race.

- Pre-race blood work (CBC's and Chemistry panels) are performed on each canine athlete.

- All canine athletes are identified with a microchip implant.

- All canine athletes have current vaccinations and are de-wormed within 10 days of the race start.

- Rookie mushers are required to complete qualifying races of considerable distance before entering the Iditarod to ensure that they are experienced in providing the proper care (nutrition, hydration, rest, etc.) for their teams. In addition, the ITC hosts a mandatory two-day rookie seminar in December prior to the race.

- In addition to the high standard of care provided by the mushers themselves, thirty-five (35) licensed, professional veterinarians, volunteer their time on the trail to perform routine evaluations and administer any necessary treatments.

- During the Race itself, well over 10,000 planned checkpoint examinations take place.

- Canine care diaries are carried by each musher and are utilized by the mushers and veterinarians at each checkpoint to serve as a written medical record for each athlete in the race.

- All mushers competing in the Iditarod are members of P.R.I.D.E., which stands for "Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment" and is an organization whose membership consists of a wide variety of mushers, veterinarians and other interested individuals from around the world. Those familiar with sled dogs will appreciate the guidelines established by P.R.I.D.E. as being sound advice for the care of this special breed of dog.

- The International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association (I.S.D.V.M.A.) published The Musher and Veterinary Handbook, a highly regarded resource which provides important information to the musher and veterinarian alike. As an organization consisting primarily of medical professionals with an interest in and/or experience in working with sled dogs, the I.S.D.V.M.A. actively promotes and encourages their welfare and safety. Many members of the organization have served as trail veterinarians during the Iditarod itself. The I.S.D.V.M.A. also supports and encourages scientific research to further a better understanding of the racing sled dog.

- Race policies and rules are written with the greatest emphasis on the proper care and treatment of the canine athletes. Any musher found guilty of inhumane treatment will be disqualified and banned from competition in future Iditarod's.

- Ongoing, random drug testing is conducted throughout the race. In the 10 years of this program, no drug test has ever been positive.

- The result of these efforts is a level of health care and screening that even an overwhelming majority of the human population will never experience.

DICTIONARY OF MUSHING TERMS

Mushing Commands:

Gee- Command for right turn

Haw- Command for left turn

Come Gee! Come Haw!- Commands for 180 degree turns in either direction

Line Out!- Command to lead dog to pull the team out straight from the sled**.** Used mostly while hooking dogs into team or unhooking them

Mush! Hike! All Right! Let's Go!- Commands to start the team

Whoa!- Command used to half the team, accompanied by heavy pressure on the brake

NOTE: Teams are directed through spoken orders. The leader of the team must understand all that is said and guide the others according. An intelligent leader is an absolute necessity. At times it appears that there is E.S.P. between musher and the leader.

Mushing Vocabulary:

Alaskan Husky
- "Breed" generally used as sled dog
- Not recognized by the American Kennel Club

Booties
- Type of sock made to protect dogs' feet from small cuts and sores
- Usually made out of a light weight pack cloth

Dog in Basket
- Tired or injured dog carried in sled

Double Lead
- Two dogs that lead the team side by side

Indian Dog
- An Alaskan Husky from an Indian village

Lead Dog or Leader
- Dog(s) who run in front of others
- Generally must be both intelligent and fast

Swing Dog/Dogs
- Dog that runs directly behind the leader
- Helps "swing" the team in the turns or curves

Malamute
- Registered breed, larger than most sled dogs
- Term often used by old timers for any sled dog
- Breed not often used in mushing teams

Neck Line
- Line that connects dog's collar to tow line and between the two collars of a double lead

Pedaling
- Pushing the sled with one foot while the other remains on the runner

Rigging
- Collection of lines to which dogs are attached
- Includes towline, tug lines and necklines

Runners
- Two bottom pieces of the sled that come in contact with the snow
- Extend back of the basket for the driver to stand on
- Usually wood, covered with plastic or Teflon
- Plastic or Teflon usually replaced at least once during the Race

Slats
- Thin strips of wood that make up the bottom of a wooden sled basket

Snow Hook or Ice Hook
- Heavy piece of metal attached to sled by line
- Embedded in the snow in order to hold the team for short periods of time

Snub Line
- Rope attached to the sled used to tie the sled to a tree or other object

Stove Up
- Injured, generally temporarily
- Applies to both mushers and dogs

Tether Line
- A long chain with shorter pieces of chain extending from it
- Used to stake out a team when stakes aren't available

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 Hamil, 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.

JR. IDITAROD

In order to enter the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, one must be 18 years old. In 1977, a number of younger mushers wanted to "mush the Iditarod Trail." A group of these young people got together and organized the first Iditarod for junior mushers. This race, known as the Jr. Iditarod, is now in its 34th year. Those early organizers were Karl Clauson, Kenny Pugh, Clarence Shockley and Eric Beeman.

The Jr. Iditarod trail is about 160 miles long. Mushers travel the 80 miles from Wasilla to the Yentna Station Roadhouse on the Yentna River over the historic Iditarod Trail. They overnight at Yentna, where race rules require that they stay with their dogs and care for them just as the Iditarod mushers in the adult Iditarod do. The next day they return to Willow for the finish

When a musher turns 14, he/she is eligible to compete in the Jr. Iditarod. These young people often have their own teams and are totally responsible for training them. According to a parent of one of the early mushers, the Jr. Iditarod is a "race founded with the idea of giving young mushers a choice between sprint and distance mushing and to help train young mushers to run the much longer race, the 'granddaddy' of all long distance races: the Iditarod."

Many of the junior mushers have gone on to compete in the Iditarod. Ramey Smyth, Cim Smyth, Ray Redington, Jr., Dallas Seavey, Cain Carter and Lance Mackey are Jr Iditarod Alumni who will be running the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Karl Clauson, Ellie Claus, Cali King, Rome Gilman, Clarence Shockley, Laird Barron, Kimarie Hanson, Caleb Banse, Andy Willis, Tony Willis, Andy Moderow, Tyrell Seavey, Daniel Seavey and Simon Kinneen are a few other former juniors who have gone on to race to Nome.

While most of the Jr. Iditarod participants have been from Alaska, in previous years young mushers have made the trip from Minnesota, Montana, Spain and Canada to compete in the Jr. Iditarod. The Jr. Iditarod welcomes mushers from all over.

There are no monetary prizes in the Jr. Iditarod; however, scholarships are awarded to the top five finishers and the winners of the Humanitarian and Sportsmanship awards, by Jr. Iditarod sponsor, Lynden.

In October of 1987, a formal agreement was signed, officially making the Jr. Iditarod part of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc.

The 2012 Jr. Iditarod begins on Saturday, February 25th at 10 a.m. on Knik Lake, Mile 13, Knik Goose Bay Road, Wasilla.

1978 – 2011 JR. IDITAROD WINNERS

1978	Mike Neuman	Knik, AK	1995	Dusty Whittemore	Cantwell, AK
1979	Clint Mayeur	Glenallen, AK	1996	Dusty Whittemore	Cantwell, AK
1980	Gary Baumgartner	McGrath, AK	1997	Tony Willis	Anchorage, AK
1981	Christine Delia	Skwentna, AK	1998	Charlie Jordan	Tanana, AK
1982	Tim Osmar	Clam Gulch, AK	1999	Ryan Redington	Knik, AK
1983	Tim Osmar	Clam Gulch, AK	2000	Ryan Redington	Knik, AK
1984	Tim Osmar	Clam Gulch, AK	2001	Tyrell Seavey	Seward, AK
1985	Lance Barve	Wasilla, AK	2002	Cali King	Denali Park, AK
1986	Lance Barve	Wasilla, AK	2003	Ellie Claus	Chitina, AK
1987	Dusty VanMeter	Kasilof, AK	2004	Nicole Osmar	Kasilof,AK
1988	Dan Flodin	Chugiak, AK	2005	Melissa Owens	Nome, AK
1989	Jared Jones	Knik, AK	2006	Micah Degerland	Two Rivers, AK
1990	Jared Jones	Knik, AK	2007	Rohn Buser	Big Lake, AK
1991	Brian Hansen	Anchorage, AK	2008	Jessica Klejka	Bethel, AK
1992	Ramey Smyth	Big Lake, AK	2009	Cain Carter	Fairbanks, AK
1993	Ramey Smyth	Big Lake, AK	2010	Merissa Osmar	Ninilchik, AK
1994	Cim Smyth	Big Lake, AK	2011	Jeremiah Klejka	Bethel, AK

1973-2011 RACE CHAMPIONS & RED LANTERN WINNERS

See 1973-2011 Awards, Standings & Musher Stats Guide for more information

Champions			Red Lantern Winners	
Year	Musher	D:H:M:S	Musher	D:H:M:S
1973	Dick Wilmarth	20:00:49:41	John Schultz	32:05:09:01
1974	Carl Huntington	20:15:02:07	Red Olson	29:06:36:10
1975	Emmitt Peters	14:14:43:45	Steve Fee	29:08:37:13
1976	Gerald Riley	18:22:58:17	Dennis Corrington	26:08:42:51
1977	Rick Swenson	16:16:27:13	Vasily Zamitkyn	22:09:06:06
1978	Dick Mackey	14:18:52:24	Andrew Foxie	22:03:29:44
1979	Rick Swenson	15:10:37:47	Gene Leonard	24:09:02:22
1980	Joe May	14:07:11:51	Barbara Moore	24:09:25:45
1981	Rick Swenson	12:08:45:02	Jim Strong	18:06:30:30
1982	Rick Swenson	16:04:40:10	Ralph Bradley	26:13:59:59
1983	Rick Mackey	12:14:10:44	Scott Cameron	21:04:36:41
1984	Dean Osmar	12:15:07:33	Bill Mackey	19:09:43:33
1985	Libby Riddles	18:00:20:17	Monique Bene	22:03:45:45
1986	Susan Butcher	11:15:06:00	Mike Peterson	20:13:42:21
1987	Susan Butcher	11:02:05:13	Rhodi Karella	19:09:01:01
1988	Susan Butcher	11:11:41:40	Lesley Monk	19:13:22:55
1989	Joe Runyan	11:05:24:34	Bob Hoyt	17:11:19:19
1990	Susan Butcher	11:01:53:23	Steve Haver	21:10:26:26
1991	Rick Swenson	12:16:34:39	Brian O'Donoghue	22:05:55:55
1992	Martin Buser	10:19:17:15	Vern Cherneski	18:13:05:02
1993	Jeff King	10:15:38:15	Lloyd Gilbertson	18:04:19:19
1994	Martin Buser	10:13:02:39	Mark Chapoton	16:16:17:35
1995	Doug Swingley	09:02:42:19	Ben Jacobson	17:06:02:05
1996	Jeff King	09:05:43:13	Andy Sterns	15:23:48:22
1997	Martin Buser	09:08:30:15	Ken Chase	15:09:07:44
1998	Jeff King	09:05:52:26	Brad Pozarnsky	14:05:42:04
1999	Doug Swingley	09:14:31:07	Jeremy Gebauer	15:03:18:44
2000	Doug Swingley	09:00:58:06	Fedor Konyjkhov	15:05:44:44
2001	Doug Swingley	09:19:55:50	Karen Ramstead	14:23:53:16
2002	Martin Buser	08:22:46:02	David Straub	14:05:38:12
2003	Robert Sørlie	09:15:47:36	Russell Bybee	15:05:30:53
2004	Mitch Seavey	09:12:20:22	Perry Solmonson	15:02:50:36
2005	Robert Sørlie	09:18:39:31	Phil Morgan	15:06:02:57
2006	Jeff King	09:14:11:36	Glenn Lockwood	15:18:08:56
2007	Lance Mackey	09:05:08:41	Ellen Halverson	16:11:56:20
2008	Lance Mackey	09:11:46:48	Deborah Bicknell	15:05:36:12
2009	Lance Mackey	09:21:38:46	Tim Hunt	15:14:06:22
2010	Lance Mackey	08:23:59:09	Celeste Davis	13:05:06:40 *
2011	John Baker	08:18:46:39 **	Ellen Halverson	13:19:45:49

** Fastest winning time

* Fastest Red Lantern time

2012 IDITA-FACTS

- 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 12, 2012 there are 67 mushers signed up for the 2012 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, including 53 veterans, 14 rookies and 17 women. To date six 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.
- 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 this guide on page 16.)
- The team's average 15 dogs, which means over 1,000 dogs will leave the starting line this year. 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)
- The trails meets up with the Yukon River at Ruby and reaches frozen Norton Sound at Unalakleet.
- 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.
- The 2012 Idita-Riders represent 22 states and raised $155,000.
- 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.
- 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.

40TH RACE ON 100 YEAR OLD TRAIL

The 2012 Iditarod marks the 40th running of Iditarod on the 100 year trail. The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance is sponsoring a "Centennial Musher", Dan Seavey, to highlight the history of the trail, the importance of the communities along the trail throughout the trail's history, and the importance of stewardship. Dan Seavey has been a steward of the Iditarod Trail for many decades. Dan mushed in the first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1973, started the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers over 35 years ago, was a member of the Department of Interior's Iditarod Trail Advisory Committee, a board member of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc., and a board member and past president of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance.

The Iditarod Trail is considered to be America's "last great gold rush trail". While Americans of yesteryear in the other parts of the country relied on horses and livestock for work and transportation, Alaska relied primarily on the dogs. The Iditarod Sled Dog Race honors the dogs of Alaska's past and celebrates the dogs of today. 'Back in those days,' it wasn't called the Iditarod Trail, but the 'Government Trail.' If you were in Seward or Nome, you might hear it called, 'The Seward Trail'. The trail conditions varied depending on the point in the trail one traveled and many traveled the trail by foot. Most travel was conducted during the day light hours. People, dogs, sleds, freight, mail, and gold, now a part of history, will be remembered during the 2012 Iditarod, as Dan Seavey travels by dog team from Anchorage to Nome.

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, (aka Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc.), the principal private non-profit partner, as authorized and envisioned in the National Trails Act, works with the federal administrator, Bureau of Land Management, other land owners including the Chugach National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Alaska, Native corporations, and local governments and other non-profit organizations and the Iditarod Trail Committee, to promote the history, use, protection and development of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The Alliance's trail-wide initiatives include the Iditarod Historic Trail Centennial (2008-2012), Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom (iTREC!), the Department of Natural Resource's Iditarod Trail Easement Project, community trail and shelter cabin stewardship and maintenance program, and historic interpretation.

During the 2012 Iditarod, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, through sponsorship of Musher Dan Seavey, continues its dedication to the historic Iditarod Trail.

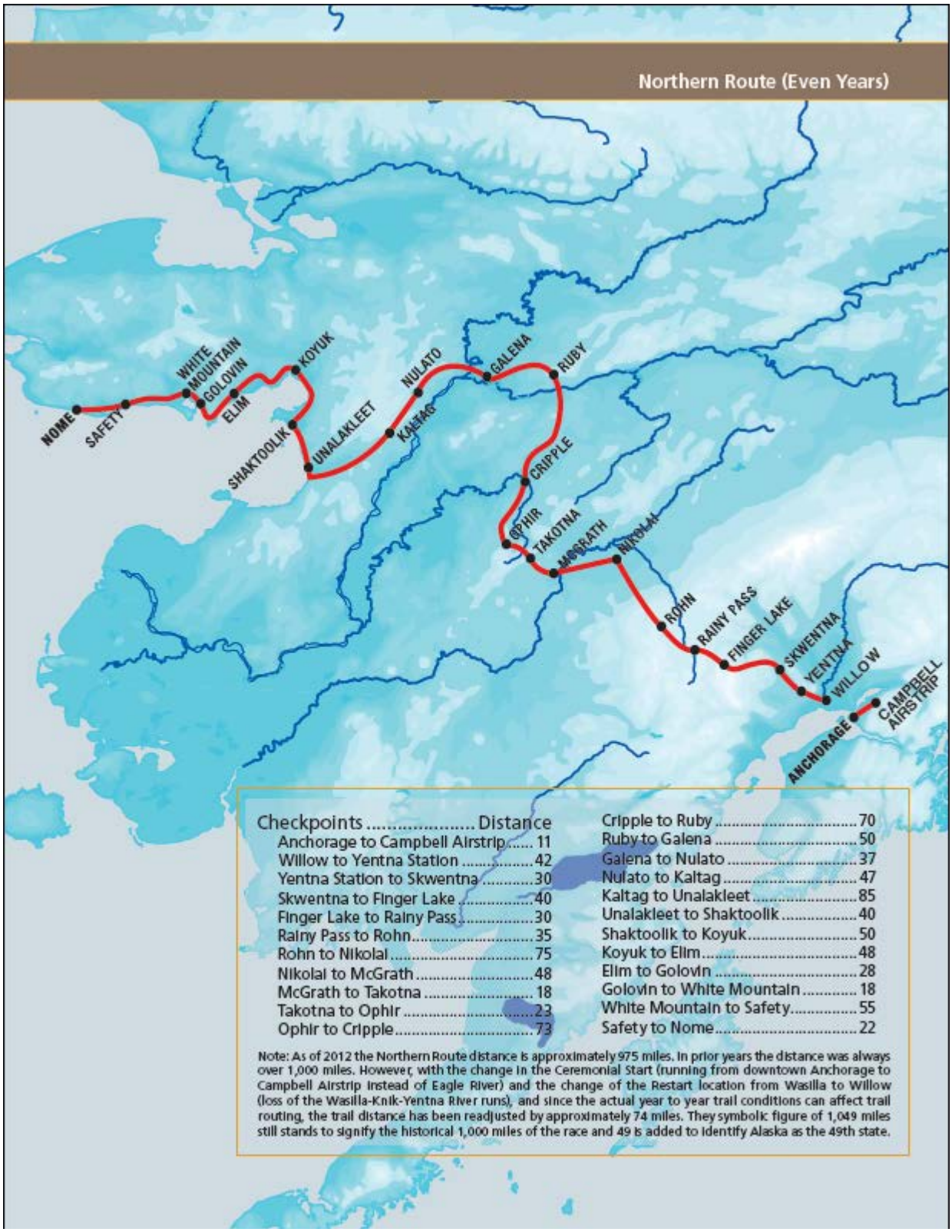
Trail Centennial Commemorated

Between 1908 and 1912, Alaskan pioneers opened a winter trail from Seward to Nome to serve a new gold rush in the Iditarod area. In the next decade over 50 tons of gold was hauled out by dogsled, while mail, people and freight traversed one of Alaska's main trails. The years 2008 to 2012 have been designated as the official Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial, and volunteers, communities, schools and agencies have been working together to commemorate *America's Last Great Gold Rush Trail* by building a legacy for the next century. During the Centennial, these accomplishments include establishing over 1,500 miles of new public trail easements, building six new public safety cabins, and marking over 200 miles of trail with tripods or reflectors.

The Impact of the Iditarod National Historic Trail on Alaska's Dogsledding Culture

Since it's designation as a National Historic Trails in 1978, the Iditarod National Historic Trail has been a silent yet critical partner for the rebirth of the Alaska's 'sled-dog cultural', and subsequent maturation to international status. With historic roots in Native, Russian and American use of sled dog teams stretching from before written history to the early 20th century, the Alaskan culture of the sled dog was in steep decline in the 1960's. Then a band of visionary dog-lovers led by Joe Redington, Sr. invented a race from Anchorage to Nome that would captivate the world. As these visionaries reopened the old winter gold routes with a race named for the trail, they lobbied Congress for the preservation of the Alaskan equivalent of Churchill Downs, the "Brickyard", Yankee Stadium, or Fenway Park. These visionaries partnered with communities, groups and agencies to legalize, rebuild and maintain the old gold routes. Today, long-distance dogsled racing and the culture of the sled dog is practiced by thousands in northern latitudes around the globe, and followed by millions worldwide. As a result of the hard work by these advocates some variation of the entire historic Iditarod Trail is still open to the public from Seward to Nome, one hundred years after it was first opened by Iditarod pioneers.

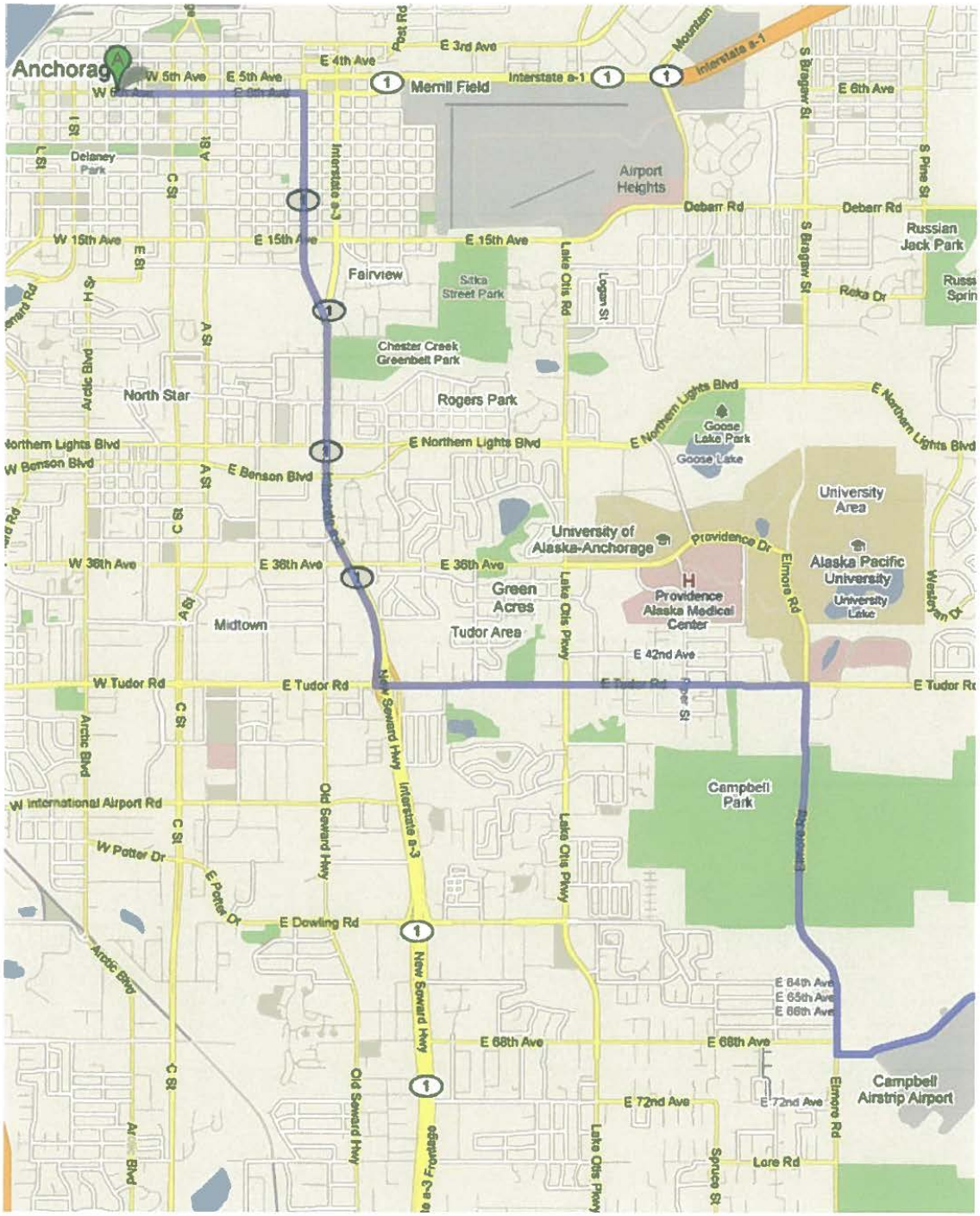
2012 OFFICIAL MAP OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL



Checkpoints	Distance
Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip	11
Willow to Yentna Station	42
Yentna Station to Skwentna	30
Skwentna to Finger Lake	40
Finger Lake to Rainy Pass	30
Rainy Pass to Rohn	35
Rohn to Nikolai	75
Nikolai to McGrath	48
McGrath to Takotna	18
Takotna to Ophir	23
Ophir to Cripple	73
Cripple to Ruby	70
Ruby to Galena	50
Galena to Nulato	37
Nulato to Kaltag	47
Kaltag to Unalakleet	85
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	40
Shaktoolik to Koyuk	50
Koyuk to Elim	48
Elim to Golovin	28
Golovin to White Mountain	18
White Mountain to Safety	55
Safety to Nome	22

Note: As of 2012 the Northern Route distance is approximately 975 miles. In prior years the distance was always over 1,000 miles. However, with the change in the Ceremonial Start (running from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip instead of Eagle River) and the change of the Restart location from Wasilla to Willow (loss of the Wasilla-Knik-Yentna River runs), and since the actual year to year trail conditions can affect trail routing, the trail distance has been readjusted by approximately 74 miles. They symbolic figure of 1,049 miles still stands to signify the historical 1,000 miles of the race and 49 is added to identify Alaska as the 49th state.

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

OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT MILEAGES

CHECKPOINTS	DISTANCE BETWEEN	FROM ANCHORAGE	FROM NOME
Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip	11 miles	11 miles	964 miles
Willow to Yentna Station	42 miles	53 miles	922 miles
Yentna to Skwentna	30 miles	83 miles	892 miles
Skwentna to Finger Lake	40 miles	123 miles	851 miles
Finger Lake to Rainy Pass	30 miles	153 miles	822 miles
Rainy Pass to Rohn	35 miles	188 miles	787 miles
Rohn to Nikolai	75 miles	263 miles	712 miles
Nikolai to McGrath	48 miles	311 miles	664 miles
McGrath to Takotna	18 miles	329 miles	646 miles
Takotna to Ophir	23 miles	352 miles	623 miles
Ophir to Cripple	73 miles	425 miles	550 miles
Cripple to Ruby	70 miles	495 miles	480 miles
Ruby to Galena	50 miles	545 miles	430 miles
Galena to Nulato	37 miles	582 miles	393 miles
Nulato to Kaltag	47 miles	629 miles	346 miles
Kaltag to Unalakleet	85 miles	714 miles	261 miles
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	40 miles	754 miles	221 miles
Shaktoolik to Koyuk	50 miles	804 miles	171 miles
Koyuk to Elim	48 miles	852 miles	123 miles
Elim to Golovin	28 miles	880 miles	95 miles
Golovin to White Mountain	18 miles	898 miles	77 miles
White Mountain to Safety	55 miles	953 miles	22 miles
Safety to Nome	22 miles	975 miles	

Note: As of 2012 the Northern Route distance is approximately 975 miles. In prior years the distance was always over 1,000 miles. Three things factor into this adjustment:

- The change in the Ceremonial Start (running from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip instead of Eagle River);
- The change of the Restart location from Wasilla to Willow (loss of the Wasilla-Knik-Susitna River and some Yentna River mileage), and;
- The actual year to year trail conditions can affect trail routing and the actual mileage will vary somewhat from year to year.

"1,049 miles®" has been a symbolic figure from the inception of the race to signify the 1,000 miles or more of race trail and the number 49 depicts Alaska as the 49th state.

2012 CHECKPOINT DESCRIPTIONS

(Pronunciation, Population and Facts of Interest)

1. **Anchorage** (ang-ker-ij) – (ANC) Lat 61.12 Long 149.55 -- Population 291,826 makes it Alaska's largest city with a full range of transportation and hotel accommodations. The race starts downtown on Fourth Avenue. Interesting side trips during March include Portage Glacier or downhill skiing at Mt. Alyeska, both less than an hour's drive South, or head North to Hatcher Pass for cross country skiing and to explore the remains of Independence Mine.

2. **Willow** (wil-oh) – Lat 61.45.25N Long 150.03.10W Population 1,658 and is the where the restart takes place on Willow Lake at Mile Marker .

3. **Yentna Station Roadhouse --** (YENT-na) -- (YENT) Lat 61.46 N Long 150.41W -- Population 8 .This checkpoint is at the home of the Dan & Jean Gabryzack family.

4. **Skwentna** (SKWENT-nuh) - (SKW) Lat 61.55 Long 151.11 -- Population 30 -- Located near the confluence of the Skwentna and Yentna Rivers. The checkpoint is located at Joe and Norma Delia's log house, also known as the Post Office. There is a store and limited lodging nearby.

5. **Finger Lake** -- (FL) Lat 61.59 Long 152.40 -- Population 2 -- In the heart of the snow country, here it is not uncommon to have 10 feet of snow on the ground. The checkpoint is at Winter Lake Lodge.

6. **Rainy Pass** -- (RP) Lat 62.10 Long 152.43 -- Population 2 -- This area represents the highest point on the Iditarod Trail as it passes over the majestic Alaska Range. Located on Puntilla Lake is Vern Humble's guiding operation. Known as Rainy Pass Lodge, it is closed down at this time of year. Iditarod uses one of their cabins for a checkpoint and another for mushers to rest in.

7. **Rohn** (RONE) -- (ROH) Lat 62.35 Long 153.21 -- Population 0 -- This area is tied with Rainy Pass as having the most spectacular scenery. The gateway to the interior, Rohn Roadhouse marks the transition point where the mushers start to venture into the flatlands of the interior, along with dropping temperatures. Situated near the confluence of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim and Tatina Rivers, the area served as one of the original Iditarod Trail Roadhouses for the dog teams carrying mail, etc. The actual roadhouse is gone, so the checkpoint is a cabin built in the 1930's. **Note:** Most press mistakenly refer to this as Rohn River checkpoint, but there is no Rohn River. It's Rohn Roadhouse. Many mushers take their mandatory 24-hour layover here, before heading across the bleak but treacherous Farewell Burn area. **No facilities or lodging are available at Rohn.**

8. **Nikolai** (NIK-o-lye) -- (NIK) Lat 63.02 Long 154.22 -- Population 101 -- This is the first of many Native villages along the Iditarod Trail. There is a village store at the far end of town across the airstrip, and limited lodging is available through advance booking. The checkpoint is located in the Community Hall.

9. **McGrath** (muh-GRATH) -- (McG) Lat 62.57 Long 155.36 -- Population 341-- Located near the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers, this thriving community has two stores, a bar and a restaurant. It's the last chance to buy aviation gas, except for Galena, until you reach the coast at Unalakleet. Lodging is also available with advance booking.

10. **Takotna** (Ta-COT-na) -- (TAK) Lat 63.00 Long 156.04 -- Population 49 -- Situated on the banks of the Takotna River, this town has a store and restaurant. This is one of the smallest towns with one of the biggest welcomes.

11. **Ophir** (OH-fur) -- (OPH) Lat 63.08 Long 156.31 -- Population 0 -- Now a ghost town, it took its name in 1908 from a nearby placer creek, one of a dozen streams in Alaska to be named by Bible-reading prospectors, for the lost country of Ophir, the source of King Solomon's gold. Many items and artifacts still remain untouched. The checkpoint is at Dick and Audra Forsgren's cabin.

12. **Cripple** (krip-uh l) -- Lat. 63.41 N Long 156.20W – Population 0 -- Part of the famous Iditarod Mining District, which saw $35 million in gold taken out of the area between 1908 and 1925. Not bad when you figure that gold was only worth $20 an ounce in those days. This checkpoint marks the "official" halfway point in the race on the northern route.

13. **Ruby** (ROO-bee) -- Lat. 64.44 N Long 155.29W -- Population 173 -- The first checkpoint on the famous Yukon River, the longest river in Alaska, stretching 1,875 miles from its headwaters in the Yukon Territory of Canada to the Bering Sea. Gold was discovered here in 1907, but no town was established until 1911 when additional gold deposits were discovered on Long Creek, causing a rush of prospectors to the area. This is the home of 1975 Iditarod champion Emmitt Peters. Ruby was home for many of the mushers who carried mail for the Northern Commercial Company from Tanana to Ruby. The trip took four days and paid $5 a day. Dog team mail ended here in 1931. The checkpoint is in the community hall.

14. **Galena** (gull-LEE-na) -- Lat.64.44 Long 156.56 -- Population 487 -- Galena derived its name from lead sulfate ore found in the area, known chemically as galena. The town was founded in 1920 when Natives moved down river from the old town site of Louden because of the availability of firewood. A man could cut 250 cords a winter and sell it for $8 a cord to the stern-wheelers that worked the rivers in the summer. This was the home of Edgar Nollner, the last living musher who carried the lifesaving diphtheria serum along this trail to Nome in 1925. The checkpoint is at the “old” community hall downtown.

15. **Nulato** (nu-LAH-toe) -- Lat. 64.43 Long 158.05 -- Population 275 -- Originally founded in 1838 at the confluence of the Nulato and Yukon Rivers, Nulato was a Russian trading post. Without a stockade, the Indians promptly burned it down. In 1841, the Russian American Company rebuilt the trading post consisting of seven log buildings, but again without a stockade. In 1851, the Koyukan Indians again burned it down and killed most of the inhabitants. In 1853 the trading post was rebuilt at the present town site, two miles upriver from the old site. The checkpoint is the community hall.

16. **Kaltag** -- (KAL-tag) -- (KAL) Lat 64.19 Long 158.45 -- Population 205 -- This town signals a brief respite from the driving winds as the trail from here leads overland through Kaltag Portage to the coast of Norton Sound where the winds take on new meaning. Kaltag is the home of Virginia Kalland, widow of Edgar Kalland who was one of the original mushers who helped carry lifesaving diphtheria serum along this trail 60 years ago. She also owns one of Kaltag’ s three stores. **Note:** The location for mushers check-in is at Rich Burnham's house, but the official checkpoint and gathering spot is the community hall about a block away. Please don't treat the Burnham home as a checkpoint.

17. **Unalakleet** (YOU-na-la-kleet) -- (UNK) Lat 63.53 Long 160.42 -- Population 692 -- Situated on the coast of Norton Sound, just north of the Unalakleet River, this village is the largest community on the Iditarod Trail between Willow and Nome. Two well-stocked stores as well as two restaurants can be found here along with limited lodging by advance booking. The trail is now entering the gateway to the Bering Sea and from here on the mushers can expect sudden storms and an ample supply of wind. The checkpoint is in front of the A.C. store.

18. **Shaktoolik** (Shak-TOO-lick) -- (SHAK) Lat 64.20 Long 161.10 --Population 258 -- One look down the street at the snowdrifts will tell you this is one of the windiest stretches of the trail. From here the trail continues overland for a short distance, then leads the mushers out onto the ice of Norton Bay, one of the most treacherous segments of trail that the musher may have to contend with. The checkpoint is at the armory.

19. **Koyuk** (Koy-uk) -- (KOY) Lat 64.56 Long 161.10 --- Population 347 -- Once this checkpoint is reached, the mushers can breathe a sigh of relief as almost all of the rest of the trail is at least over land. The checkpoint is the City Rec Center.

20. **Elim** (EE-lim) -- (ELM) Lat 64.37 Long 162.15 -- Population 332 -- The checkpoint (at least at the time this went to press) is at the fire hall (check at the store for directions). From here the trail heads over the hills of the Kwiktalik Mountains inland a little ways to the next checkpoint on Golovin Bay. The checkpoint is at the fire hall. Ask at the village store.

21. **Golovin** (GULL-uh-vin) -- (GOL) Lat 64.32 Long 163.50 -- Population 171 – Not an official checkpoint, but a community with a large welcome. Golovin has one store. From here the trail heads across Golovin Bay, then overland to the next checkpoint.

22. **White Mountain** --(WT MT) Lat 64.41 Long 163.24 -- Population 199 -- Just 77 miles from Nome, this village is located on the banks of the Fish River. It takes its name from that of a picturesque nearby mountain. Checkpoint is located in the community hall building up the hill from the store.

23. **Safety** -- (SAF) Lat 64.27 Long 164.49 -- The last checkpoint before Nome, just 22 miles away. Here the mushers are on the coast of the Bering Sea and travel on the beach most of the way to Nome.

24. **Nome** -- (OME) Lat 64.30 Long 165.24 -- Population 3,695 -- The end of the Iditarod Trail! Prospectors established this Seward Peninsula city as Anvil City after adjacent Anvil Creek in 1898. A year later gold was discovered in beach sand, and it became a boomtown, home of 30,000 gold seekers. The city was renamed Nome in 1899 after a nearby point on Norton Sound, which got its name in 1853 when a British Navy cartographer misinterpreted a chart notation of "? Name" and recorded it as Nome. The gold rush atmosphere still abounds, especially when "Iditarod Fever" hits town with the entire community turning out to welcome the mushers and visitors alike to their community. Numerous stores, restaurants and bars line Nome's infamous "Front Street", but lodging is at a premium. If the Nugget Inn and Polaris Hotel are full, check with the Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau for the availability of "bed and breakfast" accommodations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL

(Between checkpoints)

Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip **11 miles**

Ceremonial Start of the Iditarod Trail that begins on 4th Avenue in downtown Anchorage and runs through the snow covered streets and trails of Anchorage. Each musher participates and carries an Idita-Rider, a passenger who has successfully bid ($500-$7,500) to ride in the basket of a particular musher to the end of this 11 mile ceremonial start.

Willow to Yentna Station **42 miles**

The trail begins on Willow Lake, travels across frozen lakes and swamps before the trail winds through a birch forest before dropping onto the Big Susitna River via Corral Hill. Most of the trail is flat. Once the teams drop onto the Big Susitna River they travel via river to the Yentna Station Checkpoint, which is located on the Yentna River.

Yentna Station to Skwentna **30 miles**

The mushers run the Yentna all the way to the confluence with the Skwentna River and the town of Skwentna, three miles from the mouth. These slow moving glacial rivers normally provide very good trails. They are all from one fourth to more than a mile wide and freeze thick enough to provide a good trail until late into the winter. Hazards are sometimes plentiful with rough ice to manhandle a sled over and around. Overflow, water running on top of the ice, can be a very real problem in some conditions.

Skwentna to Finger Lake **40 miles**

From the Skwentna checkpoint the trail continues up the river for one mile and turns off on the left bank. It continues inland across Eight-Mile Swamp through spruce timber and cottonwoods to the Old Skwentna Roadhouse. The crossing is at a 45-degree angle to the river. The trail climbs up a creek drainage turning first right and then left into an open swamp, long and narrow, and through spruce forest for 2-2.5 miles to Shell Creek. Overflow and/or open water is often a problem. From Shell Creek the trail continues, crossing One Stone Lake. From there to Finger Lake are open swamps and thin stands of spruce and alder. The trail crosses to the north shore and the Finger Lake cabin. All grades are moderate or gentle with no hard climbs and no dense woods.

Finger Lake to Puntilla Lake (Rainy Pass Lodge) **30 miles**

At Finger Lake the trail drops sharply onto Red Lake leaving the lake at the northwest corner. It climbs steeply leaving the lake at the northwest corner. It climbs steeply up a small creek bed to the benches above Finger Lake. From here it is through swamps, spruce and alder forest to Happy River. The two miles before Happy River are through dense spruce. At Happy River there are three benches to descend with the first being the longest drop, known as the “Steps”. A small drainage leads down to the level bench and the trail drops straight down this "V". From this bench the trail descends off the right end to the bench along the river. The last drop is onto the river itself. This section is one of the most hazardous on the trail and extreme caution must be exercised here. The trail will be well marked and the descents will have a straight lead-in. **In 2012 the trail will be routed around the famous “Steps” due to a road that was created by a mineral exploration company. This trail re-routing is not yet a permanent change.**

Once on the river itself, the trail turns left to the mount (200') and then right, going up the Skwentna River. Approximately 1/4 mile up the Skwentna is a draw coming down from the right and the trail goes up this draw. A ramp may have to be constructed because the bank has washed away leaving a cut bank four to eight feet high. Once into the draw, stay to the right side as the left side leads to a vertical wall 6' high and is impassable. The draw is only 125 - 150 yards long and once on top the trail continues northwest to Shirley Lake passing through spruce and cottonwood and rolling hills. No grades are steep or long. The steepest grade is up the draw from the Skwentna River. The trail exits Shirley Lake on the northwest side and continues through spruce and cottonwood to Round Mountain. There are some moderate but short grades and a couple of steep but short grades both up and down. At Round Mountain a side hill is encountered and brush is encroaching on the trail. From here to Puntilla Lake is a distance of three to four miles and is gentle terrain with open swamps and sparse timber.

Puntilla Lake to Rohn	**35 miles**

Puntilla Lake (Rainy Pass Lodge) is 1835' above sea level and from here the trail climbs through Rainy Pass reaching 3160' above sea level. From the lodge the trail climbs a small hill and enters the valley. It runs on the north side of the ridge that separates the Indian Creek drainage from Happy River drainage. The trail gradually crosses to the right side of the valley and where Happy River forks three ways, follows Pass Creek (the right fork) into Rainy Pass itself. The climb this far is gentle but the terrain is barren with a few willow thickets and the snow is wind packed to ice and very rough. Once across Rainy Pass Lake (Puntilla Lake), the trail climbs to the summit and descends along Dalzell Creek. Dalzell Creek runs to the Tatina River and here the trail turns sharply left and continues five to six miles to the Rohn checkpoint.

Rohn to Nikolai	**75 miles**

The trail leaves Rohn and crosses the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River and turns sharply left (inland) about 3/4 mile below the Rohn checkpoint. From here to Farewell Lake the trail crosses sharp hills with moderate and steep grades, both up and down. Some of the grades are up to 1/2 - 1 3/4 miles long. The trail is very narrow in places and in some of the denser stands of spruce is a tunnel. The worst area is the Tin Creek with a steep side hill drop to the canyon floor and a climb up the other side. This climb is to the right of the gorge (100-150 yards) and should be well marked. The trail from Tin Creek to Farewell Lake continues through spruce and alder. In the open areas the trail is but a rut when the snow is light. It crosses several "wallows" which are very rough. Approaching Farewell Lake the terrain levels out somewhat and crosses a small lake a couple of miles prior to dropping onto Farewell. This is bison (buffalo) country!

The trail leaves Farewell Lake at the northwest end of the lake and for the next 8-10 miles passes through dense spruce forest and across lakes. It then enters the old "Farewell Burn." In the summer of 1984, the B.L.M. cleared the trail through the Burn. It is 25' wide and was cleared to bare ground so there are no windfalls and it is a good trail. The terrain is rolling with short moderate grades. This trail segment is approximately 20 miles long and it then enters very large open swamps to the Salmon River. Trail markings are the only visual references for direction. At the Salmon River the trail turns to the right, crosses the Salmon River at the cabins and continues to Nikolai through spruce and alder stands and open swamps. It crosses the Kuskokwim River into Nikolai. The one danger area through the Burn is at Bear Creek, which has a history of being open. Bridges will be built, if needed, and the area will be well marked.

Nikolai to McGrath	**48 miles**

From Nikolai, the trail runs west to McGrath. The terrain is mostly flat. The trail passes through open swamps, small stands of spruce and alder and runs on the river itself. There are no grades to consider. This section is well traveled and should present no problems unless deep fresh snow is encountered, at which time the trail is very soft. McGrath is a major staging area and many trails run out of town. The Iditarod will be well marked to prevent confusion.

McGrath to Takotna	**18 miles**

The trail leaves McGrath at the east end of Runway Seven, the same place where it enters. Crossing the Kuskokwim River to the mouth of the Takotna River and turning west, the trail continues over Porcupine Ridge to Takotna. The terrain is gentle rolling hills with moderate grades and is mainly spruce timber with a few open areas. This is a well-traveled trail and should present no problems.

Takotna to Ophir	**23 miles**

From Takotna the Iditarod Trail is the State Highway that runs to Ophir. Take the road to the right at the fork 1 1/2 miles out of Takotna. Normally there is no snow plowing on the Ophir fork of the highway; however, it is well traveled by dog teams and snow machines all winter. It is seven miles to the top of the grade and then runs down into the Innoko River Valley. Bridges and streams are identified with State of Alaska signs. The trail leaves the road occasionally to cross ridges and to avoid drifted areas. These departures should be well marked.

Ophir to Cripple **73 miles**

Out of the Ophir checkpoint the trail follows a cat trail along the Innoko River into the old village site about a mile further along. It crosses the river again six miles out of the checkpoint. From the crossing, the trail heads northeast. The terrain is flat with sparse scrub spruce with a few rolling hills as it approaches Cripple.

Cripple to Ruby **70 miles**

Leaving Cripple, the country stays the same for 15 to 20 miles. Then the trees get larger and thicker, with larger rolling hills. At Bear Creek, the trail enters a cat trail that should be easy to follow. At Sulatna Crossing (steel bridge), most of the mushers stop to rest and feed their dogs. (Sulatna Crossing is not a checkpoint.) There is a small lake on the left. Immediately after the bridge, the trailbreakers will punch out 15 to 20 parking spots for dog teams. The trail follows this road all the way to Ruby Hills. There are many long grades and much side hill to travel.

Ruby to Galena **50 miles**

From Ruby to Kaltag, the next 134 miles is on the Yukon River, passing through Galena and Nulato. In most years the local traffic keeps the river trail hard and fast. This section is well marked because wind and snow can cover the trail very quickly. Checkpoint is usually in the Galena Community Center.

Galena to Nulato **37 miles**

About 10 miles outside of Galena is the picturesque Bishop's Rock, where some of the most famous photographs of mushers are taken. In most years the local traffic keeps the river trail hard and fast. This section is well marked because wind and snow can cover the trail very quickly.

Nulato to Kaltag **47 miles**

The final stretch on the Yukon River before turning inland for the Kaltag Portage headed towards the coast. Kaltag always offers a warm welcome. Checkpoint is at Kaltag Community Center.

Kaltag to Unalakleet **85 miles**

From Kaltag, the trail exits from the northwest end of the runway. The next 15 miles run through spruce forest and open areas along the Kaltag River, climbing gently to the summit of the Portage. Continuing through similar terrain, it starts down the Unalakleet drainage to Old Woman Cabin at the base of Old Woman Mountain. This mountain is an excellent landmark. The trail continues past the mountain and runs along the left side of the Unalakleet drainage. The terrain is gentle rolling hills. Little or no vegetation can be seen along the trail until near Unalakleet. Approximately five miles out of town the trail hits the river. With the exception of a few short portages across horseshoe bends, the trail follows the river into Unalakleet. The last 32 miles (from Old Woman Mountain) is often windy and the snow is usually wind packed and crusty. In fact, the entire coast is often very windy.

Unalakleet to Shaktoolik **40 miles**

To Shaktoolik, the trail crosses several low ridges with mostly gentle and moderate grades. The vegetation is stunted spruce and willow thickets. Leaving Unalakleet, the trail turns northward and parallels the coast to Power, then turns inland, crossing behind Blueberry Point. It then drops back toward the coast at Egavik, a summer fish camp. A series of long low hills is crossed with grades being moderate to gentle but some are up to a mile long. The crest of the last ridge is about 17 miles from Shaktoolik and the village is visible from here. The next four to five miles are down a moderate to steep serpentine grade through willow thickets and stunted spruce. The turns are moderate but can be extremely slick. At the bottom, the trail follows the coastal dune on the landward side the last 12 miles to Shaktoolik. The trail from the bottom of the hill to the checkpoint runs over ice on the Shaktoolik River and is often rough. The village is on the left.

Shaktoolik to Koyuk **50 miles**

The trail from Shaktoolik bears north, crossing the peninsula. It runs on land for eight to nine miles then starts across Norton Bay at the mouth of Reindeer Cove. The terrain to this point is mostly gentle swells of the ground with no true grades. There is no vegetation. Approximately five miles onto the ice is Island Point and Little Mountain. It appears to be a large rock rising from the sea ice, but is in fact the head of a small peninsula. The trail passes a shelter cabin on the south side of Little Mountain. From here a compass bearing of 340 degrees leads into Koyuk. Marking on this segment of the trail usually consists of laths with reflective tape alternating with spruce boughs. Every mile will be marked. The ice is often rough.

Koyuk to Elim **48 miles**

When leaving Koyuk for Elim, the trail follows the coast, almost doubling back on itself. It runs southeast to Bald Head and Castle Rock where it turns westerly, following the coast to Moses Point. Moses Point is a spit that, with the coastline, forms Kwiniuk Inlet. The trail parallels the spit for five to six miles where it joins the mainland. It continues on the sea ice along the coast, passing the abandoned F.A.A. Station. From there to Elim two routes may be used. One continues along the ice to Elim; the other takes the road along the coast to Elim, which is six to eight miles away.

Elim to Golovin (not an official checkpoint, but an integral part of the race) **28 miles**

The trail leaves Elim, following the ice along the coast for 10-11 miles to a cabin just north-northeast of the limestone cliffs, and here it turns right (inland) and crosses the Kwiktalik Mountains. This range is a low series of hills (1,000 to 1,500 ft.) with moderate grades. Vegetation ranges from small spruce to barren ground. Some of the grades are long (1 mile) but none are excessively steep. The barren sections are often windblown and icy. The last descent to Golovin Bay is long and sometimes runs side hill. At the Shelter Cabin on the coast, the trail turns sharply right and crosses the ice to Golovin. The village is located on a spit and is easily seen. (Counting the cabin below Elim where the trail leaves the ice, there are three shelter cabins on the trail, one of them being nine miles from the coast where the trail intersects McKinley Creek.)

Golovin to White Mountain **18 miles**

From Golovin the trail crosses the ice on Golovin Lagoon to the Mudyutok River and goes up this river to the Fish River and then to White Mountain. This section is short, easy travel unless a strong wind is blowing down the rivers, and then it can be difficult going.

White Mountain to Safety **55 miles**

The trail from White Mountain continues up the Fish River for another 2-2.5 miles to a large island. It makes a sharp left turn and starts overland. This turn should be well marked, since a trail continues up the river to Council also. One-fourth mile after leaving the river, a trail comes in from the right (also from Council) and this intersection should be well marked but can be confusing if snow machiners or mushers have departed from the trail. The Iditarod Trail crosses a series of low hills with moderate grades and starts through the Klokeblok River drainage. There is a little vegetation (willow) along some of the creeks.

At Topkok, the trail turns sharply right along the coast. The Nome Kennel Club has a shelter cabin at the bottom of Topkok Hill. There is little in the way of visual references and each hill looks like the last. Wind often exceeds 40 knots. From Topkok, the trail follows the coast westward to Solomon, passing south of the actual village (near the Old Solomon village site). from here to Safety Roadhouse, the trail is the road.

Safety to Nome **22 miles**

From Safety Roadhouse to Nome the trail runs along the Nome-Solomon Road except where it passes around Cape Nome and the last seven miles into Nome. Here the trail parallels the road on the right side and presents no obstacles.

DITAROD TRAIL INTERNATIONAL SLED DOG RACE
OFFICIAL RULES 2012

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OFFICIAL 2012 RULES

Policy Preamble --The Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race shall be a race for dog mushers meeting the entry qualifications as set forth by the Board of Directors of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. Recognizing the aptitude and experience necessary and the varying degrees of monetary support and residence locations of mushers, with due regard to the safety of mushers, the humane care and treatment of dogs and the orderly conduct of the race, the Trail Committee shall encourage and maintain the philosophy that the race be constructed to permit as many qualified mushers as possible who wish to enter and contest the Race to do so. The object of the race is to determine which musher

and dogs can cover the race in the shortest time under their own power and without aid of others. That is determined by the nose of the first dog to cross the finish line. To that end, the Iditarod Trail Committee has established these rules and policies to govern the race.

Policy Intent—The intent of these rules is to ensure fair competition and the humane care of sled dogs. The race should be won or lost by the musher and dogs on merit rather than technicalities. Race officials appointed by the ITC are responsible for interpreting the rules in keeping with that intent.

PRE-RACE PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Rule1 -- Musher Qualifications:

A musher is qualified to submit an entry to the Iditarod if:

- he/she is 18 years of age as of the starting date of the Race;
- he/she has completed a prior Iditarod Race; or
- he/she has completed the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race prior to signing up or entering the Iditarod Race, or;
- he/she must complete two (2) 300 mile qualifiers and another approved qualifier for a total of 750 miles to be qualified. The completion requirements are that a musher must finish either within the top 75% of the field or in an elapsed time of no more than twice the time of the winner.; and
- he/she during such approved qualifying races demonstrated the necessary physical and mental aptitude and preparedness, as well as the necessary wilderness and mushing skills.
- If a rookie musher completed the 2009 or later Iditarod as far as the Yukon River within the top 75% of the field or in an elapsed time of no more than twice the elapsed time of the lead musher at the time, he/she will be considered to have completed a 300 mile qualifier.
- Mushers must exemplify the spirit and principles of the Iditarod Trail Committee as set forth in the rules, policies, bylaws and mission statement.

Proof of Qualification:

- Except for a prior Iditarod, it is the musher's responsibility to provide written proof of completion of qualifiers to the Iditarod prior to submitting an entry.
- Rookie mushers are also required to furnish a reference, on the form furnished by the ITC, at the time of submitting an entry. The reference must be from an Iditarod musher who is familiar with the rookie, must certify that the rookie has been informed about and understands the physical and mental aspects of the Iditarod, as well as the wilderness and mushing skills necessary for contesting the race. The reference must be available for candid consultation by race officials and the qualifying board.

Qualifying Review Board:

- All rookie and veteran musher's qualifications will be reviewed by a Qualifying Review Board. The board will meet within 15 days of the initial sign-up and thereafter monthly. Mushers will be notified of acceptance or rejection. The Qualifying Review Board will be composed of five (5) people recommended by the Rules Committee and appointed by the Board of Directors and the decision to accept or reject any musher will be made by the Qualifying Review Board. The decision of the Qualifying Review Board will be final and binding.

Standards for ITC Approved Qualifying Races

All qualification Races will be approved by the ITC based on the following criteria:

- 1. A race wishing to be approved as a qualifier must have at least a one year track record, the request for qualification status be presented to the ITC Rules Committee by sign–up day, and that an annual review of all qualifiers take place.
- 2. Qualifying Races will have a minimum distance of a certified 150 miles.
- 3. Qualifying Races will have at least one licensed veterinarian on race courses until the last team is off the trail.

- 4. Qualifying Races, since 2010, will submit for each qualifying musher a completed "Musher assessment form" (Report Card) provided by the ITC to the participating Qualifying Races.

Musher Meetings:

- Rookies must attend a rookie musher meeting the weekend of December 3, 2011, dates, time and place to be determined by the Race Marshal.
- All mushers must attend the pre-race musher meeting Thursday, March 1, 2012, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- A fine from $50 to $500 will be assessed for tardiness at either the rookie meeting or pre-race musher meeting.

Musher Draw and Starting Positions:

- All mushers qualified to race must be present at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, March 1, 2012. Each musher will personally draw his/her starting position.

- The **drawing for starting position will be done at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, March 1, 2012.** Each musher will draw for his/her starting position. The drawing for positions will be divided into two groups. All mushers who were present in person to pay entry fee on June 25, 2011, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and those who are not present but have paid their entry fee and provided the required paperwork to the ITC will draw for the first starting positions. The remaining mushers, who enter in any manner after 3:30 p.m. on June 25, 2011, will draw in the second group for starting position.

Rule 2 -- Entries: Entries will be accepted from June 25, 2011 until November 30, 2011 by the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC), P.O. Box 870800, Wasilla, Alaska 99687-0800. Kennels entering must indicate the musher's name with their entry. Entries may be presented to the ITC in person by the musher, or by mail. The maximum number of entries for the 2012 race will be one hundred (100). Once the maximum of one hundred is reached, a waiting list will be established, on a first-come, first-served basis. To qualify for the waiting list, the race application must be completed, signed and turned in, the participant's release must be signed, and turned in, the Nome housing form must be completed and turned in, and a one-hundred dollar ($100.00) non-refundable fee paid. If an entrant withdraws from the list of one hundred entrants, the name at the top of the waiting list will be moved up to the entry list, upon receipt of the entry fee in full. **The slot will be held open for no more than seven (7) days after notification, before it will be offered to the next name on the waiting list.**

Mushers will sign up for the 2012 race beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at ITC HQ in Wasilla. All who enter the 2012 race by any means before 3:30 p.m. on June 25, 2011 will be in the first draw.

Mailed entries, received after June 25, will be recorded by postmark. Entries received with the same postmark will be recorded alphabetically for southern route races and in reverse alphabetical order for northern route races.

An entry submission will **not be considered complete until the entry fee is paid in full, the race application is completed, signed and turned in, the participant's release is signed and turned in, and the Nome housing form is completed and turned in**, and in the case of rookies, the reference and qualification materials are received concerning the qualifying races. The local contact form and the dog care agreement will be turned in **no later than food drop**. Food drops will not be accepted until the dog care agreement and the two local contact forms are turned in.

The ITC reserves the right to reject any entry due to entry number limitations and to reject any entry not deemed in conformance with these policies and rules or from mushers who do not exemplify the spirit and principle of the Iditarod Trail Committee as set forth in the rules, policies, bylaws and mission statement. The decision to reject any entry will be made by the Qualifying Review Board. The decision of the Qualifying Review Board will be final and binding.

No one convicted of a charge of animal abuse or neglect, as such is defined under Alaska law, may enter the Iditarod Trail Sled dog Race.

Any entry received after November 30, must be accompanied by a $4000 non-refundable fee in addition to the entry fee. The qualified musher will be allowed to enter after all normal policies and procedures have been met, the normal entry fee has been received, the waiting list has been exhausted, and another musher withdraws. No musher will be allowed to sign up after February 16, 2012.

Short explanation –There is no need to arrive days or hours early as doing so no longer has any bearing on your sign up order. The sign up order will be determined by random drawing at 3:45 p.m. for all those in the first draw. The sign up order will be the order in which you will draw for your starting position at the pre-race mushers' banquet. In the event that entries for the 2012 race exceed 100 on the initial day of sign ups, the qualifying committee as to rookies (under Rule 1) and the executive board as to all entrants (under Rule 2) can be utilized to determine those placed on the waiting list, as the maximum starting field is 100 teams.

Rule 3 -- Entry Fee: The entry fee is $3,000 US, which includes Iditarod and P.R.I.D.E. membership dues payable on or after June 25, 2011. This entry fee must be received by the ITC or postmarked by midnight, November 30, 2011. Payment of the $3,000 US constitutes the musher's intention to enter the race and acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with these policies and rules.

Upon written request, mushers withdrawing from the race on or before 12:00 noon, October 1, 2011 will receive a full refund of their entry fee. Upon written request, mushers withdrawing after October 1, 2011 and before the close of business on November 1, 2011 will receive a $2,000.00 refund of their entry fee. After November 1, 2011 no part of the entry fee will be refunded.

Entry fees received that are not in compliance with this policy shall be refunded and the musher shall not be allowed to participate.

Rule 4 -- Substitutes: Substitute drivers will be allowed only in cases of emergency and only if approved by the Race Marshal prior to the re-start of the Race.

Rule 5-- Race Start and Re-Start: The official starting date and time for the 2012 race will be March 3, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in Anchorage, Alaska.

The re-start will be on Sunday March 4, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Willow Community Center. Teams will leave the re-start line in the same order as they left Anchorage on Saturday.

The race will be held as scheduled regardless of weather conditions. The course covers approximately 1000 miles of mostly arctic wilderness. The trail will be broken and marked prior to the race, but due to weather conditions there will be no guarantee of broken trail during the race. The starting place and/or re-starting place may be changed by the Race Marshal due to weather and/or trail conditions. A handler may be required at the start and/or re-start at the discretion of the Race Marshal.

Rule 6 -- Race Timing: For elapsed time purposes, the race will be a common start event. Each musher's total elapsed time will be calculated using 2:00 p.m., Sunday March 4, 2012, as the starting time. Teams will leave the start and the re-start in intervals of not less than two minutes, and the time differential will be adjusted during the twenty-four (24) hour mandatory layover. No time will be kept at the Saturday event.

Late starting teams will leave in the order drawn must start two (2) minutes after the musher who drew last place has left. Succeeding late start teams will leave in succeeding order. Time differential for late starters will be calculated according to their scheduled starting time rather than the actual starting time.

At the mushers' meeting, the mushers will be given the starting and re-starting intervals.

Rule 7 -- Advertising, Public Relations & Publicity: The Iditarod Trail Committee has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize the photographing and collecting of information about the race and all participants therein, and to use such photographs and information for its use in advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes. Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by the Iditarod Trail Committee.

Rule 8-- Media: Interviews and/or video graphic opportunities shall be granted to credentialed members of the media at the discretion of the individual musher prior to, during, and following the Race, utilizing the following as specific guidelines:

- Only the broadcast rights holder shall be granted *live* interviews and/or video graphic opportunities from two hours prior to the start of the Race and until one hour has elapsed following arrival in Nome.
- In the event that more than one camera crew is present in any checkpoint, the first opportunity for an interview shall be granted to the rights holder.
- No special arrangements for the carrying of the broadcasting and/or recording equipment of any sort may be made by any musher without the express written approval of the Executive Director.
- A musher will use his/her best personal effort to insure that the spirit of these guidelines is adhered to. Alleged violation(s) will be reported to the ITC Board of Directors. Flagrant or knowing violations of these guidelines shall be subject to penalties assessed by the ITC Board of Directors including, but not limited to, disqualification and the potential forfeiture of his or her entire purse winnings.

Rule 9 -- Awards Presentation: All mushers who have crossed the finish line up to two (2) hours before the awards presentation must be present and the winner must have his/her lead dog(s) present for recognition. Any musher crossing the finish line who is able to attend the awards presentation ceremony prior to its beginning, will be included in the awards presentation ceremony in the proper order. All mushers reaching the banquet before its conclusion will be introduced and given the opportunity to appear before the audience.

Rule 10 -- Scratched Mushers: ITC will provide transportation to either Anchorage or Nome for any musher who scratches from the race, including his or her dogs and accompanying gear. A musher must accompany the team to a destination selected by the ITC. A $500 fine will be assessed if promotional material is not turned in.

Rule 11 -- Purse: A purse of $550,000 will be shared among those placing in the top thirty (30). Every effort will be made to supplement this baseline purse. In addition, beginning with 31st place, $1,049.00 will be paid to each remaining finisher.

MUSHER CONDUCT AND COMPETITION

Rule 12 -- Checkpoints: A musher must personally sign in at each checkpoint before continuing, except at the re-start.

Rule 13 -- Mandatory Stops: A musher must personally sign in and out to start and complete all mandatory stops.

Twenty Four-Hour Stop: A musher must take one mandatory twenty-four (24) hour stop during the race. The twenty-four (24) hour stop may be taken at the musher's option at a time most beneficial to the dogs. The starting differential will be adjusted during each team's twenty-four (24) hour stop. It is the musher's responsibility to remain for the entire twenty-four (24) hour period plus starting differential. The ITC will give each musher the required time information prior to leaving the starting line.

Eight Hour Mandatory Stops: In addition to the mandatory twenty-four (24) hour stop, a musher must take one eight (8) hour stop on the Yukon River, including Shageluk in odd numbered years, and one eight (8) hour stop at White Mountain.

None of the two (2) mandatory stops may be combined.

Rule 14 -- Bib: A musher is required to carry his/her official ITC bib from the start and re-start, according to direction from the Race Marshal at the mushers' meeting and from the White Mountain checkpoint to Safety checkpoint. The musher must wear the bib in a visible fashion from Safety Checkpoint to Nome. The winner shall continue to wear the bib through the lead dog ceremony. All promotional material, except the bib, must be returned to the ITC at the finish line, or in the case of mushers who scratch, to the official accepting the musher's scratch form.

Rule 15 -- Sled: A musher has a choice of sled subject to the requirement that some type of sled or toboggan must be drawn. The sled or toboggan must be capable of hauling any injured or fatigued dogs under cover, plus equipment and food. Braking devices must be constructed to fit between the runners and not to extend beyond the tails of the runners. No more than three (3) sleds can be used by a musher during the race after the re-start. No more than two (2) sleds can be shipped beyond the re-start. Should a musher use another musher's sled for any reason that will be considered one (1) of the three (3) allowable sleds. These sleds may be used at the musher's discretion. Sleds or mushers may not be assisted with sails or wheels. Ski poles are allowed. No other sled exchanges are permitted except that a sled damaged beyond repair may be replaced if approved by an official. Once a sled has been left behind, it cannot be transported along the trail. It cannot be used again unless approved by the Race Marshal as a replacement for a broken sled.

Rule 16 -- Mandatory Items: A musher must have with him/her at all times the following items:

- Proper cold weather sleeping bag weighing a minimum of 5 lbs.
- Ax, head to weigh a minimum of 1-3/4 lbs., handle to be at least 22" long.
- One operational pair of snowshoes with bindings, each snowshoe to be at least 252 square inches in size.
- Any promotional material provided by the ITC.
- Eight booties for each dog in the sled or in use.
- One operational cooker and pot capable of boiling at least three (3) gallons of water at one time.
- Veterinarian notebook, to be presented to the veterinarian at each checkpoint.
- An adequate amount of fuel to bring three (3) gallons of water to a boil.
- Cable gang line or cable tie out capable of securing dog team.

When leaving a checkpoint adequate emergency dog food must be on the sled. (This will be carried in addition to what you carry for routine feeding and snacking.)

Gear will be checked at the Re-Start and during the 24 hour layover for conformity to minimum standards as set forth above. Gear may be checked at some other time during the Race. Gear may be checked at all checkpoints except Safety.

Vet books will be signed by a veterinarian or in the absence of a veterinarian may be signed by a designated race official. **The musher will also sign the vet book.**

Rule 17 -- Dog Maximums and Minimums: The maximum number of dogs a musher may start the race with is sixteen (16) dogs. A musher must have at least twelve (12) dogs on the line to start the race. At least six (6) dogs must be on the towline at the finish line. No dogs may be added to a team after the re-start of the race. All dogs must be either on the towline or hauled in the sled and cannot be led behind the sled or allowed to run loose. All dogs must be on the towline at the start and re-start.

Rule 18 -- Unmanageable Teams: A musher may seek the aid of others to control an unmanageable team. **Dogs demonstrating aggressive behavior may be withdrawn from the Race.**

Rule 19 -- Driverless Team: A team and driver must complete the entire race trail including checking in at all required locations. A driverless team or loose dog may be stopped and secured by anyone. The driver may recover his/her team either on foot, with assistance from another musher or mechanized vehicle and continue the race. Motorized assistance must be reported to an official at the next checkpoint. If mechanized help is used and advantage has been gained, the Race Marshal may impose appropriate sanctions.

Rule 20 -- Teams Tied Together: Two or more teams may not be tied together except in an emergency. Any team so involved must notify officials at the next checkpoint.

Rule 21 -- Motorized Vehicles: A musher may not be accompanied by or accept assistance from any motorized vehicle that gives help to the musher, including aircraft and snow machines, except when recovering a loose dog or driverless team.

Rule 22 -- Sportsmanship: Any musher must use civil conduct and act in a sportsmanlike manner throughout the race. Abusive treatment of anyone is prohibited.

Rule 23 -- Good Samaritan Rule: A musher will not be penalized for aiding another musher in an emergency. Incidents must be explained to race officials at the next checkpoint.

Rule 24 -- Interference: A musher may not tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear or interfere in any manner with the progress of another team.

Rule 25 – Tethering: All dogs must be physically tethered at all times.

Rule 26 -- Passing: When one team approaches within fifty (50) feet of another team, the team behind shall have the immediate right of way upon demand. The musher ahead must stop the dogs and hold them to the best of his/her ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must remain behind at least fifteen (15) minutes before demanding the trail.

Rule 27 -- Parking: A musher must select a campsite off the race trail so that the team cannot interfere with other teams, i.e., no snacking of dogs on the trail. A musher needing to stop momentarily must not interfere with the progress of another team. Teams must be parked at checkpoints in places that do not interfere with the movements of other teams and mushers. A musher is responsible for properly securing an unattended team at all times. No parking or camping is permitted within one (1) mile of checkpoints or villages.

Rule 28 -- Accommodations: Mushers may only use officially authorized accommodations. Accommodations and or hospitality outside checkpoints must be a) open to all race participants and b) locations made notice of at the mushers' meeting prior to the start of the Race.

Rule 29-- Litter: No litter of any kind may be left on the trail, in camps, or in checkpoints. All material remaining in checkpoints must be left in designated areas. In localized holding area and on the trail, excessive left over dog food is considered litter. For purposes of these rules, straw is not considered litter. Straw must be removed from plastic bags before it is taken from the holding area at checkpoints.

Rule 30 -- Use of Drugs and Alcohol: Alcohol or drug impairment, the use of prohibited drugs by mushers, and positive results on drug or alcohol tests administered during a Race are each prohibited. Violations of this policy shall result in disqualification from a particular Race, and may result in ineligibility from participation for a specified period of time in future Races.

All mushers will be subject to drug and alcohol testing, including but not limited to urine, saliva, breathalyzer testing, under any of the following circumstances:

- Whenever a race official reasonably suspects that the musher is under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- On a random basis, either individually or as a group;
- A random group or all mushers on a date or dates to be determined within thirty days in advance of the start of the Race;
- The first fixed number of mushers who arrive at a stated checkpoint (for example, the first thirty mushers to arrive in White Mountain).

For purposes of this drug use policy, drugs will be defined in the Prohibited List which will be distributed annually no later than four months prior to the start of the Race. For purposes of implementing this policy, details regarding the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) procedures and deadlines for the 2012 race will also be distributed no later than four months prior to the start of the Race.

To the extent practical under the unique circumstances of the Race, drug and alcohol testing will be conducted in a manner consistent with accepted industry procedures and/or U.S. Department of Health and Human Services standards. Where applicable, urine samples will be collected in accordance with the procedures described in Alaska Stat. § 23.10.630.

Urine testing for drug use will be conducted using a split sample method. If Sample A results in a adverse analytical finding, the musher will be offered the opportunity to elect to have Sample B tested at an approved laboratory. If sampling results in an adverse analytical finding, then the musher will be informed of the test results within ten days of a positive test result being communicated to ITC and a hearing will be scheduled as soon thereafter as is practical. The results of any hearing will be released publicly. Due to the nature of Saliva testing there is no split sample available or collected for re-test, and the laboratory results will be final.

Breathalyzer testing will be used to detect alcohol impairment which is defined as a .04% BAC. Discipline may be imposed immediately by the Race Marshal in the event of a finding of alcohol impairment.

Urine or saliva testing will be used to detect the use of prohibited drugs by mushers, which is defined as an adverse analytical finding to a drug test administered during the Race.

A refusal to participate in drug or alcohol testing may result in immediate withdrawal from the Race. Adulteration of a test specimen may be treated as a refusal to participate in drug or alcohol testing.

Nothing in this policy is intended to require drug or alcohol testing before a musher is sanctioned for suspected drug use or alcohol or drug impairment that is supported by other evidence. Nothing in this policy is intended to require drug or alcohol testing before a musher is sanctioned for violations of any other Rules, including those relating to dog care.

Rule 31 -- Outside Assistance: No planned help is allowed throughout the Race. All care and feeding of dogs will be done only by that teams' musher. All dog maintenance and care of dog teams and gear in checkpoints will be done in the designated localized holding area. A musher relinquishing the care of his/her team to leave the checkpoint and or village without approval of the Race Marshal must withdraw from the Race. Common resources available to all mushers will not be considered outside assistance.

Rule 32-- No Man's Land: No man's land is from the marker at Ft. Davis to the official finish line.

Rule 33 -- One Musher per Team: Only one musher will be permitted per team and that musher must complete the entire race.

Rule 34 -- Killing of Game Animals: In the event that an edible big game animal, i.e., moose, caribou, buffalo, is killed in defense of life or property, the musher must gut the animal and report the incident to a race official at the next checkpoint. Following teams must help gut the animal when possible. No teams may pass until the animal has been gutted and the musher killing the animal has proceeded. Any other animal killed in defense of life or property must be reported to a race official, but need not be gutted.

Rule 35 – Electronic Devices: No two-way communication device shall be allowed unless provided by ITC. Use of any electronic communication or tracking device shall not be permitted unless provided by the ITC. While a musher may carry a one-way emergency device such as an emergency locator transmitter (ELT), a Spot™, or other similar satellite tracking device, activation of any help or emergency signal, including accidental activation, will make a musher ineligible to continue and will result in an automatic withdrawal from the race. Night vision goggles are not allowed. Use of GPS is permitted.

Rule 36 -- Competitiveness: A team may be withdrawn that is out of the competition and is not in a position to make a valid effort to compete. If a team has not reached McGrath within seventy-two (72) hours of the leader, Grayling/Galena within ninety-six (96) hours of the leader or, Unalakleet within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the leader, it is presumed that a team is not competitive. A musher whose conduct, constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm to him/her, dogs or other persons may also be withdrawn.

VETERINARY ISSUES AND DOG CARE RULES

Rule 37 -- Dog Care:

- Dogs must be maintained in good condition. All water and food must be ingested voluntarily.
- Dogs may not be brought into shelters except for race veterinarians' medical examination or treatment. Dogs must be returned outside as soon as such examination or treatment is completed unless the dog is dropped from the race.
- There will be no cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs. Cruel or inhumane treatment involves any action or inaction, which causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog.
- If a dropped dog is in critical condition or a life threatening condition, the musher may be held up to eight (8) hours for investigation.

Rule 38 -- Harness and Cables: Dogs must leave checkpoints with functional, **non-chafing harnesses**. A musher must carry cable tie-out lines or have cable in the towline capable of securing the team. Equipment and team configurations deemed unsafe by race officials are prohibited.

Rule 39 -- Drug Use: No oral or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No injectables may be used in dogs participating in the Race. No other drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. The following drugs and procedures are prohibited:

- Anabolic Steroids
- Analgesics (prescriptive and non-prescriptive)
- Anesthetics
- Antihistamines
- Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to:
    - Cortico-steroids (the exception is for use on feet)

    - Antiprostaglandins
    - Non-steroidals
    - Salicylates
    - DMSO
- Bronchodilators
- Central Nervous System Stimulants
- Cough Suppressants
- Diuretics
- Muscle Relaxants
- Tranquilizers & Opiates
- Blood doping
- Cheque Drops

Megesterol acetate (Ovaban) is permitted for use of estrus suppression and medical conditions for which progesterone therapy is appropriate, as approved by the Chief Veterinarian.

Race veterinarians may utilize any of the listed drugs or other prohibited drugs necessary to maintain a dog's health, however, such dogs will be withdrawn from the race.

Drug Testing:

- Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples, at the discretion of the testing veterinarian, at any point from the pre-race examination until six (6) hours after the team's finish. The musher or a designee will remain with the dogs. All results will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete.

- A musher must assist the veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibitive drugs in the dog, this rule has been violated regardless of when such drugs were administered to the dog. Blood, urine and other test results will be made available upon request.

- Mushers are cautioned to ensure that food, meat, snacks and veterinary supplies do not contain prohibited drugs.

Rule 40 -- Pre-Race Veterinary Exam: Veterinary paperwork, including Pre-Race Exam forms (one for each dog with proof of vaccination), Dog Microchip Identification Sheet (maximum 20), Verification of Deworming Form and the Veterinarian Signature Form (the letter from the Chief Veterinarian addressing the veterinarian who performs the physical exams which must be signed along with each Pre-Race Exam Form), has to be delivered to ITC Headquarters by the deadline of 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 29, 2012. Non-compliance will result in a fine of $100.

Mushers must initiate conversation regarding scheduling of appointments for blood tests and ECGs (EKGs) on first come first served basis, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, December 1. 2011 and must be done no later than ***Wednesday,*** December 21, 2011. Non-compliance will result in a $100 fine.

The Chief Veterinarian will have the authority to deny entry to any dog if, after consultation with a veterinary cardiologist or internist (when available), it is the professional opinion of the Chief Veterinarian that the dog has an abnormality which may predispose it to a significant risk of injury or death.

A musher must have the team physicals performed by the veterinary staff at ITC Headquarters on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, or by another veterinarian with a current license in good standing, on or after Saturday, February 18, 2012. The following conditions will prohibit a dog from participating: seizures (epilepsy), syncope (fainting) and/or pregnancy.

A musher is permitted to have a maximum of **24 dogs** screened (microchips, EKG's and blood work) in preparation for Iditarod 2012. (All **24 dogs** must be screened at the original appointment date.

There will be **no** additional screening after that time. From these, a musher may select a maximum of **20 dogs** for listing on the Dog Microchip Identification Sheet, which must be submitted to ITC Headquarters by the previously stated deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 29, 2012. To be listed on the Microchip Identification Sheet, dogs must have had pre-race screening by Iditarod personnel, including a documented microchip implant number, an ECG (EKG) recording and blood work. In addition, each must have had a pre-race physical exam to be eligible to race. The musher may select his/her dogs for the start from any dogs listed on a Dog Microchip Identification Sheet. Dogs for the re-start may be selected from any dogs listed on a Dog Microchip Identification Sheet and not run in another team on Saturday. The maximum number of dogs permitted at the start will be determined by the Race Marshal. A maximum of 16 dogs may be selected for the re-start. Once a dog has run in a team, that dog cannot be switched to another team.

All dogs entered in the race must have current Distemper/Hepatitis/Lepto/Parvo, Rabies and Bordetella vaccinations. Proof of these vaccinations, except for Rabies, must come from a veterinarian or certified lay vaccinator, or if administered by the musher, records must include the type of vaccine, proof of purchase (i.e., receipt) and date of vaccination, in writing.

The Distemper/Hepatitis/Lepto/Parvo vaccine must have been given between April 1, 2011 and February 18, 2012.

The Bordetella (intra-nasal or injectable) vaccine must have been given between October 1, 2011 and February 18, 2012.

Proof of Rabies vaccination must come from a licensed veterinarian or certified lay vaccinator. Rabies vaccines must be given no later than February 18, 2012 and must be current through April 1, 2012, according to Alaska State regulations.

All teams must be de-wormed for Echinoccocus multilocularis with a medication approved by the ITC on or after Wednesday, February 22, 2012. The ITC is currently negotiating with the sponsor for donation of this de-worming medication. However, mushers should be prepared to pay for this medication if it is not available from the sponsor.

For those mushers who have volunteered and signed consent forms, ITC will be allowed to collect samples and gather data from dropped dogs and dogs that have completed the race, in the effort to gather information to improve dog care.

Rule 41 -- Jurisdiction and Care:
All dogs entered in the race are under the jurisdiction of the Chief Veterinarian and veterinary staff from the time they enter the staging area at the start until 72 hours after they have been released by the ITC veterinarians. The Chief Veterinarian shall have the authority to determine in his or her exclusive discretion whether any dogs require veterinary care and to select the provider, including treatment by medical specialists and or 24-hour care facilities, prior to an animal's release. In such case, financial responsibility shall be borne by the musher. If the financial responsibility is not satisfied within 30 days of the banquet, finishing status will be withdrawn until satisfied. In addition, the Chief Veterinarian will have immediate access to medical records and updated status reports of all dropped dogs for up to 72 hours after their release. In the event that a death occurs within the 72-hour period following release, an ITC representative will participate in a necropsy of that animal.

Rule 42 -- Expired Dog: All dog deaths are regrettable, but there are some that may be considered unpreventable.

Any dog that expires on the trail must be taken by the musher to a checkpoint. The musher may transport the dog to either the checkpoint just passed, or the upcoming checkpoint. An expired dog report must be completed by the musher and presented to a race official along with the dog.

All dog deaths will be treated as a priority, with every effort being made to determine the cause of death in a thorough and reliable manner.

- The Race Marshal or his/her appointed judges, will determine whether the musher should continue or be disqualified.
- The Chief Veterinarian will cause a necropsy to be carried out by a board certified pathologist at the earliest opportunity and shall make every attempt to determine the cause of death.
- If a board certified pathologist is not available to perform the necropsy within the time frame to preserve the tissues appropriately, (as determined by the Race Marshal), the gross necropsy and tissue collection will be performed by a trail veterinarian following the guidelines in the *Musher and Veterinary Handbook*.
- These tissues will then be examined by a board certified pathologist.

A musher will remain at the initial reporting checkpoint for up to, but no longer than, eight hours to commence the investigation. The musher and or his/her representative have the option to be present during the trail evaluation and necropsy. This period is not to be used as a penalty. A musher will also make him/herself available at all future checkpoints to assist in the investigation. The Race Marshal or his/her appointed judges may release a musher before the eight hours have expired if the judge is satisfied that the musher is no longer needed to further the investigation. Dog deaths resulting in disqualification are:

- Signs of cruel, inhumane or abusive treatment
- Cause of death is heat stress, hyperthermia or hypothermia.
- A musher will be disqualified if he/she had been advised in writing by a race veterinarian or judge to drop the dog at a previous checkpoint, but opted not to do so, unless the cause of death is clearly unrelated to this written recommendation.

The musher will not be penalized and may continue the race if:

- Cause of death can not be determined
- The cause of death is due to a circumstance, nature of trail, or force beyond the control of the musher. This recognizes the inherent risks of wilderness travel.
- Cause of death is from some unpreventable or previously undiagnosed medical condition.

It is the policy of the ITC to report a dog death to the public in a timely fashion. The ITC will accomplish this by:

- The Race Marshal shall immediately issue a press release to members of the media identifying the dog's death
- Immediately following the gross necropsy, the Race Marshal will notify the musher of the results and will issue a press release containing the findings and the circumstances of the death.

Rule 43 -- Dog Description: Only dogs suitable for arctic travel will be permitted to enter the race. Suitability will be determined by race officials.

Rule 44 -- Dog Tags: The ITC will provide drivers with dog tags at the mushers' banquet. All dogs must wear tags and the tag numbers must correspond with the dog name and tag numbers written in the vet book. Only current tags are permitted.

Rule 45 -- Dropped Dogs: All dogs that are dropped from the Race must be left at a designated checkpoint with a completed and signed dropped dog form. Any dropped dog must be left with four (4) pounds of dog food and a reliable chain or cable (16" to 18" in length) with a swivel snap and collar. Dropped dogs may be moved form the originating checkpoint to the closest dog collection area at Anchorage, McGrath, Unalakleet or Nome. Dogs may be shipped from the collection areas to a location designated by the musher at the musher's expense.

- Dogs dropped in ANCHORAGE, Nome and the re-start are the musher's responsibility.
- Dogs dropped in ALL OTHER CHECKPOINTS will be transported by the ITC.

Dogs left unclaimed at Eagle River Correctional Center after four days after their arrival will incur boarding charges at the current rate, payable by the musher.

Rule 46 -- Hauling Dogs: A musher may haul dogs in the sled at his/her discretion, however, the musher may not allow any of the dogs to be hauled by another team. Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion and must be covered if conditions require.

FOOD DROPS AND LOGISTICS

Rule 47 -- Shipping of Food and Gear: A musher must comply with shipping directions provided by the ITC. Each container must be clearly marked with name and destination and must weigh no more than **60** pounds. No boxes of any kind may be used as the primary container. No straw, charcoal, fuel or other combustible material, or hazardous materials (including lithium batteries) may be shipped through the ITC food drops. No cookers, plastic buckets, coolers or dog dishes may be shipped except with any sled that is shipped. Used items maybe removed from checkpoints with dropped sleds, by return mail or through the ITC.

Perishable food must be delivered to the ITC in a frozen state.

All mandatory food must be sent through Iditarod food drops. The ITC will provide and ship straw and fuel for the teams to the checkpoints. Additional food and gear may be shipped prior to the start but must be shipped to the checker. Gear or food drops damaged or lost may be replaced upon approval of the Race Marshal or designee.

Food drop payment must be received by the ITC at time of delivery.

A musher's personal gear, equipment and supplies may not be transported along the trail by mechanized means without the consent of the Race Marshal.

Dog food left behind and dog food from scratched, withdrawn and disqualified mushers becomes the property of the ITC and may be used at the discretion of race officials. No food may be shipped back in return bags.

Rule 48 -- Shipping Amounts: An adequate amount of food is required to be shipped to the following checkpoints (minimum of 60 pounds combined weight of food (not including ice) and gear):

Skwentna	Cripple	Koyuk
Rainy Pass	Ruby	Elim
Rohn	Galena	White Mountain
Nikolai	Nulato	Safety
McGrath	Kaltag	Nome
Takotna	Unalakleet	
Ophir	Shaktoolik	

Food and/or gear will **not** be shipped to the checkpoints of Yentna and Finger Lake.

The Safety checkpoint is optional for shipment of gear and/or food.

OFFICIALS, PENALTIES AND APPEALS

Rule 49 -- Race Officials: The Race Marshal and judges are responsible for the enforcement of all ITC policies and race rules. Race officials shall consult with the Chief Veterinarian on all matters relating to dog care and treatment.

Rule 50 -- Protests: A musher may protest any action of a competitor or race official that he/she feels is contrary to the intent of these rules. To be recognized as a legitimate protest, any action observed by a musher must be presented in writing at the next checkpoint and in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours after a musher finishes the race.

Rule 51-- Penalties: Policy and rule infractions may result in issuance of warnings, monetary penalties, time penalties, censure, withdrawals or disqualification.

- Warnings may be issued by any official for first time or minor violations
- Monetary penalties may be imposed up to $1,000 per violation. Such penalties may be deducted from prize money. A musher with unpaid fines may not enter future Iditarod races until such fines are paid.
- Time penalties require a majority decision of a three-member panel of race officials appointed by the Race Marshal. Time penalties may be imposed up to a maximum of two (2) hours per infraction and will be added to the twenty-four (24) hour layover, the eight-hour layover on the Yukon River or the eight (8) hour layover at White Mountain. Time penalties will not be levied past White Mountain.
- Withdrawal is a process that must be imposed by a three-judge panel, either by a majority or unanimous vote, and which has the effect of involuntarily eliminating the musher and team from the race but which does not imply any deliberate misconduct or violation. The team and musher must leave the trail and will be assisted by the ITC.
- Disqualifications require a unanimous decision of a three-member panel of race judges appointed by the Race Marshal. The Chief Veterinarian will be consulted in all cases involving cruel or inhumane treatment. Mushers shall be disqualified for rule infractions involving physical abuse of a dog, or for cheating or deliberate rule infractions that give a musher an unfair advantage over another musher. Mushers may also be disqualified for other acts involving cruel and inhumane treatment. It is intended that the nearest involved officials be included on the panel. The musher will be given the opportunity to present his case to each member of the panel prior to the decision. Disqualified and withdrawn teams must leave the trail or forfeit the right to enter future Iditarods.

Censure: The Board of Directors, following completion of the race, may censure a musher. A censure may include a warning, either public or private and may eliminate the musher from future races. A written warning, monetary penalty or disqualification must have occurred before censure.

Rule 52 -- Appeals: Mushers may appeal race official decisions. Appeals pertaining to warnings or monetary fines must be presented in writing to the ITC within ten (10) days of imposition of the penalty or the mushers' finish, whichever occurs later. Appeals pertaining to withdrawals, disqualifications or time penalties must be presented in writing to ITC within 10 days following the awards banquet. Appeals will be decided by hearing before an appeals board appointed by the president of ITC which will be held within forty-five (45) days of filing the appeal. Review by the appeals board is the exclusive, final and binding remedy for any dispute regarding application of the rules by race officials to a musher and that the decision of the appeals board is non-reviewable either in state or federal court. As censure is imposed by the Board of Directors, and qualification decisions are made by the Qualifying Board, there is no appeal to either and such decisions are final, binding and are non-reviewable either in state or federal court.

2012 HONORARY MUSHER – DAVE OLSON

(a list of all Honorary Mushers from 1973-2011 can be found in the 1973-2011 Awards, Standings & Musher Stats Guide)

The Honorary Musher for 2012 was chosen by the Iditarod's Board of Directors in December 2012. The Honorary Musher was chosen based on his contributions to the Iditarod and to the sport of mushing.

Dave Olson



Photo © Jeff Schultz/SchultzPhoto.com

If someone asked Dave Olson, "What are you doing at Iditarod this year?" He probably would just pause and say, "Why, what do you need?"

Dave was never the loud promoter, the outcry fundraiser or the public face of the Iditarod. He was the man who got things done. He was a workhorse that made Joe Redington's visions a reality. Dave was instrumental from the beginning of the race. If there was a critical project: a trail to clear, a snow machine to fix, a sled runner to mend; Dave was the man to get the job done.

Dave Olson might not be a "big name" to current race fans and spectators, but to Iditarod mushers, that name says it all. He is a true Alaskan pioneer who re-claimed the old Iditarod Trail with chainsaw and snowshoe and then traveled to Nome repeatedly. He and Donna have always helped mushers in need. Whether it was giving a temporary home to 60 sled dogs from Bethel or hosting an Iditarod family from Kotzebue, they have an open door policy.

Mushers: If you have a last minute sled runner to fix before the race starts on Saturday .... Hurry up! You might still have time to get it to Dave!

But that is an understatement. Truth fully, Dave Olson, at this moment would do anything for anyone. As Barb Redington reminds us, "Dave was Joe's right hand man and Joe knew he couldn't have done it without Dave!" Dave worked with and for Joe on details behind the scenes from the first race on forward. When Joe began planning his Iditarod Challenge trips to Nome, Dave was working out the details and making sure that everything happened as it should. Dave's reputation of his work ethic is "he can do and fix anything" and make it work better than it did before it was broken.

Dave was instrumental in helping with clearing and marking the trail for the 1973 and 1974 races. He raced in the 1973 Iditarod, but scratched due to illness. Having come down with the flu shortly before the start of the race, his dedication to the race and his dogs nonetheless brought him to the starting line thrilled over the challenges of the first 'long' Iditarod. The teams left Anchorage and traveled all the way to Knik where despite a doctor's advice, Dave ventured on, but soon realized that Dr. Hal Bartko of Palmer had been right. Dave returned his team to Knik and scratched. Dave also raced in 1974, 1980, 1983, and 1984. At the banquet at Nome's Recreation Center in 1984, Dave was presented the coveted 'Sportsmanship Trophy' for his 'perpetual good humor on the trail and almost daily assistance to other mushers. He helped build sleds, ice bridges, and inspired mushers to have confidence.' Through his encouragement, Dave helped mushers know to 'roll with the punches.'

"In 1984, I had the honor to travel the Iditarod with three people who are to this day, still good friends, Dave Olson, Rick Mackey, and DeeDee Jonrowe," shares Sue Firmin. "None of us were having a good race and we were all struggling for one reason or another. Our hopes of finishing in the top ten were dashed as we progressed down the trail. On our way to Nome it was a struggle for all of us. At any given time, one of us would say they were going to scratch at the next checkpoint and the other three would talk that person out of it. Truth is, I like traveling with Dave because Donna makes the best trail snacks ever! But seriously, one of the best things about Dave is his resourcefulness. He is a super handy man and great to have around when in a pickle."

Out of Ophir that year, the creek opened up about 12 ft. across and 8 to 10 ft. deep. Dave told his traveling partners they'd need to build a bridge, "that's one reason you carry an ax in your sled bag." Dave cut brush and small trees. DeeDee and Sue threw them into the creek. They added snow. When the bridge was complete, Dave being the hero went first to make sure it was safe. The rest of the racers to follow used the bridge. In Nome it was said that trail breakers had built a nice bridge! When in White Mountain that year when Sue's sled runner was damaged and she was struggling with it, Dave fixed it.

Dave represents the spirit of Iditarod and has been a musher, sled builder, commercial fisherman, businessman, mentor, and friend. He and his wife, Donna, have live in Knik where they raised their daughter. Dave and Donna also enjoy their get-a-way home in New Mexico. The grateful mushing community recognizes that Dave and Donna have been a huge part of what the Aurora Dog Musher's club is what it is today. Dave has operated his business, Iditarod Masonry, for many years the Valley. One of his main employees, Terry Langholz, managed the Knik Checkpoint for a long time.

Dave has carried Joe Redington's dream though the life he has lived. When standing at Joe's statue at the Iditarod Headquarters, take a moment to look at the base, the foundation that the statue rests upon; it was built by Dave Olson, who is a foundation of the Last Great Race®.



Dave and Donna Olson Photo © Jeff Schultz/SchultzPhoto.com

2012 MUSHER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

(Listed Alphabetically)



Ken Anderson – Fairbanks, AK - Veteran
Website: www.windycreekkennel.com

Ken Anderson, 39, was born in Minnesota. He says he began mushing at age 3 as his parents had a recreational team. When he was in sixth grade, his father bought him a book on the Iditarod and he decided to someday compete in the Race. Before moving to Alaska, he attended the University of Minnesota and was a dog handler. He came to Alaska in 1993 to learn more about mushing and study biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He's been running the Iditarod since 1999. Ken is married to Gwen Holdman, also an Iditarod veteran. Ken says "I am very glad to be able to run my 12th Iditarod and feel fortunate to have the opportunity." He lists his occupation as dog musher and says his hobbies are kids, sailing and writing. Ken and Gwen are the parents of twins, Marais and Leif, age 3 and Lael "Lilly", a year old this summer.

Total prize money: $261.185.67

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1999	26	12:10:43:0	2007	7	9:18:28:48
2002	18	09:22:29:4	2008	4	9:18:11:06
2003	5	10:06:12:1	2009	14	11:01:34:14
2004	17	10:10:10:2	2010	4	9:06:25:23
2005	17	10:09:25:5	2011	9	09:09:23:16
2006	15	10:01:02:3			

Award

2005 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome

Sponsors

Redpaw Pet Foods, WI; United States Coast Guard; Wedgewood Resort; Lone Wolf Sleds, Alberta, CANADA; Lupine Headlights/Gretna Bikes, PA; Northern Outfitters, FL; dogbooties.com, MN



Jodi Bailey – Chatanika, AK - Veteran
Website: www.dewclawkennel.com

Jodi Bailey, 42, was born in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. She went to school at Emory University in Atlanta, where she earned her BA in Theater and Anthropology. Jodi came to Alaska once she graduated. That was in 1991. She had spent summers here while she was in school and had "fallen in love with life in Alaska." Today she and Dan Kaduce call Dew Claw Kennel in Chatanika, AK home.

Jodi began mushing in 1995 and has run the Copper Basin, GinGin, Denali Doubles, and Kobuk 440, in addition to other shorter races. Jodi says, "I've been running dogs over a decade, and as I learn more and gain more confidence, I enjoy trying new challenges and trails with the kids-what we affectionately call the dogs at Dew Claw. When you are out there on the trail you don't have emails, or work, or laundry or anything, but you and them and the miles ahead of you. It is a wonderful feeling. When you travel by dog team you are really exposed to the world around you, experiencing it in all its beauty and extremes. I feel very fortunate to be able to do this."

In 2011 Jodi became the first rookie in history to successfully complete both the Yukon Quest and Iditarod in the same year. She thoroughly enjoyed herself on the trail and is excited about the opportunity to return to the Iditarod in 2012 and see the Northern route. She hopes to learn from last years' experience, improving her ability to care for her team over 1000 miles. Jodi is also a member of the Fairbanks Running Club and participates in their summer race series which ends with the Equinox Marathon in Sept. She says her hobbies are running, biking, and cooking. Jodi is married to Dan Kaduce, the Iditarod Rookie of the Year in 2010.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	31	11:00:40:18			

Sponsors

Usibelli Coal Mine; Halliburton; TJ's Landclearing/Tom Gross owner; Virginia Pond; Nancy Bailey; Meg Thornton; Marlys Sauer; Pendra King; Lou & Fran Varndell; Kirstie McGuinness; Mike Pickell; Sally Dunkley; Paw Partners & Arrowhead Fabrics; Oreen & Judy Brownson; Joel Switzer; Susi Marsh; Mushaholics



John Baker – Kotzebue, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

John Baker, 49, was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. He began mushing in 1995 and was interested in the Iditarod after watching the Race in its early years. He ran his first Iditarod in 1996 and has been in every race since. He has 12 top ten Iditarod finishes, and became the first Iditarod champion from Northwest Alaska when he won the 2011 Iditarod, and the first Inupiat champion as well. Baker is self-employed and enjoys the rural Alaska life. He has a son, Alex, 23, a veteran of the Jr. Iditarod and a daughter, Tahayla, 9. A commercial pilot, he says that his hobby is flying.

Total Prize Money: $507,732.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	22	10:23:26:0	2004	9	10:00:43:00
1997	11	09:23:09:3	2005	6	09:21:41:00
1998	5	08:21:43:0	2006	5	9:17:37:45
1999	5	10:10:10:5	2007	8	9:18:36:22
2000	22	10:05:48:2	2008	23	10:10:17:50
2001	6	10:21:00:3	2009	3	10:06:18:51
2002	3	09:05:46:3	2010	5	09:07:07:54
2003	8	10:07:33:0	**2011**	**1**	**08:17:46:3**

Awards

2011 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Truck
2011 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast
1993 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness



Kirk Barnum – Grangeville, ID - Veteran
Website: NONE

Kurt Barnum, 43, was born and raised in California. He began mushing in 1995, and in 1999, he moved to Montana to run dogs. Last year he moved to Grangeville for “good trails and good fishing.” He says that after racing some good mushers in Wyoming, I wanted to run the Iditarod.” “I like to raise my on dogs and continue to breed my own strains. Each year I have better dogs to plug into my core. I enjoy the Iditarod because of the great dog teams that run annually and the remote villages and the Alaskan outdoors we travel through on the race course.” Kirk studied forestry at Utah State and worked as a forester for twenty years. He now lists his occupation as “dog servant” and his hobbies as music, bears, fishing, wildlife and Dutch oven cooking.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	67	13:10:19:4	2011	44	13:8:52:47
2009	Scratched				



Anna Berington -- Kasilof, AK - Rookie
Website: NONE

Anna Berington, 28, was born and raised in northern Wisconsin. She became interested in dog sledding at an early age when she worked for a neighbor who raced sled dogs. After graduating from high school, Anna joined the National Guard during which time she did a lot of traveling. She ended up in California working for a dog sled touring company. After some time there, she decided "giving tourists rides wasn't enough, so moving to Alaska was an easy choice." She and her twin sister, Iditarod veteran, Kristy, worked for a lot of mushers and started calling Alaska home. "I love dogs and endurance sports so what could be better than combining the two? I am lucky to be working for 1984 champ, Dean Osmar and fellow musher Scott Janssen. I'm really looking forward to racing with my twin sister!" Though she will be a rookie in the Iditarod in 2012, she has run many mid distance races in Alaska. She lists her hobbies as running, swimming, biking, and staying active.

Sponsors

Halliburton; Northern Outfitters; Kasilof Enterprises; Cook Inlet Kennels; Janssen Funeral Homes; Mickey's Custom Sewing; Gebhardt Construction; Fulton Auto Body; No Room 4 Error; Tom Bathey; All my friends and loving family.



Kristy Berington – Kasilof, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Kristy Berington, age 28, says, "No, you're not seeing double! I will be running this year's Iditarod with my identical twin, Anna Berington." With almost matching biographies, both girls grew up in Northern Wisconsin and graduated from South Shore High School, joined the National Guard, and wrangled horses in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. "Our love of animals, especially dogs, seems to have guided us through life. We started running sprint dogs in Wisconsin and grew to long distance mushing in Alaska. Adventure, endurance and dogs are what I love most." Their first dog team consisted of a Great Pyrenees and a Border collie, pulling a sled they built out of a pair of downhill skis and a milk crate. This is Kristy's fourth season running dogs and racing in Alaska, and her third year working for Paul Gebhardt in Kasilof. Kristy lists her hobbies as running, mountain biking, hunting, and horses.

Total prize money: $2,400

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	39	11:06:44:02	2011	29	10:20:02:47

Sponsors

Sherry Lesar of Star Gazer Land and Cattle; Northern Outfitters; Grabber Handwarmers; Momemtum Premium Athletic Dog Food; No Room 4 Error; Mickey's Custom Sewing; Ferguson; Mountain Hardware; Gebhardt Construction; Morning View Kennel; Fulton Auto Body; Tubbs Enterprises; Janssen Funeral Homes; Kenai Veterinary Hospital; Tom Bathey; All my friends and loving family



Jake Berkowitz – Big Lake, AK - Veteran
Website: www.JakeBerkowitz.com

Jake Berkowitz, 25, was born and raised in Minnesota. He attended a local community college and then studied to be an EMT at the University of Colorado. He is currently getting his paramedic degree at the University of Alaska. Jake started mushing when he moved to Michigan in the fall of 2005 to work with Ed & Tasha Stielstra at Nature's Kennel and raced Stielstra' s B team in the 2008 Iditarod. He remembers learning about the Iditarod at a young age but says, "It was one of those childhood dreams, like being a fireman or a cowboy; I just never thought it would happen." He moved to Alaska after the 2008 Iditarod to pursue his mushing career. Last year he won the Copper Basin Sled Dog Race. His hobbies are hunting and fishing.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	65	13:03:41:32	2009	31	12:06:01:40



Aaron Burmeister – Nenana, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Aaron Burmeister, 36, was born and raised in Nome, Alaska. He graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1998 and is a certified teacher. However, he is currently General Manager for Civil Construction. Aaron says, “I have been raising dogs and racing my entire life. (He is the son of Iditarod veteran Richard Burmeister.) Over the last 15 years our kennel and breeding program has been focused on building a winning Iditarod team. We are excited to be entered in the 2012 Iditarod after taking a two year break from racing to focus on family and careers. Our son, Hunter, is now three years old and very into the outdoor lifestyle we live. We currently have a very talented young team to work with for the 2012 season and look forward to watching them grow and mature. We are very grateful for the many supporters that help get us to the starting line every year as well as the many volunteers who donate their time to put on this great event. Iditarod is the ultimate proving ground for our dogs, gear and outdoor skills." Aaron moved from Nome to Nenana in 2002 for more consistent training conditions and to be on the road system. Aaron is a member of the IUOE Local 302, the IOFC, AOPA, and ITC. He lists his hobbies and interests as hunting, fishing, boating, flying, and family activities. Aaron is married to Mandy and their son, Hunter, just turned three this summer.

Total Prize Money: $143,470.56

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	37	14:10:33:2	2004	13	10:05:34:1
1996	43	14:04:48:0	2005	24	10:19:09:3
1999	39	13:03:26:4	2006	16	10:01:21:5
2000	30	11:03:35:0	2007	13	10:06:12:2
2001	29	12:10:39:1	2008	19	10:06:05:2
2003	16	10:20:20:1	2009	7	10:14:56:1

Award

2009 ..... PenAir Spirit of Alaska
2009 ..... Fred Meyer Sportsmanship

Sponsors

Northern Air Cargo; Bering Pacific Construction



Martin Buser – Big Lake, AK - Veteran
Website: www.buserdog.com

Born in Winterthur, Switzerland in 1958, Martin became fascinated with sled dogs while still a teen. He came to Alaska in 1979 to enhance his knowledge of care and training of sled dogs. He began working and training with long-time Alaskan mushers Earl and Natalie Norris and ran his first Iditarod in 1980. Martin, wife Kathy Chapoton, a retired teacher, and sons Nikolai and Rohn (both named after Iditarod checkpoints), formally reside in Big Lake, Alaska, where the family owns and manages Happy Trails Kennel. Nikolai recently graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle. Rohn is pursuing college courses and commercial fishes in Bristol Bay with Mike Jonrowe. Rohn completed the 2008 Iditarod.

Martin spends a large percentage of his personal time speaking with youth on the humanitarian care of animals and the spirit of the Iditarod. A favorite celebrity of the children of Alaska, Martin treats them with surprise visits from his dogs and puppies during many of these appearances.

Martin runs the race each year with his dogs to test the success of their breeding, training and physical endurance. He regards his racers as true competitive athletes and prides his team on their longevity and spirit of competition. Says Martin, "I run the Iditarod to prove that my dogs, bred, trained and raced by Happy Trails Kennels, are the best amongst the world's long distance athletes."
As tribute to his treatment of his racers, Martin was awarded the coveted Leonhard Seppala Award in 1988, 1993, 1995, and again in 1997 for the most humanitarian care of his dogs. The award was named for the most famous Alaskan musher who ran the longest and most dangerous stretch of the 1925, 674-mile diphtheria serum run from Nenana to Nome, which saved hundreds of lives.

Following Martin's 2002 Iditarod victory, the process for his becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States was completed under the burled monument. He then turned around in Nome and made the trip from Nome to Big Lake with his family by snow machine.

Upon completion of the 2005 Iditarod after a woodworking accident 4 days prior to the race start resulting in the amputation of a part of his finger; he was awarded both the Sportsmanship and Most Inspirational Awards by his fellow mushers.

Martin is an honorary member of Rotary. He is always involved with some project around the kennel or house. While he and Kathy moved into the retirement home that Martin built, they are still working on finishing all the details, your typical Alaskan self-built home that is never quite finished.

In the summer, Martin and his family give tours of their working kennel. The tour begins with a DVD trip from Anchorage to Nome narrated by Buser and includes his unique anecdotal stories gathered over 23 Iditarod's. Visitors are offered a glimpse of a mockup of the Cripple Checkpoint complete with campfire and wall tent. Veterinary and dog care topics are discussed and of course, there's the cuddling of puppies. The tour ends with a riotous symphony of dogs barking as a team is hooked up and taken on a demo run to show folks the dogs in action.

Sprocketheads, LLC produced a DVD featuring the unique lifestyle made possible by training and racing sled dogs. The DVD captures a sled dog's life from puppyhood to racing and Martin's interaction with his athletic friends.

Mile by Mile: Martin Buser's Iditarod is a new release DVD. In partnership with Jeff Schultz and Sprocketheads, LLC**,** a unique journey from Anchorage to Nome with some of the most spectacular imagines ever assembled in a DVD was created. With a combined 54 years on the trail, Jeff's photos and Martin's trail stories make it possible for you to "be there" on the back of the sled!

Martin is currently the musher with the most consecutive Iditarod finishes, 26 races completed in row, 28 total finishes. "We are looking forward to many more and working diligently toward a fifth Iditarod win. While the race is always the final exam, the year round interaction and relationship with the dogs is the most valuable aspect of this lifestyle. On a daily basis, we are amazed by the stamina, loyalty, honesty, and joy of our dogs. Author Brain Jacques went on a ride with Martin and the team many years ago and described the dogs as "eternal children." We couldn't agree more. It is our good fortune to be able to take care of them."

Total prize money: $741,419.89

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1980	22	17:06:50:05	1998	7	09:21:47:58
1981	19	14:02:47:23	1999	2	09:23:10:59
1986	25	15:00:53:56	2000	7	09:14:55:15
1987	10	12:02:26:28	2001	24	12:07:43:59
1988	3	12:04:21:46	**2002**	**1**	**08:22:46:02**
1989	6	12:02:06:05	2003	4	10:03:40:19
1990	10	12:02:33:44	2004	11	10:02:41:24
1991	2	12:18:41:49	2005	13	10:02:32:40
1992	**1**	**12:18:41:49**	2006	23	10:12:04:35
1993	6	11:00:47:39	2007	4	09:14:07:04
1994	**1**	**10:13:02:39**	2008	5	09:19:11:50
1995	2	09:08:47:44	2009	18	11:02:43:00
1996	3	09:17:58:00	2010	14	09:15:33:58
1997	**1**	**09:08:30:45**	2011	18	10:01:03:38

Awards

1988 ..... Gold Coast
1988 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1993 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1994 ..... National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
1994 ..... Lead Dog -- Golden Harness
1995 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1996 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
1996 ..... Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
1996 ..... Alaska Commercial Golden Pace
1996 ..... Lead Dog – Golden Harness
1997 ..... Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
1997 ..... National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
1997 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1997 ..... Lead Dog – Lolly Medley Golden Harness
1998 ..... Carrs & Eagle Quality Center Sportsmanship
2000 ..... Cabela's Outfitter
2002 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
2011 ..... PenAir Spirit of Alaska

Sponsors

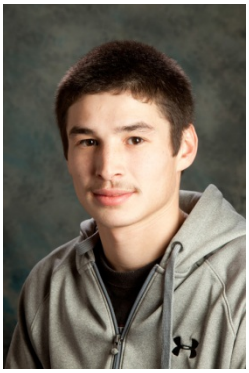
Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food, a division of WellPet; Kendall Auto Group/Kendall Ford in Wasilla and Kendall Toyota in Anchorage; MTA (Matanuska Telephone Association); St. Elias Specialty Hospital; Bowie Outfitters; AIH (Alaska Industrial Hardware); Big Lake Susitna Veterinary Hospital; END POLIO NOW, Rotary; Diversified Tire; Alaska Orthopedic Specialists; Sprocketheads, LLC; Hand-Elbow-Shoulder Surgical Specialists of Alaska; Taiga Mushing Supplies; Trapper Creek Smoking Company; Jon & Jona VanZyle; BUSER Boosters



Rohn Buser – Big Lake, AK - Veteran
Website: www.buserdog.com

Rohn Buser, 22, was born and raised in Big Lake, Alaska. He has run dogs "all his life". After running the Jr. Iditarod four times and winning in 2007, he ran the 2008 Iditarod as a nineteen year old. This winter he won the Kusko 300, beating his dad in a race for the first time.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	37	11:06:58:25			



Josh Cadzow – Fort Yukon, AK - Rookie
Website: NONE

Josh Cadzow, 23, was born and raised in Fort Yukon, Alaska. He started mushing when he was four years old. He has run a number of mid distance races in Alaska. He says that this year his team is prime and ready to race. "I entered the Iditarod to race my team to Nome, to finish and have healthy dogs and also to support my Native background for mushing. My team this year has been with me more than five years. They are prime and ready to race competitively. Josh has been a carpenter for six years. He attended UAF and says his hobbies are hunting and fishing.

Sponsors

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government; Doyon, Ltd.; Clifton & Janet Cadzow Family; Dick & Erla Hutchison



Bob Chlupach – Willow, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Bob's dad's family immigrated to America through Ellis Island in 1859. His mother's family immigrated pre 1900. Bob's dad was raised as a farm boy during the great depression. He walked to school every day of his life to the railroad town of Manley, Iowa. His mother was the daughter of a railroad switch tower man at Manley. Her mother was a school teacher. Bob's father worked his whole life as a railroad brakeman/conductor, while his mother was a telegrapher for Western Union. Bob, 63, was born and raised in Mason City, Iowa, completing high school in Mason City and college at ISU, Ames, Iowa.

During the summers while attending college, Bob worked for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the last two summers for Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Upon graduation with a Fisheries and Wildlife Biology degree he worked several seasons in southeastern Alaska, before being hired on as a permanent fishery biologist.

Working in Juneau, the sports headlines for the two Anchorage newspapers were not of pro-basketball or pro-football, but instead of sled dog racing events. He became enamored with sled dogs and moved to south-central Alaska and by the mid 70's had a sled dog team. He was close friends with two noted Siberian husky families, that of Darrel and Angie Reynolds and world renowned Siberian husky breeders Earl and Natalie Norris.

Bob was greatly influenced by Darrel and to this day, his spirit thought of daily. He entered his first Iditarod and completed it in 1977, subsequently, entering and completing 10 Iditarod's over 4 decades. He will be entering this Iditarod in the 5th decade.

Living in Willow his post college life, he has one daughter, Melissa, who is a dietician for the Alaska Native Hospital and API. Bob is grandfather to Josephine, Melissa's daughter.

After retirement he has worked as a carpenter and professional sports fishing guide.

Though his dog kennel is not all Siberian huskies, he will be running a predominately Siberian husky team, with Siberians bred from within the kennel. He has watched the race exponentially evolve, but despite all the new technologies, he is looking forward to renewing old friendships in the villages along the way. Too, the undeniable beauty and sense of freedom continues to harbor in Bob's psyche. Through the years Bob has attempted to teach the art, science and psychology of the sled dog world.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1977	25	19:02:28:06	1986	14	13:10:32:13
1978	14	16:03:44:54	1989	13	12:06:17:41
1979	17	17:06:23:19	1990	29	14:23:11:08
1982	7	16:05:26:46	1992	31	13:08:41:45
1984	15	14:10:31:12	2001	41	13:03:07:54

Sponsors

Well known Siberian Breeder--Lower 48; Dee & Mike Jonrowe; Underdog Feeds; Lev Shvarts; Gail Castongray, NH; Larry Lubonty, NY; Pastor Cheryl Newsome; Linda & Larry Cline/Gigglewood Lakeshore Inn; Rick Outwin; Jane Barnes; Cecile Hoovler, WA; Frances Underwood, WA; Cheryle Packard, WA



Art Church, Jr. – Willow, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Art Church, Jr., 55, was born and raised in Washington. He moved to Alaska in 1975, he says, "for a change and stayed because I liked it." He has been self-employed for the last thirty plus years. He began mushing in 1979 and in addition to running the Iditarod, he has served as a race judge on the trail. He lists his hobby as "my wife."

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1995	27	12:23:00:29	2008	Scratched	
2001	Scratched		2010	44	12:00:47:08



Lachlan Clarke – Buena Vista, CO - Veteran
Website: teamclarkeusa.com

Lachlan Clarke, 55, was born and raised in Derby, New York. He graduated from Principia College in Illinois in 1979 with a B.A. in History & Business Administration. In 1989, he moved to Colorado to work on ranches with horses, people, and cattle. He has been a horse trainer for 22 years. He began mushing in 2001 and says, "I've always loved developing working relationships with animals. While maintaining a love for working with horses in everyday horseback ranch work, Linda and I have just added distance racing sled dogs to our family of good working cow horses. Lachlan and Linda are the parents of two adult daughters, Jennifer, 32, and Leigh Ann, 37. He says he enjoys horses, polo Crosse, ranching roping and other ranch work.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2003	Scratched		2008	47	11:20:05:19
2005	60	13:22:53:03	2010	46	12:03:13:22
2006	63	13:20:26:41	2011	32	11:00:43:29
2007	Scratched				

Sponsors

FlexEnergy; Friends of Adventure Unlimited Ranches; Steve & Laurier Holser; The Pecheck Family; The LaPlante Family; Dan MacEachen/Krabloonik Kennels; Suzanne Paddock; KC & Aaron Morris; Alison Peticolas; Sedge & Laura Southworth; Sue & Dan Steele; The Lipsey Family; The Pecheck Family



Travis Cooper – Big Lake, AK - Rookie

Travis Cooper, 25, was born and raised in Kansas. He has been a handler for Mad Stork Kennel (Kelly Maixner) since 2010. This will be his first Iditarod.

Sponsors

Fly Denali, Inc; Mat Su Meats; Alaska Frontier Trappers Associaton; Mr. Prime Beef; Whitmire's Processing; Kelly Maixner, DMD, LLC



Hank DeBruin – Haliburton, ONT CANADA - Rookie
Website: winterdance.com

Hank DeBruin, 49, was born and raised in Ontario, Canada growing up on his family's dairy farm. He and his wife Tanya began mushing 15 years ago and became interested in running the Iditarod when he read Libby Riddles' book, Race Across Alaska. In 1999 they left their jobs to move to the wilderness of the Haliburton Highlands bordering Algonquin Park to start Winterdance Dogsled Tours. Their kennel is now home to 150 Purebred Siberian Huskies and 2000 + guests visit each year from around the world to experience the joy of dogsledding and the stunning rugged landscape of the area. 2011 saw Hank and his team of Siberians finish the Yukon Quest, they have also run the Can-Am, Beargrease & Seney.

Hank and Tanya have four children, Logan, 12, Dustyn, 10, Michaela, 5 and Jessica, 3 all who also enjoy running dogs! You can meet all of Hank's husky and see their photos on www.winterdance.com and follow along on the family's preparation, training and journey to Iditarod on the Winterdance Facebook page.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	Scratched				

Sponsors

Haliburton Veterinary Clinic; That Place in Carnarvon; Susan & Tom O'Dowd; Global Pet Foods; Haliburton Lions Club; Parker Pad & Printing; Alaska Marine Line; Teddy Time; Carol Moffatt; Tony Aymong; Marge Wilson; Freeman Family; Roxanne & Denis Casey; Barker Heating; Noni Richardson; Barb Bohlin & Gunnars Vestfal; Tony & Judy Youdale; Barbara Neilson; Diane Geitzenauer



Zoya DeNure – Paxson, AK - Veteran
Website: www.dogsleddenali.com

Zoya DeNure, 34, was born and raised in Wisconsin. As a young girl, she traveled the world as a fashion model walking the runways in Milan, Italy and Shanghai, China. After 12 years in the field, Zoya was ready for a change. Soon after returning home from Italy, she bought a Siberian Husky named Ethan and from there, new dreams realized. "Dogs make me very happy!" Zoya read everything she could about mushing and the Iditarod sled dog race. The late Susan Butcher inspired her and Zoya shared Susan's passion for animals and adventure. Heading north to a dog yard in Alaska, seeking a more basic lifestyle away from all the city hub-bub, seemed like an easy decision. Now, nine years later; "I live my dream in the mountains, with my family and sixty sled dogs. My office is outside with canines and nature."

Zoya owns and operates Denali Highway Tours & Cabins; a cabin rental retreat on the Denali Highway. The family kennel, Crazy Dog Kennels, takes in unwanted sled dogs; rehabilitating them with a positive training program. Some dogs go on to the races & others go on to be house dogs. "We also have our own breeding program and have been working on building a competitive Iditarod race team over the last six years. I'm excited to hit the trail." She, her husband, John Schandelmeier and their 3 year old daughter, Jona, split their time between homes in Paxson, AK and Maclaren River. Zoya enjoys running, writing, yoga, music, hunting, fishing & time with family.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	53	12:01:57:35	2011	Scratched	
2010	Scratched				

Sponsors

Eukanuba; Daily's Web Design; Theresa Daily; Specsavers, ENGLAND; Paw Partners & Arrowhead Fabrics



Sigrid Ekran – Sparbu NORWAY - Veteran
Website: www.teamsigridekran.no

Sigrid Ekran, 32, was born and raised in Sparbu, Norway. She lived in Alaska from 2003 to 2008 and received her Master's Degree from UAF in Wildlife Management. She began running dogs in 2006 while she lived in Fairbanks and ran the Iditarod twice before moving back to Norway to race in Europe. In Europe she ran La Grande Odyssey in 2009, the Femondlopet in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and the Finnmarkslopet in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Sigrid is a member of the Innherred Trekkhund Klubb, a Norwegian sled dog club. She says her hobbies are hunting, fishing, and horses.

Total prize money: $23,600

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2007	20	10:11:15:20	2008	24	10:13:21:07

Award

2007 ..... Rookie of the Year

Sponsors

Eukanuba, NORWAY; vom og Hundemat, NORWAY; Klattermusen, SWEDEN; Nord-Trondelag Elektrisitetsverk NTE, NORWAY; Norservice, NORWAY; Tronder Avisa, NORWAY; Spare Bank 1 Midt Norge, NORWAY; Norsk Navigasjon, NORWAY; M X - Sport Steinkjer, NORWAY; Anton Letnes AS, NORWAY; Gran OG Ekran AS, NORWAY; Bewe Sleds, NORWAY



Matthew Failor – Big Lake, AK - Rookie
Website: www.buserdog.com

Matthew Failor, 29, was born and raised in Ohio. He says, "My family taught me a love of the outdoors; camping, fishing, canoeing, backpacking, hunting, were all things we did on family vacations. My mom and dad and brothers and sister all enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle. My three brothers and I are Eagle Scouts." While attending college at Ohio State, he worked five summers on Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau giving sled dog rides and interpreting dog sledding for tourists, beginning in 2006. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Photography in 2007. He spent the winter of 2008 with Iditarod veteran Matt Hayashida and says, "Being in Nome for the finish of that race was an incredibly rewarding experience." All these experiences eventually developed within him a love of Alaska, the Alaskan sled dog and sled dog racing. He began racing in 2008. He actually moved to Alaska in November of 2010 when he accepted a handling position for the Buser family, and says, "In November of 2010, while scooping the dog yard, Martin asked if I would be interested in running a yearling team to Nome…that is when I became interested in running the Iditarod." He goes on to say, "The opportunity to work with Martin Buser and his wife, Kathy, and expand my knowledge of this industry is very exciting. I am looking forward to training Martin's yearling team and traveling with them along the Iditarod Trail to Nome." Matthew lists his occupation as musher and his hobbies as "avid outdoorsman and sports enthusiast."

Sponsors

Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food, A Division of WellPet, IN; Big Lake Susitna Veterinary Hospital; Northern Outfitters, FL; Alaska Icefield Expeditions; O'Machearley Custom Knives, OH; The Alaskan Wet Dog Race; The Jones Family, IL



Silvia Furtwängler -- Rauland, NORWAY - Rookie
Website: www.teamsilviafurtwaengler.com

Silvia Furtwängler was born and raised in Germany. She began mushing 27 years ago and became interested in running the Iditarod when she crossed the finish line of the Yukon Quest in 2003. In 2008, "I went in the footstep of Roald Amundsen and crossed the Hardangervidda with sled dogs a little bit like Amundsen, he went with ski. After this I was convinced that this is the right place to live. In 2008, I immigrated to Norway." For the last three years she has owned her own tour guide business. Silvia has two adult children, Maurice and Raffaella. She lists her hobbies as hiking, cooking and photography.

Sponsors

Belcando Dog Food, GERMANY; Woolpówer, SCHWEDEN; ManHat; ProProjekt; Visit Rauland; Rauland Skisenter



Paul Gebhardt – Kasilof, AK - Veteran
Website: none

Paul Gebhardt, 55, was born and raised in Minnesota and came to Alaska in 1989 "to get away from too many people." Before coming to Alaska he worked as a contractor in Minnesota and has continued in that field since coming to Alaska. Paul has an adult daughter, Kristin. He lists his hobbies as hunting, trapping and exploring Alaska.

Total prize money: $385,520.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	26	11:08:08:0	2005	9	10:01:24:20
1997	14	10:08:59:2	2006	3	09:15:23:20
1998	13	10:04:54:4	2007	2	09:07:28:12
1999	6	10:09:37:1	2008	6	09:20:20:36
2000	2	09:06:04:2	2009	16	11:02:26:30
2001	5	10:20:37:0	2010	19	09:20:31:01
2003	23	11:08:51:3	2011	Scratched	
2004	19	10:12:26:2			

Awards

1998 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1998 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
2000 ..... PenAir Spirit of the Iditarod
2000 ..... Lolly Medley Golden Harness
2005 ..... Millennium First Musher to the Yukon
2006 ..... Millennium First Musher to the Yukon
2006 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
2010 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome

Sponsors

Momentum Premium Athletic Dog Food; Bill Petrell; Janssen FuneFdeeral Homes, Inc.; Steve Tarries, CPA; Allan & Alfie Norville; Grabber Warmers; Craig Taylor Equipment; Fulton Auto Body; Mickey's Custom Sewing; Blockbuster; Udelhoven Oilfield System Services; Kenai Veterinary Hospital; SBS of Soldotna; Ferguson; CertainTeed Shingles; Exterior Portfolio; Inlet Painting & Drywall; Tubbs Enterprise; Columbia Paint & Coating; Northern Outfitters; No Room 4 Error



Matt Giblin – Big Lake, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Matt Giblin, 41, was born in Massachusetts. He became attracted to mushing after seeing it on television and began mushing in Colorado in 1982 when he worked as a tour guide. He came to Alaska in 1996 and ran the Iditarod in 1998. He has continued mushing and moved back to Alaska from Montana to return to the Iditarod Trail. "In this year's race, I will be running dogs from Apex Kennels. This will be my third Iditarod and I look forward to many more. I enter the Iditarod and other races to witness the potential of the dogs, to enjoy time with them on the trail and to enjoy the lifestyle I have chosen. During the summer months I work for a helicopter company in Juneau, guiding dog sled tours on the Herbert Glacier. Working in this area gives me the opportunity to promote the sport of dog mushing and also to work with sled dogs year around." He says his hobbies are hunting, traveling and family.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1998	50	14:01:56:1	2011	40	13:07:55:48

Sponsors

J.P.R.Roofing Co., MT; Coastal Helicopters



Kelley Griffin – Wasilla, AK - Veteran
www.silverbellekennels.com

Kelley Griffin, 52, was born in Minnesota and raised in Alaska. She graduated from West Anchorage High School, now known as West High. She began mushing more than 30 years ago and moved to Knik in 1992 just to run dogs. "I have run the Yukon Quest nearly every year since 2002 and the Iditarod in 2005, 2008 and 2011 with dogs from my small kennel. I've done a variety of work to support the kennel from horseshoeing to working in Prudhoe Bay. Now my small farm allows me to stay home and focus on dogs. The dogs are Alaskan Husky from several lines. It is exciting to be the support crew for such an amazing group of athletes. We train for thousands of miles during the darkest part of the winter to race in the Iditarod. Then with nearly 12 hours of daylight in March, I finally see the incredible country we travel. Not only are the dogs addicting, the trail itself gets into your blood, too." Kelley lists her current occupation as musher and farmer and says she has a "PhD in Life." Her hobbies are winemaking, reading and learning. Kelley is married to Ed Grube.

Total prize money: $3,500

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2005	46	12:03:43:4	2011	26	10:13:03:22
2008	45	11:19:19:3			



Karin Hendrickson – Willow, AK - Veteran
Website: www.blueonblackdogs.com

Karin Hendrickson, 41, was born and raised in California. She graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1991 and has lived in Idaho and Colorado working as a teacher and college student. She now works in Environmental Regulation here in Alaska, where she moved in 2003 to be a handler. "My mom had been coming to Alaska to volunteer for the Iditarod since 1998, long before I knew a thing about sled dogs or how they would take over my life. In 2002, she talked me into coming up to volunteer. I returned to volunteer again in 2003 and that is when I knew my future. I sold my house and everything in it, quit my job and headed north. I spent two years learning the ropes and paying my dues as a handler. "I really thought I'd quit dogs and get a real life after that, but I was miserable, so I started building my own team in 2006, but not with any plans to race. Then I decided to race in the Iditarod just once. Well, that was fun, so I figured I'd do it one more time. By now, I'm starting to realize that I need to run dogs to feel like me—so here we go again." Before dogs, she says she used to telemark ski, rock climb, white water kayak, train horses, hike etc. Now, she says between working full time and training, she barely has time to sleep. Karin is married to Varan Hoyt.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	40	12:18:31:1	2011	Scratched	
2010	Scratched				

Sponsors

Gwen Rodman, CA; Pearson Marine Fuel Dock, CA; ServiceMaster/Brad & Joan VanMeter, SD; Tom & Arleen Derevjanik, NJ; Richard & Sandra Hendrickson, OR; Joanne & Dennis Keith, CA; Stephen & JoAnn Routh



Trent Herbst – Big Lake, AK - Veteran
Website: www.trentherbst.com

Trent Herbst, 41, was born and raised in Wisconsin. Trent graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse with a major in Elementary Education. He became interested in the Iditarod while teaching in Switzerland. He began mushing in 2005. "Every year I say 'This is my last one.' But I can't get enough of traveling with the dogs. I will be running Jake Berkowitz's B team." Trent moved to Idaho in 2006 where he was a fourth grade teacher. He has taught for 15 years, and is now looking for a teaching job in the Anchorage area. He and his wife, Candida, have two daughters. Kali, age 9 welcomed a baby sister in September, Kire Storm. The family spends their summers in their cabin in Homer. Trent is a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. He says he enjoys anything outdoors and teaching.

Total prize money: $4,100

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2006	65	14:04:13:5	2010	49	12:13:53:0
2008	73	14:00:42:4	2011	25	10:12:16:5
2009	48	15:02:39:4			

Awards

2009 ..... Most Inspirational
2011 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
2011 ..... Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher



Scott W Janssen – Anchorage, AK - Veteran
Website: www.JanssenFuneralHomes.com

Scott Janssen, the "Mushing Mortician," 50, was born and raised in Crookston, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. degree with a major in Mortuary Science in 1985 and moved to Alaska in June of that year to work as a mortician at Evergreen Memorial Chapel. He has been a mortician and funeral home owner for the last 26 years. Scott has been a friend and sponsor of Paul Gebhardt for 13 years and began mushing in 2007. He says "Iditarod has been his dream since 1986." He and his wife of thirty years, Debbie, are the parents of two adult daughters, Angela and Chelsea. Scott is a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, the ICCFA and Kiwanis. He says he enjoys camping, skiing, hunting, fishing, and "riding my Harley."

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	42	12:20:28:2			

Sponsors

Janssen Funeral Homes; Rosenacker and Associates; Matthews International; Eastman Funeral Homes; TBA Theatre; Color Art Printing; Angelus Memorial Park Cemetery; Dean's Automotive; Bill and Doris Janssen; Dorothy Drellack; and the Fans of The Mushin Mortician



DeeDee Jonrowe – Willow, AK - Veteran
Website: www.DeeDeeJonrowe.com

DeeDee Jonrowe, 58, was born in Frankfort Germany while her father was in the military. The family moved to Alaska in 1971 where her dad was stationed at Ft. Richardson. DeeDee has a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources and now lists her occupation as kennel owner and dog racer. She began mushing in 1979 when she was living in Bethel and her mother was excited about the early Iditarod races. She says, "The Iditarod has become my lifestyle choice that permitted me a chance to celebrate Alaska's history and the partnership that dogs have had in it. I have had a chance to experience this relationship and to bond with the Alaskan culture that I admire. God has blessed me with the health to once again travel through His most beautiful handiwork, experiencing a reflection of His unconditional love thru the bond I have with my team. The volunteers and residents of rural Alaska are an important element of the experience for me, and I am blessed to continue participating in this race." DeeDee is a member of the Big Lake Baptist Church and is involved in co-ed softball. She says in her spare time she enjoys Labrador retrievers and Pekingese's and she is an advocate of in-state cancer care and treatment. She is a triathlete and bike racer. DeeDee is married to Mike.

Total prize money: $490,948.44

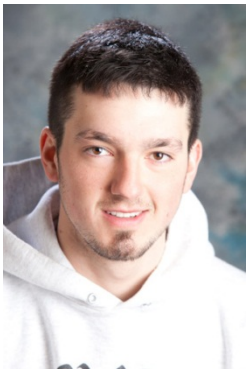
YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1980	24	17:07:59:2	1998	2	09:08:49:4
1981	31	16:05:05:4	1999	Scratched	
1983	15	13:18:10:2	2000	20	10:04:24:0
1984	30	15:19:18:1	2001	10	11:14:33:1
1987	22	13:02:58:1	2002	16	09:22:07:2
1988	9	13:16:29:0	2003	18	10:23:45:3
1989	4	11:37:14:1	2004	15	10:08:40:4
1990	5	11:14:41:3	2005	10	10:01:42:5
1991	7	13:13:44:1	2006	4	09:16:25:5
1992	5	11:09:05:0	2007	Scratched	
1993	2	10:16:10:5	2008	15	10:01:07:4
1994	9	11:04:25:1	2009	13	10:22:56:1
1995	4	09:11:24:0	2010	22	10:02:47:4
1996	5	09:20:18:0	2011	12	09:10:24:1
1997	4	09:18:26:1			

Awards

1981 ..... Sportsmanship
1991 ..... Halfway
1991 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1993 ..... Most Inspirational Musher
1997 ..... Joe Redington, Sr. Tesoro
2003 ..... Chevron Most Inspirational Musher
2008 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway

Sponsors

Shell Exploration and Producton Company; Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food, a division of WellPet; Taco Bell/Denali Foods; Aperio; Bradley Reid & Associates; Home Depot; All Creatures Veterinary Clinic/Dr. Joanne Rehn; Home Depot; Valley Chiropractic Clinic/Dr. James Martin & Dr. David Martin; GCI; Daily's Web Design; Jona & Jon an Zyle; David & SallyJo Martin; Animal Food Warehouse; Punkin Musher Productions; CAC Plastics; Oomingmak Musk Ox Producers' Co-perative; Arctic Midnight Furs; B Original Signs; Sue Greenly & Pat Hahn/Nome Host Family; Rysdon Rigs/Clyde & Pat Rysdon; Arctic Rose Gallery; Ravenink; Justin High & Jaimee Kinzer; Mike Jonrowe; Ken & Peg Stout (Thank you Mom and Dad); Arctic Arrow Sleds/Bernie Willis



Peter Kaiser – Bethel, AK - Veteran
Website: www.kaiserracing.com

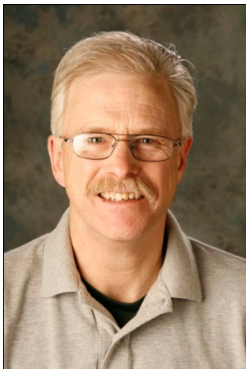
Peter Kaiser, 24, was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska. He graduated from Bethel High School in 2005 and has worked on a tug boat for the Bering Marine Corps for the last four years. He says, “Our family has always had dogs, and I’ve been mushing since I was a kid. Watching the Kuskokwim 300 every January sparked my interest in long distance racing, and a few years ago, I decided that I would give the Iditarod a try.” Peter says he enjoys boats, hunting, fishing, and camping.

Total prize money: $30,000

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	28	10:11:13:5	2011	8	09:07:06:0

Sponsors

Ryan Air; Lynden family of companies; SouthWest Fuel; Bob Sept, DVM/Bering Sea Animal Clinic; John Wallace/AK Technologies; Bering Sea Dental Center; T & H Leveling; Family & Friends



Jeff King – Denali Park, AK - Veteran
Website: www.huskyhomestead.com

Jeff King, 55, was born in California. He came to Alaska in 1975 to "seek adventure." He began mushing in 1976 after he heard Jerry Riley's race finish while listening to the radio. Jeff has an outstanding race record including a Yukon Quest victory in 1981 and four Iditarod victories. He has three daughters, Cali, 27, Tessa, 25, and Ellen, 19. All the girls have run the Jr. Iditarod and Cali finished the Iditarod.

Total prize money: 765,319.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1981	28	15:07:02:47	2000	3	09:08:44:41
1991	12	13:14:24:40	2001	3	10:07:19:43
1992	6	11:10:40:35	2002	6	09:10:42:19
1993	**1**	**10:15:38:1**	2003	3	09:23:17:
1994	3	10:21:46:09	2004	2	09:14:40:59
1995	7	09:18:52:10	2005	12	10:02:21:21
1996	**1**	**09:05:43:0**	**2006**	**1**	**09:11:11:36**
1997	3	09:15:35:15	2007	5	09:15:05:17
1998	**1**	**09:05:52:2**	2008	2	09:13:05:51
1999	7	10:10:10:32	2009	12	10:21:06:06

Awards

1991 .....Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
1993 .....Halfway
1993 .....Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
1993 .....Golden Harness Award for Lead Dogs
1993 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
1996 .....National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
1997 .....GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
1998 .....National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
1998 .....Lead Dog – Golden Harness
1999 .....Joe Redington Sr.
2003 .....Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
2004 .....PenAir Spirit of Iditarod
2004 .....Millennium Hotel First to the Yukon
2006 .....Wells Fargo Gold Coast
2006 .....Lead Dog – Golden Harness
2007 .....Wells Fargo Gold Coast Award
2008 .....Wells Fargo Gold Coast
2008 .....Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian

Sponsors

SportDog; Man Mat; Usibelli Coal Mine; Alaska Industrial Hardware; Touch ‘n Seal; Batteries Plus; Inlet tower; Howling Dog Alaska; Kaladi Brothers Coffee; ADF: American Dehydrated Foods, Inc.; Ron Geist



Jaimee Kinzer – Willow, AK - Rookie
Website: www.teammoonshadow.com

Jaimee Kinzer, 29, grew up in Idaho with a fairly regular childhood. But amongst the ins and outs of growing up she always enjoyed mushing. She graduated from Timberline High School in Boise, Idaho in 2001. Like many others, she took off to college in hopes of finding a career. She studied Digital Media at Full Sail Real World Education in Winter Park, Florida and then returned to Idaho where life took a different turn. "I was hit by a drunk driver and spent the next few years in and out of Doctor's offices. I took a job at Albertsons just to help pay the bills. I soon bought a house and put myself back in school. Yet, something still was missing, I just wasn't happy. That all changed when I received a phone call from DeeDee Jonrowe in October 2008 offering me a job. Two weeks later I was on my way to Willow, Alaska. Ever since then I have been living my dream and couldn't be happier." Jaimee has spent two summers working with some of DeeDee's young dogs on a glacier in Juneau, Alaska, giving tours; then her winters with DeeDee helping to train and race the same dogs she saw being born and worked with on the glacier. "It is amazing to see what these dogs can do and watch them grow up. Several of the dogs I raised and raced with made DeeDee's team in 2011 and made it to the finish line. It makes me proud to be a part of these dogs' lives. I have been falling in love with these amazing animals. I can't wait to travel to Nome with these same dogs I helped raise." She is a member of Advocates Against Family Violence. She lists her hobbies as hiking, camping, and photography.

Sponsors

Shell; Eagle Pack; Taco Bell; All Creatures Vet Clinic; Jon & Jona Van Zyle; Animal Food Warehouse; Mike & Dee Dee Jonrowe; High's Adventure Kennels; Ken & Peg Stout; Northwest Pets, ID; Sheri Kinzer; Brenda Stennett; Amy Rosebrock; Teri & Brady Turner



Jim Lanier – Chugiak, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Jim Lanier, 71, was born in Washington, DC and raised in Fargo, North Dakota, where his family moved when he was six years old. After receiving his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, he moved to Alaska in 1967 to serve at the Native Hospital with the US Public Health Service. A pathologist at Providence Hospital for thirty years, Jim is now retired. He began mushing in 1977 and says he got the bug from Iditarod mushers Ron Gould, Dinah Knight and Gerry Riley. Jim ran his first Iditarod in 1979. Never having scratched, he has now entered and completed fourteen Iditarod's, including at least one in all five decades that the race has been in existence. His goal is to make it six decades and in a competitive fashion. "After that, who knows?" He says, "Health aside, it's a matter of continued enjoyment of the dreaming, the planning, the training, the support of family, friends and sponsors, and of going head-to-head with people half his age and younger. Lanier had to bow out of the 2011 Iditarod at the last minute in January because of necessary hip surgery. He is married to Anna Bondarenko, first Russian woman to enter and complete "The Last Great Race" (2000). He is the father of four, Margaret, 44, Kim, 41, Willy, 33 and Jimmy, 14, and also the grandfather of four, Annie, Ethan, Logan and Jessie. His hobbies include music (baritone), hunting, commercial fishing, reading, writing and raising kids.

Total prize money: $50,504.88

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1979	43	24:06:44:1	2004	18	10:11:01:1
1984	40	17:05:49:2	2005	40	12:00:07:5
1998	42	12:06:09:3	2006	41	11:07:59:3
1999	42	13:13:55:0	2007	27	10:19:01:5
2001	49	13:15:35:4	2008	20	10:06:35:4
2002	25	10:12:43:0	2009	35	12:13:24:3
2003	24	11:11:11:1	2010	24	10:05:21:1

Sponsors

Alaska Equine & Small Animal Hospital



Sonny Lindner – Two Rivers, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Sonny Lindner, 62, was born in Michigan on Christmas Eve. He came to Alaska in 1970 and attended the University of Alaska at Fairbanks where he graduated in 1972. He began mushing in the early 70's and became interested in the Iditarod in 1976 when he had friends having fun running the race. He was the winner of the first Yukon Quest. He finished fourth in the All Alaska Sweepstakes in 2008. Sonny lists his occupation as “construction, dogs and farming.” He has four adult children, Erika, R.T., Chad and Ava, and two young children, Sarah and Sam. His partner is Gina. He is also a grandfather. He says, "I run the Iditarod to enjoy the trip across Alaska with my team and to visit many friends along the trail.”

Total prize money: $159,344.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1978	11	15:12:03:0	2002	13	09:19:08:29
1979	3	15:14:17:3	2003	10	10:12:18:06
1980	Scratched		2004	Scratched	
1981	2	12:09:33:2	2005	Scratched	
1983	8	13:05:28:2	2006	13	09:23:44:18
1985	9	18:18:33:3	2007	24	10:18:28:05
1992	22	12:08:06:0	2009	11	10:20:19:24
1993	18	11:23:49:4	2010	18	09:19:00:00
1999	24	12:10:01:5	2011	15	09:13:02:59
2001	21	12:06:11:2			

Awards

1978 ..... Rookie of the Year
1979 ..... Fred Meyer Sportsmanship
1999 .....Most Inspirational Musher
2003 ..... Fred Meyer Sportsmanship
2009 ..... Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial



Bruce Linton – Kasilof, AK - Veteran
Website: www.nolimitssleddogkennel.com

Bruce Linton, 49, was born in New York City and was raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He studied at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania where he received two degrees, one in Environmental Science and the other in Mathematics/Computer Science. Soon after graduation, Bruce worked as an Environmental Scientist near Boston and at the same time pursued his Master's Degree in Hazardous Waste Management at Tufts University. In 1994, he moved to Vermont and worked for the State of Vermont as an Environmental Analyst.

In 1998, he began mushing and soon after started a dog sled touring business called Green Mountain Dog Sled Adventures. Green Mountain Dog Sled Adventures grew quickly and in 2004 Bruce resigned from his State job to run his sled dog touring business full time. Unexpectedly, the touring business took over his life and he realized that he couldn't live his dreams of training and racing his dogs while at the same time running his business.

Bruce made the big move from Vermont to Alaska in the summer of 2006 with his wife Melissa so that he could fulfill his lifelong dream of running the Iditarod. He has completed the last five Iditarod's and has bettered his finishing position each year.

In his spare time Bruce enjoys running marathons and competing in triathlons. He has completed 12 marathons, three Ironman triathlons, and hundreds of other athletic events. Bruce has managed to fulfill all of these accomplishments as a Type 1 diabetic which brings its own set of challenges. Bruce is committed to raise awareness about diabetes and to spread his message that diabetes can achieve anything as long as they take care of themselves, live a healthy lifestyle, and "dream big" with a positive attitude. Bruce believes that diabetes should not be limited by their medical condition and has renamed his kennel to align with that philosophy – No Limits Sled Dog Kennel. He has given talks about the Iditarod and living one's dream to thousands of children around the country and has been featured in several TV shows.

When Bruce is not training his dogs or giving presentations, he is an Environmental Compliance Officer for Homer Electric Association. Bruce and Melissa have a 3 year old son named Brody and a one year old daughter named Shea.

Total prize money: $12,800

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2007	55	15:23:38:3	2010	25	10:06:18:3
2008	46	11:19:36:4	2011	23	10:06:34:3
2009	28	11:21:55:0			

Sponsors

Stanley Ford; Kasilof Premier Meats; Alaska Missions and Retreats; Central Peninsula Health Foundation; Snug Harbor Seafood; Echo Lake Meats; AK Custom Meat Processing; Oklahoma JDRF Chapter



Lance Mackey – Fairbanks, AK - Veteran
Website: www.comebackkennel.com

Lance Mackey, 41, was born and raised in Alaska. The back to back four-time Iditarod champion and four-time Yukon Quest champion (and current record holder) says he began mushing "at birth." "I grew up around racing and the Iditarod and have been mushing since before birth. I was at the finish line in 1978 to see my father, Dick Mackey, win by one second. In 1983, my older brother, Rick, won. Both my father and brother won wearing bib #13 in their sixth Iditarod." 2007 was Lance's sixth Iditarod and he won wearing bib #13, just as he had planned.

- Being the only person to win both 1000 mile races in the same year (two years in a row)
- First person to win four Iditarod's in a row
- Two time Espy Nominee
- Inducted into Alaska Sports Hall of Fame in 2010

Lance says his education came from "the school of hard knocks!" He is married to Tonya and the father of four: Amanda, Brittney, Cain and Alanah. He is a lifetime member of the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest and a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Lance lists his hobbies as fishing and antiques.

Total prize money: $349,044.44

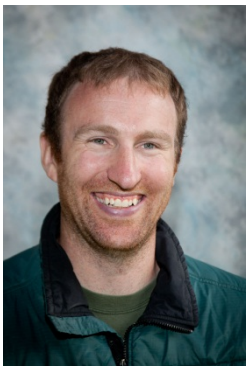
YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	36	12:18:35:13	**2007**	**1**	**09:05:08:41**
2002	Scratched		**2008**	**1**	**09:11:46:48**
2004	24	10:18:27:37	**2009**	**1**	**09:21:38:46**
2005	7	10:00:21:00	**2010**	**1**	**08:23:59:09**
2006	10	09:22:08:38	2011	16	09:17:55:34

Awards

2002 ..... Most Inspirational
2007 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Truck
2007 ..... Chevron Most Inspirational Musher
2007 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
2007 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness
2007 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast
2007 .....Wells Fargo Winner's Purse
2008 ..... PenAir Spirit of Alaska
2008 ..... Millennium Hotel Anchorage First Musher to the Yukon
2008 ..... Wells Fargo Winner's Truck
2008 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Truck
2009 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
2009 ..... Millennium Hotel Anchorage First Musher to the Yukon
2009 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast
2009 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
2009 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Official Dodge Truck
2009 .....Wells Fargo Winner's Purse
2010 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness
2010 .....Wells Fargo Winner's Purse
2010 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Truck

Sponsors

Redpaw Feed, WI; Canada Goose, Ont., CA; Simard Automotive; Millennium Alaska Hotel; Denny's Restaurant; Daily's Web Design



Kelly Maixner – Big Lake, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Kelly Maixner, 36, was born and raised in North Dakota. After receiving his dental degree, Kelly came to Alaska for a residence four years ago and decided to stay. He is a pediatric dentist in Wasilla. He began mushing right after he arrived in Alaska and started thinking about running the Iditarod immediately. Kelly lists his hobbies as hunting, fishing, and snowboarding. He is married to Margaret. He says his hobbies are "anything outside."

Total prize money: $1,500

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	30	10:20:29:3			

Sponsors

Fly Denali, Inc; Mat Su Meats; Alaska Frontier Trappers Associaton; Mr. Prime Beef; Whitmire's Processing; Kelly Maixner, DMD, LLC



Wade Marrs – Wasilla, AK - Veteran
Website: wademarrs.webs.com

Wade Marrs, 21, was born and raised in the Knik area outside of Wasilla, Alaska. He started running dogs in 1996 and first ran the Jr. Iditarod in 2007. The Iditarod was his next big step and he completed the 2009 Iditarod in 47th place. He says, "I have been racing since 2007 and trying to become more competitive each year." Wade has been a tour guide for the last four years. He enjoys trapping, hunting and fishing in his spare time.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	47	14:11:6:25			



Pat Moon – Chicago, IL - Rookie
Website: www.PDMoon.com

Pat Moon, 35, was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 1998 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Public Relations. He works for Double Up Farms, a niche landscaping service in the Chicago area. He and his wife, Melanie, have been married for seven years and love to travel and share adventures. Pat had always followed the Iditarod while growing up and was introduced to the experience in person through the Idita-Rider program in 2006.

At the age of 15, Pat was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, an auto immune disease that targets the intestines and kidneys. Although afflicted with these health issues, he does not allow it to curtail his life or activities. When asked about running the Iditarod, Pat says, "Although having an illness is physical, being sick is a state of mind."

Throughout his life, Pat has had an adventurous spirit, which has taken him on treks around the globe. He has lived on a cattle ranch in Kansas, traveled through Europe and canoed the Amazon River with his wife. In his spare time, he enjoys playing with his two cats, Oscar and Tigger, and the family dogs, Annie and Hera.

Pat says that the friendships that have been started through the Iditarod experience have enabled him to travel the world over, meeting some of the most genuine and nicest people on the globe. Through dog racing, he has had the privilege to visit: Kostroma, Russia Halliburton, Ontario and most recently, Kincardin-Oneil, Scotland.

Pat would like to thank his sponsors, family and friends for their unwavering support. He thanks is Mom for supporting him, no matter what crazy idea he has come up with. Pat also says that he could not have even thought about attaining this dream without the love and overwhelming support of his wife, Melanie. "I love you, Mel!"

Pat says his hobbies are gardening, fishing, and canoeing.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	Scratched				

Sponsors

Dogbooties.com; GO Athletic Apparel; LOKI Gear; The Kokolulu Farm and Retreats



Hugh Neff – Tok, AK - Veteran
Website: www.laughingeyeskennel.com

Hugh Neff, 43, was born in Tennessee. He grew up in Evanston, Illinois and attended Loyola Academy and the University of Illinois. Before moving to Alaska in 1995, Hugh worked as a golf caddy in Evanston, Illinois. He says he moved to Alaska because "there is a part of me that wants to be wild and free…" After reading one of Lew Freedman's books and hearing Hobo Jim's Iditarod song, he began thinking about someday running the Iditarod. He began mushing in 1995 when he was a handler for Bill Mitchell and the Earhart's. Hugh says, "Racing is an excuse to play with our beloved beasts all over the North." He lists his occupation as dog musher and public speaker. He is a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E., the IOFC, and the Boy Scouts of America (Eagle Scout) and says he enjoys reading, hiking and canoeing. Hugh's partner is Tamra Reynolds.

Total prize money: $88,646.67

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	22	10:16:21:01	2008	25	10:12:12:20
2005	26	10:22:59:39	2009	15	11:04:42:29
2006	21	10:06:22:39	2010	9	09:10:52:24
2007	19	10:13:05:15	2011	5	09:03:16:18

Award

2004 ..... Rookie of the Year
2011 ..... Millennium Alaska Hotel First to the Yukon

Sponsors

NEA Alaska; Redpaw Dog Food; North 60 (Petro-Marine); Mountain Ridge, NH; Eldorado Hotel, YT



Robert Nelson – Kotzebue, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Robert Nelson, 43, was born and raised in Kotzebue. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1995 with a B.S. degree in Economics and Political Science. "My kennel is located some 20 miles outside of Kotzebue, a place called Fish Creek. I train with my dad, Louie, as well as with Ed Iten and John Baker, who also have their cabins nearby. I think the area in which we train is heaven on earth, plus I get to spend a lot of time with Louie. He's an incredible person. He's the reason I got involved with running dogs. If you're ever in the area, stop by. There's no shortage of coffee and conversation at our camp." For the last four years, Robert has worked in construction. He says that his hobbies are music, reading and biking.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	42	11:13:52:3	2010	31	10:16:51:16
2009	29	11:22:15:4	2009	19	10:02:44:38



Ryne Olson – Two Rivers, AK - Rookie
Website: spkenneldoglog.blogspot.com

Ryne Olson, 23, was born in Texas and raised in Colorado. She went to school in Washington and worked in Colorado. During her growing up years, she says she spent most of her time exploring the surrounding wilderness skiing and backpacking. "For my 12th birthday, my parents signed me up for a dog sledding trip, and I don't think they realized the impact it would have. I couldn't forget the feeling of powering through the mountains with a team of dogs, so finally I googled dog sledding jobs. I began in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and worked my way up to the Mecca of dog sledding in Two Rivers, Alaska, where I've had the opportunity to train with Aliy Zirkle and Allen Moore, and the incredible dogs of SP Kennel." She has run several mid distance races and this will be her first Iditarod. She lists her hobbies as hiking, backpacking, reading, and skiing.

Sponsors

Horizon Lines of Alaska; Eagle Pack NaturaPet Food; Clarion Suites; Northern Outfitters; Pleasant Valley Store



Curt Perano – Queenstown, New Zealand - Rookie
Website: www.nzsleddog.com

Curt Perano, 39, was born in New Zealand and raised in Europe, the United States and New Zealand. He began running dogs in 2000 and in 2007 moved to Minnesota to handle and work for Jamie Nelson. Over the last four years, he and his wife, Fleur, have built and developed their own team, running and racing in the Lower 48. They moved, with their 42 dog kennel, to British Columbia in 2011 so he could run dogs in the Yukon and Alaska. "I enjoy the outdoors and running dogs, and as a result, distance racing became a natural progression." He has run the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon a number of times as well as other mid distance races in the Lower 48. Curt has been a consultant for the last 8 years. In his spare time, he enjoys skiing and scuba diving.

Sponsors

AMP New Zealand, NZ; D-fa, NZ; AKE, Ltd.,UK; Articrigs, MN; Macpac New Zealand, NZ

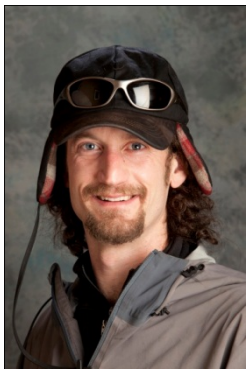


Braxton Peterson – Fairbanks, AK - Rookie
Website: NONE

Braxton Peterson, 25, was born in Bermuda. His family moved to the Kenai Peninsula when Braxton was a child. He has been running dogs for the Mackey Kennel for almost 10 years and been a fisherman for the last five years. He says, “this is my first Iditarod and I have worked many long, cold, tired days to get here. It’s finally happening!” Braxton has run a number of mid distance races in the State. He says in his spare time he enjoys music, snowboarding and writing lyrics for dog mushing rap.

Sponsors

Redpaw Feed, WI; Canada Goose, Ont., CA; Simard Automotive; Millennium Alaska Hotel; Denny’s Restaurant; Daily’s Web Design



Nicolas Petit – Girdwood, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Nicolas Petit, 32, (pronounced "peti") was born in France and grew up in Normandy until the age of 12, when his mother remarried and moved him and his sister to New Mexico. Following high school and some college, he worked to save money to drive to the Alaska in 2000.

After exploring parts of the state, Petit decided to live and work in the small ski resort town of Girdwood. It was here that Petit adopted an Alaskan Husky, a gorgeous blue-eyed puppy he named "Ugly."

Ugly opened Petit's eyes to the value of snowy Alaska, but a trip to Wyoming introduced him to mushing. He credits Iditarod veteran Billy Snodgrass for putting him on the runners. He worked at Snodgrass’s Continental Divide Dogsled Adventure for one season, and then headed back to Alaska where he began helping another past Iditarod finisher, Dario Martinez.

Just to be around sled dogs, Petit would often leave his well-paying construction job as early as he could, sometimes foregoing extra pay, to help out at Martinez’s Chugach Express.

In fall 2010, Martinez connected Petit up with fellow Iditarod musher Jim Lanier, of Northern Whites Kennel in Chugiak, who, because of an ailing hip, needed help and had the extra dogs to let Petit train for a future Iditarod run. Petit's plan for 2011 was to work with Lanier and compete in the necessary qualifying races to be eligible for the 2012 Iditarod. However, Lanier’s hip needed replacing sooner than expected. He then asked Petit to run his team for 2011 under the medical replacement rule.

Petit took on the challenge of qualifying, training and raising funds all in the same year as his rookie Iditarod race. It is rare for a musher to have only a few months, rather than a year, to raise funds and pack gear for what is known as “the last great race on earth.”

Petit not only met the challenge, he exceeded it by finishing in 28th place. He crossed the finish line first among 13 rookies who started the race, garnering him the 2011 Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year Award.

Total prize money: $2,400

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	28	10:15:43:01			

Award

2011.....Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year

Sponsors

Raymie & Barb Redington; Ray Redington; Wiggy's; GRRdwood Pet & Musher Supply; Janssen Funeral Homes; Linda & Chuck Chowns; Jenny & Dale Evans; Remington Technologies, LLC; GFP Ingenierie Automobile; Jim Lanier; Alaska Spirit Crafts; Alyeska Media Services; Scot; Tap Root; Spiff; Milo; Loosegravel; People & Businesses of Girdwood; Alaska, People & Businesses of Kodiak, Alaska; Mr. Prime Beef; Java Haus; Coast Pizza; Girdwood Ski & Cyclery; The Great Alaskan Tourist Trap; Glacier City Snow Mobile Tours; Linda & Bob at Bob's Place; Big Lake, Girdwood Forest Fair; Kasilof Enterprises; Julia Dykstra; Chuck Carl



Michelle Phillips – Tagish, YT CANADA - Veteran
Website: http://tagishlakekennel.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TagishLakeKennel

Michelle Phillips and her partner Ed Hopkins own and operate Tagish Lake Kennel. Michelle has run 6 Yukon Quest races (best finish 4th) and 2 Iditarods (best finish 17th). For the past 12 years, when not racing professionally, Ed and Michelle, with their son Keegan (and up to 90 Alaskan huskies) have provided visitors with sled dog adventures of 30 minutes to 7-days throughout the year.

Total prize money: $3,400

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	27	10:08:31:12	2011	17	09:20:22:2

Sponsors

Selwyn Resources, Ground Effect Media, My Yukon Life, Alaskan Discovery RV Tours, Nutrisource, and Expedia CruiseShipCenters



William Pinkham – Glenwood Springs, CO - Veteran
Website: None

William Pinkham, 53, was born in the District of Columbia and grew up in New Jersey. He went to college and got his degree in geology/polyscience. He went to Colorado in 1980 and fell in love with the Rockies, skiing, hiking, and biking. He began mushing in 1994 after the "seed had been planted when he was a child." William said he played rugby for 23 years and filled the void left from that when he moved to Colorado, where he moved to get "mountains and space," with distance mushing. He started racing in 1994 when he started thinking about being out "in the white silence." William married Jody in 2008 and says, "Jody and I work together with the dogs and other parts or our relationship. They are the parents of Grace Ruby Pinkham, born in January 2011. He lists his occupation as "builder and baby sitter" and his hobbies as biking, reading, climbing, Soo Bahk Do, (Korean martial art) and surfing.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2003	37	12:17:33:35	2006	40	11:07:39:4
2004	33	11:01:40:47	2007	31	11:05:35:4
2005	42	12:00:52:49	2010	37	11:04:20:0

Sponsors

Cogswell Tavern; Pinkham, Inc.; Chris Oelerich's Awesome Rocky Mountain Meal Bars; All Cats & Dogs Veterinarian Clinic, CO; Sunset View B&B; Odaroloc Kennels; family and friends; The PinkDog Pit Crew



Karen Ramstead – Perryvale, AB CANADA - Veteran
Website: www.northwapiti.com

Karen Ramstead, 47, was born and raised in Ontario, CANADA. She studied at the University of Calgary and started mushing in 1994. She moved to Perryvale in 1999, "so I could quit my job and run dogs' full time." This will be her 10th Iditarod and she has run multiple races in Alaska and the Northwest. She says, "After 10 years I continue to inspired and passionate about this event and the amazing canine athletes that run it." Karen is married to Mark. She says her hobbies are writing and photography.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2000	scratched		2006	62	13:19:58:52
2001	57	14:23:53:16	2007	scratched	
2003	scratched		2008	56	12:06:56:58
2004	58	12:08:00:04	2010	scratched	
2005	scratched				

Sponsors

Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food, MA; Doug & Donna Finner, NH; Skookum Brand, YT CANADA; Dogbooties.com, MN; Digital Art Supplies, CA; Musher Minions, ALL OVER; Alice/Lara Baker; Donna Quante; Dr. Ruth Sims/Kettle River Vet Services, BC; Alpine Outfitters, CA; Mountain Dog Food, AB; Nordic Husky Farm, Sweden: Heather Walls & Dan Rehak, PA



Ray Redington, Jr. – Wasilla, AK - Veteran
Website: www.teamredington.com

Ray Redington, Jr., 36, was born and raised in Alaska. The grandson of Iditarod co-founder, Joe Redington, Sr. and son of Iditarod veteran, Raymie Redington, Ray says that he's been mushing since he can remember. "Iditarod has always been around my family." After running the Jr. Iditarod several times, he took a break from mushing. He began racing again in 2000. He is married to the former Julia Flodin, daughter of Iditarod veteran, Steve Flodin. They lived in Two Rivers for nine years and then moved back to Knik to be closer to family. Ray and Julia's daughter, Ellen, will be six during the 2012 Iditarod and son, Isaac, will be three in December of this year. Ray says he enjoys hunting, fishing and my kids. When asked about his current occupation, he says "dad, musher, hunter and fisherman."

Total prize money: $136,605

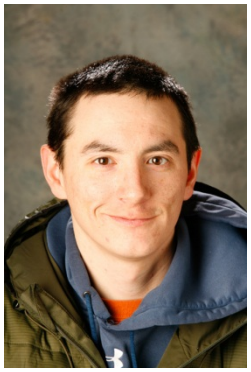
YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	35	12:18:14:4	2007	17	10:12:43:1
2002	14	09:21:26:1	2008	18	10:05:38:1
2003	15	10:19:04:0	2009	20	11:09:59:1
2004	20	10:14:21:3	2010	11	09:12:53:4
2005	25	10:17:04:0	2011	7	09:05:41:0

Awards

2008 ..... Fred Meyer Sportsmanship
2010 ..... Fred Meyer Sportsmanship

Sponsors

Diversified System Resources; Alaska Frontier Constructors; Mary E Curtis; Tangle Lakes Lodge; Bill & Carole Stead; Wiggy's; Leslie Boyd; Leslie & Claudette Stevens



Ryan Redington – Wasilla, AK - Veteran
www.callintrailkennel.com

Ryan Redington, 29, is a lifelong Alaskan who says he has been running dogs since he could reach the handlebars. He comes by his interest in the Iditarod naturally as his grandfather is the late Joe Redington, Sr., Father of the Iditarod, and his dad is Iditarod veteran, Raymie Redington. Other members of his family have also competed in the Iditarod. Ryan and his wife, Erin, own and operate a racing kennel located along the Iditarod Trail in Knik, Alaska. During the summer, he works as manager of a mushing business in Skagway. When he is not running dogs, Ryan enjoys hunting, trapping, and fishing. He is the father of Raynee, 10.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	scratched		2008	scratched	
2004	44	11:19:10:15	2009	36	12:14:27:25
2006	39	11:06:59:18	2010	Scratched	
2007	18	10:12:46:00			

Sponsors

Alaska Excursions; Bryan & Kay Gabbard, CA; Spike & Lindy Fortier; Gwen Rodman, CA



Colleen Robertia – Kasilof, AK - Veteran
Website: www.rogueskennel.com

Colleen Robertia, 35, was born and in Pennsylvania and raised in Massachusetts. She received her B.S. degree in 1998 in New York, with a major in Environmental Biology and a minor in African Studies. She then worked as a zookeeper caring for threatened and endangered species of large hoof stock (elephants, rhinos, giraffe, antelope) and big cats (lions, leopards, jaguars and cheetahs) in Georgia for the Wildlife Conservation Society and then for the Jacksonville Zoo in Florida. She says, “We quit our jobs at the zoo to thru-hike the 2,168 mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. It was a period of deep introspection. We figured out what was important to us in life and moved to Alaska in 2002. She says “I’ve always enjoyed wildlife, wild places, and wild people. Alaska offered all three so I moved here!”

For the last nine years, she has worked as a counselor for emotionally disturbed youth. “Since I started mushing, I’ve made it my goal to prove that year-round excellent treatment, diet and veterinary care are the hallmarks of success for anyone working with not just sled dogs, but all dogs. I’m a veteran of the two toughest and – at 1,000 miles each – longest sled dog races in the world: the Iditarod and Yukon Quest. I’ve also competed in dozens of 200-300—mid-distance races around the state of Alaska, earning first place finishes in several of them, including most recently the 2010 Gin Gin 200. In addition I was presented with the Humanitarian Award by the race veterinarians and judges for my excellent dog care. I am a four-time recipient of this award from various races, and over the years have also received awards for “Sportsmanship” and “Spirit” of tough self-reliance. I take pride in my accomplishments since not only do I train my dogs while maintaining a year-round full-time job, but I also run dogs taken in from animal shelters or given to me by other mushers after not working out in their kennels for various reasons. In the summer, I free run my dogs on the beach, hike with them in the mountains and swim with them in nearby ponds. In winter I develop and adhere to a rigorous conditioning and training regime to transform seemingly ordinary dogs into canine athletes of the highest caliber. All the dogs in my kennel have a home for their whole life, and I work hard to better the understanding of sled dog care, including most recently taking part in a comprehensive study of Alaskan huskies with congenital laryngeal paralysis (a.k.a. wheezer disease). Working closely with veterinarians I provided information to pedigree analyses, DNA samples from my dogs for genetic investigations, and allowed two of my dogs to receive corrective throat surgery, one of which will be in training for this Iditarod as a result of the procedure. Annually I strive to prove that it is hard work, perseverance and canine compassion that are a winning combination. I’m hoping to continue spreading my humanitarian message by further improving my success with my dogs during the 2011-2012 racing season, and I welcome any financial or in-kind support.”

A member of both that Iditarod Official Finishers Club and the Yukon Quest Official Finishers Club, Colleen is married to Joseph Robertia. She enjoys long-distance backpacking, camping, cooking, gardening, and writing angry letters to the government.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	36	10:23:56:100			

Sponsors

Kassik's Brewery; Mickey's Custom Sewing; Pet Partners; Arrowhead Fabrics; Gone to the Dogs; Twin Cities Veterinary Clinic; The Redoubt Reporter Newspaper; Kenai Feed and Supply; Roscoe's Pizza; Jersey Subs; Web Express Inc.; The Morrow family; The Robertia family; Deb and Kevin Hayes; Doug Johnson; Mike Barnett; Susan McRae; Amy Gregg; Martha in Juneau; Several other members of the Rogues Gallery Kennel booster club



Mike Santos – Cantwell, AK - Veteran
Website: www.wolfsdenkennel.com

Mike Santos, 43, originally from Massachusetts. He has been involved with dogs his whole life, his grandfather and godfather raised beagles and he always loved being around the dogs. As a kid, the only thing his parents could get him to read were accounts of polar explorers getting stranded on the ice watching their ships get crushed by the ice and making a heroic dash for land with their sled dogs. He says "It is not easy living for forty years with the lingering, almost nagging feeling that I was born in the wrong century." He always thought those days were long gone, then Will Steger reenacted Robert Perry's historic trek to the North Pole and National Geographic chronicled it on their weekly program Explorer. That was it. Mike decided he would become a polar explorer. Quickly he had his first sled dogs and in time he heard about the Iditarod. Since then he has been striving to put himself in a position to make his dreams of running the Iditarod a reality. Mike is married to Caitlin who teaches math and science to 3rd-12th graders at Cantwell School, the local, 3-room schoolhouse. Caitlin has helped Mike make his Iditarod dreams possible. She trains puppies, maintains our website, sews the harnesses and jackets our dogs use, and most importantly convinces Mike that it is important to follow dreams. Sled dogs captivate the imagination of the world and Mike encourages you to join him in his pursuit of his dreams. It is really fun to know that you are excited about dogs and the Iditarod. Mike invites you to meet his dogs on his website, to read about their accomplishments in his blog The Howler, and to watch them in action on the WolfsDenKennel channel on YouTube.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	Scratched	

Sponsors

Jim and Joy Wheeler, MA; Tom and EZ Farbo; Frances Gray, MN; Alpine Creek Lodge; Ringers Gloves, CA; AHTNA; Denali Fly Fishing Guides; K9 Natural, NEW ZEALAND; Cantwell Veterinary Service; Grainger Industrial Supply, IL; Maureen Regan; John and Nancy Brady, MA; Jack and Maria Santos, MA; The Lucht Family, NC; Jim and Dorothy Rinier, OH; Inlet Tower; Mixx Grill (IT Bistro)



Brent Sass – Eureka, AK - Rookie
Website: www.wildandfreealaska.com

Brent Sass, 32, owner and founder of Wild and Free Mushing, has been racing and training huskies for six years. Originally from Excelsior, Minnesota, Sass moved to Alaska in 1998 to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks (1998-2002) before realizing that dog mushing was his true calling. Since his first race in 2006, Sass has placed in over 20 races, including several first place finishes. He has run the 1000 mile Yukon Quest five times with his highest finish, fourth in 2011. He is also signed up to run his sixth Yukon Quest in 2012. In the spring Brent guides custom dog mushing adventures in Northern Alaska and in the summer he speaks about his mushing to thousands of guests at Trail Breaker Kennel in Fairbanks, Alaska. When Brent is not training or talking about his dogs, he is running his own small construction business, Brentwood Enterprises, which specializes in cabin construction, remote field work, and property rental. Brent lists his hobbies and interests as "wilderness travel, hunting and fishing."

Sponsors

Dog Paddle Designs; Horst Expediting and Remote Operations; Arctic Circle Photography; 2012 Dog Sponsors; Alaska RV Tours; C-Drive Computers; Fairbanks Oral Surgery; Joe Vargas DDS; Ryan Hughes; New Haven Communities; Lend Lease; Mainscape; Exclusive Automotive; Kurt Wold; Ed & Willow Salter; Joee & Pam Redington; Joe Hardenbrook (food) and Anna Sorenson (food); Sass Construction; Mark & Chris Sass; Front Step Marketing; Arctic Carts LLC; Trail Breaker Kennel; IceArmer; North Country Alpacas



Justin Savidis – Willow, AK - Veteran
Website: www.snowhookkennel.blogspot.com

In 2004, Justin, 36, and his wife, Rebecca, packed their worldly belongings into a truck and a trailer (complete with a rocking chair strapped to the top) and moved to Willow, Alaska, to follow a job offer, and more importantly, to chase down a dream of running dogs. It was a quick journey from having a couple of dogs and handling for other mushers to establishing a kennel of their own, and then setting the goal to prepare for and race in the Iditarod. Today, they operate Snowhook Kennel comprised of 40+ dogs—some are rescues, some procured from other mushers, and others are a result of the Snowhook Kennel recipe. Growing up in Southeast Idaho, Justin has always sought out adventure including mountaineering and whitewater kayaking. Mushing and the Iditarod are a natural fit for Justin's sense of and need for adventure—he and the dogs live for pulling the snow hook! Justin's racing career includes a 3rd place finish in the 208 Don Bowers 300 mile race and a second to last place finish in the Knik 200 (thank you, stomach flu). Justin earned his degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism with an emphasis on experiential education from the University of Utah in 2002. Before coming to Alaska, Justin was a teacher at a treatment center in Park City Utah. Driven to help others, his career path has been focused on working with youth at risk. In addition to running dogs, Justin enjoys kayaking, building, reading, climbing, and mountaineering.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	Scratched		2011	39	12:06:08:0

Sponsors

Currents; Alaska Executive Search; Paw Partners; Coach & Bev Haun (the in-laws); Mark Atkins; Carol Comeau (2011 Iditarider); Cody & Kelly Olson; Matt Keortge; Nora Conner; and Chet the Dog Plunderers: Dawson, Siber-H, Barb & Maggie, B. Stover, Bluecat, Mollie (A Black Poodle), Spencer Quinn, Rio the Evil Pug, Wookie of Chevy Chase, Staff & Alice M. Johnson and Abbie the Kitty, OleyHowlers, Wolfie Wigglebutt, the pack at River Bear Newfoundlands, Barb & Bear Spirit Dog, Natasha the Nefarious Borzoi, Gus & BooBear, Mollypop & Princess Sam, Carol Harris, Tupper & Gilly, Basil & Sage, Macy the MinPin, Rose Witte, Linda Jarzynski, Kirby T. Penworthy and Tyb



Dallas Seavey – Willow, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Dallas Seavey, 25, was born in Virginia and his family moved to Seward when he was five. He is a third generation musher who grew up helping his dad, Mitch, the 2004 Iditarod champion, train his racing teams. He ran the Jr. Iditarod four times and in 2005, Dallas became the youngest musher in history to run the Iditarod. He also wrestled for Sky View High School and spent one year training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. He is a High School State Champion, a Jr. National Champion, and was on the 2005 Jr. World team. In 2009, he and his family moved to Willow to "train our Iditarod team." Dallas is owner/operator of WildRide Sled Dog Rodeo in Anchorage. In 2011, he not only had his best ever Iditarod finish, but he was also the Yukon Quest champion. Dallas and his wife, Jen, also an Iditarod veteran, are the parents of one year old Annie. Dallas lists his hobbies as breeding, raising and racing sled dogs.

Total prize money: $106,900

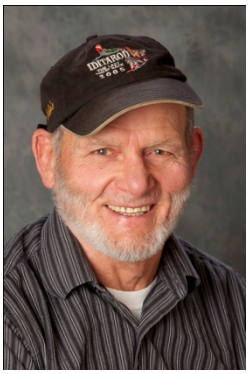
YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2005	51	12:19:34:4	2010	8	09:10:04:2
2007	41	12:08:08:1	2011	4	09:02:27:1
2009	6	10:14:49:4			

Award

2009.....Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher
2010.....GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway

Sponsors

J.J. Keller, WI; Dr. Tim's Pet Food, MI



Dan Seavey – Seward, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Dan Seavey, 74, was born and raised in Minnesota. He brought his family to Alaska in 1963 to teach at Seward High School. He's been retired from there for 28 years. He began mushing when he got to Alaska and will be the only musher in this 40th Iditarod to have competed in the first Iditarod. Dan says, "I admit to being a hard-core Iditarod Junkie. My interest in the historic trail began in 1963 when I was assigned to teach Alaska History. I was taken with the trail's importance to Alaska's early development and Seward's vital role in that development. The result has been my active role in all things Iditarod. This includes helping to stage the first (1973) Iditarod, running the first two races, founding the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, serving on the Iditarod Trail Committee's Board of Directors and on the Board of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance. I am running the 2012 Iditarod to emphasize the Iditarod National Historic Trail's Centennial, 2008-2012." Dan and Shirley are the parents of three, Darian, Tracie and Mitch, also an Iditarod musher and a past Iditarod champion. Three of his grandsons have also competed in the Iditarod. This year, three generations of Seavey's will be on the trail, Grandpa Dan, Mitch and Dallas. Dan says his hobbies are writing and history research.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1973	3	20:14:35:1	1997	35	13:04:03:1
1974	5	22:11:43:5	2001	44	13:08:53:3

Sponsors

Iditarod Historic Trail Aliance; Resurrection Bay Historical Society



Mitch Seavey – Sterling, AK - Veteran
Website: www.ididaride.com

Mitch Seavey, 52, was born in Minnesota and moved with his family to Alaska in 1963. He graduated from high school in Seward and wrestled for Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. He began mushing in 1963. Mitch's dad, Dan, ran the Iditarod in 1973 so he decided he wanted to run the Iditarod someday. After running eleven Iditarod's, Mitch won the race in 2004. In 2008, Mitch was the winner of the All Alaska Sweepstakes, held that year as a commemoration of the original All Alaska Sweepstakes. Mitch and Janine are the parents of four boys, three of whom have run the Jr. Iditarod and the Iditarod, Danny, 28, Tyrell, 25, and Dallas, 23. The youngest, Conway, is 15 and finished the Jr. Iditarod in 2011.

Total prize money: $454,105.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1982	22	17:10:27:0	2003	12	10:14:12:10
1995	20	11:07:00:0	**2004**	**1**	**09:12:20:2**
1996	15	10:06:27:0	2005	3	09:19:20:58
1997	16	10:14:31:5	2006	9	11:07:39:27
1998	4	09:12:18:0	2007	9	09:19:30:23
1999	11	10:14:26:2	2008	7	09:20:42:31
2000	9	09:19:15:4	2009	4	10:14:18:00
2001	42	13:07:56:0	2010	10	09:12:08:54
2002	11	09:14:25:1	2011	Scratched	

Awards

2004 ..... Lolly Medley Golden Harness
2004 .....Wells Fargo Winner's Purse



Cim Smyth – Big Lake, AK - Veteran
www.perseverancespringsfarm.com

Cim Smyth, 35, was born in Alaska and is the son of Iditarod veteran "Bud" Smyth. Cim says he's been mushing "since I was big enough to stand on a sled." He lists his occupation as “dog driver.” His hobbies and interests include horses and reading. He is married to Corrine.

Total prize money: $156,652.88

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	18	10:08:00:0	2007	11	10:02:16:4
2003	27	11:42:14:4	2008	12	09:22:24:1
2004	43	11:18:58:0	2009	5	10:14:27:5
2005	34	11:12:24:5	2010	23	10:05:05:0
2006	12	09:23:31:5	2011	21	10:05:59:4

Awards

1996 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
1996 ..... Rookie of the Year
2004 .....Sportsmanship
2004 .....Most Inspirational Musher
2008 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome



Ramey Smyth – Willow, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Ramey Smyth, 36, was born and raised in Alaska, the son of Iditarod veterans Bud Smyth and the late Lolly Medley. His father, Bud Smyth, raced in the first Iditarod, and his mother, Lolly Medley, raced in the second Iditarod. Ramey has lived all over the State and says he moved to Willow to put down roots and build a home for his wife and daughters. He says he's been mushing since he was “born.” He ran the Jr. Iditarod twice and won both times. He ran his first Iditarod in 1994 and has only skipped one year since. He is a log builder and dog musher. He says that his hobbies are hunting, fishing, reading, and friends and family. Ramey says, “I am entering the Iditarod because I love sled dogs and I love the opportunity to race and travel with them. I love the challenge and want to win the Iditarod. I am running under the banner of abstinence from drinking, smoking, and drugs. My mother died of colon cancer and my father has cancer. I would like to raise awareness of cancer and encourage people to donate to research and treatment. I am racing in memory of Brent Cassidy who died this spring of cancer leaving a wife, children, and grandchildren. Ramey and his wife, Rebecca, are the parents of Ava, 4 and Banyan, 1.

Total prize money: $426,553.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	21	12:06:46:1	2004	4	09:16:23:5
1995	19	11:00:07:0	2005	20	10:16:12:5
1997	15	10:14:11:2	2006	18	10:03:32:4
1998	6	09:21:47:2	2007	16	10:10:20:1
1999	12	10:15:37:1	2008	3	09:18:52:0
2000	11	09:22:08:2	2009	9	10:17:52:0
2001	13	11:22:16:4	2010	6	09:07:47:5
2002	7	09:12:02:2	2011	2	08:19:50:5
2003	7	10:07:10:3			

Awards

1995 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
1997 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
2001 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
2002 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
2003 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
2004 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
2008 .....Lead Dog - Lolly Medley Golden Harness Award
2009 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome

Sponsors

Steve Ripp & Carol Spicuzza; Doug Burger; Dennis & Candace Weidler; Smyth Log Work & Construction; Becca, Ava & Banyan Smyth; Lloyd Charlie; Homestretch Kennel/Scott, Zues, Okra, Bishop; Aurora Trailers/Jim & Sharron Rosteck; Pam Aviza, Gene Smith, Brent Cassidy, Jeff, Matt, Marguerite, Janine, Dustin and many other friends; FIRST TOOL CORP., OH



Jerry Sousa – Talkeetna, AK - Veteran
Website: talkeetnasundogkennel.com

Jerry Sousa, 53, was born in California where he lived until he was 12. He moved to Alaska with his family in 1971 and has been here ever since, graduating from Susitna Valley High School in Talkeetna and he attended UAA. He began mushing in 2000 and said he became interested in the Iditarod by listening to KHAR radio reports on the Race. He's a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc., the IOFC, the Susitna Valley Advisory Council and the Department of Board of Fish and Game and he owns Talkeetna Adventure Company, LLC. He and Kathleen are the parents of Nicolas, 9, and Jerry has two adult children, Denali and Fritna. Jerry lists his hobbies and interests as hunting, flying, and family.

Total prize money: $24,700.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2002	35	11:30:35:55	2007	Scratched	
2003	38	13:00:30:15	2008	31	10:22:00:2
2004	16	10:09:30:20	2009	27	11:21:52:1
2005	32	11:10:31:47	2010	30	10:13:52:5
2006	27	10:14:07:18			



Anjanette Steer – Sheep Mountain, AK - Rookie
Website: www.sheepmountain.com

Anjanette Steer, 39, was born and raised near Big Lake, Alaska. She received her B.S. in Biology from Pacific Lutheran University and studied Environmental Science at Alaska Pacific University. She married Iditarod veteran Zack Steer and they moved to Sheep Mountain Lodge to follow Zack's Iditarod dreams and live the rural lifestyle. Anjanette began mushing in 2001 and started planning for the Iditarod in 2006. She says, "now that the boys are in school and Zack is taking a year off, it's my turn for a 16 dog check ride." Zack and Anjanette are the parents of Glenn, 9, and Clayton, 6. Anjanette lists her hobbies as birding, camping and hiking. She is a member of the Alaska Native Plant Society.

Sponsors

Bll Berg at Coolworks.com; Lynndeen Knapp; Chuck & Sally Heath; Knapp, Steer and Hauser families; Fayrene & Scott Sherritt; Stan & Sally Smith; Sheep Mountain Lodge



Jan Steves – Edmonds, WA - Rookie
Website: www.jansteves.com

Jan Steves, 55, has been living between Edmonds, Washington, and Willow, Alaska, for the last three years training for the 2012 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. A 1974 graduate of Edmonds High School, she attended the University of Washington. She is currently employed in property management/repairs. She began mushing in 2008 and says she first became interested in the Iditarod "when I first spent time with sled dogs in 2007." Jan is the mother of three adult children, Nicole, Tyler, and Kelsey. She lists her hobbies as fishing, boating, hiking, skiing, and bike riding.

Sponsors

Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door, WA; Chuck Russell, WA; 4 Park Avenue/Mark Fremmerlid, WA; Dr. Rick & Anne Matsen, WA; Teresa Cooper, NC; Sarah Jackins, WA; Outdoor Youth Connections, WA; Vicki Baunsgard, WA; Nancy & Angelo Semeraro, WA; Lori & Phil Prins, WA; Nancy Edwards, WA; Neil & Janet Thompson, WA; Leslie & Claudette Stevens; Fiorini Ski School/Georgianne Fiorini, WA; Robert & Mary Hayward, WA; Judi Worley, WA; Coral Christenson, WA; Kathleen Nelson, WA; Ted & Paula English; Angie Taggart; Blue Flame Heating & Air Conditioning, WA; Flynn's Carpet Cents, WA



Ed Stielstra – McMillan, MI - Veteran
Website: www.natureskennel.com

Ed Stielstra's mushing career began helping a family friend and has grown into his family's business – Ed and his wife Tasha, along with their son Nate, now own and run Nature's Kennel Sled Dog Adventures and Iditarod Racing Team in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula.

Ed, 42, grew up in Ludington, Michigan, where he was introduced to sled dogs and started Nature's Kennel. After getting married in 1998, the newlyweds relocated, along with their dogs, to Duluth, Minnesota, where Ed worked in a foundry and Tasha taught elementary school. Since returning to Michigan in 2002, this time to McMillan, both Ed and Tasha operate Nature's Kennel full time. This winter will be their 9th season operating dog sled tours. They provide day and overnight tours at their main kennel location in McMillan and also at Boyne Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs, Michigan and at Sunday River Resort in Bethel, Michigan.

Ed has been racing for eighteen years. Beginning with his rookie run in 2004, Ed has finished six Iditarod races. He missed the race in 2010 for the birth of his son Nate and will miss Nate's second birthday this winter to compete in his seventh Iditarod. Ed was the 2008 UP 200 Champion.

Along with tours and racing, Ed and Tasha combine their mushing experience with their teaching experience – with both students in the classroom and beginning mushers at the kennel – to do presentations for students in kindergarten through 8th grade around the US and abroad. Their "Pulling Together" presentations focus on teamwork and respect from a sled dog's viewpoint.

When not racing, training, running tours, or presenting, Ed enjoys spending time with Tasha and Nate in his home state of Michigan. Ed is proud to be among the mushers representing the lower 48 states at the Iditarod.

Total prize money: $5,900.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	60	12:11:48:5	2008	29	10:17:28:0
2005	43	12:02:40:5	2009	32	12:06:35:1
2006	46	11:18:02:5	2011	27	10:14:01:3



Michael Suprenant – Chugiak, AK - Veteran
Website: www.suprekennels.com

Michael Suprenant, 47, was born in Germany while his dad was stationed there. He spent his youth living in Germany, Texas, and New Mexico. After High School, he joined the Air Force as an avionics technician, working on various aircraft including F-4s, A-10s, C-130s, C-5s, C-141s, KC-10s, KC-135s, and the C-17. Mike has spent time all over the world including Hawaii, Japan, Australia, and Saudi Arabia. He came to Alaska with the Air Force in 1997 and says he volunteered for Alaska expecting great skiing and fishing. He began thinking about the Iditarod at that time and became an Iditarod volunteer. After the Air Force, he decided to stay in Alaska to pursue his Iditarod dream. Mike began mushing in 2000 and moved to Chugiak from Anchorage to be able to run dogs. With some great advice from Iditarod veterans and his own experiences as a volunteer on the trail, he crafted a plan to run the Iditarod. Mike currently is a Civil Service worker for the U.S. Army at Elmendorf A.F.B. He has a BA in Business and has been in contracting for three years. Michael is a member of the Chugiak Dog Mushers and lists his hobby for this summer as "painting my house."

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	Scratched		2010	Scratched	
2009	49	15:03:10:3			



Rick Swenson – Two Rivers, AK - Veteran
Website: NONE

Rick Swenson, 61, was born in Minnesota. He moved to Alaska in 1973 to mush dogs. He is the only five-time winner of the Iditarod. He belongs to Mush with P.R.I.D.E., the Iditarod where he serves on the Board of Directors, and the Alaska Miners. Rick is the father of three, Kristen, Andy and Kevin.

Total prize money: $611,076.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1976	10	19:07:57:2	1993	9	11:08:14:4
1977	**1**	**16:16:27:**	1994	4	10:22:19:4
1978	2	14:18:52:2	1995	10	09:22:32:0
1979	**1**	**15:10:37:**	1996	Withdrawn	
1980	4	15:10:12:2	1998	11	09:23:09:4
1981	**1**	**12:08:45:**	1999	4	10:08:19:0
1982	**1**	**16:04:40:**	2000	8	09:15:09:0
1983	5	13:02:49:4	2001	4	10:15:57:2
1984	6	13:07:04:2	2002	19	09:23:41:1
1985	4	18:07:29:2	2003	11	10:12:36:4
1986	3	11:23:59:4	2004	7	09:18:59:3
1987	2	11:06:25:4	2005	scratched	
1988	2	12;02:10;0	2006	26	10:13:27:3
1989	3	11:08:50:5	2007	25	10:18:42:4
1990	7	11:16:55:4	2008	13	09:23:43:1
1991	**1**	**12:16:34:**	2009	25	11:17:12:5
1992	4	11;07:51:4	2010	20	09:22:53:2

Awards

1977 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
1979 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
1980 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
1983 ..... Sportsmanship
1989 ..... Regal Alaskan Hotel First to the Yukon
1991 ..... Lead Dog – Golden Harness
1992 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1996 ..... Most Inspirational Musher
2002 ..... Fred Meyer Sportsmanship
2004 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian



Tom Thurston –Oak Creek, CO - Veteran
Website: www.TTkennel.com

Tom Thurston, 41, is a general contractor. His wife, Tami, their two daughters, Greta, 11 and Leona, 9, along with Tom operate Double T Kennel. Tami runs the tour operation in the winter and their small marina at Stagecoach Reservoir State Park in the summer. They have been training sled dogs for 11 years now and began racing in 2006. He has completed the 350 mile Race to the Sky three times and the Seeley Lake 200 two times, winning each race once. After finishing the Iditarod in 2009 and scratching in 2010 and then finishing again in 2011, Thurston says, "Last year we had a blast! Beautiful weather, great trail and all the dogs had fun and finished fat and happy. This year we want to pick up the pace and see what they can do. I am real excited about the 2012 Iditarod more so than any other." Last year Tom reported that the main sponsor of his kennel, General Physics, has decided to fund the majority of our kennel for the next three years. This is allowing them to build from their experiences to date. Tom lists his hobbies and interests as "family."

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	44	14:03:36:2	2011	42	12:16:59:39
2010	Scratched				

Sponsors

General Physics



Michael Williams, Jr. – Akiak, AK
Website: NONE

Michael Williams, Jr., 27, was born and raised in Alaska. The son of Iditarod veteran Mike Williams, Sr. and Maggie Williams, Michael graduated from Galena High School and then completed training at AVTEC in Seward. He has also attended college in Oregon. He works in construction in the summer and mushes in the winter. "I have mushed all my life, beginning with one dog races, and eventually major mid distance and long distance races. Our dogs are originally Red Dogs from Akiak and bred then with Attla, Boulding, Butcher, Garnie and Baker lines. I always wanted to run Iditarod because my dad always ran it for a cause, wellness and sobriety. I want to be a great role model for young Alaskans. Michael is married and says his hobbies are hunting, fishing and basketball.

Total prize money: $21,000

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	26	10:06:44:36	2011	13	09:11:59:05

Sponsors

Calista Corporation; Akiak Native Community; Lynden Air Cargo; Gilbert Phillip; Waska Williams, Jr.; Bering Sea Animal Clinic/Bob Sept, DVM; Best Storage; Barb & Raymie Redington; Donlin Gold; Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation; Family & Friends



Gerry Willomitzer – Whitehorse, YT CANADA - Veteran
Website: www.gerrywillomitzer.com

Gerry Willomitzer, 43, was born in Bavaria, Germany and immigrated to Canada in 1996. He is now a Canadian citizen. He received a diploma in Forestry/Natural Resource Management. Gerry is multiple Yukon Quest and Iditarod finisher and in 2007 finished both the Yukon Quest (3rd place) and his first Iditarod. He has received Humanitarian Awards in the Yukon Quest, Copper Basin, and twice in the Percy de Wolfe. The 2012 Iditarod will be his 11th 1000 mile race.

Gerry is a log building contractor and operates "Eldorado Logworks & Construction." His hobbies are "logs and dogs."

Total prize money: $49,700

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2007	30	11:02:54:08	2010	13	09:14:59:4
2008	16	10:04:46:08	2011	Scratched	
2009	24	11:17:12:35			



Aliy Zirkle – Two Rivers, AK - Veteran
Website: www.SPKDogLog.com

Aliy Zirkle, 41, was born in New Hampshire. She spent her childhood in New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and Missouri. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Biology and came to Alaska in 1990, where she lived in a wall tent on the Alaskan Peninsula and worked for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. She's lived in Two Rivers for the last 14 years and says she "enjoys the community and the surrounding wild lands." Aliy lists her occupation as "dog musher" and has finished the Iditarod 10 years. She and her husband, Allen Moore, also an Iditarod musher, share the kennel. Aliy has two adult step daughters, Bridgett and Jennifer. She says she enjoys guiding novice dog mushers on wilderness adventure trips around Alaska.

Total prize money: $192,688.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEA	POSITION	TIME
2001	33	12:17:53:33	2007	28	10:19:57:0
2002	29	10:28:01:45	2008	21	10:07:10:2
2003	14	10:17:17:38	2009	17	11:02:28:4
2004	34	11:02:04:44	2010	16	09:18:05:1
2005	11	10:01:46:30	2011	11	09:10:22:3
2006	14	10:00:36:50			

Award

2005.....Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
2011..... Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian

Sponsors

Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food, a division of WellPet; Horizon Lines of Alaska; Clarion Suites Downtown Anchorage; Quality Suites Near Convention Center; Pleasant Valley Store; Northern Outfitters, FL; North Pole Veterinary Hospital; Howling Dog Alaska; All the SP Kennel Dog Sponsors and Dog Log Supporters

Withdrawn as of February 13, 2012:

1. **Justin High** (rookie) – Willow, AK 9-28-11 Reason: Financial Issues, 2. **Jessie Royer** – Fairbanks, AK Reason: Injury, 3. **Wattie McDonald** – Stonehaven, Scotland Reason: Wife's serious illness As per race rules, Wade Marrs will run the team in the 2012 race, 4. **Kevin Neher** (rookie) – Wasilla AK -1-15-12 Reason: Not enough miles on the dogs, 5. **Mike Williams, Sr.** – Akiak, AK 2-3-12 Reason: Personal health issues As per race rules, Mike Williams Jr. will run the team in the 2012 race, 6. **Joe Gutowski** (rookie) –Goodrich, MI 2-3-12 Reason: Work schedule will not allow him to run, 7. **Tamara Rose** – Fairbanks, AK 2-13-12 Reason: Personal

2012 TARGET® TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™

BLYNNE FROKE

Blynne Froke, the Target® 2012 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™, puts adventure and personal challenge at the top of her to-do list. On the go her whole life, Blynne was born in Canada and immigrated to California with her family, then, following her father's job, moved to Venezuela where Blynne started high school. Due to her many travels and adventures, Blynne completed her college education seventeen years and three states later, but never gave up, finally starting her teaching career at age 35. Summer 2007 found her back in South America working with her brother in Bolivia, and in the spring 2011, she explored China with her older daughter. For the last thirty years, though, Blynne has called rural northern California home where she has raised two daughters.



Photo byTerrie Hanke

Blynne embraces challenge not only in her professional life, but in her personal life as well. What started as a whim, from the couch to a 5K running club, turned into another great passion, running. Four years later, she completed two half marathons and continues to train with her husband, Mike, and cares for an ever-growing menagerie of dogs, cats, goats, chicken and ponies. An active 4H leader, Blynne and her daughter raised a guide dog, continuing her fascination with working dogs that began when her father introduced her to sheep dog trials for distance events. Her motto, *Challenge yourself, and never give up* rings throughout her personal and professional lives.

After teaching English at the junior high level for almost 12 years, Blynne decided she was up for a real challenge. An opportunity presented itself at Community Day School, a contained "last chance" classroom for high school students who have been expelled. Teaching everything from physical education to physics to British literature at CDS for 9 years to reluctant teenage learners, Blynne found it to be one of the most rewarding experiences of her teaching life. It was at CDS that Blynne found the magic of the Iditarod to motivate students, sometimes even in spite of themselves. These disheartened and reluctant learners found excitement in a real-world event, a challenge so great that nothing less than the ultimate effort and planning would do. Often lacking in the basic skills, these students found that the real-world, practical nature of the Iditarod-based math, science, communication and planning skills made the basics worthy of effort. Before long, reading, math and planning skills were climbing like never before. And so was attendance.

Blynne's students practiced goal-setting, personal responsibility and problem solving like the "real life heroes" of the Iditarod do to survive and succeed, not unlike these students' own struggles to earn high school diplomas. CDS has begun to graduate twice as many students as in past years.

So many of her students met their challenges that Blynne, competitive herself, decided to take on a challenge in their honor. She applied for the Target® Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ position. Feeling their eyes upon her, she couldn't let them down, so she tried not once, but twice before being chosen for the position.

Camera and sketch book in hand, laptop computer on her back, Blynne will travel the race trail, sending her observations and experiences to classrooms and race fans around the world via the Internet. Flying to the race checkpoints, she'll have the opportunity to share her personal messages and sketches along the Iditarod Trail, to be of service wherever she visits, and to learn about communities and individuals involved in this amazing adventure.

Watch for Blynne's journal and images from the trail at http://itcteacheronthetrail.wordpress.com/. Track her on Iditarod Insider's GPS tracker as she experiences the Last Great Race, a challenge where man or woman and dog pledge to each other to not give up until the challenge is met.

Follow Blynne, the Target® 2012 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ at http://itcteacheronthetrail.wordpress.com/
Target® is the sponsor of the Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ program. Learn more about this sponsorship at this web link: http://itcteacheronthetrail.wordpress.com/sponsorship/

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2012 SPECIAL AWARDS

See 1973-2011 Awards, Standings & Musher Stats Guide for more information

Attention Members of the Media: Your consideration in referring to these special awards by their full title would be greatly appreciated. Thank you

Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Official Truck Award

- Presented to the Iditarod winner since 1991
- 2012 Dodge Ram 4/x/4 quad cab pickup truck
- Presentation made at finish line and again at Nome banquet

GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway Award

- Presented by GCI since 1994 in honor of the late Dorothy G Page, the "Mother of the Iditarod"
- Presented at the halfway checkpoint, Iditarod in odd numbered years and Cripple in even numbered years
- First musher to the checkpoint receives a trophy and $3,000 in gold nuggets
- Presentation made at the checkpoint and again at Nome banquet

Winner's Purse Award

- Awarded at the finish line and again at the Awards Banquet in Nome

Wells Fargo Gold Coast Award

- Presented by Wells Fargo since 1993 to the first musher to the "Gold Coast" community of Unalakleet
- Musher receives a beautiful trophy and $2,500 worth of gold nuggets
- Presentation made at checkpoint and again at Awards Banquet in Nome

Wells Fargo Red Lantern Award

- Presented by Wells Fargo Bank since 1993 to the last musher to finish Race
- Musher receives a trophy made from a red lantern
- Presentation made on the street as musher comes to finish line and again at the Red Lantern banquet

Iditarod Trail Committee Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award

- Presented since 1982 to a top 20 team
- Based on specific criteria to determine who has best demonstrated outstanding dog care throughout the Race while remaining competitive. Recipient receives a lead crystal cup on an illuminated wooden base

Fred Meyer Sportsmanship Award

- Presented by Fred Meyer since 2002
- Recipient chosen by fellow mushers
- Musher receives an engraved trophy and a $500 Fred Meyer gift certificate
- Presented at the Nome banquet

Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher Award

- Honors the musher who has bettered his/her last previous finish by the most number of places
- Winner receives an engraved trophy plus $2,000
- Presented at Nome banquet

PenAir Spirit of Alaska Award

- Presented since 2000 to the first musher into McGrath
- Musher receives an original "Spirit Mask," specially created for this event by Bristol Bay artist, Orville Lind, and a $500 credit on PenAir towards travel or freight shipments
- Presented at the McGrath checkpoint and again at the Nome banquet

Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time From Safety to Nome Award

- Presented by the Nome Kennel Club since 1973
- Winner must be in top 20
- Musher receives $500
- Presented at the Nome banquet

Rookie of the Year Award

- Presented since 1980 to the top place rookie (defined as a musher who has never before started the Race) by Clara Austin (wife of Jerry Austin) and Family of St. Michael
- Musher receives check for $1,500 and trophy
- Presented at the Nome banquet

City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness Award

- Originally presented by the late Lolly Medley, Wasilla harness maker and one of two women to run the second Iditarod in 1974
- Embroidered gold colored harness
- Goes to an outstanding led dog, chosen by the mushers
- Presented at the Nome banquet

EXXONMOBIL Mushers Choice Award

- Each year the official finishers make the decision as to who was the most inspirational musher on the trail.
- The award has been presented by EXXONMOBIL since 2010
- Presented by Bill Brackin, Public Relations Manager of Alaska
- The Iditarod Limited Edition Gold Coin is valued at $3,300 and it's surrounded by a gold chain rope.

Golden Clipboard Award

- Presented by the mushers since 2000 to a special checkpoint
- Voted on by the mushers
- Presented at the Nome banquet

Golden Stethoscope Award

- Presented by the Iditarod Official Finishers Club (IOFC) to the veterinarian whom they feel was the most helpful on the trail
- Recipient chosen by the mushers
- Recipient receives an appropriate plaque
- Presented at the Nome banquet

Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial Award

- Presented to the musher chosen by staff and officials as the person who most closely mimics "Herbie: The Shishmaref Cannon Ball" in his/her attitude on the trail
- Recipient receives free freight allotment on Northern Air Cargo and a walrus ivory scrimshawed trophy, plus $1,049 in "pocket change" inside of a NAC jacket
- Presented at the Nome banquet

Northern Air Cargo 4-Wheeler Award

- A new 4 Wheeler will be given to a musher who has finished the race, and whose key, which is chosen randomly by the mushers, starts the 4 wheeler as they approach the Awards stage.
- Presented at the Nome Banquet

2012 IDITAROD BUSINESS MEMBERS

The Iditarod Trail Committee Thanks the Champion Business Members and Asks for Your Support of These Businesses

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907-276-4118

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