

The Official 2012 Race Guide



IDITAROD

TRAIL SLED DOG RACE

XL

- 2012 Musher Profiles
- 2012 Checkpoint Spotlight - Yentna
- Official 2012 Iditarod Trail Map

Official 2012 Iditarod Race Guide
Iditarod Trail Committee
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Aerial of Martin Buser as he runs down the trail on the way to the Finger Lake checkpoint with the Alaska Range in the background during Iditarod 2011.

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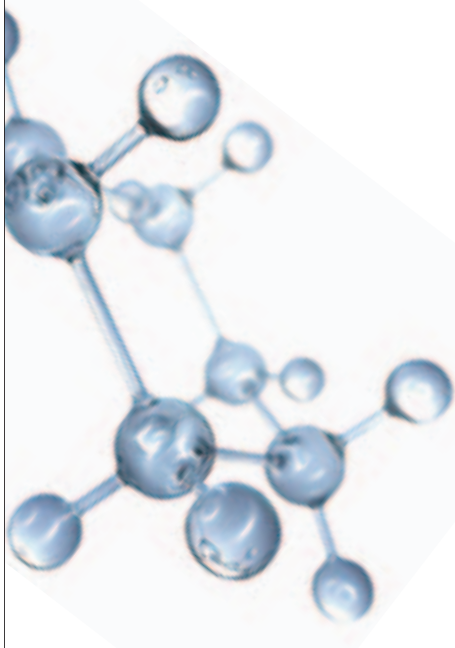




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In This Issue:

IDITAROD XL - THE QUESTION IS WHO? **10**



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18



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BLYNNE FROKE, THE TARGET® 2012 IDITAROD TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™

DAVE OLSON: 2012 HONORARY MUSHER

16



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IDITAROD, THE LAST GREAT TEACHING RACE®



19

THE 100 YEAR TRAIL **24**



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Justin Savidis thaws his drinking water in his dog water at sunrise and 20 below zero weather at the ghost-town checkpoint of Iditarod during the 2011 Iditarod race.



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MEET JEFF SCHULTZ, OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE IDITAROD® **26**

2012 JR. IDITAROD SLED DOG RACE & BIOS **28**

IDITAROD'S TRAIL IN THE SKY **30**

MUSHER BIOS **33**

ENTERTAINING STRANGERS & THE SQUENTNA CHECKPOINT **38-39**

JOE MAY TAKES A LOOK BACK IN TIME **42**

REMEMBERING 40 YEARS OF IDITAROD® **44**

**CHECKPOINT SPOTLIGHT:
YENTNA**



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20

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"XL"
22**



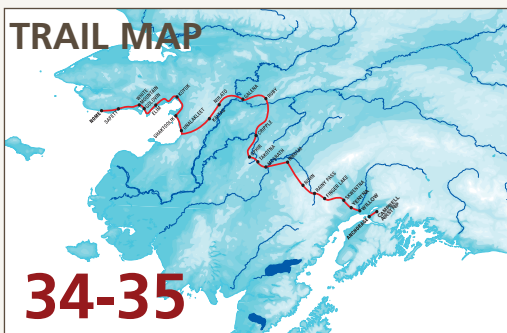
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**VETERINARIANS ALONG
THE IDITAROD TRAIL**

23



34-35



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Joe & Vi Redington at Finish Line 1984

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Departments:

From the President	8
Race Overview.....	10
Thank you Members!.....	13
2012 Jr. Iditarod Biographies	24
2012 Musher Biographies.....	26
From the Education Department	32
Musher Sponsors.....	51
2011 Race Results.....	53
2012 Musher Listing.....	54

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TRAIL Committee

President's Message

Dear Iditarod Fans and Supporters,

As your Iditarod Trail Committee Board President and Vice-President and on behalf of a truly visionary Board of Directors, we would like to wish you a warm welcome to Iditarod 2012, the 40th Running of the Last Great Race on Earth. As we started our first year in office we wanted our Board to focus on two areas.

First: focus on the spirit and pride of our people and communities. As we look back to 1925 and the famous diphtheria serum trek to save lives and then to the early days of the Iditarod Race, we can just feel the Real Alaskan Spirit. People worked together and believed they could achieve goals--- no matter how huge the task. We want to recognize and build on this unique Alaskan legacy and we feel that it is an essential part of our road map for the future. The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race is a marvelous example of working together--- and we need to expand on it.

Second: financial stability that is planned well into the future. We now have a financial plan that is solid and will make the ITC a stable and viable organization. We have paid down long term debt and are current on any payables. Now we can focus on forward funding the race purse and after that helping mushers by lowering the entry fee and/or raising the purse.

Our financial strength, of course, comes from our dedicated sponsors. What a great group of companies and people we have supporting us! Please join us in thanking them and truly keeping the Iditarod a celebration of Alaska's history. Without sponsors, we truly would not be here.

Iditarod counts on our many partners, not to mention our loyal volunteers, to actually get the work done. For example, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, the BLM and the State of Alaska are partners to improve and maintain the Historic Trail. With them, and others like Donlin Gold, who contributed manpower to help mitigate damage from the Turquoise Lake Fire, the Iditarod Trail has been upgraded with trail clearing and construction of shelter cabins. This has benefited all users.

We can mention others and still not have a complete list. The Iditarod Air Force, an amazing group of Alaska's best pilots headed by Chief Pilot Bert Hanson provides for safe transport of goods and staff along the trail. Iditarod Veterinarians, led by Dr. Stu Nelson DVM, are the benchmark in the care of working dogs, and give Iditarod credibility as the leading mushing event in the world. Mark Nordman, Iditarod Race Director/Race Marshal, along with his trail breakers, logistical crews, checkpoint personnel, dog lot volunteers, communication experts, and many others are the backbone of the race. I thank them all for their efforts.

Finally, when the snow melts and the dogs retire for the summer, our year-around office staff remains to keep the organization solidly on track. They are the glue that binds all the parts of the race---mushers, volunteers, sponsors, and fans.

We have been honored to work closely with Stan Hooley, our Executive Director, who is ultimately responsible for executing our vision. This is a monumental task and we can say, without reservation, that we are very fortunate to have such a competent leader at the helm. We look forward to working with Stan in the future to make this Last Great Race even better.

We have made exciting additions in technology, to include a redesigned website, and personnel to our media coverage of this year's Iditarod. Please join us watching it both live and on the Internet throughout the race.

Can and will the record be broken again?

Best Regards,

Andy Baker
ITC President

Danny Seybert
ITC Vice-President

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40 Years of Iditarod Leads to the 2012 Question, Who? By Bruce Lee

We are now looking at 40 years of Iditarod history. In Alaska where the average age is 32.5 years old an entire generation hasn't known a world without the Iditarod. Hopefully none of us have forgotten that this race was born to celebrate and revitalize interest in the Alaskan sled dog. It was the dream of the founders of this great event that the important role the sled dog played in the north would never be forgotten and that they would remain a viable part of the Alaska culture.

40 years and 40 million stories later the race continues to capture the imaginations of people around the world. In every race there are thousands of stories, from mushers, fans, volunteers, veterinarians, pilots and the villages along the trail. From the red lantern to the champions, no one who has ever finished the Iditarod will ever forget it in their life. For those of us that have run the race, the Iditarod can give you the confidence to meet every other challenge in your life. Fact is more people have stood on the summit of Mount Everest than have successfully run the Iditarod and crossed under the burlled arch in Nome.

My best memories from running the Iditarod are of night runs down the Yukon River and seeing the lights of a far off checkpoint, or of a sunset run up the Bering Sea coast with a sky full of pastel colors that makes you feel like you must be in the most beautiful place on earth. Then there's the joy and amazement of watching well trained lead dogs plow through fresh snow along the Bering Sea coast. Truly remarkable animals!

Every musher at times during a race will ask themselves why they are doing this. At other times, we consider ourselves the luckiest people on earth, to travel these trails with these amazing sled dogs. It is above all else a privilege.

Even with all this history in Iditarod 40 one question remains the same; who, out of this year's field of mushers will win this year's race. It was asked in the first Iditarod and it is already being asked this year. It is the subject of endless discussions for race fans. In the first Iditarod it was will George Attla, Victor Kotongon, Dick Wilmarth or Herbie Nayokpuk get to Nome first? This year the question is will it be Mackey, Smyth, King, a Baker repeat, or will it be someone new knocking at the door?

Last year's race blew the doors wide open to winning

this year's race. John Baker smashed the previous race record and so did Ramey Smyth. Lance Mackey's long domination of the winners circle was broken and other mushers saw the opportunity to enter the winners circle. Most likely we will see the same strong teams competing to be the first to Nome this year. John Baker's team was a thing of beauty last year and never even seemed to be that taxed in their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Aliy Zirlke runs down the bank onto Norton Sound at Koyuk during Iditarod 2011.

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2012 Race Overview... cont'd from p. 10

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Nicholas Petit comes into Unalakleet at dawn on Monday morning during Iditarod 2011

record breaking run. He will no doubt be longing for another win. Ramey Smyth has to be considered a major contender this year after his remarkable run up the Bering Sea Coast last year. He has the experience and knowledge to challenge all for the championship and there is only one reason to come back after a second place finish and that is to win. No one would count Lance Mackey out after witnessing his incredible winning streak in both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod. His record of winning long distance races will most likely never be seen again. Lance is a fighter and he'll be looking to add another win to his record. Martin Buser might be fired up that Baker took his long standing record for the fastest to Nome and fight to take it back. He's never racing for second in any given year. Jeff King returns after a year off and people are already wondering what his presence back in the race will mean. You can bet he's not on a camping trip. Fans question if he'll have the team or the drive to do battle at the front. One thing for sure, his competitors know he's in it to win.

Then there's the "newer" mushers like last year's Yukon Quest Champion Dallas Seavey and Peter Kasier who would love to steal the crown from the previous field of champions. More names from fans of hopeful winners are race favorites Aily Zirkle, Dee Dee Jonrowe, Rick Swenson, and Sonny Lindner. One thing for sure, there are a lot of well trained top mushers in Iditarod 40 and they are capable of matching any conditions the Iditarod throws at them. Pick the team you think is most likely to win, I've got mine, and we'll watch the race unfold.

In closing one thing is for sure, no matter who wins Iditarod 2012 there is one title that is already in the bag. Only one person can say they are running Iditarod 40 and ran the very first Iditarod in 1973 and that is Dan Seavey. He finished third in that race and may not be racing to win this year but it is a remarkable accomplishment and shows true dedication to these amazing sled dogs that the race honors.

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Thanks, Members!

By Deby Trosper

Thinking about the 40th running of the Iditarod reminds us of the old cliché, “where have the years gone?” Looking at the membership list for Iditarod Trail Committee, 16 individuals have been active members since 1975 and they remember when Joe Redington, Sr. sold square inch parcels of land to help the Race continue and how the Iditarod membership was established to help support the race.

Membership has grown to over 1500 who want to keep this Race alive by having different levels of membership to show their support that go towards helping to pay for all necessities to support the race.

Members now receive membership cards allowing them a 10% discount when buying Iditarod Merchandise, and an annual membership pin or patch to show they are supporters. Several years ago, Iditarod added a secondary insurance policy for members who are involved as race volunteers, an event based subscription to Insider for the top levels of membership, and online newsletters to keep everyone informed.

You, too, could look back someday and say “I remember when” and know you have been a part of helping to support this great Iditarod. Become a member today and keep your name in the data base for years to come. Join on line at www.iditarod.com/membership.



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Volunteer comms use a satellite phone in a tent at the Finger Lake checkpoint.



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40 Years of Sponsorship

Ever since the very first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Sponsors have been the key to the financial success of this organization. Admittedly, the first few Iditarods had very little in the way of any Sponsors, and it was a tremendous struggle during those years not only pay the prize purse, but to pay the race expenses as well.

Although they weren't recognized as Sponsors, a lot of our creditors understood our plight and were willing to bear with us to eventually get paid. Many a gallon of midnight oil was burned by many dedicated Iditarod volunteers struggling to get the organization to a break even situation. The first 10 plus years were kind of rough, and it took us that long to finally work our way into the black, and that was due in large part because sponsors joined our team in force, and became true partners with Iditarod to help us secure a more solid financial footing.

Over these past 40 years Iditarod has depended on funding and in-kind contributions from businesses both large and small to help Iditarod meet the ever increasing costs of staging "The Last Great Race on Earth®." Many of our sponsors have been with us for

over 30 years, and what's most rewarding is that they have grown their support over the years to help mold the Iditarod into what it has become today. That's not to say that we still don't face financial struggles each year, but quite candidly, there probably would not even be an Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race® today had it not been for the overwhelming, dedicated support of our sponsors over the past 40 years. And the upshot is that we have become stronger because of it. We are truly blessed and honored to have such dedicated sponsors that we look at as true partners. As we celebrate two significant milestones this year, the 40th running of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and the 100th Anniversary of the Historic Iditarod Trail, let's remember those who have made a significant impact on what we all call "The Iditarod."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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Young Angelina Hamilton pets Dallas Seavey's dog Derby as he rests on straw at the Shageluk village checkpoint in 2011.



dog day afternoons

Good luck to all of the teams running in this year's Iditarod. May the best dogs win.

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Iditarod 2012 Honorary Musher Dave Olson

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. Truthfully, 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



Dave on his sled somewhere in the Farewell Burn.

Photo courtesy Sue Firmin

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 Dee Dee 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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Dave Olson cont'd from page 16

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 lived in Knik where they raised their daughter. Dave and Donna also enjoy their get-away 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 in 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 fixing Sue Firmin's sled in White Mountain

Photo courtesy Sue Firmin



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Blynn Froke, the Target® 2012 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Blynn 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, Blynn was born in Canada and immigrated to California with her family. Following her father's job, the family then moved to Venezuela where Blynn started high school.

Due to her many travels and adventures, Blynn 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, Blynn has called rural northern California home where she has raised two daughters with her husband, Mike, and cares for an ever-growing menagerie of dogs, cats, goats, chicken and ponies.

An active 4H leader, Blynn and her daughter raised a guide dog, continuing her fascination with working dogs that began when her father introduced her to sheep dog trials.



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Blynn 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 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, Blynn 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, Blynn found it to be one of the most rewarding experiences of her teaching life.

It was at CDS that Blynn 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

The Alaska Mint logo features a circular emblem with a mountain and a river, surrounded by the words "ALASKA MINT". Below the logo are two gold coins. The left coin is inscribed with "IDITAROD Alaska 2012 40" and features a sled dog. The right coin is inscribed with "SLED DOG RACE" and "GREAT RACE ON PARTIAL" and features a sled dog's head.

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Iditarod, the Last Great Teaching Race®

By Diane Johnson

It happened naturally and automatically. Shortly after the first few races, educators recognized that the race was an empowering tool to use in the classroom to inspire reading and authentic practice of social studies, math, and science lessons. Today, in thousands of classrooms in Alaska, around the United States, and in many other countries, the educational starting line begins with Iditarod Experiential Learning. Students of all ages follow the race and complete standards aligned lessons.

Remembering 40 Years of Iditarod in the classroom...

As far as can be calculated, Peg Stout, Alaska, was one of the first teachers to develop a simple lesson, "Iditarod Reading Race to Nome". (1981) Having followed the race from 1973, volunteering and later more interested when her daughter, DeeDee Jonrowe, started running the race, Peg recognized the powerful impact the race had on students. Peg says, "I was an elementary librarian at the time and was looking for a way to get more students, especially boys, interested in reading. What better way than

combining animals and adventure with, perhaps, learning more about Alaska at the same time? So, we talked about the Iditarod, parents by this time were helping make booties and DeeDee had come to the school for a visit. The staff and parents were very supportive. A father made me a big map of Alaska which I took with me to other schools. I first started this program in the early years of the Northern Lights ABC School and later at Creekside and Mt. View schools. My proudest moment was when I got a letter from a mother who said it was the first time her son had ever finished a book."

Why Do They Run?

Healthy, happy, sled dogs, before, during, and after the race are top priority for everyone involved in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race®. Dr. Stuart Nelson's veterinarian team is dedicated to making sure that dogs that enter Iditarod are 'race ready' healthy. These dogs must meet the high standards of the mandatory pre-race medical evaluations that commence in the early part of February, which include blood testing and ECG recordings. All dogs are permanently identified with a microchip implant as part of the screening process and to verify their eligibility to race.

In addition to the extensive pre-race testing, every dog is required to have veterinary physical exam within fourteen days of the race start, and all vaccinations must be current and certified. It is the mission of the veterinarian team and Iditarod to maintain high standards of dog care and recognize that the dogs are priority one!

The new video, "Why Do They Run?" introduces us to the incredible dogs of Iditarod and stands as testimony to the priority status Iditarod places on making sure the sled dogs are healthy before and throughout the race. The dogs have what it takes to run, to pull a sled, to travel the distance, because they are champion athletes.

As Peg's Reading Race to Nome grew, other teachers in Alaska and across the United States began using the race in their classrooms, too. Without today's technology, Iditarod staff members Lois Harter and Joanne Potts faxed race information and letters from 'Zuma', the Official K9 journalist of the race, to classrooms wanting information. In Alaska, teachers like Gail Somerville, Anchorage, worked with students in Anchorage bringing students to race headquarters during the race, to answer the phone calls from students. Nationwide, classrooms were becoming increasingly involved in the race and demanding more information and lesson ideas. Packets for teachers were faxed or mailed to interested teachers.

Recognizing the importance of Iditarod as a teaching tool, Mallie King, wife of Sonny King, Iditarod veterinarian and musher, tells us, "In 1997, I was on the trail writing for the Scholastic Network as an eye witness. The kids from Shaktoolik came and asked me to come speak at their school and I also visited a school in Anchorage at the request of Eagle pet Products. In 1998, we brought with us to Alaska, a teacher, Tiffany Anderson, and a child from a Title One School in South Carolina. The principle had said to me, "My kids have studied whales but they will never see one. I want a child to go to Alaska!"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Checkpoint Yentna by Terrie Hanke

Call it roadhouse, call it lodge, call it checkpoint or call it home like the Gabryszaks, Yentna Station is the epitome of Alaska's backcountry friendliness. Ask any of the Iditarod mushers, junior mushers or volunteers, who descend upon the wilderness oasis in late February and early March, they'll all share different stories praising the Gabryszak hospitality.

How did Dan and Jean along with their six children and numerous foster children come to call the big bend of the Yentna River home? The couple met in Reno, Nevada where Jean was working as a fire department dispatcher and Dan happened to be touring as a musician. It was Jean who suggested they go to Alaska and it was Dan who saw the potential of a piece of land across the river from his moose hunting grounds. Dan's dream location became available in a public land distribution program. The stakes they placed on the land in 1981 eventually became their home and business as well as roadhouse and lodge for adventurers, sports enthusiasts and travelers.

It took a great deal of perseverance and patience to build Yentna Station into the indispensable bush layover it is today. Jean endured through those early lean and hungry years but now they are busy twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, year round –

whenever travelers schedule a visit or are in need. Here's the description of their back country business as posted on their webpage,

"As a checkpoint for many dogsled, manpower, and snowmachine races, the Lodge is prepared to meet a wide range of needs. An airplane runway is maintained on the river throughout the winter. Refuel your snowmachine, sit out a snowstorm, dry your gloves by the warmth of our wood stove, and fill your thermos with hot chocolate. Winter services include bed & breakfast, cabins, family style meals, our famous half-pound burger, gas, oil and repairs. We're always open to serve you."

By the way, this roadhouse is about 40 miles from the nearest road, but is located on the route to the interior taken by the Iditarod, the Iron Dog, Alaska Ultra Sport, and Iditasport events. They offer salmon fishing adventures and summer accommodations as well.

Iditarod Race Director, Joanne Potts, says about the Gabryszaks and their Lodge, "They're a darned important part of both races – the Junior and the Iditarod. The Junior mushers spend their 10-hour layover camped outside the lodge with their teams. Dan breaks the trails into and through the woods used for parking the teams and he provides the firewood for the musher bonfire. They are so willing to work with us. They prepare what we need ahead of time and they welcome the volunteers that are flown in to stage



© Terrie Hanke

Yentna Roadhouse

Yentna cont'd from p.20

both the Junior and the Iditarod. They're very hospitable!"

Unlike the Junior race with fewer mushers and a slower pace, when Iditarod teams arrive, fast and furious doesn't begin to describe the action at the checkpoint on the frozen river. Some teams are pushing on to Skwentna; other teams plan to rest outside Yentna while some teams take their first break at the roadhouse. Whatever the case, in less than 12 hours, the mushers have come and gone from Yentna. Musher and race communications volunteer, Nancy Yoshida, describes Yentna, "The ceilings are a history of Iditarod covered by signed posters from the races. The evenings are highlighted by guitar and song courtesy of Dan who played professionally in his younger years. The Gabryszaks have been a staple of the race for nearly as long as they've lived out there. They open their beautiful home and riverside way station to not only the volunteers but the mushers as well. Dan is a wonderful short order cook and is never at a loss for a story."

Speaking of stories... One Sunday morning during the Junior Iditarod, the thermometer was registering minus thirty-six degrees. So cold, none of the snowmachines would even turn over, let alone start. The last Junior musher had left for the finish line in



Aerial of teams stopped at the Yenta checkpoint on the Yentna river a few hours after leaving the re-start line in Willow during the 2011 Iditarod.

Willow. Hungry and chilled volunteers walking down the river toward the lodge noticed a small object far off in the distance – too far to tell what it was and whether it was moving or staying put. Some time later that object skied up to the front porch of the lodge, removed his skies and knocked before coming inside. The Ultra Sport skier, who could speak very little English, was returning from McGrath and had camped for part of the night until he was too cold to stay put any longer. Dan didn't bother asking the guy what he wanted to drink or eat – he handed him hot coffee and even before the skier could remove his pack and take a seat at the counter, there was a plate heaped

with eggs, bacon, hash browns and pancakes waiting followed by another and another.

Gracious bush hospitality doesn't begin to define what Dan and Jean gift to Iditarod. Just like the early Alaskan Roadhouses, Yentna Station serves backcountry travelers and that they do in the finest fashion. Mushers past and present echo Race Marshall, Mark Nordman's heartfelt thanks to the Gabryszaks and their family for hosting a checkpoint for The Last Great Race.



Volunteers inside Yentna Checkpoint, Jr Iditarod '98.

Inspired by the “XL”

by Dr. Stuart Nelson, DVM, Iditarod Chief Veterinarian

Iditarod XL is coming soon! Coincidentally, “XL” not only designates the 40th running of our great event, but it suggests the fact that this will be a “big” occasion in another special way! The 2012 Iditarod will also mark the 100th anniversary of the Iditarod Trail itself.

For those of you who have had the opportunity to visit the Iditarod Trail Committee Headquarters in Wasilla, I’m sure you’ve read the sign and probably had your picture taken next to it. I typically read it verbatim when giving presentations to various groups.

“It is a National Historic Trail, so designated by the Congress of the United States, from Seward on the south central coast to Nome on the Bering Sea. It is a highway, a mail route, a gold avenue from the interior. Part of it became a lifeline for Diphtheria serum to be carried to Nome during the epidemic of 1925.

It is now a trapper’s trail, a recreation trail, still a ‘lifeline’ for some villages, and the avenue for the most challenging and demanding long distance sled dog race in the world, ‘The Iditarod,’ 1049 miles, Anchorage to Nome, through Alaska’s wilderness, over mountain passes, down frozen rivers and along the windswept sea coast. ..truly the majesty and mystery that is the ‘Last Great Race on Earth.’”

I don’t know about you, but every time I read that, I’m inspired by the history, the adventure, the people, and of course.....the dogs, as each has an important role in the Iditarod Trail story!

The first village on the trail, Nikolai, is reflective of the Russian fur trade that preceded the gold rush days. I think of the town site of Iditarod, which is now abandoned. During the heyday of the gold rush days, over 10,000 people inhabited the area. Although many of the buildings have been lost to time, the concrete bank vault still stands as a tribute to the wealth that gold brought. The old dredge at Ophir has fallen since I first worked there as a volunteer trail vet in the mid 80’s, but its story still stands. On and on it goes, but the history is fascinating!

Think about how many accounts that we’ve heard about mushers struggling against the elements to reach their goals. Whether they were carrying serum to save human lives, delivering mail to those far from home, transporting necessary freight, running trap lines, or yes, pursuing their dreams to be a finisher of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, the

drama has been shared with the world.

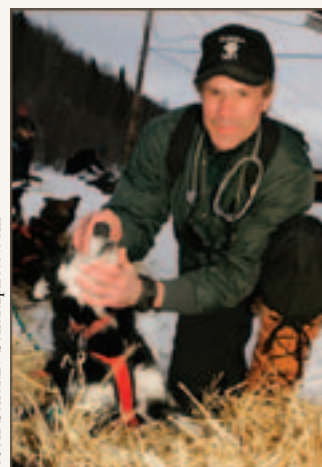
The history of the trail reminds us of the people that have been and are so much a part of it...Anagick, Evans, Gonangan, Huntington, Ivanoff, Kaasen, Kallands, May, Nollner, Nayokpuk, Page, Peters, Redington, Seppala and Wilmarth, to name a few. More recently, the familiar names from the trail have included Baker, Buser, Butcher, King, Mackey, Osmar, Riddles, Runyan, Seavey, Smyth, Sorlie, Swenson and Swingley.

And let’s not forget those fantastic dogs such as Andy, Balto, Blondie, D2, Elmer, Goose, Granite, Larry, Maple, Pepi, Preacher, Red Dog, Salem, Togo, Tread and many, many others.

Yes, Iditarod XL will mark a very special time in history. Let’s remember the past, enjoy the present and look forward to the future. I hope to see you there!

SPONSORSHIP CONT’D FROM P.14

They include the Goodwin party that blazed the original trail from Seward to Nome, the gold seekers who traveled that early trail in hopes of ‘striking it rich,’ the First Alaskans who traveled that territory for thousands of years before there even was a trail, all of the mushers who have run the Race, and of course, Joe Redington Sr., the “Father of the Iditarod,” who had the vision to bring recognition to the Trail as a way to resurrect dog teams in the villages and the importance of the dog team in opening the territory of this great state of Alaska. And, last but not least, let us recognize the Iditarod Sponsors for all that they have done, and continue to do, to promote and perpetuate the Iditarod, “The Last Great Race on Earth.” Please take a moment to say “THANK YOU” to the Iditarod Sponsors for 2012 who are listed on page 9 of this Race Guide.



Veterinarians Along the Iditarod Trail

by Dr. Al Townshend, DVM

There have been many changes in the Iditarod since its humble beginnings some 40 years ago. One of the most significant changes has been the support for the dogs during the race, and that has sparked significant changes for the entire sport of sled dog racing.

The first Iditarod, back in 1973, had just one veterinarian, the legendary Dr. Terry Adkins. At the time Dr. Adkins had little or no experience with sled dogs and their medical needs. Today, sled dog veterinary medicine is a significant part of canine sports medicine; a rising, relatively new specialty field within the veterinary profession. Each year there are approximately 40 veterinarians chosen from a list of volunteers that can exceed 70 applicants; all hoping for the opportunity to participate in the "Last Great Race".

All rookie veterinarians, regardless of their experience (some are actually board certified in such specialties as cardiology, orthopedics, and pathology) must take a three day intensive course in sled dog veterinary medicine in order to qualify for the trail. The course was developed and supported by the International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association (ISDVMA).

ISDVMA grew out of an awareness that there was a need to learn more about the specific medical issues associated with long distance sled dog racing. Through their efforts and the encouragement of Iditarod and all those in the sled dog community, there has been a tremendous amount of research conducted on sled dogs. That effort continues today and has revealed an extraordinary amount of information that has allowed mushers and veterinarians to control and even prevent many of the problems that were a concern in the early

days of Iditarod.

When I first volunteered as a sled dog veterinarian for the Iditarod, vets were very adversarial. They were perceived as the police on the trail. Mushers were reluctant to work with them. Today there is a close working relationship between the mushers and the veterinarians. They all work together to get as many dogs to the finish line as possible and get them there in as healthy a condition as possible.

Pre-race exams, EKGs, blood work, parasite control, vaccination requirements and race qualifications have all been instituted to assure that all dogs entering the race are in excellent health and very capable of finishing the race.

Excellent veterinary care on the trail with teams of veterinarians and dog handlers at each checkpoint working closely with the mushers, making every effort to examine every dog at every checkpoint, has enhanced the quality of care on the trail immensely.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39



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Volunteer veterinarian Samantha Yeltatzie examines Wattie McDonald's dogs at Nikolai checkpoint.

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The 100 Year Old Trail

The 2012 Iditarod marks the 40th running of Iditarod on the 100 year old 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



©Jeff Schultz / Schultzphoto.com

Dan Seavey feeds his dogs at Rainey Pass.

100 Year Trail...

cont'd from p.24

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

Teacher ...cont'd from p. 18

and planning skills were climbing like never before. And so was attendance.

Blynné'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 Blynné, competitive herself, decided to take on a challenge in their honor. She applied for the Target®

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.

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, Blynné will travel the race trail, sending 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 Blynné's journal and images from the trail

The Trail at 100

Iditarod National Historic Trail



Proud sponsor of Centennial Musher Dan Seavey commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Iditarod National Historic Trail

Here's to Seavey's lifetime legacy of preserving the trail and its rich history for everyone to enjoy.

For more information: www.iditarod100.org



Meet Jeff Schultz, Official Photographer of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race™

By Martha Dobson, Iditarod Educational Consultant & Target® 2011 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

In 1981, Joe Redington, Sr. asked Jeff Schultz to volunteer his photography talent to the then seven year old race. Flying as far as the \$300 travel budget would get him, to McGrath, Jeff shot the race, returning to Anchorage and flying commercially to Nome to shoot the 1981 race finish. Asked to be the race's official photographer in 1982, Jeff agreed, photographing the race under the simple terms of exchanging the photos for his food and air transportation costs during the race. Thirty-two years later, the same arrangement brings Jeff's perspective to people around the world.



©Al Grillo

Now, meet Jeff, who watches the race through his camera lenses and fascinates fans with his unparalleled shots of the dogs and people of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race™.

1. *In high school, you said you were going to be a photographer in Alaska. What do you think gave you such a clear-cut goal at that age?* I'm not really sure, but I read a book about living off the land in Alaska, I was a loner and not fond of the California Bay Area's wall-to-wall pavement, so I knew I wanted to get out. I left the Bay Area 3 months after high-school graduation for Alaska, with a job (at) a Sizzler restaurant and then began doing the photography I loved throughout high school.

2. *Who or what influenced you to choose photography?* In the 7th grade my best friend, Bob Finke, brought his brother's Pentax SLR camera to school as a show and tell thing. I looked through the camera and focused it and knew immediately that I would love photography. I even remember the image that I composed that day. It was of a white cross on top of our school's parish hall roof. After that my brother Larry and my brother in-law Reggie encouraged me a lot toward photography.

3. *What are your thoughts on photography as an art?* Photography is definitely an "art form"... it can also be simply a tool to document people, time, events and places. And with any art form, there's people who see

photography and photos differently.

4. *How did you learn to do what you do?* I believe photography is both science and art... the science part is the f/stops, shutter speed and the like in order to make the photo have the qualities desired. The art part is the "composition" and even the subject matter to a large extent. For me, the "art side" was a God-given talent. I just love to compose images in the camera and it comes naturally. For me the science part came from reading books, making mistakes and trying again. I did not have formal training in either aspect.

5. *What's your favorite equipment?* I've always used Canon equipment.

6. *You are synonymous with Iditarod, but what else do you shoot?* I photograph both corporate and editorial assignments, as well as an amount of stock photography. My work can be seen at www.schultzphoto.com.

7. *What's your favorite race memory? What's your most challenging race memory?* I have to say the most favorite and challenging are really one and the same. In 1992, the year my pilot and I were involved in a life-threatening plane crash on Golovin Bay. It was, of course, challenging because we were both in very bad shape after the crash and we made it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Jeff Schultz ...cont'd from p.26

out alive only because of the grace of God and the heroics of our rescuers who came from Golovin on snowmachines in the dark and in a snowstorm. It's my favorite because of the love poured out by so many people, many of whom I didn't and still don't know, who showered my hospital room with flowers and cards.

Just like the mushers who have a ton of stories from each year's race, which we typically never get to hear, I have stories from each year as well--- both wonderful times of being on the trail experiencing it all and challenging times of the logistics of life on the trail. My favorite place to be on the trail is on the ground in the Rainy Pass area watching and photographing as teams go through those wonderful mountains.

8. *Do you have a favorite race shot?* My favorite race shot is an aerial photo of musher Jason Barron on Farewell Lake, showing the massive cracks on the glare ice. (This shot is available in a poster format for the 40th anniversary of the Iditarod. It is signed and numbered by Jeff in a limited edition of 1,049 - the symbolic number of miles for the length of the Iditarod race.) And my second favorite is a photo of Diana

Moroney (then Diana Dronenburg) taken in the 1980's going through a narrow section of Rainy Pass.

9. *What is your favorite type of race shot?* My favorite race shots are either where there is a small dog team amidst an enormous backdrop of Alaska or where the dogs are running directly at the camera and you can see their personalities really come through...and how much they simply LOVE to be out there running.

10. *How has shooting the race changed from using film to digital?* It's made it a whole lot easier. For one, I don't have to haul around 300 some rolls of film. Doing photography on the Iditarod digitally is wonderful. No more do I have to reload the camera

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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2012 Jr. Iditarod Sled Dog Race

The race starts on the last Saturday of February. It leaves Knik Lake at 10 a.m. with the mushers following the trail through the Mike Williams family's Eagle Song Lodge to the Yentna Station Roadhouse, home of the Gabryszak family.

The young mushers take their mandatory 10 hour layover at Yentna and return on Sunday through Eagle Song Lodge with the finish line being on Willow Lake at the Willow Community Center. Mushers are expected to finish throughout the day on Sunday. The awards banquet will be that Sunday night at the Willow Community Center. Tickets will be on sale at the Iditarod Headquarters in February.

Of the ten current entrants, (four female, six male) six are rookies and four are veterans. Three are from outside of Alaska, a record for one year. Three are from mushing families but only one is from a current Iditarod mushing family. Last year, 14 mushers competed in the Jr. Iditarod and there is reason to believe that there will be at least 14 again this year, with five more expected to sign up prior to the deadline.

Lynden is sponsoring the Jr. Iditarod for the fourth year and will award \$13,000 worth of scholarships to the top five finishers as well as to the winners of

the Humanitarian and Sportsmanship awards. The winner's scholarship is \$5,000, second place, \$3,000, third place, \$1,500, fourth place, \$1,000 and fifth place, \$500. The winners of the two awards each receive \$1,000 scholarships. All scholarships can be used for any type of education beyond high school. As well as being used for college, some of the past Jr. mushers have used their scholarship funds for flying lessons, trade school, and business school.

The 2012 Champion will lead the Iditarod teams out of Anchorage at the Official Iditarod start on March 3 and will carry the Iditarod's honorary musher in his/her sled from the start to the ceremonial finish at the BLM.

For the first time this year, a "halfway" prize will be awarded to the first musher into Eagle Song Lodge on the return trip. The time differentials will have been considered at that time so the musher in first will be leading the race at that time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



©Jeff Schultz / Schultzphoto.com

Jeremiah Klejka, 2011 Jr. Iditarod winner, heads towards the finish line.

Jr. Iditarod Bios cont'd

The deadline for entry in the 2012 Jr. Iditarod is Saturday, February 11. The entry fee is \$250. Paperwork is on line at www.jriditarod.com and should be sent to the Iditarod HQ, PO Box 870800, Wasilla, AK 99687, Attention Jr. Iditarod. For additional information, call 907-352-2203 or e-mail jpotts@iditarod.com.

THE JR. IDITAROD'S HISTORY

In October of 1987, a formal agreement was signed, officially making the Jr. Iditarod part of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. The first Jr. Iditarod was held in 1978. Mike Neuman, of Knik, was the first Jr. Iditarod Champion. The Jr. Iditarod is held the weekend before the Iditarod each year.

MEET THE 2012 JR. IDITAROD MUSHERS

JONATHAN BIGGERSTAFF – TALKEETNA, AK

Jonathan, 16, was born and raised in Alaska. He is a third generation musher and second generation Jr. Iditarod musher. His mom, Larisa, ran the Jr. Iditarod in 1983 and 1984. This will be Jonathan's second Jr. Iditarod. Jonathan also holds a Bronze medal for participation in the Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife. Jonathan is in 10th grade and attends the Idea Homeschool. He participates in Alaska FFA, plays the cello, plays soccer, is on the swim team, does public speaking, is a member of the debate team, and is on the Academic Decathlon team. Jonathan also enjoys skiing, Alaska 4-H where he is a teen leader, and snow machining. *Sponsors: Cruz Construction; Mom & Dad*

ABIGAIL BROOKS – FAIRBANKS, AK

Abby, 16, was born and raised in Alaska and is a fourth generation musher so mushing has always been a part of her life. She is training out of Dew Claw Kennel. A junior at Hutchison Institution of Technology, she participates in student government, Stream Team (broadcasting), basketball, and soccer. Her hobbies are advocating suicide prevention with Hope4Alaska, student government, basketball, graphic design, FFA, and photography. She is currently working in public relations and is the graphic designer for Hope4Alaska. Abby plans to go to college to study business and graphic design and then return to Alaska. Whether or not she continues mushing "depends on where my future leads." *Sponsors: Hope4Alaska; Dew Claw Kennels*

BENJAMIN HARPER – WASILLA, AK

Ben, 16, moved to Alaska this past March and says he immediately started working with dogs. "I love it."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40



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Iditarod's Trail in the Sky

The Iditarod Air Force is comprised of volunteer pilots who are in the skies above Iditarod, before, during, and after the race. Learn more about the Iditarod Air Force at their website: <http://www.iditarodairforce.com>.

An Expected Stranger, by Joe Pendergrass
March 12, 2004, I was flying my Cessna 180. As one of several pilots staging out of Unalakleet (UNK), I was hauling supplies to various checkpoints ahead of the race leaders. After making two flights back and forth to Kaltag, I was dispatched to fly a load to Elim. The weather in UNK was windy, as usual, and a storm was moving in. It was late in the day but I thought I'd have enough time to beat the storm and the darkness to Elim and back. The flight was normal and I landed on runway 1 at Elim and unloaded the cargo. The take off was uneventful as I lifted off to the north and turned back to the east. The normal route is to follow the coast and cut across the frozen sea ice toward Shaktoolik (Shak). The direct route from Elim to Shak is shorter but takes you across about 20 miles of open water in the Norton Sound. I hate flying over wide bodies of open water, especially in the winter. You become super sensitive to every little sound and vibration when you know there is no place to land. If the engine develops a miss, your heart skips a beat. If the ski cables set up a vibration, your pulse raises and you tend to hold your breath. Water that you fly over is not often your friend.



Dropped dogs rest comfortably inside Dave Looney's airplane after a ride from Kaltag to Unalakleet.

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Remembering 40 Years of Iditarod

From Sue Firmin: In the beginning there was only one Iditarod Pilot making up the Iditarod Air Force. That man was Larry Thompson. He flew from Anchorage to Nome hauling all the drop bags in and hauled dropped dogs out and anything else that needed doing. My husband, Bill, helped him in those early years flying things as far as Rohn checkpoint. George Murphy was also one of the very first pilots to come on board. These guys were the pioneers of the race!

The sky was dark and menacing but I could see land across the water. As I approached the land, it began to snow. The GPS indicated I was on a straight course to Shak as I crossed the shoreline and climbed over the hills. The sky was getting darker by the minute as the snowfall increased and the visibility continued to diminish. I was reminded of many similar situations that other pilots have found themselves in that did not have a positive outcome. Mid-winter Alaskan storms can set in quickly, silently, and deadly to the complacent aviator.

As the time and distance seem to drag by, I strain to see something familiar as I clutch the controls with white knuckles. Now the GPS shows that Shak directly in front of me only two miles away. The altimeter read 100 feet above sea level and there is no village in sight. The falling snow is rushing at the windshield and there is white all around. I'm straining to see some hint of the double row of houses that make up the village of Shaktoolik. I know that I'm getting close as the engine drones on and all my senses are on high alert. Then suddenly, a few dark objects appear in front of me. As I get closer, I can make out some buildings but there are no lights. Maybe there is a power outage! Or maybe I'm not where I thought! I soon realize that I had gone past the village without seeing it. Now I'm over the old village that is abandoned in the winter. I bank left in a 180-degree turn, keeping the buildings in sight as I descend over the trail

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Iditarod Air Force cont'd from page 30

and pump the skis down. Within a minute, the houses of (new) Shak come into view but now I can't see the ground. I keep the buildings on my left in nearly "white out" conditions. I set up a "glassy water" type landing about where I know the frozen slough should be. I could see the National Guard Armory that serves as the checkpoint but could not see the steep 12-foot bank leading down to the slough. I estimate where it should be and entered a very gradual descent toward the snow-covered ice of the slough. I feel the surface under my skis as the plane slid gently to a stop. WHEW! I shut off the engine and breathed a huge sigh of relief, for this was not what I set out to do. As I relaxed and my breathing returned to normal, I located my satellite phone. I called the UNK dispatcher to let her know where I was and that I'd be spending the night in Shak. After putting the engine cover on, I climbed the bank to the Armory and thought to myself, "I'll be eating emergency rations tonight".

The lights in the Armory were on but it was locked up and no one answered the door. I knew there were people there because we had brought three checkpoint workers here earlier in the day. I decided to go to a neighboring house to inquire as to their whereabouts. The neighbor didn't know but pointed me in the direction of the village store. It was still snowing heavily as I walked down the snow-drifted street. I met a native fellow who was all bundled up walking in the opposite direction. The snow seemed to be falling sideways and I asked if he knew where the checkpoint workers were. He pointed at the house in front of us and said, "They're in there." He further explained that the house belongs to Myron. I knocked on the door. A small native man opened the door and before I could introduce myself, he said, "Come on in, dinner is ready and Lena has a place set for you".

We had never met before but he was implying that I was expected. I was speechless at the thought as I

followed him into the house. He introduced himself as Myron and explained his wife was expecting another person for dinner but didn't know who it was. We entered a small and neatly arranged combination kitchen/dining room with the smell of fried chicken lingering in the air. There in front of me, was a table surrounded by our three checkpoint workers, along with Myron and his wife Lena. There was one empty chair with a table setting all prepared for some Unknown guest. The checkpoint workers were: Mark Kelliher, Diane Johnson, and John, who is an ER doctor from Soldotna. Lena, a small native woman with traces of gray in her coal black hair, explained that these "feelings" came quite often and she has learned to accept them without question. "When she gets these feelings, she's never wrong," Myron said.

We feasted on fried chicken, steamed rice and green vegetables. For dessert, Lena served fresh apple pie and the meal was delicious. It sure beat the emergency rations that I had expected. While sitting there, still puzzled about the evening's events and Lena's premonition, it was easy to count my blessings and realize how fortunate I was.

After filling our bellies and visiting for a while, we thanked our hosts and headed back to the Armory. While putting the cover on the propeller, we discovered a wicked gash near one end of it. Apparently, when I took off from either Unalakleet or Elim, a rock was sucked up from the runway and caused the damage.

The next morning after a hearty meal I headed for the airplane. I pulled out my leatherman and went to work on the gash in the prop. I filed it down as much as I could and started the engine. There weren't any unusual vibrations and I didn't have to fly over any bodies of water, so I took off for UNK. I followed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45



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Jeff Schultz ... cont'd from page 27

after shooting 36 exposures. In the old days I could do that while holding onto a sled with one hand as I was being towed behind a snowmachine up and over Rainy Pass. While that was fun and challenging... it's also very nice to not have to do that anymore. I never processed film on the trail, except for in Nome. I typically sent my film back to Anchorage several times during the race and my office staff sent it out for development.

11. *Has digital (photography) made the race more immediate to fans?* Absolutely... I am excited to be able to take photos in the morning and be able to share them with the world just a few hours, or sometimes minutes later. And of course Greg Heister and the Iditarod Insider crew do just a great job of getting real action images out in such a timely manner.

Jeff goes on to tell us: Out on the trail a typical day looks like this:

Up at 6:00/6:30 am--- pack my personal gear to be ready to relocate... out shooting shortly thereafter... I'm back in an hour or 2 or 3 and download, edit, process and upload before I leave this checkpoint--- If I have time or want to stick around then I head out to continue shooting. Back again a while later to download/upload again. Head out to another spot on the agenda.. depending on weather, where the mushers are and where some good opportunities are for images. May do some aerial images on the way to our next spot...another checkpoint or some landable area of the trail. Plane lands and we plan to be here for 1, 2, 3, 4 hours or so. I shoot more...

perhaps borrow or rent a snowmachine if in a village. If I have time and there is an internet connection close by, then I'll edit, process and upload again, if not, we will just move on to the checkpoint where I'll be spending the night. When I get to that checkpoint where I'll spend the night, then I unload the plane, get my stuff to a place in the village where I'll stay---a home, school, or ITC checkpoint. Some place where I'll have internet connection. Then it's either shooting more or again downloading, editing, processing and uploading. Find something to eat and perhaps get a shower, perhaps not depending on the location. Just before I'm in bed at 10-11 or so, I begin a backup of the images I shot that day. Next day, same as the last--only new locations, new people, new adventure and experiences.

Remembering past races, back in the film days cold weather camera challenges were a much bigger deal than they are now. Now, provided I have plenty of warm batteries, the Canon cameras I use operate just fine even at 30 below or more. Of course at night I bring the cameras in from the cold, inside a plastic bag so the moisture does not condense on the lenses or bodies. And I recharge the batteries each night so they start out fresh each day.

On average I take about 10 thousand images per race and put about 2000 or so on our websites.

I love being a part of the Iditarod family. I know for most of us volunteers on the trail, it's not really important who wins the race, it's just a remarkable opportunity to have relationship with so many people along the trail and be a part of Alaska's largest event. I am blessed and thankful to be a part of Iditarod.

Jeff's work can be viewed at www.iditarod.com during the race. Jeff also has published six books about the Iditarod. For more information, visit www.schultzphoto.com.

For those of you interested in the history of the first 10 years of Iditarod, watch for a new book soon to be published and available in 2014, compiled by those who were there in the early years; the mushers, pilots, officials, HAM operators, volunteers, photographers and artist. Designed as a scrapbook of memories, this will be filled with fun facts and information. 25% of royalties will go to the Iditarod Foundation, earmarked for care of Iditarod sled dogs.



©Laurie McCampbell

Mushers' Biographies

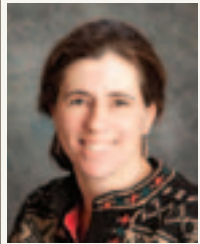
KEN ANDERSON – FAIRBANKS, AK



Ken Anderson, 39, was born in Minnesota. He began mushing at age 3 because 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 Iditarod Race. Before moving to Alaska, he attended the Univ. of Minnesota and was a dog handler. He came to Alaska in 1993 to learn more about mushing and study biology at the Univ. 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 last summer.

JODI BAILEY – CHATANIKA, AK



Jodi Bailey, 42, was born in Martha's Vineyard, MA. She went to school at Emory Univ. in Atlanta, and earned her BA in Theater and Anthropology. She spent summers here while she was in

school and "fell in love with life in Alaska," moving here after graduating in 1991. 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 email, 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. is excited about the opportunity to return to the Iditarod in 2012 and see the Northern route. Jodi is also a member of the Fairbanks Running Club. Her hobbies are running, biking, and cooking. Jodi is married to Dan Kaduce, the 2010 Iditarod Rookie of the Year.

JOHN BAKER – KOTZEBUE, AK



John Baker, 49, was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. He began mushing in 1995 and became 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, and the first Inupiat Champion as well when he won the 2011 Iditarod. 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.

KIRK BARNUM – GRANGEVILLE, ID



Kirk 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. "After racing some good mushers in Wyoming, I wanted to run the Iditarod. I like to raise my own 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.

ANNA BERINGTON— KASILOF, AK



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, Kirsty, 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.

KRISTI BERINGTON – KASILOF, AK



Kristi 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 Kristi's fourth season running dogs and racing in Alaska, and her third year working for Paul Gebhardt

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

The Official Map of the IDITAROD

1. ANCHORAGE

Mile 0 – Population 260,283
The race begins March 4 at 10 a.m. on 4th Avenue.

2. WILLOW LAKE

**Mile 69 Parks Hwy–
Population 1,838**
The official race clock starts.

3. YENTNA STATION

Mile 115 – Population 8
A roadhouse-checkpoint in the Susitna Valley.

4. SKWENTNA

Mile 149 – Population 111
Located near the confluence of the Yentna and the Skwentna rivers.

5. FINGER LAKE

Mile 194 – Population 2
Kirsten and Carl Dixon run this checkpoint on the eastern fringe of the Alaska Range.

6. RAINY PASS

Mile 224 – Population 2
Rainy Pass Lodge on Puntilla Lake is at 1,800 feet elevation. Pass elevation is 3,160 feet.

7. ROHN ROADHOUSE

Mile 272 – Population 0
This checkpoint is near the remains of one of the old roadhouses serving the historic Iditarod Trail mail carriers.

8. NIKOLAI

Mile 352 – Population 104
An Athabascan village located 40 air miles east of McGrath.

9. MCGRATH

Mile 400 – Population 423
At the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna rivers, McGrath has a small, full-service airport, stores and a restaurant and is the hub of the Iditarod School District. The first musher gets the Spirit of Alaska Award from PenAir.

10. TAKOTNA

Mile 418 – Population 50
This Athabascan village is one of the favorite checkpoints and where many mushers take their 24 hour layover.

11. OPHIR

Mile 443 – Population 0
A ghost town named for a nearby creek that supported placer mining. The name is a reference to the biblical Ophir thought to be the source of King Solomon's gold.

12. CRIPPLE

Mile 548, Population 0
Same checkpoint as used by the Iron Dog snowmachine race, located at the Poorman Airstrip, close to the former goldrush boomtown of Poorman.

13. RUBY

Mile 613, Population 190
Ruby developed as a supply point for gold prospectors. It was named after the red-colored stones found on the riverbank which were thought by prospectors to be rubies.

14. GALENA

Mile 666, Population 713
Originally a supply and transshipment point for lead-ore mines. Today, Galena serves as the transportation, government and commercial center for the western Interior.

15. NULATO

Mile 718, Population 345
A center for missionary activity in the late 1800's. In 1877 pioneer Archbishop Charles Segh

16. KALTAG

Mile 771 – Population 230
The home of Edgar Kalland, an original serum-runner. The Iditarod Trail leaves the Yukon here to wind up Old Woman Pass to the Bering Sea.

17. UNALAKLEET

Mile 861 – Population 747
Unalakleet has long been a major trade center as the terminus for the Kaltag Portage, an important winter travel route connection to the Yukon River. The first into Unalakleet gets \$2,500 in gold from Wells Fargo Bank Alaska.

18. SHAKTOOLIK

Mile 903 – Population 230
Just north of this wind-whipped Eskimo village, the trail leaves land for the ice of Northern Sound.

19. KOYUK

Mile 951 – Population 297
Koyuk marks the end of the long, treacherous sea ice travel across Norton Sound.

20. ELIM

Mile 999 – Population 318
The trail turns inland slightly near this Eskimo village to cross the low Kwikhtalik.

21. GOLOVIN

Mile 1,027 – Population 144
Back on the coast at Golovin, an Eskimo village, mushers face a short ice run over Golovin Bay. The rest of the race is over land.

22. WHITE MOUNTAIN

Mile 1,045 – Population 203
An eight-hour layover is mandatory here to allow the dogs to rest for the last push to Nome.

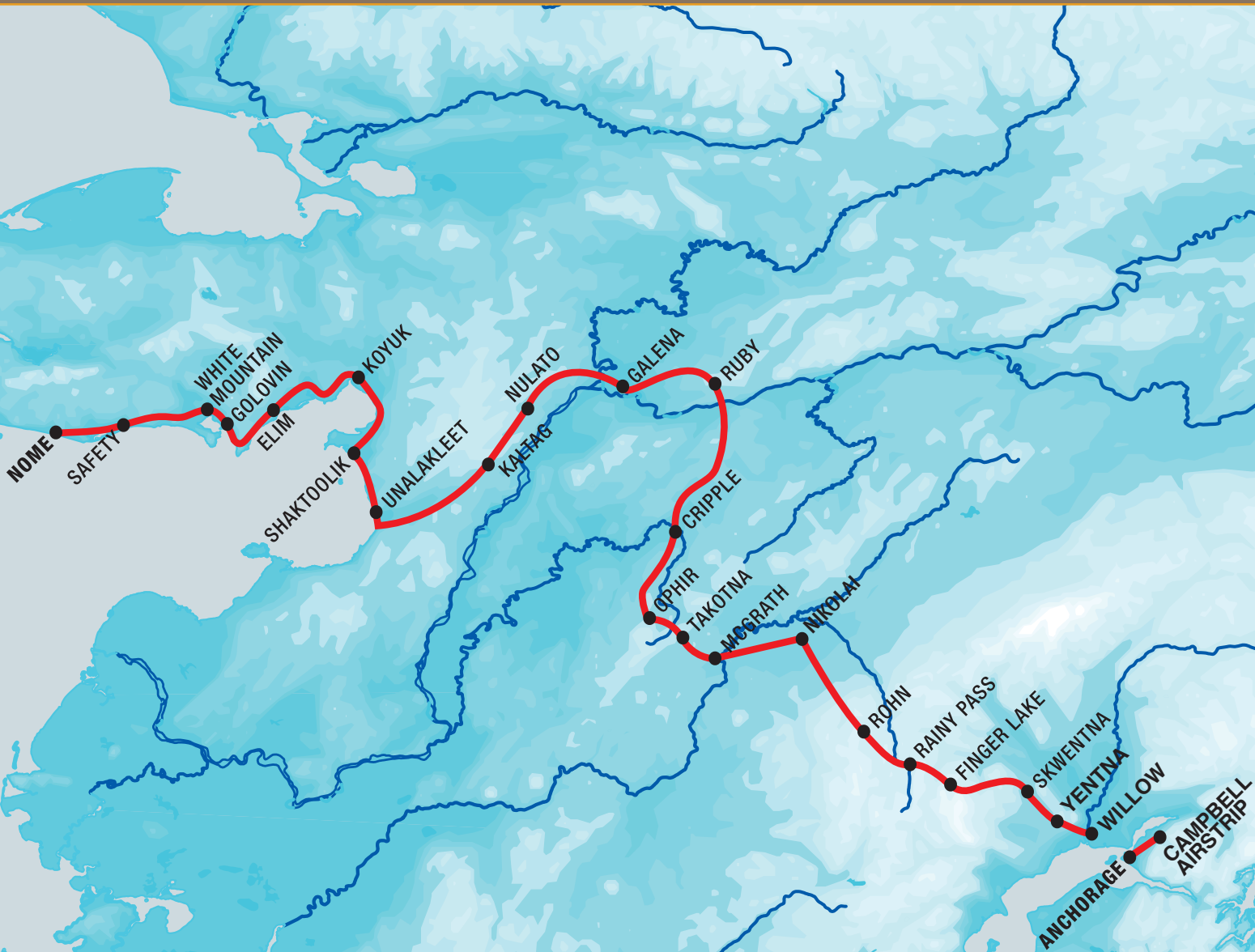
23. SAFETY

Mile 1,100 – Population 0
From here, the trail follows the shores of Norton Sound to Nome.

24. NOME

Mile 1,122 – Population 3,505
The race ends under the burlwood arch on Front Street. Originally called Anvil City, after a nearby gold rich creek, it was once home to 30,000 miners.

Northern Route (Even Years)



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

The Last Great Teaching Race cont'd from p. 19

They came with us and we bought the sled so they could ride in the ceremonial start. The next year we brought a teacher Holly Hamner and she brought her own son. They rode in the sled, travelled to checkpoints, and went to Nome. The next year we brought teacher DeeAnne Kimmel who brought her whole family. Dee Anne returned in 2001. Each of these teachers wrote for our website and were contributors to our program. After 9/11 air travel, for a musher, became a logistical nightmare and Sonny was "forced" to stop mushing. It was either move west or recommit to the practice here. We still love Alaska, the Iditarod and our wonderful friends that we made there."

It was also in the 90's that Andrea Aufder Heyde, 'Finney', an educator from Indiana, was using the race with students. She created and developed the Teacher on the Trail™ program. Peg Stout served as a member of the first Iditarod Education Committee with then Education Director, Lois Harter, and other members, Peggy Bear, and Rex Diem. In 1999, this committee worked with "Finney", the first Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™.

"It makes my heart race, my blood boil, my breath shaky and my belly flip-flop. PASSION! It simply will not go away. Teaching about the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and the Teacher on the Trail™ program only fuels what is available for teachers to use and

the information sent back by the teacher from the trail is always diverse and top notch, involving math, science, language arts, social studies, art, and physical education. Teaching about the Iditarod race and Alaska cannot help but touch every student in some manner. It is educationally sound and academically invigorating, and every aspect of the Iditarod curriculum promotes an excitement shared by students that is superb in its uniqueness."

Since the creation of the Teacher on the Trail™ program, the educational department has grown in more than 1,049 ways. EXXONMOBIL is the partner for this Iditarod Education Department. This partnership is dedicated to helping students find academic success in math, science, engineering, and technology. Iditarod can only have one yearly champion, but through Iditarod Experiential Learning, every student is a winner.

Learn more about the history of Iditarod education, discover lessons, and learn about the 2012 Winter Conference, Summer Camp, and other events for teachers by visiting www.iditarod.com.

Iditarod's Educational Department is dedicated to helping students be academically successful and teachers be better teachers by developing techniques and tools to help students meet the core standards and build 21st century skills.

Each June, a nine day "Summer Camp for Educators" is held in Alaska. Along with attending sessions to enhance Iditarod educational programs, educators stay at the Dream a Dream Dog Farm for an experience of a life time to learn firsthand about the dogs of the Iditarod. Sessions, speakers, and experiences during summer camp provide educators with opportunities to design specific curriculum that meets the needs of the students they teach. Teachers can take up to 6 credits from the University of Alaska during this experience.

Prior to the start of the race each

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



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Teaching Race

cont'd from p. 36

year, a four day "Winter Conference for Educators" is held in Anchorage. Speakers, field trips, and sessions are designed to train teachers to use research based techniques that integrate Iditarod into the content. Through the generous support and partnership from ExxonMobil, attendance at the conferences increases each year. (Two university credits are available.)

Paying close attention to the educational section of Iditarod's website, teachers will also discover that teacher conferences are being offered in the lower 48. Some locations have been/will be: Arizona, Texas, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Michigan.

The educational section of Iditarod's website is an incredible resource for standards driven lessons and projects. Skype, web conferencing, Traveling Iditarod Quilts, and other projects bring the race to within the walls of the classroom, and ensure student success. Learn more at www.iditarod.com

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Entertaining Strangers and Building an Iditarod Family... Thanks Joe and Norma Delia

By Terrie Hanke

Joe Delia came to Alaska at the age of seventeen, about sixty-five years ago. Within a short time, he chose a high bank of the Skwentna River to homestead. He's a legend as a woodsman and trapper. Besides living with the land, Joe has manned the Skwentna Post Office as postmaster since 1948. Joe has lent many a helping hand in establishing the Last Great Race® on the east side of the Alaska Range. As the race began, Joe Redington turned to Delia to open a trail to Rainy Pass. The teams currently, as they did then, travel portions of Delia's former trap line. The checkpoint has been on the river below the Skwentna Post Office and Joe's cabin since the first running of Iditarod.

Joe married his wonderful wife and devoted companion, Norma, almost thirty years ago. As Joe tells the story, he wanted their home to be nice for his bride and that would include indoor plumbing and so he built an indoor bathroom. There would still be an outhouse but Norma would have indoor conveniences. Joe, however, refused to use the indoor bathroom for quite some time.

There are many tributes that can be shared of Joe's many years as a trailbreaker and checker and Norma as mother hen for the mushers.

The one theme that runs constant is Joe and Norma's hospitality. You are only a stranger at the Delia homestead once. Visitors are welcomed with open arms and as they sign the guest book upon leaving, it's as friends. In the case of the team of Iditarod volunteers – cabin Sweeties, river Darlings, and race personnel – they leave as family. The Iditarod volunteers meet at Delia's once a year for a hectic weekend when Iditarod passes through. It's Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and every other holiday all rolled into one, and there's

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” Hebrews 13:2.

no better way to spend it then as part of the Delia family.

A tribute to the Delia's open door hospitality hangs above their front door. “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” Hebrews 13:2. Thank you, Joe and Norma. Words are not adequate to express what time at your homestead has meant to each of us. Collectively, we wish you only the best as you as you relocate from Skwentna to the road system.



© Terrie Hanke

Joe and Norma at the Delia homestead in Skwentna.

Jr. Iditarod Bios... cont'd from page 29

He's in the 10th grade at Wasilla High School where he participates in math and science activities. He says his hobbies are fishing, hunting, four-wheeling, and snowboarding. Ben hopes to become a welding engineer and says, "Yes," he will continue mushing.

CHELSEA DAVIS – LA CRESCENTA, CA

Chelsea, 16, has been mushing since she was five years old. She was born in Alaska and raised in Southern California outside of Los Angeles. "I grew up with my team and have mushed with them forever. I love dog mushing and hope that other teens get this opportunity." Chelsea is a sophomore at Crescenta Valley High School where she runs cross country and track. She enjoys snowboarding, surfing, volleyball, and hiking. She wants to go to college and then to medical school to become a surgeon. Chelsea says that she will continue mushing as much as she can. *Sponsors: John and Dana Donovan; Jason Russell; Parallel Plumbing ; Walter G. Theriot; Los Gringos Locos; So Cal Heating and Air; Garold and Norma Davis; Sara and John Wilber; Sue, Kirk and Rachael Westergard; Nel and Nixson Wilson; Erik Davis; Southern Cross Corp.; Pacific Tradewinds*

JENNY GREGOR – BOZEMAN, MT

Jenny, 16, says she's been mushing "for as long as I can remember." In 2008, she got her first sled dogs when her family helped with a

rescue case. Those rescued dogs and their offspring make up her team. The family has 47 dogs. She has 22 dogs, two of which are Belgian Shepherds and the rest are Alaskan Husky Sled dogs and Belgian Husky sled dogs. Jenny finished last year's Jr. Iditarod in fifth place and was rookie of the year. She has run junior races in the Northwest and received the Best Cared for Dog Team in the Jr. Race to the Sky twice and the Sportsmanship Award in the 100 mile Red River Sled Dog Derby. Jenny is homeschooled and in the 11th grade. She enjoys AKC dog shows, agility and obedience with her two Belgian Shepherds, hunting, fishing, hiking, the outdoors, music, and art. "I plan to go to college and would like to become a vet, with emphasis on sports medicine or rehab or reproduction. And Yes! Yes! Yes! I will continue mushing. My dogs are my life!"

Sponsors: Petcurean Pet Food – Go! Dog Rood, BC CANADA; Anduril Kennels Boarding, MT; The Balance Act Animal Chiropractic/Acupuncture/Sid Erickson; Jerry Meyers Aviation, MT; Farr Automotive Specialists, MT; Double Diamond Vet Hospital/Dr. Sue Gresne, MT; Randy Camper Snow Hooks, MT; The Reiss Family; The Hamlin Family; My Family & Friends, especially Mom & Dad; The Johnson (Mooswa) Family

BENJAMIN LYON – STERLING, AK

Benjamin, 15, started running with Conway Seavey about four years ago. He ran the Willow Jr. 100 last year and finished 2nd. He is homeschooled and in the ninth grade. Through the school he participates in shop, (small engines and mechanics) trapline, and riding lessons. He enjoys horseback riding. He is one of seven children and has family members who have also run the Jr. Iditarod and the Iditarod. His plans for the future are uncertain. *Sponsors: G and S Construction; Seavey Iditarod Racing Team; Bear Trail Lodge; Ridgeway Farms; Grandma Hazel*

PALAKIYA ROGERS, KASILOF, AK

Palakiiya, 16, says that she was introduced to dog mushing by her babysitter when she was four years old and she is still running dog teams for him. She and her twin sister "go out and run dogs and do many other things together," she says. She has run the Tustumena twice and also the Jr. Willow 100. Palakiiya is in 10th grade at Skyview High School where she participates in band. She plays the baritone and clarinet and enjoys basketball and soccer. She wants to go to vet school and to continue her mushing. *Sponsors: Ninilchik Tribal Council; Sportsman's Warehouse, Soldotna; Sweeny's; Kasilof Mercantile/Rooky's Café; Hannah & Nolan; Bruce Cox; Jacqueline Jager; Matt Caddock; Tustumena 200*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41



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Jr. Bios... cont'd from page 40

SEIJI TAKAGI – ANCHORAGE, AK

Seiji, 15, has been mushing since he was in the second grade. His first experience happened when a classmate invited him over and they went mushing. Seiji ran the 2011 Jr. Iditarod and received the Red Lantern Award. A sophomore at South Anchorage High School, he participates in cross country, skiing, and orchestra. Seiji's hobbies are playing cello, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, and playing guitar. "I am helping Christine Roalofs train her team for the Yukon Quest. My brother ran the Jr. Iditarod in 2008 and 2010. I am on the varsity cross country ski team at South High. I play cello with the Anchorage Youth Symphony." After college graduation Seiji plans to continue mushing. *Sponsors: Christine Roalofs; My Mother*

CONWAY SEAVEY – STERLING, AK

Conway Seavey, 15, says that "coming from where I come from it's hard to avoid mushing. I started at four and have been helping my family train since then." Conway is the fourth son of 2004 Iditarod Champion Mitch Seavey to run the Jr. Iditarod and the grandson of Dan Seavey, who ran the first Iditarod back in 1973 and will be competing along with his son and a grandson again this year. Conway ran the Jr. Iditarod last year and finished 10th. He said, "Last year was a very eventful race. Merissa (Osmar) and I took a five hour detour 40 miles from the finish line. We were in first and second place at the time. I took a two hour rest and finished up in 10th place. This year, if nothing else, I plan to finish the race without getting lost so the jokers in my family will give me some peace!" Conway is homeschooled and in the ninth grade. "I aim to become a professional singer/songwriter/producer, so that's what I spend the majority of my time doing. Although singing is what I live for, mushing is a fun 'side job.' I don't see myself mushing pro after high school. I'm way smarter than that! Even if I'm not mushing, I'm sure I'll end up owning a 'furry creature' or two!" *Sponsors: Seavey's Iditarod Racing Team; Tustumena 200 Sled Dog Race Association*

BAILEY VITELLO – BROOKFIELD, MA

Bailey, 15, comes from a mushing family in Massachusetts. "Our family has been running sled dogs for 13 years. My family owns and operates Northern Exposure Outfitters. It's a dog sledding adventure company that offers equipment, training, lessons, coaching, team leasing, dog sled rides, and educational programs. I help out with lessons, tours, programs and sales. Guess where I was the first time I rode a dog sled? On my mother's back in

a baby back pack. Our kennel makes it a point to run all dogs. Our kennel saying is 'No dog left behind.' Over the years, we have discovered that it should be up to the dogs when they retire completely. That way we are sure to maintain overall balance and wellbeing of each and every one of our sled dogs' mind body and soul. The spirit of a sled dog is truly special and deserves the utmost respect. We entrust our lives to them on the trail and they in turn trust us with theirs. With No dogs left behind, when our sled dogs retire from racing, they have the opportunity to visit schools, museums, participate in lessons, tours, or where they best fit for their next happy adventure. I love that about our kennel." Bailey has already run a number of races including the 2011 Can Am Crown 60, in which he was the youngest to ever compete. Bailey is a freshman at Tatasqua High School where he participates in cross country, Lacrosse, and ski club. He also enjoys running, fishing, rock climbing, hiking, biking, swimming, surfing, snowboarding, animal care, and pretty much anything outdoors. In college, he wants to study Outdoor Adventure and Animal Science. Bailey hopes to continue mushing "for the rest of my life." *Sponsors: Northern Exposure Outfitters, MA; Danler Dog Sleds; Inukshuk; Team Lake; Clearly in Focus*

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1980 Champion, Joe May, Helps Us Look Back in Time...by Martha Dobson



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Joe May, 1976 Iditarod, rookie year, age 41, race equipment and food: homemade plywood trapping sled, \$18 Sears Roebuck sleeping bag, 5 gallon steel bucket cooker, Army surplus parka and boots, a 2 cell handheld flashlight, homemade dog harness, 10" x 56" snowshoes. Lost 15 pounds, "almost starved", on a hamburger patty and a Hershey bar waiting at each checkpoint for him, supplemented by whatever he could buy in village stores. Race time: 19d 8h 8m 29s.

The 1980 Iditarod Champion, Joe May, fell into racing when other mushers, Joe Redington, Sr., Dick Mackey, and other veterans of the earlier Iditarods, asked Joe for permission to use parts of his trap line for a 300 mile warm up race before the 1976 Iditarod. A trapper in the Susitna Valley and retired Merchant Mariner, Joe ran that warm up race...and won it. Enlightenment accompanied that win— he could make money running dogs without trapping.

Leaving trapping behind, Joe built a racing kennel over the next 12 years, a kennel that always ran in the money in the Iditarod, the Yukon Quest, and other middle distance races—never scratching, never suffering a serious dog injury or mortality on the trail.

Talking to Joe is like reading a history book that tells it straight, no prevarication, a look back at Iditarod racing from 1976-1982. In the early years, racing the Iditarod was a job of surviving the first 900 miles so mushers could race the last hundred—no alcohol-based fuels, cutting tree boughs for dogs and themselves to sleep on, melting snow for water, snowshoeing ahead of a team to break trail where none was broken, one vet, one Iditarod Air force pilot.

When Joe ran The Dalzell Gorge, no snow bridges were built as they are now, so the gorge was "a maniacal seven mile run down the side of a mountain through boulders, open water, tree stumps, and ice ledges. They've taken the fun out of the Dalzell", says Joe. "Back then it [the race] was a personal contest with a hope of a bowl of stew and a warm stove at the next cabin...if one were lucky. There was camaraderie in misery and shared humor in the nature of the hardship. People of the villages

welcomed us into their homes."

Of his first win, that 300 mile warm up race, Joe says, "The inherent toughness of trapping dogs and their ability to work on bad trails played into the prevailing conditions of the early Iditarod races. A long trap line involved living rough outdoors while caring for self and dogs. I was convinced those things gave me a distinct advantage over mushers and dogs who lacked that experience."

1979 Iditarod race gear and food: homemade birch sled on the trail, better quality clothing and boots, a Coleman pump up gas stove, aluminum dog food cooker, a headlamp, alarm clock, burlap pads for the dogs to rest on, the same snowshoes. The food for dogs was an Alaskan commercial product and his food was mostly easily prepared junk food. Race time: 16d 1h 9m 15s.

After his 1976 race, Joe developed a 6 hour run/rest schedule which best suited the dogs' physiology with an hourly break to burn off lactic acid. Prior to this run/rest schedule, Joe says mushers either ran to the next destination or until the team tired. "I thought there should be a better way so in '79 I experimented with rest-run schedules until I found what worked best for maintaining the dogs day in and day out without letting them really get tired." The six on/six off schedule best suited the dogs, but was brutal for the musher. To keep a team running for 12 of 24 hours meant a musher slept 2-3 hours out of 24.

"It's not the same rest-run schedule that's common practice today but it's still equal rest and run [today]. It did establish that equal run-rest time was essential to maintaining a consistent speed throughout the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

Joe May ...cont'd from page 42

race. Equal rest and run in some combination is now 'biblical,'" Joe says.

Joe spent his three years off the Iditarod, from 1976 to 1979, tinkering with the dogs, their food, his food, the equipment, training, a disciplined run-rest schedule, shipping burlap pads in lieu of the straw that wasn't shipped to checkpoints for dog bedding in those years. Like other mushers tinkering with their races, Joe saw changes in running and finish times.

Except for a rancid batch of dog food during the 1979 race stopping his team for 24 hours, Joe might have had a 1979 win. Recovery time for the team cost him the 100 mile lead he had over Rick Swenson.

1980 Iditarod, age 45: The win was captured with nearly identical food, equipment, and team to the 1979 race, except the dog food was mostly beaver meat. Same snowshoes. Coming back with the same dog team, good dog food and his run/rest schedule, Joe won by a half-day, while Swenson listened to the win on the radio, in Elim. Race time: 14d 7h 11m 51s.

"If you run a race based on what your competitors

are doing you make their mistakes in addition to your own," Joe says. "I used the same six and six system in 1980 and ran the same distance the first day as the last day. I also stopped for five minutes every hour to allow the dogs to burn off lactic acid in the muscles. In the end we covered more ground than had I not stopped and it did a lot to eliminate weariness at the end of a six hour run."

"I ran my schedule [in 1980] as though there were no other teams on the trail. Drove my friends crazy until a couple of them fell in with my schedule and we ran away from the rest of the field. Herbie Nayukpuk and Ernie Baumgartner finished second and third. We ran half the race together...until Koyuk. I had the stronger team and went ahead...13 hours ahead of Herbie and 26 hours ahead of Ernie. Rick Swenson was an hour behind Ernie."

"Over a hundred miles of the 1980 trail was frozen dirt and rock. The level of hardship/discomfort/sleep deprivation/physical punishment experienced on today's races isn't a shadow of what it was...not to say that was a happy circumstance...only that it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62



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Kirk Barnum passes by the shelf ice and open water of Dalzell Creek in the notorious Dalzell Gorge between Rainy Pass and Rohn during the 2011 Iditarod.

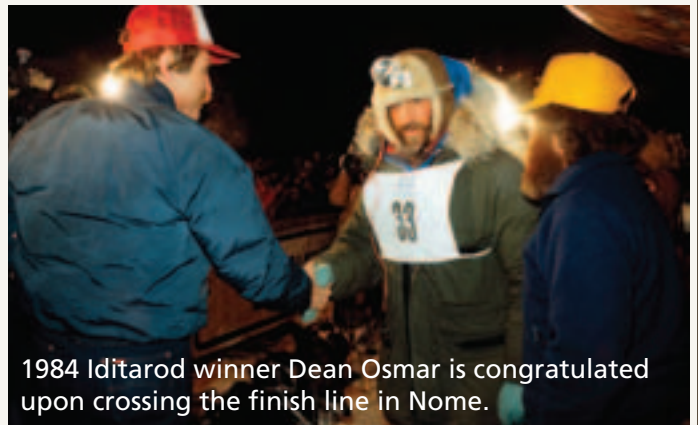
Remembering 40 Years of Iditarod...

Howard Farley: The first 20 years Iditarod was a work in progress all the time, but as time has moved on, the Iditarod has become everything we dreamed it would be, a world class event that all Alaskans can be proud of! I will never forget the day I finished the first race! Tom Busch was trying to interview me and my friends were carrying me on their shoulders. The love of my life, Julie, was trying to hug me and the crowd pulled me away. Then Pam Randals whispered in my ear that I was not over the finish line so we moved the whole crowd a few feet and I got 20th by 19 seconds.

Al Marple (1976) has fond memories of the hospitality in the villages back when the families could take in mushers. He also remembers getting lost on the Yukon River because there had been a sprint race at Ruby and the trail markers were still up. He ran that trail and ended up back in Ruby. A local snow machiner escorted him back to the Iditarod Trail. As a race judge, he remembers watching a Channel 2 plane fall out of the sky landing nose first in the snow tearing off a wing. With the smell of gas in the air, they didn't expect to find survivors but the passengers were all hanging upside down. The deep snow absorbed the shock of the crash. When Al and the lodge owner got to the scene, they knocked the photographer (who was busy trying to get his



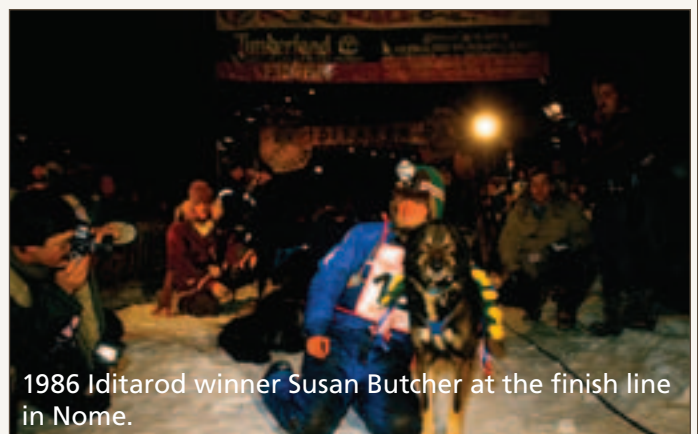
1981 Iditarod winner Rick Swenson with his lead dog Andy at the Nome Awards banquet,



1984 Iditarod winner Dean Osmar is congratulated upon crossing the finish line in Nome.



1985 Iditarod winner Libby Riddles with dogs Axle & Dugan at the finish line Nome, Alaska Iditarod



1986 Iditarod winner Susan Butcher at the finish line in Nome.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

Iditarod Air Force... cont'd from page 31

the Iditarod Trail over the Blueberry Hills, landed on runway 08 and taxied up to the terminal. Glen Hansen, who is a mechanic as well as an Iditarod pilot, looked at the prop and said "This plane is grounded and the prop has to be sent in for repairs.

Pilots are Sometimes Mushers...

Bruce Moroney age 63, 40 year Alaska Resident and two- time Iditarod finisher (1994 & 2001). Wife Diana Moroney 10 Iditarod's, 9 finishes.

I first became involved in Iditarod in 1986 as a volunteer pilot with the Iditarod Airforce which I am still involved with, flying a Cessna 185 on Skis. Diana is also a pilot with the Iditarod Airforce.

Helping Diana train and run Iditarod I had to step up to the plate and see if I had the will power and patience to make it to Nome. You never know when you pull the hook in downtown Anchorage on race day whether you will succeed or fail, to quote Norman Vaughan "Dream big and dare to fail" and I did.

To train and run a dog team in the Last Great Race has been one of the greatest adventures of my life. The run to Nome might be a solo event, pitting musher and dogs against the trail, Mother Nature and sometimes each other. However an Iditarod success is a team effort of family, friends and volunteers. Without their help, Iditarod would be just a dream. I owe them all my thanks and gratitude.

I can't begin to describe the bond I shared with my dogs and how it grew stronger each day and each challenge we faced and overcame; driving a dog team 1049 miles across Alaska through snow, wind,

& uncomprehendable numbing cold. Watching the sun set, the moon rise and set and dance under the northern lights was absolutely awesome. My reflection on Iditarod is filled with nothing but good memories; even the bad ones are good because they all aided in shaping my success.



Pilot Marty Carlson works on a broken ski on the ramp at Unalakleet, Iditarod 2011.

Remembering 40 Years...cont'd from page 44

camera equipment out to take pictures) out of the way to get to the pilot and sports broadcaster. As a race marshal what impresses him most is how the mushers put their dogs as priority. Al is amazed how dog care has improved over the years thanks to Susan Butcher and Rick Swenson. The volunteers are a big factor in the race. Two that are outstanding are Sony Chambers and Gary Myers, they are dedicated, hard workers, and well respected in the village of Koyuk, which happens to be Al's favorite check point thanks to the Otton family.

Terry Adkins: I gave Ranie Hall my Rayme Reddinton's teeth. I remember Joe Redington flipping his airplane and my trip from Cape Nome

via Art Peterson's plane.

Ford Reeves: The 1st Iditarod pre race banquet in Anchorage, 1973: Over 150 people in the banquet room at the Northern Lights Hotel -lots of energy and bravado in the room, and no one is paying any attention to anyone talking at the podium or at the head of the tables until, George Attla, a legend in his own time, stepped slowly up to the podium and began to speak. The entire room was immediately suspended in silence waiting for his wisdom, his words to sanction the race, to make it real. I don't remember what he said but it was powerful. It was something.

Flowers of Iditarod

By Terrie Hanke

When Ketchikan's Angie Taggart made the Burlled Arch in Nome last March, a large throng of enthusiastic fans was there to greet her. Amongst the group was one of her second grade students. The youngster's left arm was wrapped around a potted hyacinth while her right hand carefully cradled the huge blue blossom. When the youngster presented the fragrant flower to her teacher, Angie smiled and hugged the little girl saying, "Now I'll have time to smell the flowers."

During the race, mushers are so completely focused on caring for their dogs, caring for themselves and covering the distance to Nome there isn't a moment to spare. What would they see, who would they talk to if there were some "flower time" in their run/rest schedule?

It's a circus of activity at Yentna Station Roadhouse (mile 42) – mushers check in and depart for Skwentna ASAP. They miss the hospitality and musical talents of the Gabryszaks – Jean and Dan. For a glimpse of Yentna style warmth and kindness, back up just eight days to the Junior Iditarod. Dan and Jean greet all the officials and volunteers as they arrive via the Iditarod Air Force or snow machine. A well-stocked sandwich bar awaits.

The young mushers begin to arrive late in the afternoon, and it's a busy time checking teams in, parking them and distributing drop bags, straw and Heet until the last junior arrives on toward midnight. Tired, hungry volunteers would be happy to build another sandwich and catch a little sleep, but the Gabryszaks have prepared a multi-course midnight feast. After that Dan tunes his guitar and the music begins. Just a few hours later and well before sunrise, race officials and volunteers are back out

with the dog teams and junior mushers preparing for the send off. By nine o'clock, all the juniors are back on the river heading toward the finish in Willow. That's when another round of Gabryszak hospitality kicks in. As the race officials head into the unique roadhouse, either Dan or Jean greets everyone with the question of the morning – "How would you like your eggs?"

When the sun rises on the Monday after the Iditarod restart, most teams are either on their way to or at Finger Lake but a few remain in Skwentna (mile 86). If there were time to smell the flowers, they'd stay long enough for the post office to open to chat with legendary hunter, trapper, guide, trailbreaker, Iditarod checker and long time postmaster Joe Delia.

In 1948, Joe claimed five acres on the high bank of the Skwentna River through the Homestead Act. That's been his home and he's served as the postmaster ever since. It was Joe that the other Joe, Joe Redington, turned to for making a trail for Iditarod from Yentna to Rainy Pass. The teams currently, as they did then, travel portions of Delia's former trap line. Beginning in 1973 with the inaugural Iditarod, Joe's place has served as the Skwentna checkpoint. Hosting a hustling, bustling checkpoint is well beyond what Joe and his wife, Norma, can handle these days. They've put together their own team of volunteers – the Sweeties from Alaska do the cooking and the Darlings from Washington manage the river. Joe and Norma ever present as host and hostess welcome the mushers, visit with them and trade stories. Joe tells stories in such a way that you live the adventure with him and the stories are never ending – one leads to another and another. He's quick to tell tales of his own bloopers and just as quick to laugh about the faux pas. Being in the company of this man with friendly brown eyes, quick smile and hardy laugh is an honor. Such an honor that one might buy a stamp and postcard from him, ask him to sign it and postmark it, then send it to yourself to treasure for years to come. A biblical tribute to Joe and Norma's



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Dan Gabryszaks in action at the grill.

Flowers of the Iditarod... cont'd from page 20

open door hospitality hangs above their front door – “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” Hebrews 13:2.

Mushers taking their 24-hour mandatory rest at McGrath have a little extra time to smell the flowers but wait, what is that delicious aroma and where’s it coming from? It’s the Snack Shack! The third and fourth graders have turned into entrepreneurs for their spring break and have opened a food kiosk just outside the checkpoint. The canvas wall tent provides very little shelter from the very cold (high of about zero) temperatures. Their menu, decided on, shopped for, and prepared by the youngsters under the supervision of their energetic teacher is basic but hearty. Of course there are the expected items – hot chocolate, coffee and hot dogs. The surprise entrée is Frito Pie. As simple as the recipe is, it’s guaranteed to warm your innards. Place a handful of Fritos in a bowl, add a couple ladles of chili then top with diced onion and shredded cheese. It’s delicious, especially in frigid temperatures. Eat quickly though as even very hot food freezes quickly when it’s that cold.

Iditarod was not the only race in Unalakleet. As mushers tended their dogs on one side of the Kouwegok Slough, village children and adults participated in a community ski race on the other side of the frozen backwater. The crowd cheering for the skiers was almost as large as the crowd that greeted John Baker, first musher to the Bering Sea, a few days earlier. Nordic skiing has found its place in Unalakleet. Kids enjoy a variety of fun activities at Saturday Morning Ski School with



Checker Joe Delia at the Skwentna checkpoint.

lots of encouragement from their coach and other adults. Middle and high schoolers participate in skiing as well as biathlon competition against other village teams. Alaska is one of the few, if not the only state, that sanctions the combined sport of marksmanship and skiing known as biathlon. These children and the adults who support their efforts in learning to ski are a flower – a sunny flower on the Unalakleet landscape.

The business sector has a couple of not to be missed flowers in Unalakleet. The Kuupiaq House - Espresso and Bakery is situated right between the police station and district courtroom. Hostess Nancy Erickson prepares delicious coffee drinks like the Mackey Mocha, refreshing smoothies, scrumptious chili, hearty soups and melt-in-your-mouth scones, cookies and sweet rolls. It’s service with a smile in this warm and friendly Internet café. Iditarod writers, Ion Earth tracker people, race fans and villagers on their way to and from

the checkpoint stop for lunch or a treat through out the day. The flower of nightlife is Peace on Earth Pizza. Once the coffee shop closes, this is the spot to socialize and enjoy mouthwatering pizza – perhaps served up in the shape of a dog bone! If you’d prefer to eat your pizza in the comfort of your home, Peace on Earth delivers – by 4-wheeler.

Frances Ann Degnan of Unalakleet completed a huge project at the request of her now deceased parents – she wrote a book. Her parents wanted to make sure their children and their children after them would have an appreciation of the family’s heritage, and so Frances wrote and published, *Under the Arctic Sun*. It’s the tradition of the Inuit to tell stories about actual life events rather than write them. Her book is filled with stories from her parents about their lives and stories that they have passed on from their parents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 61

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from page 26

in Kasilof. Kristy lists her hobbies as running, mountain biking, hunting, and horses.

JAKE BERKOWITZ – ANCHORAGE, AK



Jake Berkowitz, 25, was born and raised in Minnesota. He attended a local community college and then studied to be an EMT at the Univ. of Colorado. He is currently getting his paramedic degree at the Univ. 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.

AARON BURMEISTER – NENANA, AK



Aaron Burmeister, 36, was born and raised in Nome, AK. He graduated from the Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks in 1998. He is a certified teacher and General Manager for Civil Construction. Aaron says, "I have been raising dogs and racing my entire life (his father is Iditarod veteran Richard Burmeister.) Our kennel and breeding program has been focused on building a winning Iditarod team. We are excited to be in the 2012 Iditarod after taking a two year break from racing. Our son, Hunter, is now three years old and very into the outdoor lifestyle we live. 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 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.

MARTIN BUSER – BIG LAKE, AK



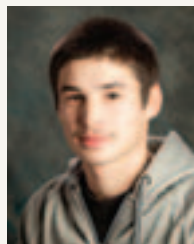
Born in Winterthur, Switzerland in 1958, Martin became fascinated with sled dogs while still a teen. He came to Alaska in 1979 to enhance his knowledge of care and training of sled dogs. He began working and training with long-time Alaskan mushers Earl and Natalie Norris and ran his first Iditarod in 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 Univ. 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. In the summer, Martin and his family give tours of their working kennel. Martin is currently the musher with the most consecutive Iditarod finishes, 26 races completed in row, 28 total finishes.

ROHN BUSER – BIG LAKE, AK



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.

JOSH CADZOW – FORT YUKON, AK



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.

ART CHURCH, JR. – WILLOW, AK



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."

BOB CHLUPACH – WILLOW, AK



Bob, 63, was born and raised in Mason City, Iowa. He graduated from Iowa State Univ., in Ames, IA. 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 southeast 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 his own team. He entered his first Iditarod and completed it in 1977, subsequently, entering and completing 10 Iditarods over 4 decades. He will be entering this Iditarod in the 5th decade. Bob lives in Willow and has one daughter, Melissa, a dietician for the Alaska Native Hospital and API. Bob is grandfather to Josephine, Melissa's daughter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 49

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from page 48

LACHLAN CLARKE – BUENA VISTA, CO



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 Admin. In 1989, he moved to Colorado to work on

ranches with horses, people, and cattle. Lachlan 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.

TRAVIS COOPER – BIG LAKE, AK



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.

HANK DEBRUIN – HALIBURTON, ONT CANADA

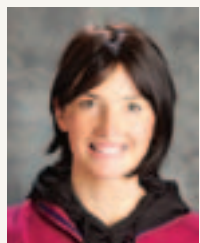


Hank DeBruin, 49, was born and raised in Ontario, Canada. He began mushing 15 years ago and became interested in running the Iditarod when he read Libby Riddles's book, Race Across Alaska. He

has run the Yukon Quest and other mid-distance races in the Lower 48. Hank and Tanya, currently own Winterdance Dog Sled Tours, which they started in 1999, and he says, "I run dogs all the time." They have four children, Logan, 12, Dustyn, 10, Michaela, 5 and Jessica, 3.

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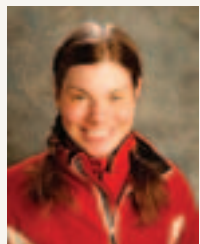
ZOYA DENURE – PAXSON, AK



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. After returning home from Italy, she bought a Siberian Husky and from there, new dreams were 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. 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, and time with family.

SIGRID EKRA – SPARBU, NORWAY



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. Her hobbies are hunting, fishing, and horses.

MATTHEW FAILOR – MANSFIELD, OH



Matthew Failor, 29, was born and raised in Ohio. "My family taught me a love of the outdoors; camping, fishing, canoeing, hunting and backpacking were all things we did on family

vacations. We 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. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Photography in 2007. Matthew spent the winter of 2008 with Iditarod veteran Matt Hayashida and says, All these experiences developed within him a love of Alaska, the Alaskan sled dog, and sled dog racing. He began racing in 2008. He moved to Alaska in November of 2010 when he accepted a handling position for the Buser family. "In November of 2010, while scooping the dog yard, Martin asked me if I would be interested in running a yearling team to Nome...that is when I became interested in running the Iditarod. 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.

SILVIA FURTWÄNGLER— RAULAND, NORWAY



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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p. 49

In 2008, "I went in the footsteps 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 emigrated to Norway." For the last three years she has owned her own tour guide business. Silvia has two adult children, Maurice, Raffaella, and Steven, 15. She lists her hobbies as hiking, cooking, and photography.

PAUL GEBHARDT – KASILOF, AK



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.

MATT GIBLIN – BIG LAKE, AK



Matt Giblin, 41, became interested in mushing after seeing it on tv. Born in Massachusetts, he began mushing in Colorado in 1982 where 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.

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KELLEY GRIFFIN – WASILLA, AK



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 is a musher and farmer and says she has a "PhD in Life." Her hobbies are wine making, reading, and learning. Kelley is married to Ed Grube.

JOE GUTOWSKI – GOODRICH, MI

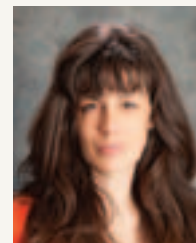


Joe Gutowski, 56, was born and raised in Livonia, MI and currently resides in Hadley Township, MI where he lives with his wife, dogs, and horses. He works for ND

Industries in Troy, where he is the Director of Information Technology. Joe started mushing in the spring of 2006 after reading about the Iditarod; researching sled dogs on the Internet, and contacting Nature's Kennel in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He is married to Sara Carpenter; his wife of 31 years. Joe became interested in running the Iditarod himself after attending the Iditarod Picnic in June 2006 and again in June 2007. He would like to acknowledge the many individuals who have assisted him over the years as he has tried to prepare for this adventure. Joe and his team of dogs will be training out of Al Hardman's Alcan Kennels this fall and

winter in preparation for the Iditarod. Learn more at Joe's website: www.naturalskennel.com

KARIN HENDRICKSON – WILLOW, AK



Karin Hendrickson, 41, was born and raised in California. She graduated from the Univ. 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 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 that between working full time and training, she barely has time to sleep. Karin is married to Varan Hoyt.

TRENT HERBST – ANCHORAGE, AK



Trent Herbst, 41, was born and raised in Wisconsin. Trent graduated from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Lacrosse with a major in Elementary Ed. He became interested in the Iditarod while

teaching in Switzerland and 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 51

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p.50

to Idaho in 2006 where he was a fourth grade teacher. He has taught for 15 years, and is now teaching in Alaska. He and his wife, Candida, have two daughters. Kali, age 9, and Kire Storm in September. 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.

SCOTT W JANSSEN – ANCHORAGE, AK



Scott Janssen, the “Mushing Mortician,” 50, was born and raised in Crookston, Minn. He graduated from the Univ. 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. Scott 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 that he enjoys camping, skiing, hunting, fishing, and “riding my Harley.”

DEEDEE JONROWE – WILLOW, AK

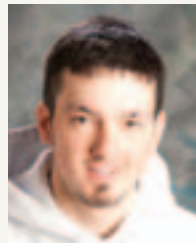


DeeDee Jonrowe, 58, was born in Frankfort Germany while her father was in the military. The family moved to Alaska in 1971 where her dad was stationed at Ft. Richardson. DeeDee

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 through 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. DeeDee is an advocate of in-state cancer care and treatment. She is a triathlete and bike racer. DeeDee is married to Mike.

PETER KAISER – BETHEL, AK



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.

JEFF KING – DENALI PARK, AK



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.

JAIMEE KINZER – WILLOW, AK



Jaimee Kinzer, 29, grew up in Idaho with a fairly regular childhood and always enjoyed mushing. 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 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.

JIM LANIER – CHUGIAK, AK



Jim Lanier, 71, was born in Washington, DC and raised in Fargo, ND, where his family moved when he was six years old. After receiving his medical degree from Washington Univ. 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

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p. 51

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 completed fourteen Iditarods, 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 my 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, the 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.

SONNY LINDNER – TWO RIVERS, AK



Sonny Lindner, 62, was born in Michigan on Christmas Eve. He came to Alaska in 1970 and attended the Univ. 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."

BRUCE LINTON – KASILOF, AK



Bruce Linton, 49, was born in New York City and was raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He studied at Shippensburg Univ. 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 Univ.. 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. His business grew quickly and in 2004 Bruce began to run his sled dog touring business full time. 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 Iditarods and has bettered his finishing position each year. Bruce enjoys running marathons and competing in triathlons. He has fulfilled all of these accomplishments as a Type 1 diabetic Bruce is committed to raising awareness about diabetes and to spreading his message that diabetics 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 diabetics 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.

LANCE MACKKEY – FAIRBANKS, AK



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. Lance's achievements include:

- Being the only person to win both 1000 mile races in the same year (two years in a row)
- First person to win four Iditarods in a row
- Two time Espy Nominee
- Induction 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.

WADE MARS



Wade, 21, was born in Alaska and has lived in Knik, Alaska his entire life. He began mushing nine years ago and ran the Jr. Iditarod in 2007 and 2008, as well as other local races. Wade received

the Humanitarian Award in the 2008 Jr. Iditarod. He ran the Iditarod in 2009 and is running in 2012 in Wattie McDonald's position. Wade and Wattie were kennel partners before Wattie was forced by family illness to withdraw from the 2012 Iditarod.

KELLY MAIXNER – BIG LAKE, AK



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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 53

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p. 52

lists his hobbies as hunting, fishing, and snowboarding. He is married to Margaret. His hobbies are "anything outside."

PAT MOON – CHICAGO, IL



Pat Moon, 35, was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Loyola Univ. 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." 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 Kincardin-Oneil, Scotland. Pat would like to thank his sponsors, family and friends for their unwavering support. He thanks his 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!" His hobbies are gardening, fishing, and canoeing.

HUGH NEFF – TOK, AK



Hugh Neff, 43, was born in Tennessee. He grew up in Evanston, Illinois and attended Loyola Academy and the Univ. 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 Trail Song, he began thinking about someday running the Iditarod. Hugh 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 he enjoys reading, hiking, and canoeing.

ROBERT NELSON – KOTZEBUE, AK



Robert Nelson, 43, was born and raised in Kotzebue. He graduated from the Univ. 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. His hobbies are music, reading, and biking.

RYNE OLSON – TWO RIVERS, AK



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 that 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. Ryne's hobbies are hiking, backpacking, reading, and skiing.

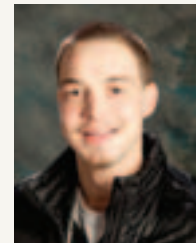
CURT PERANO – QUEENSTOWN, NZ



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." Curt 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.

BRAXTON PETERSON – FAIRBANKS, AK



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 has been a

fisherman for the last five years. Braxton 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. In his spare time, he enjoys music, snowboarding, and writing lyrics for dog mushing raps.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p. 53

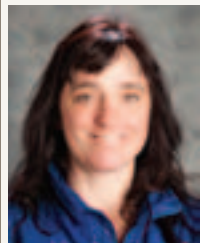
NICOLAS PETIT – GIRLWOOD, AK



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 Alaska in 2000. After exploring parts of the state, Petit decided to live and work in the small town of Girdwood. 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 Iditarod finisher, Dario Martinez. Martinez connected Petit with fellow Iditarod musher Jim Lanier of Northern Whites Kennel in Chugiak who needed help and had the extra dogs to let Petit train for a future Iditarod run. . When Lanier’s hip needed replacing sooner than expected he 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 to raise funds and pack gear for what is known as “the last great race on earth.” Petit met the challenge and 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.

MICHELLE PHILLIPS – TAGISH, YT CANADA



Michelle Phillips, 43, was born and raised in Whitehorse, YT. Growing up, she was a competitive figure skater. As a young adult, she traveled the world until she decided to stay in the Yukon. “Meeting my

partner, Ed Hopkins, 14 years ago sparked my interest in mushing. Once I started mushing I became addicted. We have become a dog mushing family. We work with our dogs year round.” Michelle has run the Yukon Quest five times,

finishing in the top eight every time and winning the Vet’s Choice Award in 2009. She and Ed are the parents of Keegan, 11. She lists her hobbies as reading, biking, and jogging.

WILLIAM PINKHAM – GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO



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. William said he played rugby for 23 years and filled the void left from that with distance mushing when he moved to Colorado. 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 of our relationship. They are the parents of Grace Ruby Pinkham, born in January 2011. He lists his occupation as builder and babysitter. His hobbies are biking, reading, climbing, Soo Bahk Do, (Korean martial art) and surfing.

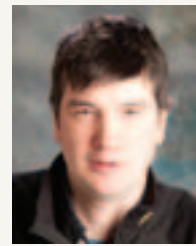
KAREN RAMSTEAD – PERRYVALE, AB CANADA



Karen Ramstead, 47, was born and raised in Ontario, Canada. She studied at the Univ. 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 be inspired and passionate about this event and the amazing canine athletes that run it.” Karen is married to Mark. Karen’s hobbies are writing and photography.

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RAY REDINGTON, JR. – WASILLA, AK



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 that he enjoys hunting, fishing, and his kids. His current occupation, is “dad, musher, hunter, and fisherman.”

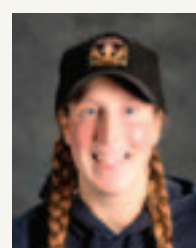
RYAN REDINGTON – WASILLA, AK



Ryan Redington, 29, is a lifelong Alaskan who says he has been running dogs since he could reach the handlebars. His grandfather is the late Joe Redington, Sr. 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. Ryan enjoys hunting, trapping, and fishing. He is the father of Raynee, 10.

COLLEEN ROBERTIA – KASILOF, AK



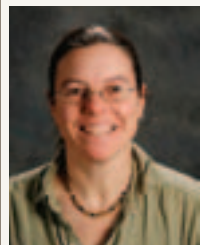
Colleen Robertia, 35, born in Pennsylvania and raised in Massachusetts, received her B.S. degree in 1998 in New York, in Environmental Biology with a minor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 55

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p. 54

in African Studies. She 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. We figured out what was important to us in life and moved to Alaska in 2002. For the last nine years, she has worked as a counselor for emotionally disturbed youth. "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 Iditarod and Yukon Quest and have competed in dozens of 200-300—mid-distance races around the state of Alaska, earning first place finishes in several of them. I am a four-time recipient of the Humanitarian Award from various races, and have also received awards for "Sportsmanship" and "Spirit" of tough self-reliance. I train my dogs while maintaining a year-round full-time job, and also run dogs taken in from animal shelters or given to me by other mushers after not working out in their kennels. 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.

TAMARA ROSE – FAIRBANKS, AK



Tamara Rose, 48, was born in Washington and spent most of her life in Northern California. She did her undergraduate work at Humboldt State Univ., and her graduate work and doctorate of veterinary medicine at UC Davis. After working in west Marin County as a large animal veterinarian, she moved to Alaska in 2004 seeking adventure and quiet space. Tamara began mushing in 2005, has a small kennel of 22 dogs, and has run many mid-distance races. She also completed the 2010 Iditarod and the 2011 Yukon Quest. This year her team will be made up of her veteran dogs and yearlings, both from her kennel and that of Judy Currier's. Tamara currently has her own solo mixed animal practice and is part

owner of a bakery in Fairbanks, Alaska. Besides working, her hobbies are trail running, cycling, and homestead farming.

MIKE SANTOS – CANTWELL, AK



Mike Santos, 43, is 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. "It is not easy living for forty years with the lingering, almost nagging feeling that I was born in the wrong century." 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. Soon he had his first sled dogs and in time 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 their website, sews the harnesses and jackets for the dogs, and 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. Mike invites you to meet his dogs on his website, to read about their accomplishments and to watch the dogs in action on the WolfsDenKennel channel on YouTube.

BRENT SASS – EUREKA, AK



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 Univ. 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. 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."

JUSTIN SAVIDIS – WILLOW, AK



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 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 which is 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 his sense of adventure. 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 Univ. of Utah in 2002. Before coming to Alaska, Justin was a teacher at a treatment center in Park City Utah. His career

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p. 55

path has been focused on working with youth at risk. In addition to running dogs, Justin enjoys kayaking, building, reading, climbing, and mountaineering.

DALLAS SEAVEY – WILLOW, AK



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. Dallas ran the Jr. Iditarod four times and in 2005, he 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. Dallas 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 had his best ever Iditarod finish, and 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.

DAN SEAVEY – SEWARD, AK



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.

Dan 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 serving 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 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's grandson, Conway, will be running his second Jr. Iditarod. Dan says his hobbies are writing and history research.

MITCH SEAVEY – STERLING, AK



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 Univ. in Forest Grove,

Oregon. He began mushing in 1963. Mitch's dad, Dan, ran the Iditarod in 1973 so Mitch decided that he wanted to run the Iditarod someday. After running eleven Iditarods, Mitch won the race in 2004. In 2008, Mitch was the winner of the All Alaska Sweepstakes which was 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.

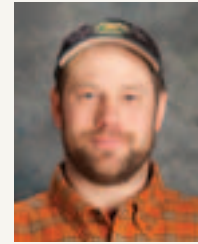
CIM SMYTH – BIG LAKE, AK



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.

RAMEY SMYTH – WILLOW, AK



Ramey Smyth, 36, was born and raised in Alaska. He is the son of Iditarod veterans Bud Smyth and the late Lolly Medley. His father, Bud Smyth, raced in the first Iditarod.

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 daughter. He says he's been mushing since he was born. Ramey ran and won the Jr. Iditarod twice. He ran his first Iditarod in 1994 and has only skipped one year since. A log builder and dog musher, his hobbies are hunting, fishing, reading, 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. He left a wife, children, and grandchildren.” Ramey and his wife, Rebecca, are the parents of Ava, four and Banyan, one year.

JERRY SOUSA – TALKEETNA, AK



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 in Alaska ever since, graduating from Susitna Valley High

School in Talkeetna and attending UAA. He began mushing in 2000 and became interested in the Iditarod by listening to KHAR radio reports on the Iditarod. He's a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc., the IOFC, the Susitna Valley Advisory Council, and the Board of Fish and Game. He owns Talkeetna Adventure Company, LLC. He and Kathleen are the parents of Nicolas, 9,

FOR THE COMPLETE BIOS,
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 57

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p. 56

and Jerry has two adult children, Denali and Fritna. Jerry lists his hobbies and interests as hunting, flying, and family.

ANJANETTE STEER – SHEEP MT., AK



Anjanette Steer, 39, was born and raised near Big Lake, Alaska. She earned a B.S. in Biology from Pacific Lutheran Univ. and studied Environmental Science at Alaska Pacific Univ. 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.

JAN STEVES – EDMONDS, WA



Jan Steves, 55, has been living between Edmonds, WA, and Willow, AK, for the last three years training for the 2012 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. A 1974 graduate of Edmonds High School, she

attended the Univ. 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 she spent time with sled dogs in 2007. Jan is the mother of three adult children, Nicole, Tyler, and Kelsey. Jan's hobbies are fishing, boating, hiking, skiing, and bike riding.

ED STIELSTRA – MCMILLAN, MI



Ed and his wife Tasha, along with their son Nate, 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. Ed has been racing for eighteen years. Beginning with his rookie run in 2004, Ed has finished six Iditarod races. Along with tours and racing, Ed and Tasha combine their mushing experience with their teaching experience – with beginning mushers at the kennel and with students in the classroom providing 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.

MICHAEL SUPRENANT – CHUGIAK, AK



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 is currently a Civil Service worker

for the U.S. Army at Elmendorf Air Force Base. 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."

RICK SWENSON – TWO RIVERS, AK



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 Trail Committee, where he serves on the Board of Directors, and the Alaska Miners. Rick is the father of three, Kristen, Andy, and Kevin.

TOM THURSTON – OAK CREEK, CO



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, Tom 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 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 their 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from p. 57

MIKE WILLIAMS – AKIAK, AK



Mike Williams, 59, was born and raised in Alaska. He says that he's been mushing since birth. "My family has had dogs since time immemorial. We used them for hunting, getting to work, and transportation all over Alaska." He has run the Iditarod 14 times and the Kusko 300 twenty times. Mike sat out the last two Iditarods while his son, Michael, Jr., competed. He attended Kuskokwim College and the Univ. of Alaska, studying counseling. "The ultimate reason for running dogs is to promote sobriety, quality education for our kids, diabetes prevention, and drug free workplaces. I am a counselor to help people help themselves." Mike says that his dogs come from their Red Dog Breed in Akiak and are bred with dogs from Atlla, Boulding, Butcher, Baker, and Erhart lines. Mike is a member of the AASB, Alaska Tribal Leaders and NCAI.

He says he enjoys reading, karate, hunting, fishing, and gathering. Mike is married to Maggie. They have 5 adult children.

GERRY WILLOMITZER – WHITEHORSE, YT CANADA



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.

ALIY ZIRKLE – TWO RIVERS, AK



Aliy Zirkle, 41, was born in New Hampshire. She spent her childhood in New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and Missouri. She graduated from the Univ. 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 that she enjoys the community and the surrounding wild lands. Aliy lists her occupation as dog musher and has finished the Iditarod 11 years in a row and now will race her 12th Iditarod. Aliy and her husband, Allen Moore, also an Iditarod musher, share the kennel. Aliy has two adult stepdaughters, Bridgett and Jennifer. Aliy enjoys guiding novice dog mushers on wilderness adventure trips around Alaska.

2012 Mushers & Sponsors

KELLEY GRIFFIN — WASILLA, AK

MARTIN BUSER — BIG LAKE, AK

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

ANJANETTE STEER (ROOKIE)— SHEEP MOUNTAIN, AK

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

SCOTT JANSSEN — ANCHORAGE, AK

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

AARON BURMEISTER — NOME, AK

Northern Air Cargo; Bering Pacific Construction

NICOLAS PETIT — GIRDWOOD, AK

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

TRENT HERBST — BIG LAKE, AK

TRAVIS COOPER (ROOKIE)— BIG LAKE, AK

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

BRUCE LINTON — KASILOF, AK

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

JODI BAILEY — CHATANIKA, AK

Usibelli Coal Mine; Halliburton; TJ's Landclearing/Tom Gross owner; Virginia Pond; Nancy Bailey; Meg Thornton; Marlys Sauer; Pendra

CONTINUED ON PAGE 59

2012 Mushers & Sponsors... cont'd from p. 58

King; Lou & Fran Varndell; Kirstie McGuinness; Mike Pickell; Sally Dunkley; Paw Partners & Arrowhead Fabrics; Oreen & Judy Brownson; Joel Switzer; Susi Marsh; Mushaholics

MIKE SANTOS (ROOKIE) — CANTWELL, AK

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)

LANCE MACKEY —FAIRBANKS, AK

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

HUGH NEFF —TOK, AK

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

DALLAS SEAVEY —WILLOW, AK

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

MITCH SEAVEY —STERLING, AK

PETER KAISER —BETHEL, AK

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

DEEDEE JONROWE —WILLOW, AK

Shell Exploration and Production 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-operative; 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

ANNA BERINGTON (ROOKIE) — KASILOF, AK

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

SIGRID EKRA —SPARBU NORWAY

Eukanuba, NORWAY; vom og Hundemat, NORWAY; Klattermusen, SWEDEN; Nord-Trondelag Elektrisitetsverk NTE, NORWAY; Norservice, NORWAY; Tronder Avis, 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

RAMEY SMYTH —WILLOW, AK

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

MICHAEL SUPRENANT —CHUGIAK, AK

TOM THURSTON —OAK CREEK, CO

General Physics

PAT MOON (ROOKIE) —CHICAGO, IL

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

JAKE BERKOWITZ —BIG LAKE, AK

KRISTY BERINGTON —KASILOF, AK

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

WADE MARRS —WASILLA, AK

KARIN HENDRICKSON —WILLOW, AK

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

JAIMEE KINZER (ROOKIE) — WILLOW, AK

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

PAUL GEBHARDT —KASILOF, AK

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

CIM SMYTH —BIG LAKE, AK

MICHELLE PHILLIPS —TAGISH YT CANADA

GERRY WILLOMITZER — WHITEHORSE, YT CANADA

KELLY MAIXNER —BIG LAKE, AK

Fly Denali, Inc; Mat Su Meats; Alaska Frontier Trappers Associaton; Mr.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 60

2012 Mushers & Sponsors... cont'd from p. 59

Prime Beef; Whitmire's Processing; Kelly Maixner, DMD, LLC

COLLEEN ROBERTIA —KASILOF, AK
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

KEN ANDERSON —FAIRBANKS, AK
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

WILLIAM PINKHAM —GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO
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

JAN STEVES (ROOKIE) —EDMONDS, WA
Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door, WA; Chuck Russell, WA; 4 Park Avenue/MarkFremmerlid, 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

JEFF KING —DENALI PARK, AK
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
RAY REDINGTON, JR. —WASILLA, AK
Diversified System Resources; Alaska

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

JOHN BAKER — KOTZEBUE, AK

ALIY ZIRKLE —TWO RIVERS, AK
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

JUSTIN SAVIDIS —WILLOW, AK
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

JIM LANIER —CHUGIAK, AK
Alaska Equine & Small Animal Hospital

RYNE OLSON (ROOKIE) —TWO RIVERS, AK
Horizon Lines of Alaska; Eagle Pack NaturaPet Food; Clarion Suites; Northern Outfitters; Pleasant Valley Store

JOE GUTOWSKI (ROOKIE) — GOODRICH, MI
ND Industries, Inc, MI; Jack Tunison, MI; Al Hardman, MI; RJ Williamson, MI; Northern Outfitters, FL; Wiggy's Inc., CO; Columbia Sportswear Company, OR

MATT FAILOR (ROOKIE) —BIG LAKE, AK
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

KAREN RAMSTEAD —PERRYVALE, AB CANADA

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

TAMARA ROSE —FAIRBANKS, AK
Lulu's Bread & Bagel; T Rose Veterinary Service; George, Mark, Greg & Betsy Mullins; North Pole Veterinary Hospital; GretnaBikes.com/Distributors of Lupine Lights in North America

LACHLAN CLARKE —BUENA VISTA, CO
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ZOYA DENURE —PAXSON, AK
Eukanuba; Daily's Web Design; Theresa Daily; Specsavers, ENGLAND; Paw Partners & Arrowhead Fabrics

SILVIA FURTWÄNGLER (ROOKIE) — RAULAND, NORWAY
Belcando Dog Food, GERMANY; Woolpówer, SCHWEDEN; ManHat; ProProjekt; Visit Rauland; Rauland Skisenter

HANK DEBRUIN (ROOKIE) — HALIBURTON, ONT CANADA
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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 61

2012 Mushers & Sponsors... cont'd from p. 60

Richardson; Barb Bohlin & Gunnars Vestfal; Tony & Judy Youdale; Barbara Neilson; Diane Geitzenauer

MATT GIBLIN —BIG LAKE, AK

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

SONNY LINDNER —TWO RIVERS, AK

ROHN BUSER —BIG LAKE, AK

KIRK BARNUM —GRANGEVILLE, ID

CURT PERANO (ROOKIE) —ATLIN, BC CANADA

AMP New Zealand, NZ; D-fa, NZ; AKE, Ltd.,UK; Articrigrs, MN; Macpac New Zealand, NZ David & Sharon Bernsen; New Zealand Federation of Sleddog Sports

BOB CHLUPACH —WILLOW, AK

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

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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

RYAN REDINGTON, WASILLA, AK

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

BRAXTON PETERSON (ROOKIE) — FAIRBANKS, AK

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

BRENT SASS (ROOKIE) —EUREKA, AK

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; Joe & 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

DAN SEAVEY —SEWARD, AK

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance;

Resurrection Bay Historical Society

ROBERT NELSON —KOTZEBUE, AK

ART CHURCH, JR. —WILLOW, AK

JOSH CADZOW (ROOKIE) —FT. YUKON, AK

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

RICK SWENSON —TWO RIVERS, AK

GERALD SOUSA —TALKEETNA, AK

ED STIELSTRA —MCMILLAN, MI

Jeff King: We left Ruby under a clear night sky...stars a blazing, a crescent moon shone bright, the aurora dancing and the lights of the villages twinkled as my dogs powerfully leaned into their harnesses with youthful vigor for the trip down the Yukon.

"Overflow"- a supplement to the 2012 Race Guide, featuring additional memories can be found at www.iditarod.com

Flowers of the Iditarod ...cont'd from page 47

Frances says that as children they didn't need radios, televisions, movies or video games for entertainment. She recalls that when the best storytellers, usually a grandmother, would call the children together and tell stories, it would be a grand experience. Frances would encourage everyone from every culture to "smell the flowers" by learning about family history through the experiences of elders.

Here's a story about Frances. She used to have a small economical car she drove around Unalakleet for errands, shopping, church and visiting family and friends. As the price of gas skyrocketed so did her monthly gas expenses to over \$300. Frances decided to sell her car and get a 4-wheeler. A month's supply of gas for the more frugal set of wheels is just \$30.

Nome, just like all the other checkpoints has flowers to be enjoyed between the siren announced arrival

of the Iditarod Champion and each Iditarod winner. There's the LOIBC - with 50 teams it's the world's largest basketball tournament, the six hole Bering Sea Ice Golf Classic, the 3-dog 3-mile Businessman's Sled Dog Race sponsored by the Nome Kennel Club, the Native Art Fair and the Reindeer Potluck to name a few.

What's it like to be in Nome for the weeklong finish of The Last Great Race? It's like planting bulbs in the fall and then suddenly on a sunny spring day, flowers - crocus, tulips, hyacinth and daffodils erupt through the snow. Every musher's story from sign-up to the Burled Arch is a flower for themselves and their dogs as well as their family, friends and sponsors. In the weeks following the Last Great Race, the racers will have time to process and appreciate the story they have experienced - their time to "smell the flowers."



Judy Currier and Rick Swenson check into Finger Lake as dawn breaks during Iditarod 2011.

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Joe May cont'd from page 43 separated the wheat from the chaff. At the finish line in 1980 I considered myself more survivor than winner...and said so," recalls Joe.

Winning was more relief than jubilation for a musher exhausted from the six on, six off schedule. "Winning was incidental to the inner satisfaction of knowing I had done the best the dogs and I were capable of. When asked if I would come back to defend the title, my answer was the same as Dean Osmar's when he won a few years later. 'What for?'"

Joe's final Iditarod in 1982 earned him the Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian award, recognizing excellence in dog care during the race, the award that ranks as highly as the winner's trophy in mushers' eyes.

Turning the next page in his ten year life chapters, Joe left the mushing world in 1986 to sail oceans, rivers, and lakes with his wife on a wooden Norwegian Pilot Cutter.

A decade of sailing under their belts, they settled on Prince of Wales Island, then moved back to Trapper Creek, where Joe started his life with mushing.

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2011 Race Results

Pos	Musher	Days /Hours/Min/ Sec	Winnings	Pos	Musher	Days /Hours/Min/ Sec	Winnings
1	Baker, John	8d 18h 46m 39s	\$50,400.00	25	Herbst, Trent	10d 12h 16m 58s	\$4,800.00
2	Smyth, Ramey	9d 19h 50m 59s	\$46,300.00	26	Griffin, Kelley	10d 13h 3m 22s	\$3,500.00
3	Gatt, Hans	9d 0h 24m 23s	\$42,500.00	27	Steilstra, Ed	10d 14h 1m 30s	\$2,900.00
4	Seavey, Dallas	9d 2h 27m 18s	\$38,900.00	28	Petit, Nicolas	10d 15h 43m 1s	\$2,700.00
5	Neff, Hugh	9d 3h 16m 18s	\$36,900.00	29	Berington, Kristy	10d 20h 2m 47s	\$1,900.00
6	Schnuelle, Sebastian	9d 3h 55m 15s	\$34,100.00	30	Maixner, Kelly	10d 20h 29m 31s	\$1,500.00
7	Redington Jr, Ray	9d 5h 41m 5s	\$29,800.00	31	Bailey, Jodi	11d 0h 40m 18s	\$1,049.00
8	Kaiser, Pete	9d 7h 6m 6s	\$27,300.00	32	Clarke, Lachlan	11d 0h 43m 29s	\$1,049.00
9	Anderson, Ken	9d 9h 23m 16s	\$24,900.00	33	Kaltenborn, Magnus	11d 11h 55m 2s	\$1,049.00
10	Royer, Jessie	9d 9h 23m 17s	\$24,400.00	34	Johnson, Paul	11d 18h 18m 48s	\$1,049.00
11	Zirkle, Aliy	9d 10h 22m 31s	\$22,400.00	35	Carter, Cain	11d 19h 39m 39s	\$1,049.00
12	Jonrowe, DeeDee	9d 10h 24m 17s	\$20,500.00	36	McDonald, Wattie	11d 23h 1m 33s	\$1,049.00
13	Williams Jr., Michael	9d 11h 59m 5s	\$17,000.00	37	Snodgrass, Billy	12d 5h 39m 20s	\$1,049.00
14	Haltmann, Sven	9d 12h 57m 19s	\$17,100.00	38	Sousa, Gerald	12d 6h 6m 30s	\$1,049.00
15	Lindner, Sonny	9d 13h 2m 59s	\$15,600.00	39	Justin Savidis	12d 6h 55m 48s	\$1,049.00
16	Mackey, Lance	9d 17h 55m 34s	\$12,600.00	40	Giblin, Matt	12d 7h 55m 48s	\$1,049.00
17	Phillips, Michelle	9d 20h 22m 22s	\$11,300.00	41	Thurston, Tom	12d 16h 59m 39s	\$1,049.00
18	Buser, Martin	10d 1h 3m 38s	\$10,100.00	42	Janssen, Scott	12d 20h 28m 28s	\$1,049.00
19	Nelson, Robert	10d 2h 44m 38s	\$9,100.00	43	Taggart, Annie	13d 1h 49m 24s	\$1,049.00
20	Swenson, Rick	10d 4h 52m 34s	\$8,100.00	44	Barnum, Kirk	13d 8h 52m 47s	\$1,049.00
21	Smyth, Cim	10d 5h 59m 44s	\$8,200.00	45	Jones, G.B.	13d 10h 59m 42s	\$1,049.00
22	Hayashida, Matt	10d 6h 34m 38s	\$6,300.00	46	Siirtola, Heather	13d 19h 24m 14s	\$1,049.00
23	Linton, Bruce	10d 6h 34m 39s	\$5,500.00	47	Halverson, Ellen	13d 19h 45m 49s	\$1,049.00
24	Moore, Allen	10d 7h 37m 5s	\$4,800.00				

2011 Awards

Iditarod XXXIX Race Champion - John Baker

Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award - Aliy Zirkle

ExxonMobil Musher's Choice Award - Rick Swenson

Fred Meyer Sportsmanship Award - Allen Moore

GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway Award - Trent Herbst

Golden Clipboard Award - Unalakleet Checkpoint

Golden Stethoscope Award - Samantha Yeltatzie

Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher Award - Trent Herbst

Millennium Alaskan Hotel First to the Yukon Award - Hugh Neff

Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome Award - Lance Mackey

Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial Award - Paul Johnson

PenAir Spirit of Alaska Award - Martin Buser

Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year Award - Nicholas Petit

Wells Fargo First to the Gold Coast Award - John Baker

City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness Award - John Baker

Red Lantern Award - Ellen Halverson

Honorary Musher - Tom Busch

Northern Air Cargo Four Wheeler Drawing - Pete Kaiser

2012 MUSHERS

_____ Anderson, Ken	Fairbanks	AK	_____ Maixner, Kelly	Big Lake	AK
_____ Bailey, Jodi	Fairbanks	AK	_____ Marrs, Wade	Wasilla	AK
_____ Baker, John*	Kotzebue	AK	_____ Moon, Pat	Park Ridge	IL R
_____ Barnum, Kirk	Grangeville	ID	_____ Neff, Hugh	Tok	AK
_____ Berington, Kristy	Kasilof	AK	_____ Nelson, Robert	Kotzebue	AK
_____ Berington, Anna	Kasilof	AK R	_____ Olson, Ryne	Two Rivers	AK R
_____ Berkowitz, Jake	Big Lake	AK	_____ Perano, Curt	Atline	BC R
_____ Burmeister, Aaron	Nenana	AK	_____ Peterson, Braxton	Fairbanks	AK R
_____ Buser, Martin*	Big Lake	AK	_____ Petit, Nick	Girdwood	AK
_____ Buser, Rohn	Big Lake	AK	_____ Phillips, Michelle	Tagish	YT
_____ Cadzow, Josh	Ft. Yukon	AK R	_____ Pinkham, William	Homer	AK
_____ Chlupach, Bob	Willow	AK	_____ Ramstead, Karen	Perryvale	AB
_____ Church, Jr., Art	Willow	AK	_____ Redington, Ryan	Wasilla	AK
_____ Clarke, Lachlan	Buena Vista	CO	_____ Redington, Jr., Ray	Wasilla	AK
_____ Cooper, Travis	Big Lake	AK R	_____ Robertia, Colleen	Kasilof	AK
_____ DeBruin, Hank	Haliburton	ONT R	_____ Rose, Tamara	Fairbanks	AK
_____ DeNure, Zoya	Paxson	AK	_____ Santos, Mike	Cantwell	AK R
_____ Ekran, Sigrid	NORWAY		_____ Sass, Brent	Fairbanks	AK R
_____ Faylor, Matthew	Big Lake	AK R	_____ Savidis, Justin	Willow	AK
_____ Furtwängler, Silvia	Norway	R	_____ Seavey, Mitch	Sterling	AK
_____ Gebhardt, Paul	Kasilof	AK	_____ Seavey, Dallas	Willow	AK
_____ Giblin, Matt	Big Lake	AK	_____ Seavey, Dan	Seward	AK
_____ Griffin, Kelley	Wasilla	AK	_____ Smyth, Cim	Big Lake	AK
_____ Gutowski, Joe	Goodrich	MI R	_____ Smyth, Ramey	Willow	AK
_____ Hendrickson, Karin	Wasilla	AK	_____ Sousa, Gerald	Talkeetna	AK
_____ Herbst, Trent	Big Lake	AK	_____ Steer, Anjanette	Sutton	AK R
_____ Janssen, Scott	Anchorage	AK	_____ Steves, Jan	Willow	AK R
_____ Jonrowe, DeeDee	Willow	AK	_____ Stielstra, Ed	McMillan	MI
_____ Kaiser, Peter	Bethel	AK	_____ Suprenant, Michael	Chugiak	AK
_____ King, Jeff*	Denali	AK	_____ Swenson, Rick*	Two Rivers	AK
_____ Kinzer, Jaimee	Willow	AK R	_____ Thurston, Tom	Oak Creek	CO
_____ Lanier, Jim	Chugiak	AK	_____ Williams, Mike	Akiak	AK
_____ Lindner, Sonny	Two Rivers	AK	_____ Willomitzer, Gerry	Whitehorse	YT
_____ Linton, Bruce	Kasilof	AK	_____ Zirkle, Aliy	Two Rivers	AK
_____ Mackey, Lance*	Fairbanks	AK			

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5. 1988 A/P Iditarod Collectors Print, "A Welcome Rest," signed by Susan Butcher & Libby Riddles	\$3,000	Iditarod Trail Committee
6. Roundtrip Airfare for 2 to most PenAir Destinations	\$1,500	PenAir
7. 2012 Dodge Ram 4x4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a NEW similarly priced Dodge, Jeep or Chrysler vehicle	\$39,000	Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep
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11. Five Day Motorhome Rental within Alaska	\$1,250	ABC Motorhome Rentals
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15. One Way Car Shipment between Tacoma, WA & Anchorage, AK	\$1,250	Horizon Lines
16. #1 Official Iditarod Race Bib signed by 2012 Champion	\$1,100	Iditarod Trail Committee
17. Spenard Builders Shopping Spree	\$500	Spenard Builders Supply
18. Deluxe Weekend for 2 at Millennium Hotel Anchorage	\$599	Millennium Alaskan Hotel
19. Stihl Chain Saw & Accessories	\$500	Jackovich Industrial Supply
20. 2012 Dodge Ram 4x4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a NEW similarly priced Dodge, Jeep or Chrysler vehicle	\$39,000	Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep

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