

The Official 2013 Race Guide

Iditarod[®]

Trail Sled Dog Race



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• 2013 Musher Profiles • 2013 Checkpoint Spotlight • Official 2013 Iditarod Trail Map

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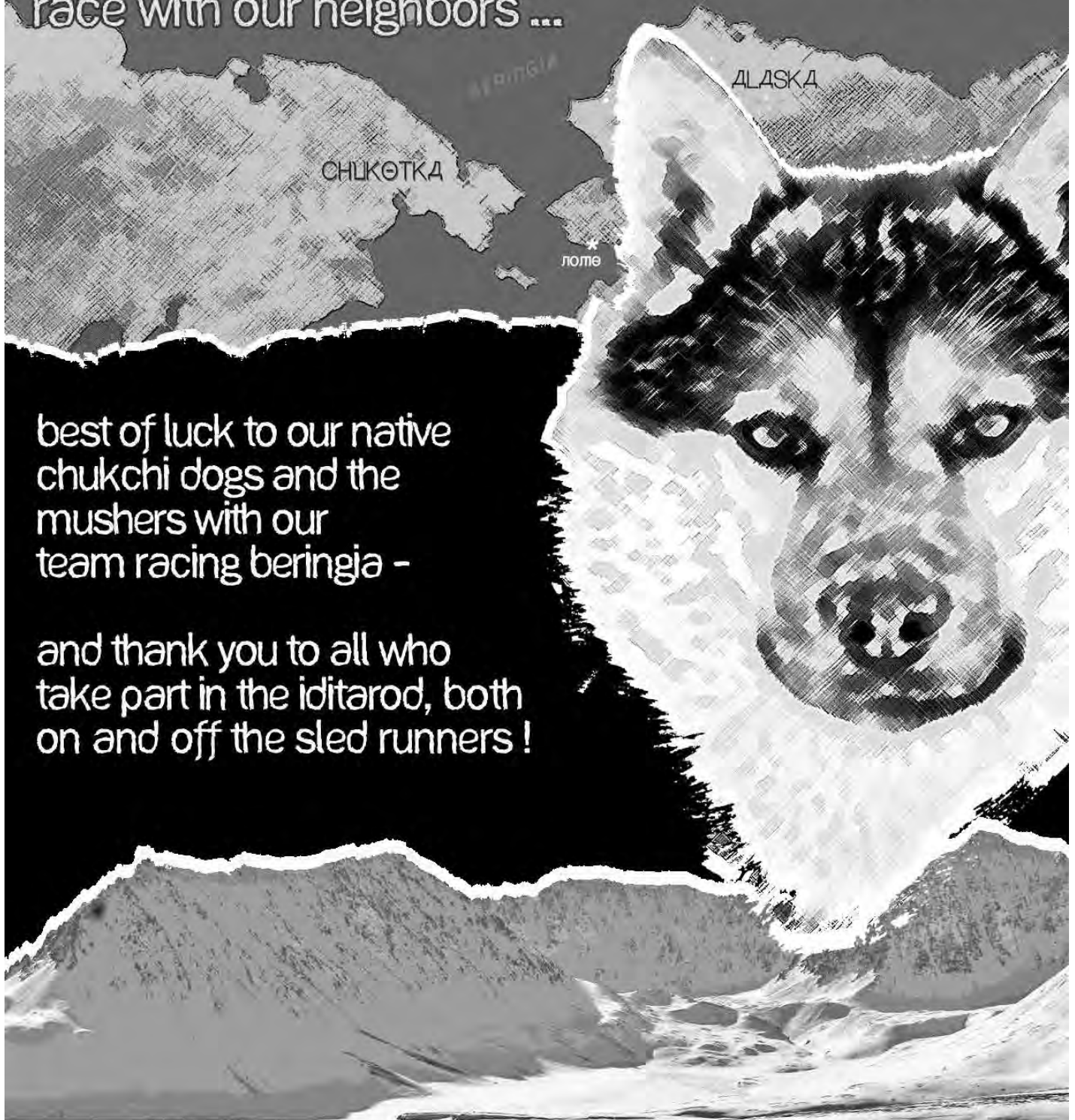
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Efficient shipping services are only part of our heritage in Alaska. We continue to support the community through corporate outreach programs and proudly sponsor Iditarod mushers Aliy Zirkle and Allen Moore from Two Rivers, Alaska. Aliy has completed 12 Iditarods, received the Humanitarian Award in 2005 and 2011, and was...

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Good luck in 2013, Aliy and Allen.

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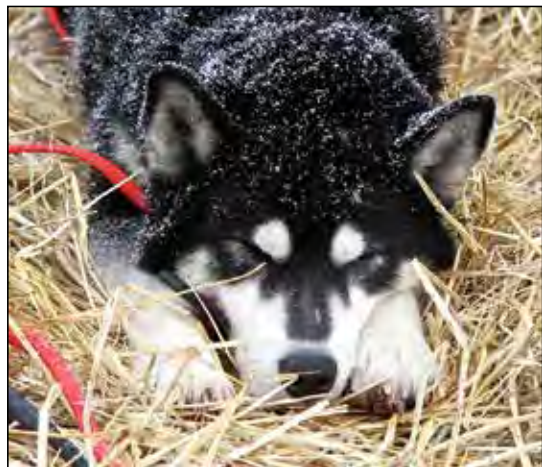


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 Lachlan Clarke's dog team leaves the Finger Lake checkpoint.



TRAIL COMMITTEE

President's Message

Dear Iditarod Fans and Supporters,

On behalf of the ITC Board of Directors, I would like to wish you a warm welcome to Iditarod 2013, the 41st Running of The Last Great Race on Earth.

As we get ready for the start of this years race it always makes us reflect on the spirit and pride of our people our communities and our Great State. Think about the early days of the Iditarod Race, can't you just feel the Real Alaskan spirit?! People working together and having no doubt that they could achieve their goals--- no matter how huge the task.

The Iditarod race is much like a three legged stool, Volunteers-Sponsors-Mushers. Without one of the three the race does not happen.

Volunteers - Due to all of the hard work behind the scenes we are able to actually put on a race and almost make it look almost effortless. While not in the spotlight they are a huge part of our success. Without Volunteers, we truly would not be here.

Sponsors - Our financial strength, of course, comes from our dedicated sponsors. What a great group of Companies and people we have supporting us! Without sponsors, we truly would not be here.

Mushers - We truly have world class competitive mushers from all around the globe. We would also like to recognize that last year, we had the youngest winner ever, which shows that the mushing world is thriving and a new generation of mushers are becoming increasingly competitive. This bodes well for the future of the sport and our race. Our great group of competitors truly are the best in the world!

There are two other groups we would like to recognize, they are the Veterinarians and the Iditarod Airforce.

Veterinarians - Led by Dr. Stu Nelson, this remarkable team provides unprecedented care and compassion to the canine athletes that love to run and compete in this race.

Iditarod Air Force - These unsung heroes are the backbone of the monumental logistical effort that staging the Iditarod requires. Day after day, they fly their personal aircraft, using safety practices above and beyond what the FAA requires, to keep the volunteers and veterinarians on the move in order to keep up with the mushers as they advance towards Nome.

Please join us in thanking all those that are a part of this Great Race. Through their efforts and yours as fans and supporters we are able to successfully stage the Iditarod each March and thereby celebrate Alaska's rich history.

Andy Baker
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IDITAROD 2012: EXPERIENCE MATTERS

By Bruce Lee, Insider Trail Analyst / Veteran Iditarod Musher

The Iditarod has changed a lot from its first race to present day. Even with refinements in the trail, equipment and organization, it is still an adventure and one of the toughest sporting events in the world. In last year's race 14 of the starting teams never made it to the finish line in Nome, attesting to how difficult it is to travel across a thousand miles of Alaska in winter.



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Besides the challenges of the trail there is the constant job for the mushers of managing the care and feeding of their sled dog teams. Mushers must meet their every need along the trail for high energy food, water, foot care and rest. Mushers spent countless hours of each day, like a great coach, making sure the needs of each canine athlete are met. The more experience a musher gains the better their field of knowledge to deal with any situation they might encounter along the way to Nome. Mushers spend years developing their dog care skills and trail knowledge. You very seldom see a "rookie" make it into the Top 10 circle of the Iditarod. There is just too much to learn about running this race before most mushers can be really competitive.

Reflecting on last year's race, the top 10 finishers had a total of 122 Iditarod finishes between them for an average of 12 years of Iditarod races per musher. Six of the top 10 teams were from second generation Iditarod mushing families. Ray Redington and Dallas Seavey are both third generation Iditarod finishers. These mushers have been learning about sled dogs and racing from their earliest days, knowledge which they put to good use during Iditarod 40.

The 2012 Iditarod saw a new musher enter the winner's circle with Dallas Seavey taking his first championship. It was a really close race right down to the finish with Aliy Zirkle, in her best

Tuesday March 13, 2012 Iditarod 2012 winner Dallas Seavey and his wife Jen and daughter Annie with his lead dogs at the finish line in Nome.

EXPERIENCE MATTERS... cont'd from page 10

Iditarod finish ever, coming under the burlled arch in Nome just one hour later after a thousand miles.

Iditarod 40 was highly competitive with a lot of strong teams fighting it out for first place right down to the final 100 miles. Dallas Seavey, Aliy Zirkle, Aaron Burmeister, Peter Kaiser, Michael Williams, Jr. and Ray Redington all posted their highest finishes ever in the Iditarod. That's six out of the top ten.

Aliy Zirkle was the first musher to arrive at the McGrath checkpoint along the Kuskokwim River staking out a top position in the race early on. Most all of the teams took their mandatory 24 hour layover in Takotna last year, a checkpoint approximately 400 trail miles into the race. With the teams resting in Takotna it was hard to tell which musher had the strongest team. Mitch Seavey's teams looked super strong and ready to move down the trail as he took his 24 hour layover. They seemed unfazed by the early miles of the race. Other teams that looked really strong at Takotna last year were Aliy Zirkle and

Dallas Seavey. You certainly couldn't tell at that point who was going to win Iditarod 40 but you could tell these were going to be some of the strongest teams later in the race.

Jim Lanier, a veteran of 14 Iditarod's, was the first musher to arrive at the Cripple checkpoint taking the half way prize in the race. Following close behind were Dallas Seavey, Mitch Seavey and Aliy Zirkle. The race was now on to the Yukon River and the checkpoint of Ruby. First to arrive there was Mitch Seavey; he was the team to beat at this point in the race. Aliy Zirkle arrived 4th but left there 1st. She was still in first place coming off of the Yukon River 145 miles farther down the trail.

Even heading up the Bering Sea Coast it was hard to tell who might win Iditarod 40. The teams all looked so strong. They arrived in Unalakleet with Zirkle in first, Dallas in second and Aaron in third place but left in the reverse order. The race was still on.

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Aliy Zirkle kicks as she runs down the Fish River after leaving in second place from White Mountain.

Membership Message

A familiar name among Iditarod Race Fans and mushers is Joe Redington, Sr., Father of the Iditarod. Joe Sr. had the aspiration to keep dog mushing thriving by creating a race along the mail trail to Nome from Anchorage. To accomplish this, it took months of planning, gathering volunteers to help keep track of the mushers, and a way to raise money for the winner.

For the first race in 1974, a parcel of land was sold off in square inch increments to provide money to the winner of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Now after more than forty years, the race continues to keep Redington's aspirations alive; however, it is a financial challenge.

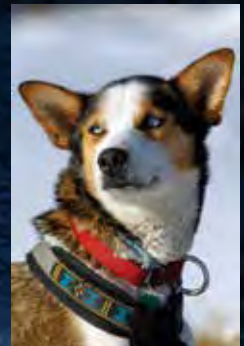
The Iditarod Trail Committee is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is supported through sponsors, the selling of merchandise and Insider subscriptions, raffles, donations and Iditarod Trail Committee memberships. It takes all these different sources of income to pull off the **Last Great Race on Earth!**

If you would like to help support the Iditarod, we ask that you consider becoming a proud member of the Iditarod Trail Committee. It is one of the many ways to show your support and to help in keeping this race alive and healthy!

Iditarod

Trail Sled Dog Race

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iTREC! is a yearlong professional development program that provides Alaska's teachers with place-based service learning skills to help today's youth become lifelong stewards of Alaska's public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage.

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and cultural resources of communities from Seward to Nome addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, civics, outdoor recreation and volunteerism.

iTREC! is composed of 3 multi-disciplinary professional development workshops taught by leading national experts in place-based service learning, and supplemented with on-going partner support and guidance.

iTREC! teachers participate in the year-long program,

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Jan Newton, Iditarod 2013 Honorary Musher

by Terrie Hanke

The Iditarod has many legendary figures. Most have stood on sled runners and coached dog teams from Fourth Avenue in Anchorage to Front Street in Nome. Jan Newton has never run a dog team in The Last Great Race but her contributions to the race are remarkable and have elevated her to a position of legendary prominence as an Iditarod volunteer. Jan passed away in August 2012 at the age of 75. As Honorary Musher, Jan's life and service to Iditarod will be celebrated during the Ceremonial Start of Iditarod XLI.

She's referred to as the Queen of Takotna checkpoint but in reality

Jan's role over the past 40 years has been anything but royal. She's never been one to be waited upon, spoiled or served. Instead, she's extended the royal treatment to everybody who's entered the checkpoint. Mushers, race volunteers and spectators were all welcome and treated like royalty at Takotna, courtesy of Jan Newton.

Forty years ago Jan and husband, Dick, arrived in rural Alaska and have called the small village on the north bank above the Takotna River home ever since. Back in Idaho the ambitious young couple ran a café, hotel and bar frequented most often by miners. Takotna has a rich history as a supply point for miners in Alaska's gold rush days. Perhaps it was that connection that lured them to Takotna. In the early



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years of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Takotna wasn't designated as a checkpoint but a neighbor of the Newton's suggested they make a few meals for the mushers passing through. From such a simple beginning of moose stew and chili, the Newton's role in The Last Great Race has grown to major proportions.

Running a checkpoint is not a one or two-person operation. Every man, woman and child residing in Takotna has a job during Iditarod. The school shuts down as the race comes through and the kids all have duties. Relatives and friends of Takotna residents from all over the United

States migrate to the checkpoint during March to help with the race. The women cook, the men park dog teams and heat water while the kids clean up. It's a great deal of work to organize and coordinate a checkpoint let alone feed hungry mushers, spectators and race volunteers. Jan not only had her finger on the pulse of the checkpoint, she was the heartbeat of the operation. It was her goal to make everyone feel special and feel at home.

As Iditarod's Teacher on the Trail™ in 2006, I was dropped off on the Takotna River by an Iditarod Air Force plane then made my way up the bank to the checkpoint. Jan came out of the kitchen to greet me, not with the usual words of welcome but by asking how I'd like my moose steak. Medium-rare I replied. Jan returned to the kitchen, took two cherry pies out

Jan Newton... cont'd from page 14

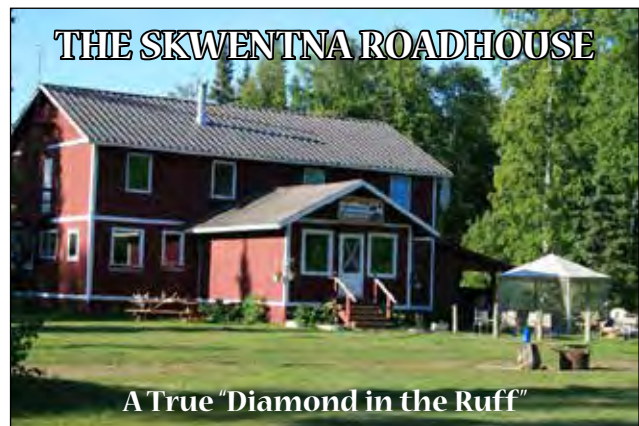
of the oven, put some frosting on a cake and began preparing my steak. That's one of the things that Takotna is famous for – every musher gets a steak but when folks rave about the quantities and variety of delicious food dished up at Takotna, Jan's pie tops the list.

Jan would begin producing double-crust fruit pies several weeks before the race. The crème pies went into production a couple days before the race and continued daily during the race. Take your pick – blueberry, cherry, peach, apple, pumpkin, banana cream, coconut cream, butterscotch, lemon meringue and pecan, they are all to die for. In route over Takotna, Iditarod Air Force Pilots often land briefly to purchase a pie and bring it to another checkpoint on the trail. By the time the last musher departs Takotna, 75 - 80 pies would be a delicious memory.

Jan tried to provide every musher with what they wanted. All one had to do was ask and if Jan had the ingredients, it'd be served up shortly. Years back, musher Sonny King, commented on all the delicious pie Jan had made and then asked why she didn't make his favorite – pecan. The answer was short and sweet – we don't have pecans. Sonny took care of that by sending a case of pecans to Jan from his home state of South Carolina. When he walked into the checkpoint the next winter, Jan handed him his very own pecan pie and he ate every bit of it. Five-time Iditarod Champion, Rick Swenson prefers coconut banana crème. Jan always had one ready for him.

Not only did Jan strive to make every visitor feel at home but she emphasized that what is done for one musher, is done for all. Thanks to Jan's coordination and direction of the busy checkpoint, water is heated 24/7 for the mushers to use in preparing food for their dogs. It's no wonder that so many mushers choose to take their required 24-hour layover in Takotna that it's become known as the friendliest little checkpoint on the Iditarod Trail.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



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Linda Fenton, 2013 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Walking into Linda Fenton's classroom this year, a person knows something exciting is about to happen. Two Iditarod Trail maps, a weather graph comparing the weather in Waupaca, Wisconsin and Nome, Alaska, newspaper articles, and several pictures of mushers and dogs tell all who enter that Fenton is on the adventure of a lifetime.

2013 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ Linda Fenton is a third grade teacher at the Waupaca Learning Center in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Her interest in using the Iditarod as a teaching tool began 12 years ago when she and the computer teacher collaborated to create a technology rich research project for her students. The students' enthusiasm for the project made her realize that using the Iditarod was a great tool for teaching and learning. Linda has shared this thought with other teachers, "The Iditarod embodies everything children love: dogs, competition, and the sense of adventure." Over the years, more lessons were added to her curriculum in the areas of Science, Math, Social Studies, Language Arts and Physical Activity. A few years ago Linda submitted her lesson for Musher

Trading Cards in the Iditarod Education Department's Curriculum Challenge and was a Challenge winner. During the Iditarod, Linda's room becomes a hub of activity as her students post current race standings and past students stop in to check on the progress of the race and find out who the leaders are. Out of the classroom, Linda has many other interests. She is married with three sons. She loves to travel and has been to 48 of the 50 US states as well as several other countries. In the summer you can find Linda selling ice cream at her shop, the Namekagon Cone, in Hayward, WI. Linda loves to



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Celebrating Fifteen Years of Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

By Diane Johnson, Director of Education for Iditarod

When Linda Fenton flies out of Anchorage and to checkpoints along the Iditarod Trail during the 2013 Iditarod, she will be the fifteenth Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ to bring Iditarod to classrooms around the globe in Iditarod's online teaching adventure. Linda has been placing journal entries and lesson ideas on the website since June. During the race, she'll report from the trail and share her experiences with classes around the world.

The Teacher on the Trail™ program began in 1999. Andrea Aufder Heyde, (Finney) journeyed to Alaska in 1998 and shared her concept for this program with Iditarod's Executive Director, Stan Hooley, and other Iditarod staff. After receiving the thumbs up to create this program, Finney raised funds to sponsor and support her endeavor as the First Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™.

The funds paid for equipment and gear that she needed, with sponsors mostly in her home state of Indiana. Prior to the start of the 1999 Iditarod, an interview process was held to select the second Teacher on the Trail™, Diane Johnson, current Director of Education for Iditarod. Members of the first selection committee were Peggy Bear, Peg

Stout, Wrex Diem, and Lois Harter.

Finney's insight to the importance of this educational program and leadership has led to a nationally acclaimed opportunity for teachers. Finney set the standards high to select well qualified educators who are invested in improving their own teaching skills and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 51



Wells Fargo 2006 Teacher on the Trail™, Terrie Hanke takes in the scenes at the Nikolai checkpoint.

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Checkpoint Spotlight: Shageluk

by Joy Hamilton, Shageluk Resident/Innoko River School Principal-Teacher

Slipping beyond the Beaver Mountains and over the Iditarod Hills winds a 600-mile river that pulls the snowmelt from west of the Alaska Range towards the Yukon River. The Innoko River area has known thousands of generations of residents and travelers who learned the lessons that the Innoko offered, who themselves were creating history, and who lived within the Innoko River balance of life.

As you pass through the Innoko River region, don't be fooled by a seeming lack of evidence of humanity. Many, many villages once thrived along the Innoko, Iditarod, and Big and Little Yetna rivers, long before the Gold Rush. History began in the Innoko River area long before the arrival of greedy fur and gold seekers. Generations of people walked every ridge of every hill chain and wore many paths through portages that were hewn by dog teams, Deg Hitan trappers, fishermen, hunters, berry pickers, and their families.

Shageluk is the last of these great Innoko River

villages, and the last of the Iditarod checkpoints on the southern route before heading to Anvik on the Yukon River.

Since the mid-1970s, Iditarod Sled Dog Race mushers have benefitted from the hard work, trail knowledge and survival expertise of Shageluk trailbreakers as well as the generosity of the volunteer Shageluk checkers, supply handlers and cooks.

There is much written on the history of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. One of its main purposes was to honor the dog team mode of travel that had been a



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Village school kids take an outing to watch Iditarod musher Bruce Linton race down the street at the Shageluk village checkpoint during the 2011 Iditarod race..

Shageluk... cont'd from page 18

significant part of Alaska's indigenous history.

Ken Chase, an early Iditarod racer from Anvik, recalls that although everyone was excited and proud of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in its early days, there was not a lot of village involvement. Ken, Rudy Demoski (also from Anvik) and Ron Aldrich, another early Iditarod musher, thought about the possibility of routing the race through the abandoned gold mining town of Iditarod and a bit further south to include more interior villages. There wasn't much of a difference in mileage from the original route, but the original route did not travel through the old gold mining town of Iditarod even though the race was named after the town.

The Iditarod Race Committee at first was reluctant to approve the alternate southern route (citing complicated logistics), but they also supported more village involvement, encouraging Native Alaskan teams to join in the race. After much discussion, the Iditarod Race Board settled on the "southern route" and looked forward to strengthening their ties with the villages, encouraging Native Alaskan mushers to join in the race, and honoring Alaska's rich heritage of the relationship between the working dogs of Alaska and their human caretakers.

When Shageluk was given the news that the southern route was approved — joining Iditarod, Shageluk, Anvik and Grayling — the elders of Shageluk began planning for trail breaking!

In 1975, Adolph Hamilton, his brothers Hamilton Hamilton, Sr., Herman Hamilton, a brother-in-law Hoover Howard, Sr. and Adolph's sons Arnold and Rudy Hamilton, broke trail for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Shageluk to the abandoned town of Iditarod. As a young man, Adolph used to travel regularly by dog team to Iditarod and Flat to sell furs. His last time on the trail was sometime in the 1950s.

There had been many subtle changes on the trail

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56



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VOLUNTEERS... BEHIND THE SCENES

By Deby Trosper, Director of Membership, Volunteers, & Auctions

While watching the Iditarod, do you ever think about what it takes to get all those mushers and their dogs to Nome or to get all the Race information out to the public?

Technology has come a long way since the first Iditarod in 1974, but so has the number of volunteers who make it possible for all this to happen.

Much of the physical labor behind the Race is supported by hundreds of volunteers who love the event. Volunteers begin working on the event as early as June to start preparing for the previous year's Iditarod Volunteer Appreciation Picnic and the next Iditarod musher sign-ups, as well as getting supplies and files put away from the previous race. As the months go by, qualified volunteers conduct physical evaluations on the dogs; others input data and study stat sheets. Some venture out to look for better straw, cheaper aviation fuel, more snow machines, better trail conditions, and to build new cabins along the trail.

Come fall, the number of volunteers increases as more trail work is done by cutting back brush, paperwork begins to increase and raffle tickets are sold at the Alaska State Fair. All of these activities take place way before the Race begins.

As race time draws closer, the number of volunteers increases again because help is needed to load the supplies on pallets and into the planes of the volunteer Iditarod Air Force. These supplies are then flown out to the checkpoints. Iditarod sends out enough straw and Heet so that at each checkpoint, every dog passing through will have a warm bed and fuel for a hot meal that their musher prepares for them.

There are volunteers at the checkpoints who check-in the mushers at all hours of day and night, send in the checkpoint data in order to get it out to you, the fan, and then they rake straw and clean-up after the teams have left.

The day before the Start and Re-Start, a large number of volunteers come out to 4th Ave. in downtown Anchorage, the finish of the Start at Campbell Airstrip, and to Willow Lake to "build" the race site for the Re-Start...

The jobs can range from shoveling snow, putting up fencing, marking parking spots and shoveling more snow, and making sure everything is prepared for the Last Great Race to begin. The day following means cleaning up, loading up gear that was unpacked 48 hours before, and making sure the area looks as though as nothing ever happened.

Once the race is in motion, the Millennium Alaskan



© Denise Zirkle

Aly Zirkle and a young fan at the Volunteer Picnic and Musher Sign-up.

Volunteers... cont'd from page 20



Wednesday February 15, 2012. Iditarod volunteers pose for a group photo as they prepare musher's "food drop" bags to be sent to the various 22 checkpoints by weighing, tagging and sorting at the Airland Transportation warehouse in Anchorage, Alaska.

Hotel in Anchorage is busy 24/7 at Race Headquarters where volunteers keep track of everything going out and coming back from the trail. Dogs who have run their course are flown back to be picked up by handlers and in the meantime are being fed, walked and cared for by volunteers. Questions are coming in to the phone room which is full of

Nome share floors, rooms and whatever sleeping accommodations they can find due to the shortage of rooms in the small town of Nome, population 3,695. Iditarod would like to thank all of those who open their homes and hearts to the Iditarod Musher and Volunteers!

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CHECKPOINT PROTOCOL

Dr. Stuart L. Nelson, Jr., DVM - Iditarod Chief Veterinarian

Iditarod 2013 is just around the corner, and my volunteer veterinarians are gearing up for the big event! Of a total staff of approximately 50 veterinarians, most will serve as "trail" veterinarians. These individuals will have a number of responsibilities at checkpoints along the race route. Of course, their primary focus will be on the examination, evaluation and treatment of the canine athletes.

A "senior" veterinarian is selected at each checkpoint for organizational purposes. The person so chosen is the most experienced of the group and has demonstrated a high level of expertise in previous races. Responsibilities of the senior veterinarian include the following, which may be delegated when deemed appropriate: 1) inventory medications and supplies; 2) supervise the care and feeding of dropped dogs; 3) organize dropped dog paperwork and coordinate their departure from the checkpoint; 4) schedule staff so all share the workload equally; 5) work with communications personnel, race judges and checkers in efficiently managing a checkpoint; and 6) immediately notify the Chief Veterinarian of any problems or crises that may develop.

It is absolutely essential that mushers and veterinarians

work together on behalf of the dogs. A healthy dialogue must be established and maintained. Excellence in dog care requires a team effort. In a race scenario, mushers are with their animals 95% of the time and have specific knowledge about their individual dogs. Veterinarians are engaging those dogs about 5% of the time, but have advanced medical training and expertise. Only when mushers are properly informed of specific abnormalities to watch for, and actively communicate observations of such to checkpoint (trail) veterinarians, can the best care be provided for our canine athletes.

A systematic examination protocol will enable the most efficient use of staff time. Veterinarians are instructed to first observe a team that he/she will be examining, as it moves into the checkpoint. Lamenesses can be detected most quickly while the dogs are in motion, allowing for a more accurate assessment of musculoskeletal problems. Other important visual observations can also be made at this point, such as attitude, respiratory rate and condition of booties.

When a musher stops to rest their team at the checkpoint, individual "hands on" examinations are next on the agenda. These are best accomplished soon after the arrival of a team for several reasons. First, any disorders can be addressed and treatment begun to allow for maximum recovery time and appropriate rechecks while at a particular checkpoint. Second, longer periods of rest can be achieved without interruption to the animals. Finally, it is more efficient for busy mushers and veterinarians,

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Veterinarian George Stroberg, and other volunteer vets, work with Rick Swenson's dogs. Each time a team pulls into a checkpoint, all dogs are thoroughly examined by professional veterinarians.



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Mushers' Biographies

Louie Ambrose – (R) St. Michael, AK



Native Alaskan Louie Ambrose, 42, was born in Tanana and raised in Galena. The only time he left Galena while growing up was to go to fish camp in the summers.

Ambrose went to college in Kansas, at the Haskell Jr. Indian College, from 1989 to 1990. He married Jerrine Austin in 2003. Jerrine is the daughter of the late Iditarod veteran Jerry Austin. The young couple moved to St. Michael in 2006 in order to work with the family businesses, and Louie has been the manager of both Austin's Alaska Adventures and St. Michael's Fuel, during the ensuing years. His mushing inspiration comes from his late father-in-law, who told him stories and encouraged him to become inter-

ested. He has been mushing and thinking about running the Iditarod since 2006 and has his own kennel. He has five children with Jerrine; Travis Olin, 21, Shaylene Huntington, 20, Hailey Ambrose, 11, Mathias Ambrose, 8, and Caleb Ambrose, 6.

Ken Anderson – Fairbanks, AK



Running dogs and racing the Iditarod has been a dream come true for Ken Anderson. "I feel very fortunate to be able to run the Race and live our mushing life-

style." The 40 year old was born in Minnesota. When he was in third grade, his father bought him a book on the Iditarod, which sparked his desire to someday compete in the Race. Ken is married to

Gwen Holdman, also an Iditarod veteran. Ken's occupation is a dog musher and his hobbies are sailing, fishing, carpentry, and writing. Ken and Gwen are the parents of twins, Marais and Leif, age 4 and Lael "Lilly", age 2. Ken believes his family's mushing lifestyle brings richness to their lives. For him, family is first, and it's really fun for Gwen and Ken to see their kids develop an interest in the dogs and mushing.

Jodi Bailey – Chatanika, AK



Jodi Bailey has been running dogs for over a decade, and enjoys trying new challenges and trails with the dogs at Dew Claw Kennels. Jodi Bailey, a 44 year old

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Mushers' Biographies

veteran musher, was born in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. She came to Alaska after she graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, where she earned her BA in Theater and Anthropology. She resides in Chatanika, Alaska. Jodi is a member of the Fairbanks Running Club, and participates in their summer race series. She enjoys running, biking, and cooking. She loves the wonderful feeling of being out on the trail, without "emails or work or laundry" and with just the dogs and miles ahead of her. Jodi feels very fortunate to be able to do this sport.

John Baker – Kotzebue, AK



With the slogan "Dream, Try, Win," how could anyone doubt 2011 Iditarod Race Champion John Baker's will to succeed in "the World's Greatest Race." Baker, now

50, has proven over and over that if you believe in yourself, and never, never give up, you can make your dreams come true. Baker is the first Inupiat Native and Northwestern Alaskan to ever win the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and the first Native Alaskan to win since Jerry Riley in 1976. Baker also set the record for the fastest Iditarod race at 8 days, 18 hours, 46 minutes, and 39 seconds, something the race's founders never thought possible. Growing up in the very rural town of Kotzebue, Alaska, Baker was never a stranger to the dangers and isolation many face on the Iditarod Trail. The only thing matching his love for racing sled dog teams has been his love of flying, which he started doing at age 14. He is a commercial pilot and manager of a family-run air-taxi business. After starting up his own kennel in 1992, where he breeds his own champion sled dogs, Baker set out to race the Iditarod. He has placed in the top 10 thirteen times since 1997. Thanks to his determination and positive attitude, Baker has earned the respect of many mushers competing on

the trail, leading Baker to add a new love to his life: Motivational Speaking. Using his signature slogan and stories of his experiences, Baker encourages Alaskan youth to lift the limits on what is possible when they "Dream, Try, Win."

Travis Beals – (R) Seward, AK



Not many people can say they literally grew up on the trail, but Travis Beals can. For many years, Travis's mom trained sled dogs and did not want to leave him behind. In-

stead, she'd put him in the car seat inside the sled and take him with her on the trail. He has been hooked ever since. Travis was born and raised in Seward, Alaska. He ran his first dog race at four years old. Travis worked with his mother's mentor, local musher Rick Tarpey, for many years. At 15, Travis opened up his own kennel. He ran the Jr. Iditarod in 2009, and came in 2nd place. He has raced in many mid distance races and in 2010 won the Humanitarian Award racing in the Tustumena 200. Now 21, Travis is one of the younger mushers in the Race. This will be his first thousand mile race. He has always dreamed of competing in the Iditarod. His hobbies include snowboarding and fishing.

Charley Bejna – (R) Addison, IL



Charley Bejna, a self-described adventurer, was born, raised, and currently resides in Addison, Illinois where he has owned and operated Charley's Landscaping

Company for the past 21 years. His attraction to the Last Frontier began when he first came to Alaska in 1991 with his dad when they toured most of the state together. He participated in the 2007 Iditarod as Bruce Linton's Idita-Rider and

became his tag sled driver in 2008. Also in 2008, he met G.B. Jones at his kennel where he drove a small team down the trail. He then became G.B.'s handler and worked as his tag sled driver in the 2011 Iditarod, which sealed his interest in racing. Now, at age 39, he is competing as a rookie in the 2013 Iditarod for the first time with his own 30 dog team for the adventure and to spend time with his dogs.

Anna Berington – Kasilof, AK



Anna is part of an Iditarod first; she and her sister Kristy are the first identical twins to run the Iditarod at the same time, both the 2012 Race and this year. Anna and

her sister's first sled team consisted of the family Border Collie and Great Pyrenees dogs, harnessed to a pair of skis and a milk crate. As children, the twins worked weekends at a neighbor's sprint kennel, running, training, and feeding the dogs. After a vacation in 2007 and a chance meeting with Iditarod veteran Dean Osmar, the girls moved to Alaska to start working on a higher level of racing. Anna continues to work with Dean at his Kennel, Cook Inlet Kennel. She says her inspiration comes from her sister Kristy. "Kristy has run three Iditarod's now and one Yukon Quest. I have always been a step behind her in life, but I have learned a lot from her. I love dogs and endurance sports so what could be better than combining the two?"



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Mushers' Biographies

Kristy Berington – Kasilof, AK



Families that race together on the Iditarod Trail aren't that uncommon. But Kristy has her own twist on the family tradition: she and her sister Anna are the first

set of identical twins to run the Iditarod. This is the second time they'll both race in Iditarod. Kristy, however, is the more veteran of the two, having competed in the Iditarod in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Her fascination with the race began with a chance meeting in 2007. Kristy met Dean Osmar, the 1984 Iditarod champion, who talked her into moving to Alaska. Currently, Kristy lives in Kasilof, Alaska, training with Paul Gebhardt at Morning View Kennel. One of her favorite songs is Rascal Flatts's "My Wish." She says, "Anna requested it on the radio for me on my way to the Yukon Quest. If you listen to the words, it is easy to hear why she did. It's encouraging and always makes me smile." Kristy's sled team changes every year. Her main leader is a shy dog named Nicholas. They have run every Iditarod together.

Jake Berkowitz – Big Lake, AK



Running the Iditarod is "one of those childhood dreams, like being a fireman or a cowboy; I just never thought it would happen." Jake Berkowitz is 26 years old and

one of the youngest contenders in the race this year. Jake began working with Ed & Tasha Stielstra at Nature's Kennel in 2005 and raced Stielstra's B team in the 2008 Iditarod. Later Jake ran his own team and won the Copper Basin Sled Dog Race in 2011. He was the Rookie of the Year in the 2012 Yukon Quest. Last year a severe hand injury kept him from completing the Iditarod. His EMT

studies at the University of Colorado and his current work on his paramedic degree at the University of Alaska taught him when it is important to stop racing and get medical attention. This year he hopes to be able to finish what he starts. Jake recently married Robin Simms.

Robert Bundtzen – Anchorage, AK



Robert Bundtzen grew up in Anderson, where he used a small dog team while trapping. The 63 year old is a veteran musher, having completed the race 12 times

in the past. He is a member of the Chugiak Dog Musher Association and continues to be amazed at what the trained Alaskan Husky can do. In his leisure time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, and the outdoors in general. Robert has a degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and an MD from the University of Washington, where he received training in infectious diseases. He has established a consultative infectious disease practice in Anchorage, and now races the Iditarod.

Aaron Burmeister – Nome, AK



Aaron Burmeister, age 36, was born and raised in Nome, Alaska and is the son of Iditarod veteran Richard Burmeister. He is married to Mandy and they have a

son, Hunter, who is four years old and enjoys the outdoor lifestyle they live. He graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1998 where he became a certified teacher. He is currently the General Manager of Tumet Industries based in Nome, AK. His hobbies and interests include hunting, fishing, boating, flying, and family activities.

Aaron has previously participated in 13 Iditarod's, starting in 1994 when he completed his rookie race. He has been raising dogs and racing his entire life. Over the last 15 years his kennel and breeding program has been focused on building a winning Iditarod team. Aaron is a board member of the Iditarod Trail Committee.

Martin Buser – Big Lake, AK



Born in Winterthur, Switzerland, in 1958, Martin Buser became fascinated with sled dogs while still a teen. He came to Alaska in 1979 to enhance his knowledge of

sled dog care and training. 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), reside in Big Lake, Alaska, where the family owns and manages Happy Trails Kennel. Martin's 2002 team held the record for the fastest Iditarod by completing the race in 8 days, 22 hours, 46 minutes and 2 seconds. Martin was awarded the coveted Leonhard Seppala Award in 1988, 1993, 1995 and again in 1997 for the most humanitarian care of his dogs. His fellow mushers have awarded him both the Sportsmanship and Most Inspirational Awards.

Rohn Buser – Big Lake, AK



Rohn, 23 year old son of Iditarod veteran Martin Buser, was born and raised in Big Lake Alaska. Named after an Iditarod checkpoint, he has been running

dogs his entire life. He grew up around sled dogs, and has worked alongside his father and the rest of his family at their

Mushers' Biographies

family-run kennel. He began running dogs as soon as he could stand on the runners, and he ran the Jr. Iditarod four times, culminating with a win in 2007. The 2008 Iditarod was his rookie race, as a 19 year old musher. In 2012, he won the Kuskokwim 300, beating his father in a race for the very first time.

Josh Cadzow – (R) Fort Yukon, AK



A native of Fort Yukon, Alaska, Josh Cadzow is 23 years old and has spent his entire life running dogs. In fact, he's been running dogs since he was walking. During

his mushing career, he has been running a number of mid distance races in Alaska. He is a family man; his partner of 7 years, Kelsey Peter, is the love of his life, and he says that after this year's race he is going to buy her the biggest ring he can find. He has three children, Marissa, 6, Heidi 2, and baby Trapper, 3 months. He also thanks his family, including his father Clifton, mother Janet, sisters Terri, and Josselyn Eliza, and brother Ethan. Josh hopes to finish Iditarod with all of his dogs still healthy and raring to keep going when he reaches Nome.

Bob Chlupach – Willow, AK



Has the Last Great Race on Earth changed over the past 50 years? If anyone knows, Bob Chlupach is one of those. Over five decades, he has entered and completed

eleven Iditarod races. Bob, 63, is from Mason City, Iowa, and has a Fisheries and Wildlife Biology degree from Iowa State University. After graduating from ISU, Bob moved to southeastern Alaska where he worked several seasons before being hired as a permanent fishery biologist. As a resident in Juneau, Alaska,

Bob noticed that the local newspapers reported on sled dog racing even more than professional basketball or football. Over time, Bob became enamored with sled dogs and moved to south-central Alaska. By the mid-1970s, Bob had a sled dog team and ran his first Iditarod Race in 1977. Bob has seen the race evolve exponentially, especially with new technologies, but he still renews old friendships in the villages along the way. He continues to run the Race "for love of understanding the mechanics of life." He explains, "[I] really like taking sled dog athletes and developing their strong and weak points into a functioning team unit that is unique. The psychology of each athlete must be understood in order to achieve a cohesive unit."

Rudy Demoski, Sr. – Wasilla, AK



Rudy Demoski, Sr., age 67, competed in the Iditarod's second race in 1974. It was his first Iditarod race and he placed fourth among some now infamous

mushers. He went on to race three additional times over the next few years, placing in the top ten once. Born and raised in the small southwestern Alaskan town of Anvik, Demoski was already acquainted with mushing and sled dogs, but his inspiration for competing in the Iditarod race came from local Anvik legend Ken Chase, who ran in the first official Iditarod Sled Dog Race in 1973. It sparked an interest that he could not quell, not even with previous Iditarod finishes under his belt. He has returned nearly 3 decades later to compete in the race. Demoski has led a fulfilling life as a carpenter, husband, father, and avid hunter. When asked why he wanted to jump back into the race after so many years, he replied "I missed training dogs for the past 27 years. I have been thinking about running again for several years, especially when I see some of my friends racing. I obtained sponsorship this year

and decided since I wasn't getting any younger, this is the time to go."

Zoya DeNure – Delta Junction, AK



Once a world-traveling fashion model for 12 years, Zoya DeNure, age 36, is now an Iditarod musher; instead of walking runways in Milan and Shanghai, she and

her family now live "off the grid" in Delta Junction, AK. Originally from Wisconsin, Zoya owns and operates Denali Highway Tours and Cabins, a rental retreat in the Denali Highway. Her family kennel, Crazy Dog Kennels, takes unwanted sled dogs and rehabilitates them with a positive training program. Some dogs go on to race and others go on to be house dogs. Zoya's husband, John Schandelmeyer, is inspirational to her. She says he "can do anything, is good at everything, is humble, fun, wise, and all that is good." It seems the inspiration flows in the family. Last winter Zoya's daughter said to KTUU reporters, "my mommy can do anything!" When she is not with the dogs, Zoya enjoys running marathons, yoga, making jewelry, and spending time with her family.

Richie Diehl – (R) Aniak, AK



When not gliding across the snow with his sled dogs, Richie Diehl can be found gliding among the clouds. In 2008, Richie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Tech-

nology from the University of Alaska-Anchorage. In addition to spending time in the Alaskan sky, Richie also spends time on the vast Alaskan land where he has been employed as a carpenter the last four years. A native of great state of Alaska, Richie hails from Aniak. His interest in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Mushers' Biographies

mushing came to him as a child and he has been a competitive musher in the state since 2010. Even though he has only been competing for a couple years, Richie has completed a number of sled dog events. This is the first time Richie takes on the Iditarod, and his goal is to glide across the finish line.

Paige Drobny – (R) Fairbanks, AK



Paige Drobny, age 38, was born in Pennsylvania and raised all over the world. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 1997 with her B.S. in Biology and from UAF in 2008 with her M.S.

in Fisheries Oceanography. Before moving to Fairbanks, AK, in 2005 for graduate school, she lived and worked in Colorado as a fisheries biologist. She enjoys the outdoor lifestyle and her hobby is fishing. Not only does she work as a fisheries biologist, but during the summer she also helps her husband, Cody Strathe, build dogsleds for their company, DogPaddle Designs. In 2010, Cody and Paige decided to "give it a whirl" and enter the GinGin 200 together. The 2013 Iditarod seemed like the next logical step after completing the Yukon Quest last year. Paige's team is eager to see where the Iditarod Trail takes them and hopes to compete again and again. She is running the race this year in memory of her grandmother who would be out on the trail with her if she were still alive. While traveling the trail she will be listening to music by Tim Obrien, Barefoot, EddieVedder, and Michael Franti.

Mike Ellis – (R) Two Rivers, AK



The 2013 recipient of the Seppala Heritage grant, Mike Ellis, is competing in his first Iditarod this year. Receiving this grant is allowing Mike to fulfill his dream of compet-

ing in an Iditarod Race. A native of the Northeastern United States and a graduate of Plymouth State College in New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Science in geography, Mike has been a competitive musher since 1993. Since seeing the Iditarod on the Wide World of Sports as a kid the Race has captured Mike's interest. For the past six years, Mike and his wife Sue have resided in Two Rivers, Alaska, and operate their own kennel and share their lives. When Mike is not spending time with his wife or Siberian Huskies, he can be found surveying land as a field contractor or in the outdoors "filling his freezer." Mike would like to remind you to respect your dogs as he is a proud member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. and a member of Two Rivers Dog Mushers.

Matt Failor – Big Lake, AK



This Eagle Scout hopes to be the next Iditarod Champion. Matthew Failor is 29 and was born and raised in Ohio. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography in 2007 from Ohio State. He credits his family for leading an active outdoor lifestyle and teaching him a love of the outdoors; camping, fishing, canoeing, backpacking, and hunting were all things they did on family vacations. He began racing in 2008 and finally moved to Alaska in 2010 to work as a dog handler for Martin Buser. He spent five summers on Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau giving dog sledding tours, and spent the winter of 2008 working for Iditarod veteran Matt Hayashida. Failor completed the Race in 2012 and afterward he said "I have never been mentally challenged like that before. Everything out there is messing with your mind." He has learned a lot over the years and is ready to win this year. Matt currently resides in Big Lake, Alaska, doing what he loves to do: being a dog musher. His hobbies include being an avid outdoors-man and sports enthusiast.

Linwood Fiedler – Willow, AK



Veteran musher Linwood Fiedler, 59, was born in Vermont. He received his BSW at Carroll College and his MSW at the University of Montana. He began dog mushing

in 1980 and lived in Montana before moving to Alaska in 1990 to run the Iditarod. He ran his first Race in 1989 and came in 2nd in the 2001 Iditarod. Linwood and his wife Kathleen are the parents of Dalton, 31. Linwood and his son run Alaska Heli-Mush, which allows the public to catch a glimpse of a glacier from a helicopter and the chance to experience mushing first hand. Linwood says that running the Race is like visiting an old friend, "You always want to go back."

Cindy Gallea – Wykoff, MN



"You and the dogs are alone, far away from people. You have lots of time to reflect. And all your biggest weaknesses are in your face," says Cindy, in a 2009 inter-

view about running the Race. After seeing the 1996 finish of the Iditarod, she knew she wanted to run it. She entered the 1998 race as a rookie and finished 48th. Having completed the race 9 times, she took the past 2 years off, but then greatly missed the experience. She is looking forward to getting back on the trail, traveling with her dogs. For Cindy, life is all about enjoying each day and every adventure. Cindy grew up on a farm in Minnesota, where she experienced the pleasure of the outdoors and of interacting with animals. When not racing, Cindy has been a full time Nurse Practitioner for the past 22 years. She is a graduate of St Olaf College with a BS in nursing, and of the University of Washington, with a Master's in Nursing.

Mushers' Biographies

Paul Gebhardt – Kasilof, AK



"In my vocabulary, the word 'quit' doesn't exist. My dogs don't know the word 'quit' either." Paul Gebhardt, 56, was born and raised in Minnesota before moving

to Alaska in 1989 to get away from the hustle and bustle of an ever-growing city atmosphere. Before moving he worked as a contractor in Minnesota and has continued in that field since coming to Alaska. Paul began mushing in 1992 and since then, he has raced and completed many races, including the Iditarod multiple times. Being a seasoned veteran does not slow him down though, Paul is still as determined and excited about the upcoming race. He has an adult daughter, Kristin and when he is not on the ice, he enjoys hunting along with other hobbies such as raising horses and game birds.

Matt Giblin – Sterling, AK



Matt Giblin is an East Coast boy, born in Mass. and hailing from Norwich Univ, in Northfield VT. He studied both Communications and Psychology during the school

years from 1989 to 1992. Television was his first window into the world of Iditarod, and he started mushing in Colorado in 1982 working as a tour guide. In 1996, he came to Alaska and was running the Iditarod by 1998. Ever since that time, he has been mushing even through moving between Montana and Alaska. He enters races so that he can witness to the potential of his dogs, and so that he can enjoy them on the trail. In the summer, Matt works for a helicopter company in Juneau, guiding sled dog tours on the Herbert Glacier. His hobbies include hunting, traveling, writing, and being with his family.

Kelley Griffin – Wasilla, AK



Kelley's family moved to Valdez, Alaska in 1963, about 8 months before the devastating earthquake in 1964. But not even those awful, earth-shattering moments and the

following flood could make her leave. Kelley has called Alaska her home ever since. She has worked throughout Alaska and has been running dogs since she was about 10. In the mid 90's Kelley was drawn to long distance racing and in 2005 she ran her first Iditarod. Having established Silverbelle Kennels in Wasilla with her partner Ed Grube, Kelley is now known as an extremely accomplished musher and even holds the honor of being the first woman to run both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod in the same year. In 2011 Kelley gave a repeat performance racing and says that she plans to do the same this year.

Jessica Hendricks – Two Rivers, AK



28 year old Jessica Hendricks was born and raised in Alaska. While still in high school she began running the Jr. Iditarod and placed 3rd in 2000. In 2003, Jessica won Rookie

of the Year by coming in 19th place in the Iditarod. Having finished the Iditarod 3 times, Jessica is aiming for a better finish this year than in past years. Jessica works alongside Tom Lesatz in Two Rivers at Iron Pearl Kennels, which houses more than 60 dogs trained from puppies on up. "I love the sport of racing dogs, and the Iditarod is the best test I can give my dogs," Jessica says. When she is not caring for her dogs at Iron Pearl Kennels, Jessica enjoys hunting, fishing, and caring for her horses.

Karin Hendrickson – Willow, AK



Karin Hendrickson sold everything she owned to move to Alaska in 2003 saying that when she saw her first sled dog race the year before, and after beginning to

volunteer, she was hooked. But being just a handler did not suit Karin very well. She later decided to set her goals and ambitions towards the Iditarod and began building her own team in 2006. Karin signed up for her first Iditarod in 2009 and was the first female rookie across the line that year. Karin graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1991 and has lived in both Idaho and Colorado, working as a teacher and attending college. Karin now works in The Department of Environmental Regulation in Alaska. Being a full time wife, working full time year round, and having to train the dogs seems like a lot to handle, but Karin demonstrates the great strength she has by conquering it every year. Before she had dogs Karin used to telemark ski, rock climb, white water kayak, train horses, and hike. With working and training the dogs, Karin says she barely has time to sleep! She is married to Varan Hoyt and dogs have taken over their lives.

Scott Jansen – Anchorage, AK



The "Mushing Mortician," Scott Jansen, age 51, was born and raised in Crookston, Minnesota, and now lives in Anchorage, Alaska. In 1980, Scott married

his high school sweetheart, Debbie, and then earned his B.S. degree in Mortuary Science. Scott and Debbie, along with their friend Jordan Eastman, own Jansen Funeral Homes. Scott began

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Mushers' Biographies

mushing in 2007, finishing the Iditarod for the first time in 2011 with a team of Paul Gebhardt's dogs. In 2012, he ran a blended team of his own dogs and dogs from 1984 champion, Dean Osmar. He runs the race in hopes of a top 20 finish. The Iditarod has been his dream since 1986. Scott and Debbie have two daughters, Angela and Chelsea, and a grandson, age 7. Scott enjoys: family hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, road trips, his work, and "riding his Harley."

DeeDee Jonrowe – Willow, AK



DeeDee Jonrowe is a 33 year veteran musher from Willow AK. She develops state-of-the-art nutrition and sports therapy for her dogs. While on the trail, she enjoys listen-

ing to upbeat, inspirational gospel music. She is looking forward to having her dogs Dragon, OmniStar, and Willow lead her in the 2013 Race. Jonrowe is a founding member of Mush with PRIDE, an organization committed to setting high standards of all aspects of dog care. DeeDee is a five year Cancer survivor, committed to helping others achieve the same goal. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her dogs and mountain biking. Jonrowe gives special thanks to her parents who worked extremely hard, especially her mom, who encouraged her to keep interest in the Iditarod through the passion for what she saw.

Peter Kaiser – Bethel, AK



Working on a tug boat for the Bering Marine Corps for the last five years has prepared Peter Kaiser, 25, for running the Iditarod. He was born and raised in Bethel,

Alaska. His family has always had dogs, and he has been mushing since he was a

small child. His interest for long distance running was sparked by watching the Kuskokwim 300 each January growing up. Peter's interests include camping, hunting, fishing, and working on, traveling with, and being around boats. He will be putting his interests in the outdoors to good use this year on the Iditarod Trail.

Jeff King – Denali, AK



Jeff King has been called the "Winningest Musher in the World" for his four Iditarod championship titles in 1993, 1996, 1998, 2006, as well as 24 other first-place titles across

Alaska and other parts of North America. Born in California, he came to Alaska in 1975 to "seek adventure" and quickly became interested in dog sledding, developed his own dog racing team, and began mushing in 1980. His first Iditarod Race was a year later. Jeff's devotion to the sport paid off big in 1993 when he won his first Iditarod Race. In 1999, Jeff was inducted into the Iditarod Hall of Fame. In 2006, at 50, Jeff became the oldest musher to win the Iditarod. Jeff is known for his innovative sled designs, trail strategies, and his methods for dog training. He twice received the Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award that honored his outstanding care for his dog team. Jeff shares his mushing interests with his three adult daughters, Cali, Tessa, and Ellen, who have all run the Jr. Iditarod. Cali ran and finished the Iditarod.

Jim Lanier – Chugiak, AK



Born in Washington, DC, and raised in Fargo, ND, 73 year old musher, Jim Lanier, has a medical degree and has worked at hospitals and with the US Public

Health Service. Lanier, a pathologist, first moved in Alaska in 1967. He worked at Providence Hospital for 33 years, and is now retired from the medical field, although far from retired in the sport of mushing. In fact he has entered and finished fifteen Iditarod's; at least one in every decade that the Iditarod has been run. He would like to compete in Iditarod's during six decades, and after that, see what happens. He feels that continuing to run the Race is a matter of continuing to enjoy the dream, the planning, the training, and the support that is all around him. His kennel name reflects his love and specialty – white dogs. Lanier's wife, Anna Bondarenko, is the first Russian woman to enter and finish the Iditarod. (2000). Lanier is the father of Margaret, 44, Kim, 43, Willy, 34, and Jimmy, 15. He has five grandchildren: Ollie, Annie, Ethan, Logan, and Jessie. His hobbies include reading, commercial fishing, writing, hunting, singing, and raising kids.

Sonny Lindner – Two Rivers, AK



Sonny Lindner, born on Christmas Eve in Michigan, is 63 years old. He has been in Alaska since 1970, and graduated from the Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks in 1972. In the early 70s,

Lindner began mushing, because it was a sport that his friends were actively engaged in. His first Iditarod was in 1976, and he went on to be the winner of the Yukon Quest. His other winning credits include a fourth place finish in the All Alaska Sweepstakes in 2008. Sonny's occupations include farming, dogs, and construction. Sonny lives with his partner Gina, and he has four adult children, Erika, R.T., Chad, and Ava. He also has two young children, Sarah and Sam. Sonny is also a grandfather and enjoys running the Iditarod. He says it has become a habit.

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Mushers' Biographies

Jason Mackey, Sr. – Wasilla, AK



As a son of an Iditarod Champion musher, Jason Mackey grew up in a mushing family, and says he has been mushing since birth. Born and raised in Kaslof Alaska, Jason

began his racing career in the Jr. Iditarod in 1983. Mackey's family history is mushing. His father, three brothers, and son have all raced in and completed the Iditarod. He is a member of the Aurora Dog Mushers Club and the Northern Lights 300. Mackey won four Jr. Iditarod races and four Jr. Championships. As a second generation dog musher, Mackey says he is following in the footsteps of his father and brothers. He is the owner of Mackey's Top Notch Dog Sled Tours and Top Notch Racing Kennel. The proud owner of over 60 dogs, he trains his dogs in a variety of summer running tours. He and his wife Lisa will be celebrating their

anniversary in March and are the proud parents of three teenage kids. When Jason is away from his dogs he enjoys riding horses and hunting.

Lance Mackey – Fairbanks, AK



The world's first and only 4 time Yukon Quest and 4 time Iditarod champion, Lance Mackey has earned his reputation as a formidable contender in the sled dog

Mushers' world. His pedigree is just as impressive as the award winning sled dogs he breed. His father Dick Mackey was one of the founders of the official Iditarod Sled Dog Race and won the 1978 race and his brother Rick Mackey won in 1983. In 2001, Lance was getting prepared to compete in his first Iditarod race, but things did not quite turn out the way he expected. He was diagnosed with throat cancer. Determined to keep going and

still recovering from his illness, Mackey signed up for the 2002 Iditarod race and set off into the Alaskan wilderness with a feeding tube attached to his stomach. He did not make it through the race, but he became more determined. In 2005 he raced his first Yukon Quest and won. He kept the title of champion for the next three years, and also won his first Iditarod in 2007, making him the first person ever to win both races in the same year. At age 42, Mackey still races the trails, many times to the tunes of ZZ Top, and spends a lot of his time running the Come Back Kennel where he has bred many champion sled dogs including Maple, a Golden Harness winner. He is a proud family man who credits his father as an inspiration and who strives to bring awareness to cancer research by supporting Alaska's Livestrong efforts.

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www.IditarodPhotos.com

Official 2013 Iditarod Pictures

By **Jeff Schultz and Team**

Mushers, Iditariders, Race Fans... View and order photos of the 2013 race on-line. Photos will be available of all the 2013 Iditarod entrants.



Mushers' Biographies

Kelly Maixner – Big Lake, AK



Kelly was born and raised in North Dakota. After graduating from Montana State University, Kelly Maixner, 37, went to dental school at Nova Southeastern in

Ft. Lauderdale, where he received his dental degree. Kelly moved to Alaska in 2007 for a pediatric dental residency. As a challenge-seeker, he immediately set his sights on running the Iditarod. In 2011 Kelly finished his first Iditarod in 30th position with a team of yearlings and two year-olds. Iditarod 2012 was a difficult run for Kelly and his team, but they still pulled in at 32nd position. He is looking forward to what his pups can do in 2013. Kelly's past occupations include a farmer, a snowboard instructor, a soldier in the National Guard, a bartender, a doughnut-maker, a physical therapy assistant for the Phoenix Suns, a state champion boxer, and a semi-professional football player for the Bozeman Kodiaks. Every year Kelly takes his professional skills to Haiti to provide dental care for the children of Kobonal Mission. Kelly was married to Margaret in 2010 and their first child Rosemary was born at the end of 2011. She has watched all of her father's finishes since then. He is a member of the American Dental Association and the America Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Luan Ramos Marques – (R) Macae, BRAZIL



Flying over 8000 miles from his home town in Macae'-Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Juan plans to make history. He jumped at the opportunity to train and qualify for the Iditarod. Being so far away does not alter his training. From owning his own pet shop since the age of 22, Luan has got-

ten a lot of experience handling dogs. His pet shop, Eu Curto Cuida Pet Shop, primarily offers obedience training, which has helped him understand and work with the dogs he races. Luan has been preparing for this race all year and even though he is a rookie he has race experience which helped him qualify for the Iditarod. He is thankful for everything that is makes running the Iditarod possible. Juan's goal and dream is to finish the Iditarod with a great looking team. Juan plans to go to Veterinary School and start a farm to breed dogs for his very own kennel. When he is not training, he loves to spend time in his pet shop, or hiking and horseback riding.

Wade Marris – Wasilla, AK



Wade Marris is a 22 year old native of Alaska. He has lived in Knik, Alaska his entire life. Wade attended Wasilla High School, and began mushing nine years ago. He

learned about dogs and mushing from his uncle. Wade ran the Jr. Iditarod in 2007 and in 2008. He has also been running other local races. Wade earned the Humanitarian Award in the 2008 R. Iditarod, and finished the Iditarod Race in 2009, in 47th place. Wade's hobbies are hunting, fishing, and snowboarding, as well as trapping.

Newton Marshall – St. Anne, JAMAICA



The yellow, the black, and green! This Jamaican musher enjoys rushing down the icy slopes of the Iditarod. Newton Marshall has participated in the Iditarod before,

making international headlines after becoming the first Caribbean musher to

complete the Race. Born and raised in Jamaica, this musher spends his free time horseback riding. He is a professional dog driver and a successful finisher in the Yukon Quest. Marshall states that the Race teaches him how to be one with nature. His veteran lead dog, Larry, has driven him through races with graceful force. Marshall says this dog knows the trail. Newton feels as though he has come a long way from his mushing start, and is the newest sports ambassador grateful to be able to represent Jamaica in a non-traditional sport.

Allen Moore – Two Rivers, AK



For Allen Moore, enjoying life means working as a contractor and carpenter during the summer months and as a musher for SP Kennels by winter. Eighteen

years ago he moved to Alaska from Arkansas because it was too hot, and he began mushing soon after the move. Currently Allen lives in Two Rivers with his wife, Aliy Zirkle, who is also an Iditarod veteran. Together they run SP Kennels. Allen says that his job is to make it fun and rewarding for the team and mold them into future SP Kennel all-star sled dogs. He competed in his first Iditarod in 2007 after he felt his kennel produced such enthusiastic young dogs. Aliy and Allen will both be competing for SP Kennels and against each this year. They maintain a friendly competition as they race for Nome. He says, "See you out there." She says, "I hope I beat ya." Allen has two adult children, Bridget and Jennifer. When he's not working with the dogs, Allen likes to fish, hunt and enjoy life.

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The Official Map of the IDITAROD

1. Anchorage

Population 296,197

The race begins on the 1st Saturday in March at 10:00 am on 4th Avenue.

2. Willow Lake

Population 2,156

The race Re-Start begins at 2 pm on Willow Lake at Parks Highway Mile Marker 70.

3. Yentna Station (YENT-na)

Population 8

A roadhouse-checkpoint on the Yentna River.

4. Skwentna (SKWENT-nuh)

Population 30

Located near the confluence of the Yentna and the Skwentna Rivers.

5. Finger Lake

Population 2

In the heart of snow country, this checkpoint on the eastern fringe of the Alaska Range.

6. Rainy Pass

Population 2

The highest point on the Iditarod Trail as it passes over the Alaska Range. Pass elevation is 3,160 feet.

7. Rohn Roadhouse (RONE)

Population 0

This checkpoint is near the remains of one of the old road houses serving the historic Iditarod Trail mail carriers.

8. Nikolai (NIK-o-lye)

Population 101

An Athabaskan village located 40 air miles east of McGrath.

9. McGrath

Population 341

At the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers, McGrath has a small, full-service airport, stores, a restaurant and is the hub of the Iditarod School District.

10. Takotna (Ta-Cot-na)

Population 49

An Athabaskan village situated on the banks of the Takotna River, where many mushers take their 24 hr. rest.

11. Ophir (OH-fur)

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. Iditarod (I-DIT-a-rod)

Population 0

Now a ghost town -- once a bustling community of over 10,000. Official halfway point on the southern route.

13. Shageluk (SHAG-a-luck)

Population 83

The name is an Ingalik indian name meaning "village of dog people," and when Iditarod hits town that is especially true.

14. Anvik (AN-vick)

Population 79

First checkpoint on the famous Yukon River, where the church bell signals the arrival of the first musher.

15. Grayling

Population 189

Last village until Kaltag, 122 miles up the trail on the Yukon River.

16. Eagle Island

Population 0

Tent checkpoint on the Yukon

17. Kaltag (KAL-tag)

Population 205

The Iditarod Trail leaves the Yukon River here to continue overland across Old Woman Pass to the Bering Sea.

18. Unalakleet (YOU-na-la-kleet)

Population 692

Situated on the coast of Norton Sound, just north of Unalakleet River. The Iditarod Trail is now entering the gateway to the Bering Sea and from here on the mushers can expect sudden storms and an ample supply of wind.

19. Shaktoolik (shak-TOO-lick)

Population 258

One look down the street at the snowdrifts tells you this is one of the windiest stretches of the trail.

From here the trail travels a short distance overland before going onto the ice of Norton Bay, one of the most treacherous segments of the trail.

20. Koyuk (KOY-yuck)

Population 347

Koyuk marks the end of the long, treacherous sea ice travel across Norton Sound.

21. Elim (EE-lim)

Population 332

The trail turns inland slightly near this eskimo village to head over the Kwiktalik Mountains where mushers descend Little McKinley toward Golovin Bay.

22. Golovin (GOLL-uh-vin)

Population 171

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.

23. White Mountain

Population 199

In this village on Fish River, an 8-hour layover is mandatory here to allow the dogs to rest for the last push to Nome, 77 miles away.

24. Safety

Population 0

The last checkpoint before Nome just 22 miles away, the trail turns inland for a short distance before mushers drop back onto the shores of the Bering Sea and travel the beaches until they reach Front Street in Nome.

25. Nome

Population 3,695

The race ends under the burlled arch on Front Street. Originally called Anvil City, after a nearby gold rich creek, it was once home to 30,000 miners.



CheckpointsApprox. Distance

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|------------|
| Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip..... | 11 | Shageluk to Anvik..... | 25 |
| Willow to Yentna Station..... | 42 | Anvik to Grayling..... | 18 |
| Yentna Station to Skwentna..... | 30 | Grayling to Eagle Island..... | 62 |
| Skwentna to Finger Lake..... | 40 | Eagle Island to Kaltag..... | 60 |
| 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 Iditarod..... | 80 | White Mountain to Safety..... | 55 |
| Iditarod to Shageluk..... | 55 | Safety to Nome..... | 22 |
| | | Total:..... | 998 |

Note: As of 2012 the Southern Route distance is approximately 998 miles. In prior years the distance was always over 1,000 miles. However, the change in the Ceremonial Start (running from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip instead of Eagle River) and the change of the Re-Start location from Wasilla to Willow (loss of Wasilla-Knik-Yentna River runs), and since the actual year to year trail conditions can affect trail routing, the trail distance has been readjusted. 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.



Mushers' Biographies

Aaron Peck – Bezanson, Alberta CANADA



33 year old musher Aaron Peck was born in Cobourg Ontario. He has been mushing since 1992, after he saw Susan Butcher win the Iditarod on ABC Wide

World of Sports. Aaron's first Iditarod was in 2000, when he raced a team of Martin Buser's yearling dogs. He has run the Race two times since then. His race credits include winning the 2011 Canadian Challenge, and a second place finish in the 2012 Wyoming Stage Stop Race. Aaron is currently a buffalo ranch manager, and has been looking forward to running the Iditarod since 2009, when he scratched at Elim. He credits having to scratch during that race with giving him a new perspective and appreciation for the Race, and for life in general. He wishes to use the Last Great Race as a platform for him to share with others what real motivation is all about. He also hopes to visit schools in and around Grade Prairie to help inspire and teach others.

Curt Perano – Queenstown, NEW ZEALAND



A native of New Zealand, 40-year-old Curt Perano was raised in Singapore, Europe, United States, and New Zealand. He began running dogs in 2000 and he and his

wife, Fleur, handled dogs for Jamie Nelson for three and half years. Over the last five years, Curt and his wife have developed their own team, trained them, and raced them in the lower 48 and in Alaska. Curt and his family hope to be an example for those who do not yet understand their sport in New Zealand. He believes it is hard for people in his home

land to fully appreciate the level of this sport and the sacrifice it takes to run dogs. He and his family are working to achieve their goals with help they have received from people within and outside the sport. Curt emphasizes the credit his supporters deserve and knows they couldn't have gotten where they are without it. As a rookie last year in his first Iditarod race, Curt stayed focused on his team and the trail, not even allowing himself the potential distraction of music. He hopes to get a chance this time around to do the same. Curt works as a consultant and in his free time likes to ski, scuba dive, and do any other outdoor activities.

Nicolas Petit – Girdwood, AK



33 year old Nicolas Petit was born in France, and grew up in Normandy. At age 12, his mother moved the family to New Mexico. Nick

moved to Alaska in 2000, and adopted his first husky. Dogs have always been a part of his life, and he credits his very first dog for teaching him how to walk when he was a baby. It was during a trip to Wyoming as a child that he first road a dog sled, and became hooked on the sport of mushing. Ten years after he got his first husky, he decided to become a musher himself. In the fall of 2010, Petit began to work with fellow Iditarod veteran Jim Lanier, with whom he planned to train as he began to do his qualifying races to someday race the Iditarod. However, Lanier needed a hip replacement shortly before the 2011 Race, and asked Nick to run his team. Nick did his qualifying, fundraising, and training all in one year in order to run his rookie Iditarod. He finished in 28th place, and won the Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year Award. His hobbies include snow sports and fishing.

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Michelle Phillips – Tagish, Yukon Territory CANADA



Michelle Phillips traveled the world and then came back to the Yukon to make her home. She was born and raised in Whitehorse, YT, and now she and her

partner, Ed Hopkins, own and operate Tagish Lake Kennel. In both cold and warm months, Michelle, Ed, and her son, Keegan, provide sled dog adventures for tourists and other adventure-seekers. Some of their guided outings last as long as seven days. Michelle, 44, she has been handling dogs for 13 years. She is a six-time competitor in the Yukon Quest, achieving a personal best when she finished in 4th place. The first time she completed the Iditarod, she placed 27th out of 71 mushers. The next year, 2011, she placed 16th. She has also earned accolades as "Rookie of the Year" in both the Percy De Wolfe and the Copper Basin races. Michelle's family life is shared "with 55 sled dogs, 2 golden retrievers, 2 cats and some fish, and they share their unconditional love with us each day. These Alaskan huskies are amazing athletes and we are blessed to have them in our lives." When Michelle isn't racing or on an adventure she enjoys reading, biking, cooking, and jogging.

Ray Redington, Jr. – Wasilla, AK



As a 3rd generation Iditarod musher with native roots, Ray Redington, Jr. has mushing in his blood. He is the grandson of Iditarod co-founder, Joe Redington, Sr.

and son of Iditarod veteran, Raymie Redington. He says he has "been mushing since I can remember." At age 37, he is entering his 12th Iditarod. He knows

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Mushers' Biographies

how to handle the extreme Alaska conditions, relying on his dogs in both daylight and dark. In contrast to the isolation Ray sometimes experiences on the trail, he and his wife, Julia, like living close to their families. They have two children, Ellen, who will be seven during the 2013 Iditarod and son, Isaac, will turn four in December. Ray's hobbies include hunting, fishing, and his kids.

Christine Roalofs – (R) Anchorage, AK



With her own dentistry practice in Anchorage, rookie Christine Roalofs, 48, is now ready to run the Iditarod, a challenge she can really sink her teeth into. Born

in Ohio and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Christine Roalofs earned her DMD from the University of Louisville and a certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from Children's Hospital in Buffalo. After she volunteered for the Iditarod several times Christine says that she "got the 'bug'" and started building her own team. She has completed several 200-300 mile races. While on the trail, Christine listens to 70's soft rock, country, and The Zac Brown Band. She says her dogs love anything by Willie Nelson and they pick up the pace if she sings "Centerfield" by John Fogerty. Christine enjoys road and mountain biking, guitar, t-ball coaching and quilting.

Jessie Royer – Darby, MT



From horses and cattle to Siberian husky sled dogs, Jessie Royer has worked with them all. Jessie, 34, has always loved animals. She was born in Idaho and grew

up on a cattle ranch in Montana where she lived for 21 years. During those

years, she worked as a horse wrangler and horse teamster. She started learning about dogs from Doug Swingley, another great Iditarod Champion musher, when she was 16 years old. At the age of 17, she became the first female and youngest person to ever win Montana's 500-mile Race to the Sky. Jessie trained her sled dogs in Montana for seven years before moving to Alaska in the spring of 1998. In 2001, Jessie completed her first Iditarod race in the 14th position, earning her the 'Rookie of the Year Award'. For the past eight years, she has finished the Iditarod in the top 20. She also was the winner of the invitational La Grande Odyssee sled dog race in France in 2005. Her hobbies are horse wrangling, hunting, mounted shooting, drawing, braiding, and photography.

Brent Sass – Manley Hot Springs, AK



The rookie of the year in 2012 hopes to win the Iditarod Race in 2013! Brent, 33 years old, is the owner and founder of Wild and Free Mushing. He has been racing and

training huskies for seven years. He first began mushing in 2003 while working with Susan Butcher and he has always known he would run the Iditarod. Brent Sass is an over-achiever when it comes to doing what he loves. Since his first race in 2006, Brent has placed in more than 20 races, including many first place finishes. He has run the Yukon Quest six times. Brent believes that every day is exciting, "whether it is traveling on a new trail or just learning something new about the dogs, there is never a dull moment." Brent's occupations include dog musher, gold miner, guide, and landlord. He also enjoys traveling in the wilderness, hunting, fishing, and camping. Sass is originally from Excelsior, Minnesota. He moved to Alaska in 1998 to attend the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and graduated with a major in geography.

Justin Savidis – Willow, Ak



Justin grew up in southeast Idaho where he developed a love for the outdoors. He earned a degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism with an emphasis on

experimental education from the University of Utah in 2002. While there, he was drawn to work with at-risk youth. In 2004 Justin and his wife, Rebecca, moved to Alaska so that Rebecca could chase her dream of running dogs. They packed their belongings, strapped the rocking chair to the roof of the truck, told the family they were moving for a job offer, and headed to Willow. When Justin and Rebecca arrived in Alaska, they started working as dog handlers and she took to mushing almost immediately. After a bit of convincing, so did Justin. Now Justin and Rebecca operate Snowhook Kennel with more than 40 dogs. Justin, 38, is racing in the Iditarod again this year for the sheer adventure of it. As a skilled outdoors man, he enjoys whitewater kayaking, climbing, and mountaineering. When he's not risking his life, he enjoys building and reading.

David Sawatzky – Healy, AK



David Sawatzky, 59, is a native of Minnesota. He was born and raised in the state, before moving to Montana in 1981. Two years later, he made the jump to

Alaska in order to follow a job. For the past 25 years, he has been an equipment operator. He has recently retired, and has begun running dogs full time. His passion for dogs and history with running them began in 1985, and continued with running the Yukon Quest a few times before tackling the Iditarod for

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Mushers' Biographies

the first time. David and his wife Jeanne have two adult children, Nikalus and Sara.

Dallas Seavey – Willow, AK



Dallas Seavey lives for dog mushing. He is a third generation musher. He grew up helping his dad, Mitch, the 2004 Iditarod champion, with his own mushing team. Mushing is

something that comes natural to Dallas, a well-rounded athlete. He was a High School State Champion, a Jr. National Champion, and was on the 2005 Jr. World Team in wrestling for Sky View High School. Dallas has raced the Jr. Iditarod four times, and in 2005 became the youngest musher ever to attempt the Iditarod. In 2011, Dallas won the Yukon Quest. A year later, he became the youngest Iditarod champion in history. He is one of only four mushers to have won the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod. The 25 year old musher lives in Willow, AK, with his wife Jen and their two year old daughter Annie. 2012 Iditarod Champion Dallas Seavey has recently released his book, Born to Mush.

Mitch Seavey – Seward, AK



Mitch Seavey has competed in every Iditarod race since 1995, and won the Race in 2004. After his family moved from Minnesota to Alaska in 1963, Mitch started

mushing in 1964 at the young age of five. Inspired by his dad, Dan, who ran the Iditarod in 1973, Mitch, envisioned running the Iditarod to follow in his father's sled tracks. He did just that in 1982. The influence from father to son continues in Mitch's own family. Mitch and his wife, Janine, have four boys. All four of Mitch's sons, Danny, Tyrell, Dal-

las, and Conway, have run the Jr. Iditarod or the Iditarod. Their youngest son, Conway, 15, won the Jr. Iditarod in 2012, the same year their son, Dallas, won the Iditarod. Mitch says his hobbies are writing, hunting, and whatever his kids are currently doing.

Cim Smyth – Big Lake, AK



Cim Smyth, 34, believes in fast finishes. He is known for his quick trips from the Safety Roadhouse to the finish line in Nome, Alaska, winning the fastest time

from Safety to Nome award several times during his 20 year Iditarod career. He has also won several "sportsmanship" and "rookie of the year" awards, and he was named the "Most Inspirational Musher" in the 2004 Iditarod race. Cim is familiar with winning streaks; he won the Klondike 300 race four years in a row, from 2006 to 2009.

Originally from Fairbanks, Cim is the son of Iditarod veteran, "Bud" Smyth, who began mushing during the early days of the Iditarod race. Their family moved to the Wasilla area in 1991, and Cim currently lives in Big Lake and is married to Corrine Smyth. Cim says he's been mushing since he was big enough to stand on a sled. Aside from mushing, Cim enjoys hunting, fishing, and horses.

Ramey Smyth – Willow, AK



Ramey Smyth has a desire in his heart to help people. Not only is he running under a banner of abstinence from drugs, but he also wants to bring awareness

to cancer research funding. Ramey grew up around sled dog racing teams. Both of his parents have raced in the Iditarod. His father, Bud Smyth raced in the first

Iditarod, and his mother Lolly Medley, raced in the second. Ramey decided to follow in their footsteps and keep the family race name alive. Ramey won the Jr. Iditarod both times he ran it. He began running the Iditarod in 1994 and has only skipped one year since. He always declares that he is entering the race to win it. Ramey, 37, has moved all over Alaska during his lifetime. He and his wife Rebecca put down roots in Willow for good to raise their two children, Ava and Banyan. Ramey is a log home builder and a dog musher, who loves racing and taking care of his dogs. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, reading, boxing, and teaching young children about sled dog racing.

Gerald Sousa – Talkeetna, AK



Gerald Sousa moved to Alaska with his family in 1971 to "Live in a land of adventure." He began mushing in 1978 and said he became interested in the Iditarod by

listening to KHAR radio reports on the Race. Jerry says he has learned several things from legends like Cliff Hudson and Don Sheldon. He's a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee and the IOFC. He also owns the Talkeetna Adventure Company. Sousa has completed the Iditarod in the past with assistance from beloved dogs like Piper, Diamond, Reb, and Jake. When Jerry is not on the ice with his dogs he enjoys hunting, flying, and spending time with his family and friends. Jerry and his wife have two adult children. Sousa spends his time training and preparing for the Race. He believes that his sponsors and supporters help make each race a great success.

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Mushers' Biographies

Jan Steves – Edmonds, WA



Jan Steves is running this year's Iditarod Race in memory of her mother and fulfilling one of their shared dreams. Jan's mother and father gave her the inspiration to race. She feels fortunate to have been raised by parents who instilled in her a love of the outdoors, adventure and animals. Jan Steves, 56, from Edmonds, Washington, also has the support of her own children, Nicole, Tyler and Kelsey. They understand her love for the dogs and her motivation to make dreams come true. Jan began mushing in 2008 at the age of 51, came to Alaska in 2009 to train herself and her team, and ran her first Iditarod at age 55. She maintains it is never too late to follow your dream. Just as her parents influenced her, Jan wants to influence others. She has been a long time tutor and mentor to children, both in the classroom and in the outdoors. She has a passion for education and youth. Finishing the Iditarod has brought her back into the classroom as an inspirational speaker. In her free time Jan enjoys fishing, boating, hiking and bike riding. While on the trail Jan enjoys listening to the harp music of Bronn Journey.

Ed Stielstra – McMillian, MI



Ed Stielstra is solely driven by the dedication and inspiration of his sled dogs. Their example fuels his own. He has been racing on icy terrain for twenty years and will complete his eighth adventurous Iditarod Race this year. Ed is 42 years old and a native of Michigan, raised in Kalamazoo and Ludington, where he was introduced to sled dogs. He is proud to be one of the representatives of the

lower 48 states as he and his team run the Iditarod. A symbol of his rugged individualism is his favorite book, *Atlas Shrugged*, by Ayn Rand. Sometimes when his team is running uphill, he turns on his iPod to listen to this and other audio books. One reason Ed enjoys racing is to share his love and respect for man's best friend. He and his wife Tasha, along with their son Nate and baby daughter, Fern, own and run Nature's Kennel Sled Dog Adventures and Iditarod Racing Team. Along with tours and racing, Ed and Tasha combine their mushing experience with presentations for students in kindergarten through eighth grade and for beginner mushers at their kennel. They teach others through their "Pulling Together" presentations, portraying teamwork and respect from a sled dog's viewpoint. In his free time, Ed enjoys spending time with his wife, son and new daughter and being a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. and the UPSDA.

Michael Suprenant – Chugiak, AK



Michael Suprenant, a man who has traveled to many warm climates, such as Hawaii, Australia, and Saudi Arabia, faces the cold Alaskan chill in this year's race.

But Michael is up for the challenge. He was born in Germany, where his family was stationed, and the 48 year old has made challenges into his life's work. As a soldier and avionics technician in the U.S Air Force, Michael worked on planes such as F-4s, A-10s, and C-130s. He volunteered to come to Alaska with the Air Force in 1997, which fit in well with his hobbies of skiing and fishing. Mike began mushing in 2001 and with some great advice from Iditarod veterans and his own experiences as a volunteer on the trail he crafted a plan to run the Iditarod. Mike currently is a Civil Service worker for the U.S. Army at Elmendorf A.F.B.

Rick Swenson – Two Rivers, AK



Rick Swenson is a 61 year old musher from Minnesota. He moved to Alaska in 1973. Rick is the only musher to have won the Iditarod five times. Rick belongs to Mush

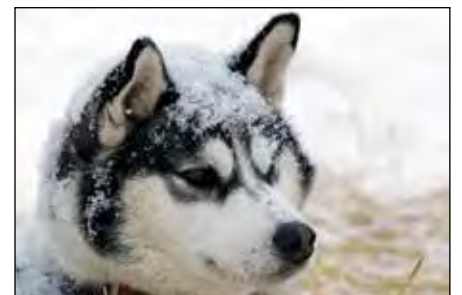
with P.R.I.D.E. The organization strives to promote excellent dog care throughout Alaska and the rest of the world. He is also belongs to the Alaska Miners. Rick also serves on the Board of Directors for the Iditarod Trail Sled Committee. Rick has three children: Kristen, Andy, and Kevin.

Angie Taggart – Ketchikan, AK



Angie Taggart's dream to run the Iditarod began in 2001, the year she was a dog handler for a musher. She completed her 500 qualifying miles on April 3, 2009. Alaskan

native and veteran musher Taggart will compete in the Iditarod for the second time this year. Angie has been a teacher for ten years and is also involved in many activities in the community, such as Master's swimming, assistant coaching for the Killer Whale Swim Team, and sailing for the Yacht Club. She is also co-president of Delta Kappa Gamma, a teacher's society. She is running Iditarod not only because she loves it, but for a cause dear to her heart, breast cancer awareness, in support of her mother's current battle with Breast Cancer.



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Mushers' Biographies

Mikhail Telpin – (R) Yanrakkynot, Chukotka RUSSIA



Mikhail Telpin is a native of Chukotka, Russia. He is on his second winter in Willow, Alaska, and is a part of Team Racing Beringia, which is an on-line

education program, devoted to teaching children about the historical significance of sled dogs and dog mushing. For Telpin, sled dogs are a part of the ancient culture for his ancestors – bones from sled dogs more than 8000 years old have been found in his regions of Alaska and Russia. Sled dogs have been Mikhail's life. As a child he used them from transportation and hunting on the tundra, and he still owns and loves dogs today. He cannot imagine a life without his dogs. He has been racing every year since 1994. That first race was the national Russian race Nadezhda Hope in Chukotka, Nadezhda. Mikhail has also run and finished the Yukon Quest, which was his first race in North America. He is married to Zoya, and they have three children: Ekaterina, 20, Petr, 18, and Anna, 6. His hobbies are hunting and fishing.

Joar Leifseth Ulsom – (R) Roros NORWAY



Born and raised in Mo I Rana, Norway, Joar Leifseth Ulsom is a 26 year old musher with a degree in agriculture from Val Landbruksskole in Norway. In his

hometown of Roros Norway, he lived and worked as a cow farmer and dog musher. In 2011, he came to Alaska to become part of Racing Beringia, which is a free on-line education program used in K-12 classrooms around the world. The program explores the ancient

history of using dogs for transportation; Beringia is where dogs and people crossed from Asia to North America during the last Ice Age. Joar placed sixth in the 2012 Yukon Quest, and then went to Russia to race the Nadezhda Hope Race. He became the first non-native champion of that race in 20 years, with the fastest time ever. Joar added another victory to his resume by winning the 2012 Chukotka Spring Championship. His other racing credits include the Finmarkslopet, the Femundlopet, and the Amundsen Races in Scandinavia. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, and the North.

James Volek – (R) Big Lake, AK



As a youth in Michigan, James Volek assisted his aunt in raising lead dogs for the blind. His love for sled dogs and Alaska came from his 2011 summer employment as a handler for Alaskan Icefield Expeditions, outside of Juneau. The experience changed his life, prompting him to move the following autumn to Big Lake, Alaska, where he still resides. He has always admired the outdoors, and this landscape in particular confirms his appreciation of nature and offers him ample opportunities to make his own adventure. A true outdoors man, James enjoys spending his time hunting, fishing, and trapping. The 2013 Iditarod will be James's first attempt on this historic trail. He will be running fellow Iditarod musher Martin Buser's yearling team, which he says is an opportunity of a lifetime and a great honor.

Michael Williams, Jr. – Akiak, AK



Michael Williams, Jr. is 27 years old and was born and raised in Alaska. This handyman hopes to outshine the rest of the competition in this year's Race, including his

father. He is Yupik Eskimo and has lived in rural Alaska all of his life. His dogs are mainly Alaskan huskies. Michael grew up mushing and looks forward to racing each mushing season. Michael has always been interested in racing and running sled dogs. "It's what I've dreamed about since I could remember... racing, mushing, and being out on the trail." Michael Williams, Jr. graduated from the Galena Charter School and attended the Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward, where he studied carpentry. He finished second in the Kuskokwim 300 and finished eighth in the Iditarod in 2012. In his spare time, he enjoys playing guitar, relaxing, hunting, fishing, and traveling.

Mike Williams, Sr. – Akiak, AK



Mike Williams, Sr. is a counselor who has seen firsthand the devastating effects alcoholism can have on a community. Having seen this suffering, "sobriety" is

the reason that the Yupiak Eskimo is running his 15th Iditarod. He wants to promote healthy lifestyles for everyone by training for running the Race. Mike, 62, was born and raised in Alaska and is a member of the Alaska Native Community, as well as the National Congress of American Indians. Mike says, "We've always had dogs for transportation and for our survival as Yupiak Peoples of Western Alaska." Williams went to Chemawa Indian School in Oregon and attended Kuskokwim College and the University of Alaska where he received his degree in counseling. He has been mushing "since birth" and feels it is in his blood. His inspirations include his wife Maggie, his five children, including Mike Williams, Jr., a musher in this year's race, and his grandchildren. Emo and Pirate are the dogs that will be leading the way for Mike during this year's race.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

Mushers' Biographies

Gerry Willomitzer – Whitehorse, Yukon Territory CANADA



"Logs and dogs" are Gerry Willomitzer's basic hobbies. The 'logs' refer to his company, Eldorado Logbuilders, Inc., where he works as a log building

contractor during the summer; the 'dogs' refer to his love of sled dog handling and races. Veteran musher Gerry, 43, was born in Bavaria, Germany, and immigrated to Canada in 1996. Once there, Gerry worked with William Kleedechn, another German immigrant in his kennel during the winter months. In 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2002, Gerry worked as a handler for William during the 1000-mile Yukon Quest sled dog race. In 2001, Gerry moved to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, and started his own kennel, which he calls 'Blackjacks'. Since 2004, he has participated in four 1000-mile Yukon Quests. In the 2005 Yukon Quest race, he

received his first Humanitarian award of 'Vet's Choice'. He also received awards for the Copper Basin 300 race in 2006, and two awards in the 2010 and 2011 Percy deWolfe Memorial Mail Race. In 2007, Gerry completed both the Iditarod and Yukon Quest races back to back - the latter earning him a record of one of the fastest times completed in Yukon Quest history. With this 2007 achievement, Gerry Willomitzer joined the ranks of less than 20 sled dog teams to complete both the Iditarod and Yukon Quest races back to back.

Aliy Zirkle – Two Rivers, AK



Aliy Zirkle's reason for competing in the Iditarod is her fantastic huskies. The 43 year old New Hampshire native, whose real name is Alison

has always been an adventurer, exploring New Hampshire, Missouri, and Puerto Rico. She has a degree in biology from the University

of Pennsylvania and came to Alaska in 1990. She worked for the United States Fish and Wildlife service in a job where she resided in a wall tent on the Alaskan Peninsula. She currently lives in Two Rivers where she enjoys the community and wilderness. She is the wife of musher Allen Moore, and the step mother to two adult daughters, Jennifer and Bridgette. Aliy, along with her husband, manage SP Kennels and a website that is an important resource of information for race fans. She has completed the Iditarod 11 times and finished in second place in 2012. Aliy is inspired by her strong and independent maternal grandmother, Lorraine Chevalier McDonald, or Chevie. Aliy is a member of the Iditarod Board of Directors.

Late Entry Cindy Abbott Bio on page 54

2013 Musher Biographies drafted by Dr. Lynn Hanson's Business Writing Students of Francis Marion University, Florence, SC.

Checkpoint Protocol... cont'd from page 22

rather than trying to routinely coordinate schedules and rendezvous at later times.

The Iditarod Trail Committee has for many years required that mushers carry Dog Team Diaries (Vet Books) as part of their mandatory equipment. By rule, these must be presented to a veterinarian at every checkpoint. The veterinarian who examines a team at a given checkpoint is responsible for making notations relevant to the medical status of team members and signing the diary prior to returning it to the musher, who must also sign it. This system has been very helpful as a communication and reference tool for veterinarians and mushers alike.

There are a number of criteria utilized when performing the examinations. Included are the following: mucous

membrane color (pink); capillary refill time (less than one second); heart rate (120 beats per minute or less) and rhythm; respiratory rate (10-15 breaths per minute) and pattern; hydration; bodyweight; attitude; posture; response to shoulder, carpal, hip, stifle and tarsal flexion; muscle and tendon palpation and; appearance of the feet. In severe cold and wind, it is also important to check for potential frostbite in the following areas: harness and bootie rubs, teat, prepuce, vulva and flank fold regions. Any signs described by the musher, such as coughing, diarrhea, fatigue, gait changes, etc., in addition to any abnormalities detected on routine evaluation, would necessitate further investigation.

It is essential that we focus on our priorities when the teams are coming and going in rapid succession. Potentially life-threatening abnormalities are our

Checkpoint Protocol... cont'd from page 42

greatest concern. The following acronym, "H.A.W/L," although not perfect, is easy for mushers and veterinarians to use as a guideline when things are happening fast and human fatigue is setting in ("HAW" is a voice command to go Left): H = Hydration and Heart (rate and rhythm); A = Attitude and Appetite; W = Weight (bodyweight) and; L = Lungs

Mushers may finish with only those dogs that started the race. Although none may be added to the team after the start, they can be dropped at any checkpoint and for any reason. If team member numbers are reduced below the pre-determined minimum, a musher cannot officially finish.

A highly organized system is in place to care for dropped dogs and appropriately attend to their needs. Mushers must complete a Dropped Dog Form before releasing a canine from competition. On this form, an explanation of the reason(s) for dropping is requested along with the musher's signature. Typically, if an illness or injury is present, a veterinarian has already examined the animal. In the event that this has not taken place, an examination is performed as soon as possible. Previous relevant medications administered and current treatments are also recorded on the form, in addition to the name of the veterinarian completing the exam. Included on the dropped dog form is a box to indicate "Condition Status." Dogs with potentially life-threatening conditions are designated "Red" and are identified by red flagging placed around the neck. Every effort is made to safely expedite their travel to an appropriate veterinary facility. Dogs undergoing treatment for less serious disorders are designated as "Blue." Dog Care Agreement Forms are completed prior to the race and specify which veterinary hospital a particular musher's dogs should be taken to, if necessary. All remaining dogs are officially considered to be "White," merely waiting to return to their home kennel.

Dogs dropped east (Yentna, Skwentna, Finger Lake, Rainy Pass) of the Alaska Range fly directly back to Anchorage with the Iditarod Air Force (IAF). Upon their arrival, they are once again evaluated by veterinarians

to assess their health status. For those dropped farther down the trail, they typically are flown by the IAF to the hubs of McGrath, Unalakleet or Nome, where they are rechecked by veterinarians at those locations. Once again, they receive another examination by veterinarians after landing in Anchorage.

Effective protocols in assessing and caring for Iditarod dogs are crucial to a successful race, and the efforts of all are much appreciated. I'm looking forward to another great Iditarod and hope that you will be a part of it!

Nigel's Choice, My Iditarod Adventure

by Nancy Yoshida
Artwork by Jon Van Zyle

A True Story of Nancy's 2009 Iditarod
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Wishing good luck and a safe journey to all
2013 Mushers!



Vet Coat ©Mike Kenney

Gearing Up for Another Jr. Iditarod

By Lacey Hart, Jr Iditarod Veteran and Iditarod Hopeful

Every year, on the last weekend of February, a group of teens 13-17 years of age compete in what is the biggest event in junior mushing.

Started in 1977, the Jr. Iditarod is a chance for young up-and-coming mushers to participate in a long distance race. The race begins at 10 A.M. on Saturday, February 23rd from Knik Lake in Wasilla, Alaska. From there, the trail takes the mushers past the Eagle Song Lodge and on to the Yentna Station Roadhouse, approximately 50 miles from where they started. The mushers have a mandatory 10 hour layover, where they will camp out and care for their dogs. On Sunday, they will race back through Eagle Song Lodge to finish on Willow Lake.

The Jr. Iditarod is an event you won't want to skip. Many of these young mushers will eventually run the Iditarod. Many



Second place finisher Ben Lyon poses with his lead dogs at the finish line of the Jr. Iditarod on Willow Lake. Ben came in second just one minute behind first place winner Conway Seavey.

top Iditarod contenders and/or champions, including 2012 champion

Dallas Seavey, have competed in the Jr. Iditarod.

Last year's race was a perfect example of why you shouldn't miss the Jr. Iditarod. The first half of the race was fast with a hard-packed trail. The teams arrived in Yentna with very little time separating them. While the mushers cared for their dogs, it began to snow.

As the first teams finished their mandatory layover and prepared to leave, fourteen inches of fresh snow had fallen, and it was still snowing hard. Mushers, sleds, dogs, and equipment were all buried in the powder. Snowmobiles ran ahead of the pack to help break the trail, but it was a long, hard run to the finish line. Temperatures stayed fairly warm, which aided the ever-increasing snow fall. Even with rough trail conditions, there was still a neck-and-neck race to the finish line between Conway Seavey and Benjamin Lyon. Ultimately, Conway Seavey, son and brother to Iditarod champions Mitch and Dallas Seavey, prevailed, winning the 2012 Jr. Iditarod.



Junior Iditarod champion Conway Seavey (a 3rd generation Seavey dog musher) poses with his lead dogs Memphis (left) and Sarge at the finish line after winning the 2012 Junior Iditarod.

Scooter Newman – 2013 Jr. Iditarod Honorary Musher

By Terrie Hanke, Iditarod Trail Correspondent

Scooter Newman has been recognized by the Board of Directors as the Honorary Musher for the 2013 Jr. Iditarod. Scooter was born in Los Angeles, California. The family moved to Lawson, Missouri where she attended grade school. About the time she celebrated her 13th birthday, Scooter and her older brother, Michael, moved north to live with their father, Howie Newman. Specifically, they were on their way to Knik, Alaska. While it doesn't seem likely that a girl born in California and growing up in Missouri would ever stand on the runners of a sled and drive sled dogs, the move to Knik changed everything. After all, she was now living in Redington country a place where the history and importance of

sled dogs was celebrated and there was the support of the Knik Dog Musher's group. She fell in love with the first sled dog she met and became enthralled by the sport of mushing

The enthusiastic, athletic and outdoor loving Newman children happily accepted the invitation to try mushing. Soon they were training sled dogs, impressing their mentors with their work ethic and abilities. Not long after they began racing.

The inaugural Jr. Iditarod took place in 1978. Scooter and her brother were at the starting line. Michael

CONTINUED ON PAGE 59

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2013 Jr. Iditarod Musherers

Jonathan Biggerstaff - Talkeetna, AK

Jonathan, 17, 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 holds a bronze medal for participation in the Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife. Jonathan is in the 11th grade and attends the Idea Home-school. He participates in Alaska FFA, plays the cello, soccer, is on the swim team, debate team and the Academic Decathlon team. He also enjoys skiing, Alaska 4-H where he is a teen leader, and snow machining. He expects to continue mushing after high school.

Abigail Brooks - Fairbanks, AK

Abigail "Abby", 17, says "I was born into mushing." The 4th generation musher is the great-granddaughter of sprint musher Gareth Wright, granddaughter of sprint musher Roxy Wright and daughter of distance musher, Ramy Brooks. She started the 2012 Jr. Iditarod and ended up scratching. She is being homeschooled her senior year so she can train dogs. She says her other hobby is photography. Abby plans to go to college but hasn't decided what her major field of study will be.

Benjamin Harper - Wasilla, AK

Benjamin "Ben", 16, lived most of his life in the state of Washington. He moved with his family to Alaska in 2011. Very soon after his arrival in Alaska, Ben met Iditarod musher Ray Redington, Jr. and has been mushing with Ray ever since. He ran last year's Jr. Iditarod and finished third. He has also run the Aurora 50, the Willow Jr. 100 and the Tug Bar 150. He spent a lot of time this past summer helping Raymie Redington give rides to tourists at the Iditarod Headquarters. Ben is an eleventh grade student at Wasilla High School. He says he doesn't know what he'll do after high school graduation, but he does plan to continue mushing and to run the Iditarod. Ben lists his hobbies as fishing, hunting and swimming.

Jimmy Lanier - Chugiak, AK

Jimmy, 15, says he started mushing two months before he was born. Mushing was the family business. His father has run the Iditarod 14 times since his first race in 1979 and his mom finished the race in 2000, so Jimmy comes by mushing naturally. His first race was the Willow Jr. 100 last year in which he finished 5th. A sophomore at Chugiak High School, he participates in choir and baseball. He lists his hobbies as baseball and singing. When asked what he plans to do after high school, he responded, "Life." He says he may continue mushing.

Annika Olesen - Yellowknife, NWT, CANADA

Annika, 17, says her parents have been mushing 30 years, so "I guess I was born into it and received my first sled for my 6th birthday." Annika and her family live 160 miles away from the nearest town. Her parents have lived on the homestead 25 years. She says, "My family and I have raised the majority of my team from puppies and the training and racing is a family effort. She is homeschooled through the Alberta Distance Learning Centre and is in grade 11." Her hobbies besides mushing include archery, horses, horse racing, playing guitar, building things from wood and just being with her dogs. She would like to be an exercise rider and groom for race horses, and says she will never give up mushing completely but may take a break while she does other things. Her dad, Dave Olesen is an 8 time finisher of the Iditarod. Annika finished the 2011 Jr. Iditarod in 12th place and she says she is very excited to be back again!

Noah Pereira - Clarkson, NY

Noah, 16, says he started mushing in 2007 when he met a few local mushers and then wanted a team of his own. His team in New York is a sprint team. He's been working with Dallas Seavey for two years in anticipation of running the Jr. Iditarod. He is in the 11th grade at Brockport High School and participates in Environmental Club and Varsity Soccer. He also enjoys hunting and fishing. He plans to go to college after high school and says he will continue mushing.

2013 Jr. Iditarod Musherers & Sponsors

Jonathan Biggerstaff – Talkeetna, AK

Abigail Brooks (rookie) – Fairbanks, AK
Roxy Wright (grandma); Dana & Kay Thomas; George & Carol Figdore

Ben Harper – Wasilla, AK

Jimmy Lanier – Chugiak, AK

Annika Olesen – Yellowknife, NWT CANADA

Noah Pereira (rookie) – Clarkson, NY

Alea Robinson – Eagle River, AK
Thai Village; Bob Sept, DVM; Alaska Children's Heart Center

Conway Seavey – Sterling, AK
Seavey's Racing Team; Tustumena 200

Taylor Steele (rookie) – Hopewell, PA
Alaska Mountain View Cabins; Daniel Rehak/ Best-in-Snow Photography; Pauline Bray; Polly's Pet Services/Distributor of Dax Scooters

Malinda Tjelta (rookie) – Sheyenne, ND
Devil's Lake Animal Clinic, ND; Peak Performance Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine, ND; Benson Harvesting, ND; Mackrill Bees, ND

Jr. Iditarod Mushers... cont'd from page 46

Alea Robinson - Eagle River, AK

Alea, 17, began mushing at the age of 3 with her golden retriever and got her first sled dog when she was 7. This will be her second Jr. Iditarod. In 2012, Alea competed in the Arctic Winter Games, winning two silvers and a gold as well as a Fairplay Award. She won two seven dog Junior World Championships in 2012 and first place points. Alea says, "I have been mushing for about 14 years. I have been able to travel to many different places for mushing such as France, California, Montana and Canada. Most of my dogs come from Jessie Royer. Although my dogs are originally from distance lines, they have also successfully run in sprints."

Alea currently attends Alaska Pacific University in the Early Honors program. She originally attended Chugiak High School where she participated in cross country running, track and field, and the National Honor Society. She says she enjoys reading, hiking, running, horseback riding and anything involving being outside. She plans to go to college on the east coast and thinks she'll continue mushing after college graduation.

Conway Seavey - Sterling, AK

Conway, 16, is the son of former Iditarod champion, Mitch Seavey, grandson of Iditarod veteran, Dan Seavey, and brother

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

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Jr. Iditarod Mushers... cont'd from page 47

of last year's Iditarod champion, Dallas Seavey. He stayed true to family tradition by winning last year's Jr. Iditarod. He says, "I started mushing when I was four years old with two dogs and my own little sled. I'd been waiting my whole life to start mushing like my Grandpa." Conway is homeschooled and is in the 10th grade. He says he recently started running and competed in a 10K marathon this summer. He also likes to bike, shoot and all kinds of athletics. "My main goal is to become a professional singer/songwriter. I currently do gigs around Alaska. I sang at the 2012 Iditarod Awards banquet in Nome. I want to live in Alaska at least part time, but don't plan to continue mushing, at least not professionally." One of the things he says he is looking forward to most in the 2013 Jr. Iditarod is getting to race his lead dog, Sarge. Sarge was the leader in his very first race in 2009 and has been in almost every race he's ever run, including the 2011 and 2012 Jr. Iditarod. "Sarge is an inspiration to me. I've never seen him down or depressed and he takes every challenge we come to bravely and happily."

Taylor Steele - Hopewell, PA, USA

Taylor, 16, says when she was eight and a half years old she got

a puppy for Christmas and watched a sled dog movie and "so it began." She started with a Norwegian elkhound, her golden retriever/black lab mix puppy she got for Christmas and well... they had puppies. "Then I got Alaskan huskies and had fun. I learned everything by myself." This will be her first race. Taylor attends Cyber School through K12 and is in the 10th grade. When in public school, she participated in track and FFA. She enjoys running, bikejoring, piano, hunting, 4-H, flying to Alaska and wishing she lived in Alaska. After graduation she wants "an education of some sort, probably a lawyer, editor or an optometrist." It's possible that she'll continue mushing.

Malinda Tjelta - Sheyenne, ND, USA

Malinda, 15, has been running dogs since 2008. She "read a book in reading class and got two retired lead dogs and it's been an adventure ever since." She is in 10th grade at Sheyenne Public School where she participates in track, FFA and Student Council. She also enjoys goat tying, reading, riding horses and rodeoing. She is the oldest of five and her whole family runs dogs. They have a kennel of 36. She plans to go to college to become an architect and continue mushing.

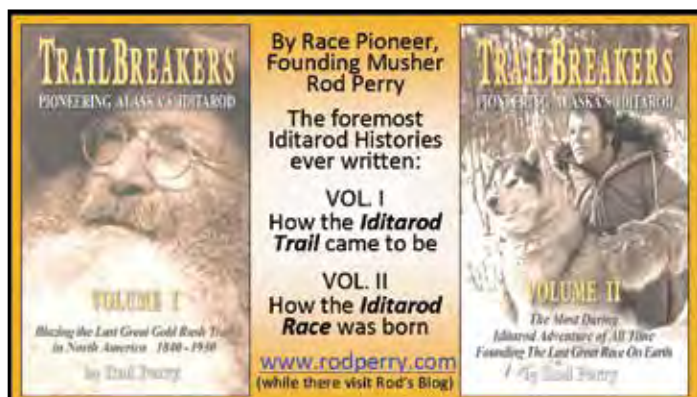
Teacher on the Trail™ ... cont'd from page 16

ski, read, knit, kayak, and run.

Linda is the 15th Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™. "After having taught the Iditarod for 12 years from my small classroom in Wisconsin, I am honored to be a part of the race. I would like to thank the

Iditarod Trail Committee for realizing the importance of education and for making the Iditarod easily accessible to teachers and students."

Linda is excited to experience the Iditarod first hand and share her experiences with teachers and students around the world via the Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ website at <http://itcteacheronthetrail.com>.



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corral

Jan Newton, Honorary Musher ...cont'd from page 15

Once the checkpoint closed Jan continued to be a year-round ambassador for the Last Great Race with school children in the lower forty-eight. Durham, NC elementary teacher, Brent Curtis says, "My class got to be friends with Jan Newton via e-mail. She really helped bring the race to life, answered their questions and helped them with projects through the whole school year. Talking with her via e-mail was priceless. We sent her a lot of baking supplies every year for her legendary pies and she kept inviting us to come. So finally I (Curtis) went during the 2008 race as a volunteer cook. Meeting Jan and working with her and the many other dedicated volunteers was a transforming experience. Jan Newton knows the magic powers of food – if you cook a moose steak with all the trimmings and add some good natured ribbing, mushers are very appreciative and willing to sit and talk for a while."

Mark Nordman, Iditarod's Race Marshal, met Jan Newton in 1983 when he was running his rookie Iditarod. Here's a very young man from Minnesota following his dream - running a race in far away rural Alaska. He said that the welcome at Takotna made him feel like he was really someone special, made him feel right at home. Mark soon realized that in Takotna, every musher is somebody special and right then Takotna is home.

Everyone who has attempted Iditarod and has made it as far as Takotna knows who Jan Newton is and what she has done for the race. Jan and Dick Newton were inducted into the Iditarod Hall of Fame in 2008. In the Anchorage Daily News story announcing the honor, Nordman says, "They're just the salt of the earth of rural Alaska, the lifeblood of the Iditarod, good people." The Newtons are unsung heroes of the Iditarod and have been

the heart and soul of the Takotna checkpoint since Iditarod's inception. Recently Nordman remarked that everyone knew Jan and knew what a heart of gold she had. She made Takotna a very special place for the mushers. Without people like Jan in rural Alaska, there wouldn't be an Iditarod.

For the Ceremonial Start in downtown Anchorage, the 2013 Junior Iditarod Champion will wear Bib number 1, the bib reserved for the Honorary Musher. Bib 1 will lead the field of Iditarod mushers down 4th Avenue, while recognizing and celebrating the life and contributions of Honorary Musher, Jan Newton. Jan's life, her warm heart, generosity, talent as a cook and pie maker along with her ability to organize, inspire and energize will continue to be celebrated each March as Iditarod mushers pass through Takotna. Her spirit, good deeds and exceptional talents will be very evident at the checkpoint as a legion of dedicated co-workers carry on the tradition she started back in 1974. Jan will keep an eye on things from above. Jan, you are one-of-a-kind and the Iditarod Trail Committee honors and thanks you for making everyone feel special and at home in Takotna.



One of Iditarod's best checkpoint volunteers, Jan Newton (right) is presented with a quilt made by her daughter Debbie Hogan made from Iditarod volunteer t-shirts.

15 Years ...cont'd from page 17

helping students reach academic achievement goals while involved in Iditarod based lessons. Teachers around the globe recognize Finney is instrumental in providing leadership in setting the program standards and leading teachers and students on an incredible adventure to academic success.

Each year, three finalists are selected from applicants who have provided documentation of their teaching. These finalists travel to Alaska before the race, present at the Winter Conference for Educators, and have a variety of experiences designed to test their skills. In April, one of the finalists is chosen as the next Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™. The selected teacher begins duties in June and maintains the website for the next year. Members of the current selection committee are Jeff Peterson, Sara Lamont, Terrie Hanke, "Finney", and Diane Johnson.

Math, science, language arts, and other content areas as well as technology and character education are focal points in the curriculum provided by each year's teacher. The lessons are aligned to educational standards and provide ideas and inspiration for teachers in preschool through high school. Along with providing content for other teachers to use with students, the Teacher on the Trail™ provides real time race information in the journal during the race, so don't miss the website updates!

Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ Honor Roll

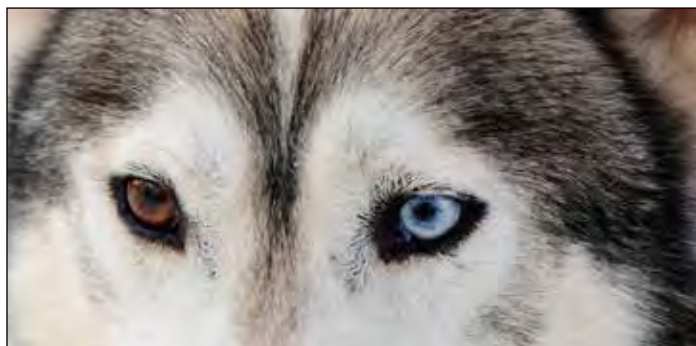
1999: Finney, Indiana
2000: Diane Johnson, South Dakota
2001: Diane Nye, Colorado
2002: Kim Harrick, Missouri
2003: Casandra Wilson, Oregon
2004: Jeff Peterson, Minnesota
2005: Lynne Gordon, Massachusetts
2006: Terrie Hanke, Wisconsin
2007: Kim Slade, Florida
2008: Jane Blaile, Arizona
2009: Cathy Walters, North Carolina
2010: Herb Brambley, Pennsylvania
2011: Martha Dobson, North Carolina
2012: Blynne Froke, California

2013: Linda Fenton, Wisconsin

Who will join this elite teaching team? Where will the next teacher be from and what exciting curriculum will be created for the next race and teaching season? If you are attending the 2013 Iditarod, look around for three energetic educators who are competing for the job – 2014 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™! They'll have their name badges on and be busy volunteering and participating in many activities! For those of you following the race from afar, you can also check the Iditarod Education Portal for updates about the finalists.

As 2006 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ Terrie Hanke has stated, "Teacher on the Trail™ isn't a 365-day adventure. It continues for a lifetime." This program takes a highly qualified educator, a best teacher, and helps to fine tune teaching skills to improve the teacher's skills resulting in an even better teacher. No doubt, this program has changed the life of each educator who has put on a pair of mukluks and journeyed the Iditarod Trail as the Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™.

We celebrate those fifteen educators and are grateful to the Iditarod Trail Committee and sponsors who have shown support of the Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ program. This program is enhancing education across the globe, helping teachers be better qualified to teach, and challenging the students to reach the academic benchmarks in science, technology, engineering, math to become the problem solvers of the world.



It's all in the eyes.

©Mike Kenney

Experience Matters... cont'd from page 11

By Koyuk, Dallas Seavey had emerged into first place and seemed to be in control of the race with the finish line in Nome only 123 miles up the coast. Dallas went on to maintain his lead and become the youngest person ever to win the Iditarod. Dallas said in White Mountain, before heading off to Nome, that "it wasn't as important to be first as to be running a team of dogs like he had." It is an awesome rewarding feeling for a musher to have a great team of well trained dogs. Dallas was obviously proud of the team he was running.

Now the race was on for the other top positions and those races within the race would be just as competitive.

For many, just making it all the way to Nome would be reward enough for all the work and planning they had done to run the Iditarod. Besides winning the race there also are many coveted awards that mushers compete for in each year's race. One of the most respected awards given during the Iditarod is the Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award. The Iditarod veterinary staff of each race gives over 10,000 examinations to the teams during the course of the race and then vote on which team is in the best overall condition at the finish line in Nome.

DeeDee Jonrowe won the Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award in the 2012 race. This award has been awarded to mushers for 33 years by Alaska Airlines. Past Iditarod Champion Lance Mackey won the Fred Meyers Sportsmanship Award. Brent Sass was Rookie of the Year being the highest placing rookie with a 13th place finish. The Exxon Mobil Musher's Choice Award was given to Dan Seavey, grandfather of Dallas. Throughout the race Dan dedicated his time representing the mushing history of the Iditarod Trail which was celebrating its 100th year of use and being a part of Alaska's transportation history. Dan also had competed in not only Iditarod 40 but also was a competitor in the first Iditarod Sled

Dog Race in 1973.

No two Iditarod's are ever the same. There's a saying in the mushing community that if you train for last year's race you're already behind. The trail is never the same. The weather is always unpredictable. This years Iditarod will bring new challenges along the trail that every team will have to overcome. One thing is for sure, there will be a lot of really great dog teams out there on the trail competing for every position at the finish line in Nome. Whoever wins this years Iditarod will have to beat all of the top 10 teams from Iditarod 2012 because they are all signed up to race again this year and they all will be competing to win. Again experience matters and there will be a lot of experienced teams on the trail this year.

I have been out on the Iditarod trail for 15 years as a competitor, race official and covering the race for fans and it has always amazed me what these dogs can do, what great athletes they are.

But what amazes me even more, is knowing that the mushers have been working hard all year to train and care for these dogs. Their dedication is endless. For most mushers sled dogs and mushing is their passion in life. You can't get a sled dog team to Nome without a whole lot of work and effort. Planning and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54



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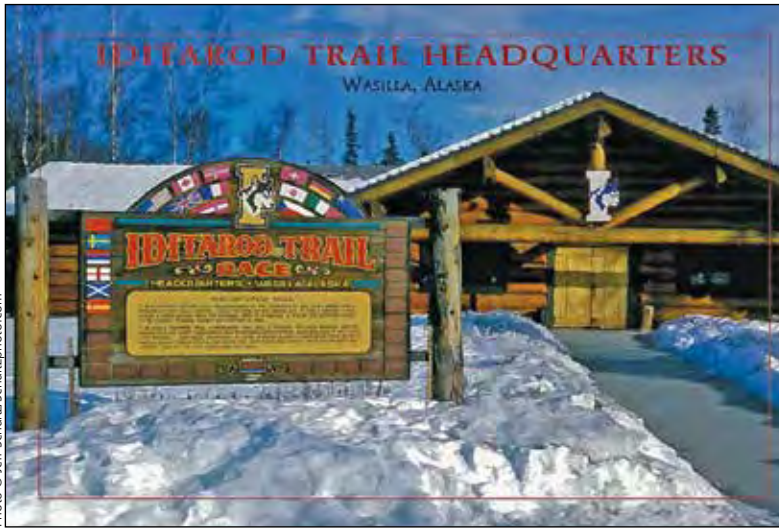


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The Iditarod Trail, now a National Historic Trail, had its beginnings as a mail and supply route from the coastal towns of Seward and Knik to the interior mining camps. The Iditarod Sled Dog Race is a commemoration of those yesterdays, a not-so-distant past that Alaskans honor and are proud of. On the first Saturday in March, mushers line out their dog teams in downtown Anchorage for their turn to start the Last Great Race on Earth, the Iditarod.

Summer Hours
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Iditarod Trail Committee Inc.

Mid-May
to Mid-September

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Mushers' Biographies... cont'd from page 42

Cindy Abbott - (R) Irvine, CA



Cindy Abbott, 54, was born and raised in Nebraska. A graduate of California State Univ., Fullerton, with a Master's Degree in Kinesiology, she became a professor

there. She lives with her husband Larry and daughter Teshia in Irvine, California, and teaches Health Science at California State Univ., Fullerton. Cindy has always been drawn to the world of ex-

treme sports. An extreme scuba diver and underwater videographer, in 2007, she took up mountain climbing with the single goal of standing on the top of the world. A few months after she began training, Cindy was diagnosed with a serious and rare disease (Wegner's Granulomatosis), but was determined to achieve her dream. On May 23, 2010, Cindy stepped onto the summit of Mt. Everest.

In 2004, she came to Alaska and took her first ride on a dog sled. In 2011, she began working under the guidance of Iditarod champion, Lance Mackey, at his

Comeback Kennel. She fell in love with the sport, the Alaskan people and culture, but most of all, she fell in love with the dogs! With some mid-distance races under her belt, Cindy admits that, for her, racing sled dogs is more difficult than climbing Mt. Everest.

Cindy has become a very active rare disease awareness advocate for the National Organization of Rare Disorders and the Vasculitis Foundation. She lists her hobbies as mountain climbing, SCUBA diving, and international travel.

Volunteers... cont'd from page 21

Iditarod thanks all of the devoted volunteers who fly, coordinate, sweat, lift, carry, shovel, rake, cook, sleep on the cold ground, and everything else it takes to bring the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to the fans.

Their willingness to go way beyond an individual's normal daily routine is incredible as it does take many hours of hard work and devotion to provide a great race every year. If you ask them why they do it, they usually reply, "It's all about the dogs!"

So as you, the fan, enjoy this race, think about what it takes to really have the Last Great Race on Earth, the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.



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Volunteers move musher food bags toward pilot Danny Davidson's plane at the Willow airport as the straw, musher food bags, lathe, people food and supplies begin to be flown out by the Iditarod volunteer Air Force to checkpoints along the trail.



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Wednesday March 7, 2012 Volunteer cooks Teri Paton, Anita Gillespie and Karen Tallent take a break from feeding the masses at the McGrath checkpoint.



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Volunteer Randy Adkins hands a drop dog to Cassandra Winslow as Tom Marple holds onto another as the drop dog crew takes the drop dogs from the checkpoint to the airport McGrath checkpoint.

Experience Matters... cont'd from page 52

training for the Iditarod is a year round job. No one knows who will be the winner of this year's race.

The story will unfold just like last years a chapter at a time. History will be made again and as the saying goes, it may not be the fastest team that wins the race and gets to Nome first but it will be the best team and I will bet it will be a team with lot of trail experience.

Visit www.iditarod.com

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One of the many dogs in the dog lot in Nome howls. Iditarod 2012.



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Friday March 9, 2012 Northern lights grace the sky over the half-way checkpoint at Cripple while mushers tend to their dogs. Iditarod 2012.

Shageluk... cont'd from page 19

between Shageluk and Iditarod since the 50's. Adolph's seasoned confidence, his perfect memory of the landmarks —the shape of the hills and valleys — held true almost 30 years later as he guided the group to the ghost town of Iditarod. The team of older men and their sons didn't need tripods, GPS technology or cell phones. To break the trail that year they needed the finely tuned knowledge that their ancestors had of the land, ice, weather conditions on the Innoko and a cautious respect for the other animals that live there.

Adolph's trail breaking expedition to Iditarod took 23.5 hours. They left for Iditarod at six a.m., with an Alpine and Skidoo Elans, and returned to Shageluk at 5:30 pm the next day. The older men couldn't be rushed; they took pride in providing the original and best possible trail for the Iditarod mushers. Rudy mentioned that the Iditarod does not use many parts of the original trail from the old Gold Rush days anymore.

Even at night the older Shageluk guys brought the trailbreakers into Iditarod. There was no food or gas waiting for them once they got there. Luckily, the Shageluk men travel with their own survival gear and didn't depend on anyone else. The checkers in Iditarod invited them to stay, but one of the other men had broken down before they got to Iditarod and the men knew they had to stay together.

The first trail on the southern route between Shageluk and Iditarod was cut again through the same portages and trails as trappers had used many years before.

Since then, for over 30 years, during southern route years

Shageluk volunteers, Arnold and Roger Hamilton and others continue to haul the straw bales and sacks of musher and checker supplies. The Tribal and City Council starts preparing for the race early by readying the Teen Center which turns into race headquarters, gearing up snow machines and sleds for the 65-mile trail-breaking over the wind-swept hills between Shageluk and Iditarod, and making places to store the many bales of straw for the dogs and supply bags for the mushers.

Every year mushers and their teams risk their lives for the thrill and challenge of the sport they love. If you are from any village on the Iditarod Trail, you know the dangers and risks that village volunteers take upon themselves as well, to ensure the safety of the mushers and dog teams. Trail conditions and weather are very unpredictable. Deep snow, sparse snow, tussocks, moose on the trail, wolves, open water, thin ice, fallen trees, unpredictable weather, hidden markers: there are many variables that can change at any turn, over any creek, upon any ridge. You just don't know what you're up against, and you have to be ready for anything. Even in an age when GPS and cell phone use are now found on the trail, trail



Volunteer checker, Arnold Hamilton, of Shageluk discusses sled issues with Mike Williams, Sr. at the Shageluk checkpoint Saturday morning.

Shageluk... cont'd from page 56

knowledge and survival are imperative for a safe journey.

During the 2009 Race, in whiteout conditions, Adolph's son Rudy and Rudy's nephew Keith (son of Arnold Hamilton), embarked on a dangerous emergency rescue mission for three of the Iditarod rookies: Lou Packer, Blake Matray and Kim Darst.

As it was, they left at 1:00 pm, later than Rudy had planned. The severe weather conditions hadn't let up, they needed to gas up and get going quickly so they had plenty of daylight in which to find the stranded mushers. Every hour in this weather increased the danger.

They took off from Shageluk with a stiff north wind at their sides. The trail that had been broken a few days before was now a hidden blur with swirled snow and 45 m.p.h. winds, deepening by the minute.

Going out, Rudy lost the voltage regulator on his Skidoo Super Widetrack so he didn't have thumb warmers or lights. Keith was driving an RMK 500 and helped light the trail. The Shageluk rescuers reached one of the stranded mushers at 6:00 pm.

Rudy and Keith reminded the mushers that if they accepted help that they would be forfeiting the race. In the condition they were in, the mushers had no choice but to accept the offer. The Iditarod Air Force had already successfully landed and picked up half of Parker's team. Rudy and Keith found Parker on a ridge out in the open with no protection. Keith helped Parker lead his team out of the attack of the wind while Rudy drove on to locate Matray and Darst. He found them four miles further up the trail — also out in the open — in a burned area where there was no protection from the winds. He helped the mushers move their gear and teams to the side of a hill that was more sheltered from the storm.

The Iditarod Air Force plane flew over again. Keith



Musher welcome signs on the washeteria building at the Shageluk checkpoint on Saturday morning.

and Rudy went to help get the rest of the dogs put on the plane. Rudy told the pilot that the mushers would not be able to make it into Shageluk and they would need to fly them out in the morning.

Rudy had brought his own chainsaw from Shageluk predicting he would need it on this mission. He went back down the hill and started cutting a whole bunch of wood for the mushers for the night.

Satisfied that the mushers and the rest of their dogs were, for the most part, warm and out of danger, it had grown dark. Weather conditions had not changed. The fierce wind gusts and icy snows had already frozen parts of Rudy and Keith's faces, and they still had to make it back to Shageluk.

Without hand-warmers and lights, guided by instinct and courage coupled with an innate knowledge of the trail even after it had been blown over again, Rudy and his nephew Keith raced towards home. Despite having lights, Keith had a hard time keeping up with his uncle. In blowing, icy snow Rudy and Keith made it back home to Shageluk at 11:30 pm. Rudy and Keith appreciated the thanks of the Iditarod Race Marshall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

Shageluk... cont'd from page 57



Jake Berkowitz passes by St. Luke's church as he runs down the road arriving at the Shageluk checkpoint.

It is important to know: no matter how much a musher prepares his team and his or herself for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, conditions can be unpredictable, and mushers find they are at the mercy of whatever situations arise.

Isn't it a secure feeling to know that the true backbone of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race exists in the many villages along the trail that wait and watch, welcoming their favorite mushers, dogs and rookies with smiles, food, warm handshakes, signs and strong volunteers? Each village is equipped with their own resident survivalists ready to help anyone in need.

Without their knowledge of the trails and conditions, The Last Great Race as it is today just wouldn't exist. Rudy Hamilton, Iditarod Trailbreaker and rescuer, says that "With as many experiences Iditarod village volunteers have had since the race has been coming through, a book should be

written honoring them and their stories." He says his section will be entitled, "Rescue at Hell's Gates."

Shageluk People, the last remaining permanent residents in the Innoko River region, descendants of the great tribes of tough Innoko inhabitants and travelers, continue to provide ongoing volunteer support and enthusiasm for the Last Great Race and look forward to the race of 2013!



Ken Anderson runs down the road into the Shageluk checkpoint.

Scooter Newman ... cont'd from page 45

was running a 10-dog team in the "Senior" division and Scooter was running 6 of Raymie Redington's dogs in the "Junior" division of the Jr. Iditarod. Scooter placed second in her division while Michael claimed the championship of his division. That was the only year the Jr. Iditarod was run in two divisions.

Scooter continued to race. She placed fifth in the 1979 Jr. and fourth in the 1980 race. She claimed the Fur Rondy Seven-dog Jr. Championship of 1980. Later that spring, Scooter graduated from Wasilla High School and continued her education at Anchorage Community College with a scholarship from the Matanuska Chapter of the National Secretaries Association.

Barb Redington, who also participated in the first Jr. Iditarod, remembers Scooter as a priceless friend. She was a really good person who loved mushing and loved the Jr. Iditarod. She worked well with dogs and understood them. She was very competitive and worked hard to do the best for her dogs and

do her best in every race. In running the first three Jr. Iditarod Races, Scooter influenced other young girls to participate in the sport as well as run dogs competitively. At the very young age of 50, Scooter passed away in August of 2012. She's an inspiring part of Jr. Iditarod history and this recognition is a well-deserved memorial.



Musher in Willow.



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March, 2012 DeeDee Jonrowe mushes on a swamp as the sun sets near the Cripple checkpoint.

2013 Mushers and Sponsors

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Newfoundlands, Barb & Bear Spirit Dog,
Masquers & Nana, Natasha the Nefarious
Borzoi, Gus & BooBear, Mollypop & Princess
Sam, CHobbitHarris, Tupper & Gilly, Basil &
Sage, Macy the Min-Pin, Rose Witte, Linda
Jarzynski, Kirby T. Penworthy and Tyb

David Sawatzky – Healy, AK

Dallas Seavey – Willow, AK
J.J. Keller & Associates, WI; Dr. Tim's Pet
Foods, MI

Mitch Seavey – Seward, AK
Petro Marine Services; Icicle Seafoods;
J.J. Keller & Associates, WI; Dr. Tim's Pet
Foods, MI; Inlet Towers; Buffalo Peak
Outfitters, MS

Cim Smyth – Big Lake, AK
Alaska Refrigeration & Food Equipment,
Inc.; Gene & Lynn Smith; Bloomin' Crew

Ramey Smyth – Willow, AK
Non-stopdogwear.no, NORWAY; Alaska
Communications; Steve Ripp & Carol
Spicuzza, WI; First Tool Corp., OH; Jerry
Holbrook; Douglass Burger; Dennis &
Candace Weidler; Gene & Lynn Smith;
Lloyd Charlie; Marguerite & Janine
Goodman; Smyth Racing Team; Smyth
Logwork & Construction; Dr. Tim's Pet
Food; Becca, Ava & Banyan Smyth

Gerald Sousa – Talkeetna, AK

Jan Steves – Edmonds, WA

Ed Stielstra – McMillan, MI

Michael Suprenant – Chugiak, AK

Rick Swenson – Two Rivers, AK

Angie Taggart – Ketchikan, AK

**Mikhail Telpin (rookie) –
Yanrakkynot, Chukotka, RUSSIA**

**Joar Leifseth Ulsom (rookie) –
Roros, NORWAY**

James Volek (rookie) – Big Lake, AK
Happy Trails; Eagle Pack, A Division of
Well Pet; Big Lake Susitna Veterinary
Hospital, LLC; Alaska Icefield Expeditions
Montana Hammer Re-Metalworks; Nemo
Equipment

Michael Williams, Jr. – Akiak, AK
Donlin Gold; Calista Corporation; Bill
Eisenhart & Mary Whitaker; Henry Kohl;
Akiak Native Community

Mike Williams, Sr. – Akiak, AK
Donlin Gold; Calista Corporation;
Lynden Air Cargo; Bill Eisenhart & Mary
Whitaker; Akiak Native Community

**Gerry Willomitzer – Whitehorse, YT
CANADA**
Skookum Asphalt Ltd.; Nuway Crushing
Ltd.; Eldorado Logbuilders Inc.; Total
North Communications Ltd.

Aliy Zirkle – Two Rivers, AK
Horizon Lines of Alaska; Clarion Suites
Downtown Anchorage; Quality Suites-
Near Convention Center; Eagle Pack
Natural Pet Food, Well Pet, MA; Pleasant
Valley Store; Northern Outfitters, FL



*Sylvia Furtwangler on Puntilla Lake while
leaving the Rainy Pass checkpoint with the
Alaska Range in the background, Iditarod
2012.*

2013 Winter Conference for Educators: "Make Sense of Problems and Persevere in Solving Them"

By Diane Johnson, Iditarod Education Director

You might wonder about the theme of this year's Iditarod Winter Conference for Educators, "Make Sense of Problems and Persevere in Solving Them." This phrase comes from the Math common core educational standards and is very appropriate for an Iditarod Conference for Educators because this phrase connects what the mushes and dog teams must do during training and racing season and what students are challenged to do in classrooms around the globe. Solve problems.

Solving problems is more than a math concept and skill. It is a quest in science, technology, language arts, and more importantly, in real life. Attendees at this year's winter conference will attend sessions that focus on improving teaching skills and provide them with lessons and curriculum that they can use in their own classrooms. Attendees will listen to speakers, go on fieldtrips, and discover firsthand the incredible tool that Iditarod is for the classroom.

This yearly 4 day event, held February 26 – March 1 this year, is sponsored by Iditarod's Education partner, ExxonMobil. ExxonMobil and Iditarod's education department share common goals which include helping teachers to improve their skills and providing opportunities for students to find academic success and improve their test scores. Iditarod's Education Department recognizes the power behind Iditarod as an educational vehicle of instruction. This tool changes the science and art of education and helps students prepare themselves for education beyond high school and their future careers. ExxonMobil hosts the educators for a preconference event and a breakfast on the final conference day and helps the teachers by providing discounts on lodging and Alaska Airlines travel discounts.

"The Winter Conference was one of the highlights of my professional development experiences. It really put a human (and cute puppy) face to something that I had taught for years. I had known many of the mushers' stories from reading and following the race for years, but to meet them and see how truly

down to earth, personable, and passionate they were was a wonderful experience. To be able to share the experience with my students and their families via Skype and blogging was priceless also. It made everything so much more real to them. It makes the character development lessons more real for them when they have people they can directly relate too. I can't tell you the number of times I've heard, "Would an Iditarod musher give up? No way!" as almost a rally cry in my room this year when things get a little tough!" Jen Reiter, MD

This annual event is always held the week before the start of the Iditarod, a perfect time to be in Alaska! Attending the conference, seeing the start and restart of the race, and getting on the trail for an educational adventure for students makes a difference in the classroom. Learn more at www.iditarod.com/teachers



Sneak Peek at Willow Restart

©Karen Laubenstein



©Jeff Schultz Photography/www.iditarodphotos.com

Saturday February 18, 2012 Iditarod volunteers including Air Force support and loaders pose for a photo at the Willow airport as the straw, musher food bags, lathe, people food and supplies begin to be flown out by the Iditarod volunteer Air Force to checkpoints along the trail.

iTREC... cont'd from page 13

while gaining professional development credit. They learn new concepts, explore and evaluate techniques, and develop local community partnerships as they prepare their own iTREC! curriculum for implementation the following and subsequent years. The iTREC! program is coordinated through an active partnership between the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, US Forest Service and BLM, with the support of numerous other partners including Alaska Geographic, the Iditarod Trail Committee and Alaska Airlines.

The congressionally designated Iditarod National Historic Trail and associated public lands are the “backbone” of iTREC! and serve as the impetus for connecting today’s youth and their communities to their public lands. At the heart of iTREC! is the belief that students who are immersed in the interdisciplinary study of their own “place” are more eager to be involved in the stewardship of their communities and public lands. Through iTREC!, the

Trail and these public lands are benefitting through effective outdoor learning and a multitude of on-the-ground projects developed and implemented by students working with community partners.

In its first three years alone, iTREC! has trained 40 teachers who are now effectively reaching over 3,600 K-12 students in 7 rural and urban communities along the trail. Students are engaged in a variety of projects including the development of interpretive signs and books about the INHT, identifying and marking sections of the historic trail, monitoring watersheds along the INHT including water quality sampling and developing schoolyard habitats and gardens, just to name a few.

iTREC! is currently recruiting for the 4th year of the program. If you’re interested in finding out more about the program and how you can be involved, please contact Annette Heckart at aheckart@fs.fed.us.

2012 Race Results

| Pos | Musher | Days /Hours/Min/ Sec | Winnings | Pos | Musher | Days /Hours/Min/ Sec | Winnings |
|-----|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1 | Seavey, Dallas | 9d 4h 29m 26s | \$50,400.00 | 27 | Griffin, Kelley | 10d 22h 29m 6s | \$3,200.00 |
| 2 | Zirkle, Aliy | 9d 5h 29m 10s | \$46,500.00 | 28 | Peterson, Braxton | 10d 22h 44m 4s | \$2,600.00 |
| 3 | Smyth, Ramey | 9d 6h 4m 4s | \$42,900.00 | 29 | Petit, Nicolas | 10d 23h 24m 0s | \$2,100.00 |
| 4 | Burmeister, Aaron | 9d 10h 4m 7s | \$39,600.00 | 30 | Swenson, Rick | 10d 23h 44m 6s | \$1,500.00 |
| 5 | Kaiser, Peter | 9d 11h 6m 23s | \$36,500.00 | 31 | Olson, Ryne | 11d 1h 33m 40s | \$1,049.00 |
| 6 | Redington Jr, Ray | 9d 12h 9m 11s | \$33,600.00 | 32 | Maixner, Kelly | 11d 1h 53m 2s | \$1,049.00 |
| 7 | Seavey, Mitch | 9d 13h 10m 58s | \$30,900.00 | 33 | Lanier, Jim | 11d 2h 58m 18s | \$1,049.00 |
| 8 | Williams, Jr., Michael | 9d 13h 12m 18s | \$28,400.00 | 34 | Santos, Mike | 11d 14h 20m 4s | \$1,049.00 |
| 9 | Baker, John | 9d 13h 25m 47s | \$26,000.00 | 35 | Linton, Bruce | 11d 16h 27m 12s | \$1,049.00 |
| 10 | Jonrowe, DeeDee | 9d 14h 43m 15s | \$23,900.00 | 36 | Hendrickson, Karin | 11d 18h 32m 36s | \$1,049.00 |
| 11 | Ekran, Sigrid | 9d 15h 50m 16s | \$21,800.00 | 37 | Herbst, Trent | 11d 20h 17m 36s | \$1,049.00 |
| 12 | Anderson, Ken | 9d 18h 56m 3s | \$19,900.00 | 38 | Janssen, Scott | 11d 21h 38m 31s | \$1,049.00 |
| 13 | Sass, Brent | 9d 20h 25m 25s | \$18,200.00 | 39 | Perano, Curt | 11d 22h 40m 45s | \$1,049.00 |
| 14 | Lindner, Sonny | 9d 21h 28m 2s | \$16,600.00 | 40 | Church, Jr, Art | 11d 23h 57m 2s | \$1,049.00 |
| 15 | Gebhardt, Paul | 10d 3h 35m 48s | \$15,000.00 | 41 | Pinkham, William | 12d 1h 15m 41s | \$1,049.00 |
| 16 | Phillips, Michelle | 10d 8h 18m 1s | \$13,600.00 | 42 | Berington, Anna | 12d 2h 16m 30s | \$1,049.00 |
| 17 | Neff, Hugh | 10d 8h 41m 52s | \$12,300.00 | 43 | Berington, Kristy | 12d 2h 17m 13s | \$1,049.00 |
| 18 | Buser, Rohn | 10d 18h 10m 12s | \$11,100.00 | 44 | Savidis, Justin | 12d 4h 45m 53s | \$1,049.00 |
| 19 | Buser, Martin | 10d 18h 10m 13s | \$9,900.00 | 45 | Cooper, Travis | 12d 8h 37m 14s | \$1,049.00 |
| 20 | Sousa, Gerald | 10d 19h 27m 50s | \$8,900.00 | 46 | Kinzer, Jaimee | 12d 15h 58m 30s | \$1,049.00 |
| 21 | Robertia, Colleen | 10d 20h 4m 19s | \$7,900.00 | 47 | Failor, Matt | 12d 18h 10m 20s | \$1,049.00 |
| 22 | Mackey, Lance | 10d 20h 17m 27s | \$6,900.00 | 48 | Debruin, Hank | 12d 22h 13m 50s | \$1,049.00 |
| 23 | Bailey, Jodi | 10d 20h 19m 53s | \$6,100.00 | 49 | Ramstead, Karen | 13d 0h 21m 30s | \$1,049.00 |
| 24 | Smyth, Cim | 10d 21h 26m 59s | \$5,300.00 | 50 | Seavey, Dan | 13d 19h 10m 30s | \$1,049.00 |
| 25 | Stielstra, Ed | 10d 21h 59m 59s | \$4,500.00 | 51 | Chlupach, Bob | 14d 11h 55m 10s | \$1,049.00 |
| 26 | Steer, Anjanette | 10d 22h 2m 45s | \$3,900.00 | 52 | Steves, Jan | 14d 11h 57m 3s | \$1,049.00 |

2012 Awards

- PenAir Spirit of Alaska Award - Aliy Zirkle**
- GCI Dorothy G. Page Halfway Award - Jim Lanier**
- Wells Fargo Bank Alaska Gold Coast Award - Aliy Zirkle**
- Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Winner's Truck Award - Dallas Seavey**
- Wells Fargo Bank Winner's Purse - Dallas Seavey**
- ExxonMobil Musers Choice Award - Dan Seavey**
- Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award - DeeDee Jonrowe**
- Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher Award - Rohn Buser**
- Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial Award - Michelle Phillips**
- Fred Meyer Sportsmanship Award - Lance Mackey**
- City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness Winner Award - Guinness,
Dallas Seavey's Lead Dog**
- Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome Award - Michael Williams, Jr.**
- Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year Award - Brent Sass**
- Northern Air Cargo Four Wheeler Drawing Winner - Peter Kaiser**
- Golden Clipboard Award - Community of Nulato**
- Golden Stethoscope Award - Ruth Kothe, DVM and Tanja Kruse, DVM**
- Red Lantern Award - Jan Steves**

2013 Mushers

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| _____ Abbott, Cindy | Irvine | CA | R | _____ Lindner, Sonny | Two Rivers | AK |
| _____ Ambrose, Louie | St. Michael | AK | R | _____ Mackey, Sr., Jason | Wasilla | AK |
| _____ Anderson, Ken | Fairbanks | AK | | _____ Mackey, Lance* | Fairbanks | AK |
| _____ Bailey, Jodi | Chatanika | AK | | _____ Maixner, Kelly | Big Lake | AK |
| _____ Baker, John* | Kotzebue | AK | | _____ Marques, Luan Ramos | Macaes | Brazil R |
| _____ Beals, Travis | Seward | AK | | _____ Marrs, Wade | Wasilla | AK |
| _____ Bejna, Charley | Addison | IL | R | _____ Marshall, Newton | St. Anne | Jamaica |
| _____ Berington, Anna | Kasilof | AK | | _____ Moore, Allen | Two Rivers | AK |
| _____ Berington, Kristy | Kasilof | AK | | _____ Peck, Aaron | Bezanson, AB | Canada |
| _____ Berkowitz, Jake | Big Lake | AK | | _____ Perano, Curt | Quenstown | NZ |
| _____ Bundtzen, Robert | Anchorage | AK | | _____ Petit, Nicolas | Girdwood | AK |
| _____ Burmeister, Aaron | Nome | AK | | _____ Phillips, Michelle | Tagish, YT | Canada |
| _____ Buser, Martin* | Big Lake | AK | | _____ Redington, Jr., Ray | Wasilla | AK |
| _____ Buser, Rohn | Big Lake | AK | | _____ Roalofs, Christine | Anchorage | AK R |
| _____ Cadzow, Josh | Ft. Yukon | AK | R | _____ Royer, Jessie | Darby | MT |
| _____ Chlupach, Bob | Willow | AK | | _____ Sass, Brent | Manley Hot Springs | AK |
| _____ Demoski, Sr., Rudy | Wasilla | AK | | _____ Savidis, Justin | Willow | AK |
| _____ DeNure, Zoya | Delta Junction | AK | | _____ Sawatzky, David | Healy | AK |
| _____ Diehl, Richie | Aniak | AK | R | _____ Seavey, Dallas* | Willow | AK |
| _____ Drobny, Paige | Fairbanks | AK | R | _____ Seavey, Mitch* | Seward | AK |
| _____ Ellis, Mike | Two Rivers | AK | R | _____ Smyth, Cim | Big Lake | AK |
| _____ Failor, Matt | Big Lake | AK | R | _____ Smyth, Ramey | Willow | AK |
| _____ Fiedler, Linwood | Willow | AK | | _____ Sousa, Gerald | Talkeetna | AK |
| _____ Gallea, Cindy | Wykoff | MN | | _____ Steves, Jan | Edmonds | WA |
| _____ Gebhardt, Paul | Kasilof | AK | | _____ Stielstra, Ed | McMillan | MI |
| _____ Giblin, Matt | Big Lake | AK | | _____ Suprenant, Michael | Chugiak | AK |
| _____ Griffin, Kelley | Wasilla | AK | | _____ Swenson, Rick* | Two Rivers | AK |
| _____ Hendricks, Jessica | Two Rivers | AK | | _____ Taggart, Angie | Ketchikan | AK |
| _____ Hendrickson, Karin | Wasilla | AK | | _____ Telpin, Mikhail | Yanrakkynot Chukotka | Russia R |
| _____ Janssen, Scott | Anchorage | AK | | _____ Volek, James | Big Lake | AK R |
| _____ Jonrowe, DeeDee | Willow | AK | | _____ Williams, Sr., Mike | Akiak | AK |
| _____ Kaiser, Peter | Bethel | AK | | _____ Williams, Jr., Michael | Akiak | AK |
| _____ King, Jeff * | Denali | AK | | _____ Willomitzer, Gerry | Whitehorse, YT | Canada |
| _____ Lanier, Jim | Chugiak | AK | | _____ Zirkle, Aliy | Two Rivers | AK |
| _____ Lleifseth Ulsom, Joar | Roros | Norway | R | | | |

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2. 2013 Ski-Doo Renegade Sport 550F Snowmobile
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4. Alaska Series 380A Inflatable Boat, rated for 25 HP Motor
5. 1988 A/P Iditarod Collectors Print, "A Welcome Rest," signed by Susan Butcher & Libby Riddles
6. Roundtrip Airfare for 2 to most PenAir Destinations
7. 2013 Dodge Ram 4x4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a NEW similarly priced Dodge, Jeep or Chrysler vehicle
8. Set of 4 Cooper Tires with Custom Wheels
9. 47" LG Smart TV, High Definition 1080p
10. McCarthy Lodge & Ma Johnson's Historic Hotel 3 nights lodging for 2 with a special dinner (Transportation not included)
11. Five Day Motorhome Rental within Alaska
12. Lake George 1/2 day Guided Flightsee, Hiking & Lunch for 2
13. One Way Car Shipment between Tacoma, WA & Anchorage, AK
14. 2013 Dodge Ram 4x4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a NEW similarly priced Dodge, Jeep or Chrysler vehicle
15. Base Camp McKinley Tour for 2 w/Glacier Landing
16. #1 Official Iditarod Race Bib signed by 2013 Champion
17. Spenard Builders Shopping Spree
18. Deluxe Weekend for 2 at Millennium Hotel Anchorage
19. Stihl Chain Saw, Model MS-29120
20. 2013 Dodge Ram 4x4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a NEW similarly priced Dodge, Jeep or Chrysler vehicle

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\$39,000
\$1,500
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\$750
\$1,250
\$39,000
\$550
\$1,500
\$500
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\$500
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