



Iditarod Trail Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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52 mushers enter Iditarod XLV on opening day

Wasilla, Alaska – Today, 29 mushers were on location at Iditarod Trail Committee headquarters in Wasilla to officially enter the 2017 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Another 23 signed up by mail, rounding out the total to 52 mushers officially entered on the first official entry day for the 45th running of the Iditarod.

Of the 52 opening day entries, 12 registered as rookies. 10 teams hail from countries outside the United States, including Canada, England, France, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden, and 4 states outside of Alaska (Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota and Montana) are represented.

Current and four-time champion Dallas Seavey; four-time champions Jeff King, Martin Buser and Lance Mackey; and two-time champion Mitch Seavey, along with a talented group of top finishers promise to make the 45th running of the Iditarod every bit as competitive as any race in history.

During the opening day festivities, the Iditarod also paid tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who were on hand by hosting its annual volunteer appreciation picnic. Race sponsor Golden Corral provided a catered lunch, and race sponsor PenAir flew in fresh sockeye salmon from Bristol Bay.

Each year, two mushers are randomly drawn at the end of the volunteer appreciation picnic to receive a complimentary entry fee into the race. Veteran musher Cindy Abbott of Willow, Alaska, and veteran musher Mike Suprenant of Chugiak, Alaska were this year's winners.

Mushers wishing to enter the 45th Iditarod have until the close of business on Thursday, Dec. 1, to turn in their entries. It is expected that the starting field will approach 80 teams.

Following is a list of mushers in order of their draw to be held during the mushers banquet on Thursday, March 2, 2017.

Draw #	Last	First	City	State	Country	Status
1	Nicolas	Petit	Girdwood	AK		V
2	Ketil	Reitan		AK		V
3	Cindy	Abbott	Willow	AK		V
4	Roger	Lee	Birkenhead		ENGLAND	R
5	Joar	Leifseth Ulsom	Willow	AK		V
6	Nicolas	Vanier	Paris		FRANCE	R
7	Michelle	Phillips	Carcross	YT	CANADA	V
8	Gwenn	Bogart	Wasilla	AK		R
9	Jim	Lanier	Chugiak	AK		V
10	Ryan	Anderson	Ray	MN		R
11	Wade	Marrs	Wasilla	AK		V
12	Dallas	Seavey	Willow	AK		V
13	Cody	Strathe	Fairbanks	AK		V
14	Thomas	Rosenbloom	Wichita	KS		R
15	Hans	Gatt	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	V
16	Misha	Wiljes	Willow	AK		R
17	Peter	Kaiser	Bethel	AK		V
18	Ralph	Johannessen	Dagali		NORWAY	V
19	Otto	Balogh	Budapest		HUNGARY	R
20	Jeff	King	Denali	AK		V
21	Karin	Hendrickson	Willow	AK		V
22	Rick	Casillo	Big Lake	AK		V
23	Sebastien	Vergnaud	Rioux		FRANCE	R
24	Zoya	DeNure	Delta	AK		V
25	Sebastian	Schnuelle	Two Rivers	AK		V
26	Jan	Steves	Willow	AK		V
27	Cim	Smyth	Big Lake	AK		V
28	Kristin	Bacon	Big Lake	AK		V
29	Mitch	Seavey	Sterling	AK		V
30	Laura	Neese	McMillan	MI		R
31	Mike	Suprenant	Chugiak	AK		V
32	Jodi	Bailey	Chatinika	AK		V
33	Linwood	Fiedler	Willow	AK		V
34	Mark	Selland	Anchorage	AK		V
35	Lance	Mackey	Fairbanks	AK		V
36	Lars	Monsen	Shiptvet		NORWAY	V
37	Rolland	Trowbridge	Nome	AK		R
38	Richie	Diehl	Aniak	AK		V
39	Mats	Pettersson	Kiruna		SWEDEN	V

40	Ray	Redington	Wasilla	AK		V
41	Joe	Carson	McGrath	AK		R
42	Alan	Eischens	Wasilla	AK		V
43	Jimmy	Lebling	Willow	AK		R
44	Curt	Perano	Roxburgh		NEW ZEALAND	V
45	Aliy	Zirkle	Two Rivers	AK		V
46	Ryan	Redington	Wasilla	AK		V
47	Ramey	Smyth	Willow	AK		V
48	Allen	Moore	Two Rivers			V
49	Martin	Buser	Big Lake	AK		V
50	Jessie	Royer	Darby	MT		V
51	Ellen	Halverson	Big Lake	AK		V
52	DeeDee	Jonrowe	Willow	AK		V

Complete archival race information is available [here](#).

The ceremonial start of Iditarod XLV takes place Saturday, March 4, 2017, at 10 a.m. in downtown Anchorage at the corner of Fourth Avenue and D Street.

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