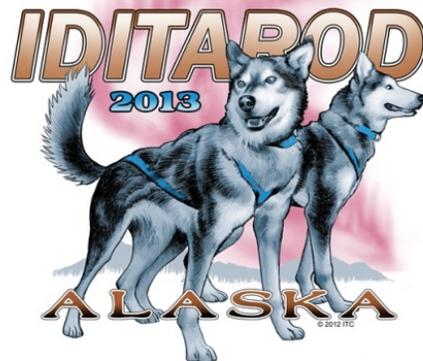


# Iditarod

## IDITAROD HISTORY – GENERAL INFO 2013 RACE INFORMATION



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.....	Art Church
.....	Rhodi Karella Davidson
.....	Jim Gallea
.....	Mark Lindstrom
.....	Warren Palfrey
.....	Karen Ramstead
.....	Kevin Saiki
.....	Tomas Tetz
.....	Larry Westlake

## INTRODUCTION

### THE IDITAROD

You can't compare it to any other competitive event in the world! A Race of approximately 1,000 miles of the roughest, most beautiful terrain Mother Nature has to offer. She throws jagged mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forests, desolate tundra and miles of windswept coast at the mushers and their dog teams.

**(Note:** As of 2012 the Northern Route distance is approximately 975 miles and the Southern Route 998 miles. In prior years the distance was always over 1,000 miles. Three things factor into this adjustment: 1) The change in the Ceremonial Start (running from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip instead of Eagle River); 2) The change of the Restart location from Wasilla to Willow (loss of the Wasilla-Knik-Susitna River and some Yentna River mileage), and; 3) The actual year to year trail conditions can affect trail routing and the actual mileage will vary somewhat from year to year. "1,049 miles®" has been a symbolic figure from the inception of the race to signify the 1,000 miles or more of race trail and the number 49 depicts Alaska as the 49th state.)

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

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

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

### "THE LAST GREAT RACE ON EARTH"

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

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

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

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

### AN EVENT FOR ALL ALASKA

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

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

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

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

## THE BEGINNING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The goal was to have the race go all the way to the ghost town of Iditarod in 1973. However, in 1972, the US Army reopened the trail as a winter exercise and in 1973, the decision was made to take the race the 1,000 plus miles to Nome. Redington and Page were instrumental in getting the first long Iditarod on its way to Nome in 1973, amidst comments that it couldn't be done. There were many that believed it was crazy to send a bunch of mushers out into the vast uninhabited Alaskan wilderness. But the race went! Twenty-two mushers finished that year. There have been 695 finishers (grand total of 1,902 to cross the finish line) as of 2011. Mushers have come from 23 states, five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, & Australia) and 21 foreign countries (Argentina, Austria, Australia,

Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) have finished the Iditarod since 1973 including 103 women.

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

## **IDITAROD TODAY**

The race has started in downtown Anchorage since 1983. The 41st Annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race will begin on Saturday, March 2, 2013. The teams will leave the start line at the corner of 4th and “D” at two minute intervals, starting at 10 a.m. About 68 teams are expected.

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

On Sunday, March 3 mushers will again line up at the re-start area in Willow, Alaska about 70 miles north of Anchorage. At 2 p.m., the first team will depart on its way to Nome.

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

It is impossible to predict the exact day or time that the first musher will cross the finish line in Nome. However, we expect it to be between 8 and 10 days, making it on Monday or Tuesday. 2011 Champion, John Baker completed the race in 8 days, 18 hours, 46 minutes, 39 seconds.

## **BEHIND THE SCENES**

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

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

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

## ON THE TRAIL

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

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

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

## FAMOUS NAMES

There are names which are automatically associated with the race:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lance Mackey** – won the 2007 Iditarod after winning the Yukon Quest only 10 days earlier – first musher to have won both races in the same year and made Dick Mackey the only father to have won the Iditarod and to have two sons also

win the Iditarod, all wearing bib #13. Lance Mackey repeated his feat of winning both the Yukon Quest and Iditarod in 2008. Lance is the first musher to ever win four consecutive Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in a row (2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010)

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

**Dallas Seavey** – 2102 champion was the youngest to ever win the Iditarod as 2012.

## THE 1925 SERUM RUN TO NOME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HISTORY OF THE "WIDOW'S LAMP"

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

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

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

## HISTORY OF THE RED LANTERN

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

## WHAT DOES THE WORD "IDITAROD" MEAN?

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ANIMAL WELFARE

### Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Animal Welfare Facts

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

- A complete pre-race physical examination is performed on each canine athlete by a licensed veterinarian within 14 days of the race start. Within 30 days of the race start, each dog receives an ECG evaluation to check for heart abnormalities. Since the implementation of this measure, four canine athletes have not been allowed to race.
- Pre-race blood work (CBC's and Chemistry panels) are performed on each canine athlete.
- All canine athletes are identified with a microchip implant.
- All canine athletes have current vaccinations and are de-wormed within 10 days of the race start.
- Rookie mushers are required to complete qualifying races of considerable distance before entering the Iditarod to ensure that they are experienced in providing the proper care (nutrition, hydration, rest, etc.) for their teams. In addition, the ITC hosts a mandatory two-day rookie seminar in December prior to the race.
- In addition to the high standard of care provided by the mushers themselves, thirty-five (35) licensed, professional veterinarians, volunteer their time on the trail to perform routine evaluations and administer any necessary treatments.
- During the Race itself, well over 10,000 planned checkpoint examinations take place.
- Canine care diaries are carried by each musher and are utilized by the mushers and veterinarians at each checkpoint to serve as a written medical record for each athlete in the race.
- All mushers competing in the Iditarod are members of P.R.I.D.E., which stands for "Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment" and is an organization whose membership consists of a wide variety of mushers, veterinarians and other interested individuals from around the world. Those familiar with sled dogs will appreciate the guidelines established by P.R.I.D.E. as being sound advice for the care of this special breed of dog.
- The International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association (I.S.D.V.M.A.) published The Musher and Veterinary Handbook, a highly regarded resource which provides important information to the musher and veterinarian alike. As an organization consisting primarily of medical professionals with an interest in and/or experience in working with sled dogs, the I.S.D.V.M.A. actively promotes and encourages their welfare and safety. Many members of the organization have served as trail veterinarians during the Iditarod itself. The I.S.D.V.M.A. also supports and encourages scientific research to further a better understanding of the racing sled dog.
- Race policies and rules are written with the greatest emphasis on the proper care and treatment of the canine athletes. Any musher found guilty of inhumane treatment will be disqualified and banned from competition in future Iditarod's.
- Ongoing, random drug testing is conducted throughout the race. In the 10 years of this program, no drug test has ever been positive.
- The result of these efforts is a level of health care and screening that even an overwhelming majority of the human population will never experience.

## DICTIONARY OF MUSHING TERMS

### *Mushing Commands:*

**Gee-** Command for right turn

**Haw-** Command for left turn

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

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

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

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

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

### *Mushing Vocabulary:*

#### **Alaskan Husky**

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

#### **Booties**

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

#### **Dog in Basket**

- Tired or injured dog carried in sled

#### **Double Lead**

- Two dogs that lead the team side by side

#### **Indian Dog**

- An Alaskan Husky from an Indian village

#### **Lead Dog or Leader**

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

#### **Swing Dog/Dogs**

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

#### **Malamute**

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

#### **Neck Line**

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

#### **Pedaling**

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

#### **Rigging**

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

#### **Runners**

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

#### **Slats**

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

#### **Snow Hook or Ice Hook**

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

#### **Snub Line**

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

#### **Stove Up**

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

#### **Tether Line**

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

## IDITAROD INSIDER – GPS TRACKING PROGRAM

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

### **Iditarod Insider Video on Demand**

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

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

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

### **Iditarod Insider GPS Tracker**

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

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

### **Ultimate Insider Video + GPS = 100% Awesome**

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

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

## IDITARIDER MUSHER AUCTION

### **One of a Kind Experience!**

Not only is the IditaRider Musher Auction one of the largest fund raisers for the Iditarod, but definitely one of the most adventurous! The IditaRider Musher Auction, which opens on November 1st each year, offers the opportunity for fans to bid to ride in a sled as it leaves the Start Line in downtown Anchorage on Saturday. Riders from all over the world have been in sleds as well as famous names such as comedian Joan Rivers, actress Susan Lucci, astronaut Bernard Harris, Jr., Olympic Gold Medalist skater Dorothy Hamill, and many more. The ride goes 11 miles along some of Anchorage's beautiful trails through parks, cheering fans, snow covered woods and ends at the BLM Science Center. Never seeing a frown at the end of the ride declares being an IditaRider is the next best thing to being on the runners of a sled. Bidding opens at \$500 and generally ends with the average bids being over \$1,000 per sled, however many sleds have sold at the maximum of \$7,500. Auction begins closing a noon AKT on January 18, 2013.

## 2013 MUSHER BIB AUCTION

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

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

## JR. IDITAROD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 1978 – 2012 JR. IDITAROD WINNERS

1979	Clint Mayeur	Glenallen, AK	1996	Dusty Whittemore	Cantwell, AK
1980	Gary Baumgartner	McGrath, AK	1997	Tony Willis	Anchorage, AK
1981	Christine Delia	Skwentna, AK	1998	Charlie Jordan	Tanana, AK
1982	Tim Osmar	Clam Gulch, AK	1999	Ryan Redington	Knik, AK
1983	Tim Osmar	Clam Gulch, AK	2000	Ryan Redington	Knik, AK
1984	Tim Osmar	Clam Gulch, AK	2001	Tyrell Seavey	Seward, AK
1985	Lance Barve	Wasilla, AK	2002	Cali King	Denali Park, AK
1986	Lance Barve	Wasilla, AK	2003	Ellie Claus	Chitina, AK
1987	Dusty VanMeter	Kasilof, AK	2004	Nicole Osmar	Kasilof, AK
1988	Dan Flodin	Chugiak, AK	2005	Melissa Owens	Nome, AK
1989	Jared Jones	Knik, AK	2006	Micah Degerland	Two Rivers, AK
1990	Jared Jones	Knik, AK	2007	Rohn Buser	Big Lake, AK
1991	Brian Hansen	Anchorage, AK	2008	Jessica Klejka	Bethel, AK
1992	Ramey Smyth	Big Lake, AK	2009	Cain Carter	Fairbanks, AK
1993	Ramey Smyth	Big Lake, AK	2010	Merissa Osmar	Ninilchik, AK
1994	Cim Smyth	Big Lake, AK	2011	Jeremiah Klejka	Bethel, AK
1995	Dusty Whittemore	Cantwell, AK	2012	Conway Seavey	Sterling, AK
			2013		

## 1973-2012 RACE CHAMPIONS &amp; RED LANTERN WINNERS

*See 1973-2012 Awards, Standings & Musher Stats Guide for more information*

## Champions

## Red Lantern Winners

<u>Year</u>	<u>Musher</u>	<u>D:H:M:S</u>	<u>Musher</u>	<u>D:H:M:S</u>
1973	Dick Wilmarth	20:00:49:41	John Schultz	32:05:09:01
1974	Carl Huntington	20:15:02:07	Red Olson	29:06:36:10
1975	Emmitt Peters	14:14:43:45	Steve Fee	29:08:37:13
1976	Gerald Riley	18:22:58:17	Dennis Corrington	26:08:42:51
1977	Rick Swenson	16:16:27:13	Vasily Zamitkyn	22:09:06:06
1978	Dick Mackey	14:18:52:24	Andrew Foxie	22:03:29:44
1979	Rick Swenson	15:10:37:47	Gene Leonard	24:09:02:22
1980	Joe May	14:07:11:51	Barbara Moore	24:09:25:45
1981	Rick Swenson	12:08:45:02	Jim Strong	18:06:30:30
1982	Rick Swenson	16:04:40:10	Ralph Bradley	26:13:59:59
1983	Rick Mackey	12:14:10:44	Scott Cameron	21:04:36:41
1984	Dean Osmar	12:15:07:33	Bill Mackey	19:09:43:33
1985	Libby Riddles	18:00:20:17	Monique Bene	22:03:45:45
1986	Susan Butcher	11:15:06:00	Mike Peterson	20:13:42:21
1987	Susan Butcher	11:02:05:13	Rhodi Karella	19:09:01:01
1988	Susan Butcher	11:11:41:40	Lesley Monk	19:13:22:55
1989	Joe Runyan	11:05:24:34	Bob Hoyt	17:11:19:19
1990	Susan Butcher	11:01:53:23	Steve Haver	21:10:26:26
1991	Rick Swenson	12:16:34:39	Brian O'Donoghue	22:05:55:55
1992	Martin Buser	10:19:17:15	Vern Cherneski	18:13:05:02
1993	Jeff King	10:15:38:15	Lloyd Gilbertson	18:04:19:19
1994	Martin Buser	10:13:02:39	Mark Chapoton	16:16:17:35
1995	Doug Swingley	09:02:42:19	Ben Jacobson	17:06:02:05
1996	Jeff King	09:05:43:13	Andy Sterns	15:23:48:22
1997	Martin Buser	09:08:30:15	Ken Chase	15:09:07:44
1998	Jeff King	09:05:52:26	Brad Pozarnsky	14:05:42:04
1999	Doug Swingley	09:14:31:07	Jeremy Gebauer	15:03:18:44
2000	Doug Swingley	09:00:58:06	Fedor Konykhov	15:05:44:44
2001	Doug Swingley	09:19:55:50	Karen Ramstead	14:23:53:16
2002	Martin Buser	08:22:46:02	David Straub	14:05:38:12
2003	Robert Sørlie	09:15:47:36	Russell Bybee	15:05:30:53
2004	Mitch Seavey	09:12:20:22	Perry Solmonson	15:02:50:36
2005	Robert Sørlie	09:18:39:31	Phil Morgan	15:06:02:57
2006	Jeff King	09:14:11:36	Glenn Lockwood	15:18:08:56
2007	Lance Mackey	09:05:08:41	Ellen Halverson	16:11:56:20
2008	Lance Mackey	09:11:46:48	Deborah Bicknell	15:05:36:12
2009	Lance Mackey	09:21:38:46	Tim Hunt	15:14:06:22
2010	Lance Mackey	08:23:59:09	Celeste Davis	13:05:06:40
2011**	John Baker	08:18:46:39	** Ellen Halverson	13:19:45:49
2012	Dallas Seavey	09:04:29:26	Jan Steves	14:11:57:03

\*\* Fastest winning time

\* Fastest Red Lantern time

## 2013 IDITA-FACTS & POTENTIAL STORY LINES

- The Iditarod starts in downtown Anchorage, Alaska, on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (10 AM)
- The Iditarod Re-Starts in Willow Alaska, Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> (2 PM)
- As of February 10, 2013 there are 68 mushers signed up for the 2013 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, including 55 veterans, 13 rookies and 16 women. To date three mushers have withdrawn for various reasons. Entrants hail from 7 states – Alaska, California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, and Washington, as well as from Alaska and from 7 countries – United States, Canada, Russia, Jamaica, Brazil, Norway and New Zealand. The record number of mushers starting the race was 96 in 2008.
- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing. In 40 Iditarod races, Iditarod has paid out a total of \$13,759,174 to 237 mushers. The 2013 purse is \$600,000 going to the first 30 finishers.
- The team's average 15 dogs, which over 1,000 dogs will leave the starting line in 2013. Each musher can start with a maximum of 16 dogs down to a minimum of 12 dogs.
- Seven Iditarod champions will be attempting to regain the title. Many of the past champions from other long distance races are also racing including Yukon Quest champions, Kusko 300 champions and Beargrease champions.
- The race crosses two mountain ranges (including North America's largest mountain range, Alaska Range)
- It runs along Yukon River and over the frozen Norton Sound
- The route alternates every year. This year's route, the Southern Route, will run from Ophir through Iditarod, Shageluk, Anvik, Grayling and Eagle Island before meeting up with the Northern Route trail in Kaltag.
- There are twenty-six checkpoints (counting Anchorage & Nome), three of which are uninhabited during the rest of the year.
- There are six teams signed-up for the 2013 Iditarod that have also signed up for the 2013 Yukon Quest – Jake Berkowitz, Matthew Failor, Kelley Griffin, Lance Mackey, Allen Moore, and Brent Sass.
- Volunteers are an integral part of the Iditarod. As of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 there were over 650 volunteers registered representing 27 states and 12 countries (Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Philippines, Scotland, S. Africa, S Korea, Switzerland, Dubai, Netherlands, Germany, and USA.) This number does not include those who volunteer in communities along the trail or the locals in Nome. The number of volunteers will continue to grow over the weeks to come and by the end of Iditarod 2013 there will be over 1,500 volunteers involved in some way or another. This number equates to over 35,000 volunteer hours. Simply amazing!
- In 2013 there are a total of 52 veterinarians – 3 for dropped dogs in Anchorage, 2 for dropped dogs in both McGrath and Unalakleet, 42 veterinarians dispersed along the trail and 3 consultants.
- The 2012 IditaRiders represented 22 states and raised \$155,000 as compared to \$185,000 in 2011 (see more info under IditaRider Musher Auction Program in the General Race History-Information & 2013 Race Information Guide). *As 2013 info comes in, we will update this Guide.*
- There have been 707 finishers (grand total of 1,954 to cross the finish line) as of 2012. Mushers hail from 23 states, five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, & Australia) and 22 foreign countries (Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) have finished the Iditarod since 1973 including 118 women.

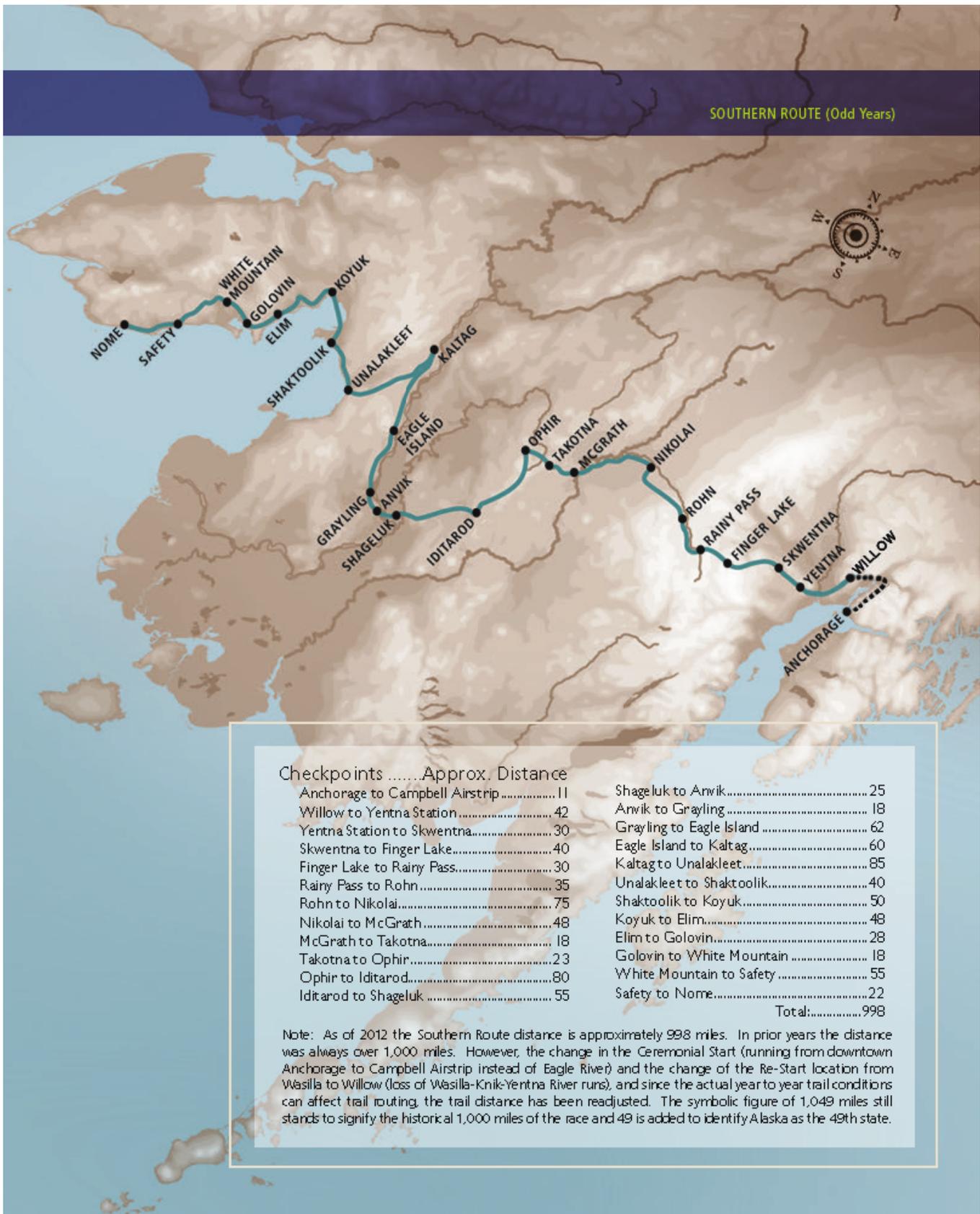
- Two generations of Seavey's, Buser's, and Williams' are running again this year as well as the Berington twins and the Smyth & Mackey brothers.
- Musers can be shy about talking about themselves; however they will usually talk your ear off about their dogs.
- Checkpoints are staffed by volunteers, who can be locals or someone who has traveled hundreds of miles to be there. Volunteers cannot provide official race information, but may provide interesting stories about their communities and/or volunteer work. Some volunteers are actually on their vacation!
- The Official Race Rules can provide useful information can be found online at: <http://iditarod.com/resources/musers/>

## INTERESTING IDITAROD FACTS

- The first Iditarod Race began on March 3, 1973 with 34 teams—22 teams finished 32 days later.
- The slowest winning time of 20 days, 15 hours, two minutes and seven seconds was recorded in 1974 by Carl Huntington. The fastest winning time was recorded in 2011 by John Baker in 8 days, 18 hours, 46 minutes and 39 seconds, which broke Martin Buser's 1992 record.
- The closest finish was in 1978—Dick Mackey beat Rick Swenson by one second, finishing in 14 days, 18 hours, 52 minutes and 24 seconds.
- The most finishers in one year occurred in 2008 when 78 teams crossed the finish line.
- Rick Swenson is the only five time winner, the only musher to win in three decades, and only musher to complete 35 of 40 Iditarod's.
- Susan Butcher, Martin Buser, Doug Swingley, Jeff King & Lance Mackey have each won four Iditarod championships. Mackey is the only musher to have won four consecutive races with Butcher and Swingley both winning three consecutive races.
- Dick Mackey, Rick Mackey & Lance Mackey (father and two sons) have won the Iditarod. All three won wearing bib #13 in their sixth race.
- Lance Mackey is the first 4 time Iditarod Champion to win all four races consecutively in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. He also won the Yukon Quest in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, making him the first musher to win both of Alaska's premier long distance races back to back in 2007 and 2008 within weeks of each other.
- There are 24 checkpoints on the northern route and 25 on the southern route, including Anchorage and Nome.
- Four-time winner, Susan Butcher, claimed Iditarod victories in 1986, 1987, 1988, and again in 1990. Doug Swingley became the second four-time winner in 2001. His victories were in 1995, 1999, 2000 and 2001. Butcher and Swingley have the distinction of being the only Iditarod champions who have three consecutive victories.
- The youngest musher to ever compete in the Iditarod was Dallas Seavey. Dallas turned 18 on March 4, 2005. He is the youngest musher to have run the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race (2005) as well as the youngest to have ever won in 2012. The oldest musher to ever compete is Col. Norman D Vaughan who last competed in 1992 at the age of 86.
- Rick Mackey won the race in 1983 to become the first son of an Iditarod champion to match his father's accomplishment. To further set a record, both father and son were wearing bib #13 when they crossed the finish line in first position. Anyone superstitious? (Emmitt Peters was also wearing bib #13 when he won in 1975.)

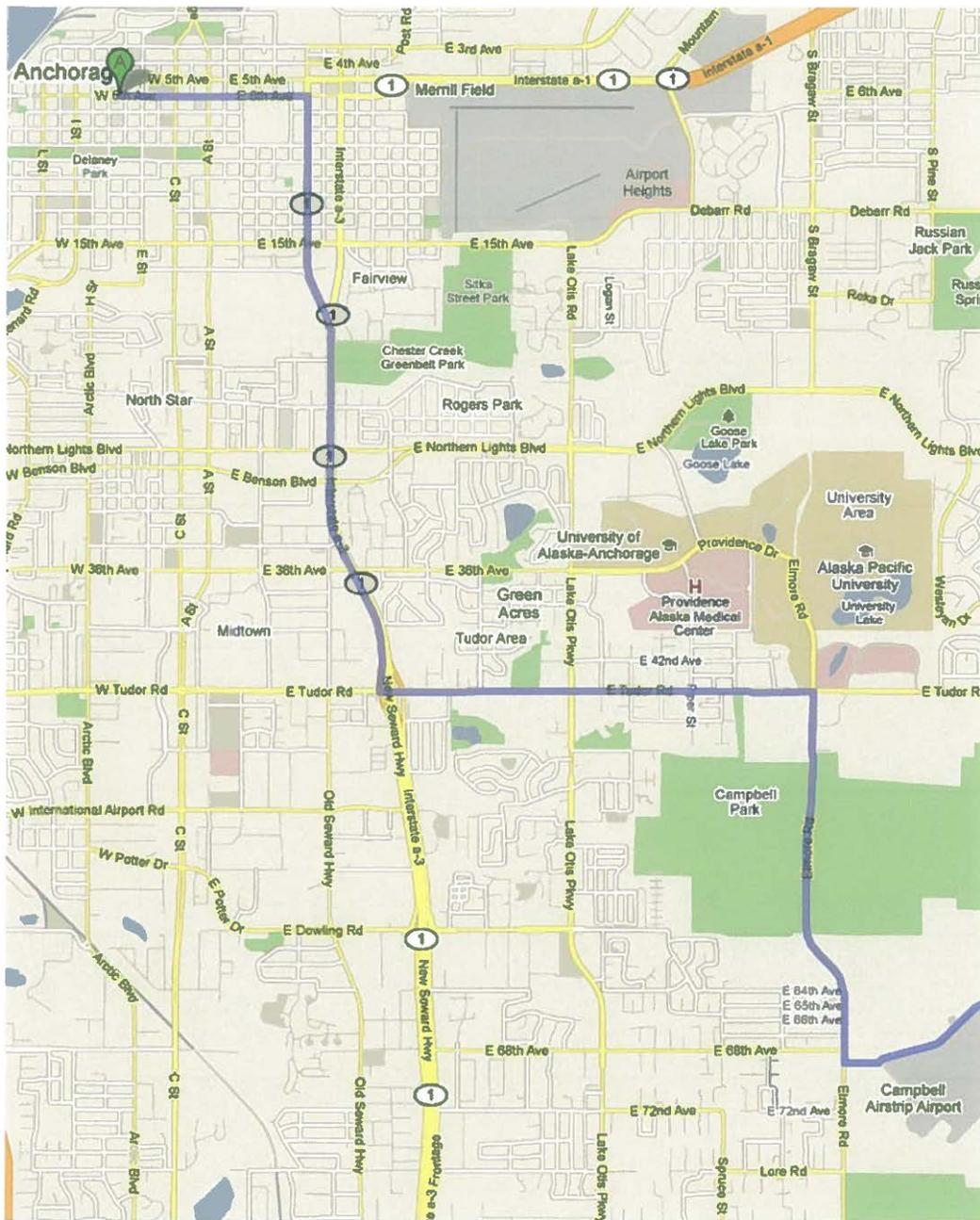
- There are 707 mushers that are members of the “Finishers Club.” They represent 23 states, five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, & Australia) and 22 foreign countries (Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) have finished the Iditarod since 1973 including 118 women.
- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing. In 40 Iditarod races, Iditarod has paid out a total of \$13,759,174 to 237 mushers.
- The biggest misconception is that Joe Redington, Sr., who founded the race, did so to commemorate the 1925 Diphtheria Serum Run. If that were the case the race would begin in Nenana and run to Nome. He founded the race to commemorate the history of sled dogs in Alaska, and to bring them back to the villages where they were fast disappearing with the advent of snowmachines.

2013 OFFICIAL MAP OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL



## DIRECTIONS FROM DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE TO CAMPBELL AIRSTRIP

## Directions to BLM Headquarters



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

## OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT MILEAGES

CHECKPOINTS	DISTANCE BETWEEN	FROM ANCHORAGE	FROM NOME
Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip	11 miles	11 miles	987 miles
Willow to Yentna Station	42 miles	53 miles	945 miles
Yentna to Skwentna	30 miles	83 miles	915 miles
Skwentna to Finger Lake	40 miles	123 miles	875 miles
Finger Lake to Rainy Pass	30 miles	153 miles	845 miles
Rainy Pass to Rohn	35 miles	188 miles	810 miles
Rohn to Nikolai	75 miles	263 miles	735 miles
Nikolai to McGrath	48 miles	311 miles	687 miles
McGrath to Takotna	18 miles	329 miles	669 miles
Takotna to Ophir	23 miles	352 miles	646 miles
Ophir to Iditarod	80 miles	432 miles	566 miles
Iditarod to Shageluk	55 miles	487 miles	511 miles
Shageluk to Anvik	25 miles	512 miles	486 miles
Anvik to Grayling	18 miles	530 miles	468 miles
Grayling to Eagle Island	62 miles	592 miles	406 miles
Eagle Island to Kaltag	60 miles	652 miles	346 miles
Kaltag to Unalakleet	85 miles	737 miles	261 miles
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	40 miles	777 miles	221 miles
Shaktoolik to Koyuk	50 miles	827 miles	171 miles
Koyuk to Elim	48 miles	875 miles	123 miles
Elim to Golovin	28 miles	903 miles	95 miles
Golovin to White Mountain	18 miles	921 miles	77 miles
White Mountain to Safety	55 miles	976 miles	22 miles
Safety to Nome	22 miles	998 miles	

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

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

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

## 2013 CHECKPOINT DESCRIPTIONS

(Pronunciation, Population and Facts of Interest)

1. **Anchorage** (ang-ker-ij) – (ANC) Lat 61.12 Long 149.55 -- Population 296,197 makes it Alaska's largest city with a full range of transportation and hotel accommodations. The race starts downtown on Fourth Avenue. Interesting side trips during March include Portage Glacier or downhill skiing at Mt. Alyeska, both less than an hour's drive South, or head North to Hatcher Pass for cross country skiing and to explore the remains of Independence Mine.
2. **Willow** (wil-oh) – Lat 61.45.25N Long 150.03.10W Population 2,156 and is the where the restart takes place on Willow Lake at Parks Highway Mile Marker 70.
3. **Yentna Station** -- (YENT-na) -- (YENT) Lat 61.46 N Long 150.41W -- Population 8 .This checkpoint is at the home of the Dan & Jean Gabryzack family.
4. **Skwentna** (SKWENT-nuh) - (SKW) Lat 61.55 Long 151.11 -- Population 30 -- Located near the confluence of the Skwentna and Yentna Rivers. The checkpoint is located at Joe and Norma Delia's log house, also known as the Post Office. There is a store and limited lodging nearby.
5. **Finger Lake** -- (FL) Lat 61.59 Long 152.40 -- Population 2 -- In the heart of the snow country, here it is not uncommon to have 10 feet of snow on the ground. The checkpoint is at Winter Lake Lodge.
6. **Rainy Pass** -- (RP) Lat 62.10 Long 152.43 -- Population 2 -- This area represents the highest point on the Iditarod Trail as it passes over the majestic Alaska Range. Located on Puntilla Lake is Vern Humble's guiding operation. Known as Rainy Pass Lodge, it is closed down at this time of year. Iditarod uses one of their cabins for a checkpoint and another for mushers to rest in.
7. **Rohn** (RONE) -- (ROH) Lat 62.35 Long 153.21 -- Population 0 -- This area is tied with Rainy Pass as having the most spectacular scenery. The gateway to the interior, Rohn Roadhouse marks the transition point where the mushers start to venture into the flatlands of the interior, along with dropping temperatures. Situated near the confluence of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim and Tatina Rivers, the area served as one of the original Iditarod Trail Roadhouses for the dog teams carrying mail, etc. The actual roadhouse is gone, so the checkpoint is a cabin built in the 1930's. **Note:** Most press mistakenly refer to this as Rohn River checkpoint, but there is no Rohn River. It's Rohn Roadhouse. Many mushers take their mandatory 24-hour layover here, before heading across the bleak but treacherous Farewell Burn area. **No facilities or lodging are available at Rohn.**
8. **Nikolai** (NIK-o-lye) -- (NIK) Lat 63.02 Long 154.22 -- Population 101 -- This is the first of many Native villages along the Iditarod Trail. There is a village store at the far end of town across the airstrip, and limited lodging is available through advance booking. The checkpoint is located in the Community Hall.
9. **McGrath** (muh-GRATH) -- (McG) Lat 62.57 Long 155.36 -- Population 341-- Located near the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers, this thriving community has two stores, a bar and a restaurant. It's the last chance to buy aviation gas, except for Galena, until you reach the coast at Unalakleet. Lodging is also available with advance booking.
10. **Takotna** (Ta-COT-na) -- (TAK) Lat 63.00 Long 156.04 -- Population 49 -- Situated on the banks of the Takotna River, this town has a store and restaurant. This is one of the smallest towns with one of the biggest welcomes.
11. **Ophir** (OH-fur) -- (OPH) Lat 63.08 Long 156.31 -- Population 0 -- Now a ghost town, it took its name in 1908 from a nearby placer creek, one of a dozen streams in Alaska to be named by Bible-reading prospectors, for the lost country of Ophir, the source of King Solomon's gold. Many items and artifacts still remain untouched. The checkpoint is at Dick and Audra Forsgren's cabin.
12. **Iditarod** (I-DIT-a-rod) - Lat 62.38 Long 155.05 - Population 0 – Now a ghost town – once a bustling community of over 10,000. GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway Award is presented to the first musher to the checkpoint receives a trophy and \$3,000 in gold nuggets.
13. **Shageluk** (SHAG-a-luck) - Lat 62.42 Long 159.24 - Population 83 - Ingalik Indian name meaning "village of the dog people." Checkpoint is in community hall. Adolph Hamilton, resides here. He helped race organizers find the original trail to the town of Iditarod even though he had been over it once, as a small boy, with his father.

14. **Anvik** (AN-vick) - Lat 62.39 Long 160.11 – Population 79 - First checkpoint on the Yukon River. Checkpoint is in lodge - minimum accommodations available. Millennium Alaska Hotel First Musher to the Yukon Award (including a 7 course meal and \$5,00 in \$1 bills)
15. **Grayling** - Lat 62.55 Long 160.40 - Population 189 - Checkpoint is in community center and is the last village until Kaltag, 122 miles up the trail on the Yukon River.
16. **Eagle Island** - Lat 63.39 Long 159.24 – Population 0 - Tent checkpoint on the Yukon River.
17. **Kaltag** -- (KAL-tag) -- (KAL) Lat 64.19 Long 158.45 -- Population 205 -- This town signals a brief respite from the driving winds as the trail from here leads overland through Kaltag Portage to the coast of Norton Sound where the winds take on new meaning. Kaltag is the home of Virginia Kalland, widow of Edgar Kalland who was one of the original mushers who helped carry lifesaving diphtheria serum along this trail 60 years ago. She also owns one of Kaltag's three stores. **Note:** The location for mushers check-in is at Rich Burnham's house, but the official checkpoint and gathering spot is the community hall about a block away. Please don't treat the Burnham home as a checkpoint.
18. **Unalakleet** (YOU-na-la-kleet) -- (UNK) Lat 63.53 Long 160.42 -- Population 692 -- Situated on the coast of Norton Sound, just north of the Unalakleet River, this village is the largest community on the Iditarod Trail between Willow and Nome. Two well-stocked stores as well as two restaurants can be found here along with limited lodging by advance booking. The trail is now entering the gateway to the Bering Sea and from here on the mushers can expect sudden storms and an ample supply of wind. The checkpoint is in front of the A.C. store.
19. **Shaktoolik** (Shak-TOO-lick) -- (SHAK) Lat 64.20 Long 161.10 --Population 258 -- One look down the street at the snowdrifts will tell you this is one of the windiest stretches of the trail. From here the trail continues overland for a short distance, then leads the mushers out onto the ice of Norton Bay, one of the most treacherous segments of trail that the musher may have to contend with. The checkpoint is at the armory.
20. **Koyuk** (Koy-uk) -- (KOY) Lat 64.56 Long 161.10 --- Population 347 -- Once this checkpoint is reached, the mushers can breathe a sigh of relief as almost all of the rest of the trail is at least over land. The checkpoint is the City Rec Center.
21. **Elim** (EE-lim) -- (ELM) Lat 64.37 Long 162.15 -- Population 332 -- The checkpoint (at least at the time this went to press) is at the fire hall (check at the store for directions). From here the trail heads over the hills of the Kwiktalik Mountains inland a little ways to the next checkpoint on Golovin Bay. The checkpoint is at the fire hall. Ask at the village store.
22. **Golovin** (GULL-uh-vin) -- (GOL) Lat 64.32 Long 163.50 -- Population 171 – Not an official checkpoint, but a community with a large welcome. Golovin has one store. From here the trail heads across Golovin Bay, then overland to the next checkpoint.
23. **White Mountain** --(WT MT) Lat 64.41 Long 163.24 -- Population 199 -- Just 77 miles from Nome, this village is located on the banks of the Fish River. It takes its name from that of a picturesque nearby mountain. Checkpoint is located in the community hall building up the hill from the store.
24. **Safety** -- (SAF) Lat 64.27 Long 164.49 – Population 0 - The last checkpoint before Nome, just 22 miles away. Here the mushers are on the coast of the Bering Sea and travel on the beach most of the way to Nome.
25. **Nome** -- (OME) Lat 64.30 Long 165.24 -- Population 3,695 -- The end of the Iditarod Trail! Prospectors established this Seward Peninsula city as Anvil City after adjacent Anvil Creek in 1898. A year later gold was discovered in beach sand, and it became a boomtown, home of 30,000 gold seekers. The city was renamed Nome in 1899 after a nearby point on Norton Sound, which got its name in 1853 when a British Navy cartographer misinterpreted a chart notation of "? Name" and recorded it as Nome. The gold rush atmosphere still abounds, especially when "Iditarod Fever" hits town with the entire community turning out to welcome the mushers and visitors alike to their community. Numerous stores, restaurants and bars line Nome's infamous "Front Street", but lodging is at a premium. If the Nugget Inn and Polaris Hotel are full, check with the Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau for the availability of "bed and breakfast" accommodations.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL

(Between checkpoints)

**Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip****11 miles**

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

**Willow to Yentna Station****42 miles**

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

**Yentna Station to Skwentna****30 miles**

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

**Skwentna to Finger Lake****40 miles**

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

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

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

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

**Puntilla Lake to Rohn****35 miles**

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

**Rohn to Nikolai****75 miles**

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

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

**Nikolai to McGrath****48 miles**

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

**McGrath to Takotna****18 miles**

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

**Takotna to Ophir****23 miles**

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

**Ophir to Iditarod****80 miles**

Out of Ophir checkpoint the trail follows a cat trail along the Innoko River into the old town site, about a mile. It runs right down the airport runway and crosses the Innoko about a mile further along. You cross the river again at six miles out of the checkpoint. Large spruce, birch and cottonwood here - a good camping spot. Immediately after crossing the Innoko, the cat trail forks -left to Iditarod. It will be well marked. A long up grade through black spruce to the Beaver Mountain Pass across a barren rocky, desolate area. Two small creeks cross this stretch offering the only meager cover available. The trail is heading in a West - Southwest direction. Six to eight miles after re-entering spruce cover; you pass Don's Cabin on the right side of the trail. You are 36 miles from Ophir. The trail crosses a small spruce covered ridge and crosses Windy Creek. The trail runs south on the East side of the Iditarod through open timber, swamps, and lakes into Iditarod. Some gentle rolling ridges are encountered. The checkpoint is on the west side of the large slough with old town on the left.

**Iditarod to Shageluk****55 miles**

You leave Iditarod out of the west end of the slough and drop onto the river for about two miles north and then go up the left bank following a low ridge between two small streams climbing a gentle often moderate grade to nearly the top of a 1008 ft barren knob. This portion of trail is in an old burn; it will be marked with tripods, reflectors, and tape. It passes across ridge after ridge with gentle to occasionally steep grades. The Little Yentna crossing is the first stream of any size since Iditarod. You continue through swamp and scattered timber to the Big Yentna out of small drainages in a westerly direction. It crosses a few low ridges with gentle grades while changing drainages. Spruce covered hills are encountered as you drop into the lower Innoko River Valley at Shageluk.

**Shageluk to Anvik****25 miles**

Leaving Shageluk, you drop onto the Innoko and go north about a mile. Depart the river on the left bank and proceed in a westerly direction across swamps and lake for 10 - 11 miles. The trail turns to a more southwesterly direction and passes through heavy timber, cottonwood, spruce, birch and lots of brush. It is nearly a tunnel in some spots. You come out on the Yukon and pass an island on your right. Across the Yukon and 3/4 miles north is Anvik. It is on a small slough just off the river.

**Anvik to Grayling****18 miles**

The trail goes north along the west shore of the Yukon out of Anvik for miles to Grayling

**Grayling to Eagle Island****62 miles**

Out of Grayling you travel north along the west shore of the Yukon. Occasionally the trail may run on an island sandbar to avoid thin river ice. Local conditions will control this. The Iditarod trail will have confirming marking just after intersections or turnoffs. It is located just inside a small stream on the west bank.

**Eagle Island to Kaltag****60 miles**

Out of Eagle Island the trail continues to hug the west shore for about 23 miles and then crosses to some midstream islands and then to the east shore at 35 mile Slough. We follow the trapper's trail north on up the Yukon to Kaltag.

**Kaltag to Unalakleet****85 miles**

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

into Unalakleet. The last 32 miles (from Old Woman Mountain) is often windy and the snow is usually wind packed and crusty. In fact, the entire coast is often very windy.

<b>Unalakleet to Shaktoolik</b>	<b>40 miles</b>
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To Shaktoolik, the trail crosses several low ridges with mostly gentle and moderate grades. The vegetation is stunted spruce and willow thickets. Leaving Unalakleet, the trail turns northward and parallels the coast to Power, then turns inland, crossing behind Blueberry Point. It then drops back toward the coast at Egavik, a summer fish camp. A series of long low hills is crossed with grades being moderate to gentle but some are up to a mile long. The crest of the last ridge is about 17 miles from Shaktoolik and the village is visible from here. The next four to five miles are down a moderate to steep serpentine grade through willow thickets and stunted spruce. The turns are moderate but can be extremely slick. At the bottom, the trail follows the coastal dune on the landward side the last 12 miles to Shaktoolik. The trail from the bottom of the hill to the checkpoint runs over ice on the Shaktoolik River and is often rough. The village is on the left.

<b>Shaktoolik to Koyuk</b>	<b>50 miles</b>
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The trail from Shaktoolik bears north, crossing the peninsula. It runs on land for eight to nine miles then starts across Norton Bay at the mouth of Reindeer Cove. The terrain to this point is mostly gentle swells of the ground with no true grades. There is no vegetation. Approximately five miles onto the ice is Island Point and Little Mountain. It appears to be a large rock rising from the sea ice, but is in fact the head of a small peninsula. The trail passes a shelter cabin on the south side of Little Mountain. From here a compass bearing of 340 degrees leads into Koyuk. Marking on this segment of the trail usually consists of laths with reflective tape alternating with spruce boughs. Every mile will be marked. The ice is often rough.

<b>Koyuk to Elim</b>	<b>48 miles</b>
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When leaving Koyuk for Elim, the trail follows the coast, almost doubling back on itself. It runs southeast to Bald Head and Castle Rock where it turns westerly, following the coast to Moses Point. Moses Point is a spit that, with the coastline, forms Kwiniuk Inlet. The trail parallels the spit for five to six miles where it joins the mainland. It continues on the sea ice along the coast, passing the abandoned F.A.A. Station. From there to Elim two routes may be used. One continues along the ice to Elim; the other takes the road along the coast to Elim, which is six to eight miles away.

<b>Elim to Golovin</b> (not an official checkpoint, but an integral part of the race)	<b>28 miles</b>
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The trail leaves Elim, following the ice along the coast for 10-11 miles to a cabin just north-northeast of the limestone cliffs, and here it turns right (inland) and crosses the Kwiktalik Mountains. This range is a low series of hills (1,000 to 1,500 ft.) with moderate grades. Vegetation ranges from small spruce to barren ground. Some of the grades are long (1 mile) but none are excessively steep. The barren sections are often windblown and icy. The last descent to Golovin Bay is long and sometimes runs side hill. At the Shelter Cabin on the coast, the trail turns sharply right and crosses the ice to Golovin. The village is located on a spit and is easily seen. (Counting the cabin below Elim where the trail leaves the ice, there are three shelter cabins on the trail, one of them being nine miles from the coast where the trail intersects McKinley Creek.)

<b>Golovin to White Mountain</b>	<b>18 miles</b>
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From Golovin the trail crosses the ice on Golovin Lagoon to the Mudyutok River and goes up this river to the Fish River and then to White Mountain. This section is short, easy travel unless a strong wind is blowing down the rivers, and then it can be difficult going.

<b>White Mountain to Safety</b>	<b>55 miles</b>
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The trail from White Mountain continues up the Fish River for another 2-2.5 miles to a large island. It makes a sharp left turn and starts overland. This turn should be well marked, since a trail continues up the river to Council also. One-fourth mile after leaving the river, a trail comes in from the right (also from Council) and this intersection should be well marked

but can be confusing if snow machiners or mushers have departed from the trail. The Iditarod Trail crosses a series of low hills with moderate grades and starts through the Klokeblok River drainage. There is a little vegetation (willow) along some of the creeks.

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

<b>Safety to Nome</b>	<b>22 miles</b>
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From Safety Roadhouse to Nome the trail runs along the Nome-Solomon Road except where it passes around Cape Nome and the last seven miles into Nome. Here the trail parallels the road on the right side and presents no obstacles.

**2013 OFFICIAL RACE RULES****DITAROD TRAIL INTERNATIONAL SLED DOG  
RACE  
OFFICIAL RULES 2013****TABLE OF CONTENTS** (note: the #'s refer to rule numbers.)**Pre-Race Procedure & Administration**

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## **OFFICIAL 2013 RULES**

**Policy Preamble** --The Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race shall be a race for dog mushers meeting the entry qualifications as set forth by the Board of Directors of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. Recognizing the aptitude and experience necessary and the varying degrees of monetary support and residence locations of mushers, with due regard to the safety of mushers, the humane care and treatment of dogs and the orderly conduct of the race, the Trail Committee shall encourage and maintain the philosophy that the race be constructed to permit as many qualified mushers as possible who wish to enter and contest the Race to do so. The object of the race is to determine which musher and dogs can cover the race in the shortest time under their own power and without aid of others.

That is determined by the nose of the first dog to cross the finish line. To that end, the Iditarod Trail Committee has established these rules and policies to govern the race.

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

### **PRE-RACE PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

#### **Rule 1 -- Musher Qualifications:**

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

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

Proof of Qualification:

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

Qualifying Review Board:

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

Standards for ITC Approved Qualifying Races

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

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

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

Musher Meetings:

- Rookies must attend a rookie musher meeting the weekend of December 1, 2012, dates, time and place to be determined by the Race Marshal.
- All mushers must attend the pre-race musher meeting Thursday, February 28, 2013, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- A fine from \$50 to \$500 will be assessed for tardiness at either the rookie meeting or pre-race musher meeting.

Musher Draw and Starting Positions:

- All mushers qualified to race must be present at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, February 28, 2013. Each musher will personally draw his/her starting position.
- **The drawing for starting position will be done at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, February 28, 2013.** Each musher will draw for his/her starting position. The drawing for positions will be divided into two groups. All mushers who were present in person to pay entry fee on June 30, 2012, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and those who are not present but have paid their entry fee and provided the required paperwork to the ITC will draw for the first starting positions. The remaining mushers, who enter in any manner after 3:30 p.m. on June 30, 2012, will draw in the second group for starting position.

**Rule 2 -- Entries:** Entries will be accepted from June 30, 2012 until November 30, 2012 by the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC), P.O. Box 870800, Wasilla, Alaska 99687-0800. Kennels entering must indicate the musher's name with their entry. Entries may be presented to the ITC in person by the musher, or by mail. The maximum number of entries for the 2013 race will be one hundred (100). Once the maximum of one hundred is reached, a waiting list will be established, on a first-come, first-served basis. To qualify for the waiting list, the race application must be completed, signed and turned in, the participant's release must be signed, and turned in, the Nome housing form must be completed and turned in, and a one-hundred dollar (\$100.00) non-refundable fee paid. If an entrant withdraws from the list of one hundred entrants, the name at the top of the waiting list will be moved up to the entry list, upon receipt of the entry fee in full. **The slot will be held open for no more than seven (7) days after notification, before it will be offered to the next name on the waiting list.**

Mushers will sign up for the 2013 race beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 30, 2012 at ITC HQ in Wasilla. All who enter the 2013 race by any means before 3:00 p.m. on June 30, 2012 will be in the first draw.

Mailed entries, received after June 30, will be recorded by postmark. Entries received with the same postmark will be recorded alphabetically for southern route races and in reverse alphabetical order for northern route races.

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

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

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

Any entry received after November 30, must be accompanied by a \$4000 non-refundable fee in addition to the entry fee. The qualified musher will be allowed to enter after all normal policies and procedures have been met, the normal entry fee has been received, the waiting list has been exhausted, and another musher withdraws. No musher will be allowed to sign up after February 14, 2013.

*Short explanation –There is no need to arrive days or hours early as doing so no longer has any bearing on your sign up order. The sign up order will be determined by random drawing at 3:15 p.m. for all those in the first draw. The sign up order will be the order in which you will draw for your starting position at the pre-race mushers' banquet. In the event that entries for the 2013 race exceed 100 on the initial day of sign ups, the qualifying committee as to rookies (under Rule 1) and the executive board as to all entrants (under Rule 2) can be utilized to determine those placed on the waiting list, as the maximum starting field is 100 teams.*

**Rule 3 -- Entry Fee:** The entry fee is \$3,000 US, which includes Iditarod and P.R.I.D.E. membership dues payable on or after June 30, 2012. This entry fee must be received by the ITC or postmarked by midnight, November 30, 2012. Payment of the \$3,000 US constitutes the musher's intention to enter the race and acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with these policies and rules.

Upon written request, mushers withdrawing from the race on or before 12:00 noon, October 1, 2012 will receive a full refund of their entry fee. Upon written request, mushers withdrawing after October 1, 2012 and before the close of business on November 1, 2012 will receive a \$2,000.00 refund of their entry fee. After November 1, 2012 no part of the entry fee will be refunded.

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

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

**Rule 5-- Race Start and Re-Start:** The official starting date and time for the 2013 race will be March 2, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in Anchorage, Alaska.

**The re-start will be on Sunday March 3, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Willow Community Center.** Teams will leave the re-start line in the same order as they left Anchorage on Saturday.

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

**Rule 6 -- Race Timing:** For elapsed time purposes, the race will be a common start event. Each musher's total elapsed time will be calculated using 2:00 p.m., Sunday March 3, 2013, as the starting time. Teams will leave the start and the re-start in intervals of not less than two minutes, and the time differential will be adjusted during the twenty-four (24) hour mandatory layover. No time will be kept at the Saturday event.

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

The mushers will be given their starting and re-starting intervals at the mushers' meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

**Rule 11 -- Purse:** A purse of \$600,000 will be shared among those placing in the top thirty (30). Every effort will be made to supplement this baseline purse. In addition, beginning with 31<sup>st</sup> place, \$1,049.00 will be paid to each remaining finisher.

#### **MUSHER CONDUCT AND COMPETITION**

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

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

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

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

None of the mandatory stops may be combined.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For purposes of this drug use policy, drugs will be defined in the Prohibited List which will be distributed annually no later than four months prior to the start of the Race. For purposes of implementing this policy, details regarding the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) procedures and deadlines for the 2013 race will also be distributed no later than four months prior to the start of the Race.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Rule 36 -- Competitiveness:** A team may be withdrawn that is out of the competition and is not in a position to make a valid effort to compete. The Race Marshal may consider, but is not limited to, weather, trail conditions and the overall pace of the Race when invoking this rule. A musher whose conduct, constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm to him/her, dogs or other persons may also be withdrawn.

#### **VETERINARY ISSUES AND DOG CARE RULES**

##### **Rule 37 -- Dog Care:**

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

**Rule 38 -- Equipment and Team Configuration:** Equipment and team configurations deemed unsafe by race officials are prohibited.

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

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

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

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

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

**Drug Testing:**

- Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples, at the discretion of the testing veterinarian, at any point from the pre-race examination until six (6) hours after the team's finish. The musher or a designee will remain with the dogs. All results will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete.
- A musher must assist the veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibitive drugs in the dog, this rule has been violated regardless of when such drugs were administered to the dog. Blood, urine and other test results will be made available upon request.
- Musers are cautioned to ensure that food, meat, snacks and veterinary supplies do not contain prohibited drugs.

**Rule 40 -- Pre-Race Veterinary Exam:** Veterinary paperwork, including Pre-Race Exam forms (one for each dog with proof of vaccination), Dog Microchip Identification Sheet (maximum 20), Verification of Deworming Form and the Veterinarian Signature Form (the letter from the Chief Veterinarian addressing the veterinarian who performs the physical exams which must be signed along with each Pre-Race Exam Form), has to be delivered to ITC Headquarters by the deadline of 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 27, 2013. Non-compliance will result in a fine of \$100.

Musers must initiate conversation regarding scheduling of appointments for blood tests and ECGs (EKGs) on first come first served basis, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, December 1, 2012 and must be done no later than **Wednesday**, December 19, 2012. Non-compliance will result in a \$100 fine.

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

A musher must have the team physicals performed by the veterinary staff at ITC Headquarters on Wednesday, February 28, 2013, or by another veterinarian with a current license in good standing, on or after Saturday, February 16, 2013. The following conditions will prohibit a dog from participating: seizures (epilepsy), syncope (fainting) and/or pregnancy.

A musher is permitted to have a maximum of **24 dogs** screened (microchips, EKG's and blood work) in preparation for Iditarod 2012. (All **24 dogs** must be screened at the original appointment date. There will be **no** additional screening after that time. From these, a musher may select a maximum of **20 dogs** for listing on the Dog Microchip Identification Sheet, which must be submitted to ITC

Headquarters by the previously stated deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2013. To be listed on the Microchip Identification Sheet, dogs must have had pre-race screening by Iditarod personnel, including a documented microchip implant number, an ECG (EKG) recording and blood work. In addition, each must have had a pre-race physical exam to be eligible to race. The musher may select his/her dogs for the start from any dogs listed on a Dog Microchip Identification Sheet. Dogs for the re-start may be selected from any dogs listed on a Dog Microchip Identification Sheet and not run in another team on Saturday. The maximum number of dogs permitted at the start will be determined by the Race Marshal. A maximum of 16 dogs may be selected for the re-start. Once a dog has run in a team, that dog cannot be switched to another team.

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

The Distemper/Hepatitis/Lepto/Parvo vaccine must have been given between April 1, 2012 and February 16, 2013.

The Bordetella (intra-nasal, oral or injectable) vaccine must have been given between October 1, 2012 and February 16, 2013.

Proof of Rabies vaccination must come from a licensed veterinarian or certified lay vaccinator. Rabies vaccines must be given no later than February 16, 2013 and must be current through April 1, 2013, according to Alaska State regulations.

All teams must be de-wormed for *Echinococcus multilocularis* with a medication approved by the ITC on or after Wednesday, February 20, 2013. The ITC is currently negotiating with the sponsor for donation of this de-worming medication. However, mushers should be prepared to pay for this medication if it is not available from the sponsor.

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

**Rule 41 -- Jurisdiction and Care:**

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

Race rules regarding MUSER CONDUCT and VETERINARY ISSUES & DOG CARE shall be in effect for each individual team from the Anchorage start until a team that scratches, is withdrawn or is disqualified and is clear of the trail, crosses the finish line, completes required canine drug testing and/or departs from the Nome Dog Lot, depending on which of the above represents the last contact with ITC Race Officials and/or staff members. Such Rules that define a time period to which they apply may continue beyond a teams' last contact with ITC Race Officials and/or staff members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Rule 45 -- Dropped Dogs:** All dogs that are dropped from the Race must be left at a designated checkpoint with a completed and signed dropped dog form. Any dropped dog must be left with four

(4) pounds of dog food and a reliable chain or cable (16" to 18" in length) with a swivel snap and collar. Dropped dogs may be moved from the originating checkpoint to the closest dog collection area at Anchorage, McGrath, Unalakleet or Nome. Dogs may be shipped from the collection areas to a location designated by the musher at the musher's expense.

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

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

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

### **FOOD DROPS AND LOGISTICS**

**Rule 47 -- Shipping of Food and Gear:** A musher must comply with shipping directions provided by the ITC. Each container must be clearly marked with name and destination and must weigh no more than 50 pounds. No boxes of any kind may be used as the primary container. No straw, charcoal, fuel or other combustible material, or hazardous materials (including lithium batteries) may be shipped through the ITC food drops. No cookers, plastic buckets, coolers or dog dishes may be shipped except with any sled that is shipped. Used items may be removed from checkpoints with dropped sleds, by return mail or through the ITC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skwentna	Iditarod	Shaktoolik
Rainy Pass	Shageluk	Koyuk
Rohn	Anvik	Elim
Nikolai	Grayling	White Mountain
McGrath	Eagle Island	Safety
Takotna	Kaltag	Nome
Ophir	Unalakleet	

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

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

## **OFFICIALS, PENALTIES AND APPEALS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2013 HONORARY MUSER – JAN NEWTON

*(a list of all Honorary Musers from 1973-2012 can be found in the 1973-2012 Awards, Standings & Musher Stats Guide)*

The Honorary Musher for 2013 was chosen by the Iditarod's Board of Directors in December 2012. The Honorary Musher was chosen based on his contributions to the Iditarod and to the sport of mushing.

### Jan Newton

By Terrie Hanke



Photo © Jeff Schultz/SchultzPhoto.com

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. 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. Musers, 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 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

musers 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 musers, spectators and race volunteers. Jan not only had her figure 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 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 cr me. Jan always had one ready for him.

Not only did Jan strive to make every visitor feel at home but she also 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's become known as the friendliest little checkpoint on the Iditarod Trail. Ed Stielstra of Michigan says, "Jan helped make the 24 rest in Takotna a 24 feast. Her energy was contagious and by the time I arrived in Takotna, boy did I need some energy. Want a couple of double cheeseburgers and fries to go as Ryan Redington did a couple years back? Place your order and it's handed to you as you pull your snow hook to leave the checkpoint. If you've taken your 24-hour rest at McGrath and are passing up the moose steak and pie at Takotna, don't worry you won't go hungry. There'll be a sack lunch ready for you to take along on the trail. All of this, courtesy of Jan Newton.

The school kids are organized into crews for cleaning up straw and other dog debris after teams depart the checkpoint. The shifts are twelve hours long. As it was getting late one afternoon, the day cleanup crew was very low on energy and losing enthusiasm for raking and bagging straw. They decided to take a break inside the checkpoint. As soon as Jan saw the kids inside, she asked if ALL the straw was raked and bagged. It wasn't. Jan might have ordered the youngsters back outside until the job was complete or maybe she bribed them with some of her fantastic baking but more than likely, it was her own example of energy, enthusiasm and diligence that inspired the kids to head back outside and work with a smile until the end of their shift.

While hosting an Iditarod Checkpoint is a task of mammoth proportion, Jan always said she loved doing it. Jan told a reporter from the Juneau Empire, "Winter is long and the race gives us something to look forward to, with cabin fever and all, it's nice to see a lot of different faces." Over the years she's come to consider the mushers as family. She's known them as young people and now as older people who have kids and grandkids of their own. It's her favorite part of the race, meeting and talking with the mushers.

One might think Jan would've taken a break from Iditarod once the checkpoint closed. Not so. She continued to be a year-round ambassador for the Last Great Race with school children in the lower forty-eight. Here's a story shared by Durham, NC elementary teacher, Brent Curtis. My class got to be friends with Jan Newton via email. 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 email 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 to Takotna 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.

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. Pam Flowers from Talkeetna tells about her experience in 1983. "My dogs and I arrived in Takotna in the early evening. I went inside the community center to find the checker and was greeted by a small, enthusiastic group of people. I was running in the back of the pack and was surprised not only by how welcome they made each musher feel but also amazed at the huge array of food they had available. They invited me to stay and eat but I explained that I was anxious to get back on the trail while there was still light. Jan looked so disappointed and said something like, "Everyone is rushing through this year. We have all this good food. Won't you just stay for awhile and eat something?" Well, since I was in the back of the pack and these people had obviously worked very hard to provide us with hospitality, I just couldn't bring myself to leave right away. So, I sat down and had a huge and delicious meal. I remember how happy this made them. Takotna was a small checkpoint but like Jan, big on generosity."

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.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**2013 MUSHER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION***(Listed Alphabetically)***Cindy Abbott – Irvine, CA - Rookie**Website: [www.reachingbeyonetheclouds.com](http://www.reachingbeyonetheclouds.com)

Cindy Abbott, 54, was born and raised in Nebraska. After graduation from California State University, Fullerton, with a Master's Degree in Kinesiology in 1996, she became a professor there. She currently lives with her husband Larry and daughter Teshia in Irvine, California, where she teaches Health Science at California State University, Fullerton. Cindy has always been drawn to the world of extreme sports. Already an extreme scuba diver and underwater videographer, in 2007, at the age of 48, 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 she was determined to achieve her dream and on May 23, 2010, after 54 days of working her way up the mountain, Cindy stepped onto the summit of Mt. Everest.

Cindy learned about the Iditarod in the early 1990's, while taking an Environmental Exercise Physiology course. But it wasn't until 2004, that 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 immediately fell in love with the sport, the Alaskan people and culture, but most of all, she fell in love with the world's most amazing athletes – the dogs!

In 2012, when Cindy crossed the finish line of the YQ300, the race marshal asked her what she thought, and she replied, "That was the most amazing thing I have ever experienced!" With some mid-distance races under her belt, Cindy admits that, for her, racing sled dogs is more difficult than climbing Mt. Everest—something she never thought that she would say.

Since her diagnosis, 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.

**Louie Ambrose – St. Michael, AK - Rookie**Website: [www.alaskaadventures.net](http://www.alaskaadventures.net)

Louie Ambrose, 42, is a Native Alaskan (Koyukon Athabascan) born in Tanana and raised in Galena. He says the only time he was out of Galena growing up was when he went fish camp in the summers. After high school, he attended Haskell Jr. Indian College in Kansas in 1989-1990. In 2003, he and Jerrine Austin, daughter of the late Iditarod veteran, Jerry Austin, were married. In 2006, they moved to St. Michael to help with the family businesses, Austin's Alaska Adventures and St. Michael Fuel. Since 2008, Louie has been the manager of both businesses. He had heard mushing stories from his father-in-law and in 2006 began mushing and thinking about running the Iditarod and so started his own kennel. Since then he's run a number of races including the Paul Johnson, Kusko 300, and Norton Sound Portage. He and Jerrine have six children: Travis Olin, 21, Shaylene Huntington, 20, Hailey Ambrose, 11, Mathias Ambrose, 8, and Caleb Ambrose, 6. Louie says his hobbies are hunting, fishing and snow machining. He will be running the 2013 Iditarod in memory of the late Jerry Austin.



**Ken Anderson – Fairbanks, AK**

Website: [www.windycreekkennel.com](http://www.windycreekkennel.com)

Ken Anderson, 40, was born in Minnesota. He says he began mushing at age 3 as his parents had a recreational team. When he was in third grade, his father bought him a book on the Iditarod and he decided to someday compete in the Race. Before moving to Alaska, he attended the University of Minnesota and was a dog handler. He came to Alaska in 1993 to learn more about mushing and study biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He's been running the Iditarod since 1999. Ken is married to Gwen Holdman, also an Iditarod veteran. Ken says "Running dogs and racing the Iditarod has been a dream come true for me. I feel very fortunate to be able to be able to run the Race and live our mushing lifestyle." He lists his occupation as dog musher and says 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.

Total prize money: \$261,185.67

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1999	26	12:10:43:0	2007	7	9:18:28:48
2002	18	09:22:29:4	2008	4	9:18:11:06
2003	5	10:06:12:1	2009	14	11:01:34:14
2004	17	10:10:10:2	2010	4	9:06:25:23
2005	17	10:09:25:5	2011	9	09:09:23:16
2006	15	10:01:02:3	2012	12	09:18:56:03

**Award**

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



**Jodi Bailey – Chatanika, AK**

Website: [www.dewclawkennel.com](http://www.dewclawkennel.com)

Jodi Bailey, 44, was born in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. She went to school at Emory University in Atlanta, where she earned her BA in Theater and Anthropology. Jodi came to Alaska once she graduated. That was in 1991. She had spent summers here while she was in school and had "fallen in love with life in Alaska." Today she and Dan Kaduce call Dew Claw Kennel in Chatanika, AK home.

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

In 2011 Jodi became the first rookie in history to successfully complete both the Yukon Quest and Iditarod in the same year. She thoroughly enjoyed herself on the trail and is excited about the opportunity to return to the Iditarod in 2013 and hopes to learn from last years' experience, improving her ability to care for her team over 1000 miles. Jodi is also a member of the Fairbanks Running Club and participates in their summer race series which ends with the Equinox Marathon in Sept. She says her hobbies are running, biking, and cooking. Jodi is married to Dan Kaduce, the Iditarod Rookie of the Year in 2010.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	31	11:00:40:18	2012	23	10:20:19:53



**John Baker – Kotzebue, AK**

Website: NONE

John Baker, 50, was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. He began mushing in 1995 and was interested in the Iditarod after watching the Race in its early years. He ran his first Iditarod in 1996 and has been in every race since. He has 13 top ten Iditarod finishes, and became the first Iditarod champion from Northwest Alaska when he won the 2011 Iditarod, and the first Inupiat champion as well. Baker is self-employed and enjoys the rural Alaska life. He has a son, Alex, 23, a veteran of the Jr. Iditarod and a daughter, Tahayla, 9. A commercial pilot, he says that his hobby is flying.

Total Prize Money: \$507,732.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	22	10:23:26:00	2005	6	09:21:41:00
1997	11	09:23:09:36	2006	5	9:17:37:45
1998	5	08:21:43:09	2007	8	9:18:36:22
1999	5	10:10:10:54	2008	23	10:10:17:50
2000	22	10:05:48:29	2009	3	10:06:18:51
2001	6	10:21:00:30	2010	5	09:07:07:54
2002	3	09:05:46:30	<b>2011</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>08:17:46:39</b>
2003	8	10:07:33:07	2012	9	09:13:25:47
2004	9	10:00:43:00			

**Awards**

- 2011 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Truck
- 2011 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast
- 1998 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
- 1998 ..... Millennium Hotel First to the Yukon
- 1993 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness



**Travis Beals – Seward, AK - Rookie**

Website: [www.TurningHeadsKennel.com](http://www.TurningHeadsKennel.com)

Travis Beals, 21, was born and raised in Seward, Alaska. "I ran my first sled dog race at four years old," he says. "I've always wanted to run Iditarod." He finished second in the Jr. Iditarod in 2009 and has since run a number of mid distance races in Alaska. He won the Humanitarian award in the 2010 Tustumena 200. Travis lists his hobbies as snowboarding, fishing and the outdoor life.



**Charley Bejna – Addison, IL - Rookie**

Charley Bejna, 39, was born and raised in Addison, Illinois. A self-described adventurer, Charley has owned and operated Charley's Landscaping Company for 21 years. He first came to Alaska in 1991 with his dad. They toured most of the state. He was Bruce Linton's Idita-Rider in 2007 and tag sled driver in 2008. "I was impressed that Bruce didn't let his diabetes stand in his way, since we are both type 1 diabetics." In 2008, he met G.B. Jones at his kennel and drove a small team down the trail. He was G.B.'s handler for the 2011 Iditarod. "I now have a 30 dog team. I am entering the 2013 Iditarod for the adventure and to spend time with my dogs."



**Anna Berington -- Kasilof, AK**  
 Website: [seeingdoublesleddogracing.com](http://seeingdoublesleddogracing.com)

Anna Berington, 29, was born and raised in northern Wisconsin. She became interested in dog sledding at an early age when she worked for a neighbor who raced sled dogs. After graduating from high school, Anna joined the National Guard during which time she did a lot of traveling. She ended up in California working for a dog sled touring company. After some time there, she decided “giving tourists rides wasn’t enough, so moving to Alaska was an easy choice.” She and her twin sister, Iditarod veteran, Kirsty, worked for a lot of mushers and started calling Alaska home. “I love dogs and endurance sports so what could be better than combining the two?” In addition to the 2012 Iditarod, she has run many mid distance races in Alaska. She lists her hobbies as running as running and all other athletics.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	43	12:02:16:30			



**Kristi Berington – Kasilof, AK**  
 Website: [seeingdoublesleddogracing.com](http://seeingdoublesleddogracing.com)

Kristy Berington, age 29, says, “No, you’re not seeing double! This will be the second year the twins are running. With almost matching biographies, both girls grew up in Northern Wisconsin and graduated from South Shore High School, joined the National Guard, and wrangled horses in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. “Our love of animals, especially dogs, seems to have guided us through life. We started running sprint dogs in Wisconsin and grew to long distance mushing in Alaska. Adventure, endurance and dogs are what I love most.” Their first dog team consisted of a Great Pyrenees and a Border collie, pulling a sled they built out of a pair of downhill skis and a milk crate. This is Kristy’s fifth season running dogs and racing in Alaska, and her fourth year working for Paul Gebhardt in Kasilof. Kristy lists her hobbies as running, swimming, mountain biking, sports, dogs,

hunting, and horses.

Total prize money: \$2,400

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	39	11:06:44:02	2012	44	12:02:17:13
2011	29	10:20:02:47			



**Jake Berkowitz – Anchorage, AK**  
 Website: [www.JakeBerkowitz.com](http://www.JakeBerkowitz.com)

Jake Berkowitz, 26, was born and raised in Minnesota. He attended a local community college and then studied to be an EMT at the University of Colorado. He is currently getting his paramedic degree at the University of Alaska. Jake started mushing when he moved to Michigan in the fall of 2005 to work with Ed & Tasha Stielstra at Nature's Kennel and raced Stielstra’s B team in the 2008 Iditarod. He remembers learning about the Iditarod at a young age but says, “It was one of those childhood dreams, like being a fireman or a cowboy; I just never thought it would happen.” He moved to Alaska after the 2008 Iditarod to pursue his mushing career. In 2011, he won the Copper Basin Sled Dog Race. In 2012, he placed fourth in the Yukon Quest and was the “Rookie of the Year.” He had to scratch from the 2012 Iditarod because a severely injured hand during the race.

He lists his hobby (other than dogs and mushing) as business. Jake is married to Robin Simms.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	65	13:03:41:32	2012	Scratched	
2009	31	12:06:01:40			



**Robert Bundtzen – Anchorage, AK**

Website: None

Robert Bundtzen, 63, grew up in Anderson (after moving to Alaska from New Mexico in 1960) where he used a small dog team while trapping. After obtaining a degree from UAF, an MD from the University of Washington and training in infectious diseases at the University of Wisconsin, he returned to Alaska to establish a consultative infectious disease practice in Anchorage. With the aid and encouragement of Jim Lanier, Robert began to run sled dogs in 1994. He has run the Iditarod 11 times, the Knik 200, Klondike 300, Tustumena 200 and the Copper Basin 300. Robert continues to be amazed at what the trained Alaskan husky can do and continues to run dogs for inexplicable reasons (he loves it). His wife Joan and son, Travis, are his most ardent fans. When not mushing, Robert enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and the outdoors in general!

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1995	40	13:09:55:09	2005	39	11:18:45:30
1997	27	12:01:32:43	2006	30	10:15:25:15
1999	28	12:15:04:15	2007	43	12:14:21:17
2001	31	12:15:38:43	2008	35	11:05:58:45
2002	31	11:00:34:42	2009	34	12:13:24:30
2003	28	11:15:18:54	2011	Scratched	
2004	38	11:06:53:00			



**Aaron Burmeister – Nenana, AK**

Website: NONE

Aaron Burmeister, 36, was born and raised in Nome, Alaska and is married to Mandy. He graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1998 and is a certified teacher. However, he is currently the General Manager of Tumet Industries based in Nome, AK. Aaron says, "I have been raising dogs and racing my entire life. (He is the son of Iditarod veteran Richard Burmeister.) Over the last 15 years our kennel and breeding program have been focused on building a winning Iditarod team. We are excited to be entered in the 2013 Iditarod after a great race in 2012 with young talented team that is now experienced and ready to take it up a notch. Our son, Hunter, is now four years old and enjoys into the outdoor lifestyle we live. "We are very grateful for the many supporters that help get us to the starting line every year as well as the many volunteers who

donate their time to put on this great event. Iditarod is the ultimate proving ground for our dogs, gear and outdoor skills." Aaron is a member of the IUOE Local 302, the IOFC, AOPA, and ITC. He lists his hobbies and interests as hunting, fishing, boating, flying, and family activities.

Total Prize Money: \$143,470.56

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	37	14:10:33:23	2005	24	10:19:09:39
1996	43	14:04:48:00	2006	16	10:01:21:52
1999	39	13:03:26:41	2007	13	10:06:12:20
2000	30	11:03:35:04	2008	19	10:06:05:20
2001	29	12:10:39:10	2009	7	10:14:56:15
2003	16	10:20:20:15	2012	4	09:10:04:07
2004	13	10:05:34:10			

**Award**

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

**Martin Buser – Big Lake, AK**Website: [www.buserdog.com](http://www.buserdog.com)

Born in Winterthur, Switzerland in 1958, Martin became fascinated with sled dogs while still a teen. He came to Alaska in 1979 to enhance his knowledge of care and training of sled dogs. He began working and training with long-time Alaskan mushers Earl and Natalie Norris and ran his first Iditarod in 1980. Martin, wife Kathy Chapoton, a retired teacher, and sons Nikolai and Rohn (both named after Iditarod checkpoints), formally reside in Big Lake, Alaska, where the family owns and manages Happy Trails Kennel. Nikolai recently graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle. Currently, Rohn is pursuing mushing and raced alongside his Dad in this year's Iditarod. Rohn completed his first Iditarod in 2008, as a senior in high school.

Martin spends a great deal of time speaking in schools on the humanitarian care of animals and the spirit of the Iditarod. A favorite celebrity of the children of Alaska, Martin treats them with surprise visits from his dogs and puppies.

Martin runs the race each year with his dogs to test the success of their breeding, training and physical endurance. He regards his racers as true competitive athletes and prides his team on their longevity and spirit of competition. Says Martin, "I run the Iditarod to prove that my dogs, bred, trained and raced by Happy Trails Kennels, are the best amongst the world's long distance athletes." For nine years, 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.

As tribute to his treatment of his racers, Martin was awarded the coveted Leonhard Seppala Award in 1988, 1993, 1995 and again in 1997 for the most humanitarian care of his dogs. The award was named for the most famous Alaskan musher who ran the longest and most dangerous stretch of the 1925, 674-mile diphtheria serum run from Nenana to Nome, which saved hundreds of lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Martin is currently the musher with the most consecutive Iditarod finishes, 27 races completed in row, 29 total finishes. We are looking forward to many more and working diligently toward a fifth Iditarod win. While the race is always the final exam, the year round interaction and relationship with the dogs is the most valuable aspect of this lifestyle. On a daily basis, we are amazed by the stamina, loyalty, honesty, and joy of our dogs. Author Brian Jacques went on a ride

with Martin and the team many years ago and described the dogs as “eternal children.” We couldn’t agree more. It is our good fortune to be able to take care of them.

Total prize money: \$741,419.89

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1980	22	17:06:50:05	1999	2	09:23:10:59
1981	19	14:02:47:23	2000	7	09:14:55:15
1986	25	15:00:53:56	2001	24	12:07:43:59
1987	10	12:02:26:28	<b>2002</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>08:22:46:02</b>
1988	3	12:04:21:46	2003	4	10:03:40:19
1989	6	12:02:06:05	2004	11	10:02:41:24
1990	10	12:02:33:44	2005	13	10:02:32:40
1991	2	12:18:41:49	2006	23	10:12:04:35
<b>1992</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12:18:41:49</b>	2007	4	09:14:07:04
1993	6	11:00:47:39	2008	5	09:19:11:50
<b>1994</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10:13:02:39</b>	2009	18	11:02:43:00
1995	2	09:08:47:44	2010	14	09:15:33:58
1996	3	09:17:58:00	2011	18	10:01:03:38
<b>1997</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:08:30:45</b>	2012	19	10:18:10:13
1998	7	09:21:47:58			

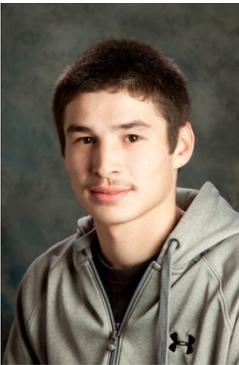
#### Awards

1988	.....	Gold Coast
1988	.....	Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1993	.....	Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1994	.....	National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
1994	.....	Lead Dog -- Golden Harness
1995	.....	Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1996	.....	GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
1996	.....	Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
1996	.....	Alaska Commercial Golden Pace
1996	.....	Lead Dog – Golden Harness
1997	.....	Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
1997	.....	National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
1997	.....	Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
1997	.....	Lead Dog – Lolly Medley Golden Harness
1998	.....	Carrs & Eagle Quality Center Sportsmanship
2000	.....	Cabela’s Outfitter
2002	.....	City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness
2002	.....	PenAir Spirit of Alaska
2002	.....	Wells Fargo First to the Gold Coast
2002	.....	Millennium Hotel’s First to the Yukon
2002	.....	GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
2004	.....	GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
2011	.....	PenAir Spirit of Alaska

**Rohn Buser – Big Lake, AK**Website: [www.buserdog.com](http://www.buserdog.com)

Rohn Buser, 23, was born and raised in Big Lake, Alaska. He has run dogs “all his life” and lists his occupation as “dog trainer.” He says, “I grew up around sled dogs, so when I was old enough I ran my first Iditarod.” After running the Jr. Iditarod four times and winning in 2007, he ran the 2008 Iditarod as a nineteen year old. In 2012, he won the Kuskokwim 300, beating his dad in a race for the first time.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	37	11:06:58:25	2012	18	10:18:10:12

**Josh Cadzow – Fort Yukon, Alaska - Rookie**

Website: NONE

Josh Cadzow, 23, was born and raised in Fort Yukon, Alaska. He He says he spent all his life running dogs on a trap line since he started walking. He has run a number of mid distance races in Alaska. “I have a beautiful family, with the love of my life I’ve been with for seven years now, Kelsey Peter I love you, and when the Race is over, I am going to buy you the biggest ring I can find. I have three beautiful children as well, Marissa, 6, Heidi, 2, and my new baby boy, Trapper, 3 months now. I would like to take the time to thank all my family for always supporting me throughout the years and being by my side every step of the way. My father Clifton, mother Janet, my sister Terri, Josselyn Eliza, I love you and my little brother Ethan. I entered the Iditarod to finish with all my dogs healthy and roaring to keep on going when the

Race is over.” Josh has been a carpenter for six years. He attended UAF and says his hobbies are hunting and fishing and spending the rest of the time with his family.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	Scratched	

**Bob Chlupach – Willow, AK**

Website: NONE

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

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

Working in Juneau, the sports headlines for the two Anchorage newspapers were not of pro-basketball or pro-football, but instead of sled dog racing events. He became enamored with sled dogs and moved to south-central Alaska and by

the mid 70's had a sled dog team. He was close friends with two noted Siberian husky families, that of Darrel and Angie Reynolds and world renowned Siberian husky breeders Earl and Natalie Norris.

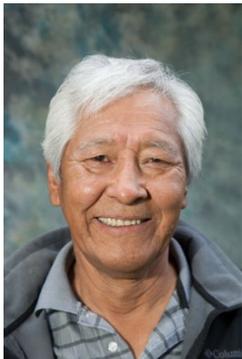
Bob was greatly influenced by Darrel and to this day, his spirit is thought of daily. He entered his first Iditarod and completed it in 1977, subsequently, entering and completing 10 Iditarods over four decades. He ran the 2012 Iditarod in the fifth decade, his first race since 2001.

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

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

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

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1977	25	19:02:28:06	1989	13	12:06:17:41
1978	14	16:03:44:54	1990	29	14:23:11:08
1979	17	17:06:23:19	1992	31	13:08:41:45
1982	7	16:05:26:46	2001	41	13:03:07:54
1984	15	14:10:31:12	2012	52	14:11:55:10
1986	14	13:10:32:13			



#### Rudy Demoski, Sr. – Wasilla, AK

Website: None

Rudy Demoski, Sr., 67, was born and raised in Anvik, Alaska. He began mushing in 1974 and says he became interested in the Iditarod because he saw Ken Chase run in 1973. He ran his first Iditarod in 1974, finishing fourth. "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." Rudy has been a carpenter for 36 years. He is married to Diane and has six adult children, Rosetta, Ruby, Roberta, Rebecca, Rudy, Jr., and Amanda. He lists his hobby as hunting.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1974	4	21:21:32:02	1977	Scratched	
1975	9	16:14:10:17	1980	15	16:09:38:56
1976	18	19:13:27:07	1985	Scratched	



#### Richie Diehl – Aniak, AK - Rookie

Website: None

Richie Diehl, 27, was born and raised in Aniak, Alaska. He graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Technology. He's been working as a carpenter in Aniak the last four years. He says he began mushing as a kid and has been racing competitively in Alaska since 2010, having completed the Kusko 300 several times as well as the Paul Johnson Memorial 450 in its inaugural year, 2012. He lists his hobby as "flying."

**Paige Drobny – Fairbanks, AK - Rookie**Website: [www.squidacres.com](http://www.squidacres.com)

Paige Drobny, 38, was born in Pennsylvania and says she was raised “all over.” 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 in 2005 for graduate school, she lived in Colorado and was a fisheries biologist. “I enjoy the outdoor lifestyle. I work as a fishery biologist and help my husband, Cody Strathe, build dogsleds for our company, DogPaddle Designs, during the summer. Our mushing started in 2006 as a way to explore the wilds of Alaska with no plan to ever do any racing. We spent several years camping and travelling with our dogs. In 2010, Cody and I decided to give it a whirl and entered the GinGin 200 together...we had a blast, and suddenly we were on the slippery slope. After finishing the Yukon Quest last year with a happy and health team, Iditarod

seemed like the next logical step for someone with an addiction to travelling by dog team. We'll see where the Iditarod Trail takes us and hopefully be back again and again.” Paige lists her hobby as “fish.

**Mike Ellis – Two Rivers, AK - Rookie**Website: [www.teamsuga.com](http://www.teamsuga.com)

Mike Ellis, 42, was born in Massachusetts and raised in New York and came to Alaska in 2007 after living 25 years in New Hampshire. He received a B.S. in Geography from Plymouth State College in New Hampshire. He began mushing in 1993 and says he'd been interested in the Iditarod since seeing it on Wide World of Sports when he was a little kid. He raced in New England and Ontario from 1994 to 2007 and then moved north to begin racing in Alaska. He has since run the Yukon Quest since 2008, his highest finish being eighth in 2011. He has won the Vet's Choice award in the GinGin 200, the Copper Basin 300, The Two Rivers 200 and the Yukon Quest. “I share my kennel, and life, with my wife, Sue. We raise and train all our own dogs that are all AKC registered Siberian Huskies. Our lives revolve in our dogs' world. Iditarod has been a dream since we started with

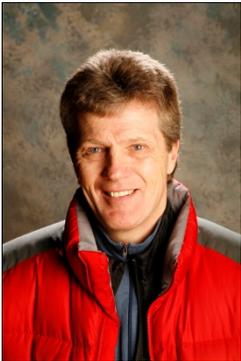
dogs. Winning the Seppala Heritage grant for the 2013 Iditarod has allowed it to become our reality. Thanks to all who have helped us get down the trail! Respect your dogs!!” Mike is a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. and Two Rivers Dog Musers. He says his hobby is “filling the freezer.”

**Matthew Failor – Big Lake, AK**Website: [www.buserdog.com](http://www.buserdog.com)

Matthew Failor, 29, was born and raised in Ohio. He says, “My family taught me a love of the outdoors; camping, fishing, canoeing, backpacking, hunting, were all things we did on family vacations. My mom and dad and brothers and sister all enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle. My three brothers and I are Eagle Scouts.” While attending college at Ohio State, he worked five summers on Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau giving sled dog rides and interpreting dog sledding for tourists, beginning in 2006. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Photography in 2007. He spent the winter of 2008 with Iditarod veteran Matt Hayashida and says, “Being in Nome for the finish of that race was an incredibly rewarding experience.” All these experiences eventually developed within him a love of Alaska, the Alaskan sled dog and sled dog racing. He began racing in 2008. He

actually moved to Alaska in November of 2010 when he accepted a handling position for the Buser family, and says, “In November of 2010, while scooping the dog yard, Martin asked if I would be interested in running a yearling team to Nome...that is when I became interested in running the Iditarod.” He goes on to say, “The opportunity to work with Martin Buser and his wife, Kathy, and expand my knowledge of this industry is very exciting. I am looking forward to training Martin's yearling team and traveling with them along the Iditarod Trail to Nome.” Matthew lists his occupation as musher and his hobbies as “avid outdoorsman and sports enthusiast.”

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	48	12:18:10:20			



**Linwood Fiedler – Willow, AK**

Website: None

Linwood Fiedler, 59, was born in Vermont. He received his BSW at Carroll College and his MSW at University of Montana. He began dog mushing in 1980 and lived in Montana before moving to Alaska in 1990. He says he moved to Alaska "to run the Iditarod." For the last 14 summers he has operated a glacier tour business in the Juneau area. Linwood says, "After a few years off and a new bionic ankle, I'd like to give Iditarod another try. Iditarod is like visiting an old friend. You always want to go back." Linwood and his wife Kathleen are the parents of Dalton, 31.

Total Prize Money: \$195,693

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1989	26	13:13:37:37	1998	8	09:22:29:32
1990	8	12:01:19:16	1999	13	10:18:30:40
1991	25	15:23:45:15	2000	19	10:04:01:31
1992	25	12:21:59:50	2001	2	10:03:58:57
1993	17	12:21:02:50	2002	Scratched	
1994	18	11:15:57:30	2003	6	10:07:02:55
1995	13	10:08:27:00	2007	Scratched	
1996	17	10:07:25:00	2009	23	11:13:44:45
1997	17	10:14:58:20	2010	Scratched	

**Awards**

- 1989 ..... Sportsmanship
- 1990 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 2001 ..... PenAir Spirit of Iditarod
- 2001 ..... Millennium First Musher to the Yukon



**Cindy Gallea – Wykoff, MN**

Website: None

Cindy Gallea, 61, grew up on a farm in Minnesota where she experienced the pleasure of the outdoors and the good feeling of interacting with animals. She began mushing in 1987 and moved to Montana in 1990 to mush dogs, enjoy the beauty of the State and for work. After seeing the 1996 finish of the Iditarod, she knew she wanted to run the Race. A graduate of St. Olaf College with a BS in Nursing in 1973 and from the University of Washington with a Master's in nursing in 1990; she now has been a nurse practitioner for 22 years. In 2010, Cindy returned to Minnesota to be close to her family. "I have been running sled dogs for 25 years. I cannot imagine not running dogs. I have run Iditarod numerous times, but took the past two years off. I have greatly missed the Race. I so look forward to being back on the trail, traveling with my dogs and enjoying the

beauty of Alaska, the challenge of the Race and the camaraderie of the Iditarod family. Life is all about enjoying each day and every adventure." She enjoys outdoor activities, exercise and justice issues. Cindy has two adult sons, Jim, 32 (and Iditarod veteran) and Brian, 28.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1998	48	14:00:48:36	2006	54	12:07:20:02
2000	Scratched		2007	45	12:16:50:17
2001	38	12:21:46:53	2008	39	11:07:56:20
2003	33	12:07:48:52	2009	41	12:19:15:05
2004	41	11:07:58:10	2010	40	11:08:12:01



**Paul Gebhardt – Kasilof, AK**

Website: none

Paul Gebhardt, 56, was born and raised in Minnesota and came to Alaska in 1989 “to get away from too many people.” Before coming to Alaska he worked as a contractor in Minnesota and has continued in that field since coming to Alaska. He began mushing in 1992. Paul has an adult daughter, Kristin. He lists his hobbies as hunting, horses and game birds.

Total prize money: \$385,520.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	26	11:08:08:00	2005	9	10:01:24:20
1997	14	10:08:59:25	2006	3	09:15:23:20
1998	13	10:04:54:40	2007	2	09:07:28:12
1999	6	10:09:37:10	2008	6	09:20:20:36
2000	2	09:06:04:23	2009	16	11:02:26:30
2001	5	10:20:37:05	2010	19	09:20:31:01
2003	23	11:08:51:32	2011	Scratched	
2004	19	10:12:26:22	2012	15	10:03:35:48

**Awards**

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



**Matt Giblin – Big Lake, AK**

Website: NONE

Matt Giblin, 42, was born in Massachusetts. He attended Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, where he studied Communications and Psychology from '89-'92. He became attracted to mushing after seeing it on television and began mushing in Colorado in 1982 when he worked as a tour guide. He came to Alaska in 1996 and ran the Iditarod in 1998. He has continued mushing and moved back to Alaska from Montana to return to the Iditarod Trail. “I enter the Iditarod and other races to witness the potential of the dogs, to enjoy time with them on the trail and to enjoy the lifestyle I have chosen. During the summer months I work for a helicopter company in Juneau, guiding dog sled tours on the Herbert Glacier. Working in this area gives me the opportunity to promote the sport of dog mushing and also to work with sled dogs year around.” He says his

hobbies are hunting, traveling, family and writing.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1998	50	14:01:56:17			
2011	40	13:07:55:48			


**Kelley Griffin – Wasilla, AK**

[www.silverbellekennels.com](http://www.silverbellekennels.com)

Kelley Griffin, 53, was born in Minnesota and raised in Alaska. She graduated from West Anchorage High School, now known as West High. She began mushing more than 30 years ago and moved to Knik in 1992 just to run dogs. "I have run the Yukon Quest nearly every year since 2002 and the Iditarod in 2005, 2008 and 2011 with dogs from my small kennel. In the Yukon Quest. I have won both the Sportsmanship Award and the Challenge of the North Award. I've done a variety of work to support the kennel from horseshoeing to working in Prudhoe Bay. Now my small farm allows me to stay home and focus on dogs. The dogs are Alaskan Husky from several lines. It is exciting to be the support crew for such an amazing group of athletes. We train for thousands of miles during the darkest part of the winter to race in the Iditarod. Then with nearly 12 hours of daylight in March, I finally see the incredible country we travel. Not only are the dogs addicting, the trail itself gets into your blood, too." Kelley lists her current occupation as dog musher and farmer." Her hobbies are making wine and growing food. Kelley's significant other is Ed Grube.

Total prize money: \$3,500

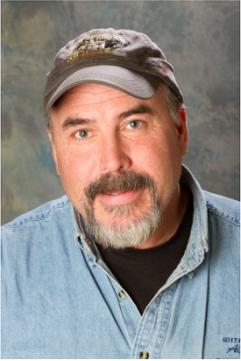
YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2005	46	12:03:43:48	2011	26	10:13:03:22
2008	45	11:19:19:36	2012	27	10:22:29:06


**Karin Hendrickson – Willow, AK**

Website: [www.blueonblackdogs.com](http://www.blueonblackdogs.com)

Karin Hendrickson, 41, was born and raised in California. She graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1991 and has lived in Idaho and Colorado working as a teacher and college student. She now works in Environmental Regulation here in Alaska, where she moved in 2003 to be a handler. "I saw my first sled dog in March, 2002, when I came up to volunteer for Iditarod. By 2003, I had sold everything I owned, quit my job and moved to Alaska to become a handler. That didn't last long – I was miserable. I started building my own team in 2006. I really never expected to do any racing, much less run in the Iditarod! I am not too sure what happened then, but I found myself signed up for my first Iditarod in 2009. Now dogs have completely taken over my life. I still haven't figured out how to manage with a full time, year-round job, so my biggest challenge is trying to fit training and racing in around the demands of my job. It is an almost impossible task, but making the dogs happy (that means running down the trail!!!!) makes it all worthwhile." Before dogs, she says she used to telemark ski, rock climb, white water kayak, train horses, hike etc. Now, she says between working full time and training, she barely has time to sleep. Karin is married to Varan Hoyt.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	40	12:18:31:12	2011	Scratched	
2010	Scratched		2012	36	11:18:32:36



### Scott W Janssen – Anchorage, AK

Website: [www.JanssenFuneralHomes.com](http://www.JanssenFuneralHomes.com)

Scott Janssen, the “Mushing Mortician,” 51, was born and raised in Crookston, Minnesota. He married his high school sweetheart, Debbie, in 1980. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1985 with a B.S. degree with a major in Mortuary Science. Scott and Debbie moved to Alaska in June of that year for Scott to work as a funeral director at Evergreen Memorial Chapel. He has been a mortician and funeral home owner for the last 27 years. They now, along with their friend, Jordan Eastman, own Evergreen as well as Alaska Cremation Center and Eagle River Funeral Home under the name of Janssen Funeral Homes. Scott has been a friend and sponsor of Paul Gebhardt for 14 years and began mushing in 2007. He finished the Iditarod in 2011 with a team of Gebhardt dogs and in 2012, he had a blend of his own dogs and dogs from 1984 champion, Dean

Osmar. His 2012 race went national when the story of the mouth to snout resuscitation of his dog, Marshall, was on Diane Sawyer’s World News Tonight, during the 2012 Race. Marshall fully recovered and is retired, living in the house with “full benefits” befitting an Iditarod veteran. “In 2013, I have big plans! I leased a team of incredible dogs from Dean Osmar and plan to compete for, at a minimum, a Top 20 finish!” He says “Iditarod has been his dream since 1986.” He and his wife of thirty years, Debbie, are the parents of two adult daughters, Angela and Chelsea. Their godson, Jaikob Stahnke, 7, is like a son to them. Scott is a member of the Knights of Columbus, National Funeral Directors Association, the International Cemetery, Crematory and Funeral Association, Harley Owners Group, the Iditarod Official Finishers Club and Kiwanis. He says he enjoys family hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, road trips, ridin’ my Harley and my work.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	42	12:20:28:28	2012	39	11:2138:31



**DeeDee Jonrowe – Willow, AK**

Website: [www.DeeDeeJonrowe.com](http://www.DeeDeeJonrowe.com)

DeeDee Jonrowe, 59, was born in Frankfort Germany while her father was in the military. The family moved to Alaska in 1971 where her dad was stationed at Ft. Richardson. DeeDee has a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources and now lists her occupation as kennel owner and dog racer. She began mushing in 1979 when she was living in Bethel and her mother was excited about the early Iditarod races. She says, "Participating in the Iditarod has become my life's passion. I begin training the day my pups are born, with my focus to provide each of my dogs a long, safe and successful career. I have helped to develop state-of-the-art nutrition, sports therapy, and training plans, working year around to develop a well-rounded life style for my dogs.

In addition, it is my desire to honor God in my racing and daily life, encouraging young people to follow after their dreams." DeeDee is a member of the Big Lake Baptist Church and the Willow Running Club. She says in her spare time she enjoys trail running, mountain biking, triathlons, pure bred Labradors, Pekingese rescue and gardening. DeeDee is married to Mike, secretary of the Iditarod's Board of Directors.

Total prize money: \$490,948.44

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1980	24	17:07:59:24	1998	2	09:08:49:42
1981	31	16:05:05:43	1999	Scratched	
1983	15	13:18:10:25	2000	20	10:04:24:04
1984	30	15:19:18:13	2001	10	11:14:33:15
1987	22	13:02:58:15	2002	16	09:22:07:20
1988	9	13:16:29:06	2003	18	10:23:45:39
1989	4	11:37:14:16	2004	15	10:08:40:49
1990	5	11:14:41:31	2005	10	10:01:42:55
1991	7	13:13:44:10	2006	4	09:16:25:50
1992	5	11:09:05:00	2007	Scratched	
1993	2	10:16:10:50	2008	15	10:01:07:46
1994	9	11:04:25:15	2009	13	10:22:56:10
1995	4	09:11:24:07	2010	22	10:02:47:44
1996	5	09:20:18:00	2011	12	09:10:24:17
1997	4	09:18:26:10	2012	10	09:14:43:15

**Awards**

- 1981 ..... Sportsmanship
- 1991 ..... Halfway
- 1991 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 1993 ..... Most Inspirational Musher
- 1997 ..... Joe Redington, Sr. Tesoro
- 2003 ..... Chevron Most Inspirational Musher
- 2008 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
- 2012.....Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian



**Peter Kaiser – Bethel, AK**

Website: [www.kaiserracing.com](http://www.kaiserracing.com)

Peter Kaiser, 25, was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska. He graduated from Bethel High School in 2005 and has worked on a tug boat for the Bering Marine Corps for the last five years. He says, "Our family has always had dogs, and I've been mushing since I was a kid. Watching the Kuskokwim 300 every January sparked my interest in long distance racing, and a few years ago, I decided that I would give the Iditarod a try." Peter says he enjoys boats, hunting, fishing, and camping.

Total prize money: \$30,000

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	28	10:11:13:59	2012	5	09:11:06:23
2011	8	09:07:06:06			



**Jeff King – Denali Park, AK**

Website: [www.huskyhomestead.com](http://www.huskyhomestead.com)

Jeff King, 57, was born in California. He came to Alaska in 1975 to "seek adventure." He began mushing in 1976 after he heard Jerry Riley's race finish while listening to the radio. Jeff has an outstanding race record including a Yukon Quest victory in 1981 and four Iditarod victories. He has three adult daughters, Cali, Tessa and Ellen, 19. All the girls have run the Jr. Iditarod and Cali finished the Iditarod.

Total prize money: 765,319.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1981	28	15:07:02:47	2001	3	10:07:19:43
1991	12	13:14:24:40	2002	6	09:10:42:19
1992	6	11:10:40:35	2003	3	09:23:17:
<b>1993</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10:15:38:15</b>	2004	2	09:14:40:59
1994	3	10:21:46:09	2005	12	10:02:21:21
1995	7	09:18:52:10	<b>2006</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:11:11:36</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:05:43:00</b>	2007	5	09:15:05:17
1997	3	09:15:35:15	2008	2	09:13:05:51
<b>1998</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:05:52:26</b>	2009	12	10:21:06:06
1999	7	10:10:10:32	2010	3	0:02:22:17
2000	3	09:08:44:41	2012	Scratched	

**Awards**

- 1991 ..... Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
- 1993 ..... Halfway
- 1993 ..... Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
- 1993 ..... Golden Harness Award for Lead Dogs
- 1993 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 1996 ..... National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
- 1997 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway

1998 .....	National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
1998 .....	Lead Dog – Golden Harness
1999 .....	Joe Redington Sr.
2003 .....	Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
2004 .....	PenAir Spirit of Iditarod
2004 .....	Millennium Hotel First to the Yukon
2006 .....	Wells Fargo Gold Coast
2006 .....	Lead Dog – Golden Harness
2007 .....	Wells Fargo Gold Coast Award
2008 .....	Wells Fargo Gold Coast
2008 .....	Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
2010 .....	PenAir Spirit of Iditarod
2010 .....	Millennium Hotel First to the Yukon



**Jim Lanier – Chugiak, AK**  
 Website: NONE

Jim Lanier, 71, was born in Washington, DC and raised in Fargo, North Dakota, where his family moved when he was six years old. After receiving his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, he moved to Alaska in 1967 to serve at the Native Hospital with the US Public Health Service. A pathologist at Providence Hospital for thirty years, Jim is now retired. He began mushing in 1977 and says he got the bug from Iditarod mushers Ron Gould, Dinah Knight and Gerry Riley. Jim ran his first Iditarod in 1979. Never having scratched, he has now entered and completed fourteen Iditarods, including at least one in all five decades that the race has been in existence. His goal is to make it six decades and in a competitive fashion. "After that, who knows?" He says, "Health aside, it's a matter of continued enjoyment of the dreaming, the planning, the training, the

support of family, friends and sponsors, and of going head-to-head with people half his age and younger. Lanier had to bow out of the 2011 Iditarod at the last minute in January because of necessary hip surgery. He is married to Anna Bondarenko, first Russian woman to enter and complete "The Last Great Race" (2000). He is the father of four, Margaret, 44, Kim, 41, Willy, 33 and Jimmy, 14, and also the grandfather of four, Annie, Ethan, Logan and Jessie. His hobbies include music (baritone), hunting, commercial fishing, reading, writing and raising kids.

Total prize money: \$50,504.88

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1979	43	24:06:44:18	2005	40	12:00:07:50
1984	40	17:05:49:22	2006	41	11:07:59:30
1998	42	12:06:09:35	2007	27	10:19:01:56
1999	42	13:13:55:00	2008	20	10:06:35:40
2001	49	13:15:35:40	2009	35	12:13:24:35
2002	25	10:12:43:00	2010	24	10:05:21:10
2003	24	11:11:11:10	2012	33	11:02:58:18
2004	18	10:11:01:10			

2012..... GCI Dorothy G. Page Halfway Award



**Sonny Lindner – Two Rivers, AK**

Website: NONE

Sonny Lindner, 63, was born in Michigan on Christmas Eve. He came to Alaska in 1970 and attended the University of Alaska at Fairbanks where he graduated in 1972. He began mushing in the early 70's and became interested in the Iditarod in 1976 when he had friends having fun running the race. He was the winner of the first Yukon Quest. He finished fourth in the All Alaska Sweepstakes in 2008. Sonny lists his occupation as "farming, dogs and construction." He has four adult children, Erika, R.T., Chad and Ava, and two young children, Sarah and Sam. His partner is Gina. He is also a grandfather. He says, "I enjoy running the Iditarod. It's become a habit. "

Total prize money: \$159,344.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1978	11	15:12:03:03	2002	13	09:19:08:29
1979	3	15:14:17:32	2003	10	10:12:18:06
1980	Scratched		2004	Scratched	
1981	2	12:09:33:22	2005	Scratched	
1983	8	13:05:28:20	2006	13	09:23:44:18
1985	9	18:18:33:33	2007	24	10:18:28:05
1992	22	12:08:06:08	2009	11	10:20:19:24
1993	18	11:23:49:40	2010	18	09:19:00:00
1999	24	12:10:01:50	2011	15	09:13:02:59
2001	21	12:06:11:28	2012	14	09:21:28:02

**Awards**

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



**Joar Leifseth Ulsom – Willow, AK - Rookie**

Website: <http://www.RacingBeringia.com>

Joar Leifseth Ulsom, 26, was born and raised in Mo I Rana, NORWAY. In 2007, he graduated with a degree in agriculture from Val Landbruksskole in NORWAY. Before coming to Alaska, he lived in Røros in NORWAY where he worked as a farmer with cows and as a dog musher. He came to Alaska in 2011 with his Alaskan Huskies to be part of *Racing Beringia* at [RacingBeringia.com](http://www.RacingBeringia.com) – a free online education program used by millions of students in K-12 classrooms around the world that explores the ancient Beringia from the runners of dogsleds racing across the region. Beringia is the ice-free steppe in Yukon, Alaska and across the Bering Strait in Chukotka (Russia) where people and sled dogs came across from Asia to North America during the last ice-age. The program went live in 2012 from the Yukon Quest where he placed sixth with an impressive run, after which

he headed to Russia to win the Nadezhda Hope Race. Considered the toughest race on the Eurasian continent, Joar is the first non-Native to champion Nadezhda Hope in 20 years, and he did so in the fastest time ever. He and his team also claimed victory in the 2012 Chukotka Sprint Championship. With the Iditarod, the run for *Racing Beringia* continues in 2013. A farmer by profession, Joar is a young musher with a small kennel, but he has run the great races in Scandinavia: Finnmarksløpet, Femundløpet and the Amundsen Race. He is a member of Rana trek-og brukshundklubb, GoNorth! Adventure Learning. He lists his hobbies as hunting, fishing, camping and "the North."



**Jason Mackey – Wasilla, AK**

Website: None

Jason Mackey, 41, was born in Alaska and raised in the Mat Valley and at Coldfoot. He says he's been mushing "since birth." His mushing career began when he started running junior races back in 1983. After four Jr. Iditarod's and four Jr. World Championships, he went into distance mushing, ultimately running the Iditarod in 2004 and 2008. The first Iditarod he remembers was the 1978 Race. "Dad won in 1978. Brothers Rick, Lance, Bill and myself are all Iditarod veterans, with six "Mackey" championships in Iditarod alone. So my background is Dogs, Dogs, Dogs. My passion for racing sled dogs has always been a very important part of my life, with my sights set on becoming the next Mackey to win. I won't ever stop trying until that day comes. I will win! What year? It's my obsession, day in and day out. Mackey, Swingley, Osmar, Redington blood lines – 'can't beat them

bloodlines.' They're the best in the world." He and his family had been living on the Kenai Peninsula and moved back to the "Valley" in 2010 for better training. He is a member of the Aurora Dog Mushers Club and the Northern Lights 300. He is married to Lisa and they are the parents of Patrick, 21 and Jason, 19.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	28	10:18:58:27	2008	33	11:03:44:27



**Lance Mackey – Fairbanks, AK**

Website: [www.comebackkennel.com](http://www.comebackkennel.com)

Lance Mackey, 42, was born and raised in Wasilla, Alaska. The back to back four-time Iditarod champion and four-time Yukon Quest champion says he began mushing "at birth." "I grew up around racing and the Iditarod and have been mushing since before birth. I was at the finish line in 1978 to see my father, Dick Mackey, win by one second. In 1983, my older brother, Rick, won. Both my father and brother won wearing bib #13 in their sixth Iditarod." 2007 was Lance's sixth Iditarod and he won wearing bib #13, just as he had planned.

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

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

Total prize money: \$349,044.44

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	36	12:18:35:13	2008	1	09:11:46:48
2002	Scratched		2009	1	09:21:38:46
2004	24	10:18:27:37	2010	1	08:23:59:09
2005	7	10:00:21:00	2011	16	09:17:55:34
2006	10	09:22:08:38	2012	22	10:20:17:27
2007	1	09:05:08:41			

**Awards**

- 2002 ..... Most Inspirational
- 2007 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Truck
- 2007 ..... Chevron Most Inspirational Musher

2007	.....	GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
2007	.....	City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness
2007	.....	Wells Fargo Winner’s Purse
2008	.....	PenAir Spirit of Alaska
2008	.....	Millennium Hotel Anchorage First Musher to the Yukon
2008	.....	Wells Fargo Winner’s Truck
2008	.....	Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Truck
2009	.....	GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
2009	.....	Millennium Hotel Anchorage First Musher to the Yukon
2009	.....	Wells Fargo Gold Coast
2009	.....	Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
2009	.....	Anchorage Chrysler Official Dodge Truck
2009	.....	Wells Fargo Winner’s Purse
2010	.....	City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness
2010	.....	Wells Fargo Winner’s Purse
2010	.....	Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Truck
2011	.....	Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
2012	.....	Fred Meyer Sportsmanship



**Kelly Maixner – Big Lake, AK**

Website: [madstorkkennel.com](http://madstorkkennel.com)

Kelly Maixner, 37, was born and raised in North Dakota. After graduating from Montana State University he 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. Being a man who always seeks out challenges, he immediately set his sights on running the Iditarod. He started Mad Stork Kennel, LLC with two pregnant females and it has grown to around 60. 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 off 32nd position. He is looking forward to seeing what his pups can do in 2013. Before Kelly decided to become a pediatric dentist, he was 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. An avid runner and competitor, Kelly has completed multiple marathons and triathlons, including the Silverman competition. He hopes one year to finish the Iditarod, climb Mt. McKinley, and race the Boston Marathon. Every year Kelly takes his professional skills to Haiti to provide dental care for the children of Kobonal Mission. Kelly’s wife, Margaret, found him in 2009 and they were married the following year. Rosemary is their first child, born in 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.

Total prize money: \$1,500

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	30	10:20:29:31	2012	32	11:01:53:02



**Luan Ramos Marques – Rio De Janeiro, BRAZIL - Rookie**

Website: None

Luan Ramos Marques, 22, was born and raised in Macae’ –Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL. He is a dog trainer and owner of Eu Curto Cuida Pet Shop in his hometown. The do primarily obedience training. “When the opportunity arose to train and qualify for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, I jumped at it. I am grateful for an exclusive sponsorship from Matt Comotto, who has graciously made it possible for me to race the Iditarod. Last season, I qualified by successfully completing the Knik 200, the Northern Lights 300 and the Yukon Quest 300. I raced the Copper Basin 300 until they canceled it due to extreme weather and no trail. I am back to race the Iditarod with dogs from Vern Halter and Dream a Dream Dog Farm. Art Church, Jr. took many of these same dogs to Nome in 2012, so they have recent Iditarod experience. This winter I intend to run many more

miles and do more racing in preparation for the Iditarod. My goal and dream is to finish the Iditarod with a great looking team! In the future I want to go to Veterinary School and start a farm where I can build a kennel and breed dogs.” Luan lists his hobbies as his pet shop, hiking and horseback riding.



**Newton Marshal – St. Ann, JAMAICA**

Website: [www.newtonmarshall.com](http://www.newtonmarshall.com)

Newton Marshal, 29, was born and raised in Jamaica. He has been a tour guide for the last 10 years. He says he came to Alaska for a vacation this summer and ended up signing up for the 2013 Iditarod. He began mushing in 2005 and ran the Yukon Quest in 2009, thus began the dream of running the Iditarod. He finished the Iditarod in 2010 and scratched in 2011. “I want to do the Iditarod because I want to do better in the Race and finish with a good dog team. Mother Nature teaches you how to take care of yourself and take care of the dogs to survive in the wilderness. I like the feeling because it’s just me and the dog team. I love running dogs because it’s the first sport I fell in love with.” Newton says he likes the warm sun but the cold teaches one how to get tough. “I never got the opportunity to go to school much. I want to show kids from Jamaica or

anywhere in the world that if you want something, you have to go get it yourself. The results can be endless.” When asked about hobbies, Newton says, “I love horseback riding.”

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	47	12:04:27:48	2011	Scratched	



**Wade Marris – Wasilla, AK**

Website: [wademarris.webs.com](http://wademarris.webs.com)

Wade Marris, 22, was born in Alaska and has lived in Knik, Alaska his entire life. He attended Wasilla High School. He began mushing nine years ago, taught by his uncle, and ran the Jr. Iditarod in 2007 and 2008, as well as other local races. He received the Humanitarian Award in the 2008 Jr. Iditarod. He finished the 2009 Iditarod in 47<sup>th</sup> place. Wade lists his hobbies as trapping, hunting, fishing, and snowboarding.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	47	14:11:6:25	2012	Scratched	



**Allen Moore – Two Rivers, AK**

Website: SPKDogLog.com

Allen Moore, 55, was born in Arkansas where he received his college degree. He worked as a carpenter and taxidermist there before moving to Alaska almost 20 years ago. He says it was too hot in Arkansas. He began mushing about eighteen years ago and had competed in sprint races and in many mid distance races around the State before he ran his first Iditarod in 2007. He says he decided to run the Iditarod when “our kennel produced such high quality enthusiastic young dogs.” “I am again racing SP Kennel’s young Alaska Huskies on the Iditarod. My dog team consists of several experienced adults with the remainder being happy, enthusiastic young dogs with tons of energy and no real direction. My job is to make it fun and rewarding for the team and mold them into future SP Kennel all-star sled dogs.” During the summer, he works as a contractor and

carpenter and trains sled dogs full time during the winter. He lives in Two rivers, Alaska with his wife Aliy Zirkle, also an Iditarod veteran and competitor in 2013. He likes to fish, hunt and enjoy life. Allen has two adult children, Bridget and Jennifer.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2007	36	11:20:45:15	2010	35	10:23:25:04
2008	Scratched		2011	24	19:07:37:05
2009	33	12:10:00:00			

**Award**

2011 ..... Fred Meyer Sportsmanship



**Aaron Peck - Bezanson, AB CANADA**

Aaron Peck, 33, was born in Cobourg Ontario. He received his diploma in Agriculture from the University of Guelph. He began mushing in 1992 and says “I was hooked when I saw on ABC Wide World of Sports Susan Butcher winning the Iditarod.” He ran his rookie Iditarod in 2000 with Martin Buser’s yearlings and has since run the race twice more. He won the 2011 Canadian Challenge and finished second in the 2012 Wyoming Stage Stop Race. For the last five years, Aaron has been a buffalo ranch manager. Aaron says, “I have been looking forward to returning to Iditarod since scratching in 2009. Having to pull out of the race in Elim was the best thing that could have happened to my mushing career. I gained a new perspective and appreciation for the Iditarod and a new perspective on life in general. I chose to come back to Iditarod because this

Last Great Rae offers the best platform for me to share with others what real motivation is all about. I look forward to visiting schools in my local region of Grade Prairie with the hopes of inspiring other to pursue their dreams in life. In addition to this I plan to climb my way to the front of this race over the next few years. I look forward to competing and climbing the ladder to be the top of this great race. See you in Nome.”

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2000	51	12:17:48:05	2009	Scratched	
2005	45	12:03:23:36			



**Curt Perano – Queenstown, New Zealand**

Website: [None](#)

Curt Perano, 40, was born in New Zealand and raised in Singapore, Europe, the United States and New Zealand. He began running dogs in 2000 and in 2007 moved to Minnesota to handle and work for Jamie Nelson. He and his wife handled for Jamie Nelson for three and a half years. He says, "Jamie had a big influence on how we run dogs." After leaving Minnesota, they moved to Atlin, BC, and trained there for a year. As of July 2012, their team is staged out of Willow, Alaska. Over the last five years, he and his wife, Fleur, have built and developed their own team, running and racing in the Lower 48 and then last year, the Iditarod. "I enjoy the outdoors and running dogs, and as a result, distance racing became a natural progression." Curt has been a consultant for the last nine years. In his spare time, he enjoys skiing, scuba diving and other outdoor activities.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	40	11:22:40:45			



**Nicolas Petit – Girdwood, AK**

Website: None

Nicolas Petit, 33, says his passion for dogs and sledding started while he was in diapers. He credits his first canine companion with teaching him to walk and jump-starting his love of dogs and ultimately dog mushing. Nick was born in France and grew up in Normandy, till the age of 12, when his mother remarried and moved him and his sister to New Mexico. Nick moved to Alaska in 2000, and adopted his first Husky shortly thereafter. During a visit to Wyoming, he went on his first dogsled trip and immediately got "hooked". For this he thanks Iditarod veteran Billy Snodgrass for putting him on the runners. Ten years after adopting that beautiful Alaskan husky, he named Ugly, working construction, and dabbling with sled dog tour scene, he decided to pursue competitive dog mushing. In fall 2010, Petit connected with 15-time Iditarod finisher Jim Lanier. Petit's plan was to volunteer for Lanier, and possibly complete Iditarod qualifying races. However, Lanier's hip needed replacing, so he asked Petit to run his team for 2011. Petit took on the challenge of qualifying, training and raising funds all in the same year as his rookie Iditarod. Petit not only met the challenge, he exceeded it by finishing in 28th place, first among 13 rookies, garnering him the 2011 Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year Award. Petit lists his hobbies as snow sports and fishing.

Total prize money: \$2,400

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	28	10:15:43:01	2012	29	10:24:23:00

**Award**

2011 ..... Jerry Austin Rookie of the Yea



**Michelle Phillips – Tagish, YT CANADA**

Website: [www.yukonhuskies.com](http://www.yukonhuskies.com)

Michelle Phillips, 44, was born and raised in Whitehorse, YT. Growing up she was a competitive figure skater. As a young adult, she traveled the world until she decided to stay in the Yukon. Michelle Phillips and her partner Ed Hopkins own and operate Tagish Lake Kennel. Michelle has run six Yukon Quest races (best finish 4<sup>th</sup> and Vet's Choice award in 2009) and three [Iditarods](#) (best finish 16th). For the past 13 years, when not racing professionally, Ed and Michelle, with their son Keegan, 13, (and up to 90 Alaskan huskies) have provided visitors with sled dog adventures of 30 minutes to 7-days throughout the year. She lists her hobbies as reading, biking, cooking and jogging.

Total prize money: \$3,400

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	27	10:08:31:12	2012	16	10:08:18:01
2011	17	09:20:22:22			

**Award**

2012 ..... Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk



**Ray Redington, Jr. – Wasilla, AK**

Website: [www.teamredington.com](http://www.teamredington.com)

Ray Redington, Jr., 37, was born and raised in Alaska. The grandson of Iditarod co-founder, Joe Redington, Sr. and son of Iditarod veteran, Raymie Redington, Ray says that he's been mushing since he can remember. "Iditarod has always been around my family." After running the Jr. Iditarod several times, he took a break from mushing. He began racing again in 2000. He is married to the former Julia Flodin, daughter of Iditarod veteran, Steve Flodin. They lived in Two Rivers for nine years and then moved back to Knik to be closer to family. Ray and Julia's daughter, Ellen, will be seven during the 2013 Iditarod and son, Isaac, will be four in December of this year. Ray says he enjoys hunting, fishing and my kids. He lists his occupation as "musher."

Total prize money: \$136,605

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	35	12:18:14:42	2008	18	10:05:38:16
2002	14	09:21:26:18	2009	20	11:09:59:15
2003	15	10:19:04:08	2010	11	09:12:53:44
2004	20	10:14:21:31	2011	7	09:05:41:05
2005	25	10:17:04:00	2012	6	09:12:19:11
2007	17	10:12:43:10			

**Awards**

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



**Christine Roalofs – Anchorage AK - Rookie**

Website: none

Christine Roalofs, 46, was born in Ohio and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. She received her DMD from the University of Louisville and a certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from Children’s Hospital in Buffalo. In 1999, following completion of her residency, she moved to Wasilla, where she worked as a pediatric dentist for two years. She then moved to Anchorage and opened her own practice. She also contracts with Norton Sound Health Corporation to provide dental care to young children in Nome, Shaktoolik, Gambell, St. Michael and Brevig Mission. She began mushing in 2006. She says, “After volunteering for the Iditarod several times, I got the ‘bug’ and started building my own team. Several short races later, I was ready to tackle some qualifying races. After several years of 200-300 mile races, I am ready to travel the Iditarod Trail with my dogs. I have a motley and

lovable crew ranging in age from three to 10 years old. I purchased most of my dogs from other mushers but did have two litters of puppies. I maintain a small kennel in Anchorage and am looking forward to experiencing all Iditarod has to offer.” In her spare time, Christine enjoys road and mountain biking, guitar, t-ball coaching and quilting.



**Jessie Royer – Fairbanks, AK**

Website: [www.huskypower.com/jessie](http://www.huskypower.com/jessie)

Jessie Royer, 34, was born in Idaho. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana where she lived for 21 years. She worked on ranches as a horse wrangler & horse teamster. She says she got her first sled dogs when she was 15. She started learning about dogs from Doug Swingley whom she worked with for a couple of years. She had dogs in Montana seven years before moving to Alaska in the spring on 1998. In December of 2011 she went back to the ranch in Montana to work but plans to train this winter back in Fairbanks. Jessie has extensive mushing experience including having won Montana’s Race to the Sky when she was only 17 and she was the winner of the invitational La Grande Odyssey in France in 2005. She says her hobbies are horses, hunting, mounted shooting, drawing, braiding and photography.

Total prize money: \$175,487.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	14	11:23:04:40	2007	21	10:15:25:05
2003	20	11:04:09:08	2008	14	10:01:00:20
2004	21	10:14:23:32	2009	8	10:15:07:25
2005	8	10:01:03:30	2010	15	09:16:04:40
2006	11	09:23:23:04	2011	10	09:09:23:17

**Awards**

- 2001 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 2001 ..... Rookie of the Year
- 2009 ..... Lead Dog – Lolly Medley Golden Harness Award



**Brent Sass – Eureka, AK**

Website: [www.wildandfreealaska.com](http://www.wildandfreealaska.com)

Brent Sass, 33, owner and founder of Wild and Free Mushing, has been racing and training huskies for seven years. Originally from Excelsior, Minnesota, Sass moved to Alaska in 1998 to “fulfill a lifelong dream of living in Alaska.” He attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks (1998-2002) where he graduated with a major in Geography. He began mushing in 2003 and after working for Susan Butcher, Brent says, “I knew I was going to run the Iditarod,” Since his first race in 2006, Sass has placed in over 20 races, including several first place finishes. He has run the 1000 mile Yukon Quest six times with his highest finish, fourth in 2011. He was the Rookie of the Year in the 2012 Iditarod. Brent lists his occupation(s) as “dog musher, gold miner, guide, and landlord.” Brent lists his hobbies and interests as “wilderness travel, hunting, fishing and camping.”

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	13	09:20:25:25			

**Awards**

2012 ..... Jerry Austin Memorial Rookie of the Year



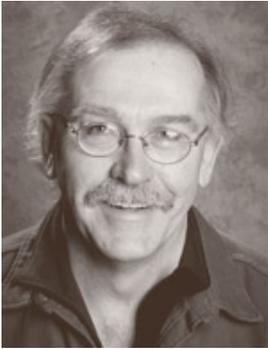
**Justin Savidis – Willow, AK**

Website: [www.snowhookkennel.blogspot.com](http://www.snowhookkennel.blogspot.com)

In 2004, Justin, 38, and his wife, Rebecca, packed their worldly belongings into a truck and a trailer (complete with a rocking chair strapped to the top) and moved to Willow, Alaska, to follow a job offer, and more importantly, to chase down a dream of running dogs. It was a quick journey from having a couple of dogs and handling for other mushers to establishing a kennel of their own, and then setting the goal to prepare for and race in the Iditarod. Today, they operate Snowhook Kennel comprised of 40+ dogs—some are rescues, some procured from other mushers, and others are a result of the Snowhook Kennel recipe. Growing up in Southeast Idaho, Justin has always sought out adventure including mountaineering and whitewater kayaking. Mushing and the Iditarod are a natural fit for Justin’s sense of and need for adventure—he and the dogs live for pulling the snow

hook! Justin’s racing career includes a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 208 Don Bowers 300 mile race and a second to last place finish in the Knik 200 (thank you, stomach flu). Justin earned his degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism with an emphasis on experiential education from the University of Utah in 2002. Before coming to Alaska, Justin was a teacher at a treatment center in Park City Utah. Driven to help others, his career path has been focused on working with youth at risk. In addition to running dogs, Justin enjoys kayaking, building, reading, climbing, and mountaineering.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	Scratched		2012	45	12:04:45:53
2011	39	12:06:08:03			



**David Sawatzky – Healy, AK**  
**Website: none**

David Sawatzky, 59, was born and raised in Minnesota. He moved to Montana in 1981 and from there to Alaska in 1983 for a job. He recently retired from his job as an equipment operator, which he'd done for 25 years. David began running dogs in 1985 and ran the Yukon Quest a few times before first running the Iditarod. David is married to Jeanne and they have two adult children, Nikalus and Sara.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1995	15	10:12:58:03	1999	15	10:21:53:13
1996	8	09:22:29:00	2000	26	10:13:14:15
1997	19	10:17:54:00	2006	42	10:13:14:15
1998	15	10:07:28:58	2009	scratched	

**Award**

- 1995 ..... Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year
- 1996 ..... Alaska Airlines Humanitarian



**Dallas Seavey – Willow, AK**  
**Website: NONE**

Dallas Seavey, 25, was born in Virginia and his family moved to Seward when he was five. He is a third generation musher who grew up helping his dad, Mitch, the 2004 Iditarod champion, train his racing teams. He ran the Jr. Iditarod four times and in 2005, Dallas became the youngest musher in history to run the Iditarod. He also wrestled for Sky View High School and spent one year training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. He is a High School State Champion, a Jr. National Champion, and was on the 2005 Jr. World team. In 2009, he and his family moved to Willow to "train our Iditarod team." Dallas' current occupation is training and racing sled dogs. In 2011, he won the Yukon Quest and in 2012, he became the youngest Iditarod champion in its history. He is one of four mushers ever to hold a championship in both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod. Dallas and his wife, Jen, also an Iditarod veteran, are the parents of two year old Annie.

Total prize money: \$106,900

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2005	51	12:19:34:48	2010	8	09:10:04:20
2007	41	12:08:08:11	2011	4	09:02:27:18
2009	6	10:14:49:45	<b>2012</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:04:29:2</b>

**Award**

- 2009 ..... Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher
- 2010 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
- 2012 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Truck
- 2012 ..... Wells Fargo Winner's Purse
- 2012 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness Award Winner – His Lead Dog Guinness



**Mitch Seavey – Sterling, AK**

Website: [www.ididaride.com](http://www.ididaride.com)

Mitch Seavey, 53, was born in Minnesota and moved with his family to Alaska in 1963. He graduated from high school in Seward and wrestled for Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. He began mushing in 1963. Mitch's dad, Dan, ran the Iditarod in 1973 so he decided he wanted to run the Iditarod someday. After running eleven Iditarods, Mitch won the race in 2004. In 2008, Mitch was the winner of the All Alaska Sweepstakes, held that year as a commemoration of the original All Alaska Sweepstakes. Mitch and Janine are the parents of four boys, three of whom have run the Jr. Iditarod and the Iditarod, Danny, Tyrell and Dallas. The youngest, Conway, is 15 and won the Jr. Iditarod in 2012. Mitch is a member of the Resurrection Bay Historical Society and the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers. He says his hobbies are writing, hunting and "whatever my kids are

doing."

Total prize money: \$454,105.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1982	22	17:10:27:00	<b>2004</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:12:20:22</b>
1995	20	11:07:00:00	2005	3	09:19:20:58
1996	15	10:06:27:00	2006	9	11:07:39:27
1997	16	10:14:31:55	2007	9	09:19:30:23
1998	4	09:12:18:00	2008	7	09:20:42:31
1999	11	10:14:26:29	2009	4	10:14:18:00
2000	9	09:19:15:45	2010	10	09:12:08:54
2001	42	13:07:56:06	2011	Scratched	
2002	11	09:14:25:10	2012	7	09:10:13:58
2003	12	10:14:12:10			

**Awards**

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



**Cim Smyth – Big Lake, AK**

Website: [www.perseverancespringsfarm.com](http://www.perseverancespringsfarm.com)

Cim Smyth, 36, was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. The family moved to the Wasilla area in 1991. He is the son of Iditarod veteran "Bud" Smyth. Cim says he's been mushing "since I was big enough to stand on a sled." He lists his occupation as "musher." He is married to Corrine.

Total prize money: \$156,652.88

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	18	10:08:00:00	2008	12	09:22:24:19
2003	27	11:42:14:44	2009	5	10:14:27:50
2004	43	11:18:58:00	2010	23	10:05:05:00
2005	34	11:12:24:50	2011	21	10:05:59:44
2006	12	09:23:31:50	2012	24	10:21:26:58
2007	11	10:02:16:40			

**Awards**

- 1996 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 1996 ..... Rookie of the Year
- 2004 ..... Sportsmanship
- 2004 ..... Most Inspirational Musher
- 2006 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 2007 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 2008 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome



**Ramey Smyth – Willow, AK**

Website: [www.smythracingteam.com](http://www.smythracingteam.com)

Ramey Smyth, 37, was born and raised in Alaska, the son of Iditarod veterans Bud Smyth and the late Lolly Medley. His father, Bud Smyth, raced in the first Iditarod, and his mother, Lolly Medley, raced in the second Iditarod. Ramey has lived all over the State and says he moved to Willow to put down roots and build a home for his wife and children. He says he’s been mushing since he was “born.” He ran the Jr. Iditarod twice and won both times. He ran his first Iditarod in 1994 and has only skipped one year since. He is a log builder and dog musher. He says that his hobbies are hunting, fishing, reading, boxing and helping young children learn about sled dogs. . Ramey says, “I am entering the Iditarod to win. I love to run dogs and care for dogs. I love that my family can be so involved in this sport as they all love dogs. I would like to bring awareness to the need for

cancer research funding. I am running under the banner of abstinence from drugs and alcohol.” Ramey and his wife, Rebecca, are the parents of Ava, 5 and Banyan, 2.

Total prize money: \$426,553.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	21	12:06:46:10	2004	4	09:16:23:50
1995	19	11:00:07:07	2005	20	10:16:12:59
1997	15	10:14:11:20	2006	18	10:03:32:40
1998	6	09:21:47:23	2007	16	10:10:20:18
1999	12	10:15:37:10	2008	3	09:18:52:06
2000	11	09:22:08:26	2009	9	10:17:52:08
2001	13	11:22:16:40	2010	6	09:07:47:50
2002	7	09:12:02:29	2011	2	08:19:50:59
2003	7	10:07:10:33	2012	3	09:06:04:04

**Awards**

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



**Jerry Sousa – Talkeetna, AK**

Website: <http://www.sundogkennel.com/>

Jerry Sousa, 54, was born in California where he lived until he was 12. He moved to Alaska with his family in 1971 and has been here ever since, graduating from Susitna Valley High School in Talkeetna and he attended UAA. He began mushing in 1978 and said he became interested in the Iditarod by listening to KHAR radio reports on the Race. He's a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. and the IOFC and he owns Talkeetna Adventure Company, LLC. He and Kathleen are the parents of Nicolas, 10, and Jerry has two adult children, Denali and Fritha. Jerry lists his hobbies and interests as hunting, flying, and family.

Total prize money: \$24,700.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2002	35	11:30:35:55	2008	31	10:22:00:26
2003	38	13:00:30:15	2009	27	11:21:52:19
2004	16	10:09:30:20	2010	30	10:13:52:53
2005	32	11:10:31:47	2011	38	12:06:06:30
2006	27	10:14:07:18	2012	20	10:19:27:50
2007	Scratched				



**Jan Steves – Edmonds, Washington**

Website: [www.jansteves.com](http://www.jansteves.com)

Jan Steves, 56, was born and raised in Edmonds, Washington. In 2009 she moved to Alaska to run dogs and train for the Iditarod. A 1974 graduate of Edmonds High School, she attended the University of Washington. She is currently employed in property management/repairs. She began mushing in 2008 and says she first became interested in the Iditarod "when I first spent time with sled dogs in 2007." Jan is the mother of three adult children, Nicole, Tyler, and Kelsey. She lists her hobbies as fishing, boating, hiking, skiing, and bike riding.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	53	14:11:57:03			

**Awards**

2012 ..... Wells Fargo Red Lantern



**Ed Stielstra – McMillan, MI**

Website: [www.natureskennel.com](http://www.natureskennel.com)

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

Ed, 42, was born in Michigan and raised in Kalamazoo and Ludington, where he was introduced to sled dogs and started Nature's Kennel. He received a B.S. from Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University. After getting married in 1998, the newlyweds relocated, along with their dogs, to Duluth, Minnesota, where Ed worked in a foundry and Tasha taught elementary school. Since

returning to Michigan in 2002, this time to McMillan, because of snow, trails and lack of neighbors, both Ed and Tasha operate Nature's Kennel full time. This winter will be their tenth season operating dog sled tours. They provide day and overnight tours at their main kennel location in McMillan and also at Boyne Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs, Michigan and at Sunday River Resort in Bethel, Michigan.

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

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

When not racing, training, running tours, or presenting, Ed enjoys spending time with Tasha and Nate in his home state of Michigan. He is a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. and the UPSDA. Ed is proud to be among the mushers representing the lower 48 states at the Iditarod.

Total prize money: \$5,900.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	60	12:11:48:52	2009	32	12:06:35:12
2005	43	12:02:40:51	2011	27	10:14:01:30
2006	46	11:18:02:53	2012	25	10:21:59:59
2008	29	10:17:28:05			



#### Michael Suprenant – Chugiak, AK

Website: [www.suprekennels.com](http://www.suprekennels.com)

Michael Suprenant, 48, was born in Germany while his dad was stationed there. He spent his youth living in Germany, Texas, and New Mexico. After High School, he joined the Air Force as an avionics technician, working on various aircraft including F-4s, A-10s, C-130s, C-5s, C-141s, KC-10s, KC-135s, and the C-17. Mike has spent time all over the world including Hawaii, Japan, Australia, and Saudi Arabia. He came to Alaska with the Air Force in 1997 and says he volunteered for Alaska expecting great skiing and fishing. He began thinking about the Iditarod at that time and became an Iditarod volunteer. After the Air Force, he decided to stay in Alaska to pursue his Iditarod dream. Mike began mushing in 2001 and moved to Chugiak from Anchorage to be able to run dogs. With some great advice from Iditarod veterans and his own experiences as a volunteer on the trail, he crafted a plan to run the Iditarod. Mike currently is a Civil Service worker for the U.S. Army at Elmendorf A.F.B. He has a BA in Business and has been in contracting for three years. Michael is a member of the Chugiak Dog Mushers and lists his hobby for this summer as "painting my house."

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	Scratched		2010	Scratched	
2009	49	15:03:10:38	2012	Scratched	



**Rick Swenson – Two Rivers, AK**  
 Website: NONE

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

Total prize money: \$611,076.00

YEA	POSITION	TIME	YEA	POSITION	TIME
1976	10	19:07:57:2	1994	4	10:22:19:4
<b>1977</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16:16:27:</b>	1995	10	09:22:32:0
1978	2	14:18:52:2	1996	Withdrawn	
<b>1979</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15:10:37:</b>	1998	11	09:23:09:4
1980	4	15:10:12:2	1999	4	10:08:19:0
<b>1981</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12:08:45:</b>	2000	8	09:15:09:0
<b>1982</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16:04:40:</b>	2001	4	10:15:57:2
1983	5	13:02:49:4	2002	19	09:23:41:1
1984	6	13:07:04:2	2003	11	10:12:36:4
1985	4	18:07:29:2	2004	7	09:18:59:3
1986	3	11:23:59:4	2005	scratched	
1987	2	11:06:25:4	2006	26	10:13:27:3
1988	2	12:02:10:0	2007	25	10:18:42:4
1989	3	11:08:50:5	2008	13	09:23:43:1
1990	7	11:16:55:4	2009	25	11:17:12:5
<b>1991</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12:16:34:</b>	2010	20	09:22:53:2
1992	4	11:07:51:4	2011	20	10:04:52:3
1993	9	11:08:14:4	2012	30	10:23:44:0

**Awards**

- 1977 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 1979 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 1980 .....Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 1983 .....Sportsmanship
- 1989 .....Regal Alaskan Hotel First to the Yukon
- 1991 .....Lead Dog – Golden Harness
- 1992 .....Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 1996 .....Most Inspirational Musher
- 2002 .....Fred Meyer Sportsmanship
- 2004 .....Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 2011 .....ExxonMobil Musers’ Choice



### Angie Taggart – Ketchikan, AK

Website: [www.mushingadventures.blogspot.com](http://www.mushingadventures.blogspot.com)

Angie Taggart, 38, was born in Idaho and grew up in Ketchikan, Alaska, where the family moved when she was five years old because of jobs. She went to college at Boise State University and the University of Southeast Alaska-Juneau and then went back to Ketchikan where she taught for 10 years. She began mushing in 2001 when she was a handler for DeeDee Jonrowe. In 2011 she moved to the Anchorage/Wasilla area to train for the 2011 Iditarod. A member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Masters Swimming. She says her hobbies are swimming, hiking, kayaking and fishing.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	43	13:01:49:24			



### Mikhail Teplin – Yarakanot, Chukotka RUSSIA - Rookie

Website: <http://www.RacingBeringia.com>

Mikhail Telpin, 59, comes from a region of Chukotka in Russia with a team of hardy Chukchi sled dogs. "A marine mammal hunter by profession, I am on my second winter in Willow, Alaska, where I am part of *Team Racing Beringia*--a free online education program *live* at [RacingBeringa.com](http://RacingBeringa.com) our team has set out to explore and run the great races of the Beringia region with both Chukchi and Alaskan Husky dogs. Beringia is the ice-free steppe in Yukon, Alaska, and Chukotka where my ancestors and their sled dogs came across from Asia to North America during the last ice-age. Sled dogs are part of our ancient culture in Chukotka—the oldest remain of sled dogs, bones more than 8000 years old, have been found on our land in Alaska and across the

Arctic region; actually, the celebrated Togo, who lead Seppala in the 1925 Serum Run to Nome was a Chukchi dog! Sled dogs have been my life. As a child on the tundra the dogs took us hunting and transported us; that is still the way for me today where I have about 20+ dogs with my family in the community of Yarakanot on the coast of the Bering Strait; we hunt seal and walrus with the dogs even travel across the tundra on steel runners when it is covered with grasses instead of snow during the summertime. I cannot imagine a life without my dogs. I race every year too—my first race was in 1994, the first time I raced in our national race Nadezhda-Hope in Chukotka, Nadezhda. This race brings us great pride as we travel from community to community sharing the traditions of dogsleds and traditional dancing." Mikhail ran and finished the Yukon Quest, his first race in North America. He is married to Zoya and their three children are Ekaterina, 20, Petr, 18 and Anna, 6. He lists his hobbies as hunting and fishing.



### James Volek, Big Lake, AK - Rookie

James Volek, 24, was born and raised in "lower" Michigan. He says he has always been an admirer of the outdoors. "My family instilled in me an appreciation of nature -- hunting, fishing, hunting, fishing, camping, trapping, and helping my aunt raise leader dogs for the blind. These are my fondest memories." After finishing high school, he went to Northern Michigan University in the Upper Peninsula, where he graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. After graduation he answered his own "call of the wild." "I sought adventure in a land rich with opportunity—Alaska. I worked as a handler the summer of 2011 for Alaskan Icefield Expeditions, on the Mendenhall Glacier outside Juneau. I fell in love with sled dogs and this great state. I left Juneau in the fall of 2011 wanting to learn more about Alaska and the mushing life-style. So I moved to Big Lake Alaska, to handle for Martin Buser. I consider it an

opportunity of a lifetime and a great honor to be running Martin's yearling team in the 2013 Iditarod. James lists his hobbies as hunting, fishing, trapping and anything else outdoors.



**Mike Williams, Jr. – Akiak, AK**

Website: None

Michael Williams, Jr., 27, was born and raised in Alaska. Michael says, “I am Yupik Eskimo and I have lived in rural Alaska all of my life. My dogs are mainly Alaskan huskies. I grew up mushing, always loved to race and look forward to racing season. I hope to continue to improve in this years’ Iditarod and racing/training season.” He graduated from the Galena Charter School and attended the Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward for a year and FMCT, studying carpentry. He now works in construction as well as being a dog musher. He enjoys playing guitar, relaxing, hunting, fishing and travel.

Total prize money: \$4,000

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	26	10:06:44:36	2012	8	09:13:12:18
2011	13	09:11:59:05			



**Mike Williams – Akiak, AK**

Website: None

Mike Williams, 62, was born and raised in Alaska. He went to Chemawa Indian School in Oregon and attended Kuskokwim College and the University of Alaska, studying counseling. He went on to serve his country in the US Army. He says he’s been mushing “since birth.” He has run the Iditarod 14 times and the Kusko 300 20 times. Mike sat out the last three Iditarods while his son, Michael, Jr., competed. “I am running my 15<sup>th</sup> Iditarod for a cause that I really believe in, SOBRIETY! We always had dogs for transportation and for our survival as Yupiaq Peoples of Western Alaska. Upon retirement, I went back to Akiak to raise our children. We will continue to be involved in the ‘Last Great Race on Earth’ and other races throughout Alaska. It has been a huge honor to drive those dogs. Thanks to my family and sponsors who have enabled me to do these things.” Mike is a member of the Alaska Native Community and the National Congress of American Indians. He says he enjoys reading, karate, hunting, fishing, gathering and spending time with grand kids. Mike is married to Maggie. They have 5 adult children.

Total prize money: \$10,150

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1992	44	14:08:46:47	2001	37	12:20:21:05
1993	31	14:17:55:41	2002	38	11:22:23:46
1994	28	12:13:13:25	2003	31	12:01:11:11
1997	18	10:15:45:02	2004	37	11:06:40:06
1998	23	11:01:57:35	2005	36	11:13:29:07
1999	23	11:12:03:50	2007	39	12:00:32:17
2000	28	10:19:29:40	2009	42	13:00:17:30

**Awards**

- 1992 .....Most Inspirational Musher
- 1998 .....Most Inspirational Musher



**Gerry Willomitzer – Whitehorse, YT CANADA**

Website: [www.gerrywillomitzer.com](http://www.gerrywillomitzer.com)

Gerry Willomitzer, 43, was born in Bavaria, Germany and immigrated to Canada in 1996. In 2010 he became a Canadian citizen. Gerry is a multiple Yukon Quest and Iditarod finisher and in 2007 finished both races back-to-back. He has received Humanitarian Awards in the Yukon Quest, Copper Basin and twice in the Percy de Wolfe.

Gerry is a log building contractor and operates “Eldorado Logbuilders Inc.”. Gerry’s hobbies are “logs and dogs.”

Total prize money: \$49,700

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2007	30	11:02:54:08	2010	13	09:14:59:41
2008	16	10:04:46:08	2011	Scratched	
2009	24	11:17:12:35	2012	Scratched	



**Aliy Zirkle – Two Rivers, AK**

Website: [www.SPKDogLog.com](http://www.SPKDogLog.com)

Aliy Zirkle, 43, was born in New Hampshire. She spent her childhood in New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and Missouri. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Biology and came to Alaska in 1990, where she lived in a wall tent on the Alaskan Peninsula and worked for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. She’s lived in Two Rivers for the last 15 years and says she “enjoys the community and the surrounding wild lands.” Aliy lists her occupation as “dog musher” and has finished the Iditarod 11 years. Her 2012 finish was her best ever, finishing in second place. She and her husband, Allen Moore, also an Iditarod musher, share the kennel. Aliy has two adult step daughters, Bridgett and Jennifer. She says she enjoys guiding novice dog mushers on wilderness adventure trips around Alaska.

Total prize money: \$192,688.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	33	12:17:53:33	2007	28	10:19:57:07
2002	29	10:28:01:45	2008	21	10:07:10:21
2003	14	10:17:17:38	2009	17	11:02:28:45
2004	34	11:02:04:44	2010	16	09:18:05:10
2005	11	10:01:46:30	2011	11	09:10:22:31
2006	14	10:00:36:50	2012	2	09:05:29:10

**Award**

- 2005 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 2011 ..... Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 2012.....PenAir Spirit of Alaska Award
- 2012.....Wells Fargo Bank Gold Coast Award

## 2013 TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™

**LINDA FENTON**

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 ski, read, knit, kayak, and run.

Linda is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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://itteacheronthetrail.com>.



**2013 IDITAROD PARTNERS****PRINCIPAL PARTNERS**

Donlin Gold  
GCI  
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**LEAD DOG PARTNERS**

Wells Fargo	Konica Minolta
Millennium Alaskan Hotel	Alaska Airlines
PenAir	Anchorage Daily News
Horizon Lines	Northern Air Cargo

**TEAM DOG PARTNERS**

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Alaska Serigraphics	Beacon/PAML
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## 2013 SPECIAL AWARDS

*See 1973-2012 Awards, Standings & Musher Stats Guide for more information*

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

### **Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Official Truck Award**

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

### **GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway Award**

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

### **Wells Fargo Winner’s Purse Award**

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

### **Wells Fargo Gold Coast Award**

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

### **Wells Fargo Red Lantern Award**

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

### **Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award**

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

### **Sportsmanship Award**

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

### **Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher Award**

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

### **PenAir Spirit of Alaska Award**

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

### **Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time From Safety to Nome Award**

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

### **Rookie of the Year Award**

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

### **City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness Award**

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

### **EXXONMOBIL Musers Choice Award**

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

### **Golden Clipboard Award**

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

### **Golden Stethoscope Award**

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

### **Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial Award**

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

### **Northern Air Cargo 4-Wheeler Award**

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

## 2013 IDITAROD BUSINESS MEMBERS

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

### **907 Tours, LLC**

Hundreds of satisfied guests from around the world have experienced the glaciers, wildlife and world-class scenery of Alaska on our day tours. We invite you to step into one of our clean, modern vans equipped with quality sound, sit back, relax, grab a complimentary bottle of water and a snack, and get ready to enjoy your tour. We specialize in friendly service. Small groups only. No hidden costs. We offer a unique Iditarod Re-Start Tour. 907-947-9425 or [reservations@907toursalaska.com](mailto:reservations@907toursalaska.com).

### **Alaska Fur Cache**

Find all your fur needs, hats, headbands, mittens, earmuffs. Beautiful work at reasonable prices - (907) 277-3877 Anchorage

### **Alaska Grand View Inn & Suites**

The Alaska Grand View Inn & Suites is located in the beautiful Mat-Su Valley, 40 minutes north of Anchorage. One of the newest hotels in Wasilla, the Grand View offers a wide range of facilities including a full size indoor swimming pool, and features 79 comfortable suites. At the Grand View, you'll not only have a grand view, but a great stay! (907) 357-7666 or (866) 710-7666

### **Alaska's Anvik River Lodge**

One of Alaska's most remote, yet extremely comfortable full service fishing lodges will be open this winter for guests during the 2013 Iditarod. Located on the Anvik River 22 air-miles from the village of Anvik's southern route checkpoint and about 50 miles from Unalakeet. Ski plane access only.

### **Alaskan Discovery RV Tours**

Small Caravans, (15) Rig Limit, see and do more – for less cost. We are the only Caravan Company that has a RV repair tech and Certified CPR and Trained AED (Heart defibrillator machine) personnel, with a state of the art machine on each tour. "My commitment to you, is to show you Alaska, at an affordable price, in a fascinating and safe environment. I look forward to seeing you on our next tour." Spike Fortier, Owner/Wagonmaster USA Toll Free (800) 842-7764

### **All Alaska Tours**

All Alaska Tours is one of Alaska's premier travel companies with over twenty years of tour operating experience in Alaska. For the Iditarod we offer a variety of scheduled guided and unguided tours. Let our experience be your guide and contact us toll free at 1-866-317-3325 or email us at [MyVacation@AlaskaTours.com](mailto:MyVacation@AlaskaTours.com) to start planning your dream Alaska vacation today! [MyVacation@AlaskaTours.com](mailto:MyVacation@AlaskaTours.com) USA Toll Free 1 (866) 317-3325

### **Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Make Anchorage the first checkpoint on your Alaska Iditarod adventure. After the dogs leave downtown Anchorage, stay to enjoy rich Alaska Native culture, a thriving city center, snow machining, skiing at Alyeska Resort, flightseeing over the trail and vast, snow-covered mountains, or experience the thrill of dog sledding yourself—all unrivaled wilderness experiences thrilling travelers of all ages. Living large just comes naturally. Discover Anchorage's Big Wild Life™.

**Davis Wright Tremaine**

Located in Anchorage at 701 West 8th Ave - (907) 257-5300

**Diversified Systems Resources****Dream A Dream Dog Farm Mushing Adventures**

Mile 64.5 Parks Highway Summer Kennel Tours – June 1-Sept 1 Tour Hours: 11:00 a.m. / 3:00 p.m. / 6:00 p.m. Join musher Vern Halter for a personal visit at his home and kennel. Learn about his 100,000 miles with his dog team. Meet the sleddogs and cuddle with puppies. Winter and Summer camps available. USA Toll Free (866) 4AK-MUSH (425-6874)

**Exer Play, Inc.****The Golden Corral**

Restaurant at the corner of C Street and Tudor in Anchorage - 4520 Union Square Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 563-9000

**Litzen Guide Service**

Popular all-inclusive guided Iditarod flightseeing adventures. Follow your favorite Iditarod team by air, experience Alaskan village culture.. Excellent trail accommodations including pilot's own private Denali-view log cabin. Summer eco-tour trips also available. mlitzen@kenai.net (907) 776-5868

**Iditarod Champion, Martin Buser's Happy Trails Kennels**

Iditarod Multimedia Trip, Mushing Demonstrations and pet puppies.

**Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau**

See what is happening in the Mat-Su Valley.

**'Oomingmak' Musk Ox Products Co-Operative**

Musk Ox underwool (Qiviut) products handknit with traditional patterns. 605 H Street, Downtown Anchorage (907) 272-9225

**Planet Earth Adventures, LLC**

If you are thinking of traveling to Alaska, trust Planet Earth Adventures to provide your ultimate adventure. We have been guiding small group tours in Alaska since 1999. Our Iditarod Tour combines all of the best things that Alaska has to offer in the winter. Experience the excitement of the Last Great Race on Earth (R) combined with the magical spectacle of the Northern Lights. Our experience provides a number of exciting adventures for our customers and a personalized experience without the regular crowd. Se habla Español. (888) 513-5992

**RAD Torque Systems****Salmon Berry Tours**

Unique tours with a great guide.

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Flightseeing and “chase the race.”

**Sky Trekking Alaska**

The leader of Iditarod Trail tours since 1994, Sky Trekking Alaska offers three, four and 12 day trail trips. Featured is the epic “Expedition Trek” following the entire race from Anchorage to Nome. Lodging, meals and ski plane transportation are included as well as guided side trips to mush dogs, snowmobile and see the insights of remote Alaska. We know the trail and the teams, and we have the experience and enthusiasm to make your tour a lifetime highlight. Contact Cilla Robbins at (907) 315-6098 or [info@skytrekkingalaska.com](mailto:info@skytrekkingalaska.com)

**Solar Turbines****Thrifty Car Rental**

Thrifty Car Rental Anchorage is an Alaskan family owned company which has been operating for 33 years. With 2 convenient locations, one at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and the second, our original location on Spenard Road, we rent a wide range of vehicles new cars, mini vans and SUVs. Use promo code DOGS or look at our city special offers by clicking [thrifty.com](http://thrifty.com).