

## February Interview with Kathy Cappa

3A: What is your job title?

Kathy: While I volunteer for many jobs in the Iditarod, I am the sign language interpreter for the start.

3A: How long have you been doing sign language?

Kathy: I have been signing for around 27 years.

3A: How many races have you done the sign language for?

Kathy: This will be my 4th year interpreting for the race.

3A: What do you sign at the races? Do you just repeat what the announcer says?

Kathy: Yes, I repeat everything the announcer says. As an interpreter, I am not supposed to add my own information or opinions while working.

3A: How do you sign the mushers' names? Do you have to spell them all? Do they give you a paper to look at for that?

Kathy: I spell each musher's name, then will add their sign name if they happen to have one (given to them by the Deaf community). I do have a paper to refer to, but don't usually have time to look at it. I also work with another interpreter. We will help each other out when needed.

3A: Who is your favorite musher?

Kathy: I do not have a favorite musher. Well, maybe I do, but I can't tell you that! It's a secret! Since I have so many musher friends, I would not want to hurt anyone's feelings.

3A: Do you have a prediction about who will win?

Kathy: I have no prediction who will win. There are SO MANY good teams this year. People to watch: women - Aliy Zirkle, Michelle Phillips past champions - Martin Buser, Jeff King, Mitch Seavey, Dallas Seavey, Robert Sorlie, John

Baker other men - Aaron Burmeister, Nicolas Petit, Ray Redington Jr., Hugh Neff, Ken Anderson, Jake Berkowitz (See, I can't even narrow it down to 10!)

3A: Do you think they will move the race? If they do will you go to Fairbanks?

Kathy: I think they may move the race, although there is very little snow on the Fairbanks route, too. I am not sure if I will be able to go to Fairbanks, as I will have to be on a plane 2 days later for my next volunteer effort.

3A: .Do you do any other jobs for the race besides signing?

Kathy: I have many jobs throughout the year for Iditarod. In the summer, I set up the volunteer picnic. Throughout the year, I work for the vet team by setting up their supplies. Today, I was at the musher food drop. Tomorrow, I will be at the people (volunteers) food drop. At the restart, I do set-up (start line, fencing, even port-a-potties) and security. During the race, I work for the communication department. I will be on the trail in Galena as part of this job.

3A: How did you get interested in the race in the first place?

Kathy: I became interested in the Iditarod by introducing it to my students many, many years ago!

3A: Do you want to run the race some day?

Kathy: I never want to run the race. It's a LOT of hard work, dedication and money. Not to mention, I really don't like to be outside for long periods of time in cold, cold wind! However, I love the dogs and the mushers so I'll keep volunteering instead.

3A: Is doing sign language your full time job or do you have another job too?

Kathy: I am a teacher, just like Mrs. Reiter. I use sign language to communicate with my students while teaching language, reading, math, science, and social studies. I only interpret when I get the opportunity.

Hope you all enjoy the race!!!

Kathy Cappa (Yes, that is what my students call me!)