

Iditarod eRunner

An Online Publication



Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

Spring Issue

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Iditarod

e-Runner

The Official Publication of the Iditarod Trail Committee

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Iditarod 2014... Nobody Writes a Script for This... It Just Happens

A Race to Remember....

Congratulations to Dallas Seavey, 2014 Iditarod Champion!

Each Iditarod is unique. For race fans, the 2014 Iditarod was an event that kept them glued to their computers and in awe of each event as it unfolded.

Unlike a play that is scripted, well planned, organized, and performed by actors reciting their lines while performing on a stage, this race's production team is always managed by Mother Nature and the stage is the Iditarod Trail. Each moment of the Iditarod is the Greatest Reality Show on Earth.

So unpredictable was this year's race that even the 2014 Champion, Dallas Seavey, didn't recognize his champion status until he was beneath the Burled Arch in Nome. Each shock and awe kind of day during the race will provide race fans of today and the future, many legends and stories from the 2014 Iditarod.

Rookie Christian Turner shared this part of his dramatic race after briefly losing his team and finding it safe and sound, "As I

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2014 Iditarod Champion Dallas Seavey



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skidded my way down the trail I could hear the dogs in front but they were getting farther and farther away. The trail was ice covered and slippery and I was wearing some pretty heavy winter gear.. I knew I was moving at a fast pace as sweat went pouring down my face and back. My feet were beginning to way me down.. the hill I started climbing was even more slippery than the trail past... I slipped and fell ... this was not going well, and the feeling of encroaching doom was growing. I picked myself up and started shambling myself up the ice covered hill. As I crested the peak I could see my team!... I reached the tangled mess of dogs and started working my magic... four females to the right of the trail necklines double looped around trees... 10 males to the right the same way. Then I carefully went over each dog. NOT ONE INJURY!!!! I felt like some higher power was playing a funny joke on me then felt bad and let me be. [\(Read the rest of his account at this link.\)](#)

Danny Seavey recounts, "I left Koyuk shortly before dawn. Much to my surprise, the trail was perfect. There was snow, markers, no wind, and the dogs loved it. The big rest had worked wonders, and every dog was running perfectly. A sense of relief came over me. For the first time in the race, I knew I was going to make it. I still had both Dodge and Ditka, we only had 160 miles to go, and were moving well. About that time the sun came up, with little rainbows on either side. A sundog. It was the first run since Yentna that I was able to truly enjoy, and not worry about making it, or keeping the team together. The last several

miles into Elim are uphill on a road, and I was still standing on the brakes to hold 8.9mph. My strategy had worked, we were going to be fine, just one more day to go." [\(Read the rest of his story at this link.\)](#)

Rookie musher from Norway, Yvonne Dabakk shares, "I stood with both feet on the brake down Front street - not that it really slowed us down. They were running like crazy towards the finish line, tails wagging as we got in. I snacked them and they were all eating as if I hadn't been feeding them since our start in Anchorage. It was so good to see Kenneth! Also Ralph, Trude, Roger, Espen, Kari Skogen (Lisbeth's mom), Race Marshall Mark Nordman, head vet Stu Nelson and so many more that I am probably forgetting were there to congratulate. Many faces of volunteers and vets that I had seen on the trail. I was so proud of our team, unbelievable what these 11 amazing dogs had accomplished. Interviews were given, the sled checked and I formally got to sign into Nome - thereby finishing the race as a rookie and moving on to veteran status. I don't think it is possible to describe the feeling of crossing the finish line. Neither do I think I understood that



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Mother Nature Trumps All or The Last Great & Toughest Race

By Terrie Hanke

Iditarod 42 will be remembered for a very long time. It'll be the race that almost started in Fairbanks, the race where Mother Nature threw every curve ball she could, the race that makes all the syndicated survivor shows look like a Sunday walk in the park and the race where the finish couldn't have been scripted by the most imaginative Hollywood writer in the fashion it turned out..

Martin Buser at his traditional post race meet and greet at the McClain Library in Nome even suggested that those who participated in the 2014 race should all participate in counseling for post-traumatic stress syndrome. The best counselors for PTSD are those who've experienced the stress and have come to terms with it. Martin pointed out the mushers of the 2014 race are in a bind when it comes to finding a qualified counselor. There's never been a race like this one. Could they turn to Libby Riddles with her storm run in 1985? Could they turn to Rick Swenson who in the 1991 race managed to forge ahead in fierce weather and claim his fifth Iditarod victory while Susan



Butcher, Joe Runyan and Tim Osmar, all ahead of Swenson, returned to White Mountain? Both would be good choices as they'd listen with empathy and nod knowingly as mushers told them of the cards Mother Nature dealt in the Dalzell Gorge, the Buffalo Tunnels and along the coast. Would they really understand, had they been through the same intensity of treacherous technical trail and brutal weather in their runs to Nome? You have a point here Martin, who would facilitate those counseling sessions? Both Swenson and Riddles were on the welcoming end in Nome this year and looked quite happy in that role, definitely not appearing to be longing for the fierce storms on the coast or treacherous trail in the interior.

DeeDee Jonrowe once said, "The difference between an adventure and ordeal is between your ears - it's what you make of it. The guy wearing the coolest blue parka of all sixty-nine mushers of Iditarod 42 seems to have put that advice from DeeDee to use as he offered his thoughts about The Last Great & Toughest Race. Leaning on the snow fence adjacent to the burlled arch in Nome, Matt Failor said that he was very happy to have had the opportunity to run in the 2014 Iditarod and to experience the race that would long be remembered and talked about as not just the toughest race in recent history but the toughest Iditarod of all time.

(Continued on page 5)



Failor finished in 15th place, very admirable for a fellow who ran his own dogs for the first time in Iditarod. Failor, who's run Buser teams to Nome in 2012 & 2013, is also a Yukon Quest Veteran. As Matt welcomed his peers to the burlled arch on Front Street, one could sense his feeling of accomplishment, his feeling of awe as well as his deep respect for Mother Nature and his fellow competitors. Failor has recently established his own kennel, 17th Dog. He has lofty goals that begin with a breeding program to create championship caliber Alaskan Huskies. Exactly what color blue is his parka? I was hoping he'd remember from when he purchased it but he said he didn't pay attention to the name but really liked the blue. I think we landed on calling it electric blue.

Take a closer look at Failor's finish in 15th along with Richie Diehl in 14th and Wade Marris in 16th to see some remarkable improvements over their previous runs. Richie Diehl received the honor of Most Improved Musher moving up from 36th place in 2013, improving his finish time by roughly 30 hours. Failor improved his 28th place finish in 2013 by twenty-one hours. Marris cut twenty-four hours off his 2013 finish time as well as 16 places. Had Diehl, Failor and Marris finished with their 2013 median run time of 10 days, 17 hours and 5 minutes in 2014, the threesome would have found themselves along side Allen Moore at 27th place for Iditarod 42.

Calling the trail hard and fast in 2014 was a bit of an understatement. Consider the personal best times set by Diehl, Failor and Marris. Also consider the record set in 2002 by Martin Buser when he made the burlled arch in 8 days, 22 hours and 46 minutes. How much more of that 9th day could mushers shave off?

In 2011, John Baker, set a new best time record that seemed pretty durable - 8 days, 18 hours and 46 minutes. Durable until March of 2014 when Dallas Seavey, the youngest person to ever win Iditarod became a grand champion with a time of 8 days, 13 hours and 4 minutes. The top ten mushers to make the burlled arch in Iditarod 42 all bested Mitch Seavey's 2013 winning time of 9 days, 7 hours and 39 minutes. The top three, Dallas Seavey, Aliy Zirkle and Mitch Seavey all arrived ahead of John Baker's former record. Add the next two finishers to the list, Joar Leifseth Ulsom and Sonny Lindner, and there were five who completed the 2014 race in less than Buser's former record. The question still remains, how much more of the 9th day can the mushers shave off and who will receive the credit - Mother Nature for the trail, the musher for strategy or the dogs for speed and agility? Doubt that you'll lose any money betting that Dallas' record will stand for a long time and when it is broken it won't be by a large chunk of time.



It wasn't just the front of the pack that made the arch in record time. Marcelle Fressineau set a new fastest Red Lantern time, making Nome in 13 days, 4 hours and 42 minutes. To be exact, she holds the new record by twenty-four minutes. Swiss born Fressineau who now lives near Whitehorse came into Nome looking a whole lot better than the previous record holder, Celeste Davis. Davis, a nurse from Montana, running her rookie Iditarod in 2010, looked perfectly fine at Skwentna. Ditto for Finger Lake, Puntilla Lake, Rainy Pass Summit and most of the way to Rohn. But while running down the Dalzell Gorge, her sled flipped. Being drug along the trail with her face pretty close to the ground, Celeste held on hoping to stop the team and right the sled but before that could happen, a stump caught her right between the eyes. Judging from the blood and pain, Celeste knew her nose was broken. The full effect of her injury, purple and red masked eyes and swelling, was stunningly apparent in McGrath. By the time she reached Nome, the swelling had diminished a bit and the color around her eyes was changing from purple and red to yellow and green. Looking somewhat the worse for wear, Celeste extinguished the widow's lamp and accepted the Red Lantern in Nome setting a new record for the final finisher of 13 days, 5 hours and 6 minutes. David Straub had held that record since 2002 with a time of 14 days, 5 hours and 38 minutes. Celeste's 2010 experience in the gorge sounds very much like stories told by some of the Iditarod 42 mushers.

As mushers took their 24-hour layover in McGrath they seemed to have recovered sufficiently from the trauma of the Dalzell Gorge and the Buffalo Tunnels and were willing to talk about how they managed to navigate those portions of the trail. Danny Seavey, driving Matt Giblin's puppy team said he put Ditka in lead, an older dog that wasn't particularly fast or fond of ice. Knowing better than to run Ditka over, the rest of the team followed his pace. Even with Ditka in lead, Seavey's trip down the ice covered

rocky gorge sounded pretty dicey. Danny's first person account of his 2014 Iditarod can be found at Iditarod.com under Exclusive Race Coverage. Jason Mackey simply cut his dog power down. The guy knew his dogs well enough to release the dogs that would come back when called and let them free-run the trail. Next step, remove tug lines except for the leaders and cut power of the dogs left on the line by running with necklines only. Rookie, Lisbet Norris, had a specially designed drag pad with seventeen spikes that a friend had created specifically for her to use on the icy trail in the gorge.



(continue on page 7)

Lisbet had many words of praise for her leader Ruby as well as the drag pad and the friend who was the savvy inventor. Marcelle Fressineau had a strategy that would have served Celeste Davis well back in 2010. When Fressineau wanted her team to stop she simply laid the sled on its side and called whoa. Whoa is a part of every musher's vocabulary but it's not every dog team that listens for and executes the command especially when they are having the time of their life charging down hill. Clearly innovation was the one strategy that served everyone well.



Yes, the weather, the trail, and luck - both good and bad filled Iditarod 2014 with drama unequalled in recent memory and perhaps unequalled in all of Iditarod history.



It was a race where Mother Nature called the shots and she herself played every trump card. Craig Medrid in *Graveyard of Dreams*, sums up The Last Great and Toughest Race saying, "Iditarod leaves all who enter feeling different than their fellow man. It's the biggest, grandest, craziest thing they'll ever do



Thanks
Volunteers!

We appreciate
all you do!

A G - R - E - A - T RACE

By Stu Nelson, Chief Vet

Iditarod 2014 was a great race! Certainly, there were trail and weather challenges, ultimately leading to a very exciting finish. The severe storm that struck the coast created some unexpected surprises, especially for Dallas Seavey, when he was informed that he had won, rather than placing third as he had initially thought! Congratulations to Dallas for another win!

We commonly use certain adjectives with generally accepted meanings to describe life's experiences. Because of this, their impact may at times be diminished. To be more specific, **Iditarod 2014 was a G-R-E-A-T race**, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you what that means to me.



"G" represents Generosity. Without the generosity of our sponsors and supporters, we wouldn't be here...period! The needs of the veterinary program are broad, including, but not limited to, laboratory testing as part of the pre-race screening of each dog preparing to enter the race, microchip identification of the dogs, air and land transportation of personnel and dogs, lodging of the staff, communications services and veterinary pharmaceuticals and supplies. **Thank you for what you do for the race!**

"R" stands for Routine. Many thousands of routine examinations were performed by my staff of volunteer veterinarians during the course of the race. A total staff of fifty-five veterinarians and twelve veterinary technicians volunteered for 2014. Of this number, the majority (forty-three) served as trail veterinarians, who were responsible for those routine evaluations. Many long hours, day and night, are spent in performing their roles. The IOFC annually selects one or perhaps two veterinarians to receive the Golden Stethoscope Award as recognition for their assistance to the mushers and the dogs during the race. For 2014, the entire team of the trail veterinarians was recognized for what they had accomplished! **I am also very appreciative of my entire staff. Thank you for your dedication!**

"E" means Excellent. As a group, the mushers demonstrated excellent care of their canine athletes. Ultimately, the well-being of the dogs is vital to a successful race and the sport of mushing. The Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award can be given only to one musher, but many were deserving and worthy of that recognition. Congratulations to Martin Buser for receiving this important award, and thanks to the many other mushers who worked so hard on behalf of their sled dogs!

"A" is for All. For this to be such an outstanding race, all of the many volunteers performing their roles were essential for a successful outcome. With a total of approximately two-thousand volunteers, the Iditarod is dependent on their commitment. In addition to the veterinarians and veterinary technicians, those who worked as checkers, dog handlers, pilots, logistics and communications personnel, cooks, security staff and phone room volunteers, each had important functions. **Thank you for all that you were able to accomplish!**

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“T” translates to Team. Mushers, veterinarians and the many other volunteers worked together as a team on behalf of the dogs. Everyone had to focus on doing their very best in whatever role they had in Iditarod 2014. Ultimately, it is imperative that all perform as a unit in order to attain the best possible outcome. Thanks to everyone that made this a successful team effort in bringing all of the dogs home safely! Yes, Iditarod 2014 is over, but I trust that you can appreciate what a truly GREAT race this was!

Dog Care is Priority 1

The Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) takes great pride in its role of providing excellence in dog care, not only during the race, but through an extensive program of pre-race veterinary screening. The result of these efforts is a level of screening and health care that an overwhelming majority of the human population will never experience! Consider the following:

- Within 30 days of the race start, each dog receives an ECG evaluation to check for heart abnormalities. In conjunction with this, pre-race blood tests (CBC's / Chemistry Panels) are performed. All dogs must have a microchip implant at this time.
- A complete pre-race physical examination is performed on each dog by a licensed veterinarian within 14 days of the race start. Vaccinations must be current.
- All dogs are required to be dewormed within 10 days of the race start, using medication provided through the ITC.
- Before entering the Iditarod, a musher must complete approved qualifying races. Generally, it takes a minimum of two years to prepare for the experience as it simply is not possible for someone to participate in the Iditarod without having made a substantial investment of time and effort in coming to understand the intricacies of how to properly manage and care for their dogs. In other words, mushers possess real life experience in providing the proper care (nutrition, hydration, rest, etc.) for their teams.
- In addition to the high standard of care provided by the mushers themselves, more than forty licensed veterinarians volunteer their time on the trail to perform routine evaluations and administer any necessary treatments. During the race, well over 10,000 routine checkpoint veterinary examinations take place.
- Dog Team Diaries, also referred to as “Vet Books,” are carried by each musher. Mushers present them to a veterinarian at each checkpoint, with the purpose of serving as a written medical record for every dog in the race. They are important communication tools.

A dog may be “dropped” from the race for a variety of reasons. Dropped dogs are monitored continuously by the veterinary staff, including routine re-evaluations after their return to Anchorage. Any dog needing follow up veterinary care (very few of those that are dropped from teams do) is transported to an appropriate facility before being released from the ITC veterinary staff. View the [**DROPPED DOG MANUAL**](#).

- 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.” Membership in this organization is not limited to mushers, as veterinarians and other interested individuals can also join. 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.) publishes *The Musher and Veterinary Hand-book*, a highly regarded resource that provides important information for mushers and veterinarians. 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.
- As in other high profile athletic events, random drug testing is conducted. Urine samples are collected at the start, finish and throughout the race.

Race policies and rules are written with the greatest emphasis on the proper care and treatment of the dogs. Any musher found guilty of in-humane treatment would be disqualified and banned from competition in future Iditarods.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Celebration of Life

Joe Delia

Iditarod Headquarters
2100 Knik Goose Bay Road
Wasilla on May 18
1:30– 5:00 p.m.

Friday, May 30, 2014

ITC Board Meeting
9:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 21 – 30

Summer Camp for Educators

[Learn more!](#) Register by 5/30

Saturday, June 28, 2014

*Volunteer Picnic and 2015
Musher Sign Up (Starts 9:00 a.m.)*

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Annual ITC Meeting (10:00 a.m.)

Iditarod Membership - Join or Renew



Be a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee

For more than 30 years, the Iditarod Trail Committee has been membership-based. If you are not a member now, please consider joining. Iditarod has continued in large part due to the support of the members, volunteers, and sponsors. Be a yearly financial partner in this exciting event by becoming a member of "The Last Great Race on Earth".

Members receive a pin or patch, depending on the level of membership, a 10% discount on Iditarod merchandise, a copy of the current race DVD.

Pride in being a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee goes far beyond the monetary value of a membership level. ITC members are a part of one of the most prestigious and exciting sporting events in the world. Every year as each team leaves the start line in Anchorage and strives to reach Nome, you will know you have helped to make dreams come true by being and individual who is supporting the Last Great Race on Earth by being a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee.

*ITC Membership is NOT the same thing as being an Iditarod Insider subscriber for our video and/or GPS productions. A subscription provides you with video and/or GPS Tracking of our race during the race. [Learn more at this link.](#)

Thank you to our sponsors!



We are proud to collaborate with a large group of corporations who have sponsored us year after year. A big thank you to our four principal partners and all our sponsors who make the Iditarod possible. For a complete list, please visit us at: <http://iditarod.com/race/sponsors/>

2014 Finishers!

Position / Musher

- 1 Dallas Seavey
- 2 Aliy Zirkle
- 3 Mitch Seavey
- 4 Joar Leifseth Ulsom
- 5 Sonny Lindner
- 6 Martin Buser
- 7 Jessie Royer
- 8 Ray Redington Jr
- 9 Hans Gatt
- 10 Aaron Burmeister
- 11 Michael Williams, Jr.
- 12 Ken Anderson
- 13 Peter Kaiser
- 14 Richie Diehl
- 15 Matt Failor
- 16 Wade Marrs
- 17 Nathan Schroeder (r)
- 18 Abbie West (r)
- 19 John Baker
- 20 Michelle Phillips
- 21 Robert Sorlie
- 22 Ralph Johannessen (r)
- 23 Curt Perano
- 24 Cim Smyth
- 25 Paige Drobny
- 26 Rick Casillo
- 27 Allen Moore
- 28 Paul Gebhardt
- 29 Mats Pettersson (r)
- 30 Kristy Berington
- 31 Dan Kaduce
- 32 Katherine Keith (r)
- 33 Justin Savidis
- 34 Jason Mackey
- 35 Danny Seavey
- 36 Karin Hendrickson
- 37 Travis Beals
- 38 Christian Turner (r)
- 39 Anna Berington
- 40 Mike Ellis
- 41 Charley Bejna (r)
- 42 Robert Bundtzen
- 43 Newton Marshall
- 44 Tommy Jordbrudal (r)
- 45 Yvonne Dabakk (r)
- 46 Alex Buetow (r)
- 47 Monica Zappa (r)
- 48 Lisbet Norris (r)
- 49 Marcelle Fressineau (r)

2014 Awards

PenAir Spirit of Alaska

First to McGrath - Sonny Lindner

GCI Dorothy G. Page Halfway

First to Cripple - Aaron Burmeister

Millennium Alaskan Hotel First Musher to the Yukon - Jeff King

Bristol Bay Native Corporation Fish First

First to Galena - Aliy Zirkle

Wells Fargo Gold Coast Award

First to Unalakleet - Aliy Zirkle

Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year

First Rookie to Finish - Nathan Schroeder -
17th in 9 days, 17 hours & 58 Minutes

Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome

Jessie Royer & Ray Redington Jr. (2:24)

Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher

Richie Diehl - Improved by 22 places from last finish

Sportsmanship Award - Mike Williams, Jr.

For being in the right place at the right time to help
and aid fellow mushers

ExxonMobil Musher's Choice Award -

Aaron Burmeister

Aaron injured his knee early in the race but kept going because he had a good dog team and they deserved to finish the race.

Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Award -

Newton Marshall

Newton was instrumental in giving aid to Scott Janssen who broke his ankle.

(Continued page 9)

Awards Continued...

Golden Clipboard Award – Galena Checkpoint
After severe flooding this spring, Galena was able to pull together as a community to overcome the devastation.

Golden Stethoscope Award
Dr. Stu Nelson and the entire veterinarian team

Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award Martin
Buser for outstanding dog care
on the trail

City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness
Beatle, Dallas Seavey's Lead Dog

Wells Fargo Red Lantern
(symbol of perseverance)
Marcelle Fressineau – 13 days, 4 hours and 42
minutes (new record by 24 minutes)

Scratched Mushers: Jeff King, Hugh
Neff, Kelly Maixner, Elliot Anderson,
Nicolas Petit, Ramey Smyth, John
Dixon, DeeDee Jonrowe, Jake Berko-
witz, Scott Janssen, Gus guenther,
Mike Santos, Linwood Fiedler, Lev
Shvarts, Cindy Abbott, Ellen
Halverson, Jim Lanier, Jan Steves, and
Cindy Gallea.

Withdrawn: Karen Ramstead



Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM
Chief Veterinarian

2014 Jr. Iditarod Finishers

Place/Musher

- 1st Conway Seavey
- 2nd Benjamin Harper
- 3rd Kevin Harper (r)
- 4th Jimmy Lanier
- 5th Andrew Nolan (r)
- 6th Jannelle Trowbridge (r)
- 7th Ashley Guernsey (r)
- 8th Joshua Klejka
- 9th Nicole Forto (r)

[Visit the Jr. Iditarod Website to view the finishing times and learn more about the 2014 race.](#)



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is a year round auction site
offering collectables and memorabilia
monthly.

www.iditarod.com/auctions

2014 Jr. Iditarod Race Summary

by Terrie Hanke

Conway Seavey is the Champion of the 2014 Junior Iditarod. This is Seavey's fourth and last Junior Iditarod. He's now earned Iditarod gold twice. As champion, Seavey received a \$6,000 scholarship from race sponsor Lynden, a fur hat provided by Artic Fur & Leather, as well as a sled filled with an immense amount of musher gear and equipment. Bernie Willis constructed the sled, provided by Wells Fargo. Conway praised Richard Plack for the excellent trail and the entire Junior Iditarod Board of Directors for their work in provided an exceptional mid-distance competitive mushing experience. He thanked all the volunteers and especially noted the many dedicated volunteers who return year after year.

The Junior Iditarod Board of Directors awarded the Honorary Musher position, bib #1, to five anonymous retired Wells Fargo Bankers who came to the aid of the Junior Iditarod eleven years ago when financial times were tough and provided prizes and scholarships for the Juniors.

Master of Ceremonies at the Jr. Iditarod Banquet, Bob Brandt from Lynden emphasized the roll of mentors in the success of these junior mushers and the roll these juniors will play in the future as mentors to other young mushers. Over time, the young people seated at the head table will undoubtedly be sharing their knowledge of the sport of mushing and dog care with those who are less experienced.



The thrill is not in victory but in the courage to join the race! Nowhere could this be more evident than at the Junior Iditarod banquet. These young mushers dreamed one day of running dogs. Later they dreamed of camping with their dogs. Even later these juniors dreamed of racing. They DARED to dream and they persevered to accomplish their dream.

Mike Williams of Akiak, Alaska and fifteen-year Iditarod veteran spoke to the teens. Williams told the teens they were all winners and they would grow from their experiences of mushing. Events like the Junior Iditarod would be the stepping-stones for their future. Williams promotes the importance of education. He also runs for sobriety.

Congratulations to the 2014 Junior Iditarod contestants - all winners, all mentors, and all worthy of being roll models for those who are getting started in the sport of mushing.



www.iditarod.com

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Herbie Nayokpuk Spirit of Iditarod Award Receipient - Greg Bill

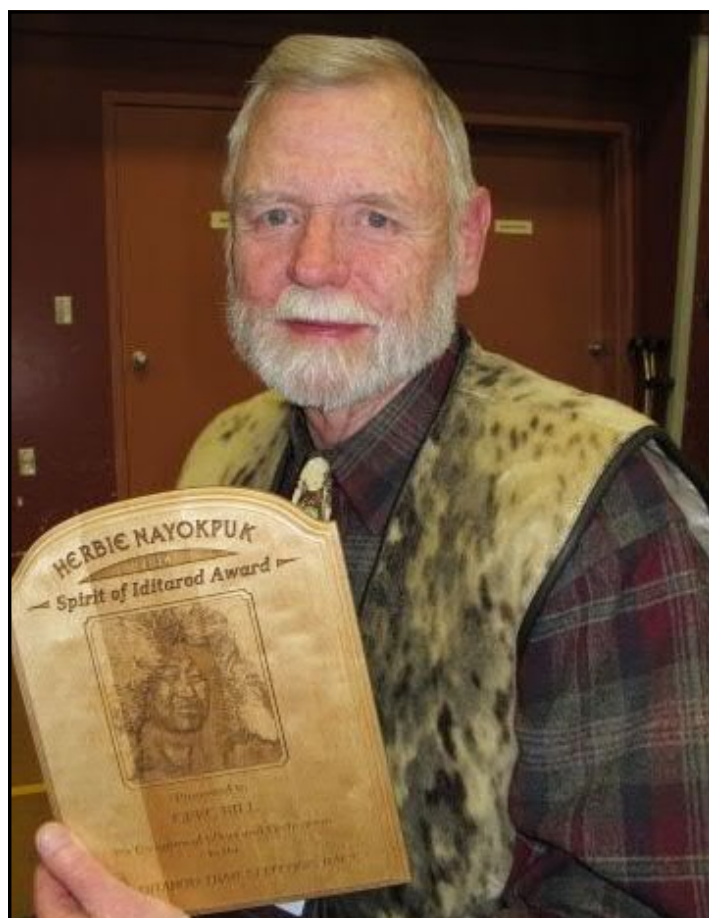
We Are Grateful for Your Dedication and Service to Iditarod

Greg Bill will retire at the end of June this year after 42 years of service to the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. In 1973, he volunteered working crowd control at the start of the race at Tudor Track, now Tozier Track, in Anchorage. At the time he worked for the A.L. French Company in Anchorage and was able to schedule a business trip to Nome to coincide with the finish of the Iditarod, but it took the mushers so long to get here that year that he had to go back to Anchorage before the finish.

Greg continued his volunteering with the Iditarod through the 70's and early 80's, working at the start, re-start, rounding up donations of food products for the Nome banquet and assisting with the sale of the honorary musher plaques, always staying in the background.

Greg became a member of the Fur Rendezvous Board of Director in 1976 and president in 1982. He always wanted to be more involved with the Iditarod and the Iditarod Board but his responsibilities with Fur Rendezvous prohibited that.

In 1983, Greg was appointed to the Iditarod Board of Directors and in 1984, he was named Executive Director, a position he held for the next two years. One of his first projects as Executive Director was arranging for the first Iditarod print fund raiser. The Iditarod Trust Fund had been established in 1976 to support the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race by creating funding that would grow in perpetuity to provide funds for the Iditarod as needed. Because that fund still had not grown as hoped,



Greg arranged the fund raiser around a painting by famous Alaskan artist, Fred Machentanz, Reaching the Pass. That fund raiser provided a much needed shot in the arm for the Trust Fund raising over \$200,000. Since then, other fund raising prints followed.

In 1987, Greg was appointed Development Director, a position he has held for 27 years. He is responsible for many of the current partners being part of the Iditarod family of race supporters. Additionally, in 1996, Greg started the fund raising raffle that included Dodge trucks as prizes. That raffle has increased from one raffle a year giving away three trucks to a

(continued page 17)

Herbie Nayokpuk Spirit of Iditarod Award Recipient Colleen Easley

We Are Grateful for Your Dedication and Service to Iditarod



After 20 years of being an Iditarod volunteer, one of our supervisors is calling it quits to move on to other things. We are grateful for all that she has done over the years. Thanks, Colleen!

Colleen Easley was a tour guide for GrayLine when she learned about volunteer opportunities with the Iditarod Race from a fellow tour director who lived in Anchorage. She was intrigued so she showed up in 1995 at racetime at the Millennium. Once it was learned that she had computer skills, she was assigned to the "FAX room" where the "seven dwarfs" (7 Macintosh computers) resided for the purposes of sending hundreds of reports daily to members of the media and fans who were paying for the FAX service.

She worked in the computer room and in other areas for the next several years and in 1999, because of her good computer skills and technical knowledge, she was drafted as the supervisor in that room, a position she has held the last 16 years. One year she was even called on at the last minute to be the "badge maker". She jumped in to that unfamiliar territory and successfully produced hundreds of badges that year.

In 2001, when we needed a new program to record the race stats, Colleen worked closely with Ron Mohr, a computer programmer, to produce the kind of program that Iditarod needed. She and Ron worked together for the next 15 years, continually changing and improving the program. She also worked closely with the current web developers, Elevator 10, to make the program that was used this year what Iditarod needed.

Colleen is the ultimate volunteer. Her home is Olympia, Washington. Every March for the last 20 years, she has left her home and family to come to Anchorage to spend a month with the Iditarod. She has been a valuable asset to this Race and she will be missed. But we wish her the best and she and Dale move on to do other things.

Race Stats is an important area for race volunteers. We're grateful for the significant impact Colleen has played in making sure that race fans have been updated with the musher's progress during the race: the dog counts and in and out times have been as precise as possible thanks to Colleen's efforts and determination to get the information correct. Managing the Race Stats room during the race is a 24/7 operation. Thanks, Colleen!. You've gone beyond the 24/7 dedication and we again, thank you.

Spirit of the Iditarod Award

Greg Bill... continued from page 15)

winter and summer raffle giving away a total of six trucks a year and other prizes totaling roughly \$300,000 per year. In his years with Iditarod he has raised about \$45,000,000 for the Race.

Greg has been to Nome for all but three of the 42 Iditarod finishes, his main responsibility at the finish being managing the displays of the sponsor's banners. Greg can be seen on Front Street in the most miserable weather trying to keep the banners from being damaged.

Greg's wife says that it has been clear from the beginning that Iditarod came first with Greg. She says he has done it all "for love of the dogs". A more dedicated, loyal and passionate Iditarod Race volunteer, employee and fan cannot be found. He will be missed.



Greg Bill at the 2014 ReStart

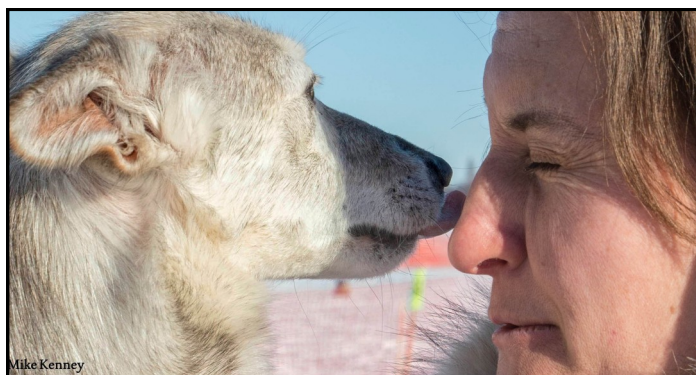
From Our Historical Archives Honoring Iditarod's History

Howard Farley told us...

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

From Our Historical Archives Honoring Iditarod's History

'Someone once said', as quoted from the 1985 Iditarod Trail Race Annual, "The mushers in the back are important; if they weren't there, we couldn't have any first place winners."



2014 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ Jen Reiter

Homework: "Write an article to sum up your experiences as 2014 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail."

By Jen Reiter

I am honestly not sure that a one sentence email has ever sent me reeling as much as this one has. That one sentence directive has a lot of power packed in to it... it means that my time is almost over and it's going to force me to put onto paper things that I've been having a hard time sharing with people. Preparing for and embarking on this journey has been my focus for two solid years and has changed me in ways I probably haven't even begun to imagine yet. I haven't summed it up yet. It's still forming in my head and tumbling out piece meal. A day hasn't gone by where one question from my students doesn't get me on an Iditarod Trail story tangent for half a class period. A night hasn't gone by where there isn't a dog sled somewhere in my dreams. A week hasn't gone by where I'm not on Skype with a school somewhere rehashing the race's end and how it felt to watch Dallas Seavey find out he won the race or how it felt to watch Nathan and Monica finally reach the Burled Arch and earn their belt buckles. How do you sum that up in one article?

Everyone who asks me how it was gets the same answer, "Amazing." And truth be told, that word doesn't begin to cover it. I've taught about the Iditarod for so long and I thought I knew. I honestly thought I knew what it was all about. But I didn't. To actually be there on the trail and to actually see the race happen, to hear the dogs,



to talk to the mushers, to visit the schools, to share meals with the volunteers, to fly with the pilots, to experience Alaska, to be there was mesmerizing. It's what I thought it would be and so very much more. To experience the

relationships – dog and musher, musher and vet, volunteers and villagers, students and teachers – it's the people and the stories that they share that make the race. It's the tie to the history and culture of a people, the tie to the history of a trail, the urge to challenge oneself and see what we are really capable of – it's all of that and so much more. It's the raw emotion – whether it be the faces of mushers coming in to a checkpoint from the Gorge or the sounds of the dropped dogs howling for their teams or a father's face waiting for

his son under the arch – it's human emotion at its core. I thought I knew what it was – but it's so much more than I ever imagined.

"Sum up your experiences." I'm not sure I can. It doesn't come to me as a summary. It comes to me as a series of snapshots, each with its own story. ...

- The Harper brothers at the halfway point for the Junior Iditarod sitting together and sharing trail stories while resting their teams.
 - Flying over the trail from White Mountain to Nome and seeing mushers on the trail.
 - Talking to teachers in Galena about the changes in their village since the flood and
- (Continued p.30)

Development Director, Greg Bill's Retirement Message

"A Wonderful Life" by Greg Bill

After almost 42 years of Iditarod being "My Life," it's time for me to say farewell. I have so many fond memories of the people that I have met, that it would be impossible to list them all. I've had the good fortune of developing relationships with Sponsors, Board members, Volunteers, and Staff, that combined, has made it "One Great Ride". I don't regret any of it, and I know that I am truly going to miss it when I retire later this year. It definitely was not planned in advance, and it was not an easy decision for me to make, but after having cancer surgery this past October, I realized that my future is not entirely in my hands, and I want to spend more time with my family and do some traveling while I still have the opportunity.



I'll never forget the day that I was hired as Iditarod's Executive Director. It was during an Iditarod Board meeting on April 1st, 1984, and one of the first marching orders the Board of Directors gave to me that day was to double the prize purse for the upcoming 1985 Race. I knew it was not an April Fool's joke, and I gladly accepted the challenge, and was pleased to fulfill their wishes while still keeping Iditarod in the black. The stage was now set for more prize purse increases throughout the following years, and undoubtedly for many years to come. In 1986 I moved to the position of Development Director, raising more than \$45,000,000 in Sponsorship revenue to support the Race, and working with our Sponsor is what I will miss the most.



In 1984 you had to wear many hats, because outside of my position as Executive Director, there was one other full time employee and that job was shared by Jean Clark and Cheryl Sutherland, and one part time employee, Joanne Potts. We faced many challenges, but the rewards were just as great, and we all bonded as an extremely focused team, and that type of teamwork prevailed during those lean years of Iditarod. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank Joanne Potts for her continued help and support during the past 30 years. If Joanne had a dollar for every time I asked her "have you got a minute," she could have retired a millionaire. And I want to thank Stan Hooley for his dedication and professionalism these past 20 years. I've enjoyed it tremendously.

I have identified some of the best "Feel Good" moments of my almost 42 years of Iditarod involvement. They represent a reflection of my love for the Race, the people, the dogs, and first and foremost, the "Father of the Iditarod," Joe Redington, Sr.

My tenure with Iditarod started way back in 1973 as a volunteer for the first Race and I continued

(Continued on page 20)

volunteering, selling raffle tickets, business memberships, and whatever else was needed, until being hired as staff in 1984. I also served two years as vice president of the Board from 1982 to 1984. Then in 1986 I was appointed to the Iditarod National Historic Trail Board as the Iditarod representative, replacing Susan Butcher who wanted to step down to devote more time to her racing career. I have served on that Board continuously to the present day. Quite honestly I still consider myself an Iditarod volunteer every year since we all do things outside of our "job description" to get the job done.

My proudest achievement of the following "Feel Good" moments was creating the Fred Ma-
chetanz Iditarod print fundraiser in 1984. One of my first sponsor calls as the new Executive Director was to see Dick Angell of Bank of the North, Iditarod's Official Bank at the time. After Dick agreed to another year of sponsorship, he dropped a bombshell on me. He wanted me to CLOSE the Trust Account since it had less than \$600 in it, and it wasn't worth their time and effort to administer. Joe Redington, Sr. had set this account up to protect Iditarod from bankruptcy should the Race ever fall on hard times. Dick argued that \$600 wasn't going to do anything to save the Race. I told him that closing this Trust Account would break Joe's heart, so I got him to agree to give me one year to put some 'real money' into the account. I put the fundraising print together, got all previous Iditarod champions to sign it, and even left a spot for the 1985 champion to sign. The print sold out in three days and raised \$210,000 for the Trust Fund. This fulfilled Joe's dream and served to help us through some 'rainy days.'

The other things that I accomplished don't come close to saving the Trust Fund, but they are fond memories to me. Things like introducing the Garland of Roses presentation at the finish line in 1985 instead of at the Awards Banquet. But then of course I had to come up with a fitting Awards Stand for successive years, since the first one was makeshift with Libby's dogs doing a balancing act on top of a truly Alaskan 55 gallon drum. Starting the tradition of using a Native made Mukluk at the '85 Musher's Banquet for the drawing of their bib numbers, and hanging the Country flags of competing mushers next to the START/FINISH banner. Researching and writing the first Media Guide in 1984, with much of it still in use today. Doing the 10 year fundraising print by Charles Gause beginning in 1988, signed by famous mushers, which raised close to \$100,000 annually. Bringing back the Iditarod Raffle in 1990 after it was abandoned in favor of Bingo. The Winter and Summer Raffles now gross \$600,000 annually. And, from a visitor's perspective coming to our Wasilla Headquarters, getting ExxonMobil in 1987 to donate the redwood sign out front, and in 2012, getting Kim Raymond and Horizon Lines to donate the bronze sculpture of Balto and monument base in front of ITC Headquarters, representing the loyalty and fortitude of all Alaskan sled dogs. And last but not least, I've been fortunate to be involved at 41 of the 42 Iditarod Starts, and 40 of the 42 Nome Finishes. These, along with the bronze sculpture of Joe Redington, Sr. are fitting examples of welcoming visitors to the Headquarters of "The Last Great Race on Earth."

These are all very fond memories of mine, and it's a very hard decision for me to call it quits after all these years, but I realize that I must. However there is one last request that I would like to ask of all of you, whether you're an Iditarod Sponsor, a volunteer, or a fan. Fifteen years ago when Joe Redington, Sr. was dying, I was able to meet with him one last time. Even as ravished as he was, I could tell from the look on his face that he had something very pressing on

(Continued on page 21)

his mind. He confided to me that he was worried that “his Race” might also die after he was gone. I told him that he didn’t have to worry about that because there were too many people that cared about the Iditarod to ever let that happen. And I told him that as long as I was around, I would never let that happen. That brought a look of relief to his face, and even one of his famous crooked little smiles. I truly felt that Joe now knew that he could go in peace. My request to all of you is to continue to carry out my promise to Joe, and see that “his Race” will never die.

At the Nome Banquet this year, the Iditarod Board of Directors presented me with the “Herbie Nayokpuk Spirit of Iditarod Award.” I felt truly honored to be in the company of Dick Mackey, the previous recipient of this award. Plus, Herbie and Elizabeth were very special friends of mine, and Herbie epitomized the true spirit of an Alaskan Native musher, and was a true Icon of the Iditarod. To receive this prestigious award was very humbling, and I will treasure it forever.

To all of you, “Thanks for the memories.”

Greg Bill



Iditarod Fundraising Print “The Spirit of Iditarod”

Each print is numbered and signed by the 2014 Iditarod Champion, Dallas Seavey, his Father, Mitch, and Grandfather, Dan, and the artist, James Havens.

\$199 plus shipping/handling Visit our online store to support the Iditarod by purchasing this limited edition print. (Only 1049 Prints)

Learn more about the print at this link: <http://iditarod.com/the-spirit-of-iditarod-the-image-the-artist-three-generations>

IDITAROD TRAIL

RAFFLE

We'd like to thank everyone who purchased a raffle ticket! Each purchase helps our reach our financial goals to stage the Iditarod.

The winners of the 2014 Winter Raffle:

- 1 John Kruse, Taylorsville, UT – 2014 Dodge Ram 4×4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a similarly priced Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep or Ram vehicle
- 2 Dave Dye, Richfield Springs, NY – Caldera Spas "Tarino" 5 person Hot tub w/2 Lounges
- 3 Bruno Zinno, Anchorage, AK – 2014 Ski-Doo Renegade Sport 550F Snowmobile
- 4 Karen Zulkowski, Red Lodge, MT – Finnleo Far-Infrared 2 person Sauna
- 5 Robert McDowell, Nashville, TN - 1988 A/P Iditarod Collectors Print, "A Welcome Rest" signed by Susan Butcher & Libby Riddles
- 6 Barbara Wood, Fairbanks, AK – Roundtrip Airfare for 2 PenAir
- 7 Norman Wakeman, Willow, AK – 2014 Dodge Ram 4×4 Quad Cab (see #1)
- 8 Glenn Mellor, Eagle River, AK – Set of 4 Cooper Tires, Custom Wheels
- 9 David Wiewel, Talkeetna, AK – Tohatsu 5hp Four Stroke Outboard Motor
- 10 Susan Shinkai, Senora, CA – 1989 A/P Iditarod Collectors Print "Leading the Way", signed by Nollner, Vaughn, Norris, Wilmarth, Lindner, Busby, & Swenson
- 11 Les Okonek, Anchorage, AK – Five Day Motorhome Rental within Alaska
- 12 Theodore Taylor, Anchorage, AK – DeWalt Tool Collection
- 13 Larry Adams, Charlotte, MI – One Way Car Shipment-Tacoma, WA & Anchorage
- 14 Michelle Rutherford, Anchorage - 2014 Dodge Ram 4×4 Quad Cab (see #1)
- 15 Josh Sanderson, Anchorage - Honda EU1000iA2 Inverter Generator
- 16 Patricia Sikes, Wasilla, AK – #1 Official Race Bib signed by 2014 Champion Dallas Seavey
- 17 Tishe Link, Wasilla, AK – Spenard Builders Supply Shopping Spree
- 18 Johanne Harrap, Anchorage - Base Camp McKinley Tour for 2 w/Glacier Landing
- 19 Cy Sineath, Lilburn, GA – John Deere HR-G1 100 Generator
- 20 Eric Ambris, Anchorage - 2014 Dodge Ram 4×4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a similarly priced Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep or Ram vehicle

Our Summer Raffle begins in June. Watch for information at www.iditarod.com

Thanks to those who supplied our raffle items: **Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram**, The Waterworks, Alaska Mining & Diving Supply, PenAir, Diversified Tire, Storm Chasers Marine Services, Inc., ABC Motorhome Rentals, Home Depot, Horizon Lines, Talkeetna Air Taxi, Spenard Builders Supply, and Craig Taylor Equipment Co. The ITC also donated items.

All proceeds benefit the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Permit No. 13-0131 & 14-0131

\$195,250 IN PRIZES

IDITAROD TRAIL[®]

SUMMER RAFFLE



2 GRAND PRIZES: 2014 Dodge Ram 4x4 Pickup Trucks or any similarly priced New Dodge, Jeep or Chrysler vehicle

PRIZE	VALUE	DONATED BY
1. 2014 Dodge Ram 4x4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a NEW similarly priced Dodge, Jeep or Chrysler vehicle	\$39,200	Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep
2. Caldera Spas "Tarino" 5 person Hot tub w/ 2 Lounges	\$7,995	The Waterworks
3. MAXXON CS-420 Inflatable 14' Boat, rated for 30 HP Motor	\$3,849	Alaska H2O Sports
4. Tohatsu 3.5 HP Four Stroke Outboard Motor	\$1,250	Storm Chasers Marine Service, Inc.
5. 1988 A/P Iditarod Collectors Print, "A Welcome Rest" Signed by Susan Butcher & Libby Riddles	\$3,000	ITC
6. One Way Car Shipment between Tacoma, WA & Anchorage, AK	\$1,845	Horizon Lines
7. Roundtrip Airfare for 2 to most PenAir destinations	\$1,500	PenAir
8. H2Oasis Season Passes for adult & child	\$838	H2Oasis Indoor Waterpark
9. Number 1 Race Bib signed by Dallas Seavey	\$1,500	ITC
10. 2014 Dodge Ram 4x4 Quad Cab, you pick color & options, or a NEW similarly priced Dodge, Jeep or Chrysler vehicle	\$39,200	Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep

TOTAL \$100,177

TICKET PRICE \$100 - ONLY 2,000 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Drawing held at the Alaska State Fair on Labor Day, September 1, 2014..... Need not be present to win.



Major Credit Cards Gladly Accepted



TICKETS AVAILABLE BY CALLING IDITAROD TOLL FREE

(800) 545-MUSH

ALL PRIZES ARE F.O.B. ANCHORAGE



Permit No. 14-0131

All proceeds benefit the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

\$100,000 IN PRIZES

Tickets will be available starting June 1

Tales from the Trail.... Jr. Iditarod and Iditarod

Good Samaritans Along the Trail by Terrie Hanke

The pair of leaders looped down the trail foot loose and fancy free. A second before they'd been at the front of junior musher, Jimmy Lanier's team. Now they were putting distance between themselves and the rest of their team, sled and musher. Did the pair of white dogs wonder why their load had suddenly become so light? Sure the trail was just about primo for the 2014 Junior Iditarod but unless Jimmy and his sled had surrendered to the forces of flight, i.e. Santa Clause, their tug lines should be tight with resistance. The only resistance this pair of speedy happy sled dogs experienced was the miniscule amount created by a very short piece of gangline bouncing along the trail.

As the happy-go-lucky pair sped along the trail to the finish line at Happy Trails Kennel, they spotted a figure ahead. Maybe it's Mr. Food, the sled dog name for a musher. Now it was a game for the wayward pair. How soon can we catch up to Mr. Food and what kind of snacks will he have?

Up ahead, Mr. Food was moving forward at a steady speed but nothing that challenged the dynamic duo in pursuit. In no time Mr. Food sensed that he wasn't alone with his dogs on the trail. It was just a feeling but he knew he wasn't by himself anymore. Mr. Food searched in front of his team - nothing. He searched to the right and left of the trail - again nothing. Then with one hand gripping the driving bow and both feet planted firmly on his sled runners he turned around. WHAT THE HECK? Where'd those two white dogs go?

The dogs, let's call them Way-ward and Right-way, were just as surprised as Mr. Food was because Mr. Food wasn't their Mr. Food. When Mr. Food stopped his team and set his snow

hooks, it was obviously time for a snack. Their new Mr. Food turned out to be Junior Iditarod Rookie, Kevin Harper. Way-ward and Right-way ran right into his arms expecting a snack.

Young Harper sized up the situation while snacking his own team as well as Way-ward and Right-way. The foot loose dogs were attached to each other by a neckline and attached to their tug lines was a short piece of gangline. Suddenly turned detective, Mr. Food, realized in a flash what had occurred and why this pair of handsome white sled dogs was heading to the finish line on their own. The frayed end of the gangline provided the necessary clue to solve this mystery. Yes, it had once been a part of a ten-dog gangline but chewing on the gangline, a favorite pastime of one or both swing dogs, cut the leaders free.

There was only one thing for detective Mr. Food to do, forget the race, turn his team around and escort Way-ward and Right-way back to their rightful Mr. Food. Turning a dog team 180 degrees is a task not to be underestimated by those who've mastered the three-point turn necessary to pass a driver's test. Detective Mr. Food accomplished the dicey maneuver and headed back toward Yentna Station Roadhouse expecting to soon meet an apprehensive rightful Mr. Food, Jimmy Lanier.

While Way-ward and Right-way were at large on their own Junior Iditarod adventure Jimmy Lanier was no doubt reliving the well-chronicled experience of May during Iditarod 2013. Jimmy's dad had leant 9-year-old May to Newton Marshall to round out his 16-dog team for Iditarod. While helping a fellow musher on the trail between Rohn and Nicolai, the two dog

teams became tangled. In the process of untangling, May took off, embarking upon an incredible journey. As May headed back toward home, she became known as Wrong-way May. Six days later, after covering several hundred miles, she was picked up by a snowmachiner within 50 miles of the start.



Kevin Harper

When the two Mr. Foods finally met on the trail, Lanier's fear of another event like Wrong-way May quickly dissipated. Relief replaced concern and tension in Jimmy's eyes as he realized a fellow competitor was delivering his leaders to him. After handing the duo of precious leaders off to the rightful Mr. Food, detective Mr. Food executed yet another 180 and was once again on his way toward the finish line at Happy Trails. Executing one successful come around with a ten-dog team let alone two is way beyond remarkable and speaks highly of young Kevin Harper's dog driving skills. The fact that his fellow mushers honored him with the Junior Iditarod Sportsmanship Award speaks volumes about his character.

- [Visit the Jr. Iditarod website to learn more about the Jr. Iditarod. http://jriditarod.com/](http://jriditarod.com/)

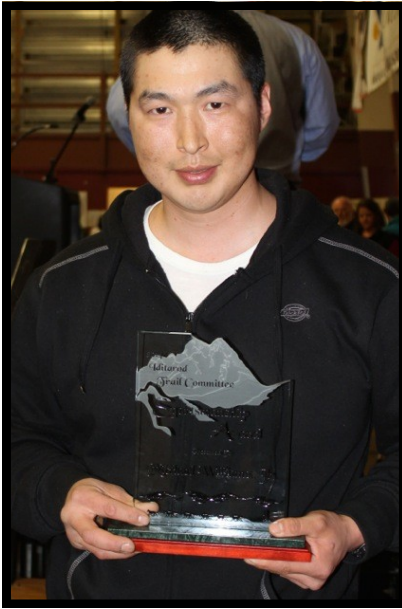
Ten days later as the Iditarod mushers sped through the interior on their way to Nome, mushers once again came to the aid of their peers in need. Two fellows were honored at the Finisher's Banquet in Nome for their unselfish acts of samaritanism. Yupik musher, Mike Williams, Jr. received the Sportsmanship Award and Jamaican musher, Newton Marshall received the Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Award.

Mike JR. came upon Nome musher, Aaron Burmeister, on the trail just after he'd done a whole lot worse than just tweak a knee. Burmeister twisted his knee and did damage to those ligaments inside the knee that keep the femur of the upper leg aligned with the tibia of the lower leg. He also tore the meniscus.

Williams helped Burmeister regroup and splint his leg sufficiently so he could continue to the next checkpoint. After the race, Mike's name popped up on numerous other occasions in musher conversations as they spoke about who came by and helped fix a broken sled or who came by and offered assistance in recovering from some other mishap. Williams, the father of twins, seemed to always be in the right place at the right time with the right know-how and words of encouragement.

It was a bit of déjà vu for Newton Marshall as he came upon yet another stalled team on the same stretch of trail between Rohn and Nicolai as happened in 2013.

The teams didn't tangle this time, nor did he lose a dog this time and while he didn't see the musher at first, Newton's actions made a very big difference in Scott Janssen's life. The Mushing Mortician was not having a good day. Earlier he'd crashed his sled, hitting his head and knocking himself unconscious. After a couple of hours he was coherent enough to continue on



(Images by Terrie Hanke, Mike Williams, Newton Marshall)

with his team. Soon thereafter, Hooper slipped away from the team. Janssen parked to round the dog up. In the process he broke through an icy stream then with wet clothes and iced up boots he slipped and fell on more ice. Upon stopping, Marshall heard Janssen's cries for help and found the musher lying wet on a patch of ice with an ankle that was obviously broken. Newton retrieved Janssen's SPOT to signal for help then he created a warm bed for the injured musher using a sleeping bag and parka. With assistance from the Iditarod Insider crew, Janssen and his dogs were moved to a safety cabin. An Air National Guard Helicopter later transported Janssen.

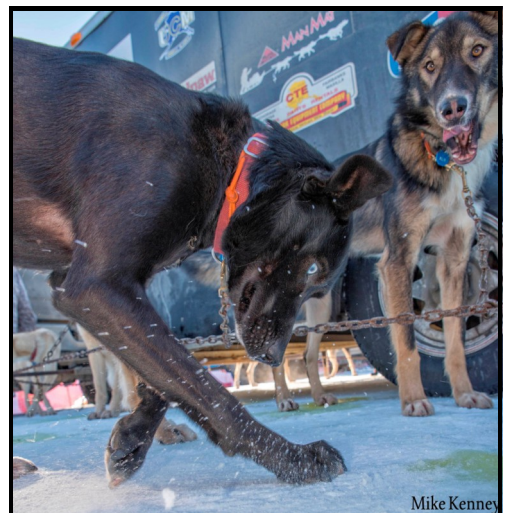
These are the acts of compassion and samaritanism that were honored by official awards. Undoubtedly there were countless others that might have seemed insignificant at the time but made a big difference for somebody along the trail. From the stand point of teachers around the world who use Iditarod as their theme for education, thank you to not only Kevin, Mike, and Newton but to all the mushers who inspire kids to do the right thing and become all they can be.



Mike Kenney



Mike Kenney



Mike Kenney

Remembering Joe Delia, An Iditarod Legend

by Terrie Hanke

**A Celebration of Life
will be held to honor Joe Delia
on Sunday, May 18, 1:30 p.m.
Rest in Peace, Joe Delia.**

Iditarod has many legendary figures. Most have stood on sled runners from Fourth Avenue in Anchorage to Front Street in Nome. Joe Delia has never run a dog team in the Last Great Race but his contributions to the race were instrumental in the establishment and success of the race and have elevated him to a position of legendary prominence in the Iditarod family. The man who defined Skwentna passed away on May 1st at the age of 84.



Joe was born and raised in Missouri. At the young age of 18 he sought a better way of life, a life with a future, and headed to Alaska. As he ate a hearty meal inside the Skwentna Outback cabin on the night before the 2006 Iditarod, Joe recounted the story of how he ended up homesteading five acres on the high bank of the Skwentna River. Stories he read in Boy's Life Magazine as a youngster inspired Joe to head to Alaska.

In 1948, the hard working and eager to learn Delia secured a job running a trap line in the Skwentna/Yentna River area. Once he set eyes on the spot where the Outback Cabin and the Post Office currently stand, he resolved to build a place to live there and make a life for himself in the woods. Joe continued to trap, hunt and fish to make a living and put food on the table even as he took on the job of being the Skwentna Postmaster in 1950. Over time Joe became a legend as a woodsman and trapper.

Norma, Joe's devoted wife of more than 30 years shared the story of how they became involved in Iditarod with Mike Nesper of the Anchorage Daily News. She said, "Joe was out on his snow-machine and come across a couple of guys on skies. The two fellows were working with Joe Redington Sr. and Dave Olson on putting in a trail to Nome. Delia liked the idea of a sled dog marathon and agreed to help establish the route from Skwentna to Rainy Pass." He also offered to host a checkpoint for the race at the Delia home.

The Delia Homestead has been an Iditarod checkpoint for forty-two years now. At first Joe and Norma did it all with the help of a few locals. Before the race, Joe broke trail and Norma planned the menu and did the shopping. During the race Joe was the checker down on the river and up in the cabin Norma did the cooking and serving. "Officially" in 1997 after 25 years of serving Iditarod



Joe, Mack, and Norma

(Continue p. 26)

the Delias turned their labor of love over to younger legs and stronger backs. Nowadays a half-dozen or more folks known as the Sweeties take care of the hospitality in the cabin while some indispensable Alaskans and a group of fifteen or so volunteers from Tacoma, Washington, known as the Darlings or River Crew set up and operate the check-point down on the river.

As Joe aged and his health declined, the couple realized it would be far easier to tackle their golden years living on the road system compared to their beloved homestead in the bush. Delia retired from his postal duties then assisted by friends and family, Joe and Norma made their move prior to the start of the 2012 Iditarod. Several of the Iditarod Air Force pilots landed with their Cessna bush planes to offer transportation for goods and people as they do during the race.



Norma, DeeDee Jonrowe, and Joe, © Jeff Schultz

Joe has been apart of the race since before it began, he's served as trail engineer with the other Joe, he's been a trail breaker, he's been a checker and he's been a race judge.

Really though his greatest gift to the race was just being Joe. Norma has been integral in checkpoint hospitality from the time she and Joe tied the knot in 1982. Even upon their retirement, the Delia Outback Cabin continues to house the checkpoint.

The Delia's could have written the book on hospitality, theirs was a very special brand. Any person who entered their home as a stranger departed as a friend. They've provided shelter for hundreds if not thousands of travelers seeking shelter from wind, rain, snow and bitter cold. DeeDee Jonrowe says the Delias are very sharing people. While speaking to a Juneau Empire reporter several years ago, Jonrowe recalled her first Iditarod saying, "The first time I ran the race I was just a scared rookie from Bethel. But Joe was very encouraging to me. They knew nothing about me then. But when I walked into their house they made me feel like I was just the person they were waiting to see."

One of the pilots said that when it came time to leave Joe insisted on taking his snowshoes, rifle and a pack filled with emergency items along. It's been said you can take the man out of the woods but you can't take the woods out of the man. Nothing truer can be said about Joe Delia.

Delia has been honored twice for his tireless efforts on behalf of "he Last Great Race on Earth®"

In 1997 Joe was inducted into the ADN Iditarod Hall of Fame.

In 2012 both he and Norma received the Joe Redington Iditarod Race Founder's Award.

(Continued on p. 29)

Joe Delia, Continued ...

A plaque with the second verse from chapter thirteen of Hebrews hung above the door of the Delia's Skwentna home for many, many years.

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

That verse is the creed Joe lived by. Joe is now one of those angels and surely he has his snowshoes, rifle, and pack close by. Thank you Joe for loving Iditarod and giving so much of yourself to "The Last Great Race on Earth®"



"Skwentna Joe" working as a checker.

© Jeff Schultz/iditarodphotos.com

A Wasilla memorial service - A Celebration of Life for Joe Delia is set for 1:30 p.m. on May 18 at Iditarod Trail Committee Headquarters at 2100 S. Knik-Goose Bay Rd.

Guests are asked to dress casually and to bring a helium balloon to release in Delia's honor. Bring a dish to pass and memories to share.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to Hospice of Anchorage.

**Cards to Joe's family may be sent to Iditarod Headquarters
2100 S. Knik-Goose Bay Rd.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654**

Jen Reiter, Cont....

- about how grateful they were that the race came through this year.
- The small boy in Takotna who tugged on my jacket and asked if I was the teacher and how proud I was to be able to say yes.
- Musher's caring for dogs and dogs supporting mushers.

I am honored to have been a part of it. I'm honored to have represented teachers who have found the value in teaching with the Last Great Race. I'm grateful to have had the experience. Thank you to the Iditarod Trail Committee and the Education Department for realizing the potential this race has to be an educational tool and for placing a priority on education. Thanks to Finney for having the initiative to think up a program like Teacher on the Trail and the perseverance to will it into existence. Thank you to Barbara Redington and Lacey Hart for welcoming me to the Junior Iditarod family with smiles, hugs, and jobs to do. Thank you to Nathan Schroeder for the ride of a lifetime, the late night talks, and the stories to share. Thanks to Monica Zappa for the unending patience to field questions from sixteen third grade boys and for making us feel like we really played a role in her Iditarod adventure. Thanks to Dell and Skype in the Classroom for providing me with the means to connect with almost fifty classrooms in three countries from the trail. And thanks to those teachers who welcomed me into their classrooms and for sharing the enthusiasm of the race with their students. Thanks to the mushers, vets, pilots, volunteers, and fans who answered questions, posed for pictures, and shared their stories. Thanks to the people of the schools, villages, and checkpoints I had the privilege of visiting for welcoming me into your lives with such openness. Thank you to my school, Gilman, for allowing me the opportunity to follow this whim of mine. Thanks to my boys for loving the race as much as I do, for jumping into every Iditarod project with two feet, and for helping me fill the blog with words and photos.

Thank you to my family for their unending support.

My experiences will probably take me a lifetime to sum up. I know that they will stay with me for a lifetime and I know that the experience has made me a better teacher and a stronger person.



Thank You, IditaRiders!

Bid! Win! Ride!

You did that! You bid! You won! You took a ride with a musher at the start of the 2014 Iditarod. And we thank you for being an important part of the historic 2014 Race! We hope you had an enjoyable ride and that your adventure was filled with sights, sounds, and experiences that you will always treasure! We want to thank you for being a part of the 2014 IditaRider program. Your winning purchase for the ride was and still is greatly appreciated. You are the ultimate fan with your own story to share. The money raised in this event helps us meet our financial goals to stage the Iditarod. Thanks so much for your important contribution. We hope you join us again sometime. Remember: Bid! Win! Ride! If you'd like to share your IditaRider story, please contact djohnson@iditarod.com.



If you've never been an IditaRider, consider bidding to win in a future year. The 2015 IditaRider Auction will open in December and close in January. Winners ride for the first 11 miles at the Start of the Iditarod. As you travel from the starting line to the end point, you'll have an incredible and unforgettable experience. Sometimes the once in a lifetime experience becomes a yearly event. IditaRider Nancy Livingston has been an Iditarider since 2001. She has ridden with Alaskan mushers Dan Gavonni, Lynda Plettner, Mike Williams, Rick Swenson, and Robert Nelson and with Norwegian mushers Robert Sorlie, Bjorner Anderson, Kjetil Backen, Sigrid Ekran and Joar Leifeith. She has been able to ride with the Norwegians 9 times.

Nancy says, "You hear the panting of the dog's breath and the padding of their paws on the snow; you feel chips of ice and snow kicked back by the wheel dogs; you smell the forest...that scent of fir; you marvel at eagles in trees and watch them soar gracefully; you encounter another team and wonder which team will stop and which will do a pass by; you give up counting how many times the dogs grab at a mouthful of snow; you experience cookies, muffins, hot dogs, candy etc. tossed at you; and when I ride with my beloved Norwegians...the Sons of Norway always have a tuba or some musical instruments playing their national anthem at some checkpoint along the way." Nancy has some great memories from the trail. She re-

members crossing a creek bridge that had no railings but the dogs held the trail. Or the time two black labs were running and crossing in front of the team. Even though the lead sled dogs wanted to chase the labs they didn't. And the best memory was when she felt like a true Alaskan when the musher taught her to ride the runners all the way along the Campbell Air Strip to the extraction point.

(continued p. 32)



The IditaRider experience is a memorable adventure. Don't take our word for it. Consider what our riders have to say. 2014 IditaRider Jan Landt tells us, "Being an IditaRider was a blast! I'd do it again in a heartbeat! Even my husband - a reluctant trip companion - was impressed with the Iditarod start/restart efficiently. Congrats on a job well done!" Heidi, 2014 rider said of her ride with Tommy Jordbrudal, "I was able to see up close and personal the relationship between musher and beast!! Incredible!"

IditaRider Charlotte tells us she'll be back again, maybe even seeing to it her grandkids are riders. "I rode with Jeff King. He, Ellen, and the handlers are all amazing people. Then, there are the dogs. Friendly, happy, loving, calm even when harnessed, but true athletes. I have an awesome 12 min. video of my ride, along with many pictures. It was a dream come true. I have tremendous admiration for the mushers as care of the dogs comes before anything else. The ride was smooth and watching those dogs work was awesome. Listening to Jeff talk to them in such a calm, soft voice showed the trusting relationship between musher and dogs, one team working together for the good of all."



Read additional testimonials and images from past IditaRiders at this link: <http://iditarod.com/the-iditarider-experience/> Join us on an incredible ride at the start of the 2015 Iditarod. It's simple. Visit the website. <http://www.iditarodauction.com/> to get ready to bid.

Bid! Win! Ride!

Thanks again to all past IditaRiders!

The Iditarod Trail Committee is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Proceeds raised help support the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.





Summer Camp for Educators! Register today!

Develop content driven and standards aligned Iditarod based curriculum.

Earn University Credits!

Join us – June 21 – 30... Wasilla, Alaska

That's right Summer camp isn't just for kids these days. Iditarod's Summer Camp is an experience that challenges educators to experience the Iditarod and Alaska in a unique way. Experience! Learn! Teach!

Throughout the 9 day event, educators will participate in activities, attend sessions, go on field trips, and gain experiences and knowledge to provide them with the skills they need to fine tune standards aligned lessons for their own classroom. Meeting mushers, dogs, and Iditarod legends, discovering the importance of best care and training of the dogs of the Iditarod, and developing new lesson ideas for any grade level and any curriculum area are key components at summer camp. This opportunity is guaranteed to rejuvenate and to revitalize teachers and curriculum! This is the experience of a life time that guides educators along a trail of better classroom instruction and academic success for students. Join us. Learn more about camp at this link: <http://iditarod.com/teacher/2013-summer-camp-for-teachers/> or call 605.228.6071.



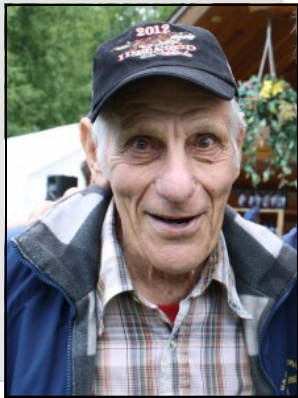
Trail Talk... Tributes and Life Events

Celebrating Lives Well Lived

Celebrating Special Events

Ron Robbins, 72, died at his home in Trapper Creek on March 26, following kidney cancer surgery. Ron completed the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1985 and 1986. He is remembered by many race fans as "Rockin" *Ron Robbins*

The family will have an all day Celebration of Ron's life on May 31 in Trapper Creek, Mile 7, Petersville Road, with the actual service being at 7 p.m. that evening. The family invites all who knew and loved Ron to join them that day.



Joe Delia, 84, died May 1. "Skwentna" Joe's home became the Skwentna Checkpoint in 1973. Throughout the years, Joe served in many roles to help Iditarod: trail blazer, checker, and friend. His wife, Norma, and Joe had relocated to Anchorage two years ago.

Gerry Willomitzer, Iditarod veteran, and **Darcy Olesen**, were married April 12 at a site on the Tanana River near Darcy's family home in Salcha, 35 miles south of Fairbanks on the Richardson Highway. Darcy's brother, Alex Olesen, will be getting married in June and the two couples will be sharing a party at that time. Darcy and Gerry will continue to live north of Whitehorse with the "dogs, the rental, the dogs food sales, and their extraordinarily diverse neighbors," says Darcy's mom, Donna.



Walter Harold Hooley, Iditarod Executive Director's Father, passed away on Monday, April 28, 2014 at Greencroft Healthcare in Goshen, IN. He was 100 years old.



Congratulations to **Mike and Maggie Williams**, Sr., Akiak, on their 38th wedding anniversary on April 18, 2014.

Trail Talk... Tributes and Life Events

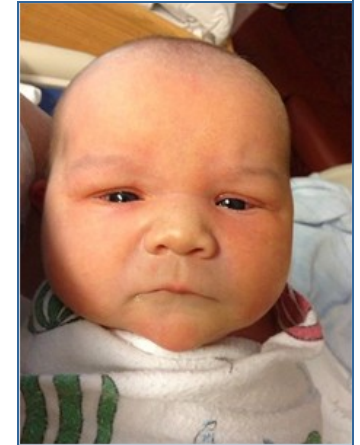
Celebrating New Beginnings...

Kimarie and Denis Michel are welcoming their newest daughter, **Noelle Mackayla Michel**, born on April 8 in Louisiana. Noelle joins her four siblings, Dane, Jillian, Lucian, and Samantha. Kimarie ran the Iditarod in 1998, her senior year in high school. She was (is) the youngest woman to ever run the Iditarod. The proud grandparents are **Bert and Reb Hansen**. Bert is the chief pilot of the IAF and Reb is a volunteer on the trail.



Zachary Dimick was born April 21 at Mat Su Regional Hospital in Palmer, AK to **Jennifer and Darrell Dimick**. Jennifer works at Iditarod Headquarters in Wasilla.

Zachary is welcomed by big brothers Jordan, 15 and Jackson, 12.



Markus Wayne Farr entered this world on February 19 at Mat Su Regional Hospital in Wasilla. Markus is the third child of **Molly and Mike Farr**. Mike and Molly are long time Iditarod volunteers and in 2014, Molly holds the job of Communications Coordinator (COMMS) for Iditarod.



Olivia MaClaren Schandelmeier was born at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital on December 23, 2013. She is welcomed by big sister, Jona, and proud parents, **Zoya Denure and John Schandelmeier**. Both Zoya and John have run the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Jamie Eleanor Zurflueh Smyth was born at Mat Su Regional Hospital on February 5, 2014. Her proud parents are **Cim and Corrine Zurfleuh Smyth**. Cim is an Iditarod veteran.



2014 Mushers & Sponsors

(as of February 21, 2014)

- 1. Charley Bejna** (rookie) – Addison, IL
- 2. Martin Buser** – Big Lake, AK
Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food/WellPet, MA; Kendall Auto Group; Intrado, CO; MTA; Big Lake Susitna Veterinary Hospital; A.I.H.; St. Elias Specialty Hospital; Diversified Tire; Geneva Woods Health Care Services; Alaska Hand-Elbow-Shoulder Surgical Specialist; Trappers Creek Smoking Company; Tiaga Mushing Supplies; Buser Boosters Everywhere; Northern Outfitters
- 3. Scott Janssen** – Anchorage, AK
- 4. Jeff King** – Denali Park, AK
- 5. Ramey Smyth** – Willow, AK
Alaska Communications; Non-stop Dogwear, NORWAY; Steve Ripp and Carol Spicuzza, WI; Leed Brothers Productions, CA; Douglass Burger; Jim, Sharon and Joe Rosteck, MT; First Tool Corp., OH; Dennis and Candace Weidler; Roy and Cheryl Hull, CA; Jessica Manifold; Kathy Slouber, CA; Julie Laker and Crew; Dennis, Amy, Bennett and Kylee Hicks, RI
- 6. Mitch Seavey** – Sterling, AK
Young Living Essential Oils, UT; J.J. Keller & Associates, WI; Dr. Tim's Pet Food, MI; Icicle Seafoods; Inlet Towers; Petro Marine Services; Seward Ships Drydock; RX Sports, CA; Bob McCain Buffalo Peak Outfitters, MS
- 7. Lisbet Norris** (rookie) – Willow, AK
Underdog Feeds; Natalie Norris; Wildlife North Art Gallery; Skogen Entreprenør; Joseph Smith; Els van Leiroop; Jason Carpenter; Rob Donaldson; Rodney Whaley; Jon & Jona Van Zyle; Karsten Grønås & Eveline Koch; Scott Brown & Janet Sweeney; Siberian Husky Club of Greater Chicago; Peak to Peak Working Dogs Association of Colorado; Carol Nash & John Linnehan; Friends & Family
- 8. Rick Casillo** – Palmer, AK
Noren Products, Inc, CA; Satellite Phone Store.com, FL/AK; Silva Insurance Services; Bear Paw Archery; Alaska Tent & Tarp; Scott Smith/Red Dog Racing; Russ Bybee; Dr. Carsons All Natural Products; Dave/Sonya Wagoner
- 9. Yvonne Dåbaak** (rookie) – Oslo NORWAY
Brubekken Byggservice; Troll Hundefor; DogPaddle Designs; CanaDog; Brukshunden
- 10. Dallas Seavey** – Willow, AK
J.J. Keller & Associates, WI; Dr. Tim's Pet Food, MI; Salmonberry Tours; Tracie Seavey Audette Sports Nutrition and Rehabilitative Therapy for Animals; Alaska Chiropractic Arts; Eagle Quest Lodge; Custom Software Lab; Angie Lason Photography
- 11. DeeDee Jonrowe** – Willow, AK
Shell Exploration and Production Company; Wellpet Premium Pet Food Products; All Creature Veterinarian Clinic/Joanne Rehn DVM; Valley Chiropractic Clinic/Dr. James and David Martin; SKoop Scandinavian wear; Zeal Optics; GCI; Bradley Reid & Assoc; Imaging Assoc. of Providence; daily web design/Theresa Daily; Jamiee & Justin High; Pat Hahn & Sue Greenly; David Martin & Sally Jo Carr; Lyle Pointek and Liz Millman; Jim Culler
- 12. Justin Savidis** – Willow, AK
Dr. John Boston Internal Medicine; The Prospector; Dr. Carson's All Natural Product; Stormy Kromer; Alaska Sand & Gravel; Coach & Bev Haun (the in-laws); Carol Lee Harris; Mark Atkins; Mick & Jodi Oxenrider; Scott Schlesinger; Alex Alexander; Jim & Vicki Sutterfield; Steve 'Grizz' & Rose Witte; Chet the Dog Plunderers: Dawson, Siber-H, Barb & Maggie, B. Stover, Bluecat, Spencer Quinn, Rio the Evil Pug, Beau the Black Pug, Wookiee & Teddy Ruff Rider, Staff & Alice M. Johnson and Abbie the Kitty, OleyHowlers, Wolfie Wigglebutt, the pack at River Bear Newfoundlands, Barb & Bear Spirit Dog, Masquers & Nana, Natasha the Nefarious Borzoi, Gus & Boo-Bear, Mollypop, Princess Sam & LouLou, CHobbitHarris, Tupper & Gilly, Basil & Sage, Macy the Min-Pin, Wose, Linda Jarzynski, Kirby T. Penworthy, Tyb, LizF, Sharon & the Herd of Hounds
- 13. Jake Berkowitz** – Big Lake, AK
- 14. Jim Lanier** – Chugiak, AK
Alaska Equine & Small Animal Hospital; Tenth and M Seafoods; Mark Jacobson/Bill Jones; Julie St. Louis/Glacier Wave Ink; Stan/Sally Smith; Alpine Creek Lodge

- 15. Allen Moore** – Two Rivers, AK
Horizon Lines of Alaska; Clarion Suites Downtown Anchorage; Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food, MA; North Pole Veterinary Hospital; TRose Veterinary Service; Gene's Chrysler Dodge Ram; Quality Suites near Convention Center Anchorage; Pleasant Valley Store; Northern Outfitters FL; Howling Dog Alaska; Tom/Cindy Eckhoff, PA; Mrs. Chevie McDonald; SP Kennel Dog and Puppy Sponsors; SP Kennel Team Members; SP Kennel Dog Fans
- 16. Travis Beals** – Seward, AK
- 17. Aaron Burmeister** – Nome, AK
Being Pacific Construction, WA; Northern Air Cargo; Specialty Supply; Dr. Tim's Momentum Dog Food; Eureka Meats; Alaskan Wildstyle Racing; My Family; Tony/Marion Browning
- 18. Nathan Schroeder** (rookie) – Chisholm, MN
Dogbooties.co; Duluth Sign; Stewart-Taylor Printing; Westmorelandflint; Camp Chow; Millwright Local 1348; Vermilion Veterinary Clinic; General Waste; Minnesota Twist Drill; Revival Animal Health; Carousel Thrift Store.
- 19. Cindy Abbott** (rookie) – Irvine, CA
- 20. Newton Marshal** – St. Anne, JAMAICA
Mary and Dennis Tresner of Acme Auto Glass and Black Lake Buildings; Richmond St. Ann of St. Ann Jamaica; Urgent Care at Lake Lucille; Joe Sutliff; John Firth; The Hale Family from Knik; Ziji International; Ann Norton of doTERRA; The Kelly Family of Big Lake; Kathleen Frederick & Bill Estelle
- 21. Ray Redington, Jr.** – Wasilla, AK
DSR – Diversified Systems Resources, OK; Alaska Frontier Constructors, Inc; Mary Curtis, NJ; GBA Corona, TX; Clarinol, NJ; Tangle River Inn; Bill/Carole Stead, CA; Kipp Erickson, MI; Denali Vapor, OK; Roy/Cheryl Catalano, CO; Dr Carson's All Natural Products; Northern Outfitters; Cal Worthington Ford
- 22. Marcelle Fressineau** (rookie) – Whitehorse, YT CANADA
Alayuk Adventures, YT CANADA
- 23. Jason Mackey** – Wasilla, AK
Taylor Fire Protection Services, LLC; Top Dog Drive In; Musers Feed & Supply; Surface Works Counter Tops; Quality Mushing Gear; Dave/Gwen Bogart; Lance Mackey's Comeback Kennel; Alaska Frontier North Pawn & Loan; Alaska R & R Laundry and RV Park; Kid Zone; For My Cell; Central Plumbing and Heating; Little Philosophers; Alaska Heritage Memorial Chapel
- 24. Cindy Gallea** – Wykoff, MN
Dave Applen; Big Dan's Trucking, MN; Karen, Rob, & David Fitch; James B. Gallea; Bill Gallea & Jeanne MacPherson; Richard & Mary Gallea; Mark & Gail Light; Market Place Media Company; Lynn Margesson & Bill Danby; Ody's Country Meats, MN; Erik Pack; Stacy Rader; Doug & Mary Sanders; Paul Schue; Sunshine Foods, MN; Jeff & Joyce Tarte; David & Ann Tienter
- 25. Christian Turner** (rookie) – Karratha, AUSTRALIA
- 26. Paige Drobny** – Fairbanks, AK
Macro Intelligence Agency, CA; Sullivan's Steakhouse; DogPaddle Designs; Ursa Major Distilling; Woodland Wellness Center; TRose Veterinary Services; Windstream Power, VT; Lulu's Bread and Bagel; Scurion Headlamps, SWITZERLAND; Spot Tracker; Windstream Power, VT; Big Dan's Trucking, MN; The Alaska Glove; Squid Acres Dog Sponsors & Fans
- 27. Curt Perano** – Central Otago, NEW ZEALAND
AKE, Ltd, UK; D-Fa Dogs, NEW ZEALAND; David & Sharron Bernsen, CA; UnderDog New Zealand, NEW ZEALAND; Berrima Boarding Kennels, AUSTRALIA; Totally Epic Pictures, NEW ZEALAND; The Waddell Family, AUSTRALIA; Jansen & Stacey Cardy, AK; Neva Banks, AUSTRALIA; Russell Fowler, NEW ZEALAND; Canada Goose, NZ
- 28. Joar Leifseth Ulsom** – Mo i Rana, NORWAY
Helgeland Sparebank; OT Sleds; Non-stop Dogwear; Momek Group; Klattermusen; Handler Import; Rana Trekk & Bruks Hundklub; Trust Forwarding; Arctic Chiropractic; Connectria Hosting; NPS Shared Beringian Heritage Program; Chukotka Discovery; GoNorth! Adventure Learning; Solveig Leifseth, Vegar Leifseth Ulsom & Gunnar Ulsom; Joyce and Peter Duncan
- 29. John Dixon** – Fairbanks, AK

- 30. Cim Smyth** – Big Lake, AK
The Bloomin Crew; Mat-Su Plastic Surgery; My California Fans; Helena Spector; Gene & Lynn Smith; Dennis & Candace; Debbie & Tom; Nick & Dianne; Jill & Carl; Chester Witzack; Mal & Adrienne; Smyth Family; Zurflueh Family; Abe & Jessica; Mariah & Kevin
- 31. Nicolas Petit** – Girdwood, AK
- 32. Peter Kaiser** – Bethel, AK
- 33. Michael Williams, Jr.** – Bethel, AK
Donlin Gold; Calista Corp; Henry Kohl; Hickels; Jensions; Williams/Ekamarak/Lomack Families; Akiak Native Community; Ryan Air; George Attla; The Drews Foundation; Robert/Carol Hickel; Bob Sept, DVM; Yukon Equipment
- 34. Lev Shvarts** (rookie) – Willow, AK
- 35. Tommy Jordbrudal** (rookie) – Longyearbyen NORWAY
- 36. Michelle Phillips** – Tagish, YT CANADA
Ground Effect Media; Alaska RV Discovery; Spike & Lindy; Friends & family
- 37. Kelly Maixner** – Big Lake, AK
Wee Care Pediatric Dentistry; Fly Denali; Mat-Valley Meats
- 38. Gus Guenther** – Clam Gulch, AK
- 39. Robert Sørli** – Hurdal, NORWAY
- 40. Ellen Halverson** – Wasilla, AK
Kathleen & John Matthews; Lynda Plettner; Nancy & Glen Yoshida; Cheryl Conley; Denali CrossFit; St. Ann's Academy
- 41. Paul Gebhardt** – Kasilof, AK
Janssen Funeral Homes; Inlet Painting and Drywall; Northern Outfitters; Dr. Richard Crosby; Builders Choice; Bill Petrell; Allan & Alfi Norville; Steve Tarries, CPA; Stanley Chrysler; Fulton Auto Body; Mickys Custom Sewing; Kenai Vet Clinic; Soldotna SBS; Snug Harbor Sea Foods; Blockbuster Video; Craig Taylor, Inc.; R & R Auto; Gebhardt Construction, Inc.; Aspen Hollow Lodging
- 42. Karin Hendrickson** – Willow, AK
Gwen Rodman; Brad/Joan VanMeter; Tom/Arleen, Paige/Brooke Derevjanik; Joan Presecan; Marilyn Dale/Sandra Baldonado; Kanaga Environmental Consulting; Richard/Sandra Hendrickson; Renee Van Huele; Denise Van Huele; Chris Entman; Patti/Warren TenBrook; Bill/Beth/Sarah Steele; The Routh Family
- 43. Dan Kaduce** – Chatanika, AK
TJ's Land Clearing; Halliburton; Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.; NEOS Overshoe; Intuition Liners; Nancy Bailey; Virginia Pond; Meg Thornton; Marlys Sauer; Dawn Beckwell; Walt & Janet Tremmer; Connie Lykins; Kirstie McGuinness; Constance Alexander; Carol & Don Hand; Deb & Hunter Davis; Myron & Doris Kaduce; Jeff Buddington; Pendra King; Kate Van Duine/VAC Alaska Pet Care; Joel Switzer; Ev Vykin; Betty & Frederick Porter; Iditaskae 2014, PA
- 44. Jessie Royer** – Darby, MT
- 45. Mats Pettersson** (rookie) – Kiruna, SWEDEN
Non Stop Dogwear, SWEDEN/NORWAY; Priima, SWEDEN; Appetitt Dog Food, NORWAY; Team Sportia, SWEDEN; Axaeco Ab; Haglöfs Sweden Clothes; Craft of Sweden Clothes; Dog Vitality
- 46. Aliy Zirkle** – Two Rivers, AK
Horizon Lines of Alaska; Clarion Suites Downtown Anchorage; Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food, MA; North Pole Veterinary Hospital; TRose Veterinary Service; Gene's Chrysler Dodge Ram; Quality Suites near Convention Center Anchorage; Pleasant Valley Store; Northern Outfitters FL; Howling Dog Alaska; Tom/Cindy Eckhoff, PA; Mrs. Chevie McDonald; SP Kennel Dog and Puppy Sponsors; SP Kennel Team Members; SP Kennel Dog Fans

47. Jan Steves – Edmonds, WA

Bob Chlupach; Ted & Paula English; Angie Taggart; Richard Steves, Sr, WA; Teresa & John Cooper, NC; Rick Steves, WA; Jackie Leake, WA; Jeff & Deanna LePage/First Choice Physical Therapy; Margaret Morcom, WA; Andrea Hawkes, BC CANADA; Helga Byhre, WA; Karen & Stephen Fry, WA; Lynn Budzak; Nancy Edwards, WA; Cindy Klettke, WA; Cecile Hoovier, WA; Helen Bauch, WA; Judi Worley, WA; Amy Young, GA; Al & Lori Bergman, WA; Bob Anderson, WA; Barbara Hudak, WA; Elizabeth Watson, WA; Marian Hudak, WA; Dorothy Roat, WA; Helene Fowler, WA; John MacFadden, WA; Larry & Linda Cline; Anna Hamman; Terry Morache; Vance Manning; Jane Barnes; Rick Outwin; Larry Labonty; Bob Sexton; Christina Rose; Mary Mitchell; Melissa Chlupach; Leslie Aliverti Jones; Alpine Lodge; Cantwell Lodge; Alyeska Mountain Shop; Brett Crook; Demetris of Edmonds; Zeye by Panoptx

48. Richie Diehl – Aniak, AK

The Kuskokwim Corp.; Ace Air Cargo; The Hound House Restaurant; Erich Kuball; Yukon Equipment; Calista; Aniak Light & Power; AC Co.; K9 Comfort; Dr. Bob Sept

49. Monica Zappa (rookie) – Kasilof, AK

Musicians United to Protect Bristol Bay; Posh House; Petchup; Sheraton Hotel Anchorage; Snug Harbor Seafoods; Ed's Kasilof Seafoods; Cozier with Fur; Della Lane; Grandma Lee; Freddie's Roadhouse Soldotna Dental Clinic; Janelle Ruppel; Dean/MyDzung Osmar; Jen Reiter and class; Cumberland Federal Bank; Polar Screens and Signs; Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers; Nutiva; Father Fish; Jane and Randy Adkins; Alexa Ives; David Phipps; Dave/Shirley Anne Evenson; Hugh Wisner; Steve Russell; John Tyhus; Kerry Etcheberry; Fred Agree/Nona Sa-fre; Michelle Galletti; Long Lake Lutheran Church; And also thanks to the others who have made small donations and purchased Team Zappa gear

50. Linwood Fiedler – Willow, AK

51. Ralph Johannessen (rookie) – Dagali, NORWAY

Eukanuba; Provit; Studentpakken; Handlerimport; Dogbooties.com

52. Karen Ramstead – Perryvale, ONT CANADA

EaglePack/WellPet Pet Foods; SkookumBrand, YT CANADA; Dogbooties.com, MN; Northwapiti Minions; Lara/Alice Baker; Jon/Jona Van-Zyle; Best in Snow Photography/Dan Rehak & Heather Walls; Rodney Whaley, TN; Alpine Outfitters, CA; Arctis Carts, OR; Westlock Veterinary Clinic, AB CANADA; Morna Murray, AB CANADA; Dr. Ruth Sims, BC, CANADA; Mountain Dog Food, AB CANADA; Polly's Pet Service; Anne Trygstad, MT; Patricia Arnold

53. Sonny Lindner – Two Rivers, AK

54. Elliot Anderson (rookie) – Big Lake, AK

Alaska Icefield Expeditions; Happy Trails Kennel; Big Lake Susitna Veterinary Hospital; Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food/WEllPet; Diversified Tire

55. Matthew Failor -- Willow, AK

Gold Rush Sled Dog Tours; Temsco Helicopters; Michael O'Machearley Custom Knives, OH; Beau Ties Lmtd of Vermont; Anchorage Snow Dawgs Cleveland Browns Backers; Highs Adventure Kennel; Daryl/Pam Darnell

56. Robert Bundtzen -- Anchorage, AK

St. Elias Specialty Hospital; Sheep Mountain Lodge/Zack & Anjanette Steer; Mark Selland/Kathy Fairymiarz; Louis Kralick; John Mues

57. Mike Santos – Cantwell, AK

Marty Hauler; Fran Gray; Denali Fly Fishing Guides; Alpine Creek Lodge; Jack/Maria Santos; John/Nancy Brady; Cantwell RV Park; Wheeler EMS

58. Ken Anderson – Fairbanks, AK

Redpaw Foods, WI; Lupine Lights/Gretna Bikes, PA; Northern Outfitters, FL; Dog Sponsors (Thanks!)

59. John Baker – Kotzebue, AK

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation; Teck; Red Dog Mine; Northern Air Cargo

60. Hans Gatt – Whitehorse, YT CANADA

Totaltrac Yukon (2012),Inc, YT CANADA; Air North Yukon's Airline, Yukon CANADA

- 61. Katherine Keith** (rookie) – Kotzebue, AK
Team Baker Kennel; Remote Solutions, LLC; Bulletproof Executive
- 62. Danny Seavey** – Sterling, AK
- 63. Wade Marrs** – Wasilla, AK
Alaska Warm and Cozy; Alaska Excursions; GrizzlyAftermath Films; Urgent Care at Lake Lucille
- 64. Hugh Neff** – Tok, AK
Redpaw, WI; Mountain Ridge, ME; Petro Marine Services; AP & T; Vintage VDB, GERMANY; GBA Corona, TX; Canada Goose, CANADA; 40 Mile Air; Intuition Liners, BC CANADA; Dave Scheer
- 65. Abbie West** (rookie)—Two Rivers, AK
Mainscape Landscaping, National; Sarah West, NC; Peter/Susan West, PA; Rag Tag Wood Hauling; Joel Swisher; Wayne/Dale Andersen; Bart Stewart; Kate VanDuine, DVM
- 66. Mike Ellis** – Fairbanks, AK
Mountain Ridge, ME; Dog Paddle Designs; Horizon Pet Food, SK, CANADA; Chena Ridge Veterinary Clinic; SnowStare Farm Woolens & Woolpower, NH/SWEDEN; Arctis Carts, OR
- 67. Anna Berington** – Kasilof, AK
Janssen Funeral Homes; Steve Watkins; Halliburton; Steve Schroll, CO; Captain Tom Bathey and Crew, WI; Redington Racing; Richard Logan; Family & Friends
- 68. Alex Buetow** (rookie) – Fairbanks, AK
- 69. Kristy Berington** – Kasilof, AK
Halliburton; Northern Outfitters; Richard Logan; Paul Gebhardt; Tom Bathey, WI; Mickey's Custom Sewing; Dr. Ken Swaymann; Fuller Auto Body; Bill Petrel; Star Gazer Land and Cattle, TX

Withdrawn:

- 1) **Aaron Peck** – 09-06-13 personal reasons
- 2) **Gerry Willomitzer** – 1-15-14 personal reasons
- 3) **Matt Giblin** – 1-13-14 personal injury
- 4) **Brent Sass** – 1-14-14 personal injury
- 5) **Ed Stielstra** 2-21-14 inadequate training conditions

Remember to Renew

Iditarod Insider Video and GPS Tracker!

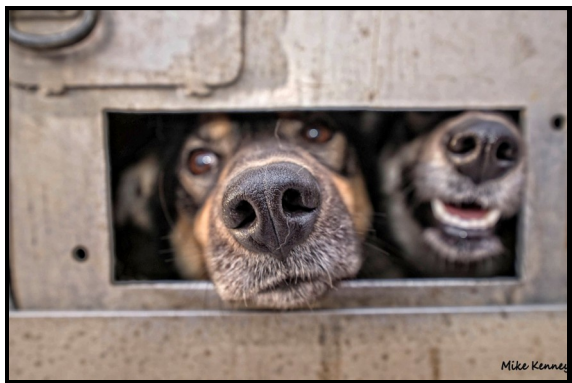
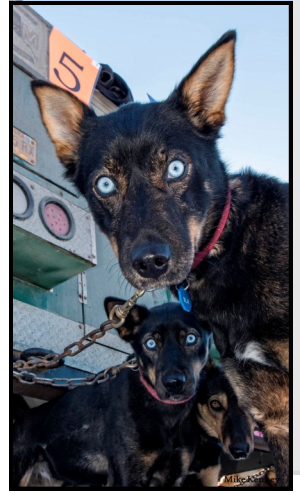
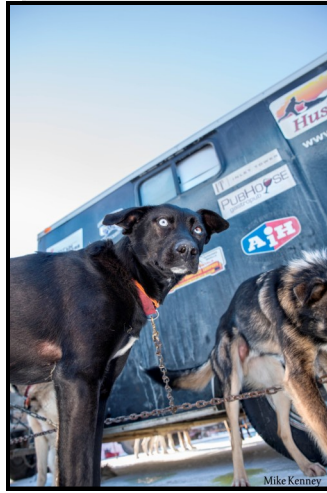
All subscriptions expire June 31.

You can renew starting July 1!

Don't wait until race time!

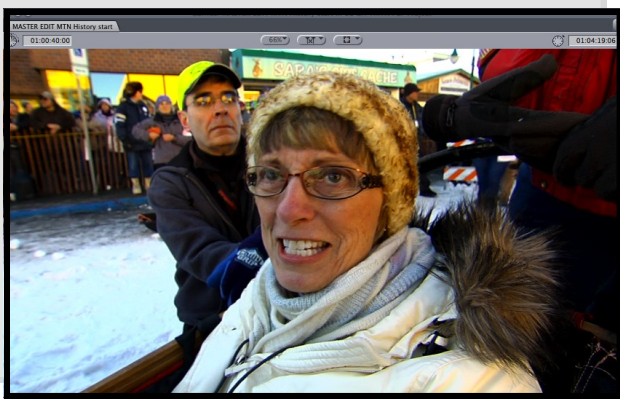
Renew or Purchase Subscriptions Early!

We'd like to thank volunteer photographer, Mike Kenney for sharing his photos with us!

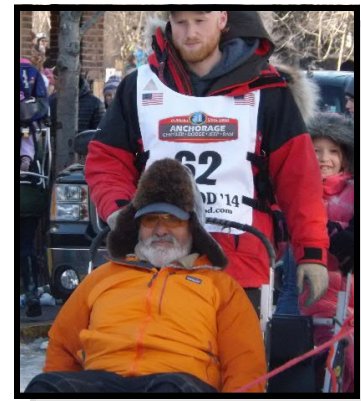




2014 Winter Raffle Winners of the Dodge Truck from Anchorage Dodge



IditaRiders



Signs from the Jr. Iditarod



2014 Honor Guard



Christian Turner in McGrath



Mike Ellis



2014 Honorary Musher Deby Trosper



Deby's Granddaughter
Charlie – Riding in
Sled #1



*Thanks,
Race Fans!*