

The Official 2017 Race Guide

45th Annual

Iditarod

Trail Sled Dog Race®



Jason Campeau leaves the Nikolai checkpoint as the sun sets on March 8, 2016.

2017 Musher Profiles & Checkpoint Spotlight

Pull-Out Poster & Trail Map Included

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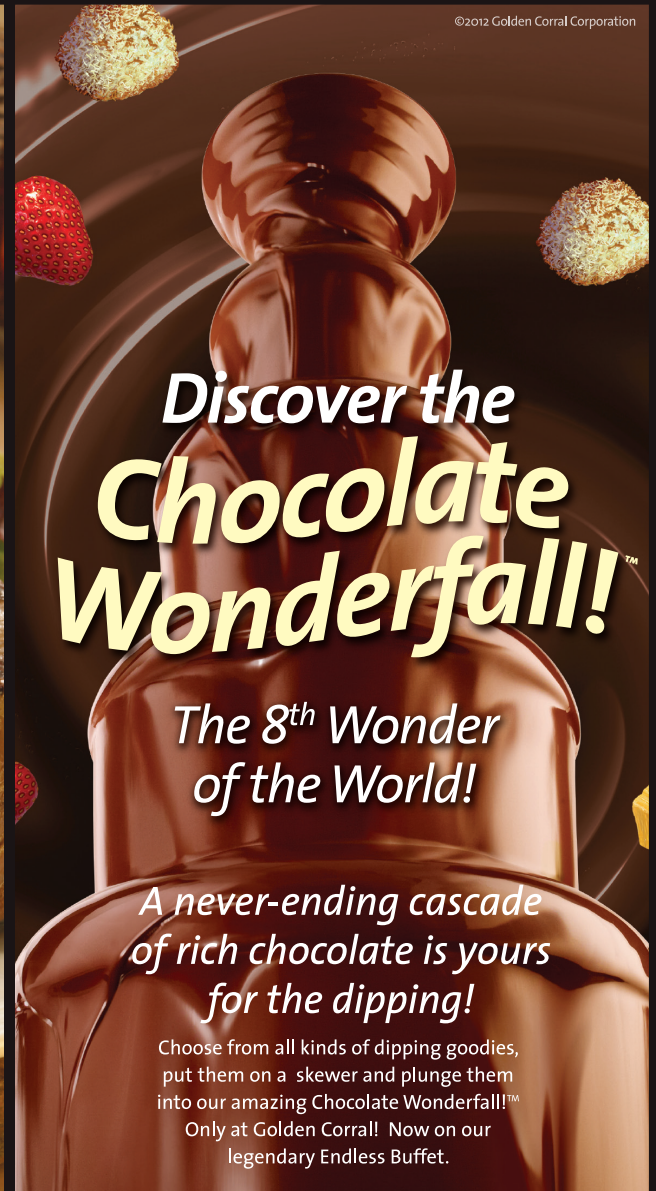


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Aliy Zirkle and her team on the Bering Sea near Nome, Iditarod 2016.

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Mushers feed their dogs as the Northern lights light up the sky at the Cripple checkpoint on Thursday March 10 during Iditarod 2016.



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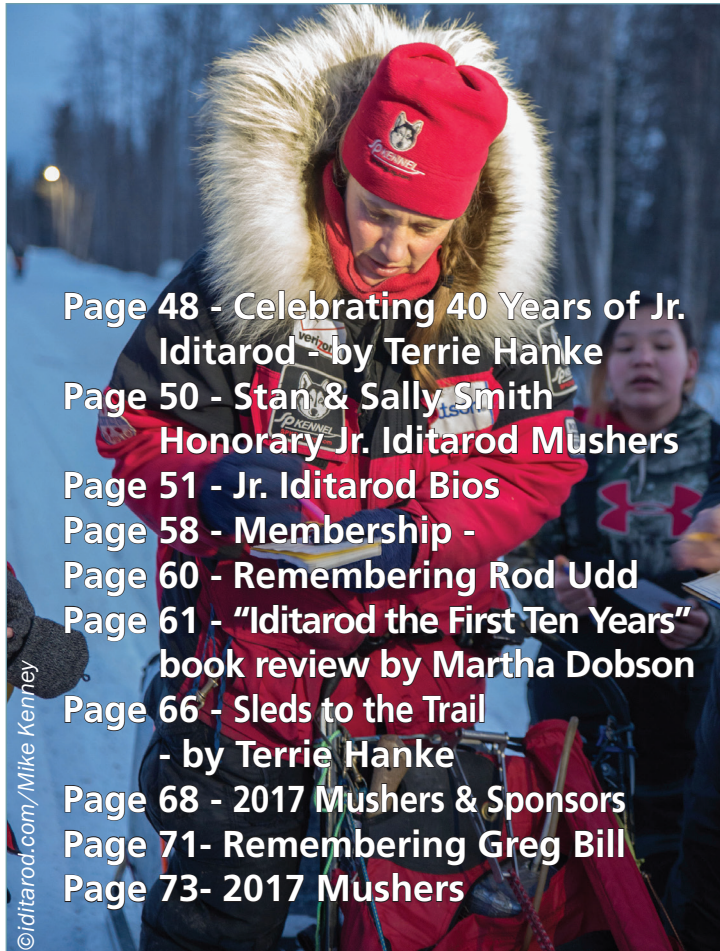
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Aliy Zirkle checks in at McGrath during the 2016 Iditarod.



Photo courtesy of Kaiser Racing Kennel / kaiserracing.com

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Message from the Board

On behalf of the ITC Board of Directors, we would like to wish you a warm welcome to the 45th Running of "The Last Great Race on Earth®", Iditarod 2017.

We are proud to say that the Iditarod is alive and well. The amount of snow on the trail this year promises an exciting race.* Mushers from the world over are signed up and ready to run.

It is our pleasure to invite you to join us, at whatever level you are involved. From 4th Avenue in Anchorage to Front Street and the Burled Arch in Nome, there won't be a dull moment. Whether it is following online or on the Trail, the Iditarod provides plenty of fun and excitement for us all.

As can be expected of the Last Great Race, we have some of the best competitors in the sport that the world has ever known. No one goes on this journey on their own, so a heartfelt thank you is due to the fans and volunteers that make this event a possibility and, come March, a reality. It goes without saying that thanks must go to the men and women who fill the roles of helpers and dog handlers for the mushers throughout the year.

The final preparations are being put in place as we close in on another year and another test of will and skill in the Great State of Alaska. God speed and good luck to every one of you.

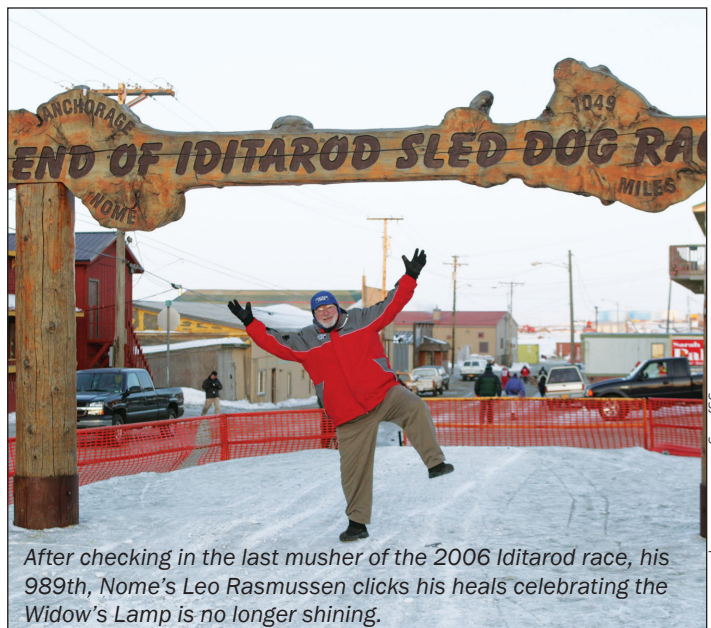
Enjoy Iditarod 45

Andy Baker

Danny Seybert

Andy Baker and Danny Seybert

* The 2017 Iditarod Race Guide was submitted for publication on February 6, 2017, therefore the Iditarod Trail Committee has provided two race maps (Southern and Fairbanks) so Iditarod race fans will have access to the right trail no matter what. Enjoy the 45th running of the Last Great Race On Earth"!



After checking in the last musher of the 2006 Iditarod race, his 989th, Nome's Leo Rasmussen clicks his heels celebrating the Widow's Lamp is no longer shining.

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IDITAROD 2017, the Historic 45th Running of this Race by Bruce Lee

Long before the first snows of winter fall in Alaska, sled dog teams are on the trails training for the Iditarod. When nights turn cool in the autumn, mushers hook their dogs to 4-wheelers to start getting those early training miles. Some mushers use indoor tracks, swimming, free running, and many other methods to keep some level of training on their dogs year-round.

What fans see during the two weeks of the Iditarod race itself is just the tip of the iceberg of the year-round lifestyle that these mushers live with their dogs. It's not just a race; it is a full-blown lifestyle taking up almost every aspect of the mushers' lives. Whereas people in most other jobs can go home at night and forget about work, mushers eat, sleep, and drink sled dog mushing. It's akin to ranching

and farming where one day blends into another and there's always something more to do. Building sleds, putting together food drops, mending winter gear, walking pups, or preparing the next morning's meal for the dogs - the list goes on and on. It's a life full of challenges and rewards. For most mushers, just the time out on the trail with their dogs is the greatest reward of them all.

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Local residents bring water to be heated for mushers at the Nikolai checkpoint during Iditarod 2016.

The Iditarod has changed tremendously since the early days of the race. Gone are the days when teams came in from the trapline, and most mushers listed their occupations as ivory carver, seal hunter, homesteader, or trapper. Today's mushers may not come from those backgrounds but they are highly tuned in the care and racing of sled dogs. They dedicate their lives to developing the skills and education needed to run races to the highest level of competition. They have learned from the history of this great race as well as the advancements that have been gained in dog care over the years. The fact is dogs everywhere have gained from the improvements made in nutrition, sports medicine, training, and general dog care due to the knowledge gained over the years from the Iditarod mushers, researchers, and veterinary staff. Along with upgrades in the trail and mushing gear, this is one of the major reasons the races have continued to get faster and faster. There is no doubt that someday there will be another 10 or 11-day race because Alaska's weather can kick in wind and snow storms that can slow down even the best of teams. Gone, however, are the days of the 15 to 20-day Iditarods.

Last year we saw a new record established of 8 days, 11 hours, and 20 minutes. We are now witnessing an era of Dallas Seavey consistently bringing a powerhouse of champion sled dogs to the race. Because Dallas has won four of the last five Iditarods, he is the person everyone has their eye on. There is a line of mushers with top teams ready to take the advantage away from him and who work just as hard at training their teams, but Dallas has put together a complete package of training, planning, adapting, and racing that keeps him on the cutting edge of racing the Iditarod. On the trail, it is obvious that he not only enjoys racing, but is also always adjusting to situations as they arise. During the race, he strategizes in a way that is a caliber above the competition. He assesses his team to take advantage of its best qualities, as well as the individual dogs within the team. In checkpoints, he is a picture of efficiency and makes every action count. He is never running "last year's" race but always looking for changes that improve his team's opportunities in any given year. Dallas is always looking for what is the



Nathan Schroeder massages one of his dogs shoulders at the Takotna checkpoint during Iditarod 2016. Alaska. March 09, 2016.

best for that year's group of dogs. He is willing to adjust plans on the trail to gain a little more or a little less rest at a given point. He manages his dogs so that only the strongest one's head down the trail to the next checkpoint and to optimize the strongest aspects of his race the team. Last year we saw him run just a few miles longer out of Shaktoolik just to gain a distance and time advantage for his dogs over his next competitor, Mitch Seavey, which gave him an advantage further up the trail. The plan was well thought out and executed.

Watching the race along the trail, like the Iditarod Insider crew, it's hard to tell in the early miles of the days who has the strongest team and is setting up with the best strategy. Teams develop issues, mushers get tired, and trail conditions change — all these things start affecting the final outcome of the race. As the miles click off you begin to see the strongest teams move to the front. Some musher will push too hard in the beginning and fall back later in the race. The strongest travel at an even steady pace to the "24 hour" layover, setting themselves up for the latter part of the race with the best rest advantage for their particular dogs. Mushers must constantly evaluate their dogs to determine when they need food or rest. The when, how long, and where of these stops are managed by the musher, utilizing knowledge of their team and how they were trained. Managing rest for the dogs is always the key to a successful race for any musher.

Continued on page 64

45 Years Ago... Remembering the Start of Iditarod

By Katie Mangelsdorf, author of *Champions of Alaskan Huskies*

Joe and Vi Redington lived at Flat Horn Lake along the old Iditarod Trail. In the early 1950's the Redingtons began rediscovering the route of this old mail and freight trail, which brought gold out of interior Alaska and the Iditarod District in the early 1900's. Lee Ellexon, the last mail carrier between Knik and Rainy Pass, showed Joe how to locate the remaining markings of the old Iditarod Trail. They talked for hours about the toughness of the dogs and mushers and gold-seeking adventurers along the Iditarod Trail.

This all led to the importance of preserving the history of the Iditarod Trail. To them it was like preserving the Lewis and Clark Trail or the Oregon Trail. "We both wrote letters to get the Iditarod on the National Trail Registry," said Vi Redington, Joe's wife. "Joe would dictate and I would type out the letters." In an interview with Vi she stated, "During the '50's and '60's we were writing to everyone we could think of in the state and federal government... Governor Egan helped. All the governors helped...[U.S. Senator] Mike Gravel...Mike really pushed it for us...and finally Ted Stevens joined in."

In preparation for Alaska's 1967 Centennial Celebrations, Dorothy Page, an avid historian and chairman of the Wasilla-Knik Centennial Committee, consulted with Joe Redington about the possibility of having a short sprint race along part of the Iditarod Trail. This idea fell perfectly in line with his dream to get the Iditarod Trail recognized as a national trail, so of course, it was possible. The one-time race took in nine miles of the Iditarod Trail. But nine miles was not big enough for Joe. No, Joe only dreamed BIG. So, from this seed-idea of Dorothy Page, now called the Mother of the Iditarod, Joe expanded his dream into a big long-distance race over the Alaska Range to Iditarod and back. More attention needed to be drawn this historic trail. Plus the fact that sled dogs were being replaced by snowmachines, and for Joe, this just couldn't happen.

"On December 9, 1972, Joe wrote a letter to his friend and fellow dog musher, Howard Farley. Howard ran

a team of dogs for tourists during the summer and was the only man to have a dog team in Nome for some years. The letter started, 'I thought you might be interested in this race. I need some help on that end. Let me know if you are interested...' And Farley was. Farley sent the letter on to Leo Rasmussen. Then the Nome Kennel Club got involved. Their tireless teamwork and generosity proved to be invaluable to the Iditarod Race." (CHAMPION OF ALASKAN HUSKIES, p.165) Thus, the Iditarod Race to Nome, the first long-distance sled dog race, was born.

The Serum Relay, getting the diphtheria anti-toxin to Nome, never entered the thoughts of Joe Redington Sr. or the folks who dove into Joe's incredible dream.

Continued on page 13



Joe Redington Sr., 1986 Brooks Range

45 Years Ago...

Continued from page 12

Fact: The Iditarod Race was started because Joe Redington Sr. lived along the Iditarod Trail and wanted to preserve the history of the Iditarod Trail. He wanted the sled dogs to continue to be a part of Alaska's culture. MYTH: The Iditarod Race started because of the Serum Race. CONNECTION: The route of the Iditarod Trail Race and the Serum Race joined trail routes at Ruby along the Yukon River and continue down river to Kaltag, across the Kaltag Portage, and up the coastal trail to Nome. This traditional trail route has been used for millennia by the indigenous people of Alaska and in more recent years explorers, traders, adventurers, and gold-seekers.

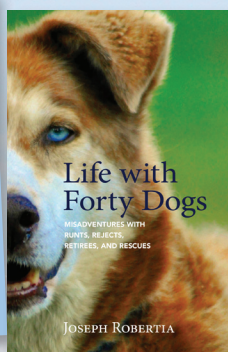
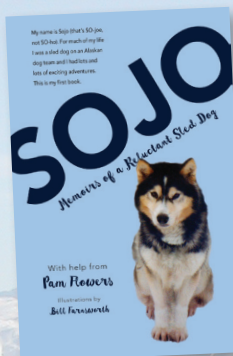
Joe is remembered as having said, "I came to Alaska to mush dogs and I didn't want to see the dogs disappear. It [the Iditarod Race] did bring the dogs back...the publicity of the race got the trail into the National Trail System."

On this the 45th race, we celebrate all of the folks who worked together at the race start up – and who have left their sled tracks on the trail – literally and figuratively, and of course, financially. Thanks to all!



Joe Redington Sr. arriving in Nome Alaska in 1974. Photo by Richard Burmeister.

Placing 42nd in the 1986 Iditarod, Roger Roberts once said, "I love the sport and the idea of making a working team out of a bunch of wild huskies. There are a lot of reasons to run Iditarod. But, mostly because it's the only way to fly!"



Love sled dogs? You'll love these new books!

Sojo: Memoirs of a Reluctant Sled Dog by Pam Flowers. Adventure with Sojo (Big-Enough Anna's sister) as she tells about her life and expeditions from a dog's point of view. PamFlowers.com

Life with Forty Dogs: Misadventures with Runts, Rejects, Retirees, and Rescues by Joseph Robertia. Discover what it's like to race, rehabilitate (and live with) a dog team. @RoguesKennelFanPage

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A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE IDITAROD VETERINARY PROGRAM

by Dr. Stu Nelson, Jr., DVM, Chief Veterinarian

Iditarod XLV, that's right, 45, is just around the corner! A year goes by fast, but it is amazing even how quickly four decades and five years can pass. Those decades have brought numerous changes in the race, including the veterinary program.

Dr. Terry Adkins, who thereafter competed in every Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race until the early 90's, was the one and only veterinarian for the first race! Today, a total staff of approximately fifty-five volunteer veterinarians and fifteen licensed veterinary technicians are involved in caring for the dogs before, during and after their race participation. The vast majority (approximately forty-five) of the veterinarians serve as "trail vets," who perform routine evaluations of sled dogs at the checkpoints. Typically, about ten percent of the veterinary staff are Alaskan residents, with most of the remainder being from the lower 48 states. However, many other countries have been represented over the

years, including, Australia, Austria, Canada, England, France, Germany, New Zealand and Norway.

The selection process for veterinarians begins in May of the year prior, when invitation letters are sent to Iditarod veterans. The majority of veterinary staff members are veterans, but a few rookies are selected annually. To be eligible for staff selection, a minimum of five years of clinical practice experience and fluency in the English language are necessary. A veterinarian must also have a current permanent



(c) Jeff Schultz/Schultzphoto.com



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Volunteer vets Glenn Behan (L) and Tonya Stephens examines Kristy Berington dogs shortly after her arrival at the Takotna checkpoint during Iditarod 2016.

license to practice within their local jurisdiction, and it must be in good standing. For those who do not maintain a permanent Alaska veterinary license (the majority are from "outside"), appropriate paperwork is submitted to the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Board for review. Assuming all is in order, an Alaska Courtesy License is issued to enable non-Alaskan applicants to serve as Iditarod veterinarians.

I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate

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HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE VETERINARY PROGRAM

CONTINUED from page 14

on the philosophy of the Iditarod veterinary program. Proper animal care is vital to the success of the sport of mushing. Our roles as stewards of our sled dog athletes, require that we do everything possible to assure their well-being. To accomplish this, it is essential that mushers and veterinarians continue to work together on behalf of the dogs

Two important organizations have been established for the purposes of gaining and disseminating knowledge about sled dog care. The International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association (ISDVMA) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting research and disseminating knowledge in regard to health care. Mush with P.R.I.D.E. (Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment) is a lay organization which addresses kennel management topics.

To be eligible for signing up to enter the Iditarod, mushers must have previously completed qualifying races approved by the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC). In addition, each musher is assessed by an ITC Qualifying Review Board, before their entry is formalized.

The first official function of the Iditarod musher education/preparation process begins with a two-day December (year prior to the start in March) rookie meeting. Rookie mushers are provided with a copy of The Musher & Veterinary Handbook, a highly informative manual published by the ISDVMA. Topics such as training/conditioning, food drop preparation, race strategy, equipment selection, nutrition and of course, veterinary care, are covered. In addition, several letters addressing dog care issues are sent,

CONTINUED on page 62



(c) Jeff Schultz/Schultzphoto.com

Melissa Owens-Stewart on the trail on the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River after leaving the Rohn checkpoint during Iditarod 2016.

Honorary Musher: Leo Rasmussen and the 8 - Letter Word

by Diane Johnson

Simply put, an 8 - letter word and a hand-written letter from Joe Redington, Sr. to Howard Farley are two things that changed the path of Leo's life and his family's life. These two things brought him into the Iditarod world. This year marks the 45th year that he will be in Nome for the finish of the race.

Leo was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1963, he moved to Nome. Leo and his wife, Erna, raised their family and had a focus on helping Nome to be a good place to live, a place where members of the community could have fun, and the Iditarod would thrive into what it is today. Leo and Erna had two daughters and now they have 7 grandchildren, one of which they are raising. Leo and Erna have recently 'retired' and moved to Fairbanks. Their days are filled with family time. Leo often drives two grandchildren to school in the mornings. Spending time with his grandkids 'keeps him young.'

Having been involved with the early discussions of the startup of Iditarod, this will be the 45th year that Leo has been involved with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race®.

Back in December of 1972, Nome resident and Iditarod icon, Howard Farley showed Leo a letter about the plan to run a race from Anchorage to Nome. The subject of the letter was an 8 - letter word that wasn't familiar to most and some weren't even sure how to pronounce it. I - D - I - T - A - R - O - D. The letter was from Joe Redington, Sr. Joe was looking to get dog mushers from the area involved in the Iditarod and set up the Nome finish. Howard asked Leo what he thought about the race that had been described in the letter and Leo's response was that if they were going to run it, those in Nome ought to show up to help with it. From there, Leo's involvement in promoting the race began and Leo became one of many to embrace this race for these past 45 years. Leo says about back then, "we had no idea where it would go or even if it would go at all." If he has any regrets at all over the past 45 years, a regret would be that he wasn't in Anchorage to see the start of the first Iditarod.



(c) Jeff Schultz/Schultzphoto.com

Former Nome Mayor and official timer for all 44 Iditarods, Leo Rasmussen waits at the finish line for another team during the 2008 Iditarod.

In 1972, Leo signed up to be a checker at the finish line for the first Iditarod. (1973) That was the year packages of Kool-Aid marked the finish line and he stood on a ladder to take photos of Dick Wilmarth arriving in Nome. It is this position of 'Finish Line Checker' or perhaps the 'voice at the finish line' that he is remembered for the most. It's been his responsibility to welcome the first musher to Nome marking the champion's arrival, to call out the list of mandatory items in the sled, and to be a part of the official checker team in Nome. Years earlier, in 1964, Leo had

Honorary Musher: Leo Rasmussen

met Dorothy Page, who is now recognized as the Mother of the Iditarod. Dorothy was in Nome for a conference and Leo happened to meet her during a 2 AM discussion she was having with associates from the Nome school district. Dorothy was trying to 'sell' the 8 - letter word, Iditarod by encouraging Nome school representatives that the school should become interested in doing something with Iditarod – the gold rush town and the trail that led through parts of Alaska. No one knew much about the trail or the gold mining village at that time but to Dorothy, it was important to raise interest and improve the trail. This chance meeting with Dorothy was a starting point for many things to come over the next 45 years.

Leo was never a musher himself, but indeed it can be said that Iditarod is in his heart and soul. He has had a deep fondness for the mushers, the men and the women, who have challenged themselves in this 1000 mile race.

In 1975, Leo took on the Trail Mail project. (The Nome Kennel Club Cachet project) Musher's have carried the cachets in their sled bags during the race as part of the mandatory items in the sleds. In 1989 he started an educational project. This project has grown through the years and helped classrooms around the world gain information about the race.

Leo has served as a board member for the National Historic Trail Alliance, Inc., and also served as the president for that board.

From 1888 – 1991, Leo served as the president of the Iditarod Trail Committee. He once stated, "I admire people with guts and stamina. I think the Iditarod is worth protecting, and it's worth promoting." Since the start of the race, he's been there to do just that, support it through his involvement, cared for it through his dedication, and promoted it by sharing the Iditarod story throughout these 45 years.

Leo, six-term mayor of Nome, has also worked on many important community projects to help Nome grow and be a better place. For 26 years, he and his nephew occupied the mayor's office. Getting the rec center built, getting streets paved, and helping with community issues was an important part of his life in the role of mayor and community leader.

Before the Iditarod, there was very little going on in Nome from Christmas to spring. A movement to create fun projects to help the community people have things to do during that very quiet time in Nome was started. Leo and his wife were instrumental in helping to create one of those projects, a 'The Great bath tub'

race, a fun race to help people see that they could find fun things to occupy their time. Another project was a huge spaghetti feed that Leo and his wife hosted in their home.

When reflecting on life, Leo sites the importance of family. "If family isn't important, there isn't a reason for life."

Leo grew up with the belief that it was important to make life better when you leave it than when you got into it. For Nome and for the Race, Leo has dedicated energy to those two goals. Thank you, Leo.



Leo Rasmussen gives commemorative trail mail to Robert Bundtzen prior to 2005 Anchorage ceremonial start day.

Checkpoint Focus: McGrath

by Diane Johnson and Terri Hanke

The seventh checkpoint along the Iditarod Trail during the race, McGrath, becomes a center of Iditarod activity when the Iditarod comes to town. The arrival of planes with supplies, volunteers, and media are hints that the racers are getting closer to McGrath. The excitement builds when the first mushers begin to arrive and continues well past the departure of the final teams and the race volunteers.

Villagers, volunteers, and media line the street and cheer when the mushers arrive in the village. With school not in session during this time, youngsters are often seen helping where they can at the checkpoints and getting autographs from the mushers. Iditarod season is a community season. The village of McGrath shows the spirit of Iditarod.

McGrath resident and 27-year race volunteer Mark Cox stated that during the race, the community gets excited about the Iditarod. Most come out to see

the mushers come through, especially those first arrivals. About 15 locals volunteer at the checkpoint, but many more community members are involved and volunteer or show their support in other ways, like bringing in food to the checkpoint, offering their homes for volunteers to stay, or helping out in little ways that make a big difference for the race. The delicious foods brought in to the checkpoint by the villagers are greatly appreciated by everyone. There's nothing like a good old fashioned pot luck to reunite old friends, make new friends, and build a sense of family and community. During Iditarod, visitors and locals are suddenly members of one community and the Iditarod family.



Musher's replacement sleds wait for their owners at the McGrath checkpoint during Iditarod 2016.

Some of the elders will have seen the race come through now for the 45th time. Over those years, they've seen the changes in the race rules, the differences in equipment, changes in the sleds, improvements in dog care, and have seen mushers 'come and go'. Although some of the 'old time' mushers no longer race, they are still remembered and live on in the trail stories told in the community. Many locals have their favorite mushers while other community members are less familiar but still supportive of Iditarod because the



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McGrath continued

race can bring good things to everyone when everyone works together.

When thinking about Iditarod, Mark Cox says, "I love it!" The race has become something Mark and the community of McGrath 'does' each year. Over the years, Mark's been to many other checkpoints during the race and Mark and others are very happy to be helping each year by doing what needs doing. Iditarod is very grateful to the volunteers and the village of McGrath.

The village of McGrath, with less than 400 residence is located where the Kuskokwim and Takotna rivers meet. With two stores, a restaurant, a public library, a museum, a regional health clinic, a hotel, a few other businesses, and an air strip, there is a lot going on in this busy village. People and businesses in McGrath receive cargo and supplies by air and water. Some people still rely on subsistence activities.

They hunt moose, caribou, bear, and rabbits; fish for salmon; trap; tend gardens, harvest berries, and other natural crops. Today, McGrath is an important communication, transportation, and supply center for interior Alaska. It also serves as the center of the huge Iditarod School District. The school in McGrath has about 50 students. Nearly all the houses in McGrath are hooked up to the village water system but most have their own septic systems. There is village garbage service and electricity is provided by McGrath Light & Power.



A team runs down the Kuskokwim River on the trail between Nikolai and McGrath during Iditarod 2016.

The Kuskokwim River is almost always open from June thru October. Summer temperatures in McGrath range from 62 to 80 but in winter the temperatures run between -64 and 0 degrees Fahrenheit. When it's that cold, it seems the snow talks back, "CRUNCH," when you walk, run, or drive on it. This area receives only about 10 inches of precipitation per year including up to 80 to 90 inches of snow.

Before the gold rush, McGrath was a meeting and trading place for Kuskokwim Athabaskan. Then, because this was as far north as barges could travel on the Kuskokwim River, it became a regional trading center after gold was discovered in 1906. It wasn't until 1907 that the town was established

CONTINUED on page 56



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Why Iditarod Edu?

by Jen Reiter, 2014 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Students jump on the Iditarod sled every winter as teachers around the world harness the power of a team of huskies to bring Math, Science, STEM, Social Studies, Reading, Writing, Physical Education, Character Development and more to their students.

Teachers who use the race as a vehicle for bringing standards based curriculum to their classrooms find that their students are more engaged, more energized, and more enthusiastic about the tasks at hand. What about the Iditarod is sparking the interest? What isn't? The race provides the perfect backdrop – challenge, competition, action, adventure, human interest stories and of course plenty of dogs to pique any kid's interest! Add the fact that it is one of the few sports where men and women compete equally and age doesn't matter – and you have the perfect equation for outstanding classroom integration.

The teams that head down the Iditarod Trail to Nome each March, demonstrate the skills that teachers long to instill in their students – teamwork, perseverance, determination, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. As the students put themselves in their mushing heroes' mukluks, they are emulating these same skills. Challenges such

as planning dog kennels using area and perimeter, testing sled runners for friction, designing a sled to carry needed gear, calculating start time differentials, interpreting maps to figure changes in elevation, understanding genetics to identify traits of sled dogs all add to the students' excitement and help develop both character skills and academic content.

The Iditarod Education Department strives to provide teachers with the information, training, and content they need to bring the power of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race to their classrooms. Each year lessons are developed and published a team of classroom teachers and past Teachers on the Trail™ which are content based and differentiated for both the novice Iditarod teacher and the seasoned veteran. Two major conferences, one at race time and one in June, are presented each year as a way to bring teachers to Alaska to be immersed in the experience. Workshops are presented across the Lower 48 for

teachers who long to dip their toe into the Iditarod trail, but who can't make the trek to Alaska. The Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ offers one teacher a year the ultimate experience – the chance to experience the race first hand as they share their experiences with teachers and students across the world.

The question really isn't "Why Iditarod Edu?" The question is "Why would any teacher not bring Iditarod Edu into their classrooms?" There is no greater race on earth to engage, motivate, and educate kids.

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Annie Kelley - Iditarod 2017 Teacher on the Trail™

by Diane Johnson, Director EDU

Annie Kelley, a 4th grade teacher at Saint Andrew School in Chicago, IL, is the 2017 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™. Her passion for inspiring students to be the best they can be and her deep sense of the importance of family and faith, are traits that shine through in all that Annie does.



©Jeff Schultz/Schultzphoto.com

Her adventurous spirit, her high work ethic, and her deep sense of caring are a few of the characteristics that guide Annie as she creates lessons, facilitates educators, and shares Iditarod as a teaching tool. Annie's vision of helping students be successful along an educational journey is more than a vision, it's a reality. Annie is a 'runner' and a Chicago Cubs fan.

Annie has been teaching and using the Iditarod for the past eight years. Her classroom techniques are fine tuned to helping all students be successful through a journey of educational lessons and activities that use Iditarod as a teaching theme. Annie began her teaching career in 2009 after receiving her B.S. in Middle Childhood Education with concentrations in math and social studies from the University of Dayton. She also graduated from Loyola University Chicago this past May with her masters in Pastoral Studies with a focus in religious education.

Annie was first introduced to the Iditarod during her student teaching placement in Riverside, OH. A teacher on her team used the Iditarod to motivate students and teach various writing skills. When Annie had her own classroom the following year, she was looking for an exciting teaching tool during the first week of March. She thought of the Iditarod.

Since March 2010 the Iditarod has become a staple in Annie's classroom, and the unit has grown year after year. In May 2012, musher Pat Moon surprised the 4th graders of Saint Andrew School after receiving

a letter from one of Annie's students. After Pat's first visit, the Iditarod has exploded in her room. It is now taught year- round.

The Iditarod can be seen in math, language arts, and social studies in Annie's classroom. From weekly math stations that integrate Iditarod themes, to student blog posts in language arts, the Iditarod is a constant theme throughout the year. The culminating event is a day in late March in which students partake in the Jr. ChIditarod at the Chicago lakefront. The day is the ultimate cross-curricular event which includes lessons in math, science, language arts, social studies, art, and music. The ChIditarod concludes with awards at the annual "musher banquet".

Annie has loved using the Iditarod in her classroom. It has led to many personal adventures in her life including trips across the country, including kayaking in the Pacific Northwest, camping and hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains, and a month - long journey to Alaska in 2015.

This past June, Annie attended the 2016 Summer Camp for Educators and shared her love of teaching, energy for 'running', deep insight on teaching and learning, and her aspirations for the upcoming school year. In July, Annie, along with Linda Fenton, 2013 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ and Diane Johnson, Director of Education for Iditarod Trail Sled

Continued on page 57



Welcome to Iditarod edu!



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Your one stop shop for following Iditarod. Mushers, checkpoints, GPS Tracker, standings, videos and more.



The Iditarod Conference for Educators – Alaska 2017

Get more details on the ITC Winter Conference in Alaska



Teach & Learn

Teachers this is your one stop shop for Iditarod EDU curriculum, lessons and materials for learning.



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Students look here for cool, fun and interesting Iditarod information, games and content just for you.



Conferences

Join us for Iditarod Conferences for Educators and see how Iditarod can be a motivational teaching platform.



Zuma's Paw Prints

Zuma & Friends are the K-9 journalists for the Iditarod's youth fans. Follow Gypsy, Sanka, Libby and Ed.



Latest edu Posts

Musher Larry Daugherty Signs Up for the 2017 Iditarod

That's right, another musher has signed up for the 2017 Iditarod! Rule 2 allows mushers to sign up after December 1. There are 75 mushers signed up to run the 2017 Iditarod. The race begins the first Saturday in March and ends when the last musher crosses the finish line into Nome. Share the news ...

Posted by Diane Johnson in EDU News, Teach & Learn, Tips and Tools

Date: January 25, 2017 7:16 pm

Bookmark

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The Windy City Workshop

This past weekend teachers from around the country gathered in my classroom for the first ever Chicago Iditarod Teacher Workshop. The workshop brought together teachers from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Ohio, and New Jersey and what a great day we all had! Teachers began their day with presentations from Linda Fenton, 2013 Teacher on ...

Iditarod EDU is NEW!

We were awarded a grant opportunity from ExxonMobil in December to improve our Iditarod Education website. We are very grateful to ExxonMobil for this opportunity. We are confident that the new website will provide educators an improved ability to use our standards aligned STEM strong lessons and additional content to integrate the race into curriculum. We know that Iditarod works as a teaching tool and students achieve great academic success when following the race. With our new website, our site navigation has improved and we're adding new enriching content to make Iditarod EDU a resource to rely on. Thanks, ExxonMobil, for this grant opportunity.

We'd also like to thank our website team for their vision and determination to develop a website that meets the needs of teachers around the world.

Educators and students: We hope you enjoy the new website. We look forward to taking you on an incredible Iditarod learning adventure! Join us! <http://iditarod.com/edu>

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Musher Biographies

Please visit www.iditarod.com for additional information on the mushers.

Cindy Abbott, Willow, AK



Cindy, 58, was born and raised in Nebraska. After graduation from California State Univ. Fullerton, with a MS Degree in Kinesiology in 1996, she became a professor there and taught Health Science for 23 years. Cindy has always been drawn to the world of extreme sports. Already an extreme scuba diver and underwater videographer, in 2007, at the age of 48, she took up mountain climbing with the single goal of standing on the top of the

world. A few months after she began training, Cindy was diagnosed with a serious and rare disease (Wegener's granulomatosis), but she was determined to achieve her dream and on May 23, 2010, after 51 days of working her way up the mountain, Cindy stepped onto the summit of Mt. Everest holding the National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD) banner. Cindy learned about the Iditarod in the early 1990's while taking an Environmental Exercise Physiology course. But it wasn't until 2004, that she came to Alaska and took her first ride on a dog sled. In 2011, she began working under Lance Mackey's Comeback Kennel. She immediately fell in love with the sport, the Alaskan people and culture, but most of all; Cindy fell in love with the world's most amazing athletes – the dogs! On March 3, 2013, Cindy started her first Iditarod. About 20 miles out, she injured her leg and thought that

she may have to scratch at the first checkpoint. After resting for a few hours, she felt better and decided to run to the next checkpoint. In this way, Cindy went from checkpoint to checkpoint until, on day 10 and 630 miles into the race, her condition worsened and, for the safety of her team, she scratched at Kaltag. When she got back to Anchorage, she was told that her pelvis was broken in two places. Running under Vern Halter and Susan Whiton's Dream a Dream Dog Farm, Cindy started her second Iditarod on March 2, 2014. Unfortunately, Mother Nature made the race course usually challenging and Cindy injured her shoulder, and for the safety of her team, she scratched at Rohn. On March 7, 2015, Cindy started her third Iditarod. After 13 days, 11 hours, 19 minutes, 51 seconds, she crossed the finish line in Nome and received the Red Lantern Award, a symbol of perseverance. After,

Official Photos of the Iditarod

By Jeff Schultz & Team



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Musher Biographies

extinguishing the Widow's Lantern, officially ending the race, Cindy got her NORD banner photo standing under the Burled Arch. According to Vern Halter, "Third time's a charm."

"Alaska and the dogs have captured my heart and soul," said Cindy. After 5 years of living and working in California while training and racing in Alaska, Cindy and her husband, Larry, have moved to Willow, Alaska. They have built a home just 6 miles from Dream a Dream Dog Farm so she could be close to the dogs and continue racing. Since her diagnosis, Cindy has become a very active rare disease awareness advocate for the National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD). She also enjoys mountain climbing, SCUBA diving and international travel.

Ken Anderson, Fairbanks, AK



Ken, 44, was born in Minnesota. He says he began mushing at birth as his parents had a recreational team. When he was in third grade, his father bought him a book on the Iditarod, and he decided to someday compete in the Race. Before moving to Alaska, he attended the Univ. of Minnesota and was a dog handler. He came to Alaska in 1993 to learn more about mushing and study biology at the Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks. He's been running the Iditarod since 1999. Ken is married to Gwen Holdman, also an Iditarod veteran. Ken says, "This will most likely be my last Iditarod for now so I aim to give it my all." He lists his occupation as dog musher and says his hobbies are sailing, carpentry, boating and writing. Ken and Gwen are the parents of twins, Marais and Leif, age 8 and Lael "Lilly", age 6.

Ryan Anderson, Ray, MN



Ryan, 35, was born and raised in a dog mushing family in Minnesota. He's been around the sport of mushing since he was five years old and has been mushing competitively since the age of 10. When he was 17, he came to Alaska to run the Jr. Iditarod. Since high school, Anderson has wanted to make mushing his career. Ryan won the Beargrease twice, the UP 200 six times, and had many other top finishes. In 2017 Ryan will finally fulfill his ultimate goal of racing in the Iditarod. In the off season, when he is not racing, he is a carpenter for a construction company on the Canadian border. Ryan and his wife, Missy, operate AnderTier Racing Kennel, which is home to about 40 Alaskan Huskies. Ryan enjoys "anything outdoors."

Kristin Bacon, Big Lake, AK



Kristin, 43, was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and resided in various parts until 1997 when she graduated from the Ohio State Univ. with a degree in Physical Therapy. In early 1999, Kristin was offered a job in Alaska. Seeking a chance to work in a hospital setting with children, and intrigued by the unknowns Alaska had to offer, Kristin decided to make the move. Not only did the children's hospital provide an excellent opportunity to grow professionally, Kristin met a mentoring doctor who introduced her to his sled dog team. Kristin began helping at his kennel annually for several weeks while

he and his wife traveled to Kauai. In 2003, Kristin began volunteering at the Skwentna checkpoint during the Iditarod and began mushing in 2011. Now that she has her own team, she is focused on preparing herself and her dogs to run the Iditarod. When she isn't training for races, Kristin really enjoys sharing the dogs with the community during events like Ikidarod (free dog sled rides for kids with special needs), Aurora Dog Mushing events (Junior and Business person races, vaccination clinics, etc) as well as doing adapted mushing activities with her pediatric clients at Bacon's acres. Kristin also continues to work as a pediatric physical therapist servicing families in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, and remote Alaskan school districts. She is the secretary of the Aurora Dog Musers and in her free time enjoys photography, international travel, and gardening.

Jodi Bailey, Fairbanks, AK



Jodi Bailey, 48, grew up on the island of Marthas Vineyard MA. She earned her BA in Theater Studies and Anthropology at Emory Univ. in Atlanta GA. While at Emory she made her first summer trip to Alaska to study storytelling. "Since my first summer here I knew in my heart Alaska was the place for me". After graduating in 1991 she moved to Fairbanks and never looked back. In addition to mushing Jodi enjoys yoga, running, gardening, and cooking. Jodi and her husband, Yukon Quest and Iditarod veteran, Dan Kaduce, call Dew Claw Kennel in Chatanika Alaska home; along with Opal & Jasper (the house dogs) their team of racing Alaskan huskies, and chopper (the cat who is cool enough to live with this many dogs). Jodi began mushing in 1995 and has focused on distance races including the Copper

Musher Biographies

Basin 300, Tustumena 200, Denali Doubles, Kobuk 440, and Yukon Quest. In 2011 Jodi made history when she became the first rookie to successfully complete both the Yukon Quest and Iditarod in the same year. "One of my favorite things about distance racing is the relationship you develop with your team over the hours and miles." Jodi explains, "We are running dogs that were born in our living room, the descendants of our original race dogs. It is exciting to see them grow from wiggly fur balls to world class athletes"

John Baker, Kotzebue, AK



John, 54, was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. He began mushing in 1995 and was interested in the Iditarod after watching the race in its early years. He ran his first Iditarod in 1996 and has been in every race since. He has 13 top ten Iditarod finishes, and became the first Iditarod champion from Northwest Alaska when he won the 2011 Iditarod, and the first Inupiat champion as well. Baker is a self-employed business owner and enjoys the rural Alaska life. He has a son, Alex, 28, a veteran of the Jr. Iditarod and a daughter, Tahayla, 15. A commercial pilot, he says that his hobby is flying.

Michael Baker, Willow, AK



Michael, 29, was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. He began working as a dog handler for Gold Rush Dog Tours/Alaska Icefield Expeditions out

of Juneau, AK in 2009. Michael joined forces with 17th-Dog in 2014, and has been Matthew Failor's right-hand man ever since; "He's a tremendous help, a top-notch dog handler and musher, and I'm very happy he joined the team. I couldn't do this without him" says Matthew. Making the move north to pursue the sled dog lifestyle is a calculated maneuver that Michael hopes will demonstrate to his beloved son Siris, that through hard work and determination, dreams can come true and you can do anything you put your mind to. Michael has high hopes to move back to the lower 48 to be with Siris and eventually establish his own kennel. Michael is dedicating this rookie run to Nome to his son. Michael loves spending time outdoors, fishing, hiking, and running dogs. His other hobbies include cooking, baking, woodworking, and music. Michael's race history thus far has been in the Knik 200, Copper Basin 300, Northern Lights 300, Denali Doubles, and the Aurora 50/50. Michael will be running a puppy team out of 17th-Dog/TMF as a rookie in Iditarod 2017.

Otto Balogh, Budapest, Hungary



Otto, 40, will be the first Hungarian ever to race in the Iditarod, fulfilling a childhood dream that came from reading Jack London. Otto always longed to travel and studied geography in the hope it would give him such a chance. Soon realizing that working in business would be more likely to deliver the money and time he would need for travel, Otto launched a successful decade-long career as a network marketing sales leader, motivational speaker, and bestseller writer. Then he realized he'd reached the "now or never"

point in his life to realize his childhood Iditarod dream. With a bit of luck on his side, Otto trained with Dallas Seavey, the 4-time Iditarod Champion, and completed the qualifying races with Seavey's B-team. When he's not training and racing in Alaska, Otto lives in Budapest and loves fishing, playing soccer, reading, studying astrology, and engaging in development training and executive coaching. Otto is keeping fit mentally and physically in Budapest by calisthenics, Pilates, Jack Kruse's Ice therapy, and Wim Hof Method (against cold) before he returns to Alaska for his final preparations to compete in the Iditarod in 2017.

Seth Barnes, Stocton, AL



Seth, 36, was raised in a small Gulf Coast town in Alabama. He went to school at Mississippi State Univ., where he earned a degree in Chemical

Engineering. After working for private industry and the federal government, he traded the suit and tie in for much more comfortable and warmer clothes. Moving to Alaska in 2010, Seth quickly fell in love with dog mushing. He has hardly been out of Alaska since. Living and training with his companions year round he moves closer to his dream. Being raised with animals of all kinds instilled him with a love and respect for animals from a very young age, especially dogs. Compared to the Washington DC beltway, the only traffic jams he encounters now are at the start of dog races. Seth says, "The best thing about dog racing is the open spaces, the beauty of the land, and spending your time with some of the best, truly amazing, professional athletes in the world."

Musher Biographies

Charley Bejna, Addison, IL



Charley, 43, a self-described adventurer, was born and raised in Addison, IL. Charley has owned and operated Charley's Landscaping

Company for 26 years. His attraction to the last frontier began when he first came to Alaska in 1991 with his dad. They toured most of the State together. He participated in the 2007 Iditarod as Bruce Linton's IditaRider and as his tag sled rider in 2008. Also in 2008, he met GB Jones at his kennel where he drove a small team down the trail. He then became GB's handler and worked as his tag sled driver in the 2011 Iditarod, which sealed his interest in racing. Charley says, "I am entering Iditarod 2017 to enjoy the race and spend time with my dogs. As a Type 1 Diabetic, I want to show other diabetics that you can still live a normal life, even with diabetes, as long as you take care of yourself."

Anna Berington, Wasilla, AK



Anna, 33, has been loving life in Alaska since 2007 racing sled dogs, commercial

fishing, building and constructing homes and competing in running races. With her sister, they are Seeing Double Sled Dog Racing. Being able to raise and train dogs together has been a dream come true, and racing the Iditarod is a perfect fit for these endurance racers. These dreams have been made possible because of help and support from friends, family and sponsors. The twins have come a long

way from mushing their pet dog in Wisconsin to giving tourists rides in the Sierra Nevadas, to training with former champion Dean Osmar, and many mushing friends like Scott Janssen here in Alaska. Now dog mushing is a family affair with visits and help from Mom, Dad, and sister Kat, and of course their fur children, 30 amazing dogs!

Kristy Berington, Wasilla, AK



Kristy Berington, 33, operates Seeing Double Sled Dog Racing with her twin sister Anna and her Fiancé Andy Pohl in Knik, Alaska. Mushng dogs has

become part of family life. Andy races and trains the dogs, Kat Berington manages their website, Vicki Pohl sews harnesses and dog coats, Ray Pohl runs trail support, and the entire family supports and sponsors from the sideline all the way from Wisconsin to South Carolina. This is Kristy's 8th running of the Iditarod. She moved to Alaska 10 years ago to learn more about mushing from 1984 Iditarod Champion Dean Osmar in Kasilof. Since then she has raced all over Alaska and into Canada competing in the Yukon Quest, Kusko 300, and Copper Basin 300, just to name a few. "I love endurance sports and adventure!" says the ultra athlete. "What better way to combine those two factors than running sled dogs in the most beautiful place in the world." Never sitting still, in the off season Kristy competes in many running races from half marathons to ultra distances and triathlons with Anna. "Anna and I are always in friendly competition. I'm so proud of her in her mushing and athletic career. And to be a part of it all with her is amazing." Kristy and Anna pay the bills by doing carpentry work, commercial

fishing, and working with fellow Iditarod musher Scott Jansen. "Thank you to the many fans, friends, family, volunteers and sponsors for making all of this possible. We couldn't do this without you!" "I'm looking forward to running another Iditarod with my incredible canine athletes! Best of luck to all the musher's and their amazing dogs."

Noah Burmeister, Nome/Nenana, AK



Noah, 37, was born and raised in Nome, Alaska. He has chosen to stay in Alaska because, he says, "I enjoy the freedom and opportunities to live life to its

fullest." He went to Univ. of Alaska-Fairbanks, where he studied Heavy Diesel Mechanics, Welding, Airframe and Power plant. He started mushing as soon as he could stand. He was born into a mushing family, with both his dad, Richard, and brother, Aaron, being Iditarod veterans. Noah says, "Getting back on the runners for the 2016 Iditarod was an incredible learning experience to get to know the dogs, the trail and how the race is being run. I am looking forward to taking the things that I learned last season and to improve on our finish during the 2017 Iditarod. The dogs, gear, diet, racing style and training methods have evolved so much in the last several years it keeps it fun and exciting to be involved and always trying to improve. We have an incredible team of dogs at Alaska Wildstyle Racing, people and sponsors that all lead to the success of our kennel and without whom we would not be able to continue to race. The 'Last Great Race on Earth®' is one of the best events in the world. It brings together the state of Alaska and thousands of volunteers every year to make it happen. It is exciting to be part of

Musher Biographies

it all." Noah is a member of the IOFC and the IUOE. He loves his pet dog, Mr. Bo Jangles, and he enjoys hunting, fishing, and boating in his spare time.

Martin Buser, Big Lake, AK



Born in Winterthur, Switzerland in 1958, Martin became fascinated with sled dogs while still a teen. He came to Alaska in 1979 to enhance his knowledge of care and training of sled dogs. He began working and training with long-time Alaskan mushers Earl and Natalie Norris and ran his first Iditarod in 1980. Martin and wife Kathy Chapoton, a retired teacher, reside in Big Lake, Alaska, where the family owns and manages Happy Trails Kennel. Their sons, Nikolai and Rohn, both named after Iditarod checkpoints, have been involved with dogs at various times in their lives. Martin spends a great deal of time speaking in schools on the humanitarian care of animals and the spirit of the Iditarod. A favorite celebrity of the children of Alaska, Martin treats them with surprise visits from his dogs and puppies. Martin is currently the musher with the most consecutive Iditarod finishes, 31 races completed in row, 33 total finishes. He won the Iditarod in 1992, 1994, 1997 and 2002. "We are looking forward to many more and working diligently toward a fifth Iditarod win. While the race is always the final exam, the year round interaction and relationship with the dogs is the most valuable aspect of this lifestyle. On a daily basis, we are amazed by the stamina, loyalty, honesty, and joy of our dogs. Author Brian Jacques went on a ride with Martin and the team many years ago and described the dogs as 'eternal children.' We couldn't agree

more. It is our good fortune to be able to take care of them."

Joe Carson, McGrath, AK



Dr. Joe Carson, 60, is the President and CEO of DrCarsons.com and a 4th generation Alaskan. Joe has always been interested in the health and well-being of animals and dogs which inspired him to develop all natural health food supplements and products for many species of animals including sled dogs. Having been born and raised in Alaska, Joe has been experiencing all the out-of-doors Alaska and the world can offer for many decades. White water rafting, hang gliding, ocean kayaking, hiking, hunting, commercial fishing, and much more has led to his natural love of sled dog racing. "There is nothing like being on the back of a dog sled traveling through the beautiful snow covered back country with some great friends and companions - the sled dogs." Joe is married to Holly and they are parents of three adult children, Heather, Joe, and Lilly. Joe is the Vice President of Salt Lake Bible College and the Director of Northland Baptist Ministry. His hobbies are animal health and nutrition and honey bees.

Rick Casillo, Willow, AK



Rick, 44, grew up in a small country town of Alden, outside of Buffalo, NY. He worked in Alden as a sub-contractor before moving to Alaska in 1999 to become a fly fishing guide. He began mushing in 2002. Rick says that as

he watched the Race go by, he began to get interested in actually running it. He first ran in 2004. Rick came back in 2014 after establishing their kennel, Battle Dawgs Racing. "The primary goal of our kennel is racing the Iditarod and raising awareness for combat veterans. My wife, Jennifer, a combat veteran, and I have a non-profit organization called Battle Dawgs. The is separate from the race kennel. Battle Dawgs' focus is providing year-round camps for warriors all across the country and Alaska. Activities include Iditarod, dog mushing, rafting, hiking, and hunting. Our motto is 'Helping Our Warriors one step at a time.' We have built a year-round facility for warriors, families, and their battle buddies. Our goal is to use "Camp Battle Dawgs", our Alaska-based lodge, and our outpost camps to help our nation's warriors reintegrate back into everyday life." Rick's hobbies are working with combat veterans and fly fishing.

Larry Daugherty, Eagle River, AK



Larry, 41, was born in Provo, Utah but raised in Arvada, Colorado until age of 13. His family then moved to Auburn, Washington where he attended high school. He completed his undergraduate studies at Albertson College of Idaho with a degree in history. Shortly after 9/11, he accepted a job as a paramedic in Connecticut where he worked for a year prior to enrolling in the University of Utah School of Medicine, where he graduated in 2007, then completed his radiation oncology residency in 2012 at Drexel University in Philadelphia. He came to Eagle River, Alaska, in September of 2014 after working at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. He now practices at Alaska Cancer

Musher Biographies

Treatment Center in Anchorage, where he treats most types of cancer with radiation. Larry hopes to carry the Tibetan flags on the sides of his sled and take them to Nome in honor of his patients in Nome. Several weeks later he plans carry the flags to the summit of Mt. Everest. If successful, he would become the first person to complete the Last Great Race on Earth(r) and summit the tallest mountain in the world in the same year. The flags symbolize hope, strength, and well-being--a gesture Larry sends to all afflicted with cancer anywhere in the world. Larry says, "I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to my supportive wife, Prairie, and my five incredible kids, Bailey, 16, Calvin, 14, Azelea, 10, Conrad, 7, and Charlie, 5.

Dave Delcourt, Wasilla, AK



Dave, 29, was born and raised in Queensbury, New York. He graduated from State Univ. of New York at Cortland with a B.S. in GIS. After college, he traveled for seasonal jobs in Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Alaska. He started mushing as a tour guide in 2012 in Michigan. After two winters there and summers running tours in Juneau, he wanted to get away from the tour business and get into racing. "Robert Redington put me in touch with his brother, Ray, and I've been running with him since 2014. Ray offered me the opportunity to run Iditarod and I jumped at the chance. I'll have a young team, mostly one and two year olds. Who knows what's in store after this?" Dave lists his current occupation(s) as musher, tour guide, miner, and trail worker. Dave enjoys hiking, trail work, watching movies, and hunting.

Zoya DeNure, Delta Junction, AK



Zoya, 40, was born and raised in Wisconsin. She spent 12 years in the fashion industry working primarily as a runway & fashion model. In 2002, tired of the pressures and triviality of that lifestyle, she rented a storage unit in Madison, Wisconsin, stacked it with furniture, shoes, dresses, and headed to Alaska with a carry-on and the dream of running, living and breathing sled dogs. Her Siberian husky, Ethan, traveled with her. Ethan has since passed, but the dream is still alive. Zoya is married to fellow dog driver John Schandelmeier, and now splits her time between homes at Maclaren River and Delta Junction, Alaska. She has two daughters; Jona, eight, and Olivia, three. The family operates a rescue/rehab facility for unwanted sled dogs and is striving to focus attention on positive training techniques. Zoya loves the sport of sled dog racing, enjoys time on the trail with her team, and is determined to succeed in the Iditarod. Zoya had some initial success racing sled dogs, finishing her rookie year, but has had several rocky years in her Iditarod quest since. She is determined to turn it around in the 2017 Iditarod and is embarking on an ambitious training regimen with a respectable Iditarod finish in mind.

Richie Diehl, Aniak, AK



Richie, 31, was born and raised in Aniak, Alaska. He graduated from the Univ. of Alaska Anchorage in 2008 with a BS in Aviation Technology. He's

been working as a carpenter in Aniak the last eight years. He says that as a kid, he began mushing. Richie has been racing competitively in Alaska since 2010, having completed the Kusko 300 several times as well as the Paul Johnson Memorial 450 in its inaugural year, 2012 and the Iditarod four times. In 2014, he was the most improved musher. Richie's best finish, 12th, was in 2016. His hobbies are flying, fishing, and boating.

Alan Eischens, Wasilla, AK



Alan, 56, was born in Park Rapids, Minnesota and was raised in Adak, Alaska. He spent his summers as a child going back to Park Rapids to visit his grandparents. He graduated from Adak High School in 1997. While living out in Adak, he had the privilege to work with Fish and Game on several different projects. This is when he decided he wanted to pursue a degree in Biology and Anthropology. While attending UAF, Alan decided to visit St. Lawrence Island and stayed for 10 ½ years. While out in Savoonga, he was supervisor for the city maintenance and construction sites. In 1989, he moved to Wasilla, where he still resides with his wife, Tangala. Alan has a great love for the outdoors. From 1989 to 1997, he and his dad commercial fished out of Homer while continuing to build houses in Anchorage and Wasilla. Alan was the head checker at Caribou Lake checkpoint for the Tustumena 200 race for over 15 years. This is where he decided that one day he would run the Iditarod. In 2011, Alan's journey began. He and Tangala started Double E Kennel. His platform is to bring awareness to pediatric diseases. While out training or running races, all his miles are dedicated to these children

Musher Biographies

who have or have had these diseases. "Our children are our future, and we must all be aware of the terrible diseases that are out there, that our children are fighting against." Alan enjoys hunting, fishing, and travelling with Tangala. They have a combined family of 6 children and 18 grandchildren.

Matthew Failor, Willow, AK



Matthew Failor, 34, was born and raised in Mansfield, Ohio, and a graduate of The Ohio State Univ. (2007, Fine Arts Photography).

Matthew is an Eagle Scout, an honor which he shares with each of his four brothers. Matthew first fell in love with Alaska and its culture while working summers during college on the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau. Through Gold Rush Dog Tours, Matthew formed a relationship with Veteran Iditarod Musher, Matt Hayashida; and through that relationship, Matthew was able to earn a handler position with 4-time Iditarod Champion, Martin Buser (Happy Trails Kennel) in 2010. In 2012, Matthew ran a team of Buser puppies in 'The Last Great Race on Erath®', and he hasn't looked back. He has raced the Iditarod every year since, as well as multiple mid and long distance races, including the Yukon Quest (2013) and Kuskokwim 300 (2011). In 2013 Matthew opened his own kennel, 17th-Dog/Team Matthew Failor. Carved out of the Birch & Black Spruce in Willow, AK, amongst numerous winter trails near the Mountains of Hatcher Pass, you can find home to 48 of the "hardest working athletes and truest friends [he] has ever known." Matthew is proud to promote the lifestyle and sport of dog mushing through every day life, as well as tourism and racing. Matthew has not forgotten his roots. He supports, promotes, and empowers his home

community (and beyond) by giving back; through Catholic Charities, local schools, Boy Scouts of America, or National Awareness. While Matthew remains focused on his future, he is firmly rooted in the values he learned growing up in Ohio.

Linwood Fiedler, Willow, AK



Linwood Fiedler, 63, was born in Vermont. He received his BSW at Carroll College and his MSW at Univ. of Montana. He began dog mushing in 1977

and lived in Montana before moving to Alaska in 1990, after finishing eighth in his second Iditarod. He says he moved to Alaska "race Iditarod and raise my family in the 'last great state'." For the last 17 summers, he has operated a glacier tour business in the Juneau area. Linwood says, "Mushing is what surrounds our life at the Fiedler home. I've been fortunate to have a wife and family that support me. After forty years of running dogs and over 20 years of running the Iditarod, I guess you could call me addicted to this life." Linwood and his wife, Kathleen, are the parents of Justin and Dalton. He says that his hobby is all the great outdoor stuff Alaska has to offer.

Hans Gatt, Whitehorse, YT, Canada



Hans, 58, born and raised in Austria, now lives in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory with Susie Rogan and 48 dogs, including many retirees. His business, Gattsled,

makes top quality racing sleds as well as custom and tour sleds. For the past 11 years, Hans has only bred dogs in his own yard and prior to that, his lines included Lester Erhart,

Harris Dunlap mainly, and behind them, lines such as Roxy Wright, George Attla, and many other old time mushers. The exception was a breeding with an Arleigh Reynolds dog which produced nice pups and exceptional grand and great grand pups. Hans is a four time Yukon Quest winner and the current record holder. He is a member of Yukon Cross Country Order and enjoys dirt bike riding and bicycle riding.

Paul Gebhardt Kasilof, AK



Paul, 59, was born and raised on a family farm in central Minnesota. He has raised and taken care of animals his whole life. Paul has been a

carpenter and a contractor since he was 18 years old and is currently a general contractor in Kasilof, Alaska. He moved here from Minnesota in 1989, began mushing in 1992 and ran his first Iditarod in 1996 with dogs he bred up in his own kennel. He has been breeding and raising his own dogs ever since. He has placed as high as second in the Iditarod twice. "I am still looking for my first Iditarod championship. I believe in the ability of my dogs and myself and I will continue to race Iditarod as long as I feel we are capable of winning the race. I love traveling with my animals and find them to be more loyal than any human could ever be! They love me without questions and in return, I love them back the same way! I would never ask them to do more than they are capable of and I will always take the best care of them that I'm capable of. I will push them to the limit as long as they are able and having a good time doing it." Paul has two adult daughters and one adult son, Kristi, Nikka, and Paul Jr. Paul enjoys hunting, gardening, and raising birds.

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Ellen Halverson, Wasilla, AK



Ellen Halverson, 56, was born and raised in North Dakota. She received her degree in Biology and Music Education at Concordia College in

Minnesota and then went to medical school in North Dakota. She has been a psychiatrist since 1991. She moved to Alaska in 1998 for a job at the Alaska Guidance Clinic, which is now Providence Behavioral Medicine. Ellen began mushing when she moved to Alaska and finished the Iditarod in 2007. "I have a passion for running dogs, Iditarod is the goal for myself and my tem. Planning and preparing for Iditarod increases motivation and structure for us. As I

work and am a single parent, it is a challenge to keep on schedule with our training. In recent years, the warm weather and lack of snow have contributed to training challenges. I learn so much during Iditarod. This past year I felt significant improvement with dog care and check point routine. Now we just have to go faster!" Ellen has a son, Peter, age 13. Elen lists her hobbies as Icelandic horses.

Paul Hansen, Kotzebue, AK



Paul Hansen, 61, was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. He attended Colorado State Univ. from 1974 to 1979 and received a degree in

Environmental Health. In 1980, he moved to Kotzebue to work the Public Health Service/Maniilaq Association. Paul says, "Part of that job was to travel to villages to provide rabies vaccinations. There were quite a few dog teams in the villages back then and I became interested in dogs and been involved since then. We have a small family kennel. My wife, Margaret, and adult children, Hans, Glenn, Kevin and Scott, have all run in the Kotzebue Dog Musher's Association sprint races. I started distance racing about five years ago have since run the Kobuk 440 and Nome to Council races. Iditarod has always been a dream of mine. This is the year!"

"When I tell people that the Iditarod can be unbelievable tough and yet enjoyable, they look at me like I have rocks in my head." - Dick Mackey

Husky Homestead
& *Jeff King*

Wish to thank all of our Sponsors!

Musher Biographies

Karin Hendrickson, Wasilla, AK



Karin, 46, was born and raised in Mt. Baldy, California. She left home after high school, skied for a year, and then went to college. Karin received her BA

in Environment from Colorado Univ. and lived in Colorado and Idaho before coming to Alaska. "I saw my first sled dog in March of 2002, when I came up to volunteer for the Iditarod. By 2003, I had sold everything I owned, quit my job, and moved to Alaska to become a handler. After two years as a handler, I tried to quit my dog habit. That didn't last long—I was miserable without dogs! I started building my own team in 2006. I really never expected to do any racing, much less run the Iditarod! I am not too sure how it all happened, but just two years later, I found myself signed up for my first Iditarod. 2017 will be my 8th Iditarod. I was hit by a truck while training in 2014 and broke my back in three places. Luckily all my dogs were O.K., but I wasn't able to run in 2015. In 2016, I managed to make a comeback and finish the race once again, but it was a big challenge physically. I am one of a very few mushers to work full-time through the winter. My biggest challenge is trying to fit training and racing in around the demands of my job. It is just this side of impossible to get everything done, but somehow we make it happen."

"Yes, a lot of the humor of the early races has been lost to the seriousness of winning i.e. the musher who carried half a frozen pig in his sled for dog food or the one who stopped in the burn for a day to hunt ptarmigan or the guy who carried a chainsaw to cut firewood. - Joe May

Trent Herbst, Ketchum, ID



Trent, 45, was born and raised in Wisconsin. He completed his education at Univ. of Wisconsin-LaCrosse with a major in elementary

education and has been a teacher ever since. He became interested in the Iditarod while teaching in Switzerland when his students wanted to hear all about the Iditarod Race. He began mushing in 2005. He says, "Happy to be back... love the dogs and traveling down the historic trail." Trent will be running yearlings from Ed & Tasha Stielstra's Nature's Kennel once again. He says, "Huge thanks to students (past and present), family friends, and Tim for all the prodding and support to get back on the trail." He now lives in Idaho where he teaches fourth grade. He summers at their property in the Homer/Anchor Point area. Trent is married to Candida. They are the parents of two daughters, Kali, 13, and Kire, age 4. Trent is a member of P.R.I.D.E., American Pack Rafting Association and Alternative Education Resource Organization. He lists his interests as rivers, family, dogs, travel and teaching.

Justin High, Willow, AK



Justin, 33, was born in Illinois and raised in Hudson, Michigan. He graduated from Michigan Tech Univ. in 2005 with a degree in Applied Ecology and Mechanical Engineering. He then lived in Jacksonville Beach, FL, where he was operations manager for Cemex. He came to Alaska in 2009 to handle for a

musher and had no prior mushing experience. "While handling, I met my wife and Iditarod finisher Jaimee (Kinzer) High, and we were married in 2012." Since then Jaimee and Justin have built their own kennel, High's Adventure Kennel, and a mushing and gear business, High's Adventure Gear. "In December of 2014, we lost our home to a house fire and ruined Jamiee's 2nd try at Iditarod. While rebuilding our home in the summer of 2015, we lost what we had left, other than our dogs, in the Willow Sockeye fire. We welcomed our first child, Isadore Rose, in January of 2016." After rebuilding, though still putting things back together, they decided "it's time to get back into Iditarod. I look forward to enjoying time on the trails with Isadore, Jaimee and our dogs and to running my rookie race." Justin enjoys fishing, camping, wood work, playing with Isadore, and bull dogs.

Geir Idar Hjelvik, Norjordet, NORWAY



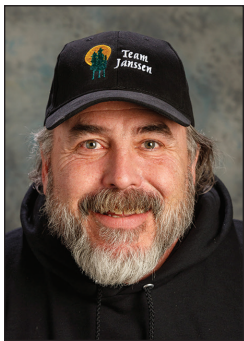
Geir Idar Hjelvik, 55, was born in Molde, Norway and raised in the village of Hjelvik. He lived in Trondheim for 18 years working as an excavator operator.

Fourteen years ago, he moved to the Norjordet to work, to mush and for dancing competitions. Geir has been a traditional log cabin craftsman for 20 years. He began mushing in 1987 because of a friend, Frode Holten. Under Frode's mentorship, he began skijoring with a German Shepard and later Frode mentored him and introduced him to sleds and Alaskan Huskies. His first litter of Alaska husky pups was born in 1989, bloodlines from Susan Butcher and Jerry Austin. That sparked his original interest in the Iditarod and he began thinking seriously about the Iditarod after a couple of competitive finishes in the

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Femundløpet and the Finmarksløpet in the 90's. He has finished the Femundløpet nine times and the Finmarksløpet three times. He maintains a kennel of 30 dogs in Norway, but is running a team from Dallas Seavey's kennel in the Iditarod this year. When not mushing dogs, Geir is a competitive Norwegian folk dancer. He is the father of Mår, age 14. He is a member of the Femund Trekhund Klubb and Roros Folkdanislag. His hobbies are Rorospols (Norwegian folk dancing), knife making, and wood working.

Scott W. Janssen, Anchorage, AK



Scott Janssen, the "Mushing Mortician," 55, was born and raised in Crookston, MN. He married his high school sweetheart, Debbie, in 1980.

He graduated from the Univ. of Minnesota in 1985 with a B.S. degree with a major in Mortuary Science. Scott and Debbie moved to Alaska in June of that year for Scott to work as a funeral director at Evergreen Memorial Chapel. He has been a mortician and funeral home owner for the last 29 years. They now, along with their friend, Jordan Eastman, own five funeral homes in Anchorage, Eagle River and Wasilla, including, Evergreen, as well as Alaska Cremation Center and Eagle River Funeral Home under the name of Janssen Funeral Homes. Scott has been a friend and sponsor of Paul Gebhardt for 15 years and began mushing in 2007. He says, "Paul got me hooked!" He finished the Iditarod in 2011 with a team of Gebhardt dogs and in 2012; he had a blend of his own dogs and dogs from 1984 champion, Dean Osmar. His 2012 race went national when the story of the mouth to snout resuscitation of his dog, Marshall, was on Diane Sawyer's World

News Tonight, during the 2012 Race. Marshall fully recovered and is retired, living in the house with "full benefits" befitting an Iditarod veteran. He says "Iditarod has been his dream since 1986." He and his wife of thirty years, Debbie, are the parents of two adult daughters, Angela and Chelsea. Their godson, Jaikob Stahnke, 10, is like a son to them, and they are proud grandparents of infant, Avalyn. Scott is a member of National Funeral Directors Association, Alaska Funeral Directors Association, Arch Diocese of Anchorage, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Harley Owners Group and the Iditarod Official Finishers Club. He says that he enjoys anything outdoors, including landscaping, hiking, hunting, fishing, ridin' Harleys, and skiing on both water and snow.

Ralph Johannessen, Dagali, Norway



Ralph, 58, was born and raised in Bergen, Norway. Ralph started mushing in 1973 after having grown up in a household with active hunting dogs. He has won all the long distance races in Norway, and is the reigning Norwegian long distance champion. Ralph's racing kennel is based at Dagali, close to the Hardangervidda national park, where he enjoys an active outdoor life at all seasons. Ralph is a member of Hallingen Hundekoyrarlag. Ralph became interested in racing the Iditarod after his good friend Robert Sørliie won his first champion title in 2003. Having raced at top level in Norway for numerous years, ready for new challenges Ralph brings his own dog team from Norway to the Iditarod. Ralph's rookie year was in 2014. In 2016, Ralph finished in 8th place. He is the father of two adult children, Marte and Sondre.

DeeDee Jonrowe, Willow, AK



DeeDee, 63, was born in Frankfort, Germany, while her father was in the military. The family moved to Alaska in 1971 where her dad was stationed at

Ft. Richardson. DeeDee has a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources and now lists her occupation as kennel owner and public speaker. She began mushing in 1979 when she was living in Bethel and her mother was excited about volunteering in the early Iditarod races. (Peg Stout attended every Iditarod start before she passed away in July of 2015, except in 1974 when her husband was stationed Outside.) DeeDee says, "This will be my 35th Iditarod start, 16 finishes in the top 10. "In three decades I have seen our event mature in many ways as has the state of Alaska. I am committed to using the things I have learned to improve the lives and conditions of all working dogs, the people of rural Alaska, especially young people searching for a meaningful life and our precious elders who have so much to teach us. God has blessed me with the health and circumstances to participate in this celebration of the bond—dogs with man, together opening the unknown. I am truly blessed." DeeDee goes on to say, "When challenged with the Sockeye fire, I had very little time to evacuate. Instinctively, I grabbed the most important things in my life, my dogs. Besides a few guns, we lost everything we have ever owned, all our records. We only saved our dogs. That is the deepest value I placed on them." DeeDee is a member of the Big Lake Baptist Church, the Willow Running Club and Alaska Missions. Her hobbies and interests include raising Labrador Retrievers, Pekingese Rescue, socializing

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young dogs for service dog training, and running. DeeDee is married to Mike, secretary of the Iditarod's Board of Directors.

Peter Kaiser, Bethel, Alaska



Peter Kaiser, 29, was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska. He graduated from Bethel High School in 2005 and has worked for Knik Construction/

Lynden for the last nine years. He says, "Our family has always had dogs, and I've been mushing since I was a kid. Watching the Kuskokwim 300 every January sparked my interest in long distance racing, and a few years ago, I decided that I would give the Iditarod a try." Peter says he enjoys boats, hunting, and fishing. Pete and his wife, Bethany, are the parents of Ari.

Katherine Keith, Kotzebue, AK

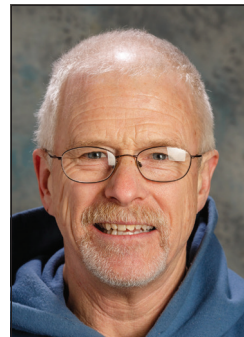


Katherine, 38, was born in Minnesota and lived there until completing high school at which point Katherine decided that it was time to pursue her

dream of going to Alaska. She graduated from the Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks in 2008 with a degree in Renewable Energy Engineering. She had always dreamed of flying a bush plane, eating caribou, running dogs, and having a camp in the Brooks Range. She went to Kotzebue to handle dogs and has lived there off and on ever since. Katherine began racing dogs in 2011 and soon realized that Iditarod was on the horizon. So she began competing in the races she needed

to qualify for the 2014 Iditarod. Katherine and John Baker raise and train over 50 dogs in Kotzebue, Alaska as they focus on having the best dog kennel in the world. Katherine and John also own a number of small businesses including Remote Solutions, LLC which allows them to professionally help meet the needs of rural Alaska. Katherine is an Ironman Triathlete and hopes to soon qualify for the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. She is also a proud parent of Amelia who is 14 years old.

Jeff King, Denali, Alaska



Jeff, 61, was born and raised in California. He came to Alaska in 1975 to "seek adventure." He began mushing in 1976 after he heard Jerry

Riley's race finish while listening to the radio. Jeff has an outstanding race record, including a Yukon Quest victory in 1981 and four Iditarod victories. Jeff has three adult daughters, Cali, Tessa, and Ellen. All the girls have run the Jr. Iditarod and Cali finished the Iditarod.

Jim Lanier, Chugiak, AK



Jim, 75, was born in Washington, DC and raised in Fargo, North Dakota, where his family moved when he was six years old. After receiving his

medical degree from Washington Univ. in St. Louis, he moved to Alaska in 1967 to serve at the Native Hospital with the US Public Health Service. A pathologist at Providence Hospital for thirty-some

years, Jim is now retired from medicine, but not from mushing. He "went to the dogs" in the 70's, as a result of hanging around with Iditarod mushers Ron Gould, Dinah Knight, and Gerry Riley. Then in 1979, he ran his first Iditarod, as chronicled in his book, Beyond Ophir. In 2014, he entered his seventeenth Iditarod, and, for the first time, had to scratch due to a ruptured Achilles tendon. Came 2015, Jim was determined to make it to Nome, but determination ran into pneumonia, bringing him to his knees in Unalakleet, and forcing another scratch. Apparently, Jim's determination, or stubbornness, knows no bounds as he returns to the starting line for another go. After that, "Who knows", he says. "Health aside, it's a matter of continued enjoyment of the dreaming, planning, scheming, training, support of family and friends, and of going head-to-head with people half my age and younger." His specialty is his white dogs and therefore, his "Northern Whites Kennel." Jim is married to Anna Bondarenko, first Russian woman to enter and complete "The Last Great Race on Earth®" in 2000. He is the father of four (Margaret, 47, Kim, 46, Willy, 37 and Jimmy, 18) and also the grandfather of five (Annie, Ethan, Ollie, Logan and Jessie.) His hobbies include singing, hunting, commercial fishing, cabin building, reading, writing....and raising kids.

Jimmy Lebling, Willow, AK



Jimmy was born in Pennsylvania and raised in Maryland. He has spent most of his life in Alaska where he has been a commercial fisherman.

Jimmy has also been a dog handler and guide for the last 20 years. Running Iditarod has been his dream since he

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started mushing.

Roger Lee, Birkenhead, Wirral, England



Roger, 53, was born in California to British parents and raised in Birkenhead, near Liverpool, England. As a British Army Air Corps soldier, Roger was called

to travel and adventure. He spent winters travelling Europe competing with his unit's ski racing teams, training in Arctic Warfare survival skills, and leading ski trips for the Ski Club of Great Britain. In 1990, after serving England for 10 years, he headed to the US where his Air Force career began with the Air National Guard. His time in the Alaska 210th Search and Rescue and Elmendorf Air Force Base 3rd Wing introduced him to Alaskan adventures and skijoring. His Iditarod dream was born after meeting DeeDee Jonrowe during a dog care presentation at an Anchorage Skijor Club meeting. Utilizing the GI Bill, Roger earned a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering from the Univ. of Alaska-Anchorage. He was commissioned as a USAF active duty officer in 2003 and assigned to the lower 48. But, he held on to his dream. He became an Iditarod dog handler in 2006 and has been involved in the Last Great Race® ever since. In 2012, he met Scott Janssen, "the Mushing Mortician", and the two struck up a conversation over their love for The Beatles and rock music. Since 1979, Roger has followed metal groups around the globe, including 157 AC/DC shows in 16 countries. This year, Roger heads to the trail with Team Janssen—Scott, Anna & Kristy Berington—through the support of his wife, Camille, their Alaskan family Ron and Mel Stokes, the Johnson crew and countless other family, friends and colleagues that have helped build his

dream into a reality. Currently, Roger is on an inaugural USAF sabbatical – allowing him one year to train full-time for the Iditarod. After the Iditarod, he returns to active duty as a US Air Force, Biomedical Sciences Corps, Bioenvironmental Engineering Lieutenant Colonel.

Jason Mackey, Salcha, AK



Jason, 45, was born in Alaska and raised in the Mat Valley and at Coldfoot. He says he's been mushing "since I was big enough to hold onto the sled."

His mushing career began when he started running junior races back in 1983. After four Jr. Iditarod's and four Jr. World Championships, he went into distance mushing. The first Iditarod he remembers was the 1978 Race. "Dad won in 1978." Jason says, "I grew up with sled dogs. It's what I know and what I love!" A recent move to the Interior has been great for some of the best training in North America. My wife and I purchased four acres and our son, Patrick, purchased an acre north of Fairbanks so our kennels are close, and Patrick and I do most all of our training together... we love it here." Jason is married to Lisa and they are the parents of Patrick, 25 and Jason, 23. Jason has been a heavy equipment operator for the last twelve years. Jason enjoys kayaking, berry picking, and spending time with his family.

Wade Marrs, Willow, AK



Wade, 26, was born and raised in the Knik area outside of Wasilla, Alaska. "I have been mushing dogs since I was a young boy. My

uncle had a team of his own and showed me the ropes. When he passed away, I took over running the dogs. I enjoy mushing because of the awesome bond I have with my dogs, the time alone with them on the trail, and the sights we get to see together. We are always looking for ways to improve our finishing position and I look forward to someday winning the Iditarod." In 2014, Wade moved to Willow for better training opportunities and to expand his growing kennel. When Wade is not mushing, he enjoys hunting, fishing, building, and jogging.

Mark May, North Pole, AK



Mark, 60, was born and raised in Wisconsin and Michigan. He came to Alaska in 1974. He attended UAF and the CSU where he received his BS

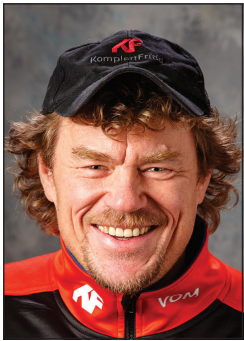
and DVM degrees. He has been a veterinarian in Alaska since 1989. Mark is an avid outdoorsman who loves his dogs, dog mushing and enjoying the Alaskan wilderness. He started mushing in 1974 and has owned his own team since 1989. Mark completed his first Iditarod in 1998, finishing 20th, winning rookie of the year. He claims that his wife promised he could run the race again once the kids were grown and out of the house. Now, 19 years later, as his youngest heads to college, he figures it is time to hit the trail again. He is looking forward to visiting the villages and spending time with his dogs traveling down the historic Iditarod trail. Mark is married to Liz. They are the

*Joe May, 1980 Iditarod Champion:
After all these years I can still
wake with a start on a cold
winter night when a rafter groans
or the old cabin shifts: "DAMN!!
Swenson sneaking out again".*

Musher Biographies

parents three adult children, Sophie, Gus, and Margaret.

Lars Mosen, Skiptvet, Norway



Lars Mosen was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1963. He has been mushing since 1997 and has completed the Femundløpet 600 eight times and the Finnmarksløpet 1000 five times. He has been a full time adventurer since 1991 and has spent more than 4,500 nights in a sleeping bag, more than half in extreme winter conditions. Lars has produced 12 national television series and written some 20 books. His trademark is "long expeditions." He crossed Canada on foot, canoeing and dog sledding in 947 consecutive days. A similar Across Alaska Expedition lasted 10 months. He has bushwacked on foot across Kodiak and Admiralty, and through Katmai, and has canoed several Alaskan and Canadian rivers. He has led two 30 days expeditions with 11 disabled people through the Scandinavian wild, and been on many 30-60 days bushwacking expeditions north of the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia. In summer, if he is not on an expedition, Lars teaches survival skills, both to ordinary outdoors people and to elite soldiers. He is married to San Francisco-born singer Trine Rein (www.trinerein.com), and they live one hour drive from Oslo, Norway.

*"There was always a nagging hope that all the teams ahead of me would turn right at White Mountain and end up in Candle, while I, because I was moving substantially slower, could determine that the trail out of White Mountain goes left. Then, because I'm the first to take the right trail out of White Mountain, I'll end up first on Front Street! But unfortunately for me, nobody got lost and I came in 24th."
-John Wood*

Allen Moore, Two Rivers, AK



Allen, 59, was born and raised in northeast Arkansas where he received a degree in Biology from Arkansas State Univ. He worked as a carpenter and taxidermist there before moving to Alaska over 20 years ago. He says it was too hot in Arkansas so he drove with his family to Alaska. He began mushing about twenty years ago and had competed in sprint races and in many mid distance races around the State before he ran his first Iditarod in 2007. "I race the Yukon Quest in February and then when the first weekend in March arrives, our kennel clears out because we try to race ALL of our dogs in the Iditarod. My goal is to have a group of young SP Kennel dogs become an educated, working dog team by the end of the Iditarod. The goal is to finish the Race with as many strong dogs as possible, so they will be prepared for future years of racing competitively. After a young dog crosses the finish line in Nome, it is mentally 'unstoppable'. It's a great thing to witness in these youngsters. I might not have the fastest time to Nome, but it is one of the most rewarding!" Allen lives in Two rivers, AK with his wife Aliy Zirkle, also an Iditarod veteran and competitor in 2017. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and playing with grand kids. Allen has two adult children, Bridget and Jennifer.

Laura Neese, McMillan, MI



Laura, 20, was born in Newark, Ohio and raised on a small farm there, where she enjoyed training their house dogs and raising Boer goats. At the age of 18, she received her Associates Degree in Veterinary Technology through Penn Foster College. Her family followed the Iditarod in 2006 as a home school project, and thus began her dream of running long distance races. Four years later, Laura started her own kennel and began running races in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In 2014, she moved to McMillan, Michigan, to pursue the goal of long distance racing. Laura worked as a sled dog tour guide at Nature's Kennel, offering premier dog sledding adventures. After one year of guiding, she became a part of Nature's Kennel race team. Since then, she has completed in the Canadian Challenge, the Eagle Cap Extreme, the Can Am Crown, the Percy de Wolfe, and in 2016, the Yukon Quest. Laura's hobbies are working on outside projects.

Hugh Neff, Tok, AK



Hugh, 49, was born in Tennessee. He grew up in Evanston, Illinois and attended Loyola Academy and the Univ. of Illinois. Before moving to Alaska in 1995, Hugh worked as a professional golf caddy in Evanston, Illinois. Since moving to Alaska, he lived in numerous Interior Athabaskan villages

Continued on page 41

d 2016



Dallas Seavey poses with his lead dogs Reef and Tide in Nome after winning the 44th Iditarod Sled Dog Race on Tuesday, March 15th in record time of 8 Days 11 hours 20 minutes 16 seconds



on the trail to the Koyuk checkpoint on Sunday, March 13, during the 2016 Iditarod.

* The 2017 Iditarod Race Guide was submitted for publication on February 6, 2017, therefore the Iditarod Trail Committee has provided two race maps (Southern and Fairbanks) so Iditarod race fans will have access to the right trail no matter what. Enjoy the 45th running of the Last Great Race On Earth!

The Official Map of the IDITAROD

SOUTHERN ROUTE (Odd Years)



1. Anchorage
Population 296,897
The race begins on the 1st Saturday in March at 10:00 am on 4th Avenue.

2. Willow Lake
Population 2156
The race starts at 2 pm on Willow Lake at Parks Highway Mile Marker 70.

3. Yentna Station (YENT-na)
Population 8
A roadside-checkpoint on the Yentna River.

4. Skwentna (SKWENT-nuh)
Population 30
Located near the confluence of the Yentna and the Skwentna Rivers.

5. Finger Lake
Population 2
In the heart of snow country, this checkpoint on the eastern fringe of the Alaska Range.

6. Rainy Pass
Population 2
The highest point on the Iditarod Trail as it passes over the Alaska Range. Pass elevation is 3,160 feet.

7. Rohn Roadhouse (ROHE)
Population 0
This checkpoint is near the remains of one of the old road houses serving the historic Iditarod Trail mail carriers.

8. Nikolai (NIKO-lye)
Population 101
An Athabascan village located 40 air miles east of McGrath.

9. McGrath
Population 341
At the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers, McGrath has a small, full-service airport, stores, a restaurant and is the hub of the Iditarod School District.

10. Takotna (Ta-Cot-na)
Population 49
An Athabascan village situated on the banks of the Takotna River, where many mushers take their 24 hr. rest.

11. Ophir (OH-fur)
Population 0
A ghost town named for a nearby creek that supported placer mining. The name is a reference to the biblical Ophir, thought to be the source of King Solomon's gold.

12. Iditarod (I-DIT-a-rod)
Population 0
Nevra ghost town -- once a bustling community of over 10,000.

13. Shageluk (SHAG-a-luck)
Population 63
The name is Inupik, Indian name meaning "village of dog people," and when Iditarod hits town that is especially true.

14. Anvik (AN-wick)
Population 79
First checkpoint on the famous Yukon River where the church bell signals the arrival of the first musher.

15. Graying
Population 189
Last village until Kaltag, 122 miles up the trail on the Yukon River.

16. Eagle Island
Population 0
Tent checkpoint on the Yukon River here to continue overland across Old Woman Pass to the Bering Sea.

17. Kaltag (KAL-tag)
Population 205
The Iditarod Trail leaves the Yukon River here to continue overland across Old Woman Pass to the Bering Sea.

18. Unalakleet (YOU-na-la-kleet)
Population 692
Situated on the coast of Norton Sound, just north of Unalakleet River. The Iditarod Trail is now entering the gateway to the Bering Sea and from here on the mushers can expect sudden storms and an ample supply of wind.

19. Shaktolik (shak-TOO-lick)
Population 258
One look down the street at the snowdrifts tells you this is one of the windiest stretches of the trail.

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

20. Koyuk (KOY-yuck)
Population 347
Koyuk marks the end of the long, treacherous ice travel across Norton Sound.

23. Elim (EE-lim)
Population 332
The trail turns inland slightly near this Eskimo village to head over the Koyuk Hills. Board the trail here toward Golovin Bay.

24. Golovin (GOL-uh-vin)
Population 171
Back on the coast at Golovin, an Eskimo village, mushers face a short ice travel across Norton Bay. The rest of the race is over land.

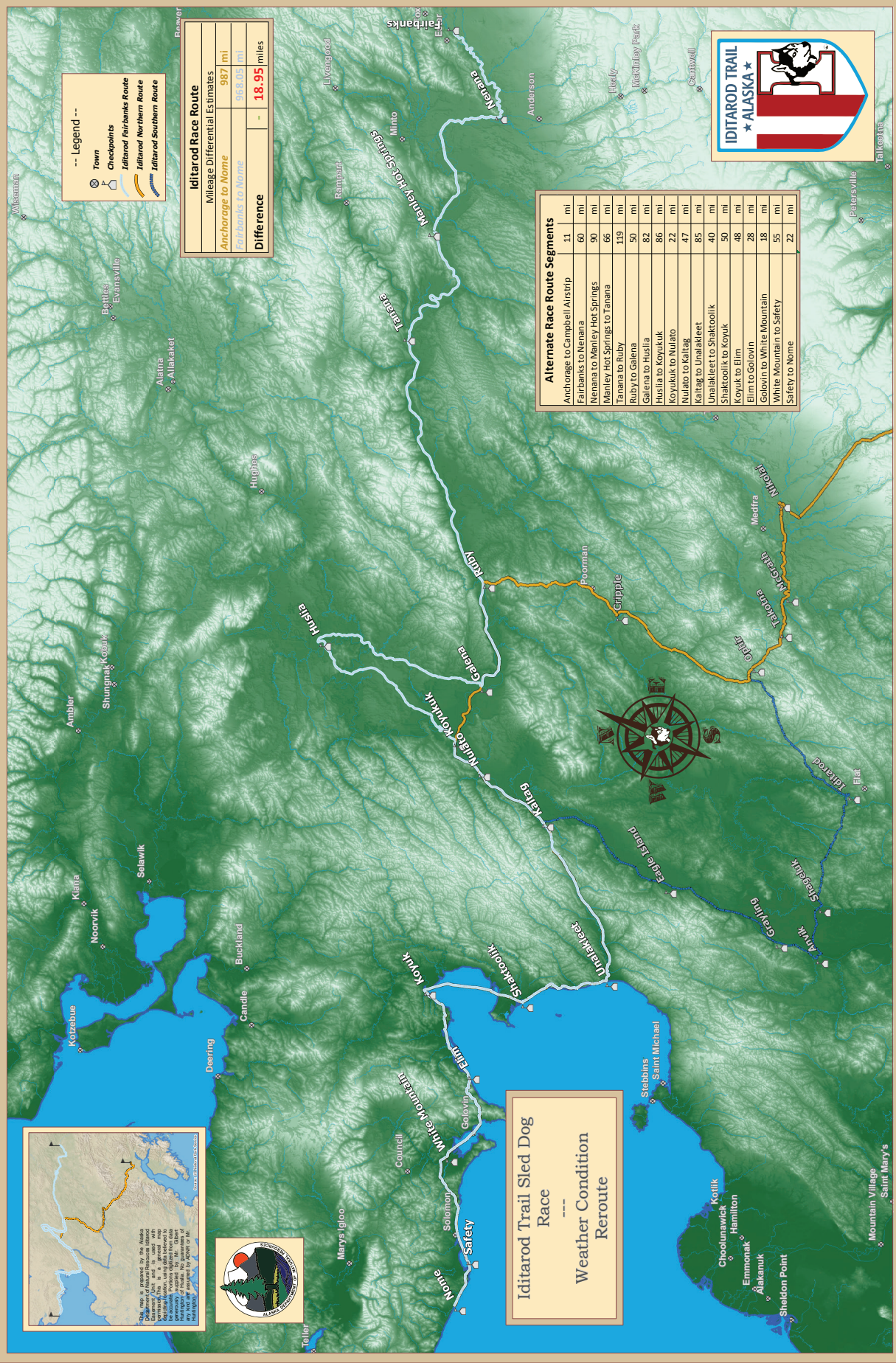
25. White Mountain
Population 199
In this village on Fish River, an 8-hour layover is mandatory here to allow the dogs rest for the last push to Nome, 77 miles away.

26. Safety
Population 0
The last checkpoint before Nome just 22 miles away, the trail turns inland for a short distance before crossing back to the shores of the Bering Sea to trail the beaches until they reach Front Street in Nome.

27. Nome
Population 3,695
The race ends under the buried arch of the city. The trail ends in Anvik City after a highly gold rich creek. It was once home to 30,000 miners.

Checkpoints	Approx. Distance
Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip	11
Willow to Yentna Station	42
Yentna Station to Skwentna	30
Skwentna to Finger Lake	40
Finger Lake to Rainy Pass	30
Rainy Pass to Rohn	35
Rohn to Nikolai	75
Nikolai to McGrath	48
McGrath to Takotna	18
Takotna to Ophir	23
Ophir to Iditarod	80
Iditarod to Shageluk	55
Total	998

Note: As of 2012 the Southern Route distance is approximately 998 miles. In prior years the distance was always over 1,000 miles. However, the change in the Ceremonial Start (running from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip instead of Eagle River) and the change of the Re-Start location from Wasilla to Willow (loss of Wasilla-Knik-Yentna River runs), and since the actual year to year trail conditions can affect trail routing, the trail distance has been readjusted. The symbolic figure of 1,049 miles still stands to signify the historical 1,000 miles of the race and 49 is added to identify Alaska as the 49th state.



"Map courtesy of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources"

(c) Joshua Borough/Schultzphoto.com



Dallas Seavey and team leave the ceremonial start line with an Iditarider at 4th Avenue and D Street in downtown Anchorage on Saturday, March 5th, 2016

Iditaro



Musher Biographies

Continued from page 36

and moved to Tok in 2010. He began mushing in 1995 and after reading *Iditarod Classics* by Lew Freedman, he became interested in running the Iditarod. Hugh has competed in twenty-eight 1,000 mile races since 2000, 16 Yukon Quests and 12 Iditarod's. He won the Yukon Quest in 2012. He lists his occupation as dog musher. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Tok Dog Musher. Hugh enjoys back packing, canoeing, and travel. Hugh says, "I am one of the luckiest Alaskans ever. It's been a difficult journey, but the beauty of the dogs and the majesty of Alaska's landscape make it well worth the effort. We love doing the Iditarod each year, visiting with friends along the way is always a highlight of the experience, especially our Native friends. After all, it's their dogs that I am blessed to play with every day! Whether they be from Tanana, Huslia or Kotzebue – Alaskan Huskies are #1's!"

Nicolas Petit, Girdwood, AK



Nicolas, 36, grew up in Normandy and always loved animals. Nic got into mushing by adopting "Ugly", a gorgeous Alaskan Mutt. He put a harness

on him and the adventure began. Nic developed his passion for sled dogs while living in Girdwood, Alaska, and working for Dario Daniels, whose training techniques live on through Nic's calm mushing demeanor. Nic has placed 28th, 29th, 6th, 10th, and in 2016 – 7th in past Iditarods and 31st, 4th and 2nd in the Copper Basin. He won the 2014 Aurora 50/50. Nic says, "The future looks bright for my dog team." He is proud to finally run his own dogs. His team consists of eight yearlings that he raised and a few experienced dogs that have been with

him for a couple of years.

Mats Pettersson, Kiruna, Sweden



Mats, 46, was born and raised in Kiruna, Sweden. He has been mushing for the last 25 years and has run all the longest races in Scandinavia,

including the Finnmarkslopët in Norway five times. He is the Swedish champion in long distance mushing. He has been in the tourism business in Sweden 34 years and currently runs a tourism business just 20 km away from the world famous Ice Hotel in Sweden, Kiruna Sleddog Tours. This will be his fourth Iditarod. He says that he has a passion for wildlife and meeting passionate dog people from all over the world. He loves spending time with his family and being involved in his children's sports. He and his wife, Charlotta, are the parents of Linnea, 20, Clara, 18, Tilda, 15 and Zeb, 6 and Freja, 2. He is a member of Kiruna Slädhundsklubb. Mats is very interested in Alaska Husky bloodlines and breedings and has an operation in northern Sweden for this. He's also been a "half professional" ice hockey player as a goalie.

Michelle Phillips, Tagish, YT, Canada



Michelle Phillips, 48, was born and raised in Whitehorse, YT. "After traveling the world for 10 years, I decided to settle down in a small cabin in the Yukon Bush.

After living for a few years in the Southern Lakes region of the Yukon, I met my partner, Ed Hopkins. Ed introduced the

sport of dog mushing to me and I immediately fell in love with the sport. Growing up in a very athletic family and training for many years as a figure skater, I enjoyed challenging myself and working with such an elite and talented group of athletes. After running my first Yukon Quest, I was hooked on long distance mushing and I've been doing it since. I love traveling with my team of dogs and spending time with my best friends." She and Ed own and operate Tagish Lake Kennel. Michelle has run six Yukon Quest races (best finish 4th and Vet's Choice award in 2009.) For the past 17 years, when not racing professionally, Ed and Michelle, with their son Keegan, 16, (and up to 90 Alaskan huskies) have provided visitors with sled dog adventures of 30 minutes to seven days throughout the year.

Ray Redington, Jr., Wasilla AK



Ray, 40, was born and raised in Alaska. Dog mushing is a family tradition. He's a 3rd generation Iditarod musher. His Grandpa is Joe Redington

Sr. His grandpa, dad, uncle, and brothers have all competed in the race. Dog mushing is both a sport and a lifestyle the Redington family enjoys. Ray loves to run and race dogs. He grew up around the Iditarod and started competing in 2001. So far, his best finish was in 2013 when he placed 5th. Ray met his wife, Julia, when they were racing in the 1991 Junior Iditarod. They married in 1998 and have two fantastic kids, Ellen and Isaac. Ellen and Isaac help with puppy chores now and they also enjoy running dogs. The Redingtons live in Knik, Alaska on land bought from Ray's Grandparents' estate. Their home was the original food drop site for the first few Iditarod races in

Musher Biographies

the early 70's. The property has direct access to the historical Iditarod Trail. Ray lists his occupation as dog musher and hobbies as hunting and fishing.

Robert Redington, Willow, AK



Robert, 28, was born and raised in the Knik area outside Wasilla. He says he's lived on his grandfather's (Joe Redington, Sr.) homestead all his life. He started mushing six years ago and says he had a feeling he would run the Iditarod since he was a kid. In the summers, he does tours at Alaska Excursions Dog Sled Discovery and Musher's Camp in the Juneau area. He says this will be the first season he will be "running with all his own dogs." He is the grandson of Iditarod co-founder Joe Redington, Sr. and a brother to Ryan and Ray Redington. All three Redington men have entered the 2017 Iditarod. Robert enjoys skateboarding in his spare time.

Ryan Redington, Wasilla, AK



Ryan Redington, 34, was born and raised in the Knik area outside Wasilla. He works in Skagway doing dog tours during the summer and splits the time in the winter with training in Northern Wisconsin and training in Knik. He says, "I began mushing when I could hang onto the sled." The grandson of the late Joe Redington, Sr., Father of the Iditarod, says that running Iditarod has always been his dream. Ryan is married to Erin and they are the parents of two. Eve Violet is 2 and T.J. is 1. Ryan's daughter,

Raynee is 14. Ryan says that he enjoys trapping, hunting, and fishing.

Ketil Reitan, Kaktovik, AK



Ketil, 55, was born in Trondheim, Norway. He received his Master's Degree in Fisheries Science from the Univ. of Tromso, having written his thesis on whaling. He came to Alaska in 1987 to do fieldwork on Inuit whaling for that Master's. Ketil met his wife in Kaktovik. Since 2010, he's been taking people out by boat to photograph the polar bears around Kaktovik. When Ketil was in high school in Norway he became a member of the mushing club. He ran the Finnmark race in 1986. Now Ketil is the only musher to have finished the five longest sled dog races: the Iditarod four times, the Yukon Quest, La Grande Odyssey, the Hope Race from Nome to Anadyr, Chukotka, and the Finnmarksløpet. Ketil is married to Evelyn and they are the parents of Vebjorn, age 19, and Martin, age 17.

Peter Reuter, Bloomingdale, NY



Peter, 54, hails from New York's Adirondack Mountains, where he lived until he finished college at Paul Smiths College with a degree in forestry. He began mushing in 1980 with a recreational team of Malamutes and started giving sled dog tours in the early 1990's with Thunder Mountain Sled Dogs in the Adirondacks. He's been in Alaska full time since 2012 when he came to guide and race dogs. In the summers

he gives sled dog tours for Seavey's Ididaride on the Punchbowl Glacier in Girdwood. He will be racing the Iditarod with dogs from Dean Osmar's Cook Inlet Kennels. Peter says, "I am running Iditarod for the challenge and joy of running 1000 miles with incredible dogs through amazing terrain!!!" He is married to Daun. Peter has an adult son, Cassidy. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, and playing bluegrass music.

Thomas Rosenbloom, Cantwell, AK



Thomas, 26, was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. He attended college at the Univ. of Georgia, Athens, and received a B.S. in Psychology in 2012. During his junior year in college, he watched "The Toughest Race on Earth", an Iditarod documentary, and after watching that Thomas knew he HAD to run the Iditarod! After graduating, working and traveling, Thomas applied for a job at Wolf's Den Kennel in Cantwell, owned by Mike and Caitlin Santos. Thomas says, "I have loved my two years here in Cantwell and am now more than ever determined to finish the Iditarod with a happy, healthy dog team." Thomas enjoys playing music and traveling.

Jessie Royer, Fairbanks, AK



Jessie, 40, was born in Idaho. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana where she lived for 21 years. She worked on ranches as a horse wrangler and horse teamster. Jessie says that she got her first sled dogs when she was 15.

Musher Biographies

She started learning about dogs from Doug Swingley whom she worked with for a couple of years. She had dogs in Montana seven years before moving to Alaska in the spring on 1998. In December of 2011 she went back to the ranch in Montana to work. She says, "I still have my place in Fairbanks and go back and forth as much as I can." Jessie has extensive mushing experience including having won Montana's Race to the Sky when she was only 17. Jessie was the winner of the invitational La Grande Odyssée in France in 2005. Jessie's hobbies are horses, hunting, mounted shooting, and photography.

Brent Sass, Eureka, AK



Brent, 37, owner and founder of Wild and Free Mushing, has been racing and training huskies for 13 years. Originally from Excelsior, Minnesota, Sass moved to Alaska in 1998 to "fulfill a lifelong dream of living in Alaska." He's been following his dreams ever since. After attending UAF for 4 years and graduating with a major in Geography, he started building log cabins and started his own building and rental cabin business in at the Goldstream Valley outside of Fairbanks. In 2011 he bought a homestead in Eureka, Alaska and has been breeding, raising and training dogs and living a remote wilderness lifestyle ever since. Since his first race in 2006, Sass has placed in over 20 races, including several first place finishes. He has run the 1000 mile Yukon Quest nine times and won the race in 2015. He was the Rookie of the Year in the 2012 Iditarod and is eager to be back on the trail in 2017. Brent's entire team will be dogs that he has bred, raised, and trained their entire life. He has an amazing bond with his

dogs and feels that his remote mushing lifestyle will put him in contention to win the race in 2017. Brent lists his occupation as dog musher/wilderness guide and his hobbies as wilderness travel and hunting Mark Selland, Anchorage, Alaska Mark, 59, was born and raised in Minot, North Dakota. He received his BS degree in biology from the Univ. of North Dakota followed by his MD from Washington Univ. in St Louis. After completing his medical training in Seattle and Denver, he moved to Anchorage where he has worked at the Alaska Heart and Vascular Institute as a general cardiologist for the past 20 years. Four years ago, at the urging of his wife Kathy, he started handling for Anchorage musher Robert Bundtzen. Since then he has used the Bundtzen team to complete the Copper Basin 300 three times and the 2015 Iditarod. He looks forward to spending another winter working with dogs, improving his dog handling skills, and dealing with the many interesting challenges that come with mushing and preparing for Iditarod. When not mushing, he is working on his guitar chops, climbing, fishing, running rivers, hanging out at his cabin in Cooper Landing, and planning more adventures.

Nathan Schroeder, Warba, MN



Nathan, 39, was born and raised in Warba, Minnesota. He graduated from Mesabi Range Community and Technical College in 1999 as a maintenance mechanic. He has worked as a millwright in Local 1348 for the last 17 years. Nathan was introduced to mushing at the age of 12, when he was given a ride at an elementary school behind a team of malamutes. His goal was simple. He wanted to race the Iditarod. In 2014, he realized that dream and won the rookie

of the year award. He has raced numerous races in the "Lower 48." He is a four time champion of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon. Nathan says, "This will be my fourth Iditarod and I see myself racing it forever. I just can't get enough!" Nathan has three young children: Gavin, 7, Sawyer, 4 and Kinley, 3 and they "come first in life." He enjoys fishing, fishing and kids.

Dallas Seavey, Willow, AK



Dallas, 29, current Iditarod champion, was born in Virginia and his family moved to Seward when he was five. He is a third-generation musher who grew up helping his dad, Mitch, the 2004/2013 Iditarod champion, train his racing teams. He ran the Jr. Iditarod four times and in 2005, Dallas became the youngest musher in history to run the Iditarod. Dallas also wrestled for Sky View High School and spent one year training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. He is a High School State Champion, a Jr. National Champion, and was on the 2005 Jr. World team. In 2009, Dallas and his family moved to Willow to "train our Iditarod team." His current occupation is being a keynote speaker. In 2011, Dallas won the Yukon Quest and in 2012, he became the youngest Iditarod champion in Iditarod's history. He is one of four mushers ever to hold a championship in both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod. Dallas and his wife, Jen, also an Iditarod veteran, are the parents of six-year-old Annie.

'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."

Musher Biographies

Mitch Seavey, Seward, AK



Mitch, 56, was born in Minnesota and moved with his family to Alaska in 1963. He graduated from high school in Seward and wrestled for Pacific Univ. in Forest Grove, Oregon. He began mushing in 1963. Mitch's dad, Dan, ran the Iditarod in 1973, so he decided he wanted to run the Iditarod someday. After running eleven Iditarods, Mitch won the race in 2004. In 2008, Mitch was the winner of the All Alaska Sweepstakes, held that year as a commemoration of the original All Alaska Sweepstakes, and then he won the Iditarod again in 2013. He says, "Running the Iditarod is a family tradition." Mitch and Janine are the parents of four boys, three of whom have run the Jr. Iditarod and the Iditarod, Danny, Tyrell, and Dallas. The youngest, Conway, is 18 and won the Jr. Iditarod in 2012 & 2014. Mitch's hobbies are writing, family, and hunting.

Mark Selland, Anchorage, AK



Mark, 59, was born and raised in Minot, North Dakota. He received his BS degree in biology from the University of North Dakota followed by his MD from Washington University in St

Bill Davidson - This Willow musher wanted to see more of Alaska and felt he needed a more dependable transportation than a snowmachine, so he ran a dog team.

Louis. After completing his medical training in Seattle and Denver, he moved to Anchorage where he has worked at the Alaska Heart and Vascular Institute as a general cardiologist for the past 20 years. Four years ago, at the urging of his wife Kathy, he started handling for Anchorage musher Robert Bundtzen. Since then he has used the Bundtzen team to complete the Copper Basin 300 three times and the 2015 Iditarod. He looks forward to spending another winter working with dogs, improving his dog handling skills, and dealing with the many interesting challenges that come with mushing and preparing for Iditarod. When not mushing, he is working on his guitar chops, climbing, fishing, running rivers, hanging out at his cabin in Cooper Landing, and planning more adventures.

Scott Smith, Willow, AK



Scott, 46, was born and raised in Maine. He attended UMO and Unity College majoring in fisheries management. He has worked as a commercial diver, commercial fisherman, hunting, fishing and whitewater guide, outfitter, heavy equipment operator and carpenter. After spending 11 years in Wyoming where he got his start in dog racing, Smith moved his kennel to Willow, Alaska in 2005 and now calls that home. He is a veteran of both the Iditarod and Yukon Quest and is eager to do another 1000 mile race with his RDR kennel mates. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to be getting back on the trail with my dogs and look to learn and improve as always." When Scott is not at work in the Oil and Gas Industry or building/rebuilding something other than a dog team, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and traveling.

Ramey Smyth, Willow, AK



Ramey, 41, was born and raised in Alaska. He is the son of Iditarod mushers Bud Smyth, who raced in the first Iditarod and the late Lolly Medley who raced in the second Iditarod. Ramey has lived all over the state but says he moved to Willow to put down roots and build a home for his family. Ramey has raced the Iditarod 20 times placing in the top 10 nine times. He won the Kuskokwim 300 in 1995 and has raced in, and won, many other events throughout the state. He is a fulltime log home builder and owns and operates Smyth Logwork and Construction in Willow. He operates Smyth Racing Team-Homestretch Kennel, which is 70 dogs strong, with his wife Becca Moore and their children, daughter Ava 10 years old, son Banyan 6 years old, and their new baby. Updates and photos for the kennel can be found on Face Book at Smyth Racing Team-Homestretch Kennel.

Melissa Stewart, Wasilla, AK



Melissa (Owens), 26, was born and raised in Nome. She moved to the Mat-Su Valley in 2009 to attend Northern Industrial Training and decided to stay. She later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the Charter College. Melissa lists her occupation as dog musher and says that she has been mushing since birth. Melissa says that she has wanted to run the Iditarod as long as she can remember. "My dad ran the Iditarod the year I was born and mushing is in my blood. After completing four Jr. Iditarods, I ran my first Iditarod in 2008 and am the

Musher Biographies

youngest female to finish the Iditarod. After taking a few years off, we have decided it is time to come back and run again and show the dogs what it is like to race across Alaska. My husband, Jason, and I now share the responsibilities of the kennel. We enjoy spending time with the dogs and seeing them grow as a team. We are excited for this winter."

Ed Stielstra, McMillan, MI



Ed, 47, grew up in Ludington, Michigan enjoying competitive sports, dogs, and being outside. After high school, he attended

Michigan State Univ. where he received a Bachelor of Science from Lyman Briggs College of Science. Approximately 13 years ago, Ed and his wife left their "real world" jobs to operate Nature's Kennel Sled Dog Adventures and Racing full time. Their kennel is located in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula, and they offer dog sled adventures geared toward the beginner. Along with tours and racing, Ed and Tasha combine their mushing experience with their past teaching experience to do presentations for students in kindergarten through 8th grade around the US and abroad. Their "Pulling Together" presentations focus on teamwork and respect from a sled dog's viewpoint. When not training dogs and entertaining guests, Ed spends his free time with his two children, Nate, 6, and Fern, 4. In the 2017 Iditarod, Ed is excited to run a team of one year olds. His racing partner, Laura Neese, will have the adult racing team while Ed will be taking a much slower pace to gain the young dogs valuable trail experience.

Justin Stielstra, McMillan, MI



Justin, 22, was born in Texas and raised in Michigan. He studied Outdoor Recreation and Management at Northern Michigan Univ. He started

mushing in 2014 by helping his uncle, Iditarod veteran Ed Stielstra, and aunt, Tasha Stielstra, train the race team and he loved it. He ran dogs for three years after that up in Alaska. Now back at Nature's Kennel, he will be racing a yearling team. He hopes to start his own kennel in a few years. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, and snowboarding.

Cody Strathe, Fairbanks, AK



Cody, 39, was born and raised in Iowa and Wisconsin. He received a BS in Natural Resource Management from the Univ. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, in

2001. Cody first came to Alaska after college in 2001 as a canoe and backcountry guide and "got hooked." He moved to Fairbanks to go to graduate school for archaeology, where he graduated with a Masters in anthropology in 2009. Cody has been working as a sled builder and archeologist for the last 11 years. Cody says, "I am an explorer at heart. Being out in the wild areas of Alaska is what makes me happiest, regardless of the season." During the summer, Cody wears many hats when it comes to a profession. Cody and his wife, Paige, also an Iditarod veteran, own Spearfish Research, a fisheries and archaeology consulting company. This past summer, Cody worked with

subsistence salmon fishers along the Yukon River to teach them how to collect scientific data from their catch. Some summers, he does archeological survey work in very remote areas of Arctic Alaska. In between field jobs, Cody builds custom dogsleds for other mushers through his company, DogPaddle Designs. He also builds custom handcrafted paddles and wooden boats. When fall comes, all of Cody's time and energy is devoted to the mental and physical training of himself and of Team Squid. He began mushing in 2007 and says, "I first became interested in running the Iditarod when I realized I had an awesome team of dogs. They deserve to show what they are made of." Both Cody and Paige ran last year's Iditarod and last year's Yukon Quest, becoming the first couple to run both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod in the same season. After the race season, Cody and Paige guide sled tours at their kennel. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, kayaking, and pac-rafting.

Michael Suprenant, Chugiak, AK



Michael, 52, was born in Germany while his dad was stationed there. He spent his youth living in Germany, Texas, and New Mexico. After High School, he

joined the Air Force as an avionics technician, working on various aircraft including F-4s, A-10s, C-130s, C-5s, C-141s, KC-10s, KC-135s, and the C-17. Mike has spent time all over the world including Hawaii, Japan, Australia, and Saudi Arabia. He came to Alaska with the Air Force in 1997 and says he volunteered for Alaska expecting great skiing and fishing. He began thinking about the Iditarod at that time and became an Iditarod volunteer. After the

Musher Biographies

Air Force, he decided to stay in Alaska to pursue his Iditarod dream. Mike began mushing in 2001 and moved to Chugiak from Anchorage to be able to run dogs. With some great advice from Iditarod veterans and his own experiences as a volunteer on the trail, he crafted a plan to run the Iditarod. He has finished both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod. Mike currently is an employee of the US Government. He earned a BA in Business in 2003 and an AA in Avionics in 1994. He enjoys building and gardening. Michael is married to Debbie.

Joar Leifseth Ulsom, Mo i Rana, NORWAY



Joar, 29, holds the record as the fastest rookie to have ever run the Iditarod, and is one of only two mushers to place top-7 four times in just four Iditarod starts.

The 2013 Iditarod Rookie of the Year is from Mo i Rana in Norway by the Arctic Circle. Joar traveled with his dogs from Norway to Alaska where they currently reside since fall of 2011. He works full-time with his small kennel of dogs and Russian team mates for the GoNorth! Adventure Learning non-profit as part of Team Racing Beringia. Racing Beringia is an online education program for students in K-12 classrooms around the world to explore the region of Beringia spanning from the Yukon in Canada, across Alaska to Chukotka, Russia (RacingBeringia.com). Joar and his team have raced throughout Beringia starting

"I was a real snowmachine fan until my wife, Jan, got me to go on a couple of runs with the dog team, and that was it! I was hooked!" - Mike Petersen

with the Yukon Quest in 2012. Setting a new time record for the Nadezhda Hope race in Chukotka (Russia), Joar became the first non-native winner of the "toughest race in Eurasia" in 20 years. He is now a 2-time Nadezhda Hope champion, with a second victory in 2014. Joar and his team also placed 1st in 2012 Chukotka Sprint Championship. Back in Norway Joar started out as a kid by borrowing his neighbors two house dogs to pull him around on skis. Watching Iditarod movies is what fueled his dreams growing up. In 2007, Joar started mushing and building up his own team. He received a degree from an agricultural college in Norway and worked as a cowboy while he ran the great races of Scandinavia before coming to Alaska. With this fifth Iditarod, the run for Racing Beringia continues in 2017. Joar is a member of Rana Trekk-og Brukshundklubb and Go North! Adventure Learning. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and "the North."

Nicolas Vanier, Paris, France



Nicolas, 54, was born and raised in France. He is a film director, an author, and a musher. He started traveling in the 'far North' at the age of 18 and spent most

of the last 35 years traveling through Canada, Alaska, Norway, and Siberia. Nicolas went from Skagway, Alaska to Quebec with a dog team and has spent four years in Siberia where he's done about 20,000 miles in dog team expeditions. He is a film maker and produced "The Last Trapper" and "Wolf". Nicolas has written about 50 books, including photo books and fiction. Nicolas has his own dog team. Two years ago he went through Mongolia, China, and Siberia and did the Yukon Quest, finishing in 9th position. Nicolas says, "I loved this experience."

Sebastien Vergnaud, Rioux, France



Sebastien, 46, was born and raised in France. He began mushing 22 years ago and has been interested in running the Iditarod since he ran the Finnmarksløpet in 2009. He says that he moved from France "a long time ago" to train dogs in Scandinavia and after that in Canada and Alaska. Sebastien's hobbies are Motocross, super cross, and mountain biking.

Misha Wiljes, Prague, Czech Republic



Misha, 48, was born and raised in Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic, a beautiful and ancient city in the heart of Europe. After

attending trade school in graphic design, she worked as a sign writer, and several years as a painter for movies, TV advertisements, and billboards. She has always loved to travel. Her spare time was spent hiking and exploring with her dog and a backpack. While sleeping under the star's blanket, Misha developed the desire to explore other country sides. She has traveled extensively in Australia and the Yukon Territory, finally coming to rest in Alaska, making it her permanent home in 2003. Naturalized in 2009, she now holds USA and Czech citizenship. Misha began mushing in 2000 and learned about it while handling for Charlie Boulding, Vern Halter, and Judy Currier. After completing several mid distance races, she completed the 2012 Yukon Quest with dogs from Jim and

Musher Biographies

Bonnie Foster and Leslie Morrison. The Iditarod is her next challenge and it is a goal she has firmly in her mind. Together with her husband, Gerhard, Misha built WW Kennel in Willow, Alaska, and now lives her dream while running with her own dogs in distance races like the CB 300 and the Northern Lights 300. Misha has worked for the post office in Willow for the last two years. She says she enjoys fishing, sewing, and travel.

Monica Zappa, Kasilof, AK



Monica, 33, was born and raised in Cumberland, Wisconsin. She holds a bachelor's degree in Meteorology from St. Cloud State Univ. and a master's in Geography from Northern Illinois Univ.. She has also completed one year of a PhD program in Geography and worked at the National Weather Center at the Univ. of Oklahoma. She moved to Kasilof in the spring of 2010, to run dogs and work as a handler for Bruce Linton. Then she says, "Tim Osmar talked me into living and working with him in the fall of 2010 and I haven't left." Her main

occupation is commercial fishing, but she does a lot of other things to pay the bills. Her latest venture is making Mending Twine Bracelets and Blue Steel Leashes. She hopes to sell them this season to help afford Iditarod; they can be purchased on her webpage. Monica grew up in a mushing family. Both her parents competed in and officiated the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon. She explained that her dad's dream was to run the Iditarod but he died before it happened. Monica and Tim have been "Mushing to Save Bristol Bay" since 2012 and join their dogs in always standing up for the wild salmon when foreign mining giants threaten them.

Aliy Zirkle, Two Rivers, AK



Aliy, 47, was born in New Hampshire. She spent her childhood in New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and Missouri. She graduated from the Univ. of Pennsylvania with a degree in Biology and Anthropology and came to Alaska in 1990, where she lived in a wall tent on the Alaskan Peninsula and worked

for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. She's lived in Two Rivers for the last 18 years and says that she "enjoys the community and the surrounding wild lands." Aliy lists her occupation as "dog musher" and ran the Yukon Quest three years and won that race in 2000. She has finished the Iditarod 15 times. "Iditarod is my passion, my job, my life...Alaskan husky sled dogs are the focus of my life. We breed, raise and train the best individual dogs we possibly can at SP Kennel in Two Rivers. I began mushing dogs over 20 years ago because I enjoyed dogs. I still do. We have some of the most talented, fun-loving, dedicated sled dogs in the world so racing them on the largest stage in the world—the Iditarod—seems only fitting!" Aliy has two adult step daughters, Bridgett and Jennifer. When asked what she enjoys, she says "exploring Alaska and drinking good coffee."

"I love the sport and the idea of making a working team out of a bunch of wild huskies. There are a lot of reasons to run Iditarod. But, mostly because it's the only way to fly!" - Roger Roberts



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Celebrating 40 years of Jr. Iditarod

by Eye on the Trail Terrie Hanke

This year marks the 40th running of the Jr. Iditarod. The first Jr. Iditarod was held in 1978. The race was born three years earlier in 1975 when a group of teenage mushing friends were sitting around a campfire on a mushing camping trip. They talked about a competitive race that would provide a training ground for young mushers like themselves who were interested in distance racing. The kids brought their idea to Iditarod founder, Joe Redington Sr. His eyes must have been twinkling as he listened with great interest to their idea. Seeing the potential of a first class junior race, Joe advised the young mushers to go for it. During the next three years, many people came together to build the Jr. Iditarod. The dream, with such humble beginnings, became the foundation for Alaska's most respected junior race.

Mushers ranging in age from fourteen to seventeen will take to the trail on the last Saturday of February. The start is scheduled for 10:00 on Knik Lake. With Joe Sr. telling the kids to "go for it," it only seems fitting that the starting line is within shouting distance of Joe's home place.

The route for the 150-mile race will take the young mushers 75-miles into the bush to the Yentna Station Roadhouse. Camping in the woods along the shore of the Yentna River, the teams will take their 10-hour mandatory rest. The start differential will be added to the 10-hour layover. Race officials at Yentna Station will re-start the teens for the 75-mile inbound leg of the race. The first mushers usually depart Yentna well before the sun rises. The race finishes at the Willow Community Center with the banquet to follow.

As of early January, thirteen teens

were signed up to run the 40th Jr. Iditarod. Rookies outnumber veterans 2 to 1 and the same is true for females and males. The majority of contestants hail from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Willow and Wasilla, Alaska. Mushers from Ontario, Wisconsin, Michigan and Idaho join the nine Alaskans. Veterans returning to race include Katie Deits, Bailey Schaeffer, Andrew Nolan, and Chandler Wappett.

Andrew Nolan has participated in the past three Jr. races. He placed second in 2016 and also has received two sportsmanship awards. Bailey Schaeffer, the 2016 Rookie of the Year, and Chandler Wappett have each participated in one previous Jr. Iditarod. Katie Deits rounds out the quartet of veterans with 2 years of Jr. Iditarod experience.

To recap the 39th Jr. Iditarod, congratulations to Kevin Harper

who claimed his second Jr. Iditarod Championship. His lead-dog, Orville received the Blue Harness Award. Following Harper across the finish line was Andrew Nolan. Nolan received the Sportsmanship award for his unending willingness to offer a helping hand and words of encouragement to fellow mushers throughout the race. Bailey Schaeffer crossed the finish line in third place to earn Rookie of the Year honors. Dakota Schlosser earned 4th place and Chandler Wappett completed the top five. Rounding out the 2016 field was Joan Klejka, Denver Kay Evans, Rose Capistrant, Marianna Mallory and Katie Deits. As the Red Lantern musher, Deits was only 1 hour and 53 minutes behind the champion. With the lack of snow in the Anchorage area, Katie had mostly been training behind a four-wheeler. It was obvious her dogs were well trained even though sled training was only a small part of the

Celebrating 40 years



©Terrie Hanke
First place winner, Kevin Harper poses with his lead dogs at the finish line of the 2016 Junior Iditarod in Willow, Alaska,

miles. The Red Lantern, a symbol of perseverance, was a symbol of victory for Diets and the training challenges she faced.

An Iditarod Funding Committee provided scholarships for the top five finishers of the 2016 Jr. Iditarod ranging from \$6,000 to \$1,500. The Committee also presented scholarships for the Sportsmanship Award to Andrew Nolan and for the Humanitarian Award to Denver Kay Evans.

One of the Jr. Iditarod traditions celebrated at Yentna Station is the bonfire. The first musher to arrive builds the bonfire after he or she completes their dog chores. Once the other mushers have their teams bedded down, fed and cared for, they gather

around the fire for both friendship and warmth. They strengthen old friendships and cultivate new. The tradition of the bonfire takes the mushers back to when the idea of a Jr. Iditarod was born amongst friends around a campfire forty-some years before.

Since the inception of the Jr. Iditarod many of the Jr. mushers have gone on to run the Iditarod. A rough comparison of the musher listings for both races shows at least thirty-one mushers have competed in Jr. Iditarod and Iditarod. Mission accomplished, dream realized for the young mushers who sat around the campfire and talked about having a race to provide a training ground for those interested in distance racing.

Looking at the 2017 Iditarod, there are eight contestants who practiced their distance mushing skills in the Jr. Iditarod. The eight include Rookie Ryan Anderson and veterans Noah Burmeister, Jason Mackey, Wade Marrs, Melissa Owens-Stewart, Ray Redington Jr., Ryan Redington and Ramey Smith. Collectively, these Iditarod contestants have participated in twenty-two Jr. Iditarod runs and have earned five championships. Those who've earned Jr. Iditarod Gold are Ramey Smith in '92 and '93, Ryan Redington in '99 and '00 and Melissa Owens-Stewart in '05.

Has a Jr. champion ever gone on to win Iditarod? With names like Dallas Seavey and Lance Mackey in the Jr. Iditarod archives one might assume the answer to that question would be yes. Such is not the case. As of yet, there is not a champion common to both races. If that were to happen this year, it would be up to Smith, Redington, or Owens-Stewart to reach the burlled arch in Nome first.

For the 1978 Iditarod, Susan Butcher had two sponsors, the 'Homestead Cafe' and the musk ox produce coop, "Oomingmak." At the 1978 banquet, Susan wore an evening dress of giviut, the downy ash-brown under wool of the musk ox. The dress was hand knitted and adorned with carved ivory trimmings.

Stan and Sally Smith Recognized as Honorary Mushers for the 2017 Jr Iditarod

Stan and Sally Smith have been chosen as the Honorary Mushers for the 2017 Jr. Iditarod. They are strong supporters and volunteers of both the Iditarod and the Jr Iditarod. They love these races, the mushers, and of course, the dogs.

For Stan, his love of mushing began in 1989 when he won a 2 dog skijor race. He went on to sign up and race in Iditarod. After finishing the Iditarod in 1993 and 1994, and having supported their 2 children with their Jr Iditarod races, Stan and Sally started volunteering for both races. Stan did the trail work for the Jr race. Sally was a volunteer coordinator. Stan and Sally also have helped with dropped dogs, the volunteer picnic, and been sponsors for the Jr Races. They could always be counted on to help where needed



Sally and Stan Smith, Jr. Iditarod Honorary Mushers for 2017. Courtesy Sally Smith

Stan and Sally say, "We are proud to support the Jr. Iditarod scholarship program that encourages young people for the future." Stan's philosophy of life shows through in all that he does. Stan says, "As with anything, what is the real value unless there is a future? How can we prepare the coming generation if we do not support it? I can think of few other things of more value

than to prepare our children for the future. Care for someone other than ME or me first always. Working with dogs is a real-life skill that kids can carry always. If I can soften a curve, cut a tree, or break a trail through a storm, and bring the kids and dogs home safely having had a great experience, that is most satisfying to me.

Most of my best friends have been dogs, but my love is for the kids. Sally is and was my very best friend, supporter, and cheer leader through all these years."

For all these years and these 'little things' they've done to help make the Jr Iditarod what it is today, we celebrate and thank Stan and Sally Smith.

Remembering Susan Gardner ♥

Thanking Cindy Abbott for "the Ride".



Jr. Iditarod Biographies

Ksenia Deits, Anchorage, AK



Ksenia (Katie) Deits, 17, came with her family to Alaska where she met Iditarod finisher, Christine Roalofs, in 2012, and was promptly introduced to the sport of dog mushing. She says Christine's dogs are called the "City Slickers." "I am very proud to run her dogs. I have a fun time with them." She is a two time Jr. Iditarod veteran. Ksenia has one brother, Alex. She is a senior at Bartlett High School this year. She enjoys hiking and says she wants to become a veterinary technician. She plans to continue mushing.

Sponsor: Christine Roalofs

Kali Herbst, Ketchum, ID



Kali, 14, is the daughter of Iditarod veteran, Trent Herbst and lives in Ketchum, Idaho, with her parents and younger sister, Kiri. Kali says that she's been mushing since she was three years old, but this will be her first race. A freshman in high school, Kali participates in track, orchestra, and journalism. Her hobbies are bike touring, playing violin, pack rafting and writing. She doesn't know what she'll do once she graduates. She says, "That's a long way away!" As to whether she will continue mushing, her only comment is, "I'm enjoying it now!"

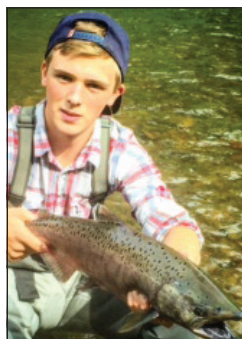
Sponsors: Grandpa & Grandma, Mom & Dad, Al/Linda Chamberlain, Tim Semones, The gang in Fairfield, The Conklin's

Hannah Mahoney, Bloomfield Hills, MI



Hannah Mahoney, 17, was born in Palm Beach, Florida. The family lived in Florida until moving to Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, when she was 8 years old. Hannah attends Oakland Early College and is a twelfth grader. At school, she is in National Honor Society, Academic Games and Music Club. She also enjoys archery and hunting. Hannah says, "From the time I was three years old, I loved the book and movie about Balto! I used to make a harness out of ribbons and tie them to a laundry basket, so my dogs would take me through the house! Thank goodness, we had wooden floors! My dream has always been to race in the Jr. Iditarod and one day, the Iditarod. I want to pursue a career with animals, either as a veterinarian or a zoologist. I'm a member of 4-H and show sheep, goats, ducks, chickens and my llama. I also compete in dog dock jumping with one of our five dogs and I recently took up surfing." Hannah has an older sister who is a junior in college. Hannah says, "I am lucky to have a really supportive mom and dad."

Michael May, Wasilla, AK



Michael May, 15, began mushing in the summer of 2016 when a friend gave him a chance to try it. He says, "I loved it!" He is a 10th grade student at Wasilla High School and participates in hockey. He also enjoys hunting,, fishing,

and being outdoors. He says, "My family, two sisters, a brother and my parents, is a hunting, fishing, outdoors family. My brother, 26, is now working for the President of the United States." Michael wants to be a pilot and says it's "most likely" that he'll continue mushing.

Sponsors: Alaska Directional Drilling, Sportsman's Warehouse, Kevin Williams, Carpenters Union Local 1281

Logan McCready-DeBruin, Haliburton, ONT, CANADA



Logan says, "I am the oldest of 4 children having a younger brother and 2 little sisters. Besides my mom & dad, the rest of our family is made up of 150 Purebred Siberian Huskies and 6 cats. My parents moved to the wilderness of Haliburton, Ontario, to start Winterdance Dogsled Tours the fall I was born and while my parents built our log home we lived our first winter in the office/gear room of the kennel, so the dogs have been my family since I was born! They spend their whole lives with us and with very few exceptions my brother, sisters & I have raised all the dogs we have now from puppies. I was riding a dogsled as a baby, but ran my first race at 3 years of age and have raced ever since. My brother & sisters all race, too. My parents tell me I set the goal to run Junior Iditarod when I was 5, having watched my Dad chase his dream to run Iditarod as long as I can remember. Our whole family was at the start line in Anchorage and the finish line in Nome when he completed that dream several years ago. I got to drive his tag sled for the ceremonial start. Last year I helped my Dad train his Yukon Quest team and I will do so again this year as we share

Jr. Musher Biographies

the race team dogs. Most of the dogs that will likely be on my team will have run 5 Yukon Quests/Iditarods with my Dad and are all related to each other. I look forward to fulfilling my goal of running the Junior Iditarod and also the 4000 mile drive across Canada with my dogs, dad, & uncle to get to the start line!" Logan is a senior at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. He participates in badminton and the book club. He also enjoys karate and sailing. After he finishes high school, he plans to continue running dogs and to get a pilot's license and fly helicopters.

Sponsors: Winterdance Dog Sled Tours, ONT, CANADA

Andrew Nolan, Wasilla, AK



Andrew Nolan, 17, started mushing seven or eight years ago and ran the last three Jr. Iditarod races. He is home schooled in the twelfth grade. He enjoys running, trapping, hunting, and fishing. He doesn't know what he wants to do after high school graduation, but says he does want to continue mushing.

Sponsors: Stump Jumpin Kennels

Bailey Schaeffer, Willow, AK



Bailey Schaeffer, 16, is Inupiaq and was born in Anchorage and raised 30 miles outside of Kotzebue in a primarily subsistence lifestyle. She says she started mushing "before she was born" because her family mushed dogs. She is in 11th grade at Mat Su Central and participates in soccer. She also enjoys hiking and skiing. She plans to go to college after graduation and plans to continue mushing.

Emma Showcroft, Fairbanks, AK

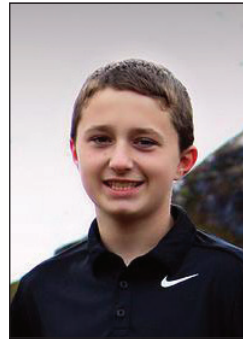


Emma Showcroft, 16, is the oldest of five kids in her family. She started mushing about five years ago when she started training with a family friend. This will be her first Jr. Iditarod, but she finished the Willow 100 last year in fifth place. A junior at Lathrop High School, she participates in cross country skiing. Emma's hobbies are cross country skiing and commercial

fishing with her dad. She doesn't have plans yet for after graduation but says she will continue mushing.

Sponsors: Mackey's Alaskan Distance Dogs, Showcroft Construction, LLC

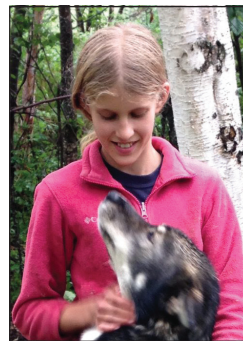
Colby Spears, Wasilla, AK



Colby Spears, 14, an 8th grader at Redington Jr./Sr. High School, just began mushing in 2016. The 2017 Jr. Iditarod will be his first competitive event. He enjoys all outdoor activities: "dirtbikes, 4-wheelers, ice fishing, hunting, going out to the cabin, etc." And he especially likes "hanging out with my dad!" He doesn't know yet what he'll do after graduation but

says he will continue mushing.

Anna Stephan, Wasilla, AK



Anna Stephan, 15, says she began mushing seven years ago. Her father owned dogs and got his daughters started mushing. She finished the Willow 100 in 2016 and this will be her first Jr. Iditarod. She's homeschooled in ninth grade and says she enjoys running, fishing, and playing the violin. She isn't sure what she'll do after graduation but says she will continue

mushing.

Rebecka Stephan, Wasilla, AK



Rebecka Stephan, 16, started mushing seven years ago. She says she's had dogs all her life and "our dad got us into mushing." The 2017 Jr. Iditarod will be her first race. She is homeschooled in the ninth grade and says her hobbies are playing the violin and swimming. She isn't sure yet what she'll do after graduation but she

does plan to continue mushing.

"I really enjoyed the Iditarod. It was like a series of Biblical tests. It appeared that the Lord tested me again and again. It was a good experience." - Peter Sapin, a medical doctor from Grand Marais, Minnesota

Jr. Musher Biographies

Chandler Wappett, Fairbanks, AK



Chandler Wappett, 16, says he started mushing in 2011 because he enjoyed being outdoors by himself with the dogs. He finished 5th in last year's Jr. Iditarod and has run junior races in the Fairbanks area. Chandler says, "I have two brothers and one sister and we all help each other to run the dogs and take turns racing. He is a junior at Lathrup High School where he participates

in xc country running and xc skiing. He also enjoys sports, fishing, soccer, and hunting. He plans to enter medical school after graduation and wants to continue mushing as long as possible.

Sponsors: Junior Dog Musers of Interior Alaska ,Andrew Wappett, DMD PC

Katherine Winrich, Reedsville, WI



Katherine Winrich, 16, wrote: "I was first introduced to mushing when I was in middle school. I got my first three sled dogs in 2011 and at that time began a journal about my experiences. I ran recreationally for several years. In late 2013, I picked up three more dogs. I ran sprint races for a few years but during my freshman year, I started running mid-distance. I love being out on

the trail with the dogs." Katherine is a junior at Reedsville High School and participates in track and field, drama club, MAD Adventure club, and National Honor Society. She also enjoys showing chickens and rabbits as part of 4-H as well as dog obedience training. She wants to become a certified dog trainer and says she does plan to continue mushing.



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ART PETERSEN; The Unsung Volunteer Pilot of the First Iditarod

By Katie Mangelsdorf

Art Petersen was living in Palmer in the early 1970's and was one of the few pilots in the first Iditarod Race to Nome to move people, supplies, and dogs across the 1,049 mile plus trail in 1973.

Petersen knew Joe Redington, Sr. and of his plans for a new sled dog race one way across Alaska from Anchorage to Nome. No one had ever heard of such an idea and most thought it an impossible wild dream Joe Redington had!

Petersen worked construction with one of Joe's very good friends, Dick Mackey. The year before the race, Mackey asked Petersen if he could fly him to the different villages along the route to begin organizing workers for this new race. Unfortunately Petersen couldn't, as he needed to go to work making an ice road for the new oil pipeline being built. But Mackey never forgot his friend's skills. The next year Mackey called him again to see if he could haul some gas to Skwentna for this premier and unparalleled race. Petersen was planning to go caribou hunting at Twin Lakes, but Mackey convinced him that his help was

really needed to make this race happen.

This was the beginning of this pilot volunteer's adventures in the first Iditarod. The next thing he knew he was needed to haul a radio. Then they needed Petersen to get dog food to McGrath. Sure, he would haul it for them. He said the next thing he knew "they twisted my arm and I went all the way to Nome...I was the only pilot from McGrath to Nome...I hauled dog food to Ruby the first day...I hauled a couple of guys and radio gear to McGrath...I hauled dogs from Fairwell Lake to McGrath—two or three dogs. I had the seats down and tied the dogs up to a bar in the back of the plane. They were tired and laid right down after I took off...I hauled Dick Tozier and Orville Lake. Terry Adkins, too."

Dr. Terry Atkins was the first and only veterinarian for the 1973 Iditarod Race. He started out flying with Joe Redington. (Joe couldn't race, as he was working hard trying to raise the \$50,000 purse. Joe was also "patrolling the trail by air" and dropping off boots, dropping new dentures hidden in dog food for his son, Raymie, and delivering supplies when he could.)

Adkins and Joe were flying into Susitna Station where there was deep snow on the river. Adkins said, "[Joe] did a ground loop and flipped the plane." And that's when Adkins started flying with Petersen.

"My plane was on skis and on the coast the airstrips were blown free of snow and were gravel. So, I had to land
Continued on page 55



Volunteer Iditarod Air Force pilot O.E. Robbins and John Hooley take musher drop bags from the plane and stack them at the McGrath checkpoint during Iditarod 2016.

ART PETERSEN continued

on the ice on Norton Sound.” In fact, Petersen was flying in blinding blizzard conditions on numerous occasions. Joe said that “when the ceiling was low and the weather was impossible for flying—Art would land on a dog trail and taxi his passengers to their destination!”

Looking back Petersen remarked quietly, “One night I came in with Orville Lake, Dick Tozier, and Terry Adkins. It was dark and the wind was howling. I couldn’t land on the airstrip, because it was dirt. I could see black ice at the mouth of the river by the Northern Commercial building.” That is where they landed.

(Orville Lake was a long time musher and “helped send the teams off” and he was reporting for KYAK. Dick Tozier was the Race Marshal and President of the Alaska Sled Dog Racing Association in Anchorage.)

“He was flying real low,” recalled Adkins. “The puckerbrush was four feet below the plane!” But Petersen was a skilled bush pilot and landed them safely on the ice.

“We touched down and went over a monstrous drift that bounced us way up,” Petersen reminisced. “I got behind the Northern Commercial building where a skiff was buried in the snow. Only the stern and bow were sticking out.”

The men jumped out to secure the plane, but the wind was blowing so fiercely that it “took all of three of us to hang on to the plane” while Petersen tied it down!

All ended well, remembered Petersen. “I slept in the school in White Mountain and ate with the mayor. Then in Unalakleet, I ate with the mayor and slept in the Northern Commercial building that had rooms for rent.”

Petersen said, “Him and I spent a lot of time in the air. We made every stop between McGrath and Nome. We checked teams on the trail at Safety. If

Continued on page 67



In Loving Memory of
James L. Beech
1949-2016



Jim was an avid follower of
Iditarod. He always had a
love for the race.

Love, Patricia Beech
IditaRider 2007
with Musher Bruce Milne
IditaRider 2008
with Musher Rick Swenson



Scott Janssen (The Mushin Mortician) and the staff at Janssen Funeral Homes would like to thank the Iditarod staff, the veterinarians, all the volunteers, sponsors and the fans; you make this race possible. Best of luck to my fellow mushers; see you down the trail !!



Janssen Funeral Homes, Inc.

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Alaska Cremation Center
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Janssen's Mat-Su Funeral Home

LOCALLY OWNED

Checkpoint Focus: McGrath



©Iditarod.com/Mike Kenney

Continued from page 19
and named for Peter McGrath, a local U.S. Marshal. From the time gold was discovered in 1906 until 1925, hundreds, even thousands, of people walked

or mushed on the mail and supply trail known as the Iditarod Trail through McGrath on their way to the Ophir gold mines in the Innoko Mining District.


Initially, McGrath was across the river from its present location but in 1933 a major flood caused residents and businesses to move to the other bank of the river. In 1937, the Alaska Commercial Company opened a new store. With planes becoming safer and more popular for delivering people, mail and supplies, an airstrip was cleared in 1940. About that same time, the first school was built. McGrath was an important refueling stop during World War II. For the most part, gold mining operations in the area shut down many years because of low prices.

Today McGrath is an important

Continued on page 57

Eye on the Iditarod

Aisling's Quest



Aisling Lara Shepherd
with Hope Irvin Marston
Illustrated by Bob Renaud

I was born to race.

Born to drive a team of sled dogs.

Born to follow my dream of running the Iditarod.

This is the real-life story of a young girl with a big dream. Inspired by the drive and determination of the dogs and the people who race them, Aisling (pronounced "Ashley") set out on a personal quest to one day run her own dogs in the Iditarod.

Eye on the Iditarod is 112 pages, 6" x 9", ©2011, and paperbound.

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By Aisling Shepherd
with Hope Irvin Marston
www.hopeirvinmarston.com
Illustrated by Bob Renaud

TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ Annie Kelley

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Dog Race®, attended the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teacher Academy in Pittsburg, PA. The focus of this conference was to gain additional knowledge in the creation of Iditarod STEM related lessons. During this 2016 – 2017 school year, Annie has been leading educators in an exciting educational adventure sharing curriculum lessons for classrooms around the world. During the 2017 race, Annie will travel down the historic Iditarod Trail by small plane. She will bring the race to life for thousands of students and teachers around the globe as she shares her observations and experiences. Follow Annie at this website link: <http://iditarod.com/edu/category/teacher-on-the-trail/>

Checkpoint Focus: McGrath

Continued from page 56

communications, transportation and supply center for interior Alaska. It also serves as the center of the huge Iditarod School District.

With no roads leading into McGrath, a person traveling to or from McGrath would go by plane, boat, snowmachine, or during Iditarod – dog team. School children can ride the school bus and although going by foot or 4- wheeler is very common, cars drive up and down the village streets as well.

The first musher to reach McGrath during the race receives the Spirit of Alaska Award from Penn Air. The award is an amazing award. The village of McGrath is an amazing place. It makes perfect sense that McGrath and the Spirit of Alaska Award 'meet' in this wonderful place each year.

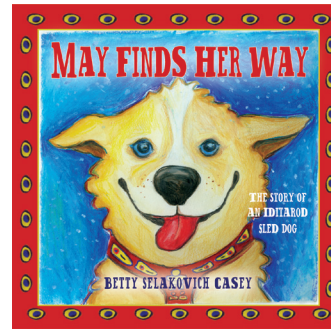
Nigel's Choice,
My Iditarod Adventure
and **Mike Races Again,**
Resilience Overcomes Injury
by Nancy Yoshida
Artwork by Jon Van Zyle

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**Wishing good luck and a safe journey
to all 2017 Mushees!**

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MAY FINDS HER WAY

by Betty Selakovich Casey

A mishap leaves a little Iditarod sled dog lost in the wilds of Alaska. Not particularly wise, brave, or big, May will show great fortitude as she finds her way home.

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For Joe Redington, the Father of the Iditarod, there were two most important reasons for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race®. Joe is quoted in Nan Elliot's book, *I'd Swap my Old Skidoo for You*, "When I went out to the villages (in the 1950's) where there were beautiful dogs once, a snow machine was sitting in front of a house and no dogs. It wasn't good." Joe was determined to bring back the sled dog to Alaska and to get the Iditarod Trail declared as a National Historic Trail. Those goals have been accomplished.

You have the opportunity to be a part of the continued effort to support the goals that Joe and the founders of the race set forth by being a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee. For more than 30 years, the Iditarod Trail Committee has been membership-based.

This piece of history that is recognized each year as the Iditarod mushers head to the starting line has continued in large part because the support of the members, volunteers and sponsors. Be a part of this exciting event year round by becoming a member of "The Last Great Race on Earth®".

The pride in being a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee goes far beyond the monetary value of a membership level. You become 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 that through your membership, you have helped to make dreams come true and strengthen the goals set forth by the founders of the race. Join or renew your membership and keep the tradition of the race healthy and strong.



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Iditarod Trail Committee membership keeps getting better and better.

For more information visit www.iditarod.com/membership

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Iditarod Trail

Sled Dog Race Headquarters



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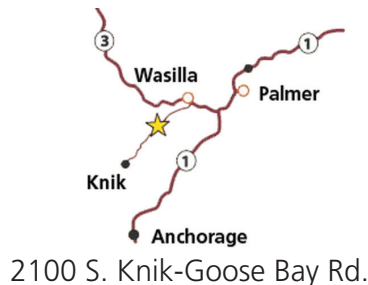
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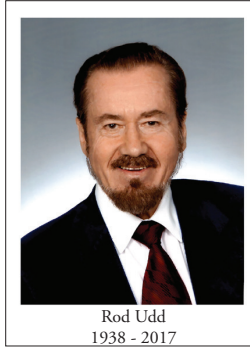
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“Idita-ROD Is On The Trail With Joe, Sr.”



Rod Udd and Dallas Seavey



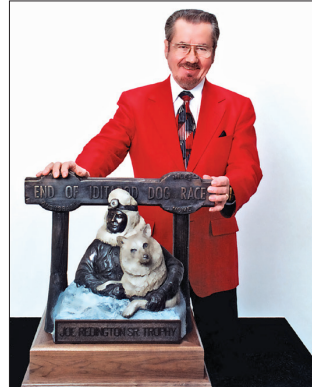
Rod Udd
1938 - 2017



Rod Udd in Nome with Lance Mackey



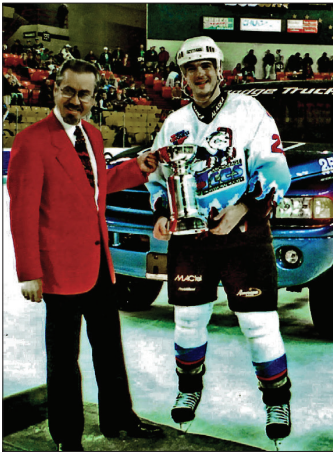
Rod Udd and Doug Swingley



Rod with the Joe Redington Sr.
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Book Traces the First Ten Years of the Iditarod® “Iditarod The First Ten Years”

An Anthology Compiled by the Old Iditarod Gang
– A Book Review by Martha Dobson

If you're holding this race guide in your hands, then you're fascinated by The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race®. And if you're fascinated by this race, then you need to read *Iditarod The First Ten Years*. Dedicated to the volunteers who dreamed this race into being and to the volunteers who keep it going, this anthology of history, stories, photographs, dogs, pilots, artwork, music, veterinarians, HAM operators, mushers, trail breakers and people from Anchorage to Nome takes the reader out to Cripple, on the Yukon, in the Cessnas and Super Cubs, at the checkpoints cooking Krusteaz pancakes, making one say, ' "Man, I wish I could have been there!" '

The Old Iditarod Gang, a group of people who worked with the race intimately in various ways in its early years and who have a passion for all things Alaskan, is responsible for this new book, published in late 2014 and delivered to enthusiastic readers in early 2015. The Gang's goal, to set down the history of the race's first ten years, is admirably achieved in the book. Chronologically, it tells of Joe Redington Sr's dream of a sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome to recognize and commemorate the role of mushing sled dog teams in Alaska's history. Firsthand, first person accounts of the efforts to start the race, to raise the money, to find the long fallen into disuse gold mining trail from Seward to Nome, to organize the people not only at the beginning and end, but in between, too impress one with their efforts, and successes. Names are named, their photos are there.

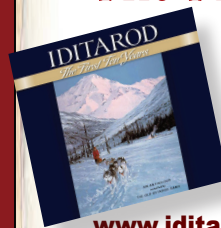
Collected and recorded, anecdotes and sidebar stories throughout the book located on just the right pages fill the reader with the sense of being on the scene, some 40 years ago. Volunteers' and mushers' personal experiences paint the background and fill in the composition of the first ten years. The sled dogs, their history as well as individual dogs, trot through the book. Mushers, sometimes racing, sometimes just surviving, tell their stories as if it happened yesterday, so clearly it remains in their minds. Campfires cooked on, tea drunk, village families stayed with, fellow competitors run with just so both could "make it"; it's all here.

And while the race has changed from 1973 to 2015, it stays the same. The long trail, the cold, Mother Nature's quirks of no snow to unrelenting snow, the question is there... "Can I do it?"

The Old Iditarod Gang: Al Crane, Jo Crane, Frank Flavin, Frank Gerjevic, Raine Hall Rawlins, Gail Phillips, Walt Phillips, Rob Stapleton, Jon Van Zyle, Jona Van Zyle and Anne Patch Winters. The team also includes writers Joe May, Slim Randles, Tim Jones, Shelley Gill, Rod Perry and race photographers Bill Devine, Richard Burmeister, Jim Brown, Jeff Schultz, Fran Durner and many, many more. Tricia Brown is the editor.

www.Iditarodfirsttenyears.com A portion of the royalties will go to the Iditarod Trail Race Foundation for the Iditarod Race veterinarians' use for dog care.

IDITAROD® The First Ten Years®

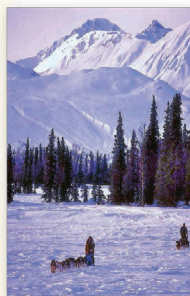


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Iditarod Memories
by the Old Iditarod Gang

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"*Iditarod - The First Ten Years*" is a story that has been waiting to be told for over 40 years. At last, a behind-the-scenes account is compiled into a scrapbook of memories of words, art and historic photos. This significant book is chronicled by hundreds of volunteers, mushers, race officials, pilots, vets, husbands and wives, sons and daughters.

"They say history is written by the victors, and Iditarod: The First 10 Years is no exception; however, this incredible collection of tales from the trail comes mostly from the volunteers and workers who were victorious in making The Last Great Race an enduring and important part of Alaskan life. The book is bursting at the seams with fond memories, hard work, gutsy survival stories, pranks, and 1049 miles worth of amazing Iditarod lore. An important decade of Alaskan history is captured on these pages, but more importantly the Old Iditarod Gang reveals the heart of what makes the Iditarod a uniquely Alaskan event: the people, the dogs, and our sense of adventure."



Don Rearden, author of the award winning Alaskan novel "The Raven's Gift".

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This historic book is meant to be a celebration of time and place. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Iditarod Trail Foundation, designated specifically for veterinarian care of the sled dogs.

- Hardbound volume with dust jacket
- 424 Pages
- 416 historic full-color and black-and-white photos by official race photographers Richard Burmeister, Rob Stapleton, Frank Flavin, Jim Brown, Jeff Schultz, and many others
- 95 pieces of original art by Official Iditarod Artist Jon Van Zyle and others
- Over 100 different authors contributed first-person stories



*Come, jump on
the runners;
your journey
is just
beginning.*

The Old Iditarod Gang 1231 W. Northern Lights Blvd. # 906
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 email: oldiditarodgang@gmail.com
Visit our web site at www.iditarodfirsttenyears.com

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE VETERINARY PROGRAM

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over the course of the winter, to all mushers. A general musher meeting occurs on Thursday prior to the race start (first Saturday in March).

Throughout the fall and winter months prior the race, the average sled dog will have run 2,500-5,000 miles in preparation. As directed by the ITC and required by race rules, mandatory sled dog pre-race screening commences in the early part of February. The screening includes blood testing, ECG recordings and microchip implants, all provided to the mushers and their dogs at no cost to them. Blood sample collection and ECG recordings are accomplished by the staff of veterinary technicians. All blood results are reviewed by the Chief Veterinarian, and ECGs are analyzed by a veterinary cardiologist. Rules allow pre-race health screening on a maximum of twenty-four dogs per musher. The maximum number of dogs per team that can start the race is sixteen. Each dog's microchip number is scanned before beginning their trip to Nome, to verify that they have gone through the screening protocols. From the historical perspective, ECG testing was first begun in 1994. Blood testing was initiated in 1998.

In addition to the extensive pre-race testing, every dog is required to have a veterinary physical exam within fourteen days of the race start. Deworming, utilizing an ITC approved and supplied medication, is also mandatory within ten days of the race start, and vaccinations (DHLPP; Bordetella; Rabies) must be current.

All rookie veterinarians are required to attend the ISDVMA Sled Dog Veterinarian Training Seminar (Anchorage) during the week prior (Tuesday through Thursday) to the race start (Saturday). This program was established in 1996 through a combined effort of the ISDVMA and Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC). The seminar is very helpful in preparing veterinarians for their checkpoint responsibilities. An emphasis is placed on the examination protocol at checkpoints. Topics discussed include cardiology, foot care, examination protocols, nutrition, orthopedics,

training/conditioning and research updates.

Once the race begins, trail veterinarians "leapfrog" along the race course as checkpoints are cleared by the mushing field. The first few checkpoints will have 6-7 veterinarians present. As the race progresses and the greater distances develop between teams, more checkpoints will be staffed, with an average of 3-4 veterinarians per checkpoint.

Since 1994, the ITC has required that mushers carry Dog Team Diaries (3"x5") as part of their mandatory equipment. The veterinarian who examines a team at a given checkpoint is responsible for making notations relevant to the medical status of team members and signing the diary prior to returning it to the musher. Race rules require that the veterinarian and musher both sign the diary at each and every checkpoint. This system has been very helpful as a communication and reference tool for mushers and veterinarians alike. Although not required by race rules, it has also been the goal of our veterinary staff to perform "hands on" examinations of every dog at each checkpoint.

It is estimated that over 10,000 routine exams are performed by trail veterinarians during the Iditarod! That represents many long hours of volunteer service. It is essential that we focus on our priorities when the teams are coming and going in rapid succession. The following acronym, "H.A.W/L," although not all inclusive, is easy for mushers and veterinarians to use as a guideline in health evaluations ("HAW" is a voice command to go Left):

- H — Hydration and Heart (rate and rhythm)
- A — Attitude and Appetite
- W — Weight (bodyweight)
- L — Lungs

No dogs may be added to a team after the start, but dogs can be "dropped" at any checkpoint and for any reason. The term "dropped dog" merely designates a dog that is no longer continuing as a race participant. A highly organized system is in place to assure that dropped dogs receive excellent

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE VETERINARY PROGRAM

Continued from page 62

care pending return to their home kennel. Since there is no road access along the trail, all personnel and dropped dogs must fly to their destinations. Depending on where a dog might be dropped, transportation from smaller checkpoints through the hubs of McGrath, Unalakleet or Nome may be necessary enroute to Anchorage. All dropped dogs are evaluated by veterinarians after each flight, including their return to Anchorage. By race rule, the Chief Veterinarian has the authority to review medical records and/or receive status reports on any dog for up to 72 hours after their release from the direct care of the Iditarod veterinary staff.

The Iditarod sled dog is the ultimate marathon athlete, and a number of research studies have been undertaken during the past two decades to learn more about physiology, metabolism, nutrition and medical conditions which may affect them. Often, such conditions are also experienced by human marathoners and equine athletes. In some cases, the sled dog may serve as a model for humans. In others, the horse may be a model for the dog. It is important to note that those studies have been largely accomplished through the efforts of veterinarians, mushers, researchers, the ITC and other organizations and advocates of the sport of mushing.

For instance, working sled dogs (average 55 lbs.) have been documented to utilize 10,000-12,000 Calories a day. This has been demonstrated as the highest metabolic rate of any mammalian species, with a lactating mouse in a cold weather environment recorded as second! If you do the math, that represents the equivalent of the average human adult (165 lbs.) consuming fifty Big Macs (600 calories/burger) in a 24 hour period! Obviously, nutrition is extremely important to these dogs, and much research has been done to design ever improving formulations. Leading dog food companies have been able to take the knowledge gained through these studies to develop better products for the average pet. Optimal formulas for protein content, fiber composition, omega fatty acid

balance and antioxidant supplementation have been established for sled dogs, which inevitably has had an impact on the pet food market. Until the 1990's, many mushers fed almost exclusively raw meats, fish and various types of fat. Today, a performance kibble (high fat and protein) serves as the core diet, with meats and fish mainly offered as snacks and fat being supplemented only as needed to increase caloric intake. Studies are ongoing to determine how sled dogs metabolize energy sources to enable them to run 125 miles a day, with applications for the potential benefit of homo sapiens.

Research has also demonstrated that cardiac adaptations to conditioning in canine athletes very closely resemble those for elite human marathoners. The data from the ECG recordings obtained in our pre-race canine screening protocols has been used to assess risk factors associated with certain cardiac rhythms. Over the long term, this information may be applicable to humans. I was very pleased to listen to a radio news broadcast in the Fall of 2010 that the American College of Cardiologists (human) was advising all humans to have ECGs performed before becoming involved in formal athletic programs. At that time (2010), this was something that the Iditarod had already been doing for fifteen years!

In conclusion, many advancements in dog care have been achieved since the first Iditarod. Optimal preparation of the mushers, veterinarians and canine athletes has been a major objective. During the race, mushers and veterinarians continue to work as a team for the well-being of the dogs. This is best accomplished by established methods for examining and evaluating these animals. As part of our stewardship role, we have also been very proactive in promoting research studies that have enabled us to design highly effective preventative and treatment protocols. By making dog care a priority, "The Last Great Race on Earth" will continue to grow and thrive. I hope that you can be there for Iditarod XLV!

Insider Look at the 2017 Race

Continued from page 11

Mitch Seavey, who came in second last year, and Aliy Zirkle, who came in third, both ran excellent races with strong teams and were right there to take a shot at the winner's circle. Mitch Seavey always tries to manage his team so that it gains strength later in the race. He constantly runs faster towards the end of the race and his dogs are powerful running up the coast. For the past five years, Aliy Zirkle has always finished in the top five and is right there in the hunt to win the race. Her teams are always well trained and well matched into a cohesive unit and maintain their speed throughout the race. Whoever wins this year's Iditarod will earn it with their own team and plan, but they will have to surpass these three mushers to get to Nome first. Mitch, Aliy, and Dallas have proven year after year that they will bring a strong team of athletes and a well thought out plan to every race.

All of the top 10 teams from last year will be returning

this year which will make for a highly competitive and exciting race. For these mushers, it's not enough to complete the trail; they are competing to win the race and become this year's champion. Wade Marris, who finished 4th last year, has continued to move up in the standing each year. He is totally focused and driven to win the Iditarod someday. Peter Kaiser, who finished 5th last year, won last year's Kusko 300 and is looking for a shot at the winner's circle as well. Also, returning from the top ten are Joar Ulsom, Nicolas Petit, Ralph Johannessen, Jeff King, and Scott Smith. Other top competitors returning this year after taking a few years off from the race is Ramy Smyth who has had a number of top five finishes and is always a strong finisher.

Not to be forgotten in any year is the race for "Rookie of the Year", and this year 18 rookies will be hitting the trail in hopes of not only winning that position but to just finish the race for the first time and travel



(c) Jeff Schultz/Schultzphoto.com

Richie Diehl on the trail in the Alaska Range in Ptarmigan Valley on the way to Rohn from the Rainy Pass checkpoint during Iditarod 2016.

Insider Look

this historic trail. This is always one of the races within the race.

The 'Iditarod Insider' crew will cover every mile of the race again this year. Two teams will film along the trail by snow-machine while two other teams interview and capture the action in checkpoints. Iditarod.com will be posting exclusive interviews with the mushers as well as action shots of the sled dogs traveling along the trail. This is a great way to watch the race unfold as the mushers head to Nome and to hear about it in their own words. Joining the 'Insider' on Iditarod.com directly helps support the race. All subscription funds are put towards putting the race on through financing the flying of supplies and straw for bedding to the checkpoints for the mushers and dogs, supporting the vet program, and adding to the musher's purse. Think about joining and getting reports fresh from the trail while supporting the race.

The Iditarod is one of the most unique sporting
Continued on page 67

Mike and DeeDee Jonrowe would like to thank the following

Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food/WellPetMA;
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Sue Greenly & Pat Hahn (Nome host family);
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Northern Edge Physical Therapy;
Ice Bugs;
Sea Fur Sewing;
Robert Miller;
Zeal Optics;
Dr. Mike McNamarra;
High Adventure Kennels;
Dr. Natalie Velasquez and Ed Slouffman;
Special thanks to Derek & Courtney

Running in memory of my best friend and
mom, PEG STOUT

(c) Jeff Schultz/Schultzphoto.com



Volunteer vets pose for a group photo at the Cripple checkpoint on Thursday March 10 during Iditarod 2016.

SLEDS TO THE TRAIL by Terrie Hanke

Did you know mushers often don't end the race with the sled they started with at the restart? What's the rule for mushers sending sleds out to checkpoints on the trail? The past few years have proven that sleds can and do break. Coming through the Buf-

falo Tunnels or over the snow starved Farwell Burn can tax even the sturdiest of sleds. Also, different portions of the trail lend themselves better to faster, sleeker sleds while on other sections mushers prefer sturdier, heavy-duty sleds.

The sleds pictured in Unalakleet at 0830 as the sun rises, were shipped out by mushers to be used as replacement sleds. They are ready and waiting at the checkpoint. The remaining three hundred miles of trail along the coast is very different than the previous 700 miles of the trail. From Unalakleet to Nome, the racers generally prefer a sled that's more nimble and quick.

McGrath at mile 311 is another popular spot for a sled change. Having navigated the Happy River Steps, the Dalzell Gorge, the Buffalo Tunnels and the Farwell Burn, all areas of the trail that are famous for destroying or damaging sleds, some mushers have looked forward to trading out sleds. For Cindy Gallea in 2016, having a new sled waiting in McGrath was more than just a nicer ride, it was a necessity. Her brake broke out of Rohn. She used wire and a hose clamp to make it functional until getting to McGrath where a new sled was waiting.

Cindy advises everyone to never leave home without a hose clamp.

Back to the rule. The information can be found under Rule 15 that covers sleds – No more than three (3) sleds can be used by a musher during the race after the re-start. No more than two (2) sleds can be shipped beyond the start. Should a musher use another musher's sled for any reason that will be considered one (1) of the three (3) allowable sleds. These sleds may be used at the musher's discretion. (ITC Rules)



Cindy Gallea's "busted brake" repair.



Rising sun framed by driving bow of waiting sled in Unalakleet. Photos courtesy Terrie Hanke.

ART PETERSEN continued

Continued from page 55

Terry hadn't seen a team for awhile, we would meet them on the trail and check out everyone...I think some days I had 13 takeoffs and landings." Adkins was checking dogs constantly.

"The race went along okay. I harped to get the villagers more involved, instead of importing people... the hippies were checkers and the villagers wanted to be a part of the race." This was a race like no other race and to have so many people mushing their dogs into the villages was a very exciting time for everyone. The schools shut their doors and everyone went to see the dog teams coming into town.

Petersen flew Adkins into Nome at the end of the race. Here in an excerpt from CHAMPION OF ALASKAN HUSKIES about this flight.

"The weather was still bad and the ceiling was very low when Art Petersen flew into town with the vet. "I called Nome radio and they said we couldn't land because they had a medivac coming in," said Petersen. "Then I saw two snowmachines coming out of town. I told Terry their headlights weren't bouncing. That must be a pretty good stretch of trail. So I followed them down and landed. Then I taxied several miles into Nome." Just then the airport radioed Petersen that he could land. Petersen responded, "I'm parked."

"Where?"

Between two big barges beached back there."

Adkins laughed and said, "That's the longest taxi I ever had!"

At the banquet at the end of the race, Petersen was "half sick." The long hours each day he spent flying from one point along the trail to another, coupled with rough weather at times, really took its toll. He said, "Terry was feeding me dog pills to keep me going." Adkins flew back to Palmer with Petersen after the race.

One musher was talking to Petersen at the banquet and was so surprised to find out that he wasn't reimbursed for all the flying Petersen did. The musher said, "You donated all that and don't even have dogs?" Petersen's reply was, "Yah, but I used to have a dog team. I trapped and had five working dogs." The Iditarod is a success because of volunteering folks, like Art Petersen, with big hearts that want to help with no expectations just because there is a need. And I can tell you, Joe was very grateful for all the volunteers who took part in his dream. "We couldn't have done it without 'em."

The following year Petersen was busy working on the Alaska Pipeline building ice roads again. He worked out of Prospect Creek as a project manager for Green Construction. He didn't fly for the Iditarod again, but the memories of that race will be with him forever! To use one of Joe's expressions, these Iditarod volunteers "hop to it" and make the Iditarod happen every year.

Insider Look

Continued from page 65

events in the world and traverses a thousand miles of wild country on one of our National Historic Trails. It is a celebration of the mushing lifestyle, the historic role sled dogs played in our northern history, and of these dogs themselves. Mushers work hard all year to compete in the Iditarod and for a few to reach the goal of winning it. In order to bring their teams to the athletic level necessary to travel 1,000 miles of wilderness trails, mushers must dedicate long hours to training and planning, along with

giving endless attention to their dogs. The Iditarod is both an adventure and a highly competitive race. It was started with the hope to save the sled dog in Alaska and to keep them from disappearing with the invention of the snow-machine. So far it seems to be succeeding at keeping both the adventure and the sled dogs themselves in the forefront of the Alaska lifestyle. This year promises to be an exciting race as we see if Dallas continues his string of victories or if another musher finally takes the winners circle.

2017 Mushers & Sponsors

Cindy Abbott – Willow, AK

Ken Anderson – Fairbanks, AK

Redpaw Petfoods; Lupine North America; ACE Air Cargo; Windy Creek Kennel dog sponsors

Ryan Anderson (rookie) – Ray, MN

Musher's Brand Dog Food, MN; Good Ass Beer, MN; Rainy River Vet Clinic, MN; Fair Hills Resort, MN; Rainy Lake Medical Center, MN; Island View Realty, MN; North Central Regional Council of Carpenters; Millwright Local 1348, MN; Carpenters Local 606, MN; Kodos Outdoors, MN; Family & friends

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John Baker – Kotzebue, AK

Michael Baker (rookie) – Willow, AK

Gold Rush Sled Dog Tours; Alaska Icefield Expeditions; 17th-Dog/TMF; K2 Woodworking; Wool-X; Michael O'Machearley Custom Knives; Highs Adventure Kennel & Gear; Seiler & Associates, LLC; 17th-Dog Booster Family

Otto Balogh (rookie) – Budapest, HUNGARY

Wild&Free Private Lake; Kajahu- #foodTogether; miutcank.hu

Seth Barnes – Willow, AK

Mitch/Janine Seavey; Friends & Family; 2017 Dog Sponsors and Donors; Mom & Dad; Taylor Steele

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Charley's Landscaping Co.; Butch Bejna; Robert/Marianne Bejna; Anna/Kristy Berington; Jason Tranchitella; GB Jones; John/Alison Hitzker; Jayant Radhakrishnam MD; Mike & Lisa Chester; Berdella Bogard; Arthur Schwabeke; Guzman Family; Glen Crest Middle School; Deanna Stotts & Family; Elizabeth M. Meyer; Central Service & Repair; Janson/Stacey Cardy; Susan Laugal; Sondra Davis; St. Thomas of Villanova School; Shirley Thomas; Frank/Yvonne Ogden; William McCormick

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Kristy Berington – Wasilla, AK

Polar Investments, CANADA; Northern Edge Physical Therapy; ECR International, a family of heating and cooling brands; Dunkirk; Janssen Funeral Homes; Halliburton; GBA Corona; Non-stop Dog wear; Alyeska Landscaping, Alaska; Tom Bathey; Kat Berington; Charley Bejna; Kay Polk; Andy Pohl; Vicki Pohl; Chuck Zucker; Mom, Dad, Grandpa and family; Dr. Michael Montano; Alaska Trauma and Acute Care Surgery

Gwenn Bogart (rookie) – Wasilla, AK

Comrex, MA; Howl-A-Dog Boarding Kennel; Non-Stop Dogwear North America, CA; mat-Su Air Service

Noah Burmeister – Nenana/Nome, AK

Bering Pacific Construction, WA; Northern Air Cargo; QAP; Dr. Tim's Momentum, MI; Mountain Ridge Booties, ME; Alaskan Wildstyle Racing

Martin Buser – Big Lake, AK

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Joe Carson (rookie) – McGrath, AK

DrCarsons.com Pet Food Supplements; Create 38 Supplements; The Buffalo Wool Company; eeKoBeekeeping.com Honey Bee Food Supplements; Completebee.com; Alaska Heavenly Honey; Big Lake Arctic Cat; Alaska On & Off Road Wasilla; The Honorable H.M. Carson; Northland Baptist Ministries; "Sparky" the Wonder Dog

Rick Casillo – Big Lake, AK

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Larry Daugherty – Eagle River, AK

Fjallraven; Hanwag; Primus Equipment; Brunton; Alaska Cancer Treatment Center; VisionX USA; Mitch/Janine Seavey

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The Kuskokwim Corp.; The Hound House Restaurant; Ryan Air; Ace Air Cargo; YK Diabetes Prevention; Erich Kuball; Ken Acton; Grant/Debbie Fairbanks; Alaska Commercial Company; Aniak Light and Power

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Linwood Fiedler – Willow, AK

Matthew Failor – Willow, AK

Alaska Icefield Expeditions; Gold Rush Dog Tours; Temsco; K2 Woodworking; Wool-X; Highs Adventure Kennel & Gear; Seiler & Associates; Michael O'Machearley Custom Knives; 17th-Dog Boosters!

Hans Gatt – Whitehorse, YT CANADA

Paul Gebhardt – Kasilof, AK

Janssen Funeral Homes/Scott & Debbie Janssen; TAY Wild Rose LLC./Craig & Joan Young; Gebhardt Construction; Builders Choice; Bill Petrel; Steve Tarries CPA; Crosby Dentistry; Soldotna Craig Taylor; Mickeys Custom Sewing; Fulton Auto body; Snug Harbor Seafoods; Kasilof Enterprises; K-9 Balance; The Doll House;

2017 Musers & Sponsors

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The Matthews Family; Nancy and Glen Yoshida; Natural Stacks; Qualia; Underdog Feed; St Ann's Academy; The Stotler Family; Columbia Sports Wear

Paul Hansen (rookie) – Kotzebue, AK

Maniilaq Association; Ed/Jennifer Kranzman; family and friends

Karin Hendrickson – Willow, AK

Sandra Hendrickson; Brad VanMeter; Michele Keck; Crush Wine Bistro and Cellar; Berrima Boarding Kennels; Dogbooties.com; Denise Van Huele - Sponsoring Ember & Whack A Mole; Arleen & Tom Derevjanik - Sponsoring Muddy Waters; Gwen Rodman - Sponsoring Harp & Glow; Ziggy & Juliana Pogoda - Sponsoring Nome; Brooke & Paige Derevjanik - Sponsoring Coal; Trish Cox - Sponsoring Tilt-A-Whirl; Deb & Rich Swenson - Sponsoring Elway; Tim & Renee Burney - Sponsoring Burn(ey)

Trent Herbst – Ketchum, ID

Justin High (rookie) – Willow, AK

High's Adventure Gear; Remco Electric; Jon/Jona Van Zyle; All Creatures Vet Clinic; PCMD Computer Solutions.

Geir Idar Hjelvik -- Vestre Narjordet, NORWAY

Scott Janssen – Anchorage, AK

Ralph Johannessen – Dagali, NORWAY

DeeDee Jonrowe – Willow, AK

Eagle Pack Natural Pet Food/WellPet, MA; All Creatures Veterinary Clinic; Bradley Reid +Associates; Valley Chiropractic Clinic (Drs Jim and David Martin); Jona and Jon VanZyle; Daily's Web Design; B Original Signs; Arctic Midnight Furs; CAC Plastics; David & SallyJo Martin; Cor Cosmetics; Sue Greenly & Pat Hahn (Nome host family); Wasilla Dodge; Northern Edge Physical Therapy; Ice Bugs; Sea Fur Sewing; Robert Miller; Running in memory of my best friend and mom, PEG STOUT; Zeal Optics; Dr. Mike McNamara; High Adventure Kennels; Dr. Natalie Velasquez and Ed Slouffman; Special thanks to Derek & Courtney

Peter Kaiser – Bethel, AK

Donlin Gold; Lynden Family of companies; Ryan Air; Drews Foundation; Alaska Technologies; Northern Air Cargo; Dr. Bob Sept; Halibut Cove Live; T&H Leveling; South West Fuel; Neil Scott; Dr. Carsons Pet food supplements; Family and Friends

Katherine Keith – Kotzebue, AK

Jeff King – Denali Park, AK

Redpaw, WI; The Alaska Collection; Usibelli Coal Mine; Inlet Tower Hotel & Suites; Kaladi Brothers Coffee; American Dehydrated Foods, Inc., MO; Alaska Industrial Hardware; Howling Dog Alaska, KS; Touch-n Seal, MO

Jim Lanier – Chugiak, AK

Bering Sea Animal Clinic; Alaska Equine and Small Animal Hospital; Alpine Creek Lodge; Eagle River Auto; Julie St. Louis; Craig Christenson; Tonya Helm; Matt Paveglio; Mark Jacobson

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Roger Lee (rookie) – Birkenhead, ENGLAND

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Mark May – North Pole, AK

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Lars Monsen – Skipvet, NORWAY

Scandinavias best online shop for outdoors people: www.komplettfritid.no; VOM frozen meat dog food; Purina Pro Plan kibble; Dr. Baddakys Fish Oil; Polaris Norway ATVs; Troll Dog Harnesses; Dog booties from www.hundekjorerbutikken.no

Allen Moore – Two Rivers, AK

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GBA Corona, TX; Petro Marine; 40 Mile Air; Golden Bear Hotel; Ivory Jacks

Laura Neese (rookie) – McMillan, MI

Dogbooties.com; Royal Canin USA

Nicolas Petit – Girdwood, AK

Mats Pettersson – Kiruna, SWEDEN

Royal Canin; Axaeco (Henry Coronica); Kiruna Sleddog Tors; Kunz IT Consulting AB; Peter Sohlberg; Snorre Naess; Oinakka; Priima; Dr. Carson's Pet Food Supplements

Michelle Phillips – Carcross, YT CANADA

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Alaska Frontier Constructors; DSR, OK; GBA-Corona, TX; Alaska Industrial Hardware; Bill/Carole Stead, CA; Roy/Cheryl Catalano, CO; BGB Snaps, SWEDEN; Mary Curtis, NJ; Dr. Carson's Pet Food Supplements

Robert Redington (rookie) – Willow, AK

AlaskaX; Acutek Geomatics; Musher's Fudge; The Grilled Cheese Experience; Raymie/Barb Redington

Ryan Redington – Wasilla, AK

RedPaw Dog Food; Alaska X; Juliet Foulds Walters and Geoff; Sandie Sadler; Mary Lee; Bryan-Lee Funeral Homes; John Nunnes; Dogbooties.com; Spike Fortier; Bryan/Kay Gabbard

Ketil Reitan – Kaktovik, AK

Peter Reuter (rookie) – Bloomingdale, NY

Alpine Air Alaska, Inc; Glenda's Lip Balm

Thomas Rosenbloom (rookie) – Cantwell, AK

Richard Rosenbloom/Patrice Krant; Peachtree Medical Billing; The Grier Family; All of my IditaRosenbloom supporters!

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Tripple Creek Ranch, MT; Spirit of the North Sled Dog Adventures—Jim/Connie Sperry, MT

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Mitch Seavey – Sterling, AK

Young Living Essential Oils, UT; Icicle Seafoods; Petro Marine Services; Inlet Towers; Dr. Tim's Pet Food, MI

Mark Selland – Anchorage, AK

Robert/Joan Bundtzen; Teddy's Tasty Meats/Ted Kouris; Ernie/Marilyn Selland

Scott Smith – Willow, AK

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Logwork and Construction

Melissa Stewart – Wasilla, AK

Howling Dog Alaska; Dr. Carson's Pet Food Supplements; Alaska Water Conditioning

Ed Stielstra – MacMillan, MI

Royal Canin USA; dogbooties.com

Justin Stielstra (rookie) – Seward, AK

Nature's Kennel, MI; Ed/Tasha Stielstra, MI; Stielstra family & friends, MI;

Cody Strathe – Fairbanks, AK

Clear Alaskan Glacial; T Rose Veterinary Services; Manmat; Woodland Wellness Center; Fairbanks Chevrolet; Kinco Gloves; Dr. Yamamoto Dentistry; Ursa Major Distillery; Horst Expediting and Remote Operations; Sterling Auction and Realty Services; The Gas and Diesel Doctor; Becker Sewing and Design; DogPaddle Designs; The Rock Bottom Stompers; Gold Hill Store; Hard Eats Alaska

Michael Suprenant – Chugiak, AK

Nicolas Vanier (rookie) – Paris, FRANCE

Derichebourg; Royal Canin; Grand Nord Grand Large

Sebastien Vergnaud (rookie) – Rioux, FRANCE

Misha Wiljes (rookie) – Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC

ManMat, CZECH REPUBLIC; Gerhard Wiljes; Friends & Family; Dog sponsors; WW kennel sponsors

Monica Zappa – Kasilof, AK

Kenai Spine; Alaska Surgical Oncology; Granny Lee; Posh House; Back Bay Medical; Team Headrick; Jen Reiter and third graders

Aliy Zirkle – Two Rivers, AK

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Saying Goodbye to Greg Bill

Long time Iditarod employee Greg Bill passed away on Saturday, December 10, 2016. Greg was a volunteer for the first race in 1973. He continued volunteering, selling raffle tickets, business memberships, and other jobs until he became a staff member 1984. Greg became the Development Director in 1986, and over the years raised millions of dollars on behalf of the Race. After dedicating about 42 years of service to Iditarod, he retired in 2014 to spend more time with his family. At the Nome Banquet in 2014, Greg was awarded by the Iditarod Board of Directors the "Herbie Nayokpuk Spirit of Iditarod Award." Greg will always be remembered as an important member of the Iditarod Family.

Greg also served two years as vice president of the Board from 1982 to 1984. Then in 1986, he 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. He served on that Board until recently. He once said that he always considered himself an Iditarod volunteer every year since there were always many things to help with outside of the "job description" in order to stage the race.

Greg said that his proudest achievement was creating the Fred Machetanz Iditarod print fundraiser in 1984. Greg managed to get all previous Iditarod



Greg Bill is honored with the Herbie Nayokpuk spirit of the Iditarod award as he retires after his 42 years of working with the Iditarod at the musher's finishers banquet in Nome. His wife Annie at his side. Sunday March 16 after the 2014 Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

champions to sign it and even left a spot on the print for the 1985 champion to sign. The print sold out in three days and raised about \$210,000. Greg was always at the Alaska State Fair selling raffle tickets. It was the fair where his practical joking often seemed to show up, providing those that worked with him laughs and fun. Greg was involved at 41 of the 42 Iditarod Starts, and 40 of the 42 Nome Finishes.

When Greg retired, he asked the following of all of us. "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. 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 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."



Iditarod development director Greg Bill hands the "Widows Lamp" to last place musher and red lantern (last person off the trail) award winner Celeste Davis to extinguish at the finish in Nome, 2010.

2016 Race Results

Position	Musher	Days Hrs. Min. Sec.	Winnings	Position	Musher	Days Hrs. Min. Sec.	Winnings
1	Dallas Seavey	8d 11h 20m 16s	\$75,000.00	36	Tore Albrigtsen	10d 11h 5m 26s	\$1,049.00
2	Mitch Seavey	8d 12h 5m 25s	\$62,775.00	37	Martin Buser	10d 11h 31m 51s	\$1,049.00
3	Aliy Zirkle	8d 18h 42m 36s	\$57,750.00	38	Karin Hendrickson	10d 13h 55m 0s	\$1,049.00
4	Wade Marrs	8d 20h 22m 2s	\$51,825.00	39	Kristy Berington	10d 13h 58m 14s	\$1,049.00
5	Peter Kaiser	8d 20h 24m 55s	\$47,475.00	40	Anna Berington	10d 13h 58m 27s	\$1,049.00
6	Joar Leifseth Ulsom	8d 22h 12m 38s	\$40,200.00	41	Justin Savidis	10d 14h 44m 35s	\$1,049.00
7	Nicolas Petit	8d 23h 30m 10s	\$37,800.00	42	Cody Strathe	10d 15h 53m 43s	\$1,049.00
8	Ralph Johannessen	8d 23h 50m 8s	\$35,475.00	43	Paige Drobny	10d 15h 54m 11s	\$1,049.00
9	Jeff King	9d 0h 0m 46s	\$33,225.00	44	DeeDee Jonrowe	10d 22h 29m 13s	\$1,049.00
10	Scott Smith	9d 1h 33m 35s	\$31,050.00	45	Nathan Schroeder	10d 22h 39m 25s	\$1,049.00
11	Noah Burmeister	9d 1h 39m 55s	\$28,950.00	46	Jodi Bailey	10d 22h 44m 47s	\$1,049.00
12	Richie Diehl	9d 2h 42m 21s	\$27,000.00	47	Monica Zappa	11d 0h 17m 32s	\$1,049.00
13	Robert Sorlie	9d 3h 4m 53s	\$25,050.00	48	Michael Williams, Jr.	11d 2h 17m 45s	\$1,049.00
14	Paul Gebhardt	9d 3h 10m 17s	\$23,250.00	49	Melissa Stewart	11d 3h 29m 51s	\$1,049.00
15	Jessie Royer	9d 3h 42m 33s	\$21,450.00	50	James Volek	11d 3h 54m 10s	\$1,049.00
16	Ken Anderson	9d 3h 45m 10s	\$19,725.00	51	Tim Pappas	11d 6h 15m 4s	\$1,049.00
17	John Baker	9d 5h 45m 5s	\$18,075.00	52	Becca Moore	11d 7h 32m 32s	\$1,049.00
18	Travis Beals	9d 6h 42m 53s	\$16,575.00	53	Alan Eischens	11d 7h 39m 15s	\$1,049.00
19	Ray Redington Jr	9d 8h 1m 32s	\$15,075.00	54	Robert Bundtzen	11d 8h 10m 25s	\$1,049.00
20	Brent Sass	9d 8h 8m 35s	\$13,575.00	55	Noah Pereira	11d 10h 41m 50s	\$1,049.00
21	Kelly Maixner	9d 8h 38m 18s	\$12,225.00	56	Miriam Osredkar	11d 11h 12m 46s	\$1,049.00
22	Hugh Neff	9d 9h 50m 47s	\$10,950.00	57	Tom Jamgochian	11d 11h 45m 54s	\$1,049.00
23	Sigrid Ekran	9d 10h 37m 30s	\$9,675.00	58	Kristin Knight Pace	11d 13h 31m 32s	\$1,049.00
24	Linwood Fiedler	9d 14h 57m 26s	\$8,475.00	59	Ryne Olson	11d 13h 31m 41s	\$1,049.00
25	Michelle Phillips	9d 16h 7m 18s	\$7,275.00	60	Trent Herbst	11d 15h 41m 4s	\$1,049.00
26	Geir Idar Hjelvik	9d 17h 24m 10s	\$6,075.00	61	Matthew Failor	11d 18h 54m 45s	\$1,049.00
27	Mats Pettersson	9d 20h 44m 27s	\$5,025.00	62	Elliot Anderson	11d 19h 11m 11s	\$1,049.00
28	Ketil Reitan	9d 21h 18m 33s	\$3,975.00	63	Larry Daugherty	11d 21h 16m 36s	\$1,049.00
29	Lars Monsen	9d 21h 52m 1s	\$3,000.00	64	Patrick Beall	11d 21h 25m 25s	\$1,049.00
30	Dag Torulf Olsen	9d 22h 6m 16s	\$2,024.00	65	Lisbet Norris	11d 21h 43m 6s	\$1,049.00
31	Katherine Keith	9d 23h 30m 5s	\$1,049.00	66	Sarah Stoker	12d 2h 59m 51s	\$1,049.00
32	Allen Moore	9d 23h 56m 45s	\$1,049.00	67	Rob Cooke	12d 7h 3m 55s	\$1,049.00
33	Ed Stielstra	10d 3h 14m 37s	\$1,049.00	68	Kim Franklin	12d 23h 39m 38s	\$1,049.00
34	Jason Mackey	10d 3h 52m 11s	\$1,049.00	69	Kristin Bacon	12d 23h 41m 54s	\$1,049.00
35	Jason Campeau	10d 4h 10m 35s	\$1,049.00	70	Cindy Gallea	13d 3h 46m 26s	\$1,049.00
				71	Mary Helwig	13d 8h 51m 30s	\$1,049.00

2016 Awards

Dallas Seavey	Spirit of Alaska	PenAir
Brent Sass	First Musher to Ophir	GCI
Dallas Seavey	Dorthy G. Page Halfway Award	The Lakefront Anchorage
Jeff King	First Musher to the Yukon	Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Mitch Seavey	Fish First	Wells Fargo
Brent Sass	Gold Coast	Nome Kennel Club
Nicolas Petit	Fastest Time from Safety to Nome	Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM
Geir Idar Hjelvik	Jerry Austin Rooke of the Year	Matson
Dallas Seavey	Official Truck	Donlin Gold
Noah Burmeister	Most Improved Musher	Northern Air Cargo
John Baker	Sportsmanship	Alaska Airlines
Matthew Failor	Most Inspirational	City of Nome
Ralph Johannessen	Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial	
Aliy Zirkle	Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian	
Dallas Seavey	Lolly Medley Golden Harness	
Mary Helwig	Red Lantern	
Nulato	Golden Clipboard	

* Past Champions

2017 Mushers

R indicates
Rookie status

Musher Name	City	State	Country	Status	Musher Name	City	State	Country	Status
___Cindy Abbott	Willow	AK	USA	V	___Jimmy Lebling	Willow	AK	USA	R
___Ken Anderson	Fairbanks	AK	USA	V	___Roger Lee	Birkenhead Wirral		ENGLAND	R
___Ryan Anderson	Ray	MN	USA	R	___Joar Leifseth Ulsom	Mo i Rana		NORWAY	V
___Kristin Bacon	Big Lake	AK	USA	V	___Jason Mackey	Salcha	AK	USA	V
___Jodi Bailey	Fairbanks	AK	USA	V	___Wade Marrs	Willow	AK	USA	V
___John Baker*	Kotzebue	AK	USA	V	___Mark May	North Pole	AK	USA	V
___Michael Baker	Willow	AK	USA	R	___Lars Monsen	Skiptvet		NORWAY	V
___Otto Balogh	Budapest		HUNGARY	R	___Allen Moore	Two Rivers	AK	USA	V
___Seth Barnes	Stocton	AL	USA	V	___Laura Neese	McMillan	MI	USA	R
___Charley Bejna	Addison	IL	USA	V	___Hugh Neff	Tok	AK	USA	V
___Anna Berington	Wasilla	AK	USA	V	___Nicolas Petit	Girdwood	AK	USA	V
___Kristy Berington	Wasilla	AK	USA	V	___Mats Pettersson	Kiruna		SWEDEN	V
___Noah Burmeister	Nome/Nenana	AK	USA	V	___Michelle Phillips	Tagish	YT	CANADA	V
___Martin Buser*	Big Lake	AK	USA	V	___Ray Redington Jr	Wasilla	AK	USA	V
___Joe Carson	McGrath	AK	USA	R	___Robert Redington	Willow	AK	USA	R
___Rick Casillo	Willow	AK	USA	V	___Ryan Redington	Wasilla	AK	USA	V
___Larry Daugherty	Eagle River	AK	USA	R	___Ketil Reitan	Kaktovik	AK	USA	V
___Dave Delcourt	Wasilla	AK	USA	R	___Peter Reuter	Bloomington	NY	USA	R
___Zoya DeNure	Delta Junction	AK	USA	R	___Thomas Rosenbloom	Cantwell	AK	USA	R
___Richie Diehl	Aniak	AK	USA	V	___Jessie Royer	Fairbanks	AK	USA	V
___Alan Eischens	Wasilla	AK	USA	V	___Brent Sass	Eureka	AK	USA	V
___Matthew Failor	Willow	AK	USA	V	___Sebastian Schnuelle	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	V
___Linwood Fiedler	Willow	AK	USA	V	___Nathan Schroeder	Warba	MN	USA	V
___Hans Gatt	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	V	___Dallas Seavey*	Willow	AK	USA	V
___Paul Gebhardt	Kasilof	AK	USA	V	___Mitch Seavey*	Seward	AK	USA	V
___Ellen Halverson	Wasilla	AK	USA	V	___Mark Selland	Anchorage	AK	USA	V
___Paul Hansen	Kotzebue	AK	USA	R	___Scott Smith	Willow	AK	USA	V
___Karin Hendrickson	Wasilla	AK	USA	V	___Ramey Smyth	Willow	AK	USA	V
___Trent Herbst	Ketchum	ID	USA	V	___Melissa Stewart	Wasilla	AK	USA	V
___Justin High	Willow	AK	USA	R	___Ed Stielstra	McMillan	MI	USA	V
___Geir Idar Hjelvik	Norjordet		NORWAY	V	___Justin Stielstra	Seward	AK	USA	R
___Scott Janssen	Anchorage	AK	USA	V	___Cody Strathe	Fairbanks	AK	USA	V
___Ralph Johannessen	Dagali		NORWAY	V	___Michael Suprenant	Chugiak	AK	USA	V
___DeeDee Jonrowe	Willow	AK	USA	V	___Nicolas Vanier	Paris		FRANCE	R
___Peter Kaiser	Bethel	AK	USA	V	___Sebastien Vergnaud	Rioux		FRANCE	R
___Katherine Keith	Kotzebue	AK	USA	V	___Misha Wiljes	Prague		CZECH REPUBLIC	R
___Jeff King*	Denali	AK	USA	V	___Monica Zappa	Kasilof	AK	USA	V
___Jim Lanier	Chugiak	AK	USA	V	___Aliy Zirkle	Two Rivers	AK	USA	V

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