



# Iditarod Trail Committee

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Iditarod XLVI special awards recipients honored at awards banquet in Nome**

**Nome, Alaska** – The 2018 special awards bestowed to mushers during and after Iditarod XLVI were presented at the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race awards banquet in Nome on Sunday, March 18.

The awards, in entirety, are listed below:

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

- The PenAir Spirit of Alaska award has been presented since 2000 to the first musher to reach the McGrath checkpoint.
- Musher receives:
  - A framed print by legendary Iditarod artist Jon Van Zyle
  - \$500 flight credit
- Winner: Mitch Seavey

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

- Presented by GCI since 1994, the 2018 award is given to the first musher to arrive in Iditarod.
- Musher receives:
  - \$3,000 in gold nuggets
  - A commemorative trophy
- Winner: Joar Leifseth Ulsom

### **The Lakefront Anchorage First Musher to the Yukon Award**

- Presented since 1983 and is awarded to the first musher to the Yukon. For the 2018 race route, this award was given at the Anvik checkpoint.
- Musher receives:
  - A five course, gourmet dinner prepared at the checkpoint by The Lakefront Anchorage executive chef Roberto Sidro
  - \$3,500 in one-dollar bills served on a commemorative gold pan
- Winner: Nicolas Petit

### **Bristol Bay Native Corporation Fish First Award**

- This award has been presented by Bristol Bay Native Corporation since 2014 to the first musher to reach the Kaltag checkpoint.
- Musher receives:
  - A \$2,000 check
  - A certificate for 25 pounds of fresh-caught, Bristol Bay salmon
- Winner: Nicolas Petit

### **Northrim Bank Achieve More Award**

- In its inaugural year, this award is presented by Northrim Bank to the first musher to the White Mountain checkpoint.
- Musher receives:
  - A check for \$2,500
  - A one-of-a-kind print by Anchorage artist Marianne Wieland
- Winner: Joar Leifseth Ulsom

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

- This award has been presented since 1980 to the top-placing rookie.
- Musher receives:
  - A \$2,000 check
  - A commemorative trophy
- Winner: Jessie Holmes, who placed seventh overall with a time of 9 days, 23 hours, 39 minutes and 40 seconds.

### **Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome**

- Presented by the Nome Kennel Club since 1973, this awards goes to the musher with the fastest time from the Safety checkpoint to the finish in Nome.
- Musher receives:
  - A \$500 check
  - A commemorative trophy
- Winner: Nicolas Petit, with a time of two hours and nine minutes between the two checkpoints.

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

- This award has been presented to the Iditarod champion since 1991.
- Musher receives:
  - 2017 Dodge Ram 1500 4X4, valued at \$40,000
- Winner: Joar Leifseth Ulsom

### **Matson Most Improved Musher Award**

- This award is presented to the musher who bettered his/her previous finish by the most places.
- Musher receives:
  - \$2,000 in cash
  - A commemorative trophy
- Winner: Matthew Failor, who improved by 46 places between his 59<sup>th</sup> place finish in 2017 and 13<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 2018 race.

### **Donlin Gold Sportsmanship Award**

- Presented since 1977 to the musher demonstrating sportsmanship, the recipient of the Donlin Gold Sportsmanship Award is chosen by fellow mushers.
- Musher receives:
  - A \$3,000 check
  - A commemorative trophy
- Winner: Scott Janssen

### **Most Inspirational Musher Award**

- Presented since 2010 to the most inspirational musher, the recipient of the Most Inspirational Musher Award is chosen by fellow mushers.
- Musher receives:
  - Entry fee for the 2019 Iditarod
- Winner: Jessie Royer

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

- The Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial Award has been presented since 2007 to the person who emulates “Herbie: The Shishmaref Cannon Ball” in his/her attitude on the trail. The recipient is chosen by race staff and officials.
- Musher receives:
  - \$1,049 in “pocket change” inside a Northern Air Cargo jacket
- Winner: Richie Diehl

### **Golden Clipboard Award**

- Presented since 2001 to the most outstanding checkpoint, this award is chosen by the competing mushers.
- The checkpoint receives:
  - A commemorative plaque
- Winner: Shaktoolik

### **Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award**

- Presented since 1982 to a musher that demonstrates outstanding dog care while remaining competitive throughout the race, the recipient of the Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award is chosen by the veterinary team.
- Musher receives:
  - Entry fee for the 2019 Iditarod
  - A commemorative trophy
- Winner: Aliy Zirkle

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

- Originally presented by the late Lolly Medley, a Wasilla harness maker and one of two women to run the second Iditarod in 1974, the recipient is chosen by mushers and is awarded to the most outstanding lead dog.
- Musher receives:
  - Embroidered gold-colored harness
- Winner: Russeren, Joar Leifseth Ulsom's lead dog, a four-year-old male who led Ulsom's team to an Iditarod championship in 9 days and 12 hours.

### **Red Lantern Award**

- Presented since 1973, the Red Lantern Award is given to the final finisher of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.
- Musher receives:
  - Red lantern trophy
- Winner: Magnus Kaltenborn

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